IADT International Policy Statement, incorporating Erasmus Policy Statement

IADT STRATEGY 2019-2023 ESTABLISHES KEY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

THEME 2 – GROWTH [i]

 DEVELOPING AN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTION: To enhance our brand, profile and reputation internationally; and to be recognised and an Institute of Choice for students, staff and partners in specific programmes. We will:

- Identify priority regions for international development. Develop existing and create new relationships with international peers.
- Seek opportunities to collaborate on programmes with international higher education providers with a reputation for excellence.
- Pursue international exchange opportunities and supports for students and staff across specific programmes.
- Develop structures and processes to support IADT in becoming a recognised international Institute.

Strategic Outcome:

IADT is recognised in Ireland and abroad as an international leader in specific programmes, attracting a diverse student and staff population, engaging with industry and producing graduates that are equipped to lead and innovate in a digitally connected and changing world.

The National Strategy for Higher Education 2030 states that "internationalisation" includes: …attracting more international students, making it easier for staff and students to study and engage in research abroad, making Ireland attractive to international staff, establishing more collaborative institutional links, internationalising curricula, developing trans-national education, and participating in EU programmes". [ii]

Internationalisation is a key priority for IADT. A key objective is to build the reputation of IADT in stated discipline priorities in key target territories in partnership with organisations that reflect and develop our mission and vision.

We engage in internationalisation activity through Education Ireland, THEA, Enterprise Ireland, IDA as well as directly with the Department of Foreign Affairs, for example Alumni relations and embassy projects. IADT has in excess of 40 partnerships not only in the EU/EEA region, but also in Armenia, Russian Federation and Ukraine through the Erasmus+ programme. Additionally, one of the main territory focus since 2015 has been Ontario, Canada, which will continue to be a focus for the next five years. IADT will also expand and explore potential partnerships in British Columbia.

These developments have increased the growth in international students through formal connections with HEIs oversees via Erasmus+, MOUs, and joint ventures. For example, we have developed three Masters Programmes:

- MA in Interdisciplinary Design Strategies – with George Brown College, Ontario, Canada
- MA in 3D Animation – with Sheridan College, Ontario, Canada
- MA in Cinematography (joint programme) - through Erasmus Mundus/Viewfinder

IADT will continue to build strategic partnerships that facilitate the mobility agenda as identified in 'Irish Educated, Globally Connected' Strategic Priority 2 and 4 (pg. 43 and pg. 45). This will enhance the teaching, research and enterprise environment of IADT through the leveraging of these links for staff and student exchanges, research programmes, and business links to develop our innovation and enterprise activities. Potential qualitative measures to be developed:

- Development and Implementation of a Strategic Partnership Development Plan with key identified partners in key identified territories through which student and staff exchanges, research and innovation and enterprise activities can be progressed;
- Explore opportunities for joint programme development and delivery with other education partners and private learning companies, both national and international;
- Development and implementation of a Student Recruitment Business Plan to increase student numbers in target territories;
- Creation of an International Office to assist in the widening of international activities;
- Increase representation of students from the Island of Ireland, EU and international;
- Identify a priority list of international high-ranking institutional partners/collaborators on priority programmes, mobility and RDIE opportunities in priority regions.

The internationalisation of the IADT campus requires a balanced mix of overseas students across the different programmes and levels, from undergraduate, postgraduate, and research, with staff exchange programmes between the collaborating institutions enhancing our learning, teaching and cultural environment. One of the challenges with increasing our proportion of overseas students is our capacity to support an international learning environment without negatively impacting on the local/national undergraduate recruitment base. This approach needs to balance the number and progression routes of direct entry undergraduate students, and the variety of postgraduate and research study opportunities, while providing a rich cultural mix of students from different overseas countries and educational backgrounds. As such, our approach will be rolled out on a phased basis to ensure the necessary quality assurance, student support and marketing systems are established and aligned to the needs of this new student base.

COLLABORATING + DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS (Erasmus Policy Statement)

We will strengthen our current relationships with our partners. We will seek new opportunities to collaborate and work together to advance IADT:

- Pursue and develop relationships with academic peers, specialists and industry experts regionally, nationally and internationally.
- Support excellent professional and educational opportunities for students, upskilling opportunities for staff and partnership opportunities for IADT.
- Explore educational opportunities for both formal and informal collaborative alliances.
- Strengthen our relationships with the Further Education sector to develop and enhance progression pathways for students into IADT.
- Pursue and develop strong relationships with our alumni so that they can continue to inform the ongoing development of IADT, act as ambassadors for the Institute and provide IADT with new links to industry.

 Strategic Outcome:

IADT has developed a suite of formal and informal partnerships with key stakeholders, and is recognised as a partner of choice regionally, nationally and internationally in specific programmes.

Consequently, the **criteria for choosing Erasmus Partners** involve the identification of an institution with a particular profile:

1. **Reflecting the IADT Ethos**
   A Creative and Entrepreneurial Profile of significant standing

2. **General Academic Standing**

2.1 **Institutional criteria**

a) There is evidence of an academic and management system suited to assuring the quality of educational provision
b) The partner institution has a history of providing Degree awarding provision under a nationally quality assured framework and is in good standing with national regulators
c) The partner institution is aware of, and willing to sign up to, the requirements of the Institute's Agreement for student exchanges
d) The partner institution uses the agreed Learning Agreement and operates according to agreed good practice

2.2 **Credit System criteria**

The partner institution uses a credit system.

2.3 **Institutional Support criteria**

a) The partner institution provides living accommodation or assistance in securing living accommodation

b) There are arrangements in place to ensure students are enrolled as full-time students into the partner institution
c) There is an orientation programme or equivalent in place
d) Exchange students have access to all relevant generic facilities to support their period of study, e.g. Library, IT, etc.
e) There arrangements for dealing with student appeals/complaints/misconduct, etc.
f) The partner institution has arrangements in place for pastoral support/counselling, etc.

2.4 **Programme criteria**

a) The partner institution provides details of the proposed exchange programme, i.e. Module Catalogue or equivalent
b) The partner institution will undertake to provide assessment result in a timely way to the student and to IADT.

3. **Geographical area**

The targets that IADT has adopted in respect of internationalisation are:

1. Erasmus Exchange Students (all European and North American HEIs with a creative and entrepreneurial profile of standing)
2. North American (& other non-EU) Exchange Students
3. European students entering IADT via articulation arrangements or on programmes leading to joint awards
4. Non-European students entering IADT via articulation arrangements or on programmes leading to joint awards
5. Students participating on IADT programmes offered in partnership with a HEI in Europe
6. Students participating on IADT programmes offered in partnership with a HEI in North America, Africa
7. Students participating on joint programmes in focussed discipline areas.

With regard to student participation the immediate target is to double numbers both incoming and outgoing over the next 3-5 years in respect of the first cycle, and to commence international engagement at the second cycle.

Appendix One

Pages 14-15 of IADT - HEA Compact, 2018

Key System Objective 2: Creating rich opportunities for national and international engagement which enhances the learning environment and delivers a strong bridge to enterprise and the wider community.

1. Increase IADT's international profile to include increases in international student numbers, joint projects and partnerships.
2. Increase the output value of internationalisation per annum by 2020.

High Level Targets referenced

1. Increase the output value of internationalisation to €1.15bn per annum by 2020 (International Education Strategy baseline €819m in 2014/15);
2. International students to represent 15% of full-time students by 2020. (In 2016/17, 11.6% of all fulltime students in HEA-funded higher education institutions were international students);
3. Progress towards Bologna target of at least 20% of those who graduate in 2020 to undertake a study or training period abroad.

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[i] IADT Strategic Plan 2019-2023, p. 32-33

[ii] National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030, HEA, January 2011