

## Trinity College Dublin Erasmus Policy Statement

As a research-intensive university Trinity College Dublin supports the realisation of the European Higher Education Area and shares the vision for the Community as an advanced knowledge-based society in which its universities will play a pivotal role. The University as part of its wider strategic commitment to broaden and revitalise its undergraduate curricula enthusiastically endorses the Life Long Learning Programme 2007-13, and sees it as assisting the University's own aims of greater student diversity and inclusiveness. As an old international university with new global ambitions, the University is anxious to strengthen Erasmus exchanges, both along existing lines with long-established partners, and by developing new relationships and involving new academic disciplines. It is anticipated that Erasmus exchanges, hitherto primarily at undergraduate level, will increase at the postgraduate level in a variety of formats. Thematic networks funded under previous programmes will also be encouraged.

The Bologna Desk of the University has brought all Bachelor degree-level courses and many Masters courses into conformity with the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System, and a move from a trimester to semester term structure is under active discussion. Issue of the Diploma Supplement will commence in 2007 on a pilot basis and will be extended to all graduates from 2009. These developments will facilitate existing and future exchange agreements. Trinity College's Erasmus activities are actively promoted across the University by the International Office. The European Desk has a specific responsibility to ensure that an awareness of the Erasmus University Charter and European programmes is promoted among students and staff in a variety of formats. A series of annual visits to our partners by academic staff also takes place to ensure up-to-date information. Through membership of the Coimbra Group, the EUA and other professional associations, staff networking across the Community is becoming progressively more important.

Trinity College has an established equal opportunity policy and an operational framework that prevents discrimination on grounds of gender, family status, age, disability, race, religious belief, or sexual orientation. The University is committed to ensuring greater third level participation by learners of all ages and acknowledges that flexibility in time and place, and the creative use of our technologies, will help achieve our own lifelong learning objectives. A highly developed access programme (TAP) is central to the University's commitment to tackle social exclusion, and it has developed a range of initiatives targeting disadvantaged social groups and specific schools. The University in its admissions policy recognises prior learning and other qualifications where appropriate. It also provides support services to all students through dedicated professional offices and its personalised tutorial system.

The success of outgoing student mobility is assured by good relations maintained with partner institutions. Visits to host institutions ensure the compatibility of study programmes - in terms of structure, content, and alignment of ECTS weightings - thereby guaranteeing full recognition for the student's time at the host institution and enabling a seamless re-entry. Key to the success of student mobility is the provision of a learning agreement, good quality documentation, language preparation, access to former Erasmus students and orientation meetings.

The success of incoming student mobility is assured through integration of exchange students onto all programmes with our full-degree students. As such, Socrates students benefit from innovations in curriculum design, teaching and pastoral support and full access to IT and library facilities. General course/programme information is available from: the university web site and prospectus, academic school websites, and course handbooks. Incoming students are provided with a school-based Erasmus coordinator who monitors student progress and is especially vigilant in cases where students encounter difficulties. The University has evolved a model of integration for incoming students which includes pre-arrival orientation documentation, on-arrival orientation meetings highlighting the Student Support Services and cultural issues, and school specific briefings. Exchange Students are encouraged to join some of the many student societies and sports clubs. Accommodation on campus and on university-owned property is limited for all students, but the University ring-fences a proportion of student rooms for allocation to incoming Erasmus students.

The University is a partner in the Coimbra Group, which actively supports staff exchanges across Europe. The University encourages academic and non-academic staff to develop skills and new opportunities through this and other networks and on a bilateral basis.