

# Erasmus Charter

## Policy Statement 2023-24

		<b>This policy is effective from</b>	<u>15 November 2023</u>
<b>Approval body</b>	<u>Academic Council</u>	<b>Approval date</b>	<u>15 November 2023</u>
<b>Owner</b>	<u>Head of Academic &amp; Student Affairs</u>	<b>Next review date</b>	<u>2024-25</u>

### 1. Purpose

As the leading art and design HEI in Ireland, NCAD is committed to the development of teaching, learning and student life experiences that connect our staff and students, as well as their practice and research, to the wider world within, and beyond the EU.

NCAD is distinct in its history, context, and position within Art and Design education in Ireland: we offer the largest range of art and design degrees in the State at undergraduate and postgraduate level. Many of the most important Irish artists, designers, and art teachers have studied or taught in the College and it has long been central to art and design education in Ireland.

NCAD's **Vision** is to change the world through bold and curious thinking, making and doing, and participating in Erasmus+ is fundamental to educating students to be a creative force at a national and international level. NCAD is proud of the impact Erasmus+ has on the educational and life outcomes of our students, alumni and staff.

### 2. Erasmus+ and NCAD's Strategy

NCAD's College-wide strategy *Futures, Bold and Curious* is centred on four key pillars, which all align intentionally with the Erasmus+ Charter:

**Bold & Curious Thinking** - We believe in creating space and time for new ideas and creative, agile exchange in the fields of art, design, education, and visual culture; and we believe in the importance of that creative, agile exchange including exposure to and participation in the learning opportunities provided by higher education institutions across Europe and beyond, and by work-based learning opportunities across Europe and beyond.

**Diversity** - We value **Diversity** of ideas, students and programmes. Offering a dynamic learning choice creates an environment of genuine discovery. Encouraging and supporting students and staff to participate in Erasmus+ is vital to creating dynamic learning choices, a diverse learning environment and enabling deep understanding of community, society and culture.

**Distinction** - When creative ambition, risk-taking, questioning and playfulness are enabled, work and ideas can flourish. To truly champion a rich and immersive studio-based learning experience, it is vital that students experience studio-based cultures and learning from across Europe and beyond.

<b>Doc version</b>	<b>Approval date</b>	<b>Modified by</b>	<b>Summary of modifications</b>
V1	25 June 2020	N/A	New policy
V2	15 Nov 2023	Siún Hanrahan	Revision of text

**Respect** - We believe in **Respect**: for our shared responsibility to each other, our wider community and the world around us. Truly understanding our connectedness and responsibility in and for a shared world requires experiencing yourself as connected to communities and society beyond national boundaries.

**Relevance** - As an institution, we believe NCAD is a positive force for the future. We want our work to have genuine **Relevance** in people's lives, and we actively build national partnerships across society, across Europe and across the world to broaden our impact.

Art and design have a crucial contribution to make to the cultural and intellectual enrichment of Europe, and to Europe's capacity to create a sustainable knowledge-based economy and society. Erasmus+ is a key vehicle to ensuring that contribution is realised. Participation in Erasmus+ by the students and staff of NCAD is vital to providing the kind of education we believe in, to educating artists and designers capable of acting across local, national and international contexts, and to playing a part in realising a sustainable, culturally rich and inclusive economy and society.

## NCAD: Internationalisation & Erasmus+

Growing out of NCAD's College-wide strategy, in 2022, the College launched its first global strategy that outlines our ambitions and planning towards internationalisation. Between 2023-2025, we are building the foundations upon which we can successfully roll-out our global strategy towards a more intentionally internationalised NCAD. Core to both our College-wide strategy and NCAD's Global Strategy in the project of the modernisation of higher education. The vision and values of our global strategy are as follows:

**Vision:** In its role as *the* National College of Art & Design in Ireland, NCAD will bring art, design and research to international platforms by showcasing the work of its students, alumni, staff and partners through cultivated and sustained networks across the world. On its campus in the heart of the Liberties in Dublin, NCAD will create vibrant opportunities for intercultural engagement through a growing diversity of international students, visiting students, staff and scholars, artists and designers in residence, transnational education models and practices, and local and national community connections.

**Values** for internationalisation: In line with academic leadership and teaching staff interests, NCAD's internationalisation strategy is based upon a values-centric and driven approach, these are:

- Inter-cultural engagement and learning for all,
- Reciprocity of exchange, knowledge sharing, and collaboration through internationalisation and partnerships,
- Creating opportunities for local and global diversity through internationalisation, and
- Modes of exchange and partnership that enable staff and students to decentre and decolonise structures and systems of knowledge through exchange, curriculum development, and collaborative research.

To realise this vision and these values for the internationalisation of NCAD’s teaching, learning, research and student life experiences, the College has four ambitions that will guide our engagement in the world, which are:

- **Ambition 1:** To develop NCAD’s home campus in the Liberties, Dublin as a hub of international and inter-cultural engagement and activity. One aspect towards this ambition is to develop the systems, structures, and supports to **increase the number of international students** studying at NCAD for short-term and full-degree opportunities.
- **Ambition 2:** NCAD commits to **increasing NCAD student opportunities for international mobility** through a range of programmes, inclusive of those on NCAD’s own campus that welcome in international students and partners, and first and foremost to do so through our engagement with Erasmus+ KA103 and KA107 schemes, as well as with our partners within the Erasmus+ network. From surveying our students, we know real and perceived economic barriers are the greatest roadblock to increasing student mobility, and we seek to engage our students and soon-to-be graduating students with increasing opportunities to learn about the possibilities of the Erasmus+ programmes for international study and traineeships to ensure we also increase the diversity of those students engaging in these life-transforming opportunities.
- **Ambition 3:** NCAD staff and leaders share the ambition to **enable international partnerships, collaborations, and transnational funding and education opportunities that support greater staff mobility and exchanges of knowledge and teaching; research and practice-based collaborations, and transnational education models** that are sited and virtual. Once again, we are positioning Erasmus+ on our campus as core to our ability to realise this ambition both through funding opportunities, and also through our partnership network development.
- **Ambition 4:** **NCAD commits to developing mechanisms to raise its visibility and international awareness through strategic efforts.** By increasing our student, staff and graduating student engagements with Erasmus+ mobility, we are confident that awareness of our leadership in the teaching, learning and research of art, design and related humanities will grow in international reputation.

### 3. The expected impact of participation in the Erasmus+ Programme

#### 3.1. Internationalisation

*The best creative practice responds to the time in which it is made. We are acutely aware of the changing nature of creative practice, the relevance of our connection to the world beyond the campus, and the importance of forging connections. We are committed to connecting with local, national and international contexts, and focusing on the needs of society and all our communities.*

Futures, Bold & Curious, NCAD Strategy 2019-2024

NCAD’s commitment to internationalisation is articulated through a Strategic Focus upon “Connect and be Connected”, and our newly developed Global Strategy. The Connect and be Connected area

of strategic focus, one of three in NCAD's Strategy, will form the foundations of our internationalisation framework for the coming years.

*To place connectivity at the centre of learning and research in NCAD, ensuring the core of learning considers the place and potential of creative practice.*

Partnerships in Ireland and across, and beyond, the EU enrich the learning environment and connect NCAD to contexts beyond the worlds of art, design and education. Students at NCAD have long had the opportunity to add an international dimension to their studies through participating in Erasmus. Student participation in Erasmus mobilities has been strongly encouraged in recent years. We intend to sustain current levels of interest so that at least 20% of those graduating from an undergraduate programme in NCAD in a given year will have undertaken a study or training period abroad.

*To demonstrate creativity in action by connecting the work of our students and staff to the world beyond NCAD.*

NCAD has a strong commitment to engaging in and supporting research activity that has an influence within NCAD and beyond. Over the lifetime of the current Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE), NCAD staff have availed of many Erasmus mobility opportunities, and this has been and will continue to be of value to the College in a number of ways: it enhances our capacity to support students in taking up such opportunities; it contributes to quality enhancement across the College through learning from practices elsewhere.

As NCAD begins to realise our internationalisation strategy, enhancing staff participation in Erasmus+ will contribute to the College's capacity to further internationalise our curricula as well as our students and staff. It also critically contributes to our ambitions to continue to develop research within the institution by connecting our staff to international research networks through which bids for research funding can be developed. Participation in European-funded research projects across all of the disciplines within NCAD – Fine Art, Design, Education and Visual Culture – plays a vital part in this.

### 3.2. Modernisation

A significant number and variety of 'real world' learning opportunities are embedded within NCAD's existing programmes, forming a key part of student learning and life at the College. Enhancing such opportunities through Erasmus+ internship and traineeship opportunities plays a central role in delivering NCAD's strategic ambitions as an outward facing institution, is vital to enhancing graduate employability, and also enables "employers to access skills and research development opportunities in HE" ( Enterprise-Engagement 2015-2020 , p. 12; also Europe 2020 , pp. 12, 17).

NCAD has had significant international industry and academia collaborations in the area of user-first design, and is a participant in EU funded projects in Horizon 2020 and Creative Europe in the areas of Fine Art, Visual Culture and Education. Promoting excellence in research, maximizing innovation potential and promoting excellence in human capital development are enhanced through such engagements. The mobility and learning opportunities enabled by such participation and supported through Erasmus+ are vital to the modernisation of NCAD as a higher education institution, to the internationalisation and development of our curricula, and to making higher education in art and design attractive to as wide a cross-section of our society as possible.

#### **4. The implementation of Erasmus+**

Continuing and enhancing the mobility of students and staff through Erasmus+ is our first priority under the ECHE. For students, our ambition is sustained achievement of a target of 20% of those graduating from an undergraduate programme in NCAD in a given year will have undertaken a study or training period abroad. For staff, we are adopting a strategic approach to promoting staff mobility in line with NCAD's Strategy and in order to deliver on the potential to enhance connections into "international innovation ecosystem[s]" (Enterprise Ireland Strategy , p.5).

International co-operation with higher education institutions, cultural organisations and enterprise is our second priority under the ECHE, with a particular emphasis on industry-academia partnerships and internationalisation of curricula.