Gordon Armstrong

Maintaining and building on links with Erasmus partners in France and elsewhere during the COVID-19 pandemic can be challenging when COVID restrictions mean that – understandably – we can’t travel, meet, and exchange ideas as we would like to under normal circumstances.

So, in collaboration with my colleagues Ivanna d’Arcy (International Education Division, University of Limerick) and Gilles Mariaux, (Materials Specialism, ENSIL-ENSCI, University of Limoges) we have piloted a hybrid Erasmus staff mobility model to remain connected with our Erasmus partners during COVID.  The universities of Limoges and Limerick enjoy a long-standing Erasmus partnership, dating back to the 1980s, involving staff and student mobility, student internships, and joint research projects.

The hybrid mobility consists of a “virtual” part - online delivery of a six-hour lecture series to ENSIL-ENSCI’s final year Materials science students, to be followed by a “traditional” face-to-face Erasmus mobility visit when COVID restrictions allow, for interaction with the students, including future candidates for Erasmus internships and semesters, and ongoing research collaboration.