



Royal College of Art

Postgraduate Art & Design

Erasmus Policy Statement

1.0 Overall Strategy

The RCA's Internationalisation Strategy 2016-2021 outlines its vision to be the leading internationalised university of art and design, with global recognition, influence and impact. It seeks to embed a strategic approach to internationalisation at the core of the College's mission and activities, across learning and teaching and the whole of the student experience, research and knowledge exchange, innovation and executive education, development and donor relations, and its partnerships around the world with universities, business, professional practices and industry, charities and governments, and alumni. As befits an organisation with an international reach, profile and impact, partners are chosen by the College on the basis of their own world-leading reputations and standing, as well as because of equally important factors such as academic compatibility and shared values. Key strategic priority areas for the College in terms of the development of future partnerships are North America, South Korea, China and East Asia, and the Middle East and North Africa, but the College also has a watching brief on areas of continued or anticipated growing interest, namely EU and non-EU Europe, India and Brazil.

One of the RCA's key aims is to attract and develop a diverse international student community, and to attract and retain faculty with international experience and profile. To achieve this aim, the College is committed to recognising and having appropriate systems in place for supporting student mobility and students' qualifications and credit; to supporting, at an appropriate level and with respect to resources, student exchanges, both inward and outward; and to developing faculty exchange opportunities with priority international partner institutions. It views the Erasmus+ Programme as an extremely important enabler of its internationalisation agenda.

2.0 Organisation & Implementation

The RCA will follow the same principles and processes for the organisation and implementation of cooperation projects within the Erasmus+ Programme as it does for every such project involving other organisations.

Initial proposals will be considered within Schools – at School Leadership Team meetings, involving Heads of Academic Programme – to determine whether the project can be suitably resourced and whether it aligns with key institutional strategies.

Following consultation with the Academic Development Office, proposals will then be taken forward to either the College's Academic Standards Committee (for student and staff exchanges) or to its Research Committee (for joint research projects) to secure institutional backing. Once approved, a named contact from within the relevant academic programme will oversee the organisation and implementation of the project, with support from the Academic Development Office.

Representatives from relevant stakeholders across the College – Finance, Research, Registry, Student Support, the Students’ Union – provide advice and guidance in the planning, contract development and subsequent management of the project.

3.0 Impact

The RCA views its participation in the Erasmus+ Programme as key to its internationalisation and modernisation agendas. The following outlines some of the College’s objectives in these areas where Erasmus participation will act as a crucial enabler:

Increasing the number of higher education graduates

The RCA is committed to operating as an inclusive institution and to attracting and developing a diverse international student community. Part of this commitment involves identifying and addressing any barriers to entry for prospective students, in particular through ensuring that the College’s procedures for application, admissions and enrolment are appropriate, sensitive and respect difference and diversity; and through ensuring that the student community reflects diversity, provides opportunity for intercultural dialogue and networking, and respects the international dimension and aspirations of all students’ experience.

Improving the quality and relevance of teaching and research training

As part of its internationalisation strategy, the College aims to develop new academic offers, and to refresh its existing portfolio, with respect to an international and intercultural ethos and subject knowledge; to provide and support opportunities for internationalised educational experiences including exchanges, partnerships and joint programmes; and to innovate in learning and teaching methods, pedagogy and delivery to reflect awareness of difference in learning styles, cultural difference, and previous educational experience.

Encouraging cross-border cooperation to boost higher education performance

The RCA aims to attract and develop a diverse international student community, and attract and retain faculty with international experience and profile: this will in part be achieved by recognising and supporting student mobility, both inward and outward; and developing faculty exchange opportunities with priority international partners.

Linking education, research and business

One of the aims of the RCA’s Internationalisation Strategy is to internationalise innovation, knowledge exchange and partnerships with industry, policy makers and other organisations. Key to this will be developing partnerships with industry and organisations in key target areas, linked to research and programme development plans; and developing international partnerships and projects with respect to new research and knowledge exchange centres and in the College’s planned Centres of Expertise.

Effective governance and funding mechanisms

The College aims to enhance its international development, donor relations and discretionary income, through ensuring the cultivation of prospects and donors on a worldwide basis, with respect to its values and to due diligence; and through diversifying the range, number, scale and geographic distribution of contributors to the College’s discretionary income, with respect to regional priorities and links to the College’s academic and research work.

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