



Erasmus Policy Statement 2014-2020



The Amsterdam School of the Arts (AHK) offers preparatory courses, and programmes at the bachelor and master level in professional creative, executive, teaching or support positions in all art disciplines. The AHK consists of six faculties: the Conservatorium van Amsterdam, the Theaterschool, the Netherlands Film Academy, the Academy of Architecture, the Academy of Fine Art in Education and the Reinwardt Academy. This year (2013) the AHK counts 2450 bachelor students and 550 master students. Approximately a quarter of all full-time students come from abroad. The international teaching team consists of professionals from across the (art) world.

AHK's mission is to prepare students for a career in the arts, culture and heritage at the national and international level. The AHK stands for excellent training: outstanding instructors support a group of extremely talented students to develop their artistic identity on the basis of craftsmanship and tradition, with an eye for innovation and in close connection with the internationally leading professional field, with Amsterdam at its centre.

The AHK emphasises the importance of a strong international orientation for her faculties. This includes a clear focus on maintaining an expansive network of contacts and cooperation with renowned partner institutions in the areas of student exchange programmes (both for study and internships), knowledge development, benchmarking, project development and in the development of innovative study programmes. Herein the faculties take the initiative, because internationalisation is in the first place concerned with educational goals. An international reference is obvious in the case of courses which are not offered elsewhere in the Netherlands, such as those given by the Netherlands Film Academy or the Reinwardt Academy.

Of all internationally leading schools, the AHK faculties in the first place select partner institutions, which offer the possibility of a student or teacher exchange. The AHK has links all over the world, most of which are in Europe. In the next few years, the faculties are planning to focus on regions in South and East-Europe and the BRIC countries. In the areas of AHK's dance, cultural heritage and professional teaching qualifications, the so-called ACP countries are important, due to their historical and cultural ties with the Netherlands.

As part of this Programme, AHK's institutes will further intensify and strengthen their existing contacts with the leading institutes and partners within the EU, the US, EU's neighbouring countries, and the BRIC and ACP countries. AHK's institutes are active members of national and international associations and networks, such as the AEC, EAS, IAJE, GEECT, CILECT, OISTAT, ICOM, EAAE, IFLA and SIEF. At the institutional level, the AHK is also a member of ELIA.

The most important activity within this programme is student exchange, followed by knowledge exchange by means of teacher and staff mobility. Once the links between the partner institutions are sufficiently consolidated in consortia, the development of joint study programmes also belongs to the realm of possibilities. At this point in time, the AHK has established several consortia with renowned institutions in Europe to set up joint study programmes at the master level.

At an advanced stage in their course, the AHK offers her students the option to shape their individual trajectories by specialising or broadening their knowledge. As such, students can opt for an exchange at a renowned institution abroad either to study or to undertake an internship. The AHK applies rigorous qualitative selection criteria to any host institution for an exchange or cooperation at the educational level, so that particularly the qualitative effects of an international exchange are closely monitored. The third year bachelor curriculum allows time for students to go on an exchange, with the exception of students in Cultural Heritage, who can opt for an internship-exchange at a Flemish heritage institute in their second year.

The AHK offers her students financial support for exchange programmes outside the EU by means of the AHK Internationalisation Fund. Twice as many students go on an exchange programme outside the EU as inside the EU. The aim of the Erasmus Programme to promote exchange outside the EU supports AHK's current policy. The AHK has signed the Dutch Code



of Conduct International Student Higher Education and has fully introduced the ECTS points system.

Guest lectureships and staff visits at festivals, competitions and committee meetings at partner institutions usually form the basis for contact with potential incoming exchange students. This applies particularly to bachelor students. Part of this group returns to the AHK as a full-time student at the consecutive master level. Teacher mobility strengthens educational quality through knowledge exchange and contributes to the multilingual skills of the teaching team.

As part of the “Life-Long Learning Programme” (LLL), the AHK as secretary has established a number of cooperation projects in the framework of “Intensive Programmes”. Moreover, the AHK is partner of and partakes in the development of joint study programmes under the “Development of Thematical Network and Curriculum Programmes”. In cooperation with a consortium, the Conservatorium van Amsterdam has developed EUJam – a joint study programme at the master level for jazz musicians. The Academy of Architecture will within the same framework focus on innovative joint projects researching the topics of sustainability, the future of architecture, landscape architecture and design in urbanism in the current European context. In cooperation with the consortium “European Masters in Landscape Architecture (EMiLA)”, the Academy will offer the European study programme for landscape architecture from September 2013 onwards. The Netherlands Film Academy is currently working towards setting up the innovative master degree for “Sound Design” within the consortium “Sound in Audio Vision (SiAV)”.

Joint study programmes attract international talent from all over the world. The institutes aim to develop an increasing number of study programmes with partner institutions.

AHK’s institutes and lectureships already make possible numerous teaching and research projects every year. A large part of these projects, which are often developed in cooperation with other art and cultural institutions, could not be financed as part of the LLL programme. The AHK hopes that the Erasmus+ programme will increase the number of opportunities available to these alliances in the form of cooperative projects.

The Modernising and Internationalising Agenda 2020 of the Erasmus+ programme links in seamlessly with the core aims, as were formulated by the AHK’s most recent mission statement.

Many of the courses offered by the AHK are rated “good” and “excellent” by the Dutch accreditation body. The AHK has a high retention rate in terms of student numbers. The AHK aims for an excellent education of her students in order to prepare them for the (international) professional art world and for operating successfully within their area of specialisation.

The quality of the education is guaranteed by the strict demands on the quality of teaching and management. The AHK aims for an optimal learning environment for her students and motivates her teaching team in different ways, varying from providing the opportunity to remain an active professional in the international art world to undertaking PhD research. The AHK values quality of education, quality control, governance and accountability highly.

The creative industry is one of the priority sectors selected by the Dutch government. The AHK is based in Amsterdam, the city where numerous important actors in the arts are operating. The AHK is the leading institution within higher education in Amsterdam in the fields of art, culture and heritage, in close cooperation with Amsterdam City Council, the private sector and the capital’s other higher education institutes. The AHK joins the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences and InHolland in the cooperation effort “Centre of Expertise”, which focuses on the creative industry in Amsterdam. The AHK is also a member of the core team “Creative Industry” of the Amsterdam Economic Board, and of the “Amsterdam Centre for Entrepreneurship”, together with the University of Amsterdam, the Free University and the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences.



AHK's faculties and lectureships organise numerous teaching and research projects in cooperation with professional practices at regional, national and international level. Most courses offer practice-oriented education given by a teaching team that also operates in practice. The AHK recognises opportunities in the Programme to further develop the potential of cooperation projects. A number of institutes take in a strong position within the European Union and are ready to further explore their positioning outside Europe and actively take part in international cooperation efforts.

In the months ahead, the AHK is planning to make an inventory of these activities, and where opportunities arise within the scheme "Knowledge Alliances", make optimal use of its programmes. The AHK will continuously have to tread a careful balance between the demand for education, the need for cooperation and the available capacity within the different institutes.

The AHK expects that participation in the Erasmus+ programme will continue to provide an impulse to the quality of her education in its entirety.