



## Erasmus Policy Statement

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LABA has been awarded the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education for the Erasmus+ program 2014-2020. The Erasmus Policy Statement sets out our strategy in relation to the Charter.

The Libera Accademia di Belle Arti wants to be an important point of mediation between the latest artistic tendencies and the sensitivity of a nation like Italy which has given great value to its artistic heritage and has developed a strong cultural identity.

The Academy provides an excellent and experienced teaching staff, who, together with the curricular subjects, frequently, organize meetings and seminars with artists, art critics, as well as experts in industry and artistic handcraft. Visiting galleries and museums and having cultural exchanges with other Academies and European Universities is extremely important.

LABA Academy of Fine arts, in fact, strongly supports the EU Modernization and Internationalization Agenda for Higher Education, and the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education is integral to the realization of our institutional plans, strategies and aspirations.

We choose our partners not according to privileged geographical areas, but on the basis of affinities in didactic curricula; in particular we privilege Institutions with educational paths similar to ours, but including different - both theoretical and practical - programs which can enrich our students' education and training.

Many of our partnerships result from individual links between academic staff consolidated during the last years with the existing partners, others have been introduced through other networks: anyway we will build on our experience to enhance and develop all aspects of mobility.

At the moment we have cooperation agreements in Europe (France, Germany, Spain, Poland, the Czech Republic, Portugal, United Kingdom, Bulgaria, and Belgium) and in the Chinese Popular Republic, though we have broadened the network of our contacts more and more above all in East-Europe areas, where we found a particularly high level in arts education, as well as the presence of excellent technical laboratories, even if we remain open to new and unexpected opportunities.

The cooperation of our Academy with numerous partners with whom we profitably exchange students, teachers and staff members, notably enriched the quality of our Institution and the education of our students.

LABA guarantees the highest quality in the organization of student mobility, whilst ensuring equal academic treatment and services to home and Erasmus students; to this end, each incoming Erasmus student becomes a fully integrated member of the Academy.

LABA classes are normally made of 20 students each, first of all because the Academy finds that working into small groups is a good way of taking responsibility, and secondly because some courses need special materials or spaces that can be offered for a restricted amount of students.

All students selected to take part in exchange programs will be chosen on the basis of merit and their potential to benefit from the experience; LABA selects students without regard to sex, race, ethnic origin, religion or social background; applications from students with disabilities are viewed on exactly the same academic grounds as those of other candidates. And more, disadvantaged students can benefit from DSU grants provided by the Regione Lombardia.

All students work under the supervision of a coordinator, and are required to keep in contact with this figure while on exchange, in order to inform and influence our future practice, policy and strategy.

Periods of study undertaken by our students under the Erasmus framework receive full academic recognition and do not lead to an increase in the overall length of course of study.

We can state that Erasmus experiences guarantee in students a "step up in class" and a remarkable improvement in terms of motivation and open-mindedness.

One of the objectives of LABA is to encourage changes in course structure that would allow increased student mobility, and it also aims to enable departments to build teaching collaborations, both nationally and internationally.

We mainly aim to increase the mobility - above all in out-going - in order to strengthen international cooperation activities and we would love to build up a perfectly- working placement opportunity according to the new Erasmus + principles. This policy is devoted to project LABA on the European and international panorama, which is our prior confrontation and development term.

Erasmus Office