

## Bard College Berlin Erasmus Policy Statement

Bard College Berlin is a small, private, non-profit liberal arts college accredited as a university at state and federal level in Germany. It puts undergraduate teaching at the center of university education. As such, its primary commitment in Erasmus initiatives is to arrange student mobility exchanges through partnership agreements. Several of Bard College Berlin's partnership agreements are with institutions that have also established liberal arts programs at undergraduate level, and these exchanges facilitate comparison and development in the area of liberal arts education. The key components of the liberal arts model include the contextualization of specialized study within a wide-ranging interdisciplinary curriculum; civic engagement; small-group teaching; individual academic advising by professors; regular and cumulative modes of assessment. The college also has and will seek in the future to participate in Europe-wide faculty and staff exchanges focused on comparative study of liberal arts teaching and curricular design.

A member of the recently founded international Open Society University Network (OSUN), Bard College Berlin is committed to teaching and research exchanges in the areas of the humanities and social sciences. Its undergraduate students participate in Erasmus mobility opportunities that complement their study of the social sciences in the framework of the liberal arts through a period of study at large research universities specialized in economics and political science and in professional training for public service. In turn, students enrolled at these institutions benefit from the small-group teaching structure, individual advising, and support (curricular and extra-curricular) for civic engagement characteristic of Bard College Berlin. Bard College Berlin also seeks to draw upon Erasmus partnership cooperations to expand its research and teaching interests in the area of digital humanities.

Where possible, Bard College Berlin supports and participates in Erasmus initiatives dedicated to providing immediate and future prospects for students from significantly disadvantaged backgrounds. In 2016, it introduced the Program for International Education and Social Change scholarship fund for the undergraduate education of students from countries where a crisis or breakdown in civil society had hindered the completion of university study. The first graduates from this program received their diplomas in May 2019. In autumn 2019, Bard College Berlin became home to the Erasmus-funded Open Learning

(OLive) Access program previously hosted by the Central European University Budapest, which prepares students with a forced migration background to begin an MA degree. The college seeks to expand the program to admit students requiring preparation for undergraduate study. The work of the college in this area has been recognized by DAAD-funded support for its civic-engagement, German-language and professional-training courses and programs.

Bard College Berlin undertakes to provide Erasmus opportunities to students and faculty in a transparent and seamless way. All students are eligible to apply for a semester or year of study at an Erasmus partner university. Orientation sessions are held both for outgoing and incoming students on the logistics of study abroad and on university policies and protocols. Erasmus students studying at Bard College Berlin have full access to the academic, infrastructural and support services of the college. Faculty and staff are supported in their application for a research or teaching exchange by the Erasmus Coordinator, and in their applications for Erasmus research funds in collaboration with colleagues at program and partner institutions by the Development Office at Bard College Berlin. The college is committed to encouraging cooperation across Erasmus partner institutions in the main fields of research expertise represented by its faculty, as well as in the areas of teaching practices, the development of liberal arts education, and mobility opportunities for students.