

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Since its foundation in 1837, the Liceu Conservatory has established itself as one of the reference musical institutions in Spain. In these years, thanks to the engagement of many teachers of the highest international reputation (such as Pau Casals, Engelbert Humperdinck, Higiní Anglès, among many others) we have been able to be in touch with the main trends of European and International Music.

For the last fifteen years, the modernization of the Conservatory has been one of the priorities of the institution. In this sense, one of the priorities of our training programs is the international dimension of our Studies. According to this, our international collaboration projects have involved Universities and other institutions located in Europe, Latin America, the U.S.A. and Asia. We have currently 78 international partners, working them in mobility activities of students, teachers and the organization of academic activities in the field of Music. We are always open to working with new partners, for which mainly consider not only the willingness of these to work in joint academic projects, but also the interest of their artistic aims and institutional programs.

We are internationally active in Europe within the Erasmus program and we are also part of the European Association of Conservatories, AEC. Representatives of our Conservatory took part in the AEC working group that studied the impact of the Bologna Process in European Higher Music Education.

We have a close relationship with many Latin America Conservatories and cultural organizations in several countries (Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, Argentina, Cuba, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, and Brazil) through which we have been working on various musical projects over the past years. In our cooperation with the United States we emphasize that our modern music school, L'AULA for Jazz and Modern Music, is the first European School to have joint the International Network of Berklee College of Music, widely regarded as one of the most important music school of its kind in the world, as well as our collaboration with the University of North Texas.

The signing of new institutional agreements is managed by the General Management Office of the Conservatory, according to the strategic needs of the Conservatory and always seeking partnerships that best fit our artistic and academic aims. The approval takes mainly into account the compatibility of academic profiles and the willingness to work on joint academic projects of a great interest for both institutions. The Conservatory participation in the European Association of Conservatories AEC through the regular meeting of directors and coordinators of international relations has enormously enhanced the search for partners and the management

and monitoring of agreements. For the renewal of the agreements an assessment is made at the end of each academic year taking into account the outcomes of the mobility experiences.

Our corporate strategy for the organization and implementation of cooperation projects carried out under the program is defined as a long-term strategy in which institutional linkages are created to work in different areas of musical training with the active participation of students and teachers as protagonists and main beneficiaries of it and taking into account the following objectives:

- a) Enhancement of the musical training of students through international experience**
- b) Recognition of different European settings and improved interaction capabilities in Europe**
- c) Improvement of language skills and the learning of new languages**
- d) Strengthening the connection between academic and professional experience**

The expected impact of our participation in the program according to the priorities of the modernization agenda is based mainly on the following aspects:

a) Significantly improve the musical and academic level and specialization of our students in accordance with the current needs and demands of Europe and the whole world. This has to do not only with the contribution to our ongoing goal to strive for excellence for our students and music professionals but also to improve their ability to perform, interact and respond to the needs of the environment.

b) Improve the quality, visibility and the relevance of our training processes through international experience and its impact on improving competitiveness. In this sense, it is one of the biggest impacts of the program in our modernization goals to improve the visibility of the objectives and results of the program through our website and other online communication channels, which will include the different experiences of students and staff.

c) Strengthening the quality of music education through mobility programs and participation and implementation of cooperation programs with other countries. Our international cooperation programs have as a major player for students and teachers and the mobility of both is the central action of the projects. Improving mobility not only in its qualitative aspects

(communication, organization and impact assessment), but especially in the quantitative ones: increasing the number of students and teachers that benefit from the programs is the primary objective that all our students have the opportunity to get part of his training abroad at some point in their studies at the Conservatory.

d) The inclusion of musical practice within the professional scene and innovation by establishing institutional partnerships Conservatory / Enterprises. To get future professional musicians acquainted with the reality of the environment that allows them to live and experience the reality of the labor market, thus narrowing the links between Higher Education and Business.

e) Governance and funding. It is one of the Conservatory's permanent endeavors to make more effective and up-to-date the institution's governance and to be in touch with the public and private institutions and entrepreneurs that have to find better ways of support and funding of the Conservatory.

The Liceu Conservatory applies since 2010 the ECTS system in its curricula, and it is used therefore in all credit transfer and acknowledgement procedures. 60 ECTS credits are attached to the workload of a full-time academic year, or 30 ECTS credits to a full-time semester. For different periods of mobility, the total credit amount should be calculated on a case by case basis, but students are encouraged to complete at least 15 credits per trimester.

We encourage our students to study in a mobility program preferably during the fifth, sixth or seventh semesters of their four years' program, and due to this, it is advisable for them to enroll during their mobility period in subjects and other academic activities that fit as closely as possible to our program for those semesters. We take into account the credit amount provided for every subject by the incoming institution, making the arrangements and suggestions that are necessary to make the recognition easy for the students.

According to the current curricula for higher musical education in Spain, our students are required to master at least one foreign language (preferably English, French, German or Italian) that allows them the needed ability to work as a musician in international environments. The students that are preparing for mobility are informed of the languages policy of the incoming institution and encouraged to meet the minimum language requirements before the mobility.

The Conservatory will undertake the following actions for incoming students support:

1) Delivery of institutional information for their stay at the Conservatory (confirmation of the course catalogue and the program, information about teachers and the course calendar) and

information about living in Barcelona (general information about the city and the possibilities for accommodation in lodgings with an agreement with the Conservatory).

- 2) We are always in touch via email to confirm their learning agreement.
- 3) Host meeting is held once they have come to Barcelona before the start of their classes.
- 4) two weeks after the start of their classes we confirm the learning agreement.
- 5) Follow-up meeting in the middle of the course. The Office for the International program is permanently open during the course.

For outgoing students, the Conservatory does all the monitoring of their trip and stay. We have a meeting before their departure in which the mobility contract and learning agreement are signed. During the course, we keep permanent contact with the student and the incoming institution.