

Erasmus Policy Statement for the years 2021-2027

University of the Arts Poznan (UAP) is Poland's major higher education institution that operates in the field of fine arts and design. We offer a variety of first and second cycle degree programmes. Thanks to the open structure of our curricula, students are given much freedom in selecting their practical courses. They also have an opportunity to experience disciplines not strictly related to their majors. It enhances creativity and allows students to engage in inter-disciplinary projects. Apart from degree programmes in fine arts and design, we offer a first and second cycle degree programme in Curatorial Studies. We also offer a first and second cycle degree programme in Architecture, a major that in Poland is mostly offered by universities of technology. In the following years, we are planning to continue our third cycle degree programmes.

For many years, one of our main goals has been internationalisation. We find it important for two main reasons. First of all, by creating an international environment, we provide our students and members of faculty with an opportunity to develop their skills and to gain new perspectives, that will prove useful in their professional lives and artistic practices. The language of art and design varies depending on the cultural and social contexts. Nowadays, artists, designers and curators often engage in international and cross-cultural projects, and thus it is crucial to prepare them for such activities at the stage of education. Secondly, by inviting international students and academic staff members to our school, we have a chance to share with them our knowledge, our practices, and experience, that they may benefit from in the future.

Our strategy of internationalisation is based on three elements. The first element is accepting international candidates for degree programmes taught in Polish. It mostly involves students from Belarus and Ukraine, as well as students coming from member states of the European Union.

The second element are full-time first and second cycle open for international candidates – the 'Study in English' programme. Within the programme, theoretical courses are taught entirely in English, while practical courses are conducted in groups that consist of Polish and English-speaking students, which creates a space for cooperation and exchange of creative ideas. More than a dozen students apply for the programme each academic year. As of 2020, they represented 17 countries from Europe, Asia and Africa.

The third element of our internationalization strategy are student and staff exchanges. Currently, we hold them with our partner institutions in the U.S., Canada, Taiwan, Israel, Georgia, Ukraine and China. We also achieve this goal through the Erasmus Programme, which we, as an institution, have been participating in since 1999.

During those years, have notice the positive effect that the programme on our institution. As of 2020, all of our school's Faculties accept incoming exchange students, and the number of courses available for English-speaking students is increasing each academic year. This clearly indicates that the Programme fits our overall strategy, as it allows a regular exchange of students between our school and our partner institutions across Europe. For the years 2021-2027 we would wish to extend cooperation with our current partner universities and to create partnerships with institutions representing countries of the programme we have not yet cooperated with. Our goal for the next

years will also be extending inter-institutional agreement with particular partner institutions, so that student of all Faculties could have equal selection of possible destinations for the Erasmus mobility. We would also like to use our participation in the programme as a way of promoting our offer abroad so as to encourage more candidates for student and staff exchanges to select our University. Based on our experience of participation in the Erasmus programme from recent years, incoming exchange students actively participate in courses and are eager to take part in our projects, exhibitions and cultural events, which creates a platform of exchanging idea and experiences in the field of fine arts and design. We would also like to continue to promote Erasmus traineeships as a way of acquiring new professional skills and gaining experience among our students and recent graduates. As staff exchange, we would like to raise the awareness about Erasmus possibilities among our teaching and non-teaching staff.

In the aspect of modernization, participation in the Erasmus Programme will help our school develop and implement new teaching strategies on all levels of education. It will contribute to the improvement of language skill among staff and students (e.g. through online language learning platforms) and will allow to create more course and events held in English. We will be able to develop more channels of communication (websites, catalogues, information materials) aimed for international students. The means provided by the programme will also be engaged in developing original art-related events and other initiatives engaging Polish and incoming exchange students. It will also be a chance for use to improve our facilities and equipment.

To contribute to the goals of the European Education Area, we wish to focus on promoting participation in mobilities as an integral part of the course of studies. We would wish to influence the mindset of students so that they can start planning their participation since the first year. We would also like to convey this idea among the teaching and on-teaching staff, primarily to staff members that have not yet carried out Erasmus mobilities.

Our policy will also focus on the beneficial effect that participation in the programme has the foreign language skills. Currently, our school offers language training in English, German and French. We intend to promote among all of the participants of the programme the benefits of using the online language tools provided by the Programme. We would also like to encourage them to enrol in language courses offered by their receiving institutions, or in the countries they carry out their traineeships. It will allow them to learn languages not offered by our curriculum, a skill that they will find useful in their professional life. As a receiving institution, we will also provide incoming students to participate in Polish course.

We are also planning to continue our policy of engaging students and staff members into actions aimed at promoting the programme. We will intend to use their experience and knowledge in promotional materials and during meeting with potential candidates.

University of the Arts Poznan also serves as an institution of culture with a programme dedicate to internationalisation. The university engages in exchanging exhibitions with international partners, as well as preparing and organising international events. For the last 4 years, UAP organized or co-organized numerous art events on an international scale, many of which were a result of cooperation with our Erasmus Partner institutions. We wish to continue this trend in the following years.

Moreover, UAP has cooperated with embassies and consulates of the Republic of Poland of organizing exhibitions that promoted Polish art abroad.