

The development of international relations is one of the long-term priorities of the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava (VŠMU). The academy maintains bilateral relations with many well-established institutions of higher education.

This cooperation not only provides great opportunities for student and staff exchanges but also enables the school to enter into mutual discussions. VŠMU actively promotes the mobility of students (at all academic levels and in all fields of study), teaching and supporting staff, and also extensively participates in projects carried out under the auspices of the Erasmus Exchange Programme. These activities have been an integral part of bilateral and multilateral relations since its inception and remained therefore a high priority of the school's foreign policy. The strategy of establishing new partnerships is consistent with the conception of a long-term development strategy of the Academy of Performing Arts. It is primarily based on internal needs of the faculties and on the programmes, and reflects the current strategic priorities defined by the European Union.

The criteria for selecting new partner institutions are based on the mutual comparison of creative approaches, on the similarity in the specialisation, and on the development of critical reflection allowing direct comparison. Apart from a qualitative and quantitative increase in the number of exchanges, we also aim to establish a platform for future international joint projects.

In the forthcoming period, the Academy of Performing Arts is intent on strengthening the existing contacts with foreign partner institutions and establishing new bilateral and multilateral relations with art schools and institutions in Scandinavia, the Baltic, Eastern European and Balkan countries in particular. A gradual expansion of cooperation with the institutions of higher education in third countries is another priority of our school.

The Academy of Performing Arts promotes student exchanges at all academic levels (short term, bachelor's degree, master's degree, doctoral degree) and disciplines in order to expand their knowledge and make arrangements for students to be sent out on placement for training. The academy is deeply engaged in the Bologna process and provides the Diploma Supplement for its graduates at all levels. The school's participation in the Erasmus Exchange Programme is facilitated by the fact that it applies the European Credit Transfer System in all the programmes and levels (short period, BA, MA, PhD).

The number of VŠMU candidates for all forms of international exchanges has increased from year to year. Currently the academy has about 90 bilateral agreements within the Erasmus Exchange Programme. Regular exchanges of students, graduates and teaching and supporting staff within the Erasmus Exchange Programme significantly contribute towards the development of the international position of the Academy of Performing Arts, particularly within the European higher education area, reflecting the school's ambition to act as an art school and educational institution of transnational importance.

One of the strategic objectives of the Academy of Performing Arts is to increase the number of undergraduate and graduate students sent out on placements for training in order to give them an opportunity to expand their knowledge and gain new insights at prestigious art and research institutions and to assist them in organising this type of mobility (e.g. to find the receiving institution). VŠMU intends to gradually establish a database of partner institutions to which the students are sent out on traineeships with the aim to combine academic studies with work experience in the international context, to enrich their programmes and to prepare the students for professional life in the European and non-European art space.

With the aim to make studies at each faculty more attractive to foreign students and trainees, the Academy of Performing Arts is committed to systematically improve the quality of teaching by increasing the number of courses in English, by a more effective promotion of the school abroad and by creating favourable conditions to enable the incoming students to engage in the learning or research process in relevant departments.

Reciprocal exchanges enabling the academy staff teaching and training are an integral part of the professional development of teaching and supporting staff at the Academy of Performing Arts. The development of international relations and a closer cooperation with partner schools greatly facilitate the teaching and working of incoming teachers and non-academic staff at the VŠMU. The school intends to expand this area in the future.