

# UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

## **European Policy Statement**

Europe is central to the University of Birmingham's international activity.

Education and research co-operation have an essential role to play in the larger issue of European integration but, equally importantly, in informing and inspiring the minds of our students, teaching staff and researchers. The University has over 1,000 students from EU and other European countries, together with an open policy of recruiting European academics as full time University staff. This commitment to Europe is vital for the future of the University and the following policy statement will reflect on developments over the last few years in order to inform strategy for the future.

The introduction of a new European Studies programme in 2000 is a major development in the University's undergraduate portfolio. At postgraduate level, the Joint MBA with Montpellier in France has proved to be popular and both these programmes complement a vast array of degrees with an international or European dimension, such as International Studies and Law with French/German. The University has also contributed to European curriculum development by co-ordinating a successful SOCRATES project in Childhood Education with partners in the Netherlands, Spain and Germany (implementing aspects of distance learning) and an Intensive Programme in Biological Sciences.

The University has introduced a number of new four year undergraduate degree schemes in Engineering and the Arts, to include a study period abroad. The Graduate Business School has developed a new joint MBA with Spanish partners, as well as the MBA in International Business.

A substantial grant from the UK Joint Infrastructure Fund has enabled the University to build a brand new Centre to bring together the internationally renowned Centre for Russian and East European Studies, the Institute of German Studies, and other colleagues. The European Research Institute will be in a strong position to increase the amount of EC supported research activities, building on work already funded through, for example, Jean Monnet Chairs.

Although Birmingham is already one of the top 3 exporters of ERASMUS study abroad students in the UK (according to the latest statistics from the UK National SOCRATES-ERASMUS Agency), it aims to build on existing strengths by increasing mobility in the future. The University will seek to strengthen the dialogue with its partner institutions to improve the quality of exchanges and to diversify its partnerships to include some new institutions from the Associated Countries.

The University has an equal opportunities policy which ensures that its students and staff will be given equal rights of participation in all aspects of University life, regardless of race, gender, age, socio-economic status or disability.

Widening participation is a major issue for Higher Education in the UK.  
The Erasmus Charter and European Policy Statement will be publicised on the website and all International/European literature.



**Erasmus+**