

# M A — DE Program

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Accademia  
di Belle Arti  
Rosario Gagliardi  
Siracusa

## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS' POLICY, RULES AND CONTACTS

### GENERAL ORGANISATION

Founded in 1995, The "Rosario Gagliardi" Academy of Fine Arts (RGFA) is a private Academy, recognized by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research.

Internationalization of arts and design in Sicily is the heart of our reason for being. Our mission is to become an "international-level academy of fine arts, which aims to work at the intersection of design, art, craft, and local cultural traditions".

The primary tools we intend to use to pursue the shared goals of modernization are the following:

- **developing an arts and design training program in which professional practice and critical theory are both fundamental components** in constructing an imaginative itinerary that touches on the golden age of the Italian city-states, the Renaissance and Baroque periods, and, more recently, the project for a "unitary school of art" that Bruno Paull outlined in 1918 when he laid the foundation for the Bauhaus. Erasmus+ will help us modernize by helping us to combine the international with the local and regional, to bring our students into contact with the international trends in contemporary art and design and to bring international students into contact with the special regional artistic traditions of Sicily;
- **multi-disciplinary practice – cross disciplinary approach.** MADE works across a range of cognate disciplines feeding into its two triennial degree programs and its special summer courses and workshops. This provides students with a broad and varied understanding of the interplay between artistic design and real world social and economic needs.
- **development of an innovative, flexible and student-centered learning environment.** The MADE Program curriculum features built-in project, collaboration with external professional firms and producers of design products, exposing students and faculty to meaningful learning experiences;
- **cross-cultural approach – MADE means Mediterranean art and design and Mediterranean means European and extra-European artistic and cultural traditions coming together in cross-cultural collaboration.** Our faculty and staff are a working group composed of teachers, designers, and artists with solid qualifications and expertise acquired at important Italian, European, and extra-European academies and universities, who will enable our students and our international visiting students to dialogue with a variety of Mediterranean artistic and design traditions, giving them contemporary expression.

European and international mobility at the RGFA is channeled through the MADE PROGRAM, which welcomes international students to its three-year degree programs and to its full schedule of summer courses, taught primarily in English. Organization and implementation of European and international mobility is directed by the International Programs Office, in collaboration with the Course Leaders of the Visual Arts and Design degree programs, the Academy's Administrative Director, and faculty teaching in the triennial degree and summer programs. Mobility is mainly implemented with partner institutions within the framework of interinstitutional agreements with European and non-European art schools sharing RGFA's vision and approach with the goal of developing effective synergy for the growth of students, faculty, and the institutions as a whole.

Academic decisions on degree program specific arrangements are made by the two degree course leaders in conjunction with the teaching faculty (the course leaders and faculty possess more than adequate academic knowledge of most active art and design links and similar academic profiles in their specific fields, thus giving RGFA the opportunity to utilize cooperation networks and ensure the quality of partner institutions. Institutional partners are selected to correspond to student and staff needs. Outgoing proposals for partnerships are originated by RGFA's course leaders and teaching faculty and forwarded to the International Programs office for drafting, execution, and administrative implementation of the agreement. Similarly, when an incoming partnership proposal is received, it is first reviewed and approved by the course leaders and faculty and then sent to the International Programs Office for execution and implementation. All partnership agreements are signed by RGFA's Administrative Director.

Our preferred method of evaluation of partner institutions includes personal meetings with the potential partner's representatives when possible. When personal visits are not possible, we will use video conferencing, and mutual exchange of photographic and video documentation of classrooms, laboratories, and other facilities.

Geographical and linguistic coverage is taken into account when selecting partner institutions. In keeping with MADE's academic focus on Mediterranean arts and design, RGFA and MADE have defined their geographical priority as the Mediterranean basin, concentrating our efforts on making inter-institutional agreements with EU and non-EU partners in the Mediterranean (Spain, France, Greece, Croatia as well as Morocco, Tunisia, and Israel). Our Mediterranean focus is by no means exclusive, however, and we have also investigated and contacted potential partner institutions elsewhere in Europe as well as in North America and Asia.

### Academic Credit System

RGFA and the MADE PROGRAM allocate credits in accordance with the guidelines of the ECTS. The two three-year degree programs require a total of 180 credits for completion of the degree (60 credits per year, 30 credits per semester).

Credits for theory courses are awarded on the basis of 1 credit for every 7.5 hours of classroom study; theory and practice courses are awarded 1 credit per 12 classroom hours; and practical/workshop courses award 1 credit per 25 classroom hours.

All courses taught at RGFA and MADE Program are described in the course catalogue section of the institution's website ([madeprogram.it/en](http://madeprogram.it/en)). During the two-semester of the regular academic year, all courses are taught in Italian. Summer courses are primarily taught in English. Some summer courses are taught in Italian with English translation assistance provided in-class as well as after class.

### MADE Program

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### Contacts

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## **Institutional Procedure for the approval and monitoring of inter-institutional Agreements for Study and Teaching Mobility**

Academic decisions on degree program specific arrangements are made by the Course Leaders in conjunction with the teaching faculty (the course leaders and faculty possess more than adequate academic knowledge of most active art and design links and similar academic profiles in their specific fields, thus giving RGAFa the opportunity to utilize cooperation networks and ensure the quality of partner institutions).

Institutional partners are selected to correspond to student and staff needs. Outgoing proposals for partnerships are originated by RGAFa's course leaders and teaching faculty and forwarded to the International Programs office for drafting, execution, and administrative implementation of the agreement. Similarly, when an incoming partnership proposal is received, it is first reviewed and approved by the course leaders and faculty and then sent to the International Programs Office for execution and implementation. All partnership agreements are signed by RGAFa's Administrative Director.

Monitoring of inter-institutional agreements for international mobility of students and staff is conducted by the International Programs Office. Incoming students and staff will be provided with group and individual orientation meetings and materials and their progress will be followed attentively throughout the course of their stay in weekly meetings with staff of the International Program Office. Toward the end of their stay, visiting students and staff will be asked to attend an exit interview and to fill out a digitized evaluation form covering all aspects of their experience.

Similarly, outgoing students and staff will be provided with individual orientation and counseling meetings before their departure and, upon their return, they will be asked to participate in a re-entry interview and to complete a digitized evaluation form covering all aspects of their mobility experience. While ensuring protection of students' privacy, the digitized evaluations will become part of a digital archive available to academy staff and administration as well as to future incoming and outgoing Erasmus participants to give them the benefit of the experience of those who have gone before.

Management of the international mobility agreements is handled by the MADE PROGRAM Office for International Programs.

## **Language Policy for preparing participants for mobility**

Outgoing students will be given foreign language preparation for mobility through specially programmed courses in English and or French, Spanish, Greek and Arabic provided by our partner institution, the Syracuse Academy (English – Cambridge ESOL accredited preparation and testing center [www.syracuseacademy.org](http://www.syracuseacademy.org)) or by adjunct contract faculty who also teach at the public universities in Catania and Ragusa (French, Spanish, Greek, Arabic).

Incoming students will be given the opportunity to take Italian and/or English courses at the B2 level taught by faculty from the Syracuse Academy language school ([www.syracuseacademy.org/italian-language-culture-program/](http://www.syracuseacademy.org/italian-language-culture-program/)).

Incoming students attending the two triennial degree programs will be required to have and maintain a B2 level in Italian. Remedial courses will be provided for incoming students during the months of September and January, prior to the beginning of the semester courses in the degree programs and Italian courses at the B2+ and C1 levels will be offered during the semester by teachers on contract with the Syracuse Academy ([www.syracuseacademy.org](http://www.syracuseacademy.org)).

Similarly, international students attending courses during the summer term will be required to have and maintain a B2 level of English. A two-week intensive B2 level English course will be offered to incoming students during the two weeks prior to the beginning of the summer term.

## **Mentoring and Support Arrangements for incoming mobile participants and outgoing students for study and traineeships**

In addition to orientation and monitoring activities conducted by staff of the International Programs Office, peer mentoring for incoming and outgoing students is carried out by groups of students who have returned from mobility experiences and/or by groups of students who volunteer to meet with and assist incoming students to acclimate to the local academic and social environment in Siracusa.

Information on and assistance in obtaining housing for incoming students is provided by international program staff in liaison with local real estate agencies specializing in temporary rental housing. Health and accident insurance information is provided to incoming and outgoing students by the Office of International Programs.

## **Mechanisms to recognise mobility achievements for study and traineeships in enterprises**

Within 10 days of their return, outgoing students will be asked to submit to the International Programs Office written certification of the exams taken during their mobility experience. The International Programs Office will then see to it that all exam grades are registered and credits assigned by the office of the registrar. Similarly, students returning from traineeships in enterprises will be asked to submit to the International Programs office within ten days of their return evaluations of their performance written and signed by their traineeship supervisor(s). The International Programs Office will then see to it that all traineeship evaluations are registered and credits assigned by the office of the registrar.

## **Information**

For information you can contact Dr Gregoy Conti ([g.conti@mageprogram.it](mailto:g.conti@mageprogram.it))

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