



## Academic Placements in Europe

A Best Practice Guide from the International Education Division at the University of Limerick

### 1. Information on partner universities

#### a. Where to find information

Students should research the institutions with which your institution has exchange agreements in the subject area of their degree programme.

##### Fact sheets

- On the home university website, go to partner universities and check out the fact sheet and other relevant information.
- Explore student testimonials and factsheets about the partner university

##### Partner University's website

- Find information on the partner university's website
- Universities provide websites in English for incoming students. The words to use for searching include "international", "exchange", "Erasmus", and "incoming students".

##### Department of Foreign Affairs

Consult the Department of Foreign Affairs website: <https://www.dfa.ie/>

##### Past UL students and incoming students

Contact returning UL students and incoming students – Staff can provide contact email addresses

#### b. Some factors to consider

##### Courses on offer

- Check the host university's course catalogue for modules offered through the target language, at undergraduate level, during the semester of your study placement.
- Discuss possible module choices with UL Academic Coordinator.

### Academic calendar/Semester dates

- Autumn: Semester start can range from mid-August to early October.
- N.B. In most European universities, Autumn exams are held in January/February.
- Spring: Semester start can range from early January to March.

### Cost of living

- Check the host university's fact sheet
- Type "cost of living" in the search box of host institution's website

### Accommodation

- It is the responsibility of the student to arrange accommodation at the host city.
- Accommodation booked through the Host University is generally not "on campus". Students often have to take public transport to get to the university.
- University residences in Europe tend to be of lower standard (and less expensive) than private accommodation.
- Finding accommodation in capital cities such as Paris, Copenhagen, Stockholm, and Amsterdam can prove very difficult and expensive.

### Location

- Check location on a map and check for flights, trains, etc.
- Find information about the host city (population, location, etc.) and the university (number of students, faculties, campus layout, etc.).

## **2. Application**

- The application can be submitted at any time prior to the application deadline.
- Students must complete the Erasmus application form and return it to their international office. The application form requires the student's signature and that of the Erasmus Academic Coordinator, to indicate approval of University selection.

Deadlines: Please be aware of application deadlines for each semester.

## **3. Eligibility**

The Erasmus+ academic placement may only be undertaken if the student meets the minimum academic requirements to progress to the next year.

The Erasmus Academic Coordinator for each degree programme should be consulted for specific advice with regard to individual degree requirements.

#### 4. Academic Recognition

The Erasmus+ programme is wholly integrated into students' existing curriculum with fully recognized academic placements based on the ECTS credit system. The placement's duration is typically one semester. The placement can be graded on a Pass/Fail basis (grades do not affect QCA) or can be quality graded (grades impact on QCA).

Students are required to:

- complete the full semester at the host university;
- register for the required ECTS credits at the host university (depending on the requirements of the degree programme)
- take all scheduled examinations at the host university;
- obtain a Pass grade in each module if the placement is graded on Pass/Fail basis;
- submit an Erasmus report (6 ECTS credits for UL)

#### 5. Funding

- Students pay fees at UL and do not pay tuition fees at host institution; they are registered as full-time student at UL and have the status of "exchange" student at the host university.
- All students taking part in the Erasmus+ study programme are eligible to receive an Erasmus mobility grant (except Switzerland).
- The purpose of the grant is to assist with the cost of flights and initial moving costs. It is not a maintenance grant.
- The Erasmus mobility grant does not affect other grant entitlements such as SUSI or Back to Education grant, etc. for compulsory students. ATTN: If you are a voluntary student, please contact our office for further information.
- To receive the mobility grant, students must return the Financial Contract and the Certificate of Arrival, showing official semester dates.