

## International Strategy and Ambitions

A recent merger of Dundee College and Angus College, has brought together the External Relations Group from Dundee and the European Projects team from Angus. Together we are working to support the goals of the Bologna Declaration and Lisbon Agreement - facilitating the dissemination of best practice in international mobility; working on collaborative projects through linkages with like-minded institutions internationally; and planning and managing EU programmes.

The emerging international strategy is closely aligned to the needs of the Regional Outcome Agreement and the new D&A's ambitions. The following aims will be enhanced through internationalisation:

- To create enhanced and inspiring learning opportunities for all
- To achieve excellence in every aspect of our learning, teaching and services
- To develop national and international Centres of Excellence to support Scotland's strategic industries
- To be international, national, regional and local in our outlook
- To maximise opportunities for students, encouraging them to enjoy learning, develop employability skills and achieve aspirations.

By promoting these dimensions we will support the broader EU ambition to transfer and recognise academic and professional competences and qualifications throughout Europe.

In addition the internationalisation agenda for the College will be further strengthened through the promotion of high quality and attractive higher education courses in D&A worldwide, in line with Erasmus Mundus, and ongoing recruitment of international students to this area.

### Choosing partners

D&A is committed to working with ambitious EU and international partners engaging in sector leading practice to help us to achieve our ambitions and take us to the next level in several aspects - learning and teaching, industry engagement, inclusion of disadvantaged learners, creating centres of excellence, and developing employability of learners through first rate work experience opportunities.

Having 20 years experience of working in Europe means that D&A has a broad network of existing contacts in almost every partner country. D&A uses this network to reach a range of partners through recommendations and onward introductions. This has been the starting point for most of our previous projects and we will continue to build on it. This way we guarantee access to high quality placements for staff and students and ensure that we will have positive and relevant learning experiences for all participants.

### Geographical areas

Countries are selected more on their strengths and commonality of purpose, than geographical location. However our previous experience means we have partners spanning north to south and east to western corners of Europe. D&A has meaningful collaborative partnerships with Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Sweden; and mobility partners in Italy, Sweden and Spain. We have received mobility students from Finland and are currently discussing future opportunities to host students from Italy and Sweden.

### Main Objectives and target groups

Following our experience of LdV Mobility projects, we have accrued great benefits from supporting staff and students in European mobility. Enhanced programmes of learning have helped to improve the quality and attractiveness of courses and staff have gained academic good practice, increased cultural awareness and professional development. As a result, we are committed to continue to develop activity & promote the priorities of the Leuven and Bucharest Communiqués for mobility, employability and quality within the EHEA.

For short cycle students we aim to offer opportunities for EU mobility to support HNC and HND students (mainly from the 40% most deprived areas in Scotland) to broaden horizons, develop employability skills, widen academic knowledge, develop language skills whilst validating learning. It is expected that access to mobility opportunities will strengthen their confidence and transversal skills so that they become better students as they progress to their 3rd or 4th year higher education study. This is in line with the ET2020 Strategic Framework to make lifelong learning and mobility a reality.

Staff mobility will also support ET2020's strategic aim to improve quality and efficiency of education and training and enhance creativity and innovation. We will focus on mobility training to develop the professional competence of staff and increasing their exposure to innovation in universities. Focus will be on academic departments where existing university articulation routes exist eg Computing, Life and Environmental Sciences, Art and Design and Dance. Also on areas where collaborative partnerships exist with regional universities eg Sport and Care and Administrative Practice/Adult Mental Health Nursing and Management. In addition partnerships will be sought for new academic areas.