

The Higher School of Art and Design "Ramón Falcón" of Lugo, Spain __ EASDRF-LU__ is an official institution that belongs to the Higher Educational System of the Regional Galician Government (Xunta de Galicia). All the studies offered here are official and have academic and professional validity throughout the European Common Area. This state Higher Education Institution has been committed to teaching arts for more than a century. Currently our educational offer includes:

- Bachelor in Design, with the specialities of Graphic Design and Interior Design.
- Vocational Studies: Artistic Photography, Ceramic Arts and Printing.

Being a small center, and although the School has been in the Erasmus program since 2012, we do not have a long experience in international programs, but we are determined to increase it. Internationalization is a key factor in our institutional strategy and the Erasmus project offers a very good opportunity for this.

We expect that the participation in Erasmus will contribute towards modernising our institution, as well as to the goal of building a European Education Area.

Given that we are determined to offer high quality mobility, we will start looking for quality institutions, compatible with our academic profiles, and we will establish contacts to try to sign as many Erasmus Bilateral Agreements as possible with higher education institutions to provide our students and staff interesting mobility opportunities, whereas staff and student mobility will be encouraged. We consider that learning mobility fosters knowledge, skills, competences and experiences, including personal and social competences and cultural awareness, which are crucial for active participation in society and the labor market, as well as for promoting a European identity. We also believe in the transformative power of continuous communication and exchange with others worldwide.

Attracting more foreign students is also one of our priorities, as we are delighted to welcome students and staff members from other countries in our school.

By participating in the Erasmus Programme we would like to achieve the following objectives:

- Increase student mobility.
- Increase staff mobility.
- Enable students to operate effectively in international and global contexts
- Expand cooperation between institutions in research, teaching and enterprise for mutual benefit.
- Enable students to benefit educationally, linguistically and culturally from the experience of learning in other European countries.
- Prepare our students for a life in a multicultural community and thus facilitate their future employment in an increasingly globalised job market.
- Improve the linguistic competence of our teachers and students.

The Erasmus actions in which we would like to continue taking part are:

- Student mobility for studies (a study period abroad at a partner higher education institution).
- Student mobility for traineeships (work placement) abroad in an enterprise or any other relevant workplace.
- Staff mobility for teaching.
- Staff mobility for training.

In the last years, students of our School took part in mobilities in Portugal and in Albania, whereas teachers took part in mobilities in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cyprus, Jordan, Thailand, and India.

Being internationalization a key factor in our institutional strategy, the School has a great interest in increasing both the quality and the number of the Erasmus+ mobilities.

We consider that the Erasmus programs have a decisive impact on the modernization and internationalization of our School. Thanks to the mobility experiences of both students and teachers, the educational community is becoming more aware of what the quality requirements in Europe are, and that will encourage us to improve certain aspects.

Envisaged Impact on students:

The Erasmus program will better prepare students for a wider and globalized market; this will not only improve the work options for our students but will also mean a positive impact on the enterprises in which they will work in the future. For our Institution it is clear that international mobility will increase the employability of the participants.

We expect that our students will return more motivated, independent, confident, and open minded, having learned a range of life-skills not taught in the classroom, having improved their language skills, and with a wide knowledge of a different culture from an international perspective.

Envisaged Impact on staff:

The Erasmus program, will allow teachers to make international contacts for future agreements, to learn and share new ideas, to explore new tools and technologies in their fields, and to get direct information from other European educational systems.

The School aims to maximise the number of teaching exchanges which can be funded each year, in order to create a community of staff with an international perspective gained through staff mobility and international partnerships.

Non-discrimination objectives are included since its foundation in the philosophy of our institution, and we welcome students and staff of all backgrounds with no distinctions of origin, ethnicity, gender, religion, socioeconomic status or physical disability. Our building is accessible for students in wheelchairs.

Our institution ensures full and equitable access to participants from all backgrounds, advising students with fewer opportunities to get official grants from the official educational system.

Our educational project stands for openness, freedom of thought and non-discrimination, and we believe that supporting mobility and exchange of thought and experience will be the very best way to dissolve cultural, racial and intellectual barriers.

We plan to promote civic engagement and active citizenship among our students by trying to make them aware of the importance of participating in the civil, political and social activities in the host country, not only during the time spent studying abroad but also after and before the mobility.

We plan to help the incoming students to integrate and participate in local community initiatives by encouraging them to attend as many local events as possible, as we consider these types of exchanges as a very important part of their experience.

In an increasingly globalised context, it is important that students can make the best possible use of all learning opportunities across Europe. For this to happen, we consider that a qualification awarded by a competent authority in one Member State should be valid in any other Member State for the purpose of accessing further learning activities. This can be done by acknowledging the importance of fostering transparency and building trust in each other's higher education systems to achieve automatic mutual recognition for the purpose of further learning.

The ECTS system of our studies guarantees credit transfer and facilitates the exchange of students with more European partners. Each student selected for a mobility activity has to prepare a Learning Agreement document that should be agreed and signed by both the home and host institution; this assures the recognition of the studies. The sending institution must give full academic recognition for satisfactorily completed activities during the mobility period, as agreed in the Learning Agreement, by using ECTS credits

We can ensure the appropriate procedure to recognize credits will be applied to any Erasmus student according to the Council Recommendation on Automatic Mutual Recognition. This has been agreed beforehand in a learning agreement, in line with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

Being internationalization a key factor in our institutional strategy, staff mobility will be greatly encouraged. We hope this will increase the number of Erasmus bilateral agreements with institutions in the field of arts and design.

We are aware of the huge importance of exchange and feedback between different cultures, artistic expressions and creativity. We also consider that staff mobility is the best way

to learn from other artistic and cultural backgrounds, as well as an opportunity to improve the knowledge of foreign languages.

We are sure that these mobilities will create new links with other higher education institutions and will encourage multilateral cooperation.

We will be delighted to receive teachers from other countries, eager to share knowledge, and we will do our best to make them feel “at home”.

Staff mobility will be fully recognised by our School in the best possible way. The confirmation of teaching/training signed by the host institution certifies that the staff member has undertaken the teaching/training assignment under the Erasmus+ programme.