



ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

The Diplomatic Academy, an autonomous public institution, has been established by Law 1996/178 (Bundesgesetz über die “Diplomatische Akademie Wien” – DAK-Gesetz 1996) as amended in 2006 (Law 2006/68). Its tasks are laid down in §2.

The participation in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees like the Master of Advanced International Studies with the University of Vienna, the Master of Science in Environmental Technologies and International Affairs with the Vienna University of Technology, the cooperative degree programmes with SAIS Bologna and the Fletcher School, is a legal mandate as laid down in §4 (3) and §6 in the DA law.

The Diplomatic Academy is a postgraduate professional school, dedicated to preparing talented men and women for international careers and positions of leadership. Its unique teaching philosophy is built on five pillars: the highest academic standards; multidisciplinary training; the interplay between theory and practice; full competence in languages; an optimal student-teacher ratio.

This teaching philosophy ensures that students receive a world-class education in international affairs, an endeavour begun by the Empress Maria Theresa when she founded the Academy in 1754. The DA carries out its mission through two principal academic degree programmes in the Bologna System. The MAIS (Master of Advanced International Studies) is a two-year programme of study with a research component that is jointly offered with the University of Vienna. The ETIA programme (Environmental Technology and International Affairs) is a two-year programme of study with a research component that is jointly offered with the Vienna University of Technology and leads to a Master of Science (MSc) degree. Concurrently, the Diplomatic Academy also offers a one-year diploma programme in International Relations which aims at training for the diplomatic service, in particular foreign ministries, such as the Austrian MFA.

The DA maintains many informal and formal contacts with other post-graduate institutions teaching international affairs, e. g. via the framework of the co-chair of the “Deans and Directors of Diplomatic Academies and Institutes of International Relations”. The DA is also associate member of APSIA, the Association of Professional Schools in International Affairs (www.apsia.org). Most importantly, there are formalized cooperative degree programmes with other universities, in particular the University of Vienna (M.A.I.S.) – the central cooperation partner also mentioned in the DA Law –, the Vienna University of Technology (MSc in ETIA), The Johns Hopkins University (SAIS Bologna Center’s M.A.I.A. programme), Tufts University (Fletcher School’s M.A.L.D. programme), and the University of Cincinnati (M.A., PhD). Some formal links with ENA in France and the Free University of Brussels are maintained. In the case of all of our cooperative degree programmes a single degree certificate is issued.

There is also a formalized Exchange Programme for a 3-month period for 2nd year MAIS students between the University of Stanford and the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna.

The criteria for choosing our Partner institutions for cooperative degree programmes are academic excellence and compatibility of study programmes.

The target group of the DA's mobility activities are Austrian and international students who wish to do a Master in International Relations at the DA after having done their BA or a first Master year abroad.

For internship purposes, the DA's mobility activities target the bodies of the UN (the DA cooperates closely with ACUNS, the Academic Council of the UN) and other international organisations as well as international businesses, banks, NGO's and the European institutions.

There is also some faculty exchange with our partner institutions.

To foster the DA students' career perspectives, the Diplomatic Academy keeps close ties with International Organisations as well as with corporate businesses and banks with international activities through its international alumni network. Members of international institutions and organisations give weekly "career talks" and are invited to give talks in the framework of "Interdisciplinary Seminars" which link the DA's academic training to practical experience. Approximately 70% of DA students use the opportunity of doing an optional internship during the studies at the DA.

The DA will continue to participate as partner in EU Projects aiming at the modernization and internationalization of the higher education systems in non-EU countries (e.g. the DA acted as partner of the University of Uppsala in an EU project for Macedonia). The DA will continue to act as part of a consortium in projects for training and preparation of EU member states and EU partner countries for specific EU Tasks (e.g. the DA acted as partner of Clingendael and the College of Europe for the preparation of Poland for the EU presidency).

As member of accreditation commissions - invited by the Austrian Agency for Quality Assurance - the DA will continue to help HEI's of non-European countries to reach European Standards in education and training.

The DA will continue its partnerships with other institutions to offer specific European Studies Training, e.g. with the European Studies Institute in Moscow for a Summer School in European Negotiation Skills and the Institute of European Studies of the Free University of Brussels for a Summer School in European Policy Making

The DA will continue to look for partner institutions for future cooperative degree programmes and to act as partner in Erasmus Networks similar to the Lifelong Learning Programme "Linking Interdisciplinary Integration Studies by Broadening the European Network" under the coordination of the University of Cologne.

The DA will continue to organise cooperation projects with EU and non-EU partner countries similar to the Intensive Programme organised in 2009 "Managing the Challenges of Human Security on Europe's Border and Beyond"

The DA intends to use Cohesion Policy instruments such as the European Social Fund (EFS) and the European Regional Development Fund to secure more financial support for potential students from lower income backgrounds, but also independently by attracting additional sponsors with certain regional interests like the Austrian Development Agency (SE-Europe, Caucasus, certain African countries) thus also contributing to the key policy issue of targeting regional support towards higher education-business cooperation.

The DA intends to use the "EU Skills Panorama" and a possible European Tertiary Education Register, the DA's Career Service Center and the DA's Alumni Office to cooperate on continuously adapting the educational programmes of the DA to the current needs of the labour market in the target professions of the DA students. The first milestone will be creating a database documenting all steps in the professional development of our alumni of the past 15 years.

The Erasmus Master's Degree Mobility Scheme will increase the possibilities of funding for international prospective DA students.

The DA will prioritize its efforts to develop a joint PhD Programme with the University of Vienna in connection with the European Framework for Research Careers.

Horizon 2020: The DA will enforce its efforts in linking its multidisciplinary Master programmes to international and trans-regional enterprises by exploring their interests and demands in regards to the skills and qualities of graduates by drawing on the example and experience of EIT and its KICs.

The DA will continue to engage itself in projects supporting higher education in developing countries