

European Policy Statement (EPS) of HfK Bremen 2021 – 2027

The University of the Arts (Hochschule für Künste – HfK) is a state university of art and music and defines itself as a place of education and culture, uniting a wide spectrum of artistic and didactic approaches embedded in current academic discourses. A distinctive feature of HfK is that it combines the Faculty of Music and the Faculty of Art and Design within one institution.

The university aims to create an inspiring environment for students and university staff in which research-based learning as well as multifaceted encounters, national and international collaborations in the fields of art, music and design are possible due to an integrative and interdisciplinary approach. In this context, integrative means that the traditional disciplines of design are no longer separated. Due to the high proportion of foreign teachers and students, the university feels particularly committed to the diversity criterion of interculturality, which it strives to meet by offering various support services throughout the study period. It encourages students to further develop their creative personality in intercultural dialogue and to use the numerous cooperations and networks of HfK for this purpose. There are currently 67 cooperations, 57 of which are in Europe. With regard to the selection of cooperation partners, it is intended that, as in the past, a broad network of partner universities will be available, which accommodates the individual subject-related interests of students and teachers.

The faculty of Art and Design offers the programmes Fine Arts, Integrated Design and Digital Media. The faculty of Music offers the programme Performance across several areas of focus: Instrumental Performance, Vocal Performance, Early Music Performance, Composition, and Jazz Performance. The programme Music Education is subdivided into Instrumental and Vocal Performance, Elementary Music Education, Music Theory, and Jazz. Other programmes include Church Music and Concert Exam. Artistic cooperation and in-process development projects at HfK include artistic and creative research, projects and exhibitions, concert and choir tours, orchestra tours and master classes. In addition, projects pursuing a combination of artistic development with scientific-theoretical research are being developed. The study programmes are aimed at national and international applicants whose creative, artistic and musical talents are to be promoted in the best possible way. Through its profile, HfK offers a comprehensive artistic, didactic and scientific spectrum aiming to ensure high quality in all areas at all times. This quality standard is significantly supported by the specific orientation and expansion of internationalisation activities.

With regard to the entire range of internationalisation efforts, the international orientation and approach of HfK focuses on feasible, stable concepts with the core objectives of promoting mobilities, promoting the concept of internationalisation at home, identifying strategic partners and cooperating with same as well as participating in international network organisations, with the Erasmus+ programme playing an important role.

By promoting the mobility of all members of the university, new impulses are regularly introduced into the university, which are to be recorded more systematically in the future and incorporated into strategic action by teaching staff and administration. Moreover, the Erasmus programme has a decisive influence on long-term developments and modernisations at the university. Due to many years of existing Erasmus agreements and connections at various levels, closer cooperation has developed beyond the exchange of students and lecturers towards strategic partnerships, for instance in relation to the development of a joint artistic PhD programme or joint concert projects with universities in the Netherlands.

Further long-term cooperation projects that include curricular exchanges are to be further developed.

Furthermore, thanks to the funding opportunities, the Erasmus programme significantly contributes to the core objective of "internationalisation at home". In addition to teachers from partner universities providing new input as guest lecturers, corporate staff from abroad also contribute valuable insights into teaching, thereby influencing and broadening reflection processes on teaching and learning.

Opportunities for Erasmus+ programme funding should be given greater consideration for future projects with strategic partners and international network organisations such as the AEC (Association Européenne des Conservatoires, Académies de Musique et Musikhochschulen), ELIA (The European League of Institutes of the Arts), Cumulus (International Association of Universities and Colleges of Art, Design and Media) and SAR (Society for Artistic Research).

In this way, HfK as an artistic higher education institution will also support the goal of creating a European Education Area. Through its participation in the Erasmus programme, HfK creates learning and teaching opportunities abroad and at the HfK, which are increasingly promoted at all levels of higher education and study programmes, so that it is understood as a regular part of studying/ lifelong learning. At the same time, HfK is committed to creating equal opportunities for underrepresented participants by implementing appropriate

measures, including the promotion of digitalisation. HfK is committed to combating disadvantage and discrimination in already existing policies.

Mobility is also associated with the acquisition and added value of language skills and is explicitly fostered by the university. Linguistic qualification goes hand in hand with the acquisition of values. As a university of the arts, HfK Bremen is clearly committed to European values such as freedom, democracy, equality, human dignity and the rule of law, and strives to always clearly promote and implement these in its education and training mission.