

## Erasmus Policy

The internationalization strategy of Codarts is directed at our students learning to relate to (inter)national artistic social developments that affect interest in and the meaning of the performing arts. Quality is not understood universally and it changes according to the cultural context. For Codarts, professionalism means that wherever in the world they come from, students are also brought into contact with this cultural context, so that the culture in which they have grown up does not remain their only frame of reference. Art is boundless by definition and therefore Codarts carries out an active internationalization policy that stimulates a greater awareness of quality.

The strategy of the internationalization at Codarts aims to consolidate the achievements and the results for the education.

Codarts has a very international character. The student population of Codarts consists of 50 different nationalities. Many of the teaching staff also come from abroad and in addition, foreign guest teachers are regularly invited to give masterclasses and guest lectures. In this way, the study programmes remain up to date on the most important international developments.

The world music department in which Latin American, Indian and Turkish music, Flamenco and Argentinian Tango are taught is unique in the world.

Codarts has an active policy aimed at exchanges and organizing international projects. Teachers of Codarts have an extensive (mostly international) network in the working field. This network is at the disposal of the departments and opens doors abroad for exchanges and projects.

The internationalization agenda is also embedded in the internationalization agenda of the city of Rotterdam. This agenda aims to strengthen the cultural climate in the city in line with the international economic position of Rotterdam. Codarts is one of the parties that implements this agenda.

To make the inflow of students and teachers from abroad possible, Codarts has a number of specific provisions. For example, all communications to the students and teachers are in both Dutch and English. Codarts facilitates accommodation for foreign students, and has a number of apartments at its disposal for guest teachers. The university also mediates in the areas of visas and insurance.

With a view to the international working field, Codarts stimulates students to take part in exchanges. For the Erasmus programme, Codarts has drawn up over 48 agreements and in addition, there are 6 partnerships with institutes outside Europe. These partnerships come about through the network of our international teachers and through the internationalization policy of the city of Rotterdam in which Codarts actively participates.

The choice of partners is based on the artistic level of the partner.

It comes about through:

- intrinsic artistic choices based on the international network of teachers;
- active participation in the Erasmus programme for exchange and intensive programmes;
- the unique world music department with its disciplines of Argentinian Tango, Indian music, Latin American music, Flamenco and Turkish music;

- participation in international networks such as AEC for the music and Fedec for Circus Arts. The dance academy of Codarts has its own active exchange programme with dance schools all over the world;
- the cultural links of the city of Rotterdam which has an exchange programme with world port cities such as Shanghai, Mumbai, Sao Paulo and Istanbul.

From the foregoing, it is clear that Codarts has a broad international profile and is thereby specifically oriented towards the following areas:

- Europe for the Erasmus exchange;
- Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Spain, Turkey and India for the World Music department;
- the world port cities of Mumbai, Sao Paulo, Istanbul and Antwerp as part of the partnership of the city of Rotterdam.

The international character of Codarts emerges in both the bachelor's and master's programmes. Therefore the internationalization policy is comprehensively stimulated for students, teachers and staff. Specific to Codarts is that this often takes place in relation to the working field, the companies, the venues and the festivals with which Codarts collaborates.

Collaboration in the area of artistic research is getting more and more off the ground and there is an initiative to arrive at a joint degree for the dance academy. In the coming years these initiatives will be further stimulated.

Being member of regional, national and international networks, such as the AEC, Codarts is actively involved in policies on talent scouting and training up-and-coming young talent. Codarts has also put a lot of effort into strengthening the entrepreneurship and research programmes in all courses of music, dance and circus, up to international criteria.

These examples of quality enhancement programmes are directly related to our policy of international benchmarking. Due to its international character Codarts is very much aware of the international standards of the highest level of arts education and also of the demands of the working field. It is clear that being part of the Programme contributes to our aims and ambitions in this respect.

It is without question that the international artistic standards for highly trained musicians, dancers and circus artists are rising, both in the creative industries and in the subsidised working field. For example: although there will be fewer symphony orchestras in the near future, the artistic level of the remaining orchestras is going up, as is the demand for better and better musicians. The same developments can be seen in other areas.

For this reason Codarts has strengthened its relations with professional organizations such as the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, to offer classical music students the best environment of professional training. The Programme gives Codarts the opportunity to do the same through teacher and student exchanges, by inviting top teachers to Codarts and select the best students to come to Rotterdam.

As mentioned before, Codarts has put a lot of effort into strengthening the entrepreneurship and research programmes in all courses of music, dance and circus. Linking these three areas is in itself very much a regional and national affair.

However, the Programme does offer Codarts an important opportunity to learn from best practices abroad, both through student mobility and through teacher/staff mobility.

Codarts is an open and transparent institution for the arts and takes responsibility towards its stakeholders. We have a clear governance structure in which we follow the principles of transparency, accountability, fairness and responsibility. At Codarts, the codes of conduct such as **the 'Branchecode Governance' by the HBO-Council** serves as a significant policy instrument for good and effective management. Codarts continuously works in further refining its administration structure and policies making them more transparent and effective. Visits to other European institutions for example has gained us insight into effective administrative policies and processes which has helped us to make improvements.

Codarts receives funding via various grants and resources. To continue to improve the quality and relevance of our institution we look into additional opportunities for funding such as third party funding and valorisation funding such as through lecturers.