

Erasmus+ Policy Statement

Plymouth College of Art is committed to providing a learning and teaching experience which includes an international dimension and the Erasmus+ programme is integral to this. We aim to provide students with an experience that is educationally, philosophically and culturally enriching and outward looking. Our wider international profile includes strong links with Shanghai University and we are exploring partnerships in India for the mutual benefit of staff and students. We are working with potential new partners to expand our Erasmus+ activities and provide a broad range of opportunities for students and staff.

We aim to ensure our students are prepared for a global working environment and encourage students to gain experience of studying or working in a range of contexts including working abroad, to encourage vocational experiences, personal and academic development and social interaction.

As part of our ongoing commitment to further develop the College as a centre for Creative Practice and Pedagogy, we encourage and support staff mobility, in order that staff develop and maintain relevant external networks and partnerships.

We actively promote Erasmus+ activities via centrally coordinated publicity on our website and on our VLE/staff and student portal. We aim to hold a number of promotional talks/activities to promote the opportunity that the Erasmus+ scheme holds for students and staff, current and prospective students. We strive to ensure the highest quality in academic mobility activities and that Erasmus+ activities are made available for all eligible students and staff.

Plymouth College of Art has a commitment to, and long-standing history of providing academically rigorous vocational, arts-based education based on providing the highest quality experience to our students. Our courses and programmes are subject to regular quality monitoring and rigorous academic review both before and during delivery. We operate within recognised quality assurance processes, including programme/course review, annual programme/course monitoring and periodic review, including internal and external peer review and we centre our educational philosophy and approach around the student experience, student feedback, in a number of forms plays a key role in our quality processes and informs our academic development.

We regularly review our partnerships to ensure we offer a dynamic, exciting and relevant offer in terms of subject and location and we also regularly review any challenges, to improve the student experience and explore developmental opportunities that will lead to an enhanced experience for staff and students who participate in the programme, such as flexibility within the curriculum; continued support for staff mobility with a particular focus on facilitating and developing two-way mobility / teaching exchange. We work to ensure a quality experience for programme participants; development of relations with current partners with a view

to embarking on joint ventures/collaborative projects across the curriculum. We aim to select partners who provide a high-quality experience who share the values and vision of Plymouth College of Art, and so together we will be able to enjoy a mutually beneficial and lasting partnership.

All students are provided with a learning agreement prior to starting their study period. We provide incoming students and their home institutions with complete and accurate transcripts at the end of the period of mobility. Students are provided with information on mobility opportunities, and guidance on studying/living abroad, what they will study and how they will be assessed.

Incoming students are given pre-induction information, advice and guidance from the College's Erasmus+ support team (Head of Admissions, Head of Academic Practice and Development, Course/Programme Leader/Departmental Contact). On arrival, students are given an induction to the institution as part of an orientation programme, and allocated a personal tutor (typically a key member of staff from the Course/Programme team in which they are studying). They are introduced to key individuals / departments that will support them during their mobility period. Throughout the programme students are supported by their academic tutors, the Erasmus+ team and student mentors.

Our programmes are taught in English and students are expected to have at least B1 level of English on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) – but students will be supported by their tutors to enable them to make the most of their study/experience at the College. All students gain academic recognition for their period of mobility. All credit and assessment achieved is transferred for conversion via the Awards Board.

Academic recognition for Erasmus+ exchanges

Plymouth College of Art has adopted the ECTS academic credit transfer system for all degree programmes offered. This enables us to recognise the achievements of students whilst on study abroad and to record the outcome of these activities in the Diploma Supplement issued to completing students. Before students commence their study abroad an agreement is reached on the number of ECTS credits required to be achieved to ensure that sufficient credits are achieved to complete the degree programme. The College operates on the principle that students will study a maximum of 60 ECTS credits in one Academic Year – the equivalent of 120 credits.

The College ensures that it receives transcripts from receiving institutions at the earliest opportunity and that these are checked against the learning agreement to ensure that the student has fulfilled all the requirements necessary. The credits awarded are noted on the student record, along with any grades attributed, and these are reported to the Award Assessment Board that takes place at the end of the Academic Year. For incoming students upon completion of the mobility period, the College issues a transcript confirming the modules achieved, credits earned, ECTS earned and any grades awarded. This is issued to the student or home institution, depending on requirements.