

## Gerrit Rietveld Academia

### Erasmus Policy Statement

The Gerrit Rietveld Academie is an art academy with a very international character. Almost 50% of its students are non-Dutch, representing over 60 nationalities. Even though the student population is international, the academy has a Dutch identity and aims to educate students from a Dutch approach to education and to Art & Design. The Gerrit Rietveld Academie aims to educate aspiring artists and designers in such a way that they will be able to work independently and professionally in the field of Fine Art or Design and become sources of artistic inspiration to their colleagues. Since the world of Art & Design is a very international world the academy encourages students and staff to venture beyond the borders and gain insight into different approaches in other countries and other academies.

The educational programme of the academy centres on the individual development of the student; taking part in an exchange programme is a possibly valuable addition to the learning environment the academy provides. The Gerrit Rietveld Academie has a long tradition in international cooperation and exchange. The academy is one of the founding members of the International Association of Independent Art and Designschools (AIAS) and is a member of The European League of Institutes of the Arts (ELIA). Annually the academy receives around 70 exchange students from around the globe, so of its own students annually receive a part of their education abroad. On an institutional level the academy has cooperation projects with art academies in Surinam and Aruba. In these projects teachers teach at art academies in these countries. Gaining international experience is an important part of the curriculum. Each year several departments arrange for part of the programme to take place abroad in places ranging from Warsaw to Kathmandu. The aim of these projects is to create possibilities for interaction with other cultures in which students are 'forced' to reflect on their own perspective on their work and art & design in general. The Erasmus programme provides excellent possibilities for the academy to further its aims since it enables students and staff to exchange knowledge and experiences without barriers. By joining the Erasmus programme the academy seeks to create relationships with new partner academies. A second objective is to provide students (specially from new member states) with the financial means to study in The Netherlands.