



Erasmus Policy Statement of the University of Music and Performing Arts Mannheim

(Excerpt from the proposal for the Erasmus Charter 2021-2027)

Artists and musicians operate on an international level. For this reason, the internationalisation of the University of Music and Performing Arts Mannheim is an important goal and affects all areas of the university's daily life. The music and dance degree programmes are in demand by a high percentage of international students, who bring their cultural experiences into the university community and enrich the university landscape.

Another element for good internationalisation practice is the Erasmus programme and other types of scholarships. For example, the International Office of the University of Music and Performing Arts Mannheim has become well established in recent years and has initiated numerous cooperations with European partner universities to carry out structured exchange programmes. Our teaching staff is regularly invited by partner universities and often requested to make repeat visits while recently, the students have become more interested in exchange programmes. The aim is to give students the opportunity to further their own artistic and technical development in an international environment by comparing their own skills with those of others and to learn from this comparison. In this context, cultural diversity and tradition play a particularly important role for artists, in contrast to other disciplines.

Furthermore, the students have the opportunity not only to learn another foreign language, but also to set up a European network to further their professional career, to orientate themselves Europe-wide and to develop a stronger European identity.

For the reasons mentioned above, the promotion of student and teaching staff mobility is a priority at the University of Music and Performing Arts Mannheim. One goal is to achieve a slight increase in staff mobility and a noticeable increase in terms of student mobility for the new Erasmus programme generation from 2021/22. This concerns mobilities in both Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes. Mobilities of teaching staff are generally only possible up to a maximum of 5 days, as lecturers can hardly be absent for a longer period due to individual teaching.

For students of music, the focus is on deepening their artistic skills and specialising in the main subject instrument during a semester abroad while internships are hardly ever requested.

The University of Music and Performing Arts Mannheim is very keen to offer Erasmus students study places within its capacities. For example, in the academic year 2019/20, incoming mobilities were three times as high as outgoing mobilities, as the University of Music and Performing Arts Mannheim employs internationally recognised professionals in the field of instrumental training, singing and dance and is therefore in high demand among foreign students.

The International Office and the Erasmus Coordinator fulfil an important advisory and support function for both outgoing and incoming students as well as for teaching staff. In addition, the Student Office as well as the Student Union support the incoming students.

The University of Music and Performing Arts Mannheim currently maintains bilateral relations with 40 partner universities throughout Europe. Cultural diversity, constructive university partnerships and increasing numbers of teaching staff and student mobilities are our declared goals in order to develop a higher European identity.

The students who participate in an exchange programme have the opportunity to actively and passively experience international music and dance culture on site in

lessons, ensemble rehearsals and performances inside and outside the institute and to lay the foundation for an international career.

The teaching staff mobility enriches the subject-specific teaching content. With regard to the sustainability of the Erasmus projects, lasting effects are achieved through collegial relationships and the mobility of students. In addition, cultural and musical idiosyncrasies can be incorporated into teaching so that the students will be successfully positioned in the international competition in the field of music and performing arts.

As far as the support of the mobility participants is concerned, our professors and our Erasmus coordinator advise the outgoing students with regard to the selection of the partner universities and the subjects. In addition, it is clarified in advance in which teaching languages lectures are held and whether the students possess the necessary language skills. The International Office supports the outgoing students in all practical questions regarding the application procedure and the allocation of scholarship funds.

For incoming students, the International Office is the first point of contact with regard to questions relating to accommodation, insurance matters, practical tips on living in Germany or managing or amending Learning Agreements. If it turns out that the language levels of the incoming students are not sufficient, they are integrated into the German courses offered by the university. The individual support from the multilingual teaching staff builds a linguistic bridge to the incoming students. In this way, individual needs can also be taken into account. In addition, the International Office and the Erasmus coordinator offer regular consultation hours for students and teaching staff.

The quality of the incoming students' study results is continuously evaluated in performances of the instrumental, singing and dance classes, the university orchestras and ensembles, and is especially guaranteed by the 1:1 relationship with the main subject teacher. Regular evaluations, graduate surveys and the accreditation of study programmes serve to ensure sustainable quality assurance.