



Orpheus Institute Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS) 27-02/2007

In order to complete this section, please refer to the instructions given below. Please note that your EPS shall be given wide visibility in your institution and must be published on the web page of your institution. The EPS should set out the overall Erasmus co-operation strategy of your institution in relation with its mission statement, underlying its Erasmus cooperation plan as well as any other activities to be proposed in the framework of the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP).

a) Please describe briefly your institution's strategy, objectives and priorities for its Erasmus activities (mobility, multilateral projects and thematic networks, etc.) and any other actions in the context of the Lifelong Learning Programme (2007-2013).

b) Please also provide information on the following points:

What specific actions are planned to give visibility to Erasmus activities and what type of publicity will be given to the Erasmus University Charter and the EPS?

What kind of arrangements, if any, does the Institution ensure to comply with non-discrimination objectives (e.g. actions related to gender equality, integration of disabled students and staff, enhancement of social and economic cohesion and combating of xenophobia and racism)?

The Orpheus Institute's task is not only to provide post-master education and a doctoral programme in musical arts, but also to create and facilitate an artistic research environment. Within all these missions, the Orpheus Institute stresses the importance of international cooperation and interchange. One of the institute's big challenges is to contribute to the definition of research in and through musical practice in a European context. In this respect, the Orpheus Institute is, since October '06, involved in an ERASMUS curriculum development project, called documa (doctoral curriculum in musical arts). This project is a collaboration between eight major higher education institutions (4 universities, 4 conservatoires) in three European countries (Belgium, The Netherlands and United Kingdom). Together with these partners, the Orpheus Institute is responsible for the creation of a new blueprint for a doctoral curriculum in musical arts. Moreover, the institute acts as the coordinating institution and the administrative centre of this project. The documa project started in October '06 with a development phase of two years. The Orpheus Instituut will pool its expertise, energy, and experience in third cycle music studies and research in musical arts to develop a working definition for doctoral research in and through musical practice and a definitive framework and curriculum for a practice-based music doctorate. From September '08 on (the implementation phase), the pilot of the curriculum will be run at the Orpheus Institute. This joint doctoral curriculum in music will lead to the development of the first European joint doctoral degree in musical arts. With this, the Orpheus Instituut intensifies the international dimension of its third cycle studies in music and its artistic research projects. The institute's mission statement will be expanded on a European level.

The documa project, as well as Orpheus' involvement in numerous international networks and working groups in the field concerned, are an important instrument for staff and student mobility. The Orpheus Institute will achieve an exchange between its own students and those of the documa partner institutions as well as other European institutes. Staff from these institutions will be engaged in educational and research assignments. The international cooperation will continue with a view to improvement and expansion of the structure and content of the doctoral curriculum in musical arts and research in and through musical practice. Regularizations on student services/facilities, information supplies and ECTS as well as the EPS will be a main concern of the Orpheus Institute's staff. Both the University Charter and EPS will be published on the website and will be at the (teaching and research) staff's and the student's disposal. Official documents (application form, etc.) in connection with the doctoral programme will be provided with an equal opportunity policy statement.

Quality of academic mobility activities:

What kind of specific measures are implemented in the institution to ensure high quality in academic mobility activities?

Details should be provided on: recognition and credit systems, the provision of information on curricula, information and counselling of outgoing students, tutoring and integration of incoming students, provision of student services (in particular accommodation), preparatory and refresher language courses, support and acknowledgement of staff mobility.

The internationally acknowledged expertise in research in and through musical practice makes Orpheus' doctoral programme a unique research environment for musicians. For the degree awarding, the Orpheus Institute works together with highly renowned universities. In that sense, quality of academic mobility actions is one of the main concerns of the institute.

In the framework of the ERASMUS project, the Orpheus Institute, together with its partners, will prepare and implement ECTS as the central tool for credits and quality care. In addition, feedback of students/staff (by means of interviews/questionnaires) and evaluation sessions by external (international) surveyors guarantee the quality of the programme.

Considering the importance of providing accurate information to all students, the institute disseminates brochures and guidelines with information concerning content, practical organisation and final procedures (required by the university partners). Information and counselling of outgoing (ERASMUS) students will be provided in consultation with the partners concerned. The information will be made available (Dutch/English) on the institutes' website.

Students, applying for the doctoral programme, are invited to participate in preparation programmes in order to improve the required skills for doctoral studies in musical arts. As the Orpheus Institute organises a Dutch-speaking programme, and plans an English one, students are required to follow language courses (organised together with the university partners), when needed.

Once admitted, students will be tutored by a promoter and additional supervisors. Students may also appeal to (guest) professors for guidance on courses. Supervisors and professors will be engaged in the framework of staff mobility actions between ERASMUS partners. As practical arrangements (including accommodation) considers, the administrative staff provides assistance and advice to students.

Quality of student placement activities:

What kind of specific measures are implemented to ensure high quality in student placements? Give details on how the work-programme and the placement agreement are prepared and implemented. Please describe the practical arrangements agreed between the parties. Please specify also the monitoring and evaluation of the placement period as well as its recognition in the curriculum.

For its doctoral programme in musical arts, the Orpheus Instituut has made an agreement with Leiden University and the University of Leuven. However, doctoral students follow their training programme at the Orpheus Institute where they are enrolled. This programme is only open to Dutch-speaking students, but does not exclude foreign students. Where needed, the institute provides preparatory language courses at one of the partner universities. The training programme consists of monthly gatherings for which the Orpheus Institute organises accommodation and guidance. Financial regularizations however, are always discussed with the partners institutions and stated in a partner agreement. The implementation of the ERASMUS joint curriculum development project documa (doctoral curriculum in musical arts) will occur in both the Orpheus Institute and the Royal College of Music London. Doctoral students aiming at following the documa programme, enrol in one of these institutions. Both institutions will provide a training programme, with a number of parallel modules and joint sessions. Besides, students will have the chance to follow courses at one of the other documa partner institutions (8). The student mobility arrangements for these actions will be stipulated in an agreement with the involved partners. Placements (in either the Orpheus Instituut, RCM or other partner institutions) are recognised as an integral part of the documa programme at the institution where a student is officially enrolled. They will be subject for ECTS and evaluated according to quality assurance mechanisms drawn up by the documa partner institutions. The student contract will inform the student of these agreements. As the documa project intends to create a new blueprint for a doctoral curriculum in musical arts which will lead to the first European joint doctoral degree in the musical arts, it certainly is a first step towards further European cooperation in the field concerned.