

The European Policy Statement (EPS) of the University of Music Lübeck

The University of Music Lübeck (MHL) is the only university of music in the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein. It has been fulfilling the tasks assigned to it by the state for the education of the musical professions with great success for decades. The core of the education is the artistic education, which includes almost all orchestral instruments, piano, church music, composition and voice. In addition to the artistic training, another mainstay of the education is the pedagogical area. In addition, there is the possibility of scientific work within the framework of a doctorate (music education, music theory and musicology). The close cooperation with the affiliated, internationally recognised Brahms Institute must also be mentioned here.

The MHL has the legal mandate to promote international cooperation, especially in the European area in higher education and the exchange between German and foreign universities (§3 Abs.4 Hochschulgesetz SH). The MHL is committed to striving for the establishment and expansion of partnerships with foreign universities and to promoting the study abroad of its students of all study cycles - in return, the MHL provides educational capacities for foreign students who wish to study for one or two semesters at the University of Music Lübeck. The exchange of teaching staff serves, on a bilateral basis as possible, to sensibly supplement the range of teaching offered at the respective partners.

Currently, the University of Music Lübeck maintains partnerships with more than 40 institutions within the framework of the Erasmus-Programme of the European Union (Key Action KA1, Divisions 103 and 107). In addition, cooperation projects with certain higher education institutions outside this programme are planned or have been successfully carried out in recent years (e.g. PGVIM Bangkok, Geidai Tokyo, TNUA Taipei, Université de Montreal). The list of existing cooperations beyond the regular Erasmus+-programmes has now grown to about 16. The initial focus was on Southeast Asia and East Asia, as well as Canada and Colombia. Eastern European partners were added last year. In addition to the basic dialogue, the main focus is on ethnomusicology and, in the case of the partners, above all on chamber music. The aim is to remain in a broad musical dialogue, to follow and help shape developments among the MHL's European and non-European partners. New synergies should contribute to sustainable results on both sides. In the selection of the respective institutes, the bilateral principle has always been in the foreground and not the aid of development in the broadest sense. The European as well as the international component is an integral part of our idea of music education. Compositional work as well as musical practice have always had a cross-border orientation. The language of music is not bound to national languages or national borders, but it always has evolved and culturally conditioned differences. It is precisely by getting to know the other that one gains important insights into one's own. In this respect, the respective projects and exchanges are deliberately not tied to specific courses of study, but to projects based on content.

With its current 42% share of foreign students, the university community of the Lübeck University of Music (MHL) reflects the diversity of the European population with all its diversity. It is a declared aim of the MHL to support and advise all artistic personalities of its community in their development regardless of their origin, financial position and world view in the sense of equal opportunities.

In the academic sphere, in order to ensure that students are advised individually and transparently at the same time, the MHL has established a panel structure in its constitution in which student counselling is one of the tasks of the Director of Studies. In addition to the main subject lecturers as mentors, who support the students throughout their studies with specialist advice, a director of studies is responsible for advising on the individual course of studies at every point in time in the student life cycle. This also includes processing applications for the recognition of externally acquired competences. Since the summer semester 2020, MHL has been offering students increased access to online study opportunities to help them successfully complete their studies. This also includes the recognition of knowledge acquired abroad, whether in the pre-study or during the exchange study.

Students who lack the entrance requirements for the future degree programme from their previous studies have the opportunity to catch up on these in the part-time contact study programme, as well as in its bridge variant in part-time or full-time.

The MHL makes its contribution to an inclusive world - we are "Different Together" by conviction. Study options and regulations for (aptitude) examinations for people with special needs are examined individually in accordance with the examination procedure regulations and applied where necessary.

The idea of inclusion is part of the curriculum. In addition, the Inclusion Campus is an explicit focus of the courses offered in this area. The Inclusion Campus is also open as an elective course for students of all degree programmes and years and thus also for exchange students.

In the non-academic area, a wide-ranging scholarship landscape provides support for students with good academic success but low family income. If there is a risk that stress and strain are limiting academic success and preventing students from studying successfully, they can take advantage of educational-therapeutic counselling offered by the MHL if needed.

It has always been the concern of the University of Music Lübeck to enable all its university members who express the wish to participate in the Erasmus+-programme to do so. The MHL will continue to promote the mobility of students for musical education as well as of teachers and staff for teaching and training purposes under the KA103 and KA107 programmes. The mobility measures will be implemented and coordinated by the International Relations Office of the University of Music in close consultation with the Presidential Board. The already existing awareness of the added value of international exchange will be strengthened in constant exchange with the teaching staff and the student representation. The MHL would like to strengthen the field of ethnomusicology and regularly invites experts (in the music of their own culture) from the partner universities. Conversely, there is a special interest in our chamber music work at most partner universities in the European and non-European area. The most diversified artistic education possible with different impulses is fully in line with the teaching philosophy, as it is also defined in the current institutional strategy of the MHL, among other things. Its most essential aspect is the mutual benefit in different areas, which can be seen as a meaningful addition/extension for the respective university. Joint music-making projects are possible above all with those higher education institutions whose educational level, content and style are similar to those of the MHL.

Due to the uniqueness of the cultural encounters, the cooperations with the partner countries exert an enormous influence on the already existing diversity at the University of Music.

Previous experiences show immensely positive effects on students, teachers and university staff through participation in the Erasmus+-programme. The academic engagement of MHL students with the musical traditions of the respective countries leads to multi-faceted and different approaches to music making and thinking. Students benefit from diversity and a rich study and learning environment. They interact with highly qualified fellow students from all over the world and are thus also prepared for an internationally increasingly interconnected and diverse musical life. The continued exchange of teachers and students forms the basis for successful international cooperation, from which projects will emerge, especially in the field of Western chamber music and music of other cultures.

The long-term effects for all involved include improvement of professional and artistic competences, improved language skills through active application, increased intercultural awareness and competence, and unique networking opportunities.

Based on these positive results, the University of Music Lübeck will further intensify mutual exchange in the future. The International Relations Office of the MHL supports mobility participants with all its competence to ensure a successful guest stay.