

## **Policy Statement: International Partnerships and Mobility Approach at BU**

Comprehensive internationalisation is a core component of Bournemouth University's BU2025 Strategy, Values and Vision, supporting our vision '*to be recognised worldwide as a leading university for inspiring learning, advancing knowledge and enriching society through the fusion of education, research and practice*'. We have identified global outlook as a key attribute for our students and staff alike as we work together as a community to co-create solutions to challenges facing society, and create economic and social impact in local, national and global contexts.

The Global Engagement Hub at BU works closely with Schools, Faculties and Professional Services towards a shared purpose of creating a worldwide network of academic peer organisations and international partnerships who share our vision and passion for Fusion learning approaches and work with them to inspire learning, advance knowledge and enrich society as well as, building our global outlook, developing our impact and growing worldwide recognition of BU. One of the key ways we enable our students and staff to develop their global outlook is through establishing and facilitating a range of international mobility experiences including student and staff exchanges, international work placements and traineeships, and volunteering activities overseas.

Having a long-term perspective to enable all students and staff to develop their global outlook through international physical mobility, as well as focusing on enhanced access and environmental sustainability through Internationalisation at Home, are defining factors in the future of international mobility at BU. Creating a vibrant and internationally diverse campus of students and staff is a core priority for BU2025, and we are committed to increasing the ratios of international students and staff, through recruitment and welcoming exchange students and visiting staff (academic and professional service) from overseas.

BU's commitment to foster the global outlook of students is reflected in the number of high-quality international mobility and Internationalisation at Home programmes including the BU Skills Development Programme (SDP), BU's unique extracurricular programme developed with employers and recognised across the sector in employability and international education. In recognition of the transformation of BU's international efforts since 2012, BU was named winner of the 2018 European Association for International Education award for innovation in internationalisation. BU received the award for implementing innovative projects, such as the Global Festival of Learning and Global Talent Programme, that developed strong societal interaction and stakeholder relations in addition to standard internationalisation activities.

At BU, we have developed four areas of interdisciplinary, strategic growth that are based on our core areas of expertise, as well as being aligned to priorities of UK Research & Innovation funding bodies, and the UK's industrial developmental needs. These four areas are:

- Medical Science
- Animation, Simulation & Visualisation
- Sustainability, Low Carbon Technology & Materials Science

- Assistive Technology

BU also has Fusion Themes through which we focus our research and the impact it will have on the UN SDGs. These are:

- Business and Economic Sustainability
- Digital and Technological Futures
- Environment, Culture and Heritage
- Global Security
- Health and Wellbeing

Our approach to international partnerships development is based on collaboration with peer institutions worldwide across academic, business and industry on global challenges that affect us all. These multi-faceted societal challenges sit across our areas of strategic growth and Fusion themes, and tackle the major issues of our time. BU partners with our counterparts globally to address the UK Government's Vision for a Global Britain, namely climate change, health and wellbeing, science and technology, digital technologies, media and culture and the UK as a global services and business hub.

BU's international partnerships development approach focuses on a diverse range of countries and regions worldwide based on the requirements of our distinctive mix of disciplines, existing networks, and funding opportunities. We are building on existing relationships and partnerships in Europe such as France, Germany, Finland and Denmark, and new a partnership in Cyprus. We are developing deeper partnerships in Asia also, including in China, India, Nepal, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Vietnam, as well as expanding existing research relationships with institutions in Australia. In terms of the Americas, we have mobility and research partners in the USA, Canada and Ecuador, and are developing new partnerships in Brazil focused on sustainability and medical science. In Africa we have a partnership with the University of Cape Town in orthopaedic research and practice, and are developing another relationship with Egypt in health economics.

At BU, our international mobility opportunities are inclusive and advertised openly to all students. BU seeks to remove the participation barriers especially for those from a widening participation background and for students with disabilities, and offers funded study and work abroad opportunities for all. In order to attract a wide student population, BU offers a variety of international mobility programs. These include study abroad semesters at our partner universities and short- and long-term work placements where students can secure their own placements. In close collaboration with our academic partners, we are able to offer international placements to students in both academia and industry. BU also offers short-term mobility opportunities in the form of summer schools at our academic partners. Further, we are currently developing virtual international mobility options as part of the Internationalisation at Home approach to enhance access to these opportunities and work towards environmental sustainability. International mobility opportunities are designed in line with the University's Access and Participation Plan to reduce the degree attainment gap, improve progression to PG study, increase student satisfaction and increase employability opportunities for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

All students participating in international mobility programmes receive guidance and support by relevant departments at BU during the pre-, during- and post- phases of the international mobility experience. Throughout their mobility experience, students are also supported by their peers and our international partners.