

Erasmus Policy Statement

Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2021–2027

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As submitted to the European Commission with the GSA's ECHE application, March 2026.

Participation in Erasmus+

The aim of The Glasgow School of Art's Internationalisation Strategy 2024-2028 is to embed an international and intercultural ethos in all aspects of the School's activities. The underpinning set of values include a belief in the transformative power of continual communication and exchange with others worldwide; understanding of, and respect for, difference; mutuality: a commitment to relationships based on mutual benefit and reciprocity; awareness of the effect of self on others; and a commitment to remaining informed about major trends affecting the political, economic and social contexts for culture, creative industries and creative education internationally.

The Strategy has four principal objectives:

- to enhance curriculum and learning opportunities in ways which enable students and graduates to operate effectively in international and global contexts;
- to develop, refine and strengthen international collaborative educational partnerships in order to deepen transcultural understanding, promote opportunities for students and staff and enhance the international reputation of the School;
- to widen the scope of research to explore global currents in the School's discipline areas, enrich curriculum and make meaningful cultural, economic and social contributions;
- and to continue to develop and provide appropriate support for an increasingly culturally diverse community of students and staff in order to enhance the educational experience of all students.

The Internationalisation Strategy focuses on enhancing our global reputation as a leader in studio-based education through international collaboration and digital transformation. Erasmus+ offers the opportunity to build extensively on these objectives. We have worked hard to ensure we maintained and developed our European network post BREXIT, and will participate actively in Erasmus+ activities, with a primary focus on high-quality, inclusive mobility and cooperation which align with our strategic targets. Key goals include fostering diverse international communities, strengthening global research partnerships, and developing innovative, inter-cultural curricula.

Under **KA1**, we will deliver:

- Increased student mobility for studies, prioritising disciplines with strong international links
- Further development in staff mobility for teaching and training to enhance curriculum internationalisation and professional development
- Introduction of Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs) to widen access and offer flexible mobility routes, particularly for underrepresented groups. Initially this will be in the form of further development of initiatives, begun in our Winter School

Under **KA2**, we will:

- Develop Partnerships for Cooperation aligned to our institutional strengths, with particular focus on creative, applied and socially engaged disciplines. This is a specialist area for GSA and we are keen to develop deeper European links
- Engage selectively in innovation-focused partnerships
- Explore participation in larger-scale initiatives including alliances or joint programmes where these align with the GSA strategic priorities

We will also engage with Jean Monnet activities where relevant to curriculum and policy engagement.

Implementation will be coordinated centrally through the International Office, with academic ownership at school/department level. Mobility and partnerships will be embedded into programme design, ensuring

sustainability beyond individual funding cycles.

Strategy, objectives and impact

Strategy

Participation in Erasmus+ supports GSA's strategy in relation to internationalisation, access and educational enhancement. As members of the European League of Institutes of the Arts (ELIA) as well as CUMULUS and other international networks, GSA retains many of its historic Erasmus network of partnerships characterised by shared studio-led pedagogies and comparable academic structures. This alignment ensures that students participate fully in studio activity, critique and workshop environments, directly supporting the transferable skills, intercultural learning and subject-specific development while further developing our engagement with innovation and technology.

Erasmus+ will enable full re-engagement and increase access for students and staff. European destinations offer strong value for money and travel distances are reasonable, reducing transport costs and environmental impact. Living costs are generally predictable and comparable to the UK context, encouraging wider participation from underrepresented groups.

Objectives

- Increase outward and inward student mobility, with a focus on widening participation.
- Embed mobility within curricula to ensure equitable access
- Strengthen international partnerships that support studio-led teaching, learning and research
- Enhance staff capability through international engagement
- Contribute to a more inclusive and connected European Education Area through active engagement with partnerships

Impact

- Improved student outcomes, including employability, intercultural competence, studio skills and academic attainment
- Increased participation from underrepresented groups through targeted support and flexible mobility formats
- Stronger, more sustainable and creative international partnerships
- Enhanced institutional profile and attractiveness to international students and staff
- Contribution to European cooperation through shared practice, innovation and collaboration

The programme will act as a driver for institutional modernisation through digitalisation, inclusive practice and curriculum innovation.

Indicators

The following indicators will be used to assess progress:

- Increase in student mobility will have a target of +25% overall growth by 2028
- Widening participation will have a minimum target of 30% cohort assessed through annual monitoring
- Mobility will be embedded in 60% of our programmes by 2029
- We will achieve a participant satisfaction level of 90% in annual monitoring activities
- Staff mobility will increase by +20% by 2028
- We will sustain and increase our number of active Erasmus+ partnerships on an ongoing basis