

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

***Erasmus Charter for Higher Education awarded by the European Commission,
selection year 2014***

The Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS) of Art Academy of Latvia for 2014-2020

The Art Academy of Latvia (AAL) Internationalisation Strategy 2015 -2020 was elaborated considering strategic objective of AAL: multi-dimensional development of art, design, science and higher education, strengthening unity of artistic creativity and scientific research and study continuity, promoting visual culture development and investigation.

The implementation of The Art Academy of Latvia (AAL) Internationalisation Strategy 2015 - 2020 was grounded on three noticeably formulated goals:

- Internationally competitive art and design study and research environment
- Promotion of international competitiveness of students and academic staff providing a variety of exchange and internationalisation experience within European Higher Education Area
- Maintaining high level of international cooperation by development of sustainable networks for cooperation in the fields of artistic, design, research and creative industries.

The Erasmus Charter for Higher Education is integral to the implementation of the Art Academy of Latvia (AAL) Internationalisation Strategy 2015 - 2020 and its goals.

The Full Respect to the Erasmus Charter Principles

AAL declare full respect to the following principles:

- 1) Non-discrimination and equal access and opportunities to mobile participants from all backgrounds;
- 2) Full recognition for satisfactory completed activities of study and / or traineeship mobility;
- 3) Charging no fees for tuition, registration, examinations or access to laboratory, workshop and library facilities.

The Full Respect to the Erasmus Charter Values

- AAL ensures that international cooperation leads to sustainable and balanced outcomes for all partners.
- AAL provides full support for students and staff participating in international cooperation.
- AAL elaborates the results of international cooperation in a way that will provide positive impact on participating institutions and individuals providing and encouraging peer learning activities.
- During implementation of the Art Academy of Latvia (AAL) Internationalisation Strategy 2015 - 2020 AAL conducts Internal Quality Assessment procedures to ensure full compliance with principles, values, procedures and goals declared by the Erasmus Chart.

About participation of AAL in ERASMUS +

Art Academy of Latvia started to participate in the SOCRATES/ERASMUS exchange programmes in 1998, then, in 2007, in continued participation in the ERASMUS programme and, starting from 2014, in the ERASMUS+ programme.

The participation in ERASMUS+ programme allowed to develop strong connections with the Europe's leading art and design schools. Under the ERASMUS+ programme, the Art Academy of Latvia had signed cooperation agreements with 140 higher educational institutions in 27 different countries. The programme offered a wide range of actions in the fields of education and training not only to the students, but also the teaching staff and personnel of the Academy cooperating institutions of higher education.

Approximately 80 students of the Art Academy of Latvia enroll in study and practice exchange programs every year, while approximately 140 employees of the Academy participate in the exchange and teaching programs. Meanwhile, every year the Art Academy of Latvia is chosen as a place of study and work by approximately 60 students from partner universities and is visited by approximately 30 guest lecturers with thrilling courses and workshops.

ERASMUS+ programme also provides unique opportunity to the academic and non-academic staff – within the framework of the programme, they can give lectures, develop and co-create study programmes, conduct workshops, improve lecture courses and teaching materials, participate in seminars and cooperation projects, visit various cooperative institutions as well as take part in study visits, observation periods and job shadowing, thus gaining significant experience in the intercultural dialogue and contributing to the transnational cooperation.

Within the framework of Erasmus+ program, there have been large-scale and valuable cooperation projects – exhibitions, creative workshops, conferences, lectures and master workshops that inspired and enriched the students, teaching staff, and employees of the Art Academy of Latvia and its partner universities with valuable experience.

About the Art Academy of Latvia

Founded on the dawn of the formation of the Republic of Latvia, the Art Academy of Latvia has always been the cradle of the Latvian art and culture for several generations, as well as a leading art university in Latvia for a hundred years. Embodying the spirit of creativity and freedom, the Art Academy of Latvia has always been able to maintain its independence and continue its purposeful development – it has become the competence center of regional and European significance, the purpose of which is to provide qualitative, globally competitive higher education and comprehensive development of art, design, and science, thus ensuring unity of creativity and scientific research and continuity of studies.

STUDIES

The Art Academy of Latvia offers higher education in accredited Bachelor, Master and Doctoral programs. Students learn not only to perfectly master their professional field,

but also to create and develop thinking, mastering drawing, painting and sculpturing skills and a wide range of theoretical subjects concurrently with their specialization studies, which makes it possible to have a good knowledge of art history, to be competitively critical-minded, knowledgeable, and creative. Studies are based on academic tradition and experience, charting and keeping track of the course of the era while creating individual handwriting.

The Art Academy of Latvia offers studies in fifteen specialties, which are divided into five faculties:

Faculty of Visual Arts lets students specialize in Painting, Graphic Arts or Textiles;

Faculty of Visual Plastic Arts offers education in Sculpture, Ceramics and Glass Art specialties;

Faculty of Design offers studies in Functional Design, Environmental Art, Metal Design and Fashion Design;

Faculty of Audio-Visual Media Art offers education in Stage Design, Visual Communication, as well as in the sub-department "Motion. Image. Sound";

Faculty of Art History offers studies in Restoration, Art History and Theory.

The beginning of the second century of the Art Academy of Latvia marks continuous successful growth of the institution, currently expanding its activities in regional centers such as Kuldīga and Ikskile, as well as participating in the development of Riga's vicinity – cooperation with the Kuldīga municipality, the Kugas' home development plan and the project *Riga Makerspace* are the steps taken toward the development of local and international innovation centers. Moreover, the Academy continues to develop its own study platform by starting the drawing, curatorial studies, designing services and practical doctoral studies projects development.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In order to strengthen the role of the Baltic States in the global educational processes, the Art Academy of Latvia has become a member of several international organizations – the Network for Collaboration in Arts (NICA), the European League of Institutes of Arts (ELIA) and its subnetwork PARADOX, the Program of the Nordic Council of Ministers (NORDPLUS), the Nordic-Baltic Network of Art and Design Education (CIRRUS), the Network of Nordic-Baltic Fine Art Academies (KUNO), as well as the International Association of Universities and Colleges of Art, Design and Media (CUMULUS).

International competitiveness is facilitated by the participation in exchange programs such as KUNO, CIRRUS, European and International ERASMUS+, which has established a close network of cooperation with some of the leading art and design universities in Europe, as well as successful collaboration with art and design universities in the USA, Russia, the Philippines, China, Hong Kong, Belarus and Kazakhstan, and now the Art Academy of Latvia has entered into cooperation agreements with more than 140 partner universities.

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CREATIVITY AND RESEARCH

Along with providing high-quality education, the Art Academy of Latvia promotes artistic creativity and scientific research, carried out by the departments, the teaching staff, leading researchers, and students.

The Art Academy of Latvia initiates and participates in the development of Latvian art and design advancement strategies, creates creative incubators and cooperation platforms in the field of art and design business, publishes a number of research and teaching materials, such as the largest volume of the Art History of Latvia to date.

The unity of artistic creativity and research is manifested in innumerable local and international projects that the Academy initiates or successfully cooperates with. Students and graduates of the Art Academy of Latvia receive international recognition and awards at such significant events as the Venice Art Biennale, the exhibition of young designers *Salone Satellite* in the framework of Milan International Furniture Fair, the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space, the young designer exhibition *Greenhouse*, a popular section at Stockholm Furniture & Light Fair, as well as in the most ambitious international shows and annual international competitions in animation, fashion art, glass and ceramics, textile art and others.

Thus, by developing the study program and artistic creativity, as well as scientific research and business synergy, the Art Academy of Latvia provides development, sustainability and research of the Latvian art, design and visual culture from the first year of studies until graduation and further education at both the local and international levels.

The Students' Administrative Council of the Art Academy of Latvia, which was founded back in 1932, organizes annual cultural events and represents the interests of students in different decision-making bodies of the Art Academy of Latvia.