

Fine Arts Academy of Bologna I-BOLOGNA03

E.U.C. 2007/2013

Erasmus University Charter

1. Institution's Strategy

This Institution's strategy for the Erasmus activities within the LLP context is pursuant to the commitment undertaken in 1989, when Bologna was the first Italian Fine Arts Academy to join the Erasmus Programme, which over the years has grown at the institutional level with its participation in the Socrates Programme. A consolidated commitment, addressed to fostering a European training for students and lecturers in the specificity of the artistic area, based on the experience of mobility and cultural and artistic projects between European countries, seen as a necessity in the context of the transformation of Higher Artistic Training in Italy.

This Academy has in the course of time established collaborations with around fifty European Academies/Fine Arts Academies that allow for student and teacher mobility, supported by an Office, comprising lecturers, contracted collaborators, and administrators. Other European partnership initiatives have been achieved by means of exhibitions, seminars, and projects, amongst which DIDART, dedicated to art teaching and funded by the EU.

The priority is for us to increase the number and the quality of the student mobility experience, by integrating it fully within the study cycle, with great attention to the student placement as that experience is particularly linked to the vocational specificity of the new diploma courses (Communication and Art Teaching, Cartoon, Graphic Design, Restoration). Another important aim is to involve more thoroughly in European training, the various components of academic life. The prospect of developing higher forms of European cooperation is present, with the hypothesis of joint masters.

The strategy lines already implemented, to be enhanced, in order to achieve these objectives are:

- improve the visibility of the commitment to European training and the quality of the information (the Erasmus University Charter and the EPS already appear in the Institution's web site and are enclosed in the new bilingual Student Handbook), through the work of the Erasmus Office, that is already active in providing information

- promote language training, in support of the mobility experiences
- broaden the agreements with the partner Institutes belonging to the new EU member countries
- honing the recognition of the studies performed abroad, flanking the system of European Credits with an "Erasmus study supplement" in which to describe the contents of the mobility performed
- support cultural and artistic collaboration projects, beyond and through student and lecturer mobility, so that the experiences achieved will affect teaching innovation and research in the institute
- remove the obstacles that may discriminate the mobility experience (already done: agreements with the Regional Study Agency for supplementary mobility grants with which to support economically disadvantaged students; contributions of the institution *ad personam* for the disabled)

II. Quality of the academic mobility activities

It's important, in order to support and monitor the quality of academic mobility, that there should be an Erasmus Office within the institution, comprising a secretariat, the delegate lecturer, a collaborating lecturer, an administrator (which has yet to be implemented). It performs the following tasks:

- the work of informing (by means of the opening hours to the public, the organisation of informational meetings, the gathering and production of materials for dissemination) so as to

enhance the mobility experience, which is added to the information on the curricula contained in the web site and in the new bilingual student guidebook;

- an activity in support of the incoming students to foster their integration (help in searching for accommodation, individual orientation interviews, welcome meetings, coordination for participation in Italian language courses at the *CILTA* (University of Bologna Interfaculty Language Centre) and the *Società D.Alighieri*, setting up of an end-of-stay exhibition),
- an activity of tutoring for the incoming and the outgoing students (thanks to the work of the above-mentioned lecturers, in collaboration with the coordinators of the various diploma courses).

The extracurricular language preparation, in support of the mobility experiences, is fostered by means of an agreement with the *CILTA* as well as economic contributions.

The ECTS is available in the institution, in all the new curricular courses. The recognition, made by the delegate lecturer, provides for a learning agreement, to be drafted before leaving, and an "Erasmus study supplement" to be added to the certifications, upon arrival, for the recognition of the studies performed abroad; prior to their departure the guest students are given a "Transcript of Records" based on the ECTS.

Personnel mobility is supported by the Erasmus Office. In regard to the information, the contacts and the coordination, aid is provided (such as translations) to assist with the language preparation.

III. Quality of the student placement activities

Considering the student placement as a new mobility experience, but one of great interest as that experience is well related to the specificity of the new diploma courses, the first action promoted is the involvement of the coordinators of such courses, especially those in which the student placement is included in the curricula, as well as the involvement of lecturers with links with the world of work: a collaboration that is necessary in order to build up such experiences, addressed to the incoming students, and to draw up the forms of full recognition of the academic route taken by the students.

To start with, the agreements for the student placements are taken with the companies with which agreements or collaborations are already enforced within the scope of professional and cultural projects with the institution; for each one of them, there is a reference lecturer, responsible to the company and the institution. A letter of intent underwritten by the parties will define the experience (period, hours, tasks, person responsible for the placement at the company and the institution, candidate selection, hypothesis for the quantification of the academic credits, insurance); registration is the responsibility of the Erasmus Office, which deals with the contact with the student together with the reference lecturer and the delegate lecturer; a "transcript of work" is produced at the end of the experience in collaboration with the Erasmus delegate lecturer and contains the description of the work performed with the quantification of the actual number of credits.

For the academic recognition, the full recognition of the credits matured will be made when the student placement is envisaged in the course of the student's studies; in the case in which the student placement does not appear in the study curricula, the recognition of the credits takes place within the scope of the optional subjects, or as a supplementary score in the final diploma dissertation paper.

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