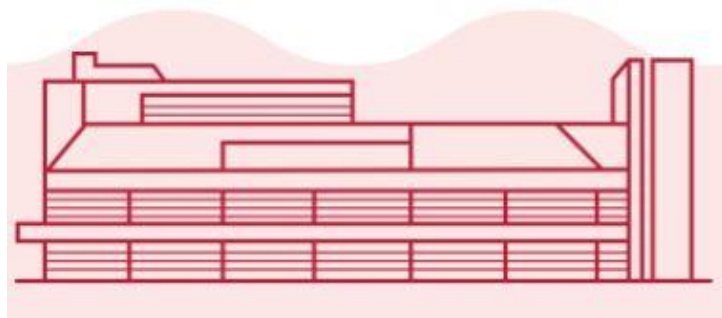




GALWAY BUSINESS SCHOOL

GALWAY BUSINESS SCHOOL, GALWAY, IRELAND

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT



Galway Business School is one of the leading independent third-level colleges in Ireland. We offer a range of undergraduate programmes at bachelor level in business that are validated by QQI as well as semester certificate ECTS bearing certificate programmes.

Galway Business School's strategy is to make increased mobility and cooperation with European and international organisations a key element of its approach. We are seeking to develop cooperation with partners in other institutions, to promote and support student and staff mobility, to pursue excellence in teaching and learning and to share best practice.

GBS recognises the key contribution of the mobility of students and staff to the excellence of the institution.

Galway Business Schools' objectives in participating in the Erasmus underpins the institution's strategy for innovation and internationalisation. Key tenets of our strategic and institution's direction are:

- to afford opportunities for greater mobility of its students and staff thus enriching their educational, cultural and social experience instilling the spirit of European and global citizenship while making relevant contributions to teaching, learning and enterprise.
- to cooperate more closely with European and international organisations and institutions and give the college a more focused and sustainable global environment in which to operate.
- to develop partnerships for excellence with European and international institutions exchanging best practice across all areas of activity of the college.

GBS is committed to embracing the challenges and opportunities, including institutional collaboration, widening participation, growing community engagement and the enhancement of the internationalisation process within the organisational culture. GBS recognises that Erasmus and similar exchange programmes are an essential component of integrating an internationalisation plan into the overall ethos of Galway Business School.

International Collaboration

Participation in international collaborative projects and networks is a fundamental and well established existing practice at Galway Business School. Our participation in such projects is underpinned by our commitment to expand mobility globally and to attract students and staff from overseas. It is our firm belief that cooperation with European and international institutions will enable students and staff to acquire an excellent educational experience in an international context. International collaboration initiatives will be actively supported and encouraged provided that they are compatible with our institutional strategic priorities in terms of subject and geographic areas.

We are keen to engage in joint international projects which would promote the sharing of knowledge and specialist expertise, the emergence of new curricula and the provision of new mobility opportunities to talented learners and staff coming from Europe. We will not only build on existing networks of partners but will also actively engage with other international HEI's.

At an operational level, GBS will make use of its physical resources and personnel to assist the daily running of such projects with our academic and administrative teams supporting the organisation of mobility programmes. Successful participation in international cooperation requires commitment to the preparation and monitoring of students and staff, fulfilling the terms of institutional agreements and reporting on the outcomes of the programme. GBS personnel will implement the support systems needed to ensure the best possible outcomes for mobility and allow for the positive experience of all future participants. We will publicise the partnerships and cooperation programmes to relevant audiences and educational partners to raise awareness and provide opportunities for future similar initiatives.

Galway Business School expects that its participation in Erasmus will play a significant role in establishing a network of international partnerships and will impact considerably on the innovation, creativity and continued modernisation of the institution. We recognise that mobility adds substantially to the value of our academic offering and helps increase attainment levels. The programme will enable us to become active participants in the Europe-wide exchange of students and expand our global network of partner colleges reinforced by access to academic ECTS. With designated international degree programmes with full recognition for studies abroad together with a commitment to increase mobility as part of our internationalisation strategy, GBS is looking to strengthen the cross-border collaboration and cooperation with a network of colleges.

Following our policy objectives, we aim to increase the quality of higher education graduates at all levels and we will continue to attract graduates from all layers of society thus expanding the diversity of our student population.

Mobility and international cooperation are critical to quality in higher education and therefore participation in the Erasmus programme will boost our profile on the European higher education arena. The mobility programmes will have a positive impact on developing exchange partnerships and projects by facilitating peers from different institutions to engage in mobility schemes.

The collaborations will assist in drawing funding and will be integral to GBS's welfare helping to ensure the continued success of our operations. We intend to expand our existing networks and the current multilevel cooperation envisaged under Erasmus will assist and help us to promote innovation and entrepreneurship and ultimately drive economic growth locally and globally.

Our goal is to be in a position to accept our first participants on the Erasmus Programme in Autumn 2020.