



P.A.R.T.S ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT 2022-2027

Participation in Erasmus+

P.A.R.T.S. is a small independent school for contemporary dance founded in 1995. It offers two programmes: the three-year Training cycle (recognised as professional Bachelor in Dance in 2019) and the two-year STUDIOS (consisting of one year bridge programme and one year Master programme, recognised in 2020). Since its foundation the school has had a very strong international profile, recruiting its students from all over the world to participate in a full degree programme, and providing scholarships to increase the democratic access to people of talent, regardless of their background. In general, 80-90% of the PARTS students are international. Also the teaching body is very international, since PARTS works exclusively with freelance teachers who are recruited in Belgium and abroad.

International exchange has always been a core value in the organisation and work of PARTS, and now that its programmes have been recognised as BA and MA, PARTS wants to intensify the international aspect through increasing the multi-perspective dimension of international exchange and focusing on the reciprocal aspect setting up sustainable collaborations with other strong institutions and partners in the professional field. By engaging in international collaborations and offering students and staff opportunities to work and study abroad in a different environment, PARTS wants to promote artistic and social exchange, mutual understanding and the pursuit of innovation.

By participating in the Erasmus+ actions, PARTS wants to

- offer its outgoing students an additional layer of international experience, by connecting their national background, their learning experience in Belgium and a learning or traineeship experience in a third country;
- offer incoming students the experience of an inherently international learning community;
- broaden views and experiences of outgoing and incoming teachers;
- increase exchange and reciprocal collaboration with other institutions to stimulate quality and innovation of the curricula and the institutional frameworks.

PARTS will participate in the following types of Erasmus+ activities:

- Key action 1: learning mobility of individuals

Mobility project for higher education of students and staff

- ° student mobility for studies
- ° student mobility for traineeships
- ° staff mobility for teaching
- ° staff mobility for training

- Key action 2: cooperation amongst organisations and institutions

- ° partnerships for cooperation

Strategy, objectives and impact

Objective 1: democratisation/increasing equality

Currently, PARTS students do have the possibility to study, train or work abroad during a part of their studies, but since the school cannot support this financially (beyond the already existing scholarships for their study in PARTS), this means that students with lesser financial capacities are left out of these opportunities. Through participating in the Erasmus+ programme, any student who wants to multiply the international factor of their studies in PARTS, will be able to pursue this goal.

Objective 2: promote the international experience for national students

The group of national students in PARTS is always small (<20%), and even if in PARTS they study in an inherently international environment, the experience of going abroad that most of their peers experience by studying at PARTS, is a quality of its own that will enrich their experience as student, future artist and citizen.

Objective 3: increasing diversity

The programmes in PARTS are collective by nature, and the small size of the institution limits the number and scope of options students can choose from. To further increase the space for individual interests and choices, the possibility to work or study abroad allows individual students to complement their training in PARTS with approaches to dance that are not present in PARTS' curricula. This allows them to broaden their vision of their future professional practice. Incoming students will further enrich the experience and views of the PARTS community through the values, practices and experience they carry and share.

Objective 4: international career perspectives

By itself, the field of dance is inherently international and mobile. PARTS wants to contribute to the internationalisation of the professional careers of starters by offering international traineeships in the professional field which help make the bridge

between higher education and the start of a professional career, kickstarting it with an international dimension.

Objective 5: institutional collaboration/reflection

PARTS wants to collaborate with other institutions in Europe to collectively research and reflect on its shared field of interest, institutional and pedagogical practices, in order to learn from each other and keep innovating its programme and pedagogical approaches.

Objective 6: circulation of teaching models

The teachers in PARTS are predominantly artists who work in the international field and combine their creative practice with freelance teaching in PARTS and other educational institutions across Europe and the globe. Each year again, PARTS 'curates' the pedagogical programme, finding a balance between continuing best practices and bringing in innovative ideas and methods. Within the teacher mobility program of Erasmus+, this effort will be increased, and it receives an extra layer of exchange because it's not only about the individual teacher but also brings in the context of the institution where they come from or go to.

As PARTS will be new in the field of Erasmus+ possibilities, the first step in the strategy to reach the objectives will be to identify potential partner institutions. For this, it can first of all rely on its existing international networks that has been constructed over 25 years, but the scope will also be broadened by taking input from its international guest teachers, alumni (many of whom have international careers) and current students (most of whom come from abroad). Out of this network, PARTS will build a number of sustainable bilateral relations for student and teacher mobility, and contacts for potential future cooperation projects and traineeships in the professional world. With each partner, we will look carefully at the similarities and differences in order to define the optimal conditions for exchange that can benefit the participants from both parties. This is also necessary given the specific structure of the PARTS programme, where new students enrol only every three years, and where only two programmes are active. Specific attention will also go to finding institutions that can make the participants' learning experience multidisciplinary.

Once the system is in place, PARTS will keep on monitoring the field for new opportunities and will regularly review the existing agreements and collaborations to ensure that they keep contributing to the objectives.

The expected impact of PARTS' participation in the Erasmus+ is to deepen its already strong international perspective and to provide a richer, more diverse and inclusive learning environment for its students, therefore preparing them better for the international field that contemporary dance is. As a small and versatile school, PARTS has always considered itself as a 'learning institution', which wants to stay

close to the ever-changing field of art, and prepare its students to be citizens in an ever-evolving and complexifying European and global society.

Indicators

Given the small size of the school, the particular timeline of its programs (new enrolment only every three years, in 2022 and 2025) and the novelty of the Erasmus+ program for the school, PARTS sets itself a slow timeline and modest targets.

1/ Student mobility and traineeship (objectives 1, 2, 3, 4)

Student mobility: per three-year cycle, only two semesters will be defined as window for incoming and outgoing mobility: in the Training cycle (Bachelor) program this will be the second semester of the second year and the first semester of the third year (resp. in the year 2023 and 2026), in the STUDIOS program (Master) this will be the second semester of the bridge year and the first semester of the Master year (resp. in the year 2023 and 2026).

Traineeship: traineeship in an international professional context will be possible in the same period as student mobility for studies (2023 and 2026), as well as in the year after graduation (2023-24 for graduates of STUDIOS (MA) and 2024-25 for graduates of the Training cycle (BA)).

PARTS sets itself a general target of 15% of its students per cycle who go out on mobility for studies and traineeships. More specifically, PARTS aims for a representative participation of its students of Belgian nationality and of students benefitting from a PARTS scholarship in these mobility activities.

For incoming students, the possible timeframes will run parallel to these for outgoing students. The aim for incoming students is to reach a similar level as for outgoing students on mobility for studies.

PARTS aims to develop inter-institutional agreements with between 3 tot 6 other institutions, in both Programme and Partner countries.

2/ Teacher mobility (objective 6)

Given that PARTS hardly employs teachers on a permanent basis and that many of its teachers are already very internationally mobile in their art and teaching practice, PARTS and its future partners will develop a specific model and agreements for teacher mobility that is beneficial for all parties involved.

For the period 2022-2027, PARTS aims for 2 incoming and 2 outgoing teachers' mobility experiences per year, starting from the academic year 2022-23 and building up to the target by the end of the period.

3/ Partnerships for cooperation (objective 5)

Cooperation projects can be important tools to keep PARTS connected to other international institutions, in order to share challenges, reflections and innovations in

its field. These projects support the internal questioning, evolution and innovation of the institution, the reformulation of its pedagogical goals and methodologies, and the quality of the education offered to its students. For the period 2022-2027, PARTS aims to engage in at least 2 partnerships for cooperation.