4.5. Establishment of External Relations

4.5.1. Institutional Collaborations Through Memorandum of Understanding

Entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with an external partner strengthens its offer of academic and research services as it engages with its partner and there is cross fertilization of ideas. Therefore, it is meaningful to have linkages with universities, institutions and organizations in a mutually beneficial and reciprocal system that looks at enhancing education and its instruments.

In 2020-2021, the Royal University of Bhutan sought approval on eight Memorandum of Understandings for the following areas of collaboration as follows:

Table: *New MoUs signed with external institutions in 2020-2021*

Sl.	University	Focus of collaboration
1	Heriot-Watt University, UK	For CST, in engineering and physical sciences
2	Palacky University, Czech Republic	For RUB colleges, on Erasmus projects, student and staff exchange
3	Narusean University, Thailand	For CST, in engineering related cooperation
4	Sustainability Laboratory, US	For CNR, in sustainable systems
5	National Digital Library of India, India	For RUB colleges, on library set up

Table : *MoUs renewed with external institutions in 2020-2021*

Sl.	University	Focus of collaboration
1	Lund University, Sweden	For CST, in Erasmus cooperation
2	South Asian University, New Delhi, India	For RUB colleges, on capacity building, joint conferences, student and staff exchange
3	University College Leuven-Limburg, Belgium	For RUB colleges, in student and staff exchanges
4	University of Technology, Sydney, Australia	For RUB, in projects, climate change programmes

A review of the MoUs signed and renewed in 2020-2021 show that CST has been proactive in engaging with external partners through formal negotiations. Four, out of

the nine cooperation with European partners is due to the increasing nature of our engagement with the European universities on different Erasmus projects. The engagement under Erasmus has helped RUB in the following ways: 1. avail study abroad opportunities for Bhutanese in European universities, 2. assisted Bhutanese faculty to teach in the European universities, and 3. engage in writing and applying for funding for projects and partnerships.

4.5.2. Institutional Linkages Through Other Means

Many of the linkages and activities initiated with external institutions are also carried out without a Memorandum of Understanding. Even during the pandemic, the colleges of RUB have carried out a number of international initiatives with external institutions around the world to enhance teaching-learning and research.

The following are a list of external linkages activities carried out between RUB colleges and external agencies:

SI	Institution/ Country	Purpose/College	College
1	Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain	Erasmus mobility until 2022	CST
2	Palacky University, Czech Republic	Erasmus Key Action 1 from September 2020 to 31 July 2023 -2023. 2) Renewed Erasmus Agreement due to covid pandemic to 31 July 2021	RUB colleges
3	TEIN Cooperation Centre, South Korea	Erasmus-Ais@Connect TEIN e-learning project with CST	CST
4	National University of Management, Cambodia	Erasmus with GCBS- 'Master's programme in Family Business Management'	GCBS
5	Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)	IRDC project for SCE	SCE
6	Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University of Nigeria	IRDC project for SCE	SCE
7	The Open University of Tanzania	IRDC project for SCE	SCE
8	UNESCO, New Delhi	IRDC project for SCE	SCE
9	University of Sydney, Australia,	BHS website development and content creation and Bhutan Himalayan Climate Studies Dialogue on the theme 'Bhutan as a Biodiversity Wonder in the Himalayas'	DRER
10	Macquarie University, Australia,	Bhutan Himalayan Climate Studies Dialogue on the theme 'Bhutan as a Biodiversity Wonder in the Himalayas'	DRER
11	James Cook University, Australia	Bhutan Himalayan Climate Studies Dialogue on the theme 'Bhutan as a Biodiversity Wonder in the Himalayas'	DRER
12	University of Technology, Sydney, Australia	Renew partnership on Transdisciplinary Research and TD Phd in Climate Change	DRER
13	UCLL, Belgium	Mobility partnerships	RUB colleges

14	DAAD Office, New Delhi	Partnership in 'Comprehensive Internationalisation-Developing International Strategies for Academic Institutions of South Asia	DRER
15	ICIMOD, Nepal	To update RUB profile on HUC website	DRER and CST
16	Vrije University Amsterdam, Netherlands (lead programme country)	Qualitative Research in Higher Education Teaching APProaches for sustainabilitY and well-being in Bhutan. Erasmus+ KA2 project 'HAPPY'	RUB colleges
17	Leiden University, Netherlands	Qualitative Research in Higher Education Teaching APProaches for sustainabilitY and well-being in Bhutan	RUB colleges
18	University of Ljubljana, Slovenia	Qualitative Research in Higher Education Teaching APProaches for sustainabilitY and well-being in Bhutan	RUB colleges
19	Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability *GCSMUS), Germany,	seeking contribution from RUB on one of the 17 topics to get RUB's perspective	RUB colleges
20	USAK University, Turkey	GCBS-Erasmus Mobility	GCBS
21	Constantine University in Nitra, Slovakia	Sherubtse - Erasmus	Sherubtse College
22	Ovidius University, Romania	Sherubtse- Erasmus	Sherubtse College
23	University of Vienna, Austria	Erasmus 'APPEAR' Project	SCE & PCE
24	Bangladesh (as lead), Bhutan, Nepal, Timor Leste, and Vietnam	SCE-The Impact of Gender and Inclusive Pedagogies on Student Participation and Learning Achievement and the Secondary School during the Pandemic and Beyond.	SCE
25	University of Tuscia (UNITUS), Italy	JNEC and CNR's Erasmus mobility	JNEC & CNR
26	Ho Chi Minh City Univerity of Technology of Technology (HCMUT), Vietnam	To sign Education Pogramme Contract	CST
27	University of Alicante, Spain	ENCORE project	GCBS
28	Haaga-Helia University, Helsinki, Finland	ENCORE project	GCBS
29	Tribhuvan University, Nepal	ENCORE project	GCBS
30	Souphanouvong University, Laos	ENCORE project	GCBS
31	National University of Laos	ENCORE project	GCBS
32	Global College International, Nepal	ENCORE project	GCBS