



Erasmus+

POLICY STATEMENT 2014-2020

Thanks to its geographical position, being based in Rome, Saint Louis College of Music is a natural catchment area for international students wishing to spend part of their studies abroad.

Starting from a firm belief in the importance of the internationalisation process for the valorisation and qualification of formative, artistic and research activities, Saint Louis has established since long time a policy of opening to the rest of Europe and of the world, actively promoting collaboration projects with other Institutions, run so far on a private basis: studies exchange programs for both students and staff, master classes and full-immersion workshops held by visiting artists, an international jazz competition involving about 15 nations and run in collaboration with another European HEI Institution, the Conservatorium Maastricht. (www.europeanjazzcontest.eu)

In 2011 Saint Louis became active member of the AEC - Association Européenne des Conservatoires, understanding the importance of confronting on an International basis with same level educational Institutions.

In line with this overall acting, Saint Louis intends to focus its Erasmus activities on students and staff mobility, giving them the chance of a wider international comparison, to attain personal, didactic, professional developments.

As far as students mobility is concerned, the students involved will be the ones attending 1st and 2nd cycles. They will be selected on the basis of merit, and of the potential benefit they would get from this experience, individual motivations, language proficiency. The selections will be carried out on the basis of a non-discrimination policy, regarding gender, ethnic origin, race, religion or social background. Disabled students will get a totally identical evaluation and the incoming ones will be fully integrated in Saint Louis everyday life.

Short-term mobility for teaching and administrative staff will also be a priority.

The selection of the candidates will be carried out on the same transparency and non-discrimination policy applied to students selection, and on the basis of the curriculum vitae and of the validity of their projects and proposals.

In choosing the partners Saint Louis will privilege those institutions, which it has already worked with successfully in the past. Fundamental criteria selection will be: acknowledged reliability, cutting edge didactics, targets and didactic methodology similarity or complementarity, non-discrimination policy, disabled students acceptance and integration.

The partnerships and relative agreements will be developed year by year: starting with one or two initial partners only, to slowly increase them on the basis of accrued experiences and progressively acquired skills. Possibly, the first agreements will be developed with Institutions already experienced in Erasmus activities.

Suggestions from Educators, who happened to get in touch with foreign Institutions and having a positive experience feed-back, will be duly considered and brought to the attention of the Academic Board, who will vote in meetings all proposals received or developed.

Saint Louis will also privilege those Institutions who currently avail themselves of the precious tools of ECTS, Learning Agreement, Transcript of Records and Diploma Supplement.

Bilateral Agreements and Learning Agreements will be carefully worked on, in order to guarantee easy, transparent procedures and recognition processes.

The Institution partner selection will be carried out with no initial specific geographical area in mind: the possible partnerships will be evaluated on the basis of the aforesaid characteristics of the single Institutions. At the beginning, Saint Louis will try and sign agreements with Institutions located in more developed geographical areas, which could work as example for Saint Louis itself; subsequently, once Saint Louis gathers the necessary experience on International level, it would include in its partners also Institutions located in less developed area, so as to help them grow in their turn.

Saint Louis will carry on all international and Erasmus activities on a basis of total transparency and prompt communication, in order to allow all students and teaching or administrative staff to be actively involved in all projects. All initiatives, projects or activities under the Programme will be therefore given duly visibility by every means: on the web and on social networks, by e-mail, with posters located in strategic positions of the Institutions, but also through organized meetings, orientation and open days, meetings with students and staff returning from mobility. Such visibility will be ensured both before than after mobility, in order to keep on growing, confronting and opening up.

Saint Louis commits itself to providing a steady and continuous support to both incoming than outgoing students and staff, through direct, constant contact with the Erasmus Coordinator and International Office.

Saint Louis looks forward to entering the Programme, considering it one of the best available resources: Innovation, updating, full exploitation of human resources, research, are among Saint Louis' targets and expectations in participating in these comparison-based activities. Saint Louis wishes to improve the quality level of educational offer, to constantly update activities and didactics in comparison to the ones of other European Institutions, developing a Communitarian consciousness in both staff and students.

Saint Louis expectations in relation to the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda are:

1. A larger networking with the labour market

Saint Louis expects a broadening in the students' horizons, improving skills and competences, while having to cope and confront with a different social and artistic environment. This should lead to a further self-awareness and to an understanding of the world music business, which will then enable the student to enter this world, to be requested by it, improving his/her job possibilities and the chance to get a better job.

Saint Louis, with its active internal Management and Production Centre (networking with clubs, festivals, recording studios, TV, radio, etc.) is especially aware of the difficulties found by the students in accomplishing the jump towards their professional career.

Saint Louis is targeted in this sense to widen this job network on international level, also implementing the international experiences of staff and students.

2. Enlarged social dimension

Saint Louis has always implemented an active opening policy towards under represented groups and students unable to constantly attend classes because of economic, social or disability reasons. For example, Long-distance (fortnightly) courses, both academic and non-, were specially designed. Therefore Saint Louis expects that under the Programme these students categories will be further integrated and made active part of educational and professionalising experiences.

3. Communitarian Consciousness

Actively committing itself to the removal of obstacles to mobility in HEIs (especially in matters of recognition, implementing ECTS, Europass, etc.) and boosting communication about mobility, Saint Louis expects to witness a larger involvement of varied staff and students to these activities, thus collaborating to the creation of a large European Communitarian Consciousness both artistic and social.

4. Inter- and trans- disciplinarity

By means of new institutional and managerial approaches, Saint Louis expects to progress towards an enlarged study system based on wide research field instead of single disciplines, in which students, researchers and educators work side by side.

5. Excellence

Through a larger confront and research on international basis Saint Louis wishes to further develop its student and musicians excellence, conveyed through new CDs and didactic methods releases and promoting cutting edge original productions.