

Erasmus Policy Statement 2021-27

Institution's international strategy

Conservatorio "G. Verdi" di Como acknowledges the key contribution of its participation in the Erasmus Programme to the quality of its higher education programs and student experiences, based on common values and inclusive principles. It supports students and staff exchanges, that encourage open-mindedness and widen their cultural spectrum in general, beside contributing to build a European Education Area that, while allowing to sharing strategies, experiences and competences, will also benefit from the educational peculiarities of each partner country and therefore strengthen their identity as Europeans by means of a deeper awareness of Europe's cultural heritage and its diversity. The goals to be achieved by renewing our participation in the Erasmus Programme are:

- to renew and increase the amount of partnerships with European Higher Education Institutes in order to establish fruitful mobility exchanges through the next seven years;
- an increased amount of in-coming and out-going learning mobilities in order to allow students to benefit from the Higher Music Education offer at a wider degree by attending classes and mastering under the guidance of musicians from other countries;
- to establish and promote traineeship mobilities, in order to allow in-coming and out-going students to improve their competences by means of a professional training (related, for example, to teaching or performance);
- a more dynamic apprenticeship by means of blended mobilities thanks to the exploitation of the most recent digital technologies;
- a more dynamic management of the mobility files by joining the Erasmus without paper network and the European student card initiative, thanks to which students will feel part of a wider and shared educational strategy that will have a positive feedback on their professional profile and will make their Erasmus mobilities easier also with regard to bureaucracy and logistics;
- a definitely higher degree of modernisation and internationalisation with reference to learning, research and artistic production.

Our Policy respects the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion of students and staff in accordance with Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. To ensure fair and equitable opportunities, our Institution observes the following procedures:

- acknowledgment of ISEE (Equivalent Economic Status Indicator), that allows students from families with fewer financial resources to have a surcharge of their EU grant besides other tax cuts;
- admission to academic courses according to the students' competences and with no limit to race, gender, sex orientation nor financial situation exct.
- involvement of all students in the Conservatory's activities (concerts, masterclasses, lectures) according to their own competences;
- language support for foreign students;
- development of learning/teaching techniques within an environment adapted to students from disadvantaged groups or promoting blended mobility (short-term physical mobility combined with virtual mobility);
- ensuring that disadvantaged individuals' support needs can be met and their privacy respected;
- ensuring that individual with special needs can find appropriate support at the receiving Institution;
- with regard to in-coming students, the Institute will provide details of costs or fees possibly charged to local students (insurance, use of miscellaneous material such as photocopies, exct.) on its Course Catalogue on its website, so that students are aware of them before the start of the mobility.

Our policy also takes into consideration the environment issues and promotes behaviour practices and environmentally respectful actions among local students and staff as well as students and staff from abroad. Moreover, it promotes and encourages teaching and learning strategies as well as mobility practices that have a sustainable impact on environment by means of: a) an adequate information activity about the environmental policy of the destination venues; b) dissemination and development of innovative tools and ideas.

Civic engagements and active citizenship are very important issues if not ultimate goals of Education in general. In one word a challenge that involves all human resources of the HEIs and our Conservatory as well. In this respect the principles of democracy, social and civic commitment pursued and promoted by the European Union are values that students can have the opportunity to understand and experience particularly through the Erasmus Programme. As a matter of fact, Erasmus Programme helps students build a European identity and helps them open up to the multicultural dialogue and accept cultural diversity by temporarily living in a different cultural context with people from different countries and with different habits. Our institute supports this policy by welcoming students from foreign Institutions by providing not only useful information and tips for everyday life but also some notes about the habits and behaviour rules of the country they are going to live during their mobility in order to guarantee them a safe and enjoyable stay. Our aim is to make our foreign students feel part of our community during the months they are going to spend abroad by introducing our traditions and cultural resources, from which they can benefit too; providing linguistic support for foreign students (courses to learn Italian language) as a fundamental tool for dialogue and communication; recommending to out-going students to inquire about the country where they are going to spend their mobility and maintain a respectful attitude towards the environment and the people they will interact with.

Student mobility and staff mobility within Programme Countries has enhanced the educational process by means of different learning and teaching approaches and enriched the proposals of our musical production by welcoming musicians from our partner Institutions and hosting their masterclasses and performances. Such events, by being open to public, have contributed to make our institute a landmark in the cultural context of the city of Como and its province. In order to successfully implement this kind of action, our policy will ensure that the quality of staff and students mobility to the Partner Institutions guarantees a high standard and recognise the importance of, and provide visibility to, the results achieved during the mobility. With regard to that, our Conservatory's commitment to guarantee full automatic recognition of the credits achieved by outgoing students during their mobility abroad, in accordance to the Council recommendation on automatic Mutual Recognition, is a crucial step to facilitate the transfer of learning experiences between different institutions and is to be framed in the perspective of the European Higher Educational Area's principles and of our Institute's internationalisation process.

Our Institute is committed to express its support to the Erasmus+ Programme by providing information on all Erasmus+ Programme activities undertaken by our Institute and using all possible opportunities (mass media, academic journals, local press, etc.) to inform the wider community about new initiatives, on-going activities and final results. Our institute will therefore ensure the appliance of this Charter's principles by providing the departments involved with adequate communication and updating.

The Erasmus Policy Statement is displayed on the Institute's webpage at the following link:
conservatoriocomo.it/erasmus