

Erasmus Policy Statement

The New Design University (NDU) is a private university with two faculties: Design & Technology. We offer degrees at Bachelor and Master level in Interior Architecture & 3D Design; Graphic & Information Design; Design, Manual & Material Culture; Event Engineering; Management by Design; and Management by Innovation.

Our university was founded upon the principles of international cooperation and created from a collaboration with Kingston University in London (2000-2006). Kingston University awarded our degrees until 2004 when we achieved independent university status. Over the last decade we have established valuable allegiances with several world universities in the form of “loose transfers of knowledge” (e.g. ad-hoc agreements, curriculum development, knowledge exchange between experts). These relationships have helped us to develop our concept and precedence for internationalisation. They have borne us potential, enabled future cooperations and transfer of useful know-how with various partner universities, however we felt that our aims would be better consolidated and widened through our participation in Erasmus programmes.

Our concept supports the Bologna Process and envisages the Erasmus programme as our principal exchange and co-operation programme. This allows us to deepen our existing relationships whilst simultaneously exploring and attaining new partners. Helping NDU to focus and position ourselves within a wider European network. We remain open to the possibility of international cooperations and expanding our opportunities worldwide.

Our priorities and objectives are as follows:

1. To expand and enrich our study and teaching methodologies, curriculum, standards and programmes through exchange and collaboration (Continuous Professional Development).
2. Although one of the first Austrian institutes to implement the ECTS system in all our degrees, a dedicated member of staff will continue to attend Erasmus complementary activities and analyse, improve, and disseminate this vital information to the University.
3. To offer participants the opportunity to study, train or teach in another country and culture. To experience other social contexts and educational methods and gain an international perspective which makes them more attractive to prospective employers.
4. To offer participants a greater range of subject areas and exposure to teaching methods different to those that are available in their “home” university.
5. To offer participants the opportunity to improve their language ability and a range of life-skills for their own personal development.
6. To expand our relatively large proportion of foreign students and staff at NDU. The programme enables us to create and promote professional contacts, exchanging and networking between our staff, students and partner universities providing future employment or educational partnerships.

We strive to achieve the highest standards of academic excellence through our mobility programme. We continue to attend the national teams of Bologna experts and ECTS/DS-labels seminars. Our target is also to implement Blended Intensive Programmes and maintain our involvement in Erasmus Multilateral Projects and active involvement in European research & educational projects.

Our Erasmus activities and outcomes, including the Erasmus Charter and this Erasmus Policy Statement, are promoted and published in the following manner:

1. International office website, intranet platform, newsletter, noticeboard, flyers/posters.
2. International handbook: with information on all aspects of study abroad and answers to the most common FAQs.
3. International fair and study abroad seminars to broadcast information about exchange possibilities and our partner institutions.
4. Discussion, feedback reports and presentations with management, students, and academic bodies.

An equal opportunities/inclusiveness policy is integrated into our university statute; where the right for ALL persons to be treated equally regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, or religion is enshrined. We also conform to state laws regarding these issues. We discuss, promote and update these in meetings between the academic board, management and student representatives where staff/students are made aware of our position. Our buildings are wheelchair accessible and parking spaces are clearly marked.

We ensure the quality of our mobility activities offered by:

1. Optimising resources, services offered with good practice, quality control measures, continual appraisal, and analysis and application of participant's feedback.
2. Services and facilities being offered to all participants allowing them to integrate study and work more efficiently.
3. Identification and maintenance of potential international strategic partnerships and academic relations with targeted institutions.
4. Candidate selection is transparent, however where necessary (e.g. spaces are limited) a pre-exchange interview may be conducted to determine suitability through candidates motivation, academic and language abilities. Participants will be advised on the suitability of their targeted course. Receive information regarding funding, insurance and health issues, cultural and social aspects, language, local info, accommodation and travel available to them.
5. Full recognition of academic work/ECTS points undertaken abroad; a Credit Transfer Board will determine equivalence and help define a learning/teaching agreement with our partner universities.



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6. Maintenance and publication of information and funding to keep all potential candidates updated and to encourage participation in Erasmus programmes.
7. Staff participation in Erasmus mobility: positive encouragement and support available to staff who want to further their personal/professional development and gain from the programmes offered.
8. Participants offered support to find accommodation or help with other issues and requirements (e.g. providing supporting documents for visa applications) to alleviate organisational problems and ensure full concentration directed towards their study/work.
9. We aim to provide each participant with a mentor to guide and counsel; an Erasmus Buddy Network will support with some of the „teething“ problems that may occur and the international office, Dean and head of study programmes are available for any academic difficulties.
10. German language courses are offered to aid academic prospects/comprehension and help integrate into and absorb cultural aspects. ECTS points awarded as an incentive for successful completion.
11. Help and advice is available with formulation of introduction letters, CVs, portfolios and applications.