



ERASMUS STUDY ABROAD ACADEMIC YEAR 2011-2012 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Erasmus?

Named after a popular Renaissance humanist and philosopher, the Erasmus programme began in 1987, and has become one of the best known EU initiatives in the field of education, and a flagship of European integration. It is the higher education chapter of the SOCRATES II programme for education in Europe.

Erasmus gives students the opportunity to study for a period of 3-12 months at a university or higher education establishment in another participating country.

Who can go on Erasmus?

Students who are citizens of one of the participating countries, enrolled in a formal programme of study at higher education level leading to a degree (including doctoral level) and who have completed at least the first year of their studies.

How long can I go and when?

In the framework of the Erasmus lifelong learning programme, you can spend between 3 months and a full academic year abroad. In general, students spend either the first/second semester or the whole academic year abroad. Academic calendars can vary in the different countries.

What countries are involved?

The Erasmus Lifelong Learning programme is now open to the participation of 31 countries.

Which countries can I go to from WIT?

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and Turkey

Which colleges can I go to from WIT?

Please refer to list of partner Universities on website.



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Are my grades recognised?

As a matter of principle, the time spent in the host country must be fully recognised by the home institution. The European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) is the major instrument to facilitate academic recognition of periods of study in partner establishments. Recognition is given for the study period abroad by WIT, as outlined in the Learning Agreement. The Learning Agreement is a contract between you, WIT and your host college that outlines what courses of study you will take when abroad.

Do I have to pay university fees abroad?

It is a condition of the Erasmus Lifelong Learning programme that no fees (for tuition, registration, examinations, access to laboratory and library facilities etc.) have to be paid to the host institution. However, small fees may be charged for costs such as insurance, student unions, the use of photocopiers, laboratory products etc., on an equal basis with local students. If you elect to register for fee-paying courses, you will be responsible for this cost. Capitation fee during your year abroad is payable to WIT.

Do I still receive my local authority grant?

You are entitled to receive your local authority grant as normal provided the year abroad does not add time to the normal duration of your studies. You may also qualify for the higher "away from home" rate. You should contact your Local Authority Agency to inform them of your planned period of study abroad, and make arrangements with both them and the Registrars office for collection of your grant cheque. The International Office does not intervene in this process.

Can I apply for an Erasmus grant?

Yes, Erasmus L.L.P. provides mobility grants to all EU students who go on Erasmus. There is no means testing, and these grants are intended as a contribution towards covering the extra costs involved in studying abroad, such as travel expenses, language preparation costs or higher costs of living in the host country. Further to collection of your bank details at application stage, this grant is paid directly into your bank account in two instalments – 80% of the total grant is paid once you arrive at the host university and the balance of 20% is paid on the completion of your studies abroad and following receipt of your final report. The grant amount varies from year to year.



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How do I apply?

First, meet your course leader or academic advisor to discuss your eligibility for Erasmus and your choice of college. Then, you must complete an Erasmus application form and submit with a deposit of €50 (refundable if you accept your place) to the International Office. Erasmus offers are made based on the suitability of candidates and availability of places and are contingent on your exam results.

How can I prepare?

Try to improve your language skills as much as possible. Read up on your college and country – websites. Contact students from your host college who are currently studying at WIT, these students can be contacted through the International office. Contact returned Erasmus students through your course leaders/academic advisors.

How do I organise accommodation?

Once your application has been confirmed (May-June), the host University *should* send each student an information pack containing details on how to book accommodation. Important: You are responsible for booking your own accommodation directly with your host University. This should be done as early as possible!!

Can I work when I study abroad?

Yes, “any EU worker shall have the right to take up an activity as an employed person in any Member State irrespective of his place of residence under the same conditions as nationals“. As an EU citizen you have the same rights and conditions as native students in your host EU country.

Do I require health insurance?

Yes, it is highly advisable for you to have a health insurance policy to cover your stay abroad. Please check with your current health insurer that you have adequate coverage in place for your country of choice. As an Irish resident it is your entitlement to apply for an European Health Insurance card to gain access to health care in countries of the European Union (EU). Application forms can be found on www.ehic.ie

When do I start classes?

Your host university should send a timetable when they send you a confirmation pack between May and June. We highly advise you to check the university website also for this information or contact the International office at your host university. Should you not receive this information, you can contact the International office at WIT.

For further Information Contact - Selma Robinson, Exchange Programme
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