

Question	Answer
<p>1. Who can participate in ERASMUS ?</p>	<p>To participate in the ERASMUS programme, you must fulfil the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You are a <b>student</b> and enrolled in a formal programme of study at higher education level leading to a degree or a diploma (including doctoral level) in one of the participating countries.</li> <li>• You are a <b>citizen of one the participating countries</b> (or are recognised as having an official status of refugee or stateless person or permanent resident).</li> <li>• You have successfully completed at least the first year of your university studies.</li> </ul>
<p>2. How do I participate in ERASMUS, and where can I go?</p>	<p>If you meet the above conditions, you should <b>contact the international relations office or the ERASMUS office of your university</b>. They will provide you with information on all the exchanges your institution is involved in, i.e. which universities, which faculties, in which countries etc. You can also check on the website of your university for details of its partner institutions.</p> <p>You can study at an institution in one of the 31 participating countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the 27 European Union countries: <b>Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom;</b></li> <li>• the three EEA countries: <b>Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway</b></li> <li>• the candidate country : <b>Turkey.</b></li> </ul> <p>Each host university has a given number of places and grants available, which are allocated to students after a selection process organised by the university of origin.</p>
<p>3. How long can I go for?</p>	<p>The ERASMUS programme enables you to spend between three and 12 months abroad. Students generally spend either the first or second semester, or a whole year abroad. Academic calendars can vary in the different countries.</p> <p>Some universities allow their students to spend their period of mobility in more than one country.</p>

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<p>4. Can I choose the university I go to?</p>	<p>The essential parts of the Erasmus mobility agreement between the institution of origin and the host institution are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) confirmation by both parties that they will strictly comply with the terms of the Erasmus University Charter</li> <li>b) a learning agreement between the department of origin and the host department (detailing the academic requirements and content)</li> <li>c) the administrative provisions.</li> </ul> <p>(b and c must be agreed by the student.)</p> <p>Normally, the partner institutions make other general administrative arrangements between themselves, but such arrangements do not form part of the mobility agreement for the student. In principle, therefore, a university can send a student to the university chosen by the student (<b>a partnership agreement is not a prior condition</b>), subject to the existence of a mobility agreement. However, no student has an automatic entitlement to be sent to or accepted by any particular institution. All student mobility is entirely at the discretion of the institutions involved, and there may be practical or administrative reasons why an exchange with the institution of the student's choice cannot be arranged.</p>
<p>5. Are there any deadlines I need to respect?</p>	<p>There is no single deadline for students' applications, as each university organises its selection procedure independently. Ask your university to tell you its deadline.</p>
<p>6. Can I apply for an ERASMUS grant?</p>	<p>Yes. ERASMUS provides mobility grants to many thousands of students. These grants are intended as a contribution towards covering the extra costs involved in studying abroad, such as travel expenses, language preparation costs, higher general costs of living in the host country. The ERASMUS grant covers the period of study abroad (from three months to a full academic year).</p>
<p>7. How do I apply for an ERASMUS grant?</p>	<p>The application procedure for an ERASMUS grant varies from country to country. Contact the international relations office of your university for details.</p>

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8. How much is the ERASMUS grant?	The amount varies significantly from country to country, <b>but on no account should you expect the Erasmus grant to cover all your expenses.</b> The ERASMUS grant is intended to offset part of the difference in the cost of living in the other country. It can be combined with additional funds provided by the university, your Member State, your region, your town, or by other public or private bodies. An increasing number of private companies propose mobility grants. There is also the option of taking out a student loan from a bank. Give thought as early as possible to how you are going to finance your ERASMUS period.
9. Why isn't it higher?	Education continues to remain a matter for the Member States and what the European Union is empowered to do is intended solely to complement action taken by them. Consequently, only a limited amount of budgetary resources is earmarked for education-related actions. It is therefore up to the Member States to bear the cost of their education systems, particularly in terms of grants and loans, including contributions for student mobility to other countries.
10. Can I get an ERASMUS grant to study in a neighbouring country?	Yes. ERASMUS encourages cross-border cooperation and you can therefore apply for a grant if you are taking part in an exchange with a neighbouring country.
11. Can I get an ERASMUS grant even if I am receiving a grant or a loan in my home country?	Yes. If you are entitled to a national grant or loan for study at home, you will normally continue to be entitled to it during your ERASMUS study period abroad.
12. Are there any other grants I could apply for?	Yes, there are. Contact your <a href="#">Lifelong Learning National Agency</a> or the international relations office of your own university for information on other grants which may be available in your country. You can also consult <a href="#">PLOTEUS</a> , the Commission's portal on education and training opportunities throughout the European area, which includes a section on grants ("Exchanges and Grants").
13. What if I don't receive an ERASMUS grant?	The status of "ERASMUS student" does not depend on the student being awarded an ERASMUS mobility grant. Even without a grant, you will receive full academic recognition at home of your study period abroad. In addition, every ERASMUS student can benefit from the support provided to incoming students in the form of welcome events, introduction to the host university, language courses, academic advice to students or assistance with practical matters, such as finding accommodation, etc. This kind of support depends entirely on the host university.

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14. Do I have to pay university fees abroad?	It is a condition of the ERASMUS programme that <b>no fees</b> (for tuition, registration, examinations, access to laboratory and library facilities, etc.) have to be paid to the host institution. However, small contributions may be charged for items such as insurance, student unions, the use of photocopiers, laboratory products, etc., on an equal footing with local students.
15. Will I receive academic recognition at home for my study period abroad?	Yes. The ERASMUS study period is an integral part of the programme of study at your own university. Full academic recognition must be given for the study period abroad, as stipulated in the “learning agreement”.
16. What is a learning agreement?	ERASMUS students are expected to complete a learning agreement, to be signed by themselves, their own university and the host institution. The learning agreement is an informal contract that indicates precisely what modules you will be studying. It should be completed well before you arrive at the host institution. Subsequent modifications are permitted as long as they are agreed by all parties concerned. At the end of the study period abroad, the host university will provide the exchange student as well as the university of origin with a report recording the results obtained in the agreed programme of study.
17. What is ECTS ?	To facilitate academic recognition, the majority of European universities have adopted the <a href="#">European Credit Transfer System</a> (ECTS). This system provides a common scale for measuring in credits the student workload required to complete course units (for example, one full year of studies generally amounts to 60 credits).
18. What about exams?	The examination procedure you will follow will be the one applied by the host institution. This may involve written papers and/or oral examinations. Unless there are good reasons to do otherwise, the language of the examination will be that of the host institution. In general, you will not have to pass an exam a second time at your own university to receive academic recognition for it. It all depends on the learning agreement you sign before your departure, as this is the document which will, upon your return, serve as the reference basis for any disputes.
19. Is there a minimum or maximum number of exams that I have to take at the university of the country I go to?	This depends on the learning agreement, which indicates precisely what modules you will be studying. Subsequent modifications to the learning agreement are permitted as long as all the parties concerned agree.

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20. What if my own university refuses to recognise exams taken under the learning agreement?	Refusal by the university of origin to recognise the credits obtained by a student under the learning agreement would be a violation of its obligations set out in the Erasmus University Charter. Any university failing to abide by its commitments is unlikely to have its Erasmus University Charter renewed and stands to lose its entitlement to Community funding. Students affected by such a refusal should contact the <a href="#">Lifelong Learning National Agency</a> in the country of their university.
21. How well do I have to speak the language of the country I will go to?	You must have acquired sufficient knowledge of the language in which the courses you will attend will be taught. This can be through a school qualification in the foreign language, foreign language courses at university, or simply by having spent time abroad.
22. Are there any preparatory language courses?	In general, you can follow preparatory language courses either at your own university before departure or at your host university before the beginning of your study period abroad. In addition, host institutions in countries where the national language is less widely used and taught often offer <a href="#">ERASMUS intensive language courses</a> (EILC) to ERASMUS students.
23. Does the host university have an obligation to provide me with accommodation?	No, the host university has no such obligation. Provision can nevertheless be made for this obligation in a bilateral agreement between your university of origin and the host university. Find out what the exact situation is from your institution's international relations office.
24. Where can I get information about accommodation?	<p>Finding accommodation is one of the first steps in your ERASMUS experience. Often the cheapest alternative is to have a room on campus. You should contact the campus accommodation office of your host institution about this as soon as possible. The Socrates offices of your own university and the host university can also help you. You can also ask at your host university if they have notice-boards for offers of student accommodation. The local press usually publishes accommodation offers too.</p> <p>You can also consult the following websites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">PLOTEUS</a>, the Commission's portal on education and training opportunities throughout the European area, which includes a section on accommodation ("Moving to a country ");</li> <li>• <a href="#">CasaSwap.com</a>, an international forum for student accommodation exchanges, which includes a database;</li> <li>• <a href="#">MyErasmus.com</a>, the site for European student exchanges.</li> </ul>

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25. How will the ERASMUS study period abroad affect my employment prospects?	Recent studies indicate that your <a href="#">prospects for employment</a> improve slightly if you spend some time abroad. Many former ERASMUS students, and especially “long-period” ERASMUS students (6 to 12 months), tend to find jobs and tasks linked to the use of the international expertise acquired or consolidated during the study period abroad, e.g. language, professional knowledge of the host country, first-hand knowledge of the host culture and society, etc.
26. Is there specific provision for students with disabilities?	Yes. To ensure that <a href="#">students with severe disabilities</a> can take full advantage of the European mobility arrangements, the ERASMUS programme pays particular attention to guidance, reception, physical accessibility, pedagogical and technical support services, and, especially, financing of the extra costs.
27. Can I receive a grant for attending preparatory language courses?	ERASMUS students going to countries where the national language is less widely used and taught may receive additional financial support to attend an <a href="#">ERASMUS intensive language courses</a> (EILC) in the host country prior to the scheduled ERASMUS study period. Such additional support can only be awarded to students selected for an ERASMUS study period abroad, priority being given to candidates with longer study periods.
28. Can I plan a work placement period during my ERASMUS study period?	Yes. You can include a work placement, provided that the work placement is combined with a minimum period of three months of academic studies and that it is recognised as an integral part of your educational programme and your learning agreement. Specific grants for in-company work placements in another country are also available under the <a href="#">Leonardo da Vinci programme</a> . You may be eligible for a grant under the programme, but you cannot individually apply for funding in respect of projects. Check at the international office of your institution whether it is participating in the Leonardo da Vinci programme.
29. Are there any obligations after being an ERASMUS student?	Some universities ask students returning from their ERASMUS period for feedback. This may include writing a short report on your experiences abroad or helping local student organisations or individual students in different departments to provide information or advice to outgoing or incoming students. In addition, it is possible to use the <a href="#">IRIS</a> (Integrated Reporting for International Students) database to draft an <a href="#">on-line report</a> (in English). We encourage all Erasmus students to do this so that we can benefit from their experiences and comments and thus improve Erasmus exchanges.

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<p>30. Are there any student organisations that could help me get further information on this topic?</p>	<p>There are different European students associations from which you can get more information about higher education, universities and being an ERASMUS student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">AEGEE: Association des états généraux des étudiants de l'Europe</a> (European Students Forum)</li> <li>• <a href="#">ESIB: National Unions of Students in Europe</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">ESN: Erasmus student network</a></li> </ul>
<p>31. Can I receive a grant for studying abroad in countries not covered by the ERASMUS programme?</p>	<p>The <a href="#">Erasmus Mundus programme</a> offers European students enrolled for an Erasmus Mundus Master's course grants to pursue a period of studies at a university in a country not participating in SOCRATES with which the universities in the partnership offering the Erasmus Mundus Master's course have established an agreement. Grants for taking this course in Europe, however, are intended exclusively for students from non-SOCRATES countries under partnership arrangements. You can study abroad in the countries of South-East Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Former Republic of Yugoslavia), the new independent states of the former Soviet Union (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan) and Mongolia under the <a href="#">Tempus programme</a>. There are also limited opportunities to study with EU support in the <a href="#">USA</a>, <a href="#">Canada</a>, <a href="#">Japan</a>, <a href="#">Australia</a> and <a href="#">New Zealand</a>. Click on the following links if you are interested in studying in <a href="#">Latin America</a> or <a href="#">China</a>.</p>