Mobility = Employability
Workshop 2015, Coventry University

- Student mobility on the rise: Key facts and figures
- Student mobility and its impact on employability
- Erasmus + as an example of how mobility = employability
- Mobility and employability: Challenges and opportunities for the sector
- Some examples from across the sector
Recent student mobility trends

Student mobility on the rise: Key facts and figures

5 million internationally mobile students (ICEF Monitor, 2014)

Outbound Mobile Student Growth by Income Classification (Baseline Year = 2000)

2012 Growth Compared to 2000

- Upper-Middle-income: 161%
- Low-Income: 141%
- Lower-Middle-income: 119%
- High-Income: Non-OECD: 79%
- High-Income: OECD: 29%

Recent student mobility trends

Student mobility on the rise: Key facts and figures

Top 10 countries in the world for sending students abroad (Forbes Statista, 2015)

China: 694,400
India: 189,500
Republic of Korea: 123,700
Germany: 117,600
Saudi Arabia: 62,500
France: 62,400
United States: 58,100
Malaysia: 55,600
Vietnam: 53,800
Iran: 51,500

Top 5 countries in Europe for sending students abroad (EC, 2014)

Spain
Italy
France
Germany
Poland
A number of recent studies suggest that mobility leads to improved employability:

- **Gone International: Mobile Students and Their Outcomes (2015)**
- **Academic perspectives on the outcomes of outward student mobility (2015)**
- **The Employability Value of International Higher Education (2014)**
- **Erasmus Impact Study (2014)**
Student mobility and employability

Student mobility and its impact on employability

Enhance your career prospects (IIE, 2014)

Experience a foreign culture (IIE, 2014)

Gain experience and new skills (IIE, 2014)

10 GREAT Reasons to Study Abroad

1. Expand your worldview
2. Enhance your career opportunities
3. Learn another language
4. Experience another culture first-hand
5. Make new friends from around the world
6. Strengthen communication, team-building & adaptability skills
7. Gain invaluable experience
8. Discover new things about your own culture
9. Boost your confidence & independence
10. Travel

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Institute of International Education

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76% of students believe mobility gives them the edge when applying for jobs (British Council, 2015)
Student mobility and employability

Student mobility and its impact on employability

64% of employers think int’l experience is key for recruitment (EC, 2014)

64% of employers think international experience is important for recruitment (37% in 2006)

92% of employers are looking for transversal skills such as curiosity, problem-solving skills, tolerance and confidence when recruiting

Erasmus increases these skills!

64% of employers say graduates with an international background are given greater professional responsibility
Student mobility and employability: The Erasmus Impact Study

Erasmus + as an example of how mobility = employability

The *Erasmus Impact Study* from September 2014 explored the impact of the EU’s Erasmus student exchange programme on skills development and boosting the employability prospects of students:

- They compete much better in the job market
- They are half as likely to experience long-term unemployment
- 5 years after graduating their unemployment rate is 23% lower than non-mobile graduates
- 33% are likely to be offered a job with the host company upon graduation
- 10% are likely to start their own company

33% of mobile students are likely to land a job with their host company *(EC, 2014)*
Erasmus + as an example of how mobility = employability

1. Mobile students can get a job through placement abroad

2. Mobile students are more successful in climbing the career ladder

3. Mobile students are more likely to become entrepreneurs

Mobility provides more opportunities to grow!

Despite the no of benefits, UK HE outward mobility is low!
Mobility and Employability: Challenges and Opportunities for the Sector

Total UK HE Outward Mobility Figures are Below Average

4.5% of students in UK HE have been involved in mobility programmes (Int’l Unit, 2015)

UK HE outward mobility is largely European-centric (70%), whereas links with Australasia account for only 3%
Mobility and Employability: Challenges and Opportunities for the Sector

**Erasmus UK HE Outward Mobility Figures are Below Average**

- UK is in top 5 of the most popular destinations for European students as suggested by the European Commission.

- Only **2%** of UK HE graduates in 2012 were Erasmus students (EC, 2014)

- 5% is the average figure across participating countries in Erasmus (EC, 2014)

- Whilst the UK HE sector’s performance in inward mobility through Erasmus is good, there is still more to be done in terms of fully grasping the range of outward mobility opportunities for students...
Mobility and Employability: Challenges and Opportunities for the Sector

Barriers to Mobility through the Perspective of Students in UK HE

- **48%** High cost (British Council, 2015)
- **36%** Language skills needed (British Council, 2015)
- **19%** Culture (British Council, 2015)

### Barriers to Mobility

- The cost is prohibitive
- I am not confident about speaking another language
- I am concerned about access to quality healthcare overseas
- I would feel unsafe in another country
- I don't know if I could fit into a different culture
- I don't want to travel overseas
- I am concerned about getting a visa
- None
- Other

*Source: British Council Education Intelligence*
Some of the Factors that Could Encourage Mobility of Students in UK HE

- **71%** Help with funding (British Council, 2015)
- **40%** Language training (British Council, 2015)
- **33%** Mandatory mobility (British Council, 2015)

![Bar Chart]

Source: British Council Education Intelligence
Some Examples from across the Sector

Some Examples from Across the UK HE Sector

How can we tackle these barriers?
The University of Nottingham: Funding Mobility Opportunities

80% of University of Nottingham students receive funding to cover mobility abroad.

Uni Nottingham provides a range of mobility scholarship schemes.

Scholarship Schemes

With exchange opportunities in Africa, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and East Asia, increasing numbers of students are taking advantage of the opportunity to study abroad as part of their Nottingham degree.

The University of Nottingham is proud that in the 2011-12 academic year over 900 of our students will undertake a study abroad period as part of their degree. This number is set to grow as we work towards our strategic target of 25% of undergraduate students having undertaken a study abroad period by 2015.

In order to increase the overall rates of participation and to support students in their international activity, the University is committed to continuing to reduce financial barriers for students undertaking a study abroad period.
Some Examples from across the Sector: Compulsory Mobility

University of Manchester: Compulsory Academic Year Abroad

100+ UG and PG programmes with a compulsory academic year abroad

Courses with a study abroad option

If you want a period abroad built into your undergraduate degree, choose a course that includes an additional compulsory full academic year abroad, e.g. courses with a language component, or 'with international study'. 
Some Examples from across the Sector: Cross-cultural understanding

Keele University: Cross-culture Module for Study Abroad

The module improves the cultural awareness of students on mobility programmes

Intercultural Communication (for Study Abroad) Free Elective Module

This module is optional but strongly recommended for all students who have been accepted to go on a Study Abroad Exchange.
#BUBGlobal: 2015 Figures and 2018 Ambitions

- **Provision of Global Horizons Fund** - an investment fund to encourage student mobility

- **Staff Mobility and Networking Fund (SMN)** - an investment fund to encourage staff mobility

- £3 million invested through BU’s Fusion Investment Fund annually to support innovative projects
Mobility is at the heart of shaping in all our students future Global Talent.

We have only just started - Coventry remains an aspiration..!!
Thank you!

Workshop 2015, Coventry University

@GlobalBU

Dr Sonal Minocha (PVC Global Engagement, Bournemouth University) 26 August 2015