

International Strategy 2030

Bath Spa University aims to be an innovative and resourceful University that challenges our students and staff to realise their talent, for their own benefit and for the wider good. Working across the University in collaboration with academic and professional services departments, students, alumni and the Students' Union, and led by our three international-facing teams, GALA, Go Global and European Projects, our International Strategy aims to deepen and further develop international connections and activities that enhance our teaching and research. The University's aim is to embed internationalisation in everything we do across our core activities at home and abroad. In doing so, the University aims to make the world better by looking to Bath, the region and beyond, applying our skills to global challenges and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and welcoming and broadening the diversity of our students and staff and their multiple narratives with a dedicated focus on student experience and international recruitment.

Strategic international aims for 2030:

The overall strategic goals highlighted in Bath Spa University's international strategy are to:

- a. To deepen and further develop international connections and activities that enhance our research, enterprise, teaching and learning through the Research Office, GALA, Go Global and European Projects;
- b. To embed internationalisation in everything we do across our core activities at home and abroad, including promoting and supporting initiatives to internationalise our curriculum, establishing collaborative teaching and learning opportunities for students both at home and abroad and in line with our Education and Research Strategy;
- c. To refocus/further align our international initiatives with global challenges and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals where possible;
- d. To create a distinctive international research profile and increase international research funding;
- e. To welcome and broaden the diversity of our students and staff and their multiple narratives with a dedicated focus on student experience and international recruitment;
- f. To ensure that all current and new international partnerships are fit-for-purpose, mutually beneficial, reciprocal, clearly conveyed and transparent in their alignment to wider University strategic and academic priorities;
- g. To assess and monitor levels of risk in international activities and partnerships,
- h. To continue the International Strategy Group's work to provide cohesive strategic overview of international partnerships, research, enterprise, teaching and learning activities and contribute to international innovation, enterprise and knowledge exchange in line with Bath Spa University's 2030 Strategy.

The University's International Strategy supports core elements of the University's overall 2030 Vision and Strategy, including further development of international partnerships, projects and collaborations in research, learning, teaching and enterprise. We recognise that an international approach is critical if we are to optimise our global reputation and impact, in our research, our creative work and our teaching, through our staff and for our students. In a global world, Bath Spa University remains globally aware and globally connected, committed to meaningful engagement with the UN SDGs and sustainable development. The University commits to reducing carbon emissions in our international operations where possible, including from staff and student travel and mobility, and to supporting further initiatives to tackle climate change, in line with our commitment to the Climate Emergency Pledge.

Our International Strategy is further embedded in Bath Spa University's 2030 Research Strategy, which includes the following internationally-focussed objectives:

- Creating a distinctive international research profile, linked to the UN SDGs and global challenges;
- Deepening international research links and externally-funded international projects, in particular developing our existing connections with countries/regions that might be underrepresented in the broader international research landscape;
- Ensuring that the UN SDGs are embedded in our bid development process and included in our research impact strategies;
- Developing and deepening our engagement with the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF);
- Continuing our targeted bid response and building on and developing strong international partnerships based on existing areas of research excellence;
- Developing sustainable knowledge ecosystems that are challenge-driven, developmental, transdisciplinary and politically aware;
- Developing the Global Academy of Liberal Arts (GALA) into a self-sustaining network which collaborates with international partners on research grant applications and staff and student exchanges.

Additionally through our strategy, the University actively promotes and supports initiatives to internationalise our curriculum, establishing collaborative teaching and learning opportunities for students both at home and abroad and in line with our Education and Research Strategy. In deepening our existing GALA, exchange, Erasmus+ and research partnerships and developing new international partnerships in line with our institutional priorities, the University is developing more opportunities for students and staff to spend time abroad, while additionally supporting home initiatives like the Global Citizenship Certificate, Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) and virtual mobility opportunities for study and work placement.

International Strategy Group

In order to accomplish these aims, Bath Spa University has established the International Strategy Group, which is led by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) and includes representation from schools, professional services, students and the Students' Union. The International Strategy Group brings international stakeholders across the University together in a way that no other group does, serving as the vehicle through which the University's international strategy and associated activities are carried out to mutual benefit while allowing for sharing of ideas, opportunities, challenges, experiences and best practice. Working collaboratively, the International Strategy Group provides a cohesive strategic overview of international partnerships, research and teaching and learning activities, and contributes to international innovation, enterprise and knowledge exchange in line with Bath Spa University's 2030 Strategy.

The International Strategy Group has strategic overview of:

- International research projects and bidding
- Global Academy of Liberal Arts (GALA)
- Go Global student exchange programme
- Erasmus+ (EU-funded) staff and student exchanges and collaborative projects
- Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)
- Transnational Education Partnerships (TNE)
- Developing global enterprise and innovation partnerships

- Ensuring international activities are in line with the UN SDGs

Additionally, the group plays an advisory role in facilitating excellent student experience for overseas students and international student recruitment and support.

International Strategy

Bath Spa University's International Strategy is an enabler that facilitates synergies to take place and provides a coherent road map in attaining our international goals. Under custodianship of the International Strategy Group, our strategy ensures visibility and cogency in our approach, enabling conversations across international stakeholders, within the University and with institutions abroad, while additionally identifying leverage, identifying complementary goals and optimising resources.

Our overall goal is to embed international collaboration and meaningful global engagement into everything that we do across our core activities here in Bath and around the world. We are dedicated to the University's values of Respect, Inclusivity, Collaboration and Sustainability and committed to meaningful engagement with the UN SDGs across our research, enterprise, teaching and learning activities. Our current partnerships and programmes reflect our values, with our ongoing international activities, including Go Global, GALA, Global Citizenship Certificate and COIL, actively contributing to creating good global citizens able to engage across cultures and borders. Wherever possible, the University continues to maintain a low environmental footprint through supporting sustainable international travel and carbon offsetting in line with the University's Sustainability Strategy. With the University's values as a baseline, it is through deepening our partnerships and networks, developing our TNE and focusing our international activities around our research strengths that we can address global challenges, raise our international reputation, generate additional research income and strengthen our existing student and staff mobility opportunities and develop new ones in line with our research and teaching priorities.

In developing new international partnerships, our focus is on strategic partnerships that are fit-for-purpose, mutually beneficial, reciprocal, clearly conveyed and transparent in their alignment to wider University strategic and academic priorities. Through Go Global, Bath Spa University will expand its student exchange and staff mobility opportunities at international universities with whom we already have well-established links through GALA, research partnerships and schools-led activities, while additionally developing new collaborations that are mutually beneficial. At present, we have more than 100 active staff, student, research and knowledge exchange partnerships worldwide across a characteristically diverse assortment of well-respected institutions, ranging from small liberal arts colleges and art and design schools to larger research-intensive universities. Our overall aim is to collaborate more meaningfully as we build alliances worldwide across universities, industry, politics and society, particularly with marginalised communities.

Bath Spa University will review and revitalise our international partnerships across TNE and exchange, focusing on quality and value over quantity. Potential and existing international partnerships will be reviewed by the International Strategy Group, chaired by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise), and the Partnership Oversight Group, chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor. The University will establish and monitor criteria for our strategic and key international partnerships, outlining the mutual benefits and intended outcomes and carrying out full due diligence and risk assessments.

The University recognises that these global connections between researchers and institutions have sizable social, cultural and economic impacts, with benefits extending beyond academia, providing 'added value' to research through meaningful impact and the establishment of high-value reciprocal

arrangements and multinational collaborations. In line with our institutional GCRF strategy, for which we have received strategic funding through to 2021, we will combine our international and research strategies and strengths to develop and maximise real world impact and to address GCRF challenges strategically. This is to be accomplished through encouraging and nurturing an interdisciplinary approach to working collaboratively with international partners.

Furthermore, by increasing our focus on internationalisation at home, we can continue to attract global talent in our staff and student bodies, internationalise our curriculum and widen access and participation in student international experience by exploring virtual mobility options for home students, such as Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) and virtual exchange and work placements. By internationalising our curriculum, Bath Spa University provides students with global perspectives of their discipline, giving them a broader knowledge base for their future careers and supporting the development of values and skills that will allow them to operate in diverse cultural environments.