



Universität Trier

Department of English Studies

ERASMUS STUDY ABROAD BOOKLET



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A Year as an Exchange Student: Is It Really Worth It?

The answer to this question is an overwhelming "YES"!! Trying to decide whether to spend a semester/year studying abroad is something many students spend a lot of time pondering. Yes, it's true that the application and accreditation processes may involve quite a lot of formalities, and other areas of your life will need attention too, e.g. securing enough money to support yourself, renting out your flat /room, and finding someone to look after your hamsters!

Still, the benefits of spending even just one semester abroad are definitely worth it, particularly for language students! The chances are you'll come back a different person, with broadened horizons and a new perspective on things, within and beyond of your degree subject. You will learn to be self-sufficient and handle problems and obstacles on your own. Moreover, you will meet new people from all around the world, learn/perfect your foreign language skills and see interesting, new places. It's also a great achievement to add to your CV, not only for the language aspect.

A lot of students are worried about 'losing time', especially in the new Bachelor's and Master's degrees. It is usually possible to get most of the courses you take abroad accredited as some that are required for your degree programme in Trier, so you probably won't 'lose' as much time as you think! Having said that, an ERASMUS exchange lasts for a maximum of ONE year - which is really not that long a time in the grand scheme of things. Many students do not complete their degree in the recommended period of time anyway, and spending a year abroad is a very valuable way to spend time as a student, so the concern of finishing your degree just 6-12 months later than perhaps originally planned is not really a big problem.

10 Reasons to Become an ERASMUS Student

1. You can study at one of around 2000 universities for free!
2. You will get to know people from all over the world (and have cheap places to stay when you visit later!)
3. You will improve your language skills (and might even learn a new one)
4. You will be exposed to different ways of thinking (and become more critical yourself)
5. Your grades might improve upon your return
6. Your chances of getting a job improve
7. You will have the chance to travel a foreign country and get to know all of its facets
8. You are given an ERASMUS grant to enable you to study abroad
9. You will find out more about yourself
10. You will experience the "Union" in "European Union"
11. You will never forget this time of your life ("yes, granny, you already told us...")

ERASMUS – Facts and Figures

At the end of the 15th century, a young scholar from Holland went off on a 30-year 'study abroad' trip through France, Italy, Great Britain and Switzerland – and inspired many other scholars and students to do the same. Around 500 years later, the EU took the name of this scholar as the title of the programme ERASMUS – “European Union Region Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students.” This is one of the most popular and well-known Europe-wide programmes which allow scholars and students to travel and study abroad until today.

Nowadays, around 2000 universities participate in the ERASMUS programme and the number of participating students is also increasing beyond the borders of the EU. In 1987/88, a total of 649 students at German universities used the programme to spend some time studying in another European country. In 2009/10 the figure was around 29,000. The financing that is made available for the scheme has also been increased, and in 2009/10 the sum was around 48 million Euros!

At a time when tuition fees in many European countries are increasing beyond recognition, participating in the ERASMUS scheme, which does not require students to pay the tuition fees at their host university, make studying in these countries easily affordable to a far larger group of students. For example, at our partner university Trinity College Dublin, the tuition fees an undergraduate degree in English Studies are €5,766 per year, and at LCC International University in Klaipeda each individual module costs nearly €270! As an ERASMUS student, you are freed from this financial obligation, but can still benefit from expert teaching and international academic exchange at our partner institutions.

The Application – How to Become an ERASMI

It is recommended that you start planning your year abroad about one or one and a half years in advance. This will help you to organize yourself, prepare the required application documents and arrange a learning agreement with your ERASMUS coordinator. For most English student preparation should start in your 3rd semester to go in the 5th semester.

The application deadline is in March for students, and in January for staff, wishing to go on the exchange in the following winter term (September/October). Prior to that, there are informative talks and Q&A sessions for all students who are interested (usually in January). You should take advantage of these, since you can sort out queries and problems then.

All of the relevant documents and tips that you need for applying are provided on the homepage of the Akademisches Auslandsamt (AAA):

<http://www.uni-trier.de/index.php?id=850>

Once you send your application to the AAA, it is forwarded to the departmental coordinator who reads and compares all of the applications, and may ask some candidates to attend an interview (In the Department of English Studies, this is Miss Fielder). In general, the decisions are based on proof of suitability for studying abroad. Alongside grades from previous classes and exams you have taken in Trier, evidence that you will make the most of your stay abroad and that you are well informed about the university/ies you are applying for is also taken into consideration.

Remember that the 'goal' of the ERASMUS European exchange programme is to encourage international cooperation in the academic arena – so even if you have previously not been a "straight A" student, or if you feel that your language is not yet perfect, you should emphasise what you can bring to the international exchange as an individual. It will be particularly useful for you to have informed yourself about the university and the courses offered there that interest you. Make your application specific to your person, purpose and university!

Ask yourself: what particular strengths do you have? What interests will you be able to follow in the country you're applying for? What career aims might this exchange help you to fulfil? What previous experience do you have that show that you are prepared for a challenge and excited about really making the most of your time in that country and/or at that university. These are the kinds of things that make applicants stand out from the others, and make them more likely to be chosen for the exchange!

Things to Consider Before Applying

Financing Your Year Abroad

The costs of living in many European countries are at least equal to those in Trier. Especially in the UK and Ireland they might even be higher. Additionally, you will also have to travel to your host university and might want to explore the country. Of course this can be financially challenging, yet this aspect should not keep you from applying.

All participants in the ERASMUS exchange programme are entitled to a monthly allowance of 150€-200€, independent of financial background. Of course, this alone will not be enough to live on, but combined with the money you would spend if you were living in Trier, it should cover your basic expenses.

This ERASMUS grant can also be combined with BAföG payments: even if you do not normally receive BAföG, there is an extra 'Auslands-BAföG' you may be entitled to, which can cover your health insurance and accommodation costs. You can also get a one-off payment of up to 250€ to cover your travel costs (e.g. flights, train tickets), which usually not does need to be paid back. For more information, see the BAföG website: www.das-neue-bafoeg.de/de/384.php

How long can I stay?

Usually, an ERASMUS exchange will last for one academic year - normally September to June/July. In exceptional cases, it is possible to go for just one semester, but this has to be agreed with the partner institution, and those students applying for the whole academic year will usually be given priority. The term systems at our partner universities may make it impossible to stay for only one of our semesters.

How do I choose where to go?

Personal preferences always play a big role in such decisions. Some value the touristic or weather aspects of the town/country they are visiting, others want to go to a particular place they've always dreamt of living in. As a student of English, your preferences are probably with English-speaking countries. Yet, other partner institutions may offer courses in English that are closer to your interests and abilities. For students in the BA/MA programmes, the country itself does not need to have English as a main language, so you can choose

universities or institutions in other countries, according to your interests and/or other language skills. For B.Ed./M.Ed. students a three month stay in an English-speaking country is obligatory. Nonetheless, you may decide to spend your three months in an English-speaking country at another time, and enjoy the international exchange and adventure of attending one of our other partner universities.

You should be honest with yourself about the kind of place you are likely to feel comfortable and happy living in. Although the exchange lasts 'only' one year, you won't be able to make the most of it if you are unhappy living in that area. For this purpose, this booklet includes some information on the partner institutions. You can also check the universities' websites which often include information about 'life' outside of the academic side of things.

Language Skills and Tests

Studying in a foreign country requires good language skills. Most of the Department of English Studies' partner institutions teach in English, yet some others, like Milan, might require language skills in the local language. In those countries that teach in English but are not English-speaking, EILCs (ERASMUS Intensive Language Courses) are offered to help you acquire day-to-day language competence in the local language.

If you study English and are applying to study at a university in an English-speaking country, or an international university where you will be attending courses taught in English, you do not need to take any language test. If a 'Sprachzeugnis' is required for your application, a member of the Sprachpraxis can complete it for you.

The exception to this rule is the University of Cambridge, for which you would need either the University's language test or one of the following: IELTS with a minimum overall grade of 7.0, Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English at grade A, Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English at grade B, or TOEFL iBT minimum overall score of 100 with 25 in each element. We recommend you take advantage of one of the latter options.

Students who do not study English but would still like to apply for one of our partner institutions, will be required to do Trier University's language test. Please enquire at the AAA or Sprachenzentrum for more information. Note that these tests are held on fixed dates throughout the semester, so make sure you inform yourself in good time!

Things to Consider Before Departure

Before you leave for your year abroad, you need to take care of a few things and arrangements. For one thing, you should have an additional health insurance that covers doctor's appointments and, possibly, your transfer to Germany in case of illness. Your bank account should allow you to visit ATMs as well as make payments. Furthermore, you should arrange your accommodation before your departure. Depending on the city and university, you can either look for private accommodation or stay in your host university's halls of residence. The university facts listed below will give you a first impression of your options. Most importantly, though, you need to take care of some academic matters at your home university before you leave.

ECTS and Learning Agreement

ECTS is the European Credit Transfer System, created by the European Commission. It aims to standardise and unify academic systems across the European Union. The basic assumption is that completing courses earns you credits/points, which are the reflection of the hours of work you put into studying. Typically, exchange students are expected to earn about 30 ECTS points per semester. To give you some idea of how much work earns you how many points, a typical "sprachpraktische Übung" here in the Department of English Studies of Trier University would earn you 3-4 ECTS points. Writing term-papers or sitting exams as well as attending weekly lessons, possibly also giving a presentation, means that you can usually earn up to about 7-8 points per seminar. Always speak to the individual teacher of classes you are taking abroad to check the requirements and the available points.

Additionally, you need to prepare a Learning Agreement prior to your departure. Here you list the courses you intend to take while you are at your host university. Most universities publish the courses they offer online so you can have a look at what options you have. The courses may change from year to year but the learning agreement will still help you to achieve the necessary number of ECTS points. It will be signed by your ERASMUS Coordinator (Miss Fielder) or Studienberater (Dr. Schäfer) in Trier as well as by the Coordinator abroad so that accrediting the courses you have taken abroad will be easier.

What courses should I take?

The goal is international academic exchange, and not simply another way to collect your certificates or credit points! Find out about experts in your fields of study who teach at our partner universities, find out about the specialisms offered in the various departments and partner institutions. Most universities will offer you new possibilities and fields of study that you have not yet encountered and that will further your academic interests nonetheless. For example, Scottish and Irish universities often offer classes in Gaelic or Scottish/Irish literature/linguistics – do something that interests you, and don't worry about sticking too closely to your module handbooks!

Accreditation

Basically, the courses you take at your exchange university can be accredited as your courses here in Trier, as long as they are roughly comparable. For example, a seminar in English linguistics is usually straightforward to recognise as such. However, if the course system is very different, or the certificates you bring back with you do not make it clear what kind of class you attended and what the assessment criteria were, it becomes slightly more complicated to accredit the classes. The Department of English Studies, however, recognises the value of having spent time abroad and having attended a variety of courses in English, and we are generally flexible and generous with our accrediting! Still, each individual case will necessarily be handled as such.

Officially, it is the head of department in the Department of English Studies that signs off the paperwork to accredit your courses. In practice, though, Dr Schäfer or Miss Fielder should be your first port of call. Print out the relevant documents from the Dekanat's homepage and bring them, along with your transcript and all your certificates and work from the foreign university, when you talk to one of them. Maybe you can also make a suggestion of what you think each course could be accredited as - this will speed things up slightly!

What happens if I want to/have to drop out of the programme?

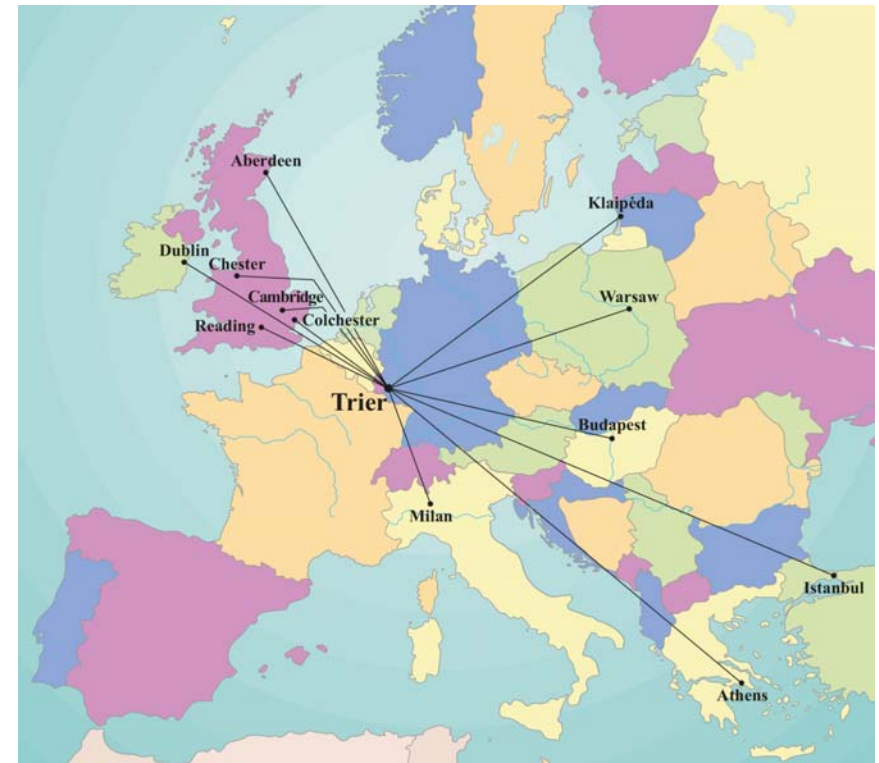
Generally it is possible to drop out of the ERASMUS programme at any time. However, if you are considering not taking your spot for any reason, you should contact Miss Fielder or Ms Freihoff in the AAA to see if dropping out is really unavoidable (e.g. finances, accreditation etc.) or how going on the exchange can still be made possible for you. If it is

unavoidable that you need to drop out of the ERASMUS exchange, you should let Ms Freihoff know as early as is possible so that your spot can be reallocated to another student.

Can I write my Bachelor's/ Master's thesis during my ERASMUS year?

The possibility of writing your Bachelor's/ Master's thesis at a partner institution depends on different factors. If your advisor at Trier University agrees to your plan, you have overcome the first obstacle. You should be aware, though, that you might still have to take the full workload at your host university in addition to writing your thesis. At some universities modules exist that aim at completing a thesis. If you are considering taking this option, you should, however, talk to your host university about your possibilities of taking this course before you make further arrangements.

Where can I go?



Some other subjects also have partner institutions in English speaking countries. If you study one of these subjects alongside English, you can also go to an English-speaking country through one of their exchanges. Whether or not your exchange university is an exchange partner of the Trier University's Department of English Studies, we will be happy to accredit any relevant courses you complete whilst abroad.

Current Exchange Agreements

	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014
Available Spots	13	13	13	15	15	17
Applicants				13	14	18
ERASMUS students	11	10	11	9	9	13

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

		Places	Duration of Stay	Bachelor's	Master's	PhD	Staff
Greece	Athens	2	5 months	x	x	x	x
Hungary	Budapest	1	1 academic year	x			
Ireland	Dublin	1	1 academic year	x	x		x
Italy	Milan	1	1 academic year	x			
Lithuania	Klaipeda	2	5 months	x			x
Poland	Warsaw	1	1 academic year	x			x
Turkey	Istanbul	2	1 academic year	x			x
UK	Aberdeen	2	1 academic year	x	x*		
	Cambridge	1	1 academic year	x	x*		
	Chester	2	1 academic year	x	x*		x
	Colchester	5	1 academic year	x	x*		x
	Reading	1	1 academic year	x	x*		

* These universities accept Master's students if they take undergraduate courses which can, however, be accredited as Master's level classes in Trier. Please check your planned learning agreement with Miss Fielder or Dr Schäfer before you take the classes! For this to be possible, you have to be enrolled as a Master's student in Trier for the time you are abroad.

ABERDEEN

University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/>

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/erasmus/>



City:

Located in the Northeast of the UK, Aberdeen is not only the third largest city in Scotland but also close to the sea. It has a population of about 217,150 and can trace its origins to 580 A.D.

University:

Like the city itself, the University of Aberdeen is one of the oldest in the UK. It was founded in 1495 which accounts for the university's typical old buildings. Today, around 14,000 students are enrolled in the manifold degree programmes offered. Among its alumni are popular Britons like Thomas Reid and Joanne K. Rowling.



The academic year is split into two semesters. The first usually begins in September and ends at Christmas, the second one begins in January and ends with the examination period in May.

You are not required to take a language test for your application at Aberdeen. However, your level of English must be high so you are able to follow the courses.

Courses:

Focus on: Gaelic lessons, Irish and Scottish Studies! Subject combinations are possible with the Film & Visual Culture and Gender Studies department. Courses might include:

- States of Mind: Contemporary Irish and Scottish Writing
- Frankenstein to Einstein: Literature and Science in the Nineteenth Century
- History of Language in the British Isles
- Language: Variation and Change

Housing:

The University of Aberdeen offers accommodation in halls of residence on campus as well as in Hillhead Halls, about 20 minutes from campus. Rents range from £89 to £164 per week and are subject to availability. Application is possible after you receive your ERASMUS package. Additionally, the student association advertises private accommodation in and around Aberdeen.

Useful Links:

http://www.abdn.ac.uk/accommodation/choosing_accommodation/

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/english/>

ATHENS

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

<http://en.uoa.gr/>

<http://en.interel.uoa.gr/llp-erasmus.html>



City:



Athens is one of the oldest cities in the world which accounts for its many historical and cultural sights. The city is surrounded by mountain ranges and the Mediterranean Sea. In the summer the average temperature is 27.5°C, in winter the temperature drops to an average of 9°C.

University:

The National and Kapodistrian University of Athens attracts about 4,100 foreign students each year which gives it a highly international air. The Faculty of Philosophy, including modern language studies, is located on the main campus in Ilissia, a neighbourhood of Athens. About 2,000 students are enrolled in the Faculty of English Language and Literature.

The academic year consists of two semesters. The first begins toward the end of September, the second in February.

The Faculty of English Language and Literature teaches all of its classes in English. Most courses in other subjects at the University of Athens are taught in Greek. It is possible to take Greek language classes free of charge which are worth 6 ECTS.

Courses:

Courses are offered in literary and cultural studies and in theoretical and applied linguistics. Courses might include:

- Contemporary Anglophone Theatre
- Canadian Literature
- Theory and Criticism of Literature
- Translation Theory
- English and Digital Literacies

Housing:

The ERASMUS Student Network Athens (ESN KAPA Athens) provides lists and contact details of possible accommodation in Athens. Rents start at about €250 for a shared flat and €300 for a single apartment.

Useful Links:

<http://en.enl.uoa.gr/undergraduatestudies/courses.html>

<http://www.esnkapa.org/athens/>

BUDAPEST

Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Hungary

<https://ppke.hu/en>

<https://btk.ppke.hu/en/international-office/erasmus>



City:

The capital of Hungary is located on the Danube, and the city name is a composition of the cities Buda and Pest which lie on the opposite sides of the river. It has a population of nearly 1.8 million and is considered the country's main cultural centre.

University:

Pázmány Péter Catholic University is one of Hungary's oldest universities. It is closely linked to the Catholic Church. About 10,000 students are enrolled in its degree programmes. The Faculty of Humanities is about an hour's drive away from Budapest's city centre and located in a nature reserve. However, busses and trains link the campus to the city.

The first semester starts in September, the second one in January. Both semesters end with a six week long examination period.

Courses in the English Department are taught in English. Some other departments also offer courses taught in English, however it is nonetheless recommended that you take a course in Hungarian (worth 6 ECTS) to ease your day-to-day communication.

Courses:

Focus on literary & cultural studies, particularly older literatures, e.g. Renaissance period, and some historical linguistics. Language classes are heavily based on grammar, but also include specialist areas such as:



- History of English Literature
- Business English
- English Grammar
- English Syntax

Housing:

Accommodation is available either in the university's dormitories which contain double rooms, shared bathrooms and laundry facilities, or can be arranged privately. Rent ranges from €130 for a room to €300 for a flat.

Useful Links:

<https://btk.ppke.hu/en/international-office/erasmus/pre-arrival/accommodation>

<https://btk.ppke.hu/en/information-on-studies/departments/institute-of-english-and-american-studies>

CAMBRIDGE

University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

<http://www.cam.ac.uk/>

<http://www.cam.ac.uk/international-students>



City:

Cambridge is located about 80km north of London in East Anglia. Some 20% of the city's population are students which makes Cambridge a thorough university city.

University:

Cambridge is one the very best universities in the UK, and 3rd in the world. Founded in 1209, it is also one of the UK's oldest universities. Teaching is done in lectures and very small tutorials called 'supervisions' (with just 1-3 students and a lecturer) and involves a lot of reading outside of class time!

It is rather difficult to combine your studies of literature and linguistics, as these are taught by different faculties. But you can ask your academic supervisor in Cambridge to help you out and see whether it is possible for you to combine these courses of study.

The academic year is split into three terms: October-December, January-March and April-June.

Your level of English must be very high to attend Cambridge University. See the language test section for further information.

Courses:

A range of professors, teaching fellows and guest lecturers cover almost every aspect of English studies. Courses might include:

- English Literature and its Contexts 1300-1550
- Practical Criticism and Critical Practice
- Historical Linguistics
- Psychology of Language Processing and Learning



Housing:

The University of Cambridge offers housing in its colleges with rent from £655 per month. Alternatively, the accommodation office lists available private accommodation. It is advisable to check accommodation possibilities well in advance.

Useful Links:

<http://www.english.cam.ac.uk/> <http://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/dtal/>

<http://www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk/Info/FindAccommodation/>

CHESTER

University of Chester, United Kingdom

<http://www.chester.ac.uk/>

<http://www.chester.ac.uk/international>



City:

Chester is one of the UK's oldest cities which can be traced back more than 2000 years. It is close to the Welsh border in the Northwest of England and has about 70,000 inhabitants. Thus, it is fairly similar to Trier, however, Chester counts Daniel Craig among its sons.

University:

The University of Chester was established as the teaching college of the University of Liverpool but was expanded into a university with seven distinct faculties in 2005. Thus, it is one of the UK's youngest universities which, however, has some 15,000 students by now.



The English Department offers courses in literature, English language and creative writing, and is recognized for its excellence in research. The combination of linguistics and literature classes is possible.

The academic year consists of two semesters. The first starts toward the end of September, the second one in January.

You are not required to take a language test for your application at Chester. However, your level of English must be high so you are able to follow the courses.

Courses:

The focus of literary studies is Nineteenth Century and modern/contemporary literature. The language department has a TEFL-branch. Courses might include:

- The Gothic
- Victorian Literature
- Modernism and After
- Language Acquisition
- Corpus Linguistics

Housing:

International and exchange students staying for a full academic year are guaranteed accommodation. Rents are £80 for standard and £94 for en-suite rooms per week.

Useful Links:

<http://www.chester.ac.uk/english>

<http://www.chester.ac.uk/campus-life/accommodation>

COLCHESTER

University of Essex, United Kingdom

<http://www.essex.ac.uk/>

<http://www.essex.ac.uk/international/>



City:

Colchester lies to the northeast of London on the North Sea. It has a population of about 110,000 and is said to be built at the same location as legendary Camelot.

University:

Colchester is home to one of the three campuses of the University of Essex. About 9,000 students are enrolled in one of the sixteen faculties. In the 2009 Student Satisfaction Surveys they scored 95% on staff availability, 94% on acquiring knowledge and understanding, 93% on quality of supervision, 90% on course organisation, 90% on course materials, 88% on resources.

The academic year is split into three terms beginning in October and ending with the examination period in June.

You are not required to take a language test for your application at Colchester. However, your level of English must be high so you are able to follow the courses. EFL courses can be taken at the University.

Courses:

Next to regular literature and linguistics courses, teaching areas are TEFL and Film Studies. Courses might include:

- Film and Propaganda
- Arthurian Literature
- English Novels and their Settings
- Second Language Learning
- Grammatical Change in the History of English



Housing:

The University of Essex offers accommodation in seven different facilities. Rents range from £81 to £125 per week. It is possible to be accommodated for only one term at slightly higher rates.

Useful Links:

<http://www.essex.ac.uk/depts/lifts.aspx> <http://www.essex.ac.uk/linguistics/>

<http://www.essex.ac.uk/modules/Default.aspx>

<http://www.essex.ac.uk/studyabroad/> <http://www.essex.ac.uk/accommodation/>

DUBLIN

Trinity College Dublin, Republic of Ireland

<http://www.tcd.ie/>

<http://www.tcd.ie/international/>



City:

Ireland's capital is on the river Liffy, close to the Irish Sea. The city has a population of 530,000 and is visited by thousands of tourists annually. Alongside English, Gaelic is common in the city area. Due to the city's compact size, it is possible to visit the main sights on foot.

University:

Trinity College Dublin is Ireland's oldest and most renowned university. Its Long Room houses the Book of Kells and the world's oldest harp, and is also a main tourist attraction. Founded in 1592, it now houses three faculties. The Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences houses the School of English which ranked 3rd in Europe and 14th in the World in the QS World University Rankings 2012, and also includes the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies which focuses on Irish and Gaelic Studies.

The academic year consists of three terms. The first two begin in October and January respectively and are taught, the third one begins in April and encompasses the examination period.

You are not required to take a language test for your application at Dublin. However, your level of English must be high so you are able to follow the courses. Moreover, it is possible to take courses in the Irish language.

Courses:

Course include all fields of literary studies. Many foreign students are interested in Irish literature and language. Courses might include:

- Twentieth Century Women's Fiction
- Northern Irish Literature and the Troubles
- Early English Language
- Anglo-Saxon Identity



Housing:

Most incoming students are accommodated in Trinity Hall, although Trinity College Dublin does not reserve rooms for ERASMUS students. Rents are between €550 and €670 per month.

Useful Links:

<http://www.tcd.ie/English/> <http://www.tcd.ie/langs-lits-cultures/>

<http://www.tcd.ie/accommodation/>

ISTANBUL

Istanbul Kültür Üniversitesi, Turkey

<http://www.iku.edu.tr/EN/index.php>

<http://www.iku.edu.tr/EN/9946-2-0-1-605-4/European-and-International-Center>



City:



Istanbul is Turkey's capital and cultural, financial and economic centre. It is located on the Bosphorus and connects Europe and Asia. The city has a population of about 13.5 million and is the most densely populated one in Turkey. It is culturally diverse with representations of Muslim, Christian, Jewish and other denominations.

University:

Istanbul Kültür Üniversitesi was founded in 1997 and is one of Turkey's youngest universities. The Faculty of English Language and Literature was established two years later. Currently the University has some 7,000 students and focuses on both theoretical as well as practical training of its students.

The academic year begins in September and ends in May. It is split into two semesters which both end with an examination period.

It is not necessary to have Turkish language knowledge, however, it is advisable to take a Turkish EILC course. Within the Faculty of English Language and Literature, the vast majority of courses are held in English.

Courses:

Emphasis tends to be on the linguistic features of literary and cultural texts, as well as the historical and culture-specific aspects of language. Courses might include:

- Popular Culture
- Sources of Western Culture and Civilization
- The Romantic Hero
- Language and Culture

Housing:

The University has two dormitories, one for male and one for female students. It is possible to arrange private accommodation. In any case, the European and International Centre should be contacted.

Useful Links:

<http://www.iku.edu.tr/EN/1467/35/0-2-2-598-1/English-Language-And-Literature>

KLAIPEDA

LCC International University Klaipeda, Lithuania

<http://www.lcc.lt/>

<http://www.lcc.lt/erasmus-incoming-students>



City:

Klaipeda is located about 300km from Lithuania's capital Vilnius. It is the most important harbour city in Lithuania and has some 180,000 inhabitants. Its diverse cultural history, especially in terms of German-Lithuanian relations, make it unique.

University:



Klaipeda University was founded in 1991 as a joint venture of Lithuanian, Canadian and American foundations. It focuses on International Business Administration, English Language and Literature, Psychology and Theology, and also has a Master's programme in TESOL. Around 600 students are currently enrolled at the University, half of whom are international students.

The academic year consists of two semesters. The first begins in September and ends in December, the second one begins in January and ends in May. Each semester is followed by an examination period.

Since all programmes are taught in English, it is not necessary to have language proficiency in Lithuanian. However, you are recommended to take an EILC course in the language which is free of charge and worth 6 ECTS.

Courses:

Courses focus on translation & interpreting, English language and literature, and interesting perspectives on TESOL. Courses might include:

- Language Acquisition
- Introduction to Translation and Interpretation
- It is also possible to take related courses in Psychology, Theology and Business Administration

Housing:

The University has two dormitories with a variety of rooms. Rents range from €318 to €650 per semester.

Useful Links:

<http://www.lcc.lt/english>

http://www.lcc.lt/uploads/academics/LCC_Catalog_12-13_BA.pdf

MILAN

Università Cattolica de Sacro Cuore, Italy

<http://www.unicatt.it/home?rdeLocaleAttr=en>

<http://www.ucscinternational.it/study-programs-ucsc/spend-a-semester-or-year-with-us>



City:

Situated in Northern Italy, Milan is the country's major cultural and fashion centre. It is also one of the main university cities and its historic sights attract many tourists throughout the year.

University:



The Università Cattolica de Sacro Cuore is Europe's largest private university. It has about 42,000 students and 5 campuses. It has 14 faculties of which the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy and the Faculty of Modern Languages offer courses with an international focus. The University, thus, offers interdisciplinary courses that aim at providing students with thorough and broad academic capabilities.

The academic year is split into two semesters. Depending on the Curriculum they vary slightly. Generally the academic year starts in September and ends May/July. Each semester is followed by an examination period.

The University's International Curriculum is taught in English and is aimed at foreign students. Nevertheless, courses in the Academic Curriculum might be taught in Italian and require knowledge of the Italian language. It is possible to take Italian classes for a fee in Milan which worth between 3 and 8 ECTS.

Courses:

The University offers courses in Humanities which combine different fields of literary, philosophical and cultural studies. Linguistics courses focus on various modern languages. The international curriculum contains classes in fields like International Relations and Italian Culture.

Housing:

The Università Cattolica de Sacro Cuore does not guarantee accommodation for ERASMUS students in its halls of residence. Instead they advise you to seek private accommodation. The University Housing Announcement Board and the International Students Association (ESN Milano) offer help. The Cost of accommodation ranges between €2,700 and €3,900 per semester.

Useful Links:

<http://www.ucscinternational.it/study-programs-ucsc/academics-exchange>

READING

University of Reading, United Kingdom

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/>

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/student/international-students/stdserv-international-students.aspx>



City:

Reading can trace its origins back to 800 AD. It is about an hour's drive from both London and Oxford. The name derives from the Old English word "read" meaning "red".



University:

The University of Reading ranks among the top 1% of the world's universities. Some 11,000 students of 141 nationalities are enrolled in their degree programmes. The University was founded in 1892 and has four campuses. The School of English Language and Literature is located on Whiteknights Campus, the University's main location.

The academic year consists of three terms. Classes begin in October, January and April respectively.

You are not required to take a language test for your application at Reading. However, your level of English must be high so you are able to follow the courses.

Courses:

English Language and Applied Linguistics focuses on all fields of Linguistics including language teaching, corpus linguistics and gender and linguistics. English Literature focuses on all fields of literary studies. Courses might include:

- Core Issues in English Language Teaching
- Language and Gender
- Nineteenth-Century American Fiction
- From Troy to Camelot: Medieval Romance

Housing:

You can apply for accommodation in the University's halls of residence. Rents range from £95 to £159 per week and might be catered. The Reading University Student Union can also assist you in finding private accommodation.

Useful Links:

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/english-literature/ell-home.aspx>

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/english-language-and-applied-linguistics/>

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/life/life-accommodation.aspx>

WARSAW

University of Warsaw, Poland

<http://www.uw.edu.pl/en/>

<http://www.bwz.uw.edu.pl/en/>



City:

Warsaw is among the most important economic and political centres in Europe. Poland's capital has a population of approximately 1.7 million and is located on the Vistula River in central Poland.

University:

The University of Warsaw was established in 1816 and has many notable alumni, like Frederic Chopin and Lech Kaczynski. It counts itself the best university in Poland and has some 61,000 students. The American Studies Center and the Institute of English offer courses taught in English.

The academic year is split into two semesters. The first starts in October, the second one starts in February. Each semester includes a two week examination break.



Since the American Studies Center and the Institute of English teach in English, it is not necessary to have language proficiency in Polish. However, taking a Polish course is recommended.

Courses:

The American Studies Center focuses on American Studies. The Institute of English, however, offers courses in other fields of literary and linguistic studies. Courses might include:

- American Advertising and the Rise of Consumer Culture
- Major Themes in Native American Literature
- American Jewishness at the Turn of the 21st Century: Culture, Film, Literature
- Political Culture in the US

Housing:

The University offers rooms in its halls of residence on a first-come-first-served basis. Rooms are usually shared and cost around €110 per month. Alternatively, the Student's Union has a private accommodation platform.

Useful Links:

<http://www.asc.uw.edu.pl/programs.html>

http://www.bwz.uw.edu.pl/en/?page_id=93

What previous ERASMUS students say

I can say that the experience of studying abroad has been wonderful so far and that I'm really looking forward to the coming months here in Aberdeen.
(Elena, Aberdeen)

It's a fantastic experience I'll benefit from it for my entire life and I'd always apply again!
(Patrick, Lancaster)

This city is absolutely amazing and I feel very comfortable in my new environment - so don't be surprised if I don't come back!
(Sarah, Milan)

My tip: Try to join some societies where you will definitely meet English speaking people (especially sports clubs).
(Theresa, Aberdeen)

TCD shows the openness and flexibility of the Anglo-Irish higher education system, and offers excellent opportunities not only to pursue your subjects, but also to do something entirely new and different.
(Yannick, Dublin)

Die Menschen in Irland sind sehr offen, freundlich und hilfsbereit, so dass man bei Problemen nie alleine ist.
(Timon, Dublin)

Especially for Cambridge, I must emphasise that whoever wants to go there to study English, they must LOVE reading, but it's very rewarding!
(Eva, Cambridge)

What impressed me most about Essex was the diverse student community, the friendly atmosphere and behaviour of all people I met. Also you find a high standard there that will widen your academic horizons.
(Sarah, Essex)

It is definitely the best experience of my life, not only because I can improve my English everyday but also because of the different people you get to know from all over the world. This really broadened my horizon and changed my personality.
(Nina, Southampton)

FURTHER INFORMATION

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