

ERASMUS+ Policy Statement

The University of the Arts defines itself as a place of education and culture, a place uniting a broad spectrum of artistic and educational approaches embedded in contemporary scientific discourse. A unique feature of the institution lies in linking the faculty of music with the faculty of (applied) arts.

The University of the Arts strives to create an inspiring environment for students and university staff, an environment that, based on integrative and interdisciplinary principles, allows for research-based learning, for multifaceted exchanges and national and international cooperation in the fields of Fine Arts, Music and Design. Here, by *integrative* we mean the absence of boundaries between the subjects of artistic creation. Due to the high percentage of international teachers and students, the University of the Arts feels obliged to diversity criteria such as interculturality. We seek to live up to these criteria by offering a variety of support for international students and teachers. We encourage students to continually develop their creative personality in an intercultural dialogue and to make use of the numerous collaborations and networks the University of the Arts has to offer. Intercultural affairs are also part of the curriculum by questioning, reflecting and representing concepts of migration and home country.

The faculty of Arts and Design consists of three different degree programmes: Fine Arts, Integrated Design and Digital Media. The Faculty of Music offers the following degree programmes: Music Performance, which is divided into majors such as Instrumental Performance, Vocal Performance, Early Music, Composition and Jazz; and Music Education, divided into majors such as Instrumental Performance, Vocal Performance, Elementary Music Education, Music Theory, Jazz and Choral Direction. Moreover, there is a degree programme Church Music. National and international students' artistic and musical talents are being fostered to the fullest extent. The University of the Arts' profile offers a wide artistic, educational and scientific scope and strives to ensure highest quality in all areas.

Our high quality standard is substantiated by continuously strengthening international activities. In addition to our students' and staff's international mobility, internationalization of the curriculum also means courses in English, recruiting international teachers and offering language and intercultural training to the staff.

With regard to the scope of partner universities, we aim to maintain our broad network tailored to the particular interests and needs of students and teachers. However, for each programme we will henceforth identify a small number of strategic partners we will cooperate even more intensively with. Of particular interest are institutions with a similar size and structure and with a focus on interdisciplinary exchange. Our key regions are Scandinavia (Sweden, Finland, Norway and Denmark) and Central and Eastern Europe (Austria, Switzerland, Poland and Hungary).

Increasing outgoing mobility of students and staff members is one aim of our internationalization strategy. Especially with regards to the faculty of Music, the mobility of students during their first years of study will be improved by optimizing the distribution of information. In the same vein we plan to install a time slot for outgoing mobility in the Music Bachelor programme as well as optimizing advice with regard to credit recognition. In the faculty of Arts and Design we aim to increase and support outgoing mobility of students and teachers in all degree programmes. With regard to Integrated Design, we intend to continue offering workshops held by international entrepreneurs and freelancers, and, moreover, internships abroad will be fully credited. The latter also applies to all other degree programmes. The development of a third cycle as artistic equivalent to a doctorate in both faculties is currently under discussion. In principle, mobility is also an option in the graduate programmes of the so-called “Meisterschülerstudium” in the Fine Arts as well as in the “Konzertexamen” in Music.

Cooperation projects at the University of the Arts entail exhibitions, concert tours, choir tours, orchestra tours and Meister courses. These serve to connect theoretical and practical aspects in artistic professional fields. Additionally, the University of the Arts is developing projects that aim to fuse artistic development with scientific research. Most projects share a close link to teaching projects in that whole courses are embedded into such projects, aiming at a further deepening of the exchange between students and lecturers. Long-time cooperation projects as well as curricular forms of exchange are being extended. Opportunities for programme-based support will be further reinforced, particularly projects involving strategic partners and international network organisations like AEC (Association Européenne des Conservatoires, Académies des Musique et Musikhochschulen) and Cumulus (International Association of Universities and Colleges of Art, Design and Media).

The University of the Arts supports the political goals as defined in the renewed Erasmus Programme. By joining Erasmus+, the University of the Arts can offer its students the opportunity to gain additional competencies by means of studying abroad or by an international internship, thus supporting personal development and increasing employability. Mobility increases the qualitative aspects of teaching and learning. Working in different learning environments, students profit from the change in perspective within their own subject area and beyond. Lecturers benefit from international professional exchange with the respective partner universities. Moreover, an intensive cooperation with strategic partners will further increase the quality of stays abroad, e.g. by adjusting curricula or by developing short-time joint semester courses, thus becoming more acquainted with our partner universities. At the same time, with new perspectives at hand, our own study programmes are being scrutinized and, when indicated, revised and improved.

By means of their own international mobility and the thus resulting further linguistic and professional education, administrative staff contributes to internationalizing university administration.

The improvement of a system requires changes in all its parts. Therefore, involving all members of the university serves to advance internationalization in its entirety.

Another important component of internationalization lies in connecting higher education, research and economy. Research and teaching are further developed by e.g. participating in national and international congresses and symposia, by cultural, economic, and research projects in cooperation with external institutions, and by public exhibits, concerts, and presentations.

A university of the arts and music functions as innovation generator for local creative industries. At the same time, by its choice of study programmes, the University of the Arts accounts for creative industries' demand for graduates. Thus, cooperation with businesses, agencies and international institutions is regarded as being highly important for all members of the university.