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**Forth Valley College - Erasmus Policy Statement**

**Introduction**

As a leading provider of Lifelong Learning in the Further and Higher Education sector in Scotland. Forth Valley College recognises the enhancement that increased staff and student mobility can provide for the learning we offer.

Forth Valley College will contribute to the realisation of Lisbon and Bologna goals by developing an international capacity within the College that provides students and staff with the opportunity to experience a wide range of cultural, education, linguistic and knowledge systems.

We will ensure that opportunities to participate in mobility activity are widely publicised throughout the College using internal communication methods, which includes information sessions, staff and student newsletters, as well as working with our Student Association to promote mobility projects.

**a) Partnerships**

Forth Valley College will identify potential partners for mobility activity based upon a thorough review of our curriculum and the identification of those areas of the curriculum where student and staff activity can be developed and enhanced by this activity.

We have a recognised curriculum strategy based on national and local policy, for a regional college, focusing in Creative Industries, Tourism and Hospitality from our Stirling campus, Business and Finance from our Alloa campus and Science and Engineering from our Falkirk campus.

As a leading provider of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) within Scotland, particularly in the areas of Oil and Gas, we will initially seek to engage partners in these areas as this will deliver the best benefit to both incoming as well as outgoing mobility of staff and students.

Potential partners will also be assessed on the possibility for increased co-operation beyond the scope of mobility, in areas such as joint curriculum development, the development and sharing of learning materials and methodologies and the creation of joint curricula.

As the majority of our first cycle activity is being delivered/accredited in conjunction with HEI partners here in Scotland, we will seek to develop a shared mobility approach for this activity to ensure the partnership links provide opportunities to all students undertaking these courses. This may result in collaborative mobility projects or projects that work in conjunction with each other.

For short cycle courses, we will deal directly with potential host organisations. We will welcome any partnership approaches from other Erasmus countries and assess each against the same criteria we apply to potential partnership arrangements we identify to ensure the best possible outcome.

We will also ensure each mobility project is monitored to enable the sharing of best practice and outcomes with the host organisation (or source organisation where the College is the host).

**b) Geographical areas**

Forth Valley College has current links with France, Belgium, Sweden, Spain, Turkey and China, as well as historical links with the EU and EEA including Malta and Scandinavia. We will initially look to build upon these linkages with a view to using pre-existing linkages to increase our international profile, however, we will not be bound by traditional linkages.

In recognition of the Scottish Education systems preference for teaching French and German in high school, we recognise that there is a significant number of our student population already with the basic language skills to undertake placement in these countries and we will actively seek out partners from these geographical areas to capitalise on this.

**c) Objectives and target groups**

It is important to recognise that objectives for staff and students are separate. For students, we want to provide opportunities to expand upon their personal experiences whilst still working towards the achievement of their qualification. The ability to increase their cultural awareness and citizenship skills cannot be understated and will contribute to an expanded world view for these individuals which they will then be able to share with their fellow students.

For staff, the objectives of mobility are to increase their own skills sets and continuous professional development (CPD) whilst ensuring the opportunity to share new ideas and approaches to learning with colleagues. This will have a sustainable positive effect on the operations of the College and will enhance future learning within the organisation