



## ***European Policy Statement - October 2022.***

DCU concurs with the vision that internationalisation is comprised of five interlocking dimensions of curriculum, partners, staff, students and alumni and research and that internationalisation transcends the boundaries of DCU campus by active engagement with the local community. It is DCU's intention to continue to be a highly respected provider of international education, preparing students to engage in and contribute to a changing world through developing intercultural and global awareness, knowledge and skills and providing students with international learning opportunities while at DCU and the chance to participate in overseas learning and education programmes.

Dublin City University was established during a period of severe economic difficulty in the 1980s. Since that time, the University has embraced an initiative-taking role in national economic development.

DCU welcomes students, academics, and staff irrelevant of their national origin, gender, religion, ethnic background, sexual orientation, or physical disability and fosters non-discriminatory policy in all its activities, as well as in European and international cooperation projects. Participation in European and international projects is considered as a main tool to achieve overall strategic objectives, which are determined as follows: assurance of high-quality research and teaching, internationalisation and promotion of student and staff mobility, promotion of international ties with partner institutions.

By educating its students to the highest standards of academic excellence and encouraging further study and research, the University has played a key role in Ireland's research revolution and has collaborated closely with enterprise to build prosperity. As part of the current strategic plan (Talent, Discovery, and Transformation 2017-22) Dublin City University is determined to continue making a distinct and positive contribution to the challenges and opportunities facing us in all areas and at all levels.

By being purposefully different and consistently pursuing excellence, we will play a globally-significant role in addressing the challenges and opportunities of this era. DCU will be a place that nurtures discovery and our research will be renowned for both its excellence and its focus on societal needs. Our students will benefit from our distinctive approach to learning and our belief in nurturing the talents of the whole person. We will develop the citizens and leaders that the world needs. We will ensure that our graduates can pursue lives rich with purpose. Employers and society will benefit from graduates that are resilient and accomplished, open and self-aware, innovative and adaptable. We will foster a culture of creativity and promote the exploration of possibilities arising at the intersections of the creative arts and technological innovation. Our prioritisation of sustainability as a key theme reflects not only our commitment to address a critical, global challenge but also our realisation of the messages we convey as an exemplar organisation to both our students and society around us.

We foster a culture that is:

- Open
- Collegial
- Collaborative
- Student-focussed
- Ambitious





We are committed to:

- Equality
- Educational opportunity
- Social justice
- Ethical behaviour

A core element of DCU's Vision is to be a globally-significant university that is renowned for its discovery and translation of knowledge to advance society. This commitment to world-class research is central to our Strategic Goals where we set out a range of Specific Actions to advance our reputation in that regard. In the first instance, we will foster a research culture across all levels of the University and will empower our staff and students to reach their full potential in research.

Academic Excellence in teaching and research is at the core of Dublin City University's strength and reputation. It is a stated priority to maintain and improve upon those standards.

DCU recognise that, in general, the greatest impact is achieved from a critical mass of multidisciplinary researchers tackling an important research question. With that in mind, we will conduct an externally mediated research prioritisation exercise in order to identify our priorities. DCU will seek to strengthen significantly our human capital at all levels of research through a range of initiatives and we will place a particular emphasis on fostering research leadership. We will also renew our efforts to showcase our research achievements and distinctiveness, both nationally and internationally. Such is the nature and complexity of the major research challenges facing the world that international collaboration is essential in order to make significant and sustained advances. We will promote and support international research collaboration while also taking particular account of geo-political developments. Scientific excellence cannot be achieved without state of the art research infrastructure and facilities. We will develop a road map to sustain and improve our research infrastructure and to plan for future technological needs. International research partnerships, and the associated mobility of student and staff, play a key role in the global engagement of universities.

As part of our commitment to developing talented graduates that can flourish worldwide, we will introduce new opportunities for students to have a global experience during their undergraduate degree. Given DCU's aspiration to global significance as articulated in our Vision statement and also our commitment to developing graduates that can flourish as global citizens, the International dimension of our Strategic Plan is of critical importance. That level of significance is reflected in our plan to develop an integrated, university-wide Internationalisation Plan that has strong roots in each faculty.

This plan will target key regions in Europe, North America, Asia and the Middle East but will be sufficiently flexible to respond to new opportunities as appropriate. We will also expand our global footprint by replicating our Trans-National Education model, which has been developed and implemented successfully in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and in other locations.

In addition, we will integrate international dimensions as widely as possible into our curricula. The new Student Centre (opened in March 2018 on the Glasnevin Campus) will further contribute to the global agenda, as a core element of the Centre will be a Global Village that celebrates multi-cultural and multi-ethnic diversity.



DCU will also:

- Establish an integrated, Pan-University Internationalisation Plan that will be faculty-based and will set ambitious targets framed around three pillars: Mobility, Partnership and Recruitment. Activities will be focussed primarily on the following key territories: USA, China, India, Europe and the Gulf region (while simultaneously tracking opportunities in other emerging regions).
- Establish a Global Experience and Global Citizenship Plan for students. There will be a specific focus on (i) maximising the number of students experiencing a significant global engagement, and (ii) integrating international elements into the formal curriculum. More generally, we will develop a DCU Language Plan to support our community in developing conversational ability and cultural appreciation for selected European and Asian countries.

As emphasised in our Vision statement, DCU is committed to global engagement and we will continue to enhance this core element of our activity, especially through the formation of sustainable alliances with global partners within and outside the European Union. Active engagement with stakeholders and partners is an essential element of DCU's identity and its success. In the years ahead we are committed to reinforcing that element by enhancing specific engagements locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.

Engagement is a cornerstone of DCU's uniqueness. We are the antithesis of the 'Ivory Tower' university and, through our actions, reflect a clear commitment to the pursuit of symbiotic relationships with our city, our region and our nation across all of our core activities. Moreover, the education and research roles of universities have a significant global dimension; we are preparing graduates to flourish in an increasingly globalised world and the biggest challenges facing society are global in scale. Therefore, engagement with global issues and internationalization of campus experiences are essential elements of progressive universities, such as DCU.

Our campus is amongst the most internationalised and multi-cultural areas on this island, with over 120 nationalities represented and a rich atmosphere of intercultural activities. Academic collaborations between DCU faculty and partners know no geographical or cultural boundaries. Our curricula reflect the globalised world and the global challenges for which we must prepare our students.

DCU's commitment can be seen in the University's existing Internationalisation Strategy, "Leading through Challenge", which includes such ongoing initiatives as the development of the Global Citizen concept for all DCU students. Amongst our main priorities is the continuing diversification of the student body, of which, the European Commission Erasmus+ Programme plays an integral part.



These priorities include initiatives as:

- international learning through internationalisation-at-home and overseas experiences.
  - creating a unique student experience for international students from the moment of enquiry through to graduation and beyond.
  - examine new ways to create flexible and innovative learning and delivery mechanisms to underpin, support and feed into work in all faculties and areas of the University.
  - develop genuine lifelong learning opportunities and a 'university on a human scale.
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- provide ongoing strategic direction through horizon scanning and a framework for DCU to remain innovative and competitive, as well as to continue to develop new opportunities and links with industry in key areas of strategic innovation.
  - proactively enable and use networks as a resource for teaching and learning; work experience; advice and course design; research and skills needs; funds; contacts and courses.
  - develop innovative strategic alliances with organisations such that DCU meets their student's and staff's learning needs; provides accreditation and development of their internal courses and development; develops their research management and general skills development.
  - develop opportunities for exchanges between network organisations to develop skills and understanding and revitalise staff – on both sides. Among other benefits, student diversity is specifically linked with improved critical thinking abilities, higher satisfaction and retention rates, and greater cross-cultural competencies among students, as well as higher levels of innovation and more diverse research activities across the institution.

DCU has developed rapidly in recent years, with international activities such as student and staff exchanges, international student recruitment, research initiatives, inter-university linkages, growing at an impressive rate.

Over the period of the current Strategic Plan, DCU has delivered a range of initiatives and as we embark on the planning phase for the next plan, it is anticipated that Internationalisation will once again be a cornerstone of our ambitions.

DCU will continue to support the extension of Erasmus and non-Erasmus exchanges with participating and non-participating countries, as the existing involvement in the Programme and other forms of the international cooperation approves that this strategic objective will be successfully implemented.