

**PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITY, ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, MAYNOOTH
ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT**



The Pontifical University at St Patrick's College Maynooth is nationally and internationally recognised for the quality and value of its contribution to theological learning, scholarship and research. From its foundation in 1795 St Patrick's College, Maynooth, has had an international profile. Within the context of the developing European Union, the University's profile in terms of international student and staff exchanges has continued to grow and expand since the University first became involved in 1993 with the then Erasmus programme.

In the era of globalization and the easy movement of people and information, the University will explore new links with the global network of Pontifical and Catholic Universities and Colleges. The University will work to build its profile in this network. In this regard, a meeting of the European Pontifical and Catholic Universities will take place in Maynooth in 2014. It will also work to build meaningful, sustainable and mutually beneficial relationships with Colleges and Universities within that network.

The Faculty is currently working with the University of Notre Dame (USA) to validate and co-deliver a Diploma in Catholic Education (ACE Programme). The Faculty will also explore the possibility of validating and co-delivering other certificates with Notre Dame, such as the ECHO programme, that is, a Certificate in Parish Catechetics. Villanova University (USA) has invited the Faculty to explore the possibility of co-delivering certificates in pastoral leadership through innovative Webinars. The Faculty will explore with the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium) the possibility of co-operating in the delivery of postgraduate courses in canon law in Maynooth.

Under the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2014-2020, the University will:

- continue to build on and explore the possibility of developing further bi-lateral agreements especially with other Pontifical Universities and Faculties outside Ireland with the same or similar ethos, discipline and mission.
- seek to develop links and exchanges with Pontifical Universities in South America and Africa, in addition to our current arrangements with other international third level institutions in Europe and North America.
- continue to encourage student, teaching and staff mobilities and, where possible, to broaden the range of participation in mobility programmes and their geographical coverage of its participation.
- continue to provide equal opportunities, treatment, support and access in higher education for both students and staff with specific learning requirements and special needs. The university will not discriminate on the grounds of gender or race.
- work to deepen existing collaborations and open new links with other third level institutions in order to widen the availability of theology or specific theological disciplines to meet increasingly diverse academic, professional and vocational requirements. Also, greater flexibility in delivery of programmes will be necessary in response to new student profiles.

•continue to recognise and acknowledge the fundamental importance of staff mobility in its contribution to academic life, to ongoing staff development and in its support of the Faculty's mission to heighten its international reputation for teaching and research. The Faculty of Theology encourages staff mobility for the purpose of research and study links and considers it to be of fundamental importance to academic life. Such mobility contributes to ongoing staff development. It also supports the Faculty's mission to heighten its international reputation for teaching and research; fosters and strengthens links and collaborations with other theological faculties and universities abroad. Students studying in host universities experience diverse programmes, teaching and learning methods and subject combinations and concentrations. Students' access to resources and facilities in linked universities greatly contributes to their learning experience and final qualification. The knowledge gained in partaking in mobility activities contributes to the promotion and enhancement of staff training and administration in the Faculty. The differences highlighted in course content and delivery between courses of the Pontifical University and linked Universities informs our objective in maintaining equal standards to enable graduates to take up career opportunities across Europe. Staff Training has allowed the objective of raising the profile of the Pontifical University and to observe the administrative procedures in relation to Erasmus exchange.