

## Erasmus Policy Statemen (EPS)

### **Institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy**

Founded in 1995, The "Rosario Gagliardi" Academy of Fine Arts (RGAFa) is a private Academy, recognized by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research. In 2016, RGAFa launched the MADE PROGRAM, (Mediterranean Arts and Design) a new curriculum, offering four three-year degree programs in Visual Arts/Arts Practices and Design, which aims to work at the intersection of design, art, craft, and local cultural traditions.

European and international mobility at the RGAFa is channeled through and 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 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 RGAFa'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 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 who is also the academy's LEAR.

Geographical and linguistic coverage is taken into account when selecting partner institutions. In keeping with MADE's academic focus on Mediterranean arts and design, RGAFa 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 partner institutions in North America, including member institutions of the Association of American College and University Programs in Italy (AACUPI).

### **Institution's strategy for the organization and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Program**

With its wide range of educational formats, Rosario Gagliardi Academy is highly engaged in international education, addressed to both international and Italian students.

Various formats are conceived to meet the needs of specific target of participants and contribute to overall academic knowledge development and specifically for international academic perspective development:

- Extra EU Agreements: Extra-European agreements have been signed with 10 Institutions all over the world.
- MADE Labs: a series of one-week workshops, led by world-renowned creative professionals, addressed to designers, architects and artists, who are curious about new developments in their fields.
- Semester Abroad Programs: a set of programs in English specifically designed for International students. These programs include semester abroad courses following the structure of the US university system.
- International Year 1 Program in Design, Fashion and Visual Arts: a 11-month program offered jointly by MADE Program and Syracuse Academy providing students with the unique opportunity to enroll in the 1st year of Bachelor Degree program in Design, Fashion or Visual Arts with courses taught in English.
- Foundation Year Program: the first Foundation Year Program in the South of Italy.
- Joint/Double degree: Rosario Gagliardi Academy is developing some selected partnerships in order to design
- and deliver joint/double degree programs. Currently, main partnerships under development are with Chinese partners

### **Expected impact on the modernization of Rosario Gagliardi Academy in terms of the policy objectives to be achieved**

We believe that RGAFAs participation in the Erasmus+ Program will make a significant contribution to the modernization of our institution and our institution's ability to contribute to the modernization of Siracusa and Sicily. 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 4 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.

# M A — DE Program

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Accademia  
di Belle Arti  
Rosario Gagliardi  
Siracusa

- 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.