

Royal College of Music – Erasmus Policy Statement

The Royal College of Music is one of the world's foremost conservatoires, providing specialist training for gifted musicians from all over the world and preparing them for international careers in music performance, conducting and composition. A key feature of life at the RCM is the dynamic and truly international environment, with over 50% of our students coming from outside the UK, representing more than 60 different nationalities.

The RCM is immensely proud of its own historic role in the European music tradition, with alumni including Gustav Holst, Benjamin Britten and Ralph Vaughan Williams. However, we have always recognised the immense value of exploring and sharing in the cultural wealth of our European neighbours, in which the Erasmus programme plays a key role, and of widening our horizons to the continuing development of Western classical music further afield. With this in mind our international strategy has three main aims:

- To ensure that the RCM continues to attract the brightest European and international talent, by continuing to improve our facilities and course provision, and by providing access to world-leading teaching, including professors visiting under the Erasmus programme.
- To ensure that, through the work of our Woodhouse Professional Development Centre, the strong vocational focus to our courses, access to outreach schemes, orchestral "side-by-side" opportunities and a network of global contacts, our students are fully equipped to enter the professional world in an international market. A significant part of this is the opportunity to undertake a period of mobility, thereby improving language and performance skills, building contacts and improving future options for employment.
- A deep commitment to research, as exemplified by the cutting edge work of our Centre for Performance Science and our world-class historical collections, including many resources of European significance. This includes regular international collaborations, often embracing the latest technology, such as live lecture recitals in conjunction with overseas guest lecturers and students through the medium of live video links.

In selecting our partners, we aim to develop relations with other leading centres of classical musical excellence, to ensure that outgoing students can be confident of receiving the same high standard of tuition as at the RCM. Wherever possible these partner institutions are located in vibrant centres of musical activity, permitting students and staff also to broaden their musical and cultural experience outside of the academic setting during their mobility period. This includes institutions with particular areas of specialism, such as Historical Performance.

To this end we have established very successful Erasmus partnerships with world-renowned conservatoires across Europe in France, Germany, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Norway, Finland, and many more EU countries, as well as international exchanges with partners in the USA, Australia and Japan.

Students are encouraged to participate in a period of mobility during the third year of their 4-year first cycle programme, or in the second year of the second cycle. In arranging staff

exchanges we aim to strike a balance between encouraging staff undertaking their first Erasmus exchange to establish new relationships, and allowing previous participants to continue to develop existing partnerships and further collaboration. The overall aim in all cases is to ensure that our staff and students gain maximum exposure to the range of different perspectives and techniques offered in partner countries, which will inform their work on their return to the RCM.

A major part of our recent internationalisation activity has been the development of a successful collaboration with the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) in Singapore. This gives the opportunity to NAFA students to undertake an international placement at the RCM as part of their BMus degree, which is validated by the RCM. Visiting students and staff have access to the RCM's exceptional research facilities, such as our world-renowned library, whilst sharing their different learning perspectives with RCM students. This link has also provided opportunities for RCM staff and students to visit Singapore and experience a very different teaching environment.

Application for Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2014-2020

30 April 2013