

## Erasmus Policy Statement

	This policy is effective from _____		
<b>Approval body</b>	<u>NCAD Academic Council</u>	<b>Approval date</b>	<u>25 June 2020</u>
<b>Owner</b>	<u>Head of Academic Affairs &amp; Research</u>	<b>Next review date</b>	<u>June 2022</u>

### 1 Purpose

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.

### 2 Erasmus+ and NCAD's Strategy

Fundamental to Art and Design education at NCAD are:

**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.

**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.

<i>Doc version</i>	<i>Approval date</i>	<i>Modified by</i>	<i>Summary of modifications</i>
V1	25 June 2020	N/A	New policy

**Relevance** - As an institution, we believe NCAD is a positive force for the future. We want our work to be 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.

### **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”. This area of strategic focus, one of three in NCAD’s Strategy, will form the basis 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 abroad 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 builds its 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.