

NEW COLLEGE LANARKSHIRE

International Strategy



**NEW
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LANARKSHIRE**

Bringing **Education** Closer

Introduction.



“NCL provides both its staff and students opportunities to contribute to the global community”

New College Lanarkshire has always strived to ensure that we enhance our global citizenship by engaging with our international partners in a variety of different ways. In line with the aspirations of the Scottish Government, NCL provides both its staff and students opportunities to contribute to the global community in order to ensure that we realise our values of social justice and inclusivity. This activity is led, on a daily basis, by the International Manager with support from colleagues in the External Funding and International Activity Team.

In a challenging financial environment, this team strives to secure funding to support our global activity. The team are fundamental enablers, utilising knowledge and skills to empower the organisation to respond efficiently and effectively to opportunities which align with Strategy 2025.

Internationalisation of the curriculum is one of the major forces shaping further and higher education to ensure that we play our role in supporting our local communities to be a force for good in the wider world. To this end, the team is responsible for progressing NCL's global ambitions by promoting the expertise and specialisms of NCL beyond Scotland, widening international opportunities for our staff and students, and developing international networks and commercial workstreams.

Partnership is central to success in global activity and it is axiomatic that the team continues to nurture existing partnerships and develop new relationships, diversifying activities and providing enhanced opportunities which meet identified needs.



Our Mission

To internationalise NCL's curriculum for every Department and support staff to engage with a variety of opportunities to enhance their global citizenship.

Our Purpose

To widen NCL's international reach by identifying new partners across the globe and to deepen existing partnerships by developing new offers.

Our Goals

To embed international activity into NCL's academic curriculum planning through:

1. Increasing the number and improving the quality of mobility activities
2. Diversifying the range of commercial projects in NCL's International portfolio
3. Strengthening NCL's commitment to International collaborations
4. Develop an NCL approach to Internationalisation at home
5. Improve the way in which we communicate our International work to the NCL community and beyond



Our Objectives

1. **Enhancing student mobility:** By 2027, the College will have sufficient access to transnational partners and relevant funding streams to support international mobility to VET and Higher Education students. As a first step, in Academic Year 2023–24, the External Funding and International Activities team will submit applications to the Turing Scheme to support a pilot project for 10 higher education students, and to support mobility for VET students to a wider range of countries within and beyond Europe. The team will also engage with new partners to facilitate a wider range of student mobility opportunities.
2. **Commercial diversification:** By 2027, the team will have an extended portfolio of curricular areas which are appropriate to delivering international, commercial programmes. As a first step, in Academic Year 2023–24, the team will work with current international partners and intermediaries (like SABA, DTI, SDI) to identify potential markets for existing online offers.
3. **Strengthening international collaboration:** By 2027, the team will have identified two academic programmes that lend themselves to joint certification with one or more transnational partners. As a first step, in Academic Year 2023–24, the team will continue existing activity aimed at securing additional partners with whom NCL may collaborate on joint educational projects.
4. **Internationalisation at home (IAH):** IAH is acknowledged as a way of offering international and intercultural experiences to non-mobile students. By 2027, a majority of academic departments at NCL will incorporate an international dimension in their provision. As a first step, in Academic Year 2023–24, the External Funding and International Activities team will liaise with Heads of Academic Departments to help identify opportunities for offering a global perspective into existing departmental study programmes.
5. **Communication:** By 2027, the team will have established an International week as part of the College diary as a focal point for celebrating the international work of the College. In addition, the team will have embedded consistent means of communication with the College community in collaboration with the Brand team. As a first step in academic year 2023–24, the team will identify a suitable to host a suite of international activities across the whole College.

Our Philosophy

The External Funding and International Activities team remains passionate and committed to internationalising our curriculum and our organisational culture by creating a plethora of opportunities for our students and staff to become global citizens who impact on communities around the world.

We are experienced in working collaboratively with all types of public and private organisations, and we are committed to respecting other cultures and educational systems, contributing to our ethos of equality, diversity and inclusion.

The External Funding and International Activities team tries to maintain openness, transparency and accountability in all of its operations. In doing so, we ensure good governance of all activities to safeguard the college from any risk, reputational or otherwise.

Through experience, the External Funding and International Activities team are mindful of the political and environmental factors that influence which partnerships are pursued. In doing so, we protect the reputation of NCL on the global stage, ensuring that we act responsibly and respectfully in all activities we undertake.

Our Effectiveness Statement

Current Situation

A strong international mobility portfolio using available external funding – domestic and international – which allows those on further education courses to visit other countries and undertake a mixture of cultural and work placement activity. We also have a broad base of international partners in 11 countries across the world whose staff and students visit us to experience learning and teaching in Scotland. We collaborate with these partners in a variety of ways, including some commercial activity.

2027

All staff and students will engage with international activity through varied workstreams that offer a true internationalisation of the curriculum and college experience to ensure that we are leaders in global citizenship enhancement.

All students and staff will see and experience:

- Well-organised and enriching mobilities
- A curriculum that is enhanced through international activities
- Engagement with international partners to enhance their own curriculum
- Opportunities learn and appreciate other cultures and customs

Our Mode of Operation

In line with Strategy 2025 and the opportunities of a digital era, the team are:

- **Strengthening the curriculum:** the team uses a range of modes and intermediaries to identify and develop international opportunities, for example, agents, the British Council, Scottish Development International, Universities UK International, Colleges Development Network, Scotland Africa Business Association and the Network of Networks.
- **Partnering to grow:** the team participates in relevant national (UK and Scottish) and international networks to identify opportunities for growth.
- **Expanding our educational reach:** the team's approach to international collaborations seek to expand NCL's educational offer beyond the UK.
- **Simplifying how we work:** the team uses a range of digital technologies to streamline its communications. Effective college governance requires a considered approach to reporting, approval, and monitoring of international activities.
- **Prioritising resource close to student:** the team seeks to include the student voice in the design and implementation of international activities.

Exemplar Case Study: Niagara College, Canada

During the pandemic lockdown in 2020, it was impossible to undertake international travel. Consequently, the team dedicated some of its time to reaching out, virtually, to partners in Anglophone countries across the globe. Amongst the positive responses received, the one from Niagara College was the most enthusiastic and primed for action. Subsequent to a number of online meetings, a Memorandum of Understanding was negotiated and formally signed (virtually) in 2021. Thereafter, collaborations which occurred included a mobility project for students financed by NCL's first Turing Scheme grant, a joint curricular project to support Niagara College students of Human Resources in achieving their first cycle degrees, guest lectures (virtual) with Police Studies staff, and a visit to NCL by staff and students from Niagara College. Planned activities for the year ahead include further outward mobility to Niagara for NCL students (HE and VET), virtual lectures in Hairdressing across the two institutions, discussions on the feasibility of setting up partnerships for joint delivery of international commercial activity. The cooperation and collaboration involved in these activities touch all four goals of NCL's International Strategy.

Our Structure

Iain Clark – Chief Financial Officer

Nicola Mulholland – Dean of Academic Partnerships

Dugald Craig – Head of External Funding and International Activity

Hazel Scott – International Manager

Julie McKenna – External Funding Manager





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