

## **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 118 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.

Since joining the ERASMUS programme, 434 students of the Art Academy of Latvia had studied abroad, whereas 124 students had gained professional experience in various European companies. The academic and non-academic staff of the Academy also had taken active part in the ERASMUS mobility. The employees of the Academy visited different European Union institutions 489 times in order to share their experiences, participate in workshops and give guest lectures.

At the same time, 197 inward mobility students and 81 inward mobility teachers from participating higher education institutions had chosen the Art Academy of Latvia as the destination of their exchange studies, creative workshops and guest lectures within the framework of ERASMUS+ programme. The most recent student exchange programme ERASMUS+ offers even more extensive and valuable opportunities than in the previous years. Students are able to study and train abroad from 3 to 12 months within each study cycle – whether it is Bachelor, Master or Doctorate.

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.

### **About AAL**

Art Academy of Latvia is a higher education institution and research competence centre in art, design and theory of art. It was established in 1919 and, while being the country's leading higher education institution for more than 96 years, it has also become an important centre of competence both regionally and in Europe, providing enabling conditions for artistic creation and scientific research. Art Academy of Latvia has always been the cradle of the Latvian art and culture, introducing the creative art space with numerous professionals highly appreciated both in Latvia and abroad. In order to promote the utmost development of the creative industries and their potential in Latvia, the main goal of the Art Academy of Latvia is to provide qualitative, globally competitive education to the gifted young talents of art, design and theory of art.

Currently, the Art Academy of Latvia offers studies in fifteen different competence areas, providing academic qualification at the Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees. The Faculty of Visual Arts majors in painting, graphic art and textile art, whereas the Faculty of Visual Plastic Arts – in sculpture, ceramics and glass art. The Faculty of Design offers specialization in functional design, metal design, environmental art and fashion design. Visual communication, motion, image and sound media and stage design is taught in the Faculty of Audio-Visual Art, whereas the Faculty of History and Theory of Art majors in restoration as well as in history and theory of art and culture. Together with the aforementioned fifteen departments, the Department of Drawing and the Department of Humanities offer high-quality lecture courses to all students of the Academy taking into account their areas of competence.

Academic, research and creative activities take place in two cities of Latvia – the main building of the Academy is located in Riga, nevertheless Bachelor's programmes in painting, graphics, sculpture and textile art are also provided in the city of Rezekne. Currently, there are more than 800 students studying in the Art Academy of Latvia.

The Art Academy of Latvia ensures individual approach to each and every student, allowing to develop individual talent, skills and knowledge in the most appropriate direction and form. Students work hand in hand with the industry's leading experts on daily basis and broaden their horizons by participating in diverse support programmes and various studies, trainings, internships and creative activities. From the very beginning of their studies, the future artists, designers and art historians are motivated to organize various creative events and participate in the creation of important culture and art projects both in Latvia and abroad. Since one of the main priorities of the Art Academy of Latvia is to be both available to the public and opened to experiments, the events organized by the Art Academy of Latvia can often be considered as the landmark and further inspiration of the creative work of students.

The Art Academy of Latvia plays a very significant role in the development of the Latvian cultural life. The effort to create a favourable environment for the national art has always gone hand in hand with a distinct international dimension. Nowadays the Art Academy of Latvia works with a wide range of partners all over the world – from higher education institutions, lecturers and entrepreneurs to state institutions, large-scale international forums and fairs.

In order to strengthen the role of the Baltic states in the field of education, the Art Academy of Latvia is taking active part in the activities organized by NICA (Network for International Cooperation in Arts), ELIA (European League of Institutes of Arts), CIRBUS, KUNO, CUMULUS, NORDPLUS and PARADOX. The Art Academy of Latvia not only provides quality education programmes, but together with international partners also organizes various projects in the fields of art, design and theory of art.

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.