



Erasmus Policy Statement

2013-2020

Scottish Association for Marine Science

Oban, PA37 1PA

United Kingdom

www.sams.ac.uk/education

International Strategy

SAMS is a world-renowned marine research institute. The institute has an excellent track record in coordination and participation in EU- funded research programmes. In recent years SAMS has taken part in a number of EU wide, multi-partner research programmes. This includes research funded under INTERREG IVA programme (including BIOMARA and INIS-Hydro) and the FP7 Framework programme (including ECASA, KNOWSEAS and iDREEM)

SAMS delivers a number of specialised marine Bachelors and Master's degree programmes and has a strong reputation in doctoral studentship delivery. Maximising the student experience and achievement is key to our education programmes, in which provision of EU and international mobility opportunities is an integral part. SAMS is committed to investigating new and appropriate opportunities for student and staff exchange, at both EU and international level, within the scope of marine science. Such mobility will improve knowledge transfer into and out of the region and will contribute to skills development and capacity building of the regional workforce and to the global employability of graduates.

SAMS aims to develop and modernise its international profile by seeking programmes that compliment and augment those currently delivered at SAMS. SAMS will seek opportunities to develop relationships with selected programmes based upon the relevance of the discipline, quality delivery and ability to offer natural and balanced synergy with our own programmes. This will enable students and staff to benefit from expertise and skills in a wider international context whilst maintaining a focus on professional development and potential career paths of emerging graduates

An enhanced international profile will provide a wider range of opportunities to enhance the learning/teaching experience and strengthen international perspectives of both staff and students. Existing and new partnership agreements will be developed against a backdrop of current and evolving research linkages, including EU and international programmes. The scale and scope of our partnership portfolio will remain modest, but focussed, to provide the best advantage to both staff and students. The main target groups for mobility are undergraduate, postgraduate and staff.

Potential partners should demonstrate excellence in teaching and learning, prior to, and throughout the duration of partnership agreements. Partnership agreements will undergo regular review and dialogues to ensure continuing high quality delivery, academic and pastoral support. Feedback and exit reports from mobility participants (incoming and outgoing) will be used to develop and maintain internationalisation practices and

SAMS will continue to facilitate current inter-institutional agreements with HEI partners (University of Konstanz and the University Centre Svalbard) and existing partners beyond Europe, with a view to expanding mobility potential at all levels. SAMS will continue to support staff current teaching exchanges with UNIS, supported by existing research linkages. SAMS is a newly recognised Associated Institute of the United Nations University, bringing research skills and expertise in marine science, and will use emerging cooperation as a backbone to enhance

internationalisation activities on a global scale and to promote the UNU mission of improving human development and welfare

A detailed Course Catalogue will be compiled annually and made available on the SAMS website. Internationalisation activities will be advertised through the website and SAMS Open Days.

SAMS programme use the Scottish Quality and Credit Framework (SCQF) which fully recognises credits gained under the ECTS credit system. Modules and associated ECTS credits gained will be fully accounted for and detailed on the student's transcript. All students will be provided with a Diploma Supplement.

SAMS operates a policy of Equal Opportunities and adheres to the Disabilities Discrimination Legislation (2005). All staff and students are treated without prejudice as part of an environment that is free from discrimination. Incoming students will be afforded a high level of academic, cultural and pastoral support, as that experienced by home students. Incoming placements will be delivered in line with the Quality Assurance Agency's Code of Practice.

SAMS will promote and provide excellent opportunities for incoming staff teaching, student study and student placement opportunities, underpinned by a strong marine research profile, specialised teaching programmes and excellent fieldwork opportunities. This will further enhance the academic, cultural and social diversity of SAMS in its teaching and research excellence and promote the benefits of mobility and cooperation activities within SAMS and out to its HEI partners.

Strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and international) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme.

SAMS currently has no active co-operation projects however, the organisation is keen to develop such partnerships at an international level. This would include opportunities to enhance staff development through engagement with European researchers and institutions, as well as joint degree programme delivery at Masters level. SAMS has been a partner in two Erasmus Mundus joint degree programme proposals which were not funded but would be keen to develop activity of this nature in the future. Areas of interest include marine and environmental science and systems management, oceanography, marine renewables and marine biotechnology. Cooperation projects are likely to be underpinned by SAMS' current research network, which stretches across Europe. Institutes with key expertise in coastal and marine science in the North Atlantic or Mediterranean Sea could potentially offer excellent opportunities in developing teaching excellence and staff development, with mutual benefits for all parties. SAMS has some experience in international cooperation projects through its partnership in the United Nations University and would be keen to support new developments in both Europe and beyond.

Such cooperation projects need to have clear and concise goals, addressing the needs of all partners. Projects should be monitored and reviewed regularly to ensure continued delivery of balanced and relevant outcomes for all. Requirements of staff and students need to be considered within the context of enhancing employability, skill sets and expanding knowledge and academic networks.

SAMS will endeavour to support and promote implementation and collaboration in cooperation projects.

Impact of participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institute (for each of the 5 priorities of the modernisation agenda) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve

SAMS seeks to provide mobility and cooperation opportunities for staff and students to increase skills and knowledge breadth within the field of marine science, oceanography, marine renewables and marine biotechnology. SAMS believes that mobility opportunities will widen student and staff perspectives. Potential partners exist across Europe, and beyond, that offer excellent expertise and skills that can both augment and compliment the opportunities, training and teaching offered at SAMS. Both incoming and outgoing mobility activities will help create graduates with enhanced knowledge and skill sets. In addition, such students and staff will have valuable experience of living, working and studying outside their home country, and inevitably, enhanced employability in a European perspective. Incoming mobility activities increase cultural and social experiences, enhances diversity and brings wide ranging benefits to SAMS staff and students.

SAMS recognises the academic and wider benefits mobility and cooperation activities bring to the quality and relevance of its higher education activities in teaching and research.

SAMS will continue to develop potential for provision of a joint structured and integrated cooperation programme in the areas of marine and environmental sciences, particularly at Masters level. Such programmes would aim to capture and utilise skills, competencies and knowledge across a consortium of partners to mutually benefit education and training in specified marine fields. Subject areas will be chosen to ensure relevance to the employment market and encompass, where possible, business and industry engagement to support regional economic growth.

SAMS will use its profile in European and international research linkages to strengthen its teaching excellence. Such linkages offer an international dimension to our programmes, staff and students, with potential benefits at both the European and regional level.

SAMS is committed to improving both the quality and relevance of its higher education activities in teaching and research. SAMS will carry out regular monitoring of inter-institutional agreements to ensure continued quality of delivery and balanced, effective outcomes for all parties, including alignment to employment markets. Regular reports and feedback questionnaires will be used to monitor and disseminate experiences of staff and

students, with the aim to develop the quality and performance of mobility opportunities and cooperation activities.

Robust governance and quality assurance of programme delivery is maintained through internal committee structures, including our Education Quality Assurance Committee, and through external research and educational quality reviews. Work of the Education and Science Departments at SAMS seeks to achieve sustainable funding for core research and educational activity addressing regional, national and globally relevant issues and challenges in the marine environment.