

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

QUASAR INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED DESIGN

Quasar Institute for Advanced Design is a private higher education institution with official recognition from the Italian Ministry of Education, University, and Research. Ever since its foundation in 1987, the aim of Quasar Institute for Advanced Design International has been to introduce new teaching methodologies and perspectives for creative professions in the field of design.

Mobility is one of the key elements in Quasar Institute for Advanced Design International's present and future international strategy, which relies on partnerships with both European and non-European partners and represents a constantly growing branch of the institution's overall development strategy. As a matter of fact, despite Quasar Institute for Advanced Design's thirty-year experience in design, its structured international program is very young. Such program is designed to extend the scope of the institution's network and connections with new companies and foreign partners.

Institutional partners are selected on the basis of compatibility between methodologies and perspectives on design, with the ultimate goal of developing a synergy that is conducive to student, faculty, and institutional growth as a whole. For the future, Quasar Institute for Advanced Design's strategy will favour long-term partnerships, in terms of both mobility and staff collaboration.

A partnership proposal is first examined by the International Office, with the oversight of the Quasar Institute for Advanced Design Director of Development. In the second stage, the same proposal is evaluated by the Quasar Institute for Advanced Design CEO and the Director of Academic Affairs. The International Program Manager then attempts to meet in person with a potential partner's representative(s) whenever possible. Such meetings provide a useful opportunity to visit the infrastructure, e.g. laboratories and facilities in general. For the first years of its international program, Quasar Institute for Advanced Design has chosen not to lay out any geographical priorities for partnerships, the main reason being its intent to establish connections with highly regarded institutions worldwide. Nonetheless, with respect to past collaborations, there has been an emphasis on the European context, due to similarities in the approach to design, without, however, neglecting the USA and developing countries such as China, India, Central and South America.

In all cases, partnerships are selected based on: quality of methodology, programs, and instruction; interest from Quasar Institute for Advanced Design students; compatibility between Quasar Institute for Advanced Design programs and host university ones; language of instruction.

The aim of Quasar Institute for Advanced Design is to increase mobility for teachers as well as for students in 1st level programs, with specific attention to the quality of mobility. Quasar Institute for Advanced Design also plans on developing joint/double degrees with a select number of partners, in order to expand opportunities and perspectives for both Quasar Institute for Advanced Design students and teachers.

The present document represents the first Quasar Institute for Advanced Design application for an Erasmus University Charter. For such reason, Quasar Institute for Advanced Design has not presently managed any activities or projects for the Erasmus Program. Nevertheless, over recent years, Quasar Institute for Advanced Design has always collaborated with foreign public and private institutions and associations.

In 2018 alone, Quasar Institute for Advanced Design signed over 10 agreements with prestigious institutions all over the world, creating student and teaching exchange programs, as well as internship programs for undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Quasar Institute for Advanced Design philosophy is fully geared towards internationalization. By implementing Erasmus in all our course-programs, Quasar Institute for Advanced Design aims to expand its partnerships and cooperation projects in both teaching and training.

Quasar Institute for Advanced Design strongly believes internationalization to be one of the main goals of its entire policy. As such, the Erasmus+ Program would contribute to modernizing Quasar Institute for Advanced Design in an essential way.

Regarding QIAD's international strategy, we find it especially significant that the International Office is directly dependent upon the institution's Development Office.

The key actions Quasar Institute for Advanced Design will undertake to work towards the shared priorities of a European Education Area are the following:

Promoting transparency in the international program guidelines so learning mobility can be made a reality for all;

Monitoring the process of curricula submissions and improving related structures, systems, and contents;

Promoting an innovative, student-centred learning environment;

Promoting collaboration projects with external partners;

Development of the Career Service dept, both on the national and international levels;

A multidisciplinary method and interdisciplinary approach to equip students with a better understanding of the real world context of design.