ERASMUS Policy Statement (EPS)  
2014-2020

Everyday life at the University for Music and Performing Arts Stuttgart is characterised by national, cultural, social and religious diversity. In view of this, internationality at the university is considered an integral element of art production, reflection, mediation, and art education (including further education). International exchange is thus a natural part of life at the university.

Our university has partnerships with over 60 other colleges in and outside the EU. The choice of partners is led by our aim of strengthening the excellence, reputation and profile development of the institution, and of linking and positioning it nationally and internationally. What is decisive for the conclusion of co-operation agreements is regional, organisational, and subject-specific considerations: the profiles of the partner institutions should ideally enhance or deepen our own university’s main focus. The geographic direction should consist of a balanced relationship of diversity (in the EU) and regional priorities. The basic idea is to create a lively, mutual exchange among the partner colleges.

On the basis of the belief that internationality is an integral element of the institution and of college life, there is openness regarding the mobility activities of lecturers, administrators and students in all the study-cycles. These activities aim to support – through international exchange – artistic practice, teaching, learning and research in international and intercultural contexts, as well as working towards a transnational character of our college.

To strengthen the structural basis for mobility, the university is trying to achieve an expansion of joint study-courses. For the 3rd cycle in particular, wide-reaching international networking is planned, both in the artistic (concert-exam) field and in the scientific one.

The University for Music and Performing Arts Stuttgart educates for the national and international labour market, which is why participation in the mobilisation measures is of central importance. To give as many of our students and co-workers as possible, including those of underrepresented groups, the chance to acquire additional competences, participation in national and international stipendium and support programs is necessary.

Participating in mobility programs allows students, lecturers and administration personnel to strengthen their artistic, intercultural, professional and social competences, through study stays, teaching and internships, and thus consolidate the basis for success in international competition. The expansion of the offer of joint masters courses represents a further structural pillar in facilitating mobility.

The possibility of collecting professional experience abroad through internships, and of forging international contacts to the world of work, contributes to strengthening the employability of our university’s graduates in national and international competition, and thus stresses the relevance of college education. Competencies strengthened by mobility contribute
to enhanced quality of teaching and learning, and strengthen the excellence of the institution in a national and international context, which is why supporting the mobility of students and university personnel plays a central role in maintaining and expanding the excellence of the university.

Our institution has numerous regional co-operations with cultural and broadcasting institutions. Students of all nationalities can apply for the corresponding programs (e.g. the RSO Orchestra Academy, the SWR Vocal Ensemble Academy, the Opera Studio, the Acting Studio), in which a concrete link between college education and professional practice is established. The adoption of the courses Music Education (Musikvermittlung) and Music Management in the study plans prepares students for professional activity, including freelancing. The offers of our university’s career service are being expanded, and extended by the program called “Employability 2013”.

In connection with clear acceptance strategies for student qualifications obtained abroad, scholarships are a strategic means to encourage mobility and facilitate access to the acquisition of artistic, professional, social and intercultural competencies abroad. Involvement in programs which make available financial support for participants in mobility programs, as well as the further expansion of the scholarship volume granted by the “Gesellschaft der Freunde der Musikhochschule”, by private foundations and by firms, is part of the internationalisation strategy of the university. The choice of scholarship receivers is normally decided by internal performance-related competitions.

Stuttgart 2013

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