

ERASMUS+ Policy Statement

Friedrich Gulda School of Music Wien (GSM) is an autonomous music academy for jazz and popular music, as well as for different types of applied media music, music theatre and classical music. GSM is devoted exclusively to these areas of style and was founded with the aim of offering a music education that is of an high-quality and practically oriented. GSM specialises in equipping students and graduates with the necessary training, skills and know-how needed in the current professional reality. At the heart of all of this are the students who, together with their teachers, continue to advance and promote artistic developments. A key feature at GSM is the dynamic and truly international environment, with over 60% of our students coming from outside Austria. The curriculum focuses on teaching and research in the advancement and appreciation of the arts, music education and music production. With the presence of international cooperations and institutionally supported artistic projects - many of which deal with creating public awareness - students are given the necessary support for a successful start on their career path. These cooperations and projects also accompany studies as part of vocational field orientation, as well as targeted preparation for the challenges of the competitive music market. In this context, GSM benefits from the internationally successful activities of its faculty members in the art and media scenes, as well as from the renowned musical significance of its location Music City Gasometer in the uniquely striking Viennese Gasometers. In addition, opportunities in interdisciplinary collaboration arise through interaction and cooperation with local companies in the fields of music, performing arts and other creative arts. By making the Gasometers prominent centres for musical activity, Vienna is making it known on an international scale that it's always willing to continually expand the parameters of what the city offers in musical training, and for the first time is realising a systemic cooperative between neighbouring artistic disciplines. As part of an ever-changing and evolving music world, we are guided by the model of a communicative and interdisciplinary music education in which artistic practice, theory and research are experienced and lived as an entity. Parallel to this is GSM's ethos: a fundamental openness and interest in everything new. As central guiding values, a strong sense of individuality, internationality and innovation accompany the ongoing cooperation of students and teachers. This creates the necessary open environment for fostering high-quality and contemporary developments in artistic practice and related theoretical skills, as well as in the development of interpersonal skills. We welcome individual and cultural diversity among our students and teachers and value these qualities as general foundations for originality and advancement in art, society, business and science. With this in mind the GSM's internationalization strategy comprises international networks and partners, student and staff mobilities, Internationalization@home and language acquisition programs. Friedrich Gulda School of Music Wien builds upon an international network of partner conservatories, commercial enterprises and public institutions. Its faculty comprises renowned Austrian and international teachers with a strong commitment to establish GSM as a leading, internationally recognised institution. GSM already has partners within the Erasmus

programme all over Europe. The goal is to offer exchange in many different locations around the world to foster the international education the students are provided at GSM. These diverse partners also ensure that students from all over the world come to GSM to enrich the student body each semester. GSM strives to obtain more partners as music academies and conservatories each academic year, while still ensuring quality partnerships. Being a music academy with a strong international orientation, we encourage our students to hone their knowledge and their skills by studying abroad and participating in the Erasmus programme. Students are strongly encouraged to take part in exchange to enrich their academic experience and to cultivate international contacts. Additionally, the Friedrich Gulda School of Music Wien encourages faculty and staff to participate in exchange opportunities, as GSM fully supports the lifelong learning aspect of the Erasmus+ program. Friedrich Gulda School of Music Wien is proud to have a diverse student body on campus and to additionally offer further international education through partners. At GSM we are convinced that Internationalisation@home touches upon everything, from the curriculum to the interactions between local students and international students and faculty. In order to enable all students to gain international experience, we have created a BUDDY program in which local students can network with international students and work on their intercultural skills in a targeted manner. The usage and continuous expansion of digital teaching opportunities also contributes to bringing students from different countries and cultures together in one course. Most importantly, it focuses on all students reaping the benefits of international higher education, not just those who are mobile. To improve language skills, a language acquisition program, tailored to the needs of art & music students has been implemented. Friedrich Gulda School of Music Wien strives for innovative, high-quality international cooperation and takes concrete measures to foster mobility. GSM promotes the awareness of diversity as well as the intercultural competences of its students, staff and faculty. Participation in Erasmus+ represents a central aspect of this diversity and enables, through the broad anchoring in our institution, a sustainable cooperation with partners. As part of its overall strategy, the Friedrich Gulda School of Music Wien provides its students, staff and faculty the means to position themselves successfully in an international environment and so contribute to the European higher education areas in the field of music&art. Friedrich Gulda School of Music Wien supports the objectives set out by European educational agendas, which include the internationalisation of offered courses, the constant qualitative improvement of higher education, as well as the focus on employability of graduates through cooperation with non-educational institutions. GSM is proud to have received the ECHE in 2017 and again in 2021 and will continue to participate in the various activities of the ERASMUS + Programme.