

International Strategy 2014 -2021

The Academy of Fine Arts Vienna has experienced a high degree of internationalisation in recent years, which has resulted in our current student body consisting of 40% international students. The majority of these are not exchange students, but have come to Vienna with the goal of completing a full study programme at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. This development has been partly the result of strategic planning (e.g. offering an increasing number of courses in English, developing an English language PhD-programme), but to some extent has also come about due to spontaneous cooperations and unforeseeable opportunities for partnerships.

In addition, internationalisation has developed in a somewhat unbalanced way, with incoming students numbers currently being almost twice as high as outgoing ones. The later trend can be explained at least in part by the fact that when an institution already has a highly international student body, this will lead to a smaller percentage of mobile students per se, as international students are less likely to consider studying abroad than national ones.

Moreover, a high degree of internationalisation-at-home may also alleviate the motivation for students to participate in mobility programmes.

The Academy's internationalisation strategy takes account of the twofold origin of our currently high degree of internationalisation. Although the strategy is based on explicit goals it also leaves some leeway for unplanned activities and partnerships, thus allowing for flexibility and to make use of opportunities that could not have been foreseen.

Three overall strategic goals:

1. Development of a network of art universities with similar/comparable profiles, i.e. art universities which explore the opportunities and challenges of incorporating (artistic) research in their activities (EARN network)

2. Challenging the Eurocentric/modernity concept of the arts: in particular in non-European countries new forms of artistic production have been developed in the course of debates on the modernity concept of arts. In a globalised world, the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna considers it indispensable to integrate these new forms of artistic production into its study programmes, the appreciation and development of the arts as well as its (artistic) research projects.

3. Intensifying Exchanges: The Academy of Fine Arts Vienna plans to intensify its international exchanges. By this we mean to both increase the number of outgoing mobile students, faculty and staff, but also to make use of internationalisation in a multidimensional way, e.g. considering if a research cooperation in a particular project may also lead to cooperating in other areas. The concrete meaning of intensification will depend on the individual context.

In order to reach these goals, the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna is undertaking the following supporting measures:

- Promote outgoing mobility for students (all cycles), faculty and administrative staff by providing appropriate support mechanisms aiding with application and recognition procedures
- Promote international cooperation for artistic and research projects, offering support with applications etc.
- Promote course offerings in English
- Provide financial support for faculty attending international conferences, workshops etc.
- Offer English language courses for faculty and staff
- Offer German language courses for incoming international students

Given the goals outlined above, we choose our partners based on the purpose of each initial cooperation, e.g. curricula offerings, research profile and specialities, approaches to and concepts of contemporary art and the teaching thereof, general institutional quality and reputation, Erasmus Charta (for EU partners). In addition to the initial cooperation project, we will also consider if a particular partner may be suitable for future projects and cooperations. In terms of geographic areas, we will continue to cooperate with partner institutions worldwide. In the mid-term, we will seek to intensify partnerships with CEE institutions. Note: This is a preliminary short version of our future internationalisation strategy, which is currently developed by an internal working group.