



BURREN COLLEGE OF ART

Erasmus Policy Statement

Burren College of Art (BCA) is fully committed to the principles and obligations of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) and to their consistent and transparent implementation across all Erasmus+ activities. BCA recognises the ECHE as a binding framework that underpins quality, equity, academic integrity and international cooperation and ensures that all mobility and cooperation actions are conducted in line with its requirements. Erasmus participation is embedded within BCA's institutional strategy, governance and operational structures, ensuring sustained impact for students, staff and the wider community.

BCA's Strategy 2026–2030, *Shared Purpose, Creativity and Ambition*, positions internationalisation as a core institutional priority that supports academic excellence, sustainability and global engagement. Rooted in the unique ecological and cultural context of the Burren and connected to international networks, BCA views Erasmus+ as a key mechanism for strengthening its role as an internationally engaged institution addressing urgent global challenges through creativity, ecological responsibility and leadership.

BCA's Erasmus policy is guided by five core values: **Creativity and Experimentation, Ecological Responsibility, Independence and Flexibility, Community and Interdependence** and **Ethical Ambition**. These values inform the design, implementation and evaluation of Erasmus activities and ensure alignment with ECHE principles. BCA promotes innovative, interdisciplinary cooperation projects that respond to complex societal challenges, integrates environmentally sustainable practices across all Erasmus actions and supports institutional modernisation through digitalisation and flexible learning pathways. BCA is committed to fostering an inclusive academic community in which mobile participants are fully integrated and supported and to upholding the highest standards of fairness, transparency and non-discrimination in all selection and participation processes, with particular attention to participants with fewer opportunities.

Through **Key Action 1: Learning Mobility of Individuals**, Burren College of Art supports the academic, professional and personal development of students and staff while

contributing to the diversification of its learning community. Mobility is embedded within BCA's transition toward a Fourth-Generation University model, characterised by project-led, cross-disciplinary learning that addresses real-world challenges. By 2029, BCA aims to achieve at least 30% EU/Irish enrolment, reflecting a strategic and measurable commitment to internationalisation.

In full compliance with the **Erasmus Charter for Higher Education**, BCA will work with its accrediting body, the University of Galway, to ensure the automatic and full recognition of all ECTS credits earned through Erasmus study or training abroad. Recognition procedures will be transparent, fair and consistently applied, ensuring that credits will be fully integrated into students' degree programmes without additional assessment, workload or academic disadvantage.

Staff mobility is actively promoted as a key driver of professional development, pedagogical innovation and research capacity. By 2027, BCA will establish a dedicated Research Hub to consolidate the outcomes of Erasmus staff exchanges and strengthen engagement with European networks such as ELIA. These activities support knowledge exchange, teaching quality and institutional development in line with ECHE objectives.

BCA is committed to the digitalisation of Erasmus mobility management and will implement digital tools in full alignment with the technical standards of the European Student Card Initiative. This approach ensures efficient, transparent and student-centred administrative processes while reducing barriers to participation.

Key Action 2: Cooperation among Organisations plays a central role in BCA's Erasmus policy and institutional development. By 2029, the College aims to establish at least three Erasmus+ cooperation partnerships and participate in a minimum of two EU-funded consortia. The *Burren Learning Alliance* serves as a flagship initiative linking ecology, art and leadership through structured, sustainable collaboration. BCA will ensure that cooperation projects generate applied organisational and societal impact. Engagement with *Horizon Europe* and *Creative Europe* will further strengthen the College's contribution to European innovation, research and creative exchange.

Through this Erasmus Policy Statement, Burren College of Art affirms its long-term commitment to the values, principles and obligations of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education and to the continuous enhancement of the quality, inclusiveness and impact of its international activities.

September 2025