

## Internationalisation Strategy of the University of Arts Linz

### Preamble

The University of Arts Linz as an institution is involved in society and the world. This means that it thinks globally, acts locally and cultivates an international mindset and affinity as a fundamental attitude. Internationalisation is an essential cornerstone of the university's orientation. The explicit aim of this internationalisation strategy is to involve all university members. It builds on the university's development plan 2025-2030 and considers the strategy for university mobility and internationalisation 2020-2030 (HMIS2030).

Internationalisation is a comprehensive, targeted process which gives the university an international, intercultural and global orientation in its core areas: teaching, design, research and development, advancement and appreciation of the arts, administration. It aims to make active contributions to the solution of societal challenges. The University of Arts Linz stands up for global goals such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) or human rights at an international level.

The overall goal of this internationalisation strategy is the further expansion of the international positioning and reputation of the University of Arts Linz.

### Goal: Further Development of Studies and Teaching Through Internationalisation

University mobility is a core element of this integrated approach to internationalisation. Cross-border mobility facilitates the acquisition of international and intercultural competences, promoting the development of global networking skills and innovative thinking and action. The university benefits from the international experiences and contacts made by employees and students. It promotes international experience in career planning and supports the development of international contacts and partnerships.

The present and the future point to a pluralistic and diverse society. This is another reason for planning, for instance, the expansion of English-language courses and the further integration of course contents with a strong international focus. According to this circumstance, it is important to systematically integrate international perspectives in teaching and to apply language politics resonating with the international composition of students and faculty. Examples include:

- All website information regarding programmes and admission is provided bilingually (German, English) and adapted regularly.
- The International Office's website offers all information in English.
- Curricula are to be provided in German and English as far as necessary and possible.

- Information on scholarships, competitions, tenders and research newsletters is to be provided bilingually.
- Depending on the respective programme, a high proportion of English-language classes is offered.
- English classes for teachers and general university staff are offered by the Department of Personnel Development.
- The university offers German classes for exchange students as well as employees free of charge.

The International Office and the Department of Legal Affairs / Admission / Examination play important roles in these areas. The Student Service Centre to be established aims to further expand and professionalise a comprehensive culture of service and welcome. In the sense of Green Erasmus, the International Office will shape the internationality of the future in a sustainable way and contribute to open-minded, curious cooperation.

Furthermore, the University of Arts Linz aims to contribute to the promotion of intercultural skills through a broad range of awareness-raising measures.

## Goal: Expansion of Research and the Advancement and Appreciation of the Arts Through Internationalisation

Internationalisation efforts in research and the advancement and appreciation of the arts require good, extensive networks and collaboration. This is to be pursued specifically through the promotion of international research projects, networking and mobility as well as collaboration with excellent researchers and artists worldwide. The selection of international partners is based on common interests, key research areas and ethical standards. Partnerships with the Global South and emerging regions will be expanded. Cooperation with universities in Colombia and Israel, established for several years, forms a starting point. Beyond a European scope, the next years will see the further development of collaboration in South America and Asia. Collaborative projects in Africa, Australia and New Zealand are an additional goal.

This also concerns the administrative level, in particular quality management, personnel development and the International Office. The university's research service has a supportive effect as well: On the one hand, it establishes and handles internal funding instruments for research collaboration, and on the other hand, it supports international research collaborations and projects, especially the EU funding programmes Creative Europe, Horizon Europe (HEU) and ERASMUS+.

These efforts are supported by strategic consultations within the frame of the ERA-DIALOG with the FFG and active membership in the European Association of Research Managers and Administrators (EARMA). Efforts will also be flanked by targeted training, information and screenings for relevant calls of Erasmus+, Creative Europe, CERV, New European Bauhaus, Horizon Europe pillar 1 (especially ERC, MSCA DN and PF), pillar 2 (especially cluster 2, cluster 4) pillar 3 (especially EIC, EIT KIC Culture & Creativity).

In the years to come, promoting internationalisation in the core processes of advancement and appreciation of the arts, design and research will be a priority. The University of Arts Linz considers international networks especially important and already participates in relevant networks such as CUMULUS or ELIA. Additionally, the university is a member of international professional associations such as ISEA, the Association of Media Science, the Association for Cultural Studies, DFG networks etc. Collaboration with universities in neighbouring countries (Switzerland: HGK FHNW Basel and ZHdK Zurich; Germany: Berlin University of the Arts) will be intensified especially in the area of PhD studies.

The annual Kunstuni Campus, a part of the Ars Electronica Festival, offers important impetus for internationalisation at many levels, in many areas of the university. The excellent network of international host universities, which has grown significantly, is a platform for comprehensive collaboration and projects.

In the future, a comprehensive onboarding programme will support international students and employees looking for housing, cultural orientation or help with visa issues. Additionally, language courses will facilitate integration.

Furthermore, the university will create incentives for networking activities, e.g., financial support with accounting. As (international) network agents, alumni are to receive special attention.

Internationalisation in a time of many increasingly autocratic countries can pose a great challenge. It is important to strike a balance between the assessment of potential risks in third countries, the prevention of discrimination and the preservation of academic freedom and integrity. To this end, the University of Arts Linz exchanges information with relevant authorities such as the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research. The University of Arts Linz monitors all relevant developments and suggestions for measures to be taken.

## Goal: Social Commitment Through Internationalisation

The University of Arts Linz commits to social responsibility and outreach at a regional and international level. The university follows the values of diversity, pluralism and anti-discrimination at all levels – in content discourse as well as in operational issues. These aspects can be found in the elaboration of the university's profile-defining focus areas:

- Contemporary Art and Beyond
- Post-digital Cultures
- Sustainable and Critical Design
- Transformative Research and Education

From an operational and structural perspective, social issues are addressed in activities such as the task force for equal treatment issues and guidelines for sustainability and the use of AI.

The university advocates equal opportunities and safeguards access to international programmes and courses for all students irrespective of their social or economic background. To this end, the university will offer sufficient counselling services. Furthermore, it takes an integrated approach which considers not only academic and artistic aptitude but also social and economic backgrounds.

The University of Arts Linz expressly supports the situation of asylum seekers and those already entitled to asylum. The university's MORE programme allows them to take classes as non-degree students. In the future, MORE programme students will be supported by the planned student service centre.

Through the establishment of suitable standards, the university intends to ensure that international collaboration and projects meet ethical standards and respect human rights. This requires the promotion of ethically responsible research, especially in international projects, and the protection of the rights and dignity of all people involved.

Regarding international activities, the university also works on a significant reduction of the ecological footprint, for example through sustainable travel options and the promotion of virtual exchange programmes.

## Goal: Strengthening University Structures Through Internationalisation

Support services for international students and staff are to be established and expanded. These services and information will be accessible on the website and complemented by individual support.

Further improvements will be made regarding digital infrastructure. The expansion of digital infrastructure aims to facilitate international exchange and collaboration, including online learning platforms and virtual conferencing tools.

Building on the development of a catalogue of criteria and the structuring of existing international partnerships and collaborations, the university plans regular monitoring of international standards and best practices. As a learning organisation, the university can effectively improve its internationalisation strategy, learn from institutions and their best practices and promote its international appeal. Based on these findings, communication and PR strategies will be improved. Goals include increasing the attractiveness of the university for international students, researchers, artists and partner institutions, promoting global cooperation and further strengthening the international appeal of the University of Arts Linz.

This internationalisation strategy should be considered a snapshot in time. It is conceived as a 'paper in progress' that can and should be further developed on a rolling basis and dynamically adapted to new developments.

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