

Erasmus Policy Statement

Nearly 75 years ago, the Freiburg University of Music (Hochschule für Musik Freiburg) was founded amid the ruins of a battered city.

The recognition that music and the arts are also necessary to the survival and continued development of the human spirit drove and inspired the founders in what might have been considered an improbable time and place.

In a relatively short time, the Freiburg University of Music developed a strong reputation and was recognized as one of the leading German musical institutions of higher education.

An outstanding performance faculty and training program has continually placed students in leading national and international performing organizations and educational institutions. In addition, the University of Music has continued to diversify its offerings and enjoys a reputation as a leader in innovation in the areas of practice-based research, music medicine, and music education (Schulmusik).

Given its geographic location, it is only natural that Freiburg and its institutions look outward, particularly across the French and Swiss borders.

In recent years the HFM has devoted significant time and resources and creative energy into the continued identification and development of international exchange programs and joint partnerships, as evidenced by the recent creation of the Freiburger Forschungs- und Lehrzentrum Musik (FZM), in cooperation with the Albert-Ludwigs Universität Freiburg.

A further innovation and a beacon of Franco-German cooperation is the establishment of a joint doctoral program with the University of Strasbourg, which will permit and facilitate academic exchange.

The creative project "Opéra TriNational" between the Hochschule's Institute für Musiktheater, the Opéra du Rhin in Strasbourg, and the Theater Basel allows for educational projects and performance opportunities with a real-time connection to the professional world.

Recent exchange activities have marked the establishment of fruitful contacts with Kiev and with St. Petersburg.

The Hochschule continues to look farther abroad, both east and west, continuing to develop and maintain established friendships and to development partnerships in North America and in Asia (Kyoto, Osaka, Hiroshima). New and renewed contacts and exchanges with long-term partners such as the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester, as well as the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, the University of Toronto, and McGill University. In addition to our partner institutions in Kyoto, recent contacts have been established with institutions in Osaka and Hiroshima.

The University of Music Freiburg recognizes that "Erasmus mobility" remains at the heart of the international program.

Applications for both incoming and outgoing students have steadily increased in recent years. This increased interest in Student Mobility concerns not only instrumental and vocal performance programs. A new generation of faculty are interested in exchanges, and we foresee an increased interest in Teaching Mobility as well.

Recent years have also shown a positive trend in the establishment of long-term student relationships. Students who have completed one or several semesters of student mobility in Freiburg and have

returned to their host institutions are returning for further degree-work at the Freiburg University of Music.

The composition of the faculty and the strong international representation in the student body reflect the openness and diversity of the Musikhochschule Freiburg.

Students who come to the Freiburg University of Music can expect to find a learning environment which

- reflects the Freiburg University of Music's stated goals and practiced values of tolerance, equality, social and ecological responsibility
- reflects a commitment to high standards and expectations
- encourages the development of networks and relationships
- fosters an awareness of the cultural-political landscape and responsibilities

In recent years the Freiburg University of Music has made available additional internal resources to support the International Office and exchange programs, both on an administrative level and on a practical support level for international exchange students. Every effort is made to rapidly integrate incoming students into the student body and to be of assistance with local and institutional administrative matters. At the close of each semester, a dedicated recital uniquely for exchange students serves as a showcase for talent and a moment to recapitulate the progress made and the artistic development.

In the context of further strategic reflection and planning, the Freiburg University of Music will continue to:

- explore the development of "blended learning" as a part of innovative educational strategy, with particular relevance and application to the potential development of international programs.
- evaluate the feasibility and implementation of joint degree programs