

Academy of Fine Arts in Palermo - ABAPA

The theme of diversity remains of primary interest in the international activity of the Academy of Fine Arts in Palermo, which concretising itself in a specific geographical and cultural belonging, thus confirms its role as an institution Southern European Mediterranean in internationalisation strategies.

A New Management aimed at cooperation and innovation through implementation of the good practices and equal opportunities.

Objective of purpose : Fostering learning excellence, cultural exchange, digitalisation and dematerialisation towards innovation and open inclusion.

All the activities will be included within : Key Action 1 (KA1) - Key Action 2 (KA2) - EMJMD - ERASMUS MUNDUS JOINT - MASTER DEGREES

Therefore our policy is consistently linked to the perspective of international expansion of our institutional academic program.

The activities of international mobility are the centre of the internationalisation strategy of the Academy of Fine Arts in

Palermo (ABAPA) , who joined the Erasmus program in 1997-98, with the aim of promoting and supporting international exchanges.

Considering the comparison of experiences extremely relevant for the overall growth and the development of quality within the system of Higher Education in Europe, cooperation between states members through bilateral agreements has grown from year to year by providing the different type of mobility SMS, SMP, STA and STT.

These activities are closely connected to the co-operation with the institutions of Fine Art Higher Education in Europe through conferences, shared exhibitions, art projects and the past experience of joint master courses and mobility extra EU.

Since 2009 the Academy of Fine Arts in Palermo has been an active member of the activities of Paradox the Fine Art European Forum (<https://paradoxfineartforum.com>); the institution hosted in 2009 the conference "Transition and Progression in Fine Art Practice, Education and Research ". Numerous exponents of prestigious European institutions were invited to confront each other consistently around the Bologna process of integration of the system of High education on Arts in Europe. The results of those specific work sessions have long been made public and shared through publications on the Paradox website, as a valuable action into the internationalization of the mediterranean territory.

The specific geographical location within the countries of the Mediterranean and the complex history of Palermo as a deep multicultural reality has of course also improved the development of projects of wider cooperation that include training in the arts in the Mediterranean, consistently linked to the perspective of the new expanded Erasmus program.

ABAPA will recognise the following targets of indicators:

- INTERNATIONALISATION
- COOPERATION
- PARTICIPATION
- RECOGNITION
- EXPERIENCE

Student and staff mobility

By stipulating a more detailed memorandum of understanding, the institutions within the partnership, will agree to

provide and cooperate on:

- mobility of students for study or training activities (incoming and outgoing from any eligible institutions) will

be agreed around workshops, stages and academic studies;

- mobility of teachers for teaching/training activities (incoming and outgoing from any eligible institutions)

towards the development of further common projects

The activities will be carried around joint agreement with:

- a provision of full recognition to students for satisfactorily completed activities during their mobility period

and to apply an academic credit transfer system that is comparable to ECTS credit system;

- provision of support and integration of incoming students, with tutorial activities and general provision of

language facilitations

- provision of support and acknowledgement of staff mobility.

- full academic recognition of teaching mobility with a focus on research

The institution will monitor mobility activities to verify the targets, improve or expand existing activities and fully integrate the activities of training and teaching programs within the educational aims of the hosting institution, building up shared modules of teaching activity, joint courses, master in partnership. The institution agrees to integrate these activities in the process of its overall growth and to improve high quality results and collect and disseminate the contributions achieved.

ABAPA Institution agrees to develop international cooperation and partnership with new European partners from other

European countries and non EU partners (starting from the close Mediterranean ones) to ensure a clear strategy for

internationalisation; The Academy of Fine Arts in Palermo fully adheres to the ECHE contents and conforms to its

fundamental principles. The Institution also agree to:

- give maximum visibility to the ECHE (Erasmus Charter for Higher Education) and to the EPS on its website

and print material of courses catalogue.

- promote and support student and staff mobility and ensure full recognition of credits and full support for

incoming and outgoing mobility;

- provide welcome, activities, assistance and tutoring to ensure the full integration of incoming students;

- provide specific language courses;

- implement all initiatives to ensure the full integration and equal opportunity for students, teachers and staff during mobility programs;

- to ensure effective and transparent communication and dissemination of the contributions achieved.

The specific objectives of student mobility aim to:

- create an international learning experience designed to increase the quality and quantity of knowledge

- to encourage promoting experiences of social and cultural deepening on an international scale

- developing cultural and artistic programs in the future perspective of shared academic courses and to verify

their critical issues

- organize exhibitions e seminars that involve the direct involvement of students from the various institutions.

At the present time the ABAPA has more than 50 partner institutions in the countries of the EU, and several partners

Worldwide.

The International Office , which offers monitoring and support for outbound and inbound and is open to the public,

on a daily basis, for:

Monitoring of activities and performances

Monitoring and live support to Learning Agreements (including online procedures)

Drafting and maintenance of contracts

Advice on E+ awards and scholarships

Details of support provided for:

outgoing students

- open call and tenders, management of internal applications and selection
- Organisation and support toward the application process general advising
- Support in the organisation of studies, issuance of ERASMUS documents
- Nomination of selected students to partner university
- Support in organising stays abroad
- Monitoring and live support
- Feedback point of experience

incoming students

- Organisation of the application process (acceptance of the application, feedback to the partner university)
- Admission (feedback & information to partner university or international counsellor)
- Guidance on Academic programme and facilities
- Provision of Italian language course
- Organisation of a non-academic welcome programme(introduction to social life, catalogue of academic facilities and partnership's benefit)

All courses (study plans, training objectives, employment prospects, access requirements, types of final exam,

additional training activities, frequency of verification and passage to subsequent years, duration, recognition of

equivalent CFA credits ECTS) are described in the student guide also accessible on the website

(homepage) and in

English in the "international mobility" section.

International Office

General management structure & human resources

The Head of International Relations and E+ is responsible for monitoring any activities that are communicated to the

secretariat or any relative part.

The Head of Erasmus office is delegated and responsible for verifying the study agreements, and the recognition of

credits, providing all the information on the updated training offer of the course catalog.

The delegated is assisted by administrative personnel with secretariat's office functions. The office provides reception

and consultancy for incoming and outgoing students and teachers, international secretariat and any archived

communications with the protocol office.

The Academy of Fine Arts in Palermo adheres to the content of the ECHE (Erasmus Charter for Higher Education)

and the general objectives of the Erasmus + program and conforms to its fundamental principles. To date, the

Academy of Fine Arts in Palermo undertakes to implement all the initiatives aimed at ensuring the integration and

implementing all the necessary initiatives to guarantee the mobility of students, teachers and staff with disability.

In the prospects of digitalisation, at the office, students are encouraged towards the use of online platforms for learning verification procedures.

The office will provide recognition of European student status through the implementation of ESC and the EWP tools currently in use, delivering the scope of the projects and its main components on a guided handbook and providing a detailed walkthrough for the registration process.

As today students are advised and tutored through the Erasmus+ mobile App, mentoring the provided connection to:

- Digital Learning Agreement
- E+ Online Linguistic Support
- Program's Information and Tips

The office will operate to maximise compatibility with in-house digital workflow and European Student tools, ready to implement any development or solution through available fundings.

The Erasmus office is located in the main building, well located and comfortable, equipped with latest technology; facilities includes access to online resources and digital signatures.

An expansion of the spaces dedicated to international activities is indeed planned, in order to increase the

possibilities and results. The office is developing an exclusive online website platform for a friendly management of the activity relevant to the international mobility section. To fulfil internationalisation and digitalisation strategy Eduroam (Education Roaming) will be implemented : the service will allow users in mobility, from other organisations and institutions, to easily and securely access the network.

In the implementation of IT processes consistent with the European digitization process already started, the realisation of primary objective lies on the confirmation of digitisation as instrument of positive flexibility towards:

- Dematerialisation and removal of technological barriers
- Instrument of Democratic bilateral protection
- Ideal organisation tool for the planning and development of any learning schemes where networking plays a key roles.

ABAPA international office promotes:

Open Inclusion – Cultural exchange – Difference as added value – Exchange of Good Practices to support the elimination of social, cultural and religious differences. All through an intense programs of cooperation agreements

and mobility exchanges, joint workshops, summer schools, cultural and social events and planned courses of study, we advocates creative thinking, enlightened internationalism and honesty of purposes.

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