

Case Study 3: Student Mobility

GEP resourcing has enabled a major expansion in, and enhancement to, student mobility provision. In particular, since the inception of the Project, the following key successes have been evidenced:

- **Creation of Mobility Forums in all three faculties:** Considerable benefits have been associated with the closer working arrangements between Student Mobility and Faculties. For example, FECCI have indicated that closer working has stimulated student interest in study or placement abroad and through the promotion of opportunities by Programme Leaders and the FECCI Placement Team, there has been a significant increase in the numbers applying to undertake an exchange;
- **Increased awareness raising of short-term mobility opportunities and work placements:** additional resources have enabled the European Recruitment & Exchanges team to collate, format and promote a number of short-term mobility opportunities and work placement opportunities to our students including opportunities for work placement, summer schools and project weeks;
- **Improved experience for the student enquirer:** GEP has supported a step change in the availability of information for students who are considering spending part of their degree programme overseas. This has included:
 - a highly successful promotional campaign designed to appeal in particular to our Scottish domiciled student population (using slogans such as EXCHANGE the Royal Mile for Parisian style, EXCHANGE Pentland hikes for Amsterdam bikes and EXCHANGE mince and tatties for Italian lattes);
 - increased use of drop-in enquiry sessions digital resources and social media;
 - enhanced provision for outgoing and returning students, with 'Get Ready to Go' sessions for outgoing students and 'Returners Get Together' sessions for those returning.

In addition, several other Student Mobility elements have been introduced to complement the programme of work initially planned.

- **Roll-out of the new European Commission Erasmus+ Programme**
The closure of the former Lifelong Learning Programme and its replacement with the Erasmus+ Programme in June 2014 coincided with the timing of the GEP. The University was required to apply for the Charter for Erasmus+ and upon its award had to complete a thorough review of all European bilateral agreements across the University. Former European study destinations which were less appealing to outgoing students have mostly been removed with only a small number retained for broader strategic reasons. As part of this 'audit' of partners, new links have been proactively sought. This has taken up considerable time and negotiation with European partners but was necessary to maintain European study destinations for students and thus continue to build on existing outgoing student numbers.

- **E-Mentoring Programme**

Whilst a key element of the European Recruitment & Exchanges team role is in providing support and advice to prospective exchange students, the importance of peer-to-peer advice and support is also recognised. Contact was therefore established with the Student Mentoring & Learning Advice Co-ordinator based in the Student Learning Advice team,

with the intention of offering an e-mentoring opportunity to prospective exchange students. This collaboration has resulted in the adaptation of an existing student mentoring scheme¹ to benefit those students who are pre- and post- their study abroad period. Returning students are matched with those who are about to study in the same host country, or, if possible, in the same host university. As well as offering support to prospective exchange students, it is anticipated that the scheme will also boost the skills of former exchange students who will be responsible for providing assistance to their mentees on a range of issues via email and other electronic communication methods.

¹ A successful Student Mentoring Scheme has been in place at Edinburgh Napier University for approximately 10 years as part of its package of student learning and advice provision.