

## EPS 2021-2027

# QUASAR INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED DESIGN

The participation to the Erasmus+ program is one of the key elements in the present and future international strategy of Quasar Institute for Advanced Design. This strategy relies on partnerships with both European and non-European partners, and is a constantly-growing branch of the Institute's overall development strategy. The 2020/2021 academic year will be the first one to see Quasar Institute for Advanced Design's participation in the Erasmus program; the Institute has collected inter-institutional agreements with 6 different academies in 5 different countries. In the first year of program, the Institute's international office has achieved partners in Spain, Belgium, Croatia, Romania and Lithuania.

The Erasmus+ program is already empowering Quasar Institute for Advanced Design's international identity: today, being part of it unlocks several opportunities, not just in terms of mobility agreements, but also in terms of visibility and international cooperation. This is what Quasar Institute for Advanced Design has already experienced participating in international fairs in non-EU Countries.

The Quasar Institute for Advanced Design's international strategy today focuses on four main areas: European Union, the Mediterranean countries, Latin America and India.

The Erasmus+ program has a great impact on the inter-institutional relations with the Academies of European and Mediterranean countries, and it will support the strategy in negotiating international agreements with institutes from Turkey, Egypt and Tunisia.

Being part of the Erasmus+ program means offering a real international environment to international students. All students who enroll in Quasar Institute for Advanced Design know that they will be able to have international experiences abroad. They know that the academic offer of Quasar Institute for Advanced Design does not have any geographical limits; the Institute is not just an ending point, but a bridge to multiple opportunities. Quasar Institute for Advanced Design also offers financial aid and scholarships to international students interested in enrolling in both bachelor or master's courses.

The students and staff mobility program will support the building process of a modern international environment, following the European Education Area's guidelines such as digitalization of the procedures and inclusive policies to promote participation to Erasmus+ initiatives.

Quasar Institute for Advanced Design already has extensive knowledge and experience in the use of online platforms to provide online courses, specifically through the Microsoft Teams tool - something that will be fundamental in facing the Erasmus Virtual Exchange initiative. The high-tech experience will be further enhanced by the presence and use of an advanced prototyping laboratory, the Q-Lab, which guarantees access to machines such as 3D-printers, milling cutters, 3D scanners, virtual reality stations, and more.

The aim is to make the virtual didactic experiences part of the didactic system, as extracurricular activities and/or as an actual, integrated part of the existing courses. In this second case, the blended formula will be supported by the already existing technologies and tools. The aim will be to set procedures for the incoming and outgoing virtual mobility.

The blended formula has already been activated for the majority of courses to face the COVID-19 crisis, allowing the students to attend lectures and extracurricular activities through the online formula.

In this way, it is clear how the Erasmus+ program will come together with future development steps. Quasar Institute for Advanced Design will be highly motivated to work on these two aspects "in parallel". Every further step for Quasar Institute for Advanced Design in

terms of innovation, procedures, technologies and students' opportunities will be followed by an Erasmus program update in terms of activities.

Erasmus+ program exchanges in the next years will see the implementation of the didactic offer for incoming students in English, with the aim to offer international courses where local and foreign students meet and learn together. It will be part of a larger program to strengthen the students' community of Quasar Institute for Advanced Design. Other activities such as collaborations with local associations in the field of social inclusion and environment protection will be set to better integrate foreign students within the territory of Rome.

On the one hand, incoming students and staff will improve the international environment of the Quasar Institute for Advanced Design community. On the other hand, outgoing students and staff will become ambassadors for the Institute and the program. These ambassadors will be highly motivated and encouraged to share their experience, through an online log books or articles, during and after the mobility.

The main goal is to set a high quality international mobility structure; all departments will be involved from the beginning during the Erasmus processes. The staff of Quasar Institute for Advanced Design will be flexible in working and learning in order to guarantee quality in terms of decisions, activities, didactic offer, accessibility, security and internationalization.

All these aspects will be achieved while implementing measures to guarantee transparency, equity and non-discrimination.

The Academic, Administrative, Development, Marketing and IT Offices will work together with specific teams, such as the Mobility Committee and Legal consultants, to guarantee: an automatic exams registration process; accommodation and insurance support; language courses opportunities; high security standards; technical and IT support; constant updates on activities through online platforms (website, learning platform and social media).

The International Mobility Office provides the International Mobility management. It involves:

Director of Academic Affairs as the Erasmus Institutional Coordinator - International Development Manager - International Mobility Officer – International Mobility assistant - Mobility Committee, made up of 3 professors, the Erasmus Institutional Coordinator and the International Mobility Officer. These officers cover all the aspects of the International Mobility procedures, assistance and promotion. The International Mobility Team aims to promote the development of cooperation with EU and non-EU countries through memorandum agreements, exchange mobility agreements for staff and students, participation to international conferences and events dedicated to international cooperation, involving the entire staff of Quasar Institute for Advanced Design in the international development process, organizing international lectures or workshops, sharing international training opportunities, providing specific support for under-represented groups, promoting a non-discriminating environment inside and outside in every activity organized or promoted by Quasar Institute for Advanced Design.