

## 1. ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

### ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

#### **Participation in Erasmus+**

*Describe how you plan to participate in Erasmus+ actions in the future.*

*Explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution.*

*Note: The following types of Erasmus+ activities are open to HEIs:*

- *Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility of individuals:*
  - *Mobility project for higher education students and staff*
    - *Student mobility for studies*
    - *Student mobility for traineeships*
    - *Staff mobility for teaching*
    - *Staff mobility for training*
    - *Blended intensive programmes*
- *Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions:*
  - *Partnerships for Cooperation*
  - *Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities*
  - *Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees*
  - *Partnerships for Innovation*
  - *Alliances for Innovation*
- *Key Action 3 (KA3) - Support to policy development and cooperation.*
- *Jean Monnet Actions*

#### **Strategy, objectives and impact**

*What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus+ Programme? Which are the policy objectives you intend to pursue? Describe how the participation fits into your institutional, internationalisation and modernisation strategies.*

*What is the envisaged impact of the participation on your institution? Explain how you expect the participation to contribute towards achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy. Explain how it will contribute to making your institution more modern and more international. Explain how you expect the participation to contribute to the goal of building a European Education Area.*

*Note: The objectives should be clear, measurable, realistic and achievable.*

#### **Indicators**

*For each objective, define appropriate indicators for measuring achievement (e.g. mobility targets for student/staff mobility, quality of the implementation, support for participants on mobility, increased involvement in cooperation projects, sustainability/long-term impact of projects, etc.). Link the targets to a timeline.*

*If you change your activities or objectives, please don't forget to update the EPS on your website and inform your Erasmus+ National Agency.*

## Participation in Erasmus+

### Praxis-based design on an artistic foundation

Beckmans College of Design/Beckmans' in Stockholm is in constant development. New knowledge and new perspectives on humanism, diversity, equality and sustainability permeate the courses which are based on an artistic foundation. Beckmans College of Design is a venue devoted to promoting the knowledge that is associated with praxis-based design on an artistic foundation by practice, research and questioning. Curiosity, empathy and aesthetics are combined by means of focused teaching and collaboration.

Design is important. Design is all around us and creates essential conditions for both cultural and economic developments. Teaching in the design field therefore has a very important place in today's society in which visual and material culture are consumed and need to be challenged and questioned.

Design can also be the solution to problems in our common society. Design serves as a tool to promote economic, social and ecological sustainability. Design can ask questions, challenge, influence and develop our time. Design can rise to global and local challenges, and design can contribute to the building of a more fair and inclusive future.

Beckmans offers three BA courses (180 ECTS): Visual Communication, Fashion Design and Product Design and has 123 students and a staff of 30. Students also have access to guest lecturers in all courses and the school collaborates closely with professionals, both international and Swedish.

Beckmans College of Design effectively combines art, theory and practice by employing teachers who are experts in their own fields, adopting a contemporary approach to education, and focusing upon practice-oriented studies which prepare the students for professional life, starting from students' very first year of study. Over the years Beckmans' has recurrently developed cooperation protocols with business institutions as well as academic institutions in Sweden and internationally.

Description of the plan to participate in Erasmus+ actions in the future and how they will be implemented in practice at our institution.

Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility of individuals:

Due to Beckmans College of Design strategic plan our goal is to participate in Erasmus+ actions mobility project for higher education students and staff as follow.

Student mobility for studies and traineeships:

We want our students to gain new skills either by study courses or a semester abroad at a partner HEI or carry out traineeships in enterprises at relevant workplaces abroad. Students would also be able to combine a study period abroad with a traineeship, further enhancing the learning outcomes and development of transversal skills. We will as well welcome exchange students from partner institutions in Europe. We will recognise the need to offer a flexible physical mobility duration to ensure the programme is accessible to students from all backgrounds and circumstances in our three design fields fashion, product design and visual communication.

Staff mobility for teaching:

We will support higher education teaching and administrative staff to take part in professional development activities abroad as well as staff from the world of work to teach and train students. These activities may consist of teaching as well as training periods.

Blended intensive programmes, summer courses and/or special projects:

Furthermore, with this action we will support blended intensive programmes, allowing us to develop jointly blended mobility curricula in summer courses and activities for students as well as academic and administrative staff to take part of jointly developed projects.

Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions

Partnerships for Cooperation:

Our primary goal of Cooperation Partnerships is to allow our organisation to increase the quality and relevance of our international activities, to develop and reinforce our networks of partners, to increase our capacity to operate jointly at transnational level, boosting internationalisation of our activities and through exchanging or developing new practices and methods as well as sharing and confronting ideas. We aim to support the development, transfer and/or implementation of innovative practices as well as the implementation of joint initiatives promoting cooperation, peer learning and exchanges of experience at European level. We want the result to be re-usable, transferable and up-scalable.

Explain how you expect the participation to contribute towards achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy.

During the contract period 2021-2027 Beckmans aims to make mobility a reality for all, be it physical or virtual. Use of new digital solutions are important both for sustainable reasons and for ensuring that all students can participate. Virtual mobility can promote social inclusion for students who do not have the possibility to travel abroad.

The COVID-19 crisis has necessitated acute development of digital solutions for education and these will be both consolidated and further developed in the years to come, making it possible for all our students and staff to take part in various types of international activities. Furthermore, collaborative and inter professional learning, as well as internationalisation of education, are high on Beckmans agenda. Participation in different kinds of Erasmus activities and strategic partnerships help promote these activities and create a sense of European culture that also inspires participants to language learning.

Strategy, objectives and impact

## 1.2. Strategy, objectives, impacts

### What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus+ Programme?

We want to create a systematised internationalisation that contributes to increased exchange both between design institutions and between design institution and companies in Europe. Enabling exchanges for students, teachers and administrative staff contributes to the development of our institution, our partners and can contribute to Europe's development in the design areas. Design is central in creating and developing a sustainable society, to meet the UN's environmental goals and give European companies a leading position.

Since its inception 1939, Beckmans College of Design has had extensive international activities with collaborative projects, exhibitions and fashion shows abroad, often in collaboration with Swedish and Scandinavian consulates, embassies and promotional and cultural organisations, but also with educational institutions in the design areas in Scandinavian countries, Europe, Asia and the US.

By participating in Erasmus+ Programme we will be able to fulfil our strategic goals by giving students and teachers a greater opportunity to exchange knowledge and participate in international projects and welcome design students and teachers to Sweden.

### Which are the policy objectives you intend to pursue

The objective of this action is to contribute to establishing a strong European Design Education Area as well as strengthen the link between design education and design research, to foster the critical thinking skills of students from our three design disciplines.

Our objective is to foster employability, social inclusion, innovation and environmental sustainability by enabling any student to have the opportunity to train or study abroad as part of their studies in order to:

- expose students to different views, knowledge, teaching and research methods as well as work practices in their study field
- develop their transversal skills such as communication, language, problem solving, inter-cultural skills and research skills
- develop their forward-looking skills, such as digital skills, that will enable them to tackle the challenges of today and tomorrow
- facilitate personal development such as the ability to adapt to new situations and self-confidence.

The objective is also to enable staff, to teach or train abroad as part of their professional development in order to:

- share their expertise
- experience new teaching environments
- acquire new innovative pedagogical and curriculum design skills and digital skills
- connect with their peers abroad to develop common activities to achieve the Erasmus+ programme's objectives
- exchange good practices and enhance cooperation between higher design education institutions
- better prepare students for the world of work by involving more international staff from design enterprises in courses.

In addition, the objective is to foster the development of innovative ways of learning and teaching, including online collaboration and challenge-based approaches with the objective of tackling societal challenges.

### Describe how the participation fits into your institutional, internationalisation and modernisation strategies.

#### What is the envisaged impact of the participation on your institution?

We describe ourself as a design college close to both the design, the cultural and the business world and has worked towards establishing strategic alliances with enterprises, non-governmental organisations and partner institutions. We have made it a priority to consult both international academic and professional stakeholders before designing educational courses and curricula, thus also making quality higher education accessible for under-represented groups.

Beckmans continuously endeavours to improve and modernise itself to contribute to sustainable growth as a higher design education institution. Participation in the Programme will enable us to realise our goals in terms of internationalisation and modernisation.

Active participation in the Programme will increase the number of mobile students and staff and make it easier to conduct trainee program abroad and strengthen our internationalisation process.

As one of the fundamental principles of the Programme is to strengthen cooperation between HEIs and increase the number of mobile students and staff, it will enable Beckmans students and staff to gain additional linguistic skills and will help us to boost our performance.

Being part of the Programme will provide Beckmans with the possibility of sharing experience and expertise with partner higher education institutions and the possibility of setting up common cross-border projects.

Beckmans believes in the mutual benefit of close international cooperation and in flexible and modern curricula adaptable to specific needs. Production of knowledge can no longer be thought as a separate field of action. The knowledge triangle between higher education, research, art and business should be strengthened in order to achieve development.

Beckmans participation and commitment to the Programme will support its continuous efforts to modernise its programmes for fostering strategic partnerships with design, cultural and business organisations and to be a decisive actor in regional developmental issues.

## Indicators

Beckmans, being a private foundation HEI, attributes utmost importance to flexibility in governance and independent funding of international projects and research. Governance flexibility is required for quick adaptability to ever changing economic and international conditions.

Beckmans educational system is digitalised and makes transactions paperless with e-signature.

Student and staff mobility is an important tool for ensuring quality and transparency in higher education. Mobility also increases the compatibility between institutions and prepares the path for joint projects. We aim to achieve our internationalisation strategy by placing mobility and European cooperation as a priority, by improving the quality of student and staff mobility, and by establishing cooperation with HEIs and enterprises within this perspective.

We will accept applications on our online platform and complete the agreements online under 2022. Our target is to have full deployment of the project during 2022.

Beckmans seeks diverse and efficient cooperation with partners in terms of student and staff mobility, cooperation projects, transfer of knowledge and innovation. Compatibility of curricula, use of ECTS credits and mutual interest in exchanging students and staff are the major criteria for partner selections.

We will establish two types of cooperation agreements: agreements for mobility for students/staff and inter-institutional protocols for cooperation in projects.

Within Europe, we will actively participate in the Erasmus programme, with mobile students and staff from 2022 by one to three students and two/three teachers/staff. One-two cooperation projects.

In work placement two-six months we will increase from before Covid-19, to 10-15 students each year.

Increased mobility is a priority at Beckmans. We expect to see an increase in interest after 2021. Mobility for teachers and other staff should be possible to resume when countries lift travel restrictions due to Covid-19 within and outside of Europe, but we assume that the time frame to return to normal activities is unpredictable. The actions under KA2, should be easier to maintain, replacing physical meetings with virtual meetings for the time being. This is also an opportunity to investigate and develop collaborative methods that are more environmentally sustainable.

Quantitatively we wish to see an increase in physical mobility for students and staff (for teaching and training) in all our international collaborations.

Beckmans attach great importance to fostering cooperation and setting up joint projects with EU countries under the auspices of protocols with higher education design institutions in Europa and cross-border cooperation projects.

Beckmans aims to facilitate student and staff exchange and develop knowledge alliances with EU countries, so as also to attract more students from less fortunate background into higher education.

The programme will contribute to making our institution more international and also enables us to improve for equipping graduates with the knowledge and core transferable competencies, our courses are orient towards issues required for a sustainable and inclusive growth and we look forward to collaborate with European HEIs in this issues.