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A Year as an Exchange Student: 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, 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. 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, 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' in their studies. But you should know that 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, a study abroad exchange lasts for a maximum of 10 months – 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 a few months later than perhaps originally planned is not really a big problem.
10+1 Reasons to Become an ERASMUS Student

1. You can study at one of 2000+ universities for free!
2. You will meet people from around the world (and have places to stay when you them 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!
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 its ERASMUS programme – “European 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, over 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 for 2014-2020 the sum was around 14.7 billion Euros!

In 2014, the EU set up a new generation: ERASMUS+. It gives the participants the opportunity to go on a funded exchange in each academic cycle (BA; MA; PhD) and includes possibilities for studying, training and gaining work experience abroad.

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, makes studying in these countries easily affordable to a far larger group of students. As an ERASMUS student, you are freed from this financial obligation, but can still benefit from expert teaching and international exchange at our partner institutions.

ERASMUS and Brexit

The uncertainties surrounding the UK’s exit from the EU unfortunately also impact on ERASMUS exchanges to UK universities. As yet, it is unclear whether the UK will voluntarily continue its participation in ERASMUS, though many scholars and institutions are campaigning for this to be the case.
At the moment, it looks likely that the UK will continue to participate in the ERASMUS+ programme for the academic year 2020/21. Even if this should turn out not to be the case, many of our partner institutions in the UK have confirmed that they wish to continue the partnership under the same conditions (i.e. still no tuition fees for exchange students). This means that you should apply for an exchange year/semester at our UK partner universities as usual, following the procedure explained in this booklet.

If the UK does not continue to participate in the ERASMUS programme, you will then still be able to go on your exchange year/semester, but you will not be able to receive ERASMUS funding. Instead, once you have been selected as an exchange student for a UK partner university, you will need to apply for a scholarship from the DAAD PROMOS programme. These applications are a little more detailed than those for ERASMUS, and there are set deadlines throughout the year that you need to watch out for. If this becomes relevant, you will be given more information in your acceptance letter, and both Dr Kraft and Mrs Maas will be happy to support your PROMOS application. You should not let this deter you from applying for an exchange with a UK partner university.

You can find out more about the current status of the ERASMUS programme in the UK on these webpages:

https://www.britishcouncil.de/en/study-uk/eu-exit
https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/about/brexit

Things to Consider Before Applying

How long can I stay?

Usually, an exchange will last for one academic year - normally September to June. In some cases, it is possible to go for just one semester, but this must be agreed with the partner institution, and those students applying for the whole academic year will usually be given priority. Note, too, that the term dates at our partner universities (especially in the UK and Ireland) may make it impossible to stay for only one of our semesters. In some cases, staying abroad for just one ‘term’ means that you’re only there for around 11 weeks, which is not as conducive to your learning as staying for a “whole year” (=usually around 8-9 months).
How do I choose where to go?

Personal preferences always play a big role in such decisions. Some students 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, other subject(s), and/or other language skills. For BEd/MEd 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 our partner institutions. You can also check the universities' websites which often include information about 'life' beyond the academic side of things.

If there are particular universities that interest you, you can contact the International Office to ask for the reports written by previous students who went there on an exchange. These can help you find out more about the academic and extracurricular activities, as well as the location and surroundings of the university.

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 basic language skills in the country’s main language may also be helpful. In those countries that teach in English but are not English-speaking, online language courses in the local language (OLS, erasmusplusols.eu/de/) are offered to help you acquire day-to-day language competence.

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 Sprachpraxis teacher can complete it for you.

There are two exceptions to this rule:

- Students without EU citizenship may need a visa to study abroad and the requirements for most visas include an officially recognised language test such as IELTS or TOEFL. This may also apply to students going to study in the UK after Brexit.

- The University of Cambridge requires you to pass their own 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. Talk to Mrs Maas before applying.

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 International Office 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!

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 travel around 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 around €200-300. The amount is not dependent on your financial background. Instead, ERASMUS+ sorts the host countries in categories according to their costs of living. Thus, you will receive a higher allowance for Ireland than for Poland, for example. If Brexit means that the UK leaves the ERAMUS programme, you would be eligible for a DAAD PROMOS scholarship instead, which pays a similar amount of financial support to exchange students. Of course, this allowance alone may 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.
These stipends 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 to and from your host university, which usually does not need to be paid back. For more information, see the BAföG website: https://www.bafög.de/de/auslandsfoerderung-384.php

**Things to Consider Before Departure**

Once you have been selected to be an exchange student at one of your partner universities (usually around the end of March), you need to take care of a few things and arrangements. For one thing, your bank account should allow you to visit ATMs as well as make payments. Furthermore, you should arrange your accommodation before your departure. 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 classes 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 25-30 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 4-5 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 10 points per seminar. Always speak to the individual teacher of the 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 classes you intend to take while you are at your host university as well as the classes you would like them to be accredited as in Trier. Most universities publish the classes/modules they offer online so you can have a look at what options you have. Mrs Maas can also help you to find appropriate classes. The classes may change from year to year but the learning
agreement will still help you to achieve the necessary number of ECTS points and guarantees your work counts towards your degree in Trier. The Learning Agreement must be signed by your ERASMUS Coordinator or Studienberater in Trier as well as by the Coordinator abroad so that accrediting the classes you have taken abroad will be easier. If you need to make amendments to your Learning Agreement after you arrive at your host university, there is another form for this which also needs to be signed by the coordinators at both universities.

**What classes 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. Most universities will offer you new possibilities and fields of study 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. Once you have some ideas, you can discuss your choices with Mrs Maas.

**Accreditation**

Basically, the classes you take at your exchange university can be accredited here in Trier, as long as they are roughly comparable. For example, a seminar in English linguistics is usually easy to recognise as such. Generally, the Department of English Studies, recognises the value of having spent time abroad and attending various classes in English, and we are generous with our accrediting! Still, each individual case will necessarily be handled as such. Your Learning Agreement includes a section for the accreditation of your work. Before you leave, you agree which classes will be accredited upon your return. This way you know in advance how your studies will continue after your year abroad.

Officially, the head of department in the Department of English Studies signs the paperwork to accredit your classes. In practice, though, the Department’s Studienberater or Mrs Maas should be your first port of call. Print out the relevant documents from the Dean’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 in their office hours. Further information can be found on the webpage of [the FB II Dean’s Office](#).
What happens if I want to/have to drop out of the programme?

If necessary, it is possible to drop out of an exchange at any time, for example due to illness. However, if you are considering not taking your spot, or leaving early, for any reason, you should contact Ms Freihoff (IO) to see if dropping out is unavoidable or how going on the exchange can still be made possible for you. If you really must drop out of the exchange, you should let Ms Freihoff know as soon as is possible so that your spot can be reallocated to another student. Please note that in extreme cases you may be asked to pay back any financial help you have received, if you do not stay for the duration of your planned exchange.

Other FAQs

Can I write my Bachelor’s/ Master’s thesis during my exchange year?

The possibility of writing your Bachelor’s/ Master’s thesis at a partner institution depends on various 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 – please discuss this with Mrs Maas when you compose your Learning Agreement. 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.

Can I do an internship whilst on an exchange?

If you wish to gain some work experience alongside studying at your host university, you can find part-time work or a work experience placement that fits in around your lecture schedule. Please ensure that your work or internship does not have a negative impact on the academic side of things – having completed a placement cannot make up for not achieving the ECTS credit points agreed on in your learning agreement.

If you are planning to complete an internship or work placement in a European country before or after your time as an exchange student, and you find a placement lasting at least 90 days, you can apply for funding at the a.i.m. rpl office. For more information about funding for work experience placements, please contact the IO or see here: http://www.erasmuspraktika.de/
The Application Procedure

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 students, preparation should start in your 3rd semester to go in the 5th semester.

The application deadline is in March for students wishing to go on the exchange in the following academic year. 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.

Below is a list of documents you will need to submit as your application. Once you send your application to the International Office, it is forwarded to the departmental coordinator who reads and compares all the applications, and may ask some candidates to attend an interview (In the Department of English Studies, this is Mrs Maas). 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 any 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 classes 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!
Application Documents

To apply to study abroad at one of our European partner universities, you need to complete and submit the following documents and forms to the IO before the application deadline. For more details, and downloads of the relevant documents, please see the IO’s webpage: http://ins-ausland-downloads.uni-trier.de/

1. Programmliste Anglistik

This is where you list all the universities you would like to apply for. To increase your chances of being offered a place as an exchange student, we recommend that you pick a first, second and third choice of partner institution. Please submit two copies.

2. Online Application Form (Bewerbungsformular)

This is where you fill in your personal and contact details. Please submit two copies. Please read the tips here before you complete your application: https://www.uni-trier.de/fileadmin/international/international/3_Outgoings/Students/0_ERASMUS/2019_20/Bewerbungshinweise.pdf

3. CV (written in English!)

Your CV should be no longer than 1-2 pages. Please include details on your extracurricular activities and degree progress – especially if you have changed universities or subjects.

4. Application Letter (written in English!)

Please present reasons why you would make a good candidate for the exchange and why you are applying for to study abroad at this particular choice of partner institution (please focus on your first choice, if you list more than one priority). You should highlight what you can bring to the programme as an individual (see above – The Application), as well as what interests you about your choice of exchange. Do not write more than two pages.

5. List of Previously Completed Modules (print out from PORTA)
Where can I go?

Some other subjects at Trier University 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 Trier University’s Department of English Studies, we will be happy to accredit any relevant courses you complete whilst abroad.

If you are interested in spending an exchange year at a university which is not (yet) one of our partners, please talk to Mrs Maas. We can always contact the university to enquire about setting up a new agreement. If your university of choice is not interested in having Trier University as a new partner, you may still be able to study there and receive DAAD or PROMOS funding – Ms Janina Kröner (IO) is the person to ask about this.

Previous Applicants and Participants

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Current Partner Institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Student Places</th>
<th>Duration of Stay</th>
<th>Bachelor’s</th>
<th>Master’s</th>
<th>Staff*</th>
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<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Athens</td>
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<td>5 months or 10 months</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td>Ireland</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dublin Trinity College</td>
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<td>10 months</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Milan (Università Cattolica)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10 months</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Verona</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5 months</td>
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<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Klaipeda</td>
<td>2 or 1</td>
<td>5 months or 10 months</td>
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<td>Vilnius</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<td>Gdansk</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>UK</td>
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<td>5 months or 10 months</td>
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<td></td>
<td>x*</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cambridge (Cambridge University)</td>
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<td>10 months</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cambridge (Anglia Ruskin)</td>
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<td>5 months</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Canterbury (U. of Kent)</td>
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<td>10 months</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td>x*</td>
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<td>Chester</td>
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<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td>Colchester (U. of Essex)</td>
<td>2 or 1</td>
<td>5 months or 10 months</td>
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<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10 months</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td>x*</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* 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 with Mrs Maas before you take the classes! For this to be possible, you must be enrolled as a Master’s student in Trier for the time you are abroad. ** Members of staff can also go to the University of Sussex, UK.
ABAERDEEN

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. Our agreement is with the School of Language and Literature but students may choose 50% of their classes from other departments.

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. Stays for one semester (winter) are possible, though not recommended.

You are not required to take a language test for your application at Aberdeen. However, your level of English must be high enough for you to be able to follow the courses. If you wish to take Level 3 classes, you must take a diagnostic test.

Courses:

Focus on: Gaelic lessons, Irish and Scottish Studies. Courses might include:
- States of Mind: Contemporary Irish and Scottish Writing
- 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 £160 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/

https://www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/courses/undergraduate
ANKARA

TED University, Turkey

https://www.tedu.edu.tr/en
https://ipo.tedu.edu.tr/en/ipo/erasmus

City:

Ankara is the capital of Turkey and its second largest city with a population of approx. 4,590,000. It lies about 200km south of the Black Sea and is a very historical city with many influences from different time periods which can be discovered in its architecture. In the summer the average temperature is about 24° C; in the winter the temperature drops to an average of 0° C.

University:

The TED University (TEDU) was founded by the Turkish Education Association – Higher Education Foundation in 2009. Therefore, it is considered as a young and dynamic university which consists of five faculties: Architecture, Arts and Science with the Department of English Language and Literature, Economics and Administrative Sciences, Engineering and Education.

Courses:

- Survey of English Literature
- Introduction to Cultural Studies
- 19th Century English and American Poetry
- Gender Studies
- Advanced Writing

Housing:

The University provides modern accommodation opportunities to all students. Breakfast and dinner are included in the dorm fee and each room has its own bathroom. The price ranges from approx. 1,750€ (10 months, female quad. room) to 3,000€ (10 months, for a single female room. Housing for males is usually priced higher.)

Useful Links:

https://ipo.tedu.edu.tr/en/ipo/dormitories
https://ipo.tedu.edu.tr/en/ipo/residence-permit-0
ATHENS
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece
http://en.uoa.gr/
http://en.interel.uoa.gr/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/month for a shared flat and €300/month for a single apartment.

Useful Links:
http://en.enl.uoa.gr/undergraduatestudies/courses.html
http://www.esnkapa.org/athvens/
City:
Cambridge is known for its famous universities and beautiful buildings. The city is well connected with the London and the rest of the country.

University:
Anglia Ruskin University was founded in 1858. It ranks amongst the best universities in the UK and has a reputation for excellence.

The University is placed near the Mill Pond in Cambridge, making it a very green campus, similar to ours in Trier. There are currently around 40 000 students enrolled at Anglia Ruskin. Anglia has been classified as encouraging “world-leading” research in various areas of study. For students of English it might be of importance to know that two of the aforementioned areas include English Literature and Cultural studies.

The academic year is split into two semesters: September-January, January-April. Please note that only one semester stays are possible at Anglia Ruskin.

Courses:
Courses are offered in literary and cultural studies and in theoretical and applied linguistics as well as English Language Teaching. The university also offers as a range of language classes should you feel the need to improve your skills.

Courses might include:

- Drama and English Literature
- English Language and English Language Teaching
- History and English Literature

Housing:
Prices from halls are from approximately £90-£160 per week.

Useful Links:
http://www.anglia.ac.uk/international/europe
https://www.anglia.ac.uk/student-life/accommodation
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 ranks among the top universities worldwide. Founded in 1209, it is also one of the UK’s oldest universities. The module structure in Cambridge is slightly different from other universities: Teaching is done in lectures and very small tutorials called ‘supervisions’ (with 1-3 students and a lecturer) and involves a lot of reading outside of class.

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. This division of terms means single-semester stays in Cambridge are not possible.

Your level of English and academic performance must be very high to attend Cambridge. See the language test section for further information. Please contact Mrs Maas before applying.

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/
City:

Located in the heart of Kent, Canterbury is one of Britain’s historic cities. In fact, it is similar to Trier in terms of its Roman sights which are partially part of the UNESCO World Heritage. The city’s population is about 44,000 and is portrayed in Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*.

University:

The University consists of different schools. The Faculty of Humanities comprises the School of English as well as the School of European Culture and Languages. Our exchange is with the School of European Culture and Languages, so you must take most of your classes there. You are allowed to take one ‘wild module’ class from another subject, e.g. School of English, or whatever your second-degree subject is.

The academic year is split into three terms: October-December, January-April and May-June. One term stays in Canterbury are possible, though not recommended.

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

Courses:

The SECL offers a broad variety of courses in different aspects of Linguistics and Comparative Literature, as well as foreign languages (German, French, etc). Courses include:

- Comparative Literature and English Linguistics in the Classroom
- English Language in the Media
- History of British English

Housing:

The University of Kent has multiple halls of residence. The rent ranges from about £4,000 to £6,300 for one academic year. It is also possible to arrange off-campus accommodation.

Useful Links:

http://www.kent.ac.uk/courses/modulecatalogue/humanities.html
http://www.kent.ac.uk/accommodation/
City:
Chester is one of the UK’s oldest cities and 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 famous 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, but has some 15,000 students by now. The English Department offers courses in literature, linguistics (‘language’) and creative writing, and is recognized for its excellence in research. Places for Erasmus students in English Dept. classes are limited, but students can be flexible in choosing courses from other departments (e.g. German, Education), and may be able to work as a German tutor.

The academic year consists of two semesters. The first starts at the end of September, the second one in January. One semester stays in Chester are not possible.

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:
Choosing between the Languages, English, and Education Depts, courses might include:

- Victorian Literature
- Translation Techniques and Application (Ger/Eng)
- Language Acquisition
- Pedagogy Policy and Practice

Housing:
International and exchange students staying for a full academic year are guaranteed accommodation. Rents are £90 for standard and £130 for en-suite rooms per week.

Useful Links:
https://www1.chester.ac.uk/international
http://www.chester.ac.uk/campus-life/accommodation
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 94% on acquiring knowledge and understanding, 93% on quality of supervision, 90% on course organisation, and 88% on resources. Erasmus students can take courses from any Department based at the Colchester campus, as long as these are labelled as available to exchange students and the students fulfil the prerequisite requirements.

The academic year is split into three terms beginning in October and ending with the examination period in June. Note that some courses run for the whole academic year and are not open to students staying in Colchester for just one semester.

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

Courses:
Alongside traditional literature and linguistics courses, teaching areas include 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 £3,000 to £5,000 per year. It is possible to be accommodated for only one term at slightly higher rates.

Useful Links:
http://www.essex.ac.uk/modules/Default.aspx
http://www.essex.ac.uk/studyabroad/  http://www.essex.ac.uk/accommodation/
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:
Dublin City University is Dublin’s youngest university. Founded in 1980, it now houses around 12,000 students in its four faculties. In the QS, Dublin City University ranked among the top 50 universities worldwide. The Faculty of Humanities comprises both the Department of English Studies and the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies (SALIS).

The academic year consists of two semesters. The first begins in October and ends in December, the second begins in February and ends in May. One semester stays in Dublin are possible, though not recommended.

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.

Courses:
Course include literary studies as well as linguistics and translation studies. Many foreign students are interested in Irish literature and language. Courses might include:

- Postcolonial Writing
- Introduction to Translation Studies
- International Business Communication

Housing:
Dublin City University provides on-campus accommodation for around €4,100 per academic year. You should apply as quickly as possible. The international office also provides internet links for off-campus accommodation.

Useful Links:
http://www.dcu.ie/salis/index.shtml
http://www.spd.dcu.ie/site/english/index.shtml
http://www.dcuaccommodation.ie/
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:
Students should take mainly language/linguistics classes, but may also choose a couple of literature classes depending on availability. You can also take courses on Irish literature and language. Courses might include:
- Applied Linguistics of English Language Teaching
- Technology, Language and Communication
- Anglo-Saxon Identity
- Northern Irish Literature and the Troubles

Housing:
Most incoming students are accommodated in Trinity Hall, although Trinity College Dublin does not reserve rooms for ERASMUS students. Rents are between €150–€250 per week.

Useful Links:
http://www.tcd.ie/English/  https://www.tcd.ie/students/orientation/visiting-exchange/
http://www.tcd.ie/accommodation/
https://www.tcd.ie/English/international/visiting/
City:
Gdansk is considered to be one of the most beautiful cities in Poland right next to the Baltic Sea. The city has a population of 460,000 and is visited by hundreds of tourists each year due to its history and magnificent architecture. Gdansk with nearby Sopot and Gdynia are often referred to as a Tricity. Its position on the seaside has made Gdansk an important port city. The living costs are relatively low compared to other European cities.

University:
The University of Gdansk is the largest educational institution in the Pomerania region. There are eleven faculties with almost thirty-three thousand students. Around 150 Erasmus students from all over Europe go to the University each term and taking advantage of the possibility to study abroad.

Courses:
The faculty of English and American Studies (IEAS) offers a rich variety of courses for exchange students. These take place at both BA and MA levels. They range from Practical Language courses, American Studies with Culture, Media and Communication Specialization to English Language with Teacher Specialization and also Translation Studies. Courses might include:

- History of American Literature
- American Culture in the 21st Century
- Descriptive Grammar: Syntax, Phonetics, Semantics
- English Teaching Methodology
- Adaption: Literature, Cinema and New Media

Housing:
The university has a wide range of accommodation in its student dormitories. Monthly costs of accommodation vary from dormitory to dormitory but is in the range of 300-500 zł (70-120€) per month.

Useful Links:
https://fil.ug.edu.pl/wydzial/instytuty_i_katedry/instytut_anglistyki_i_amerykanistyki/program_erasmus/incoming
https://en.ug.edu.pl/study/study_guide/accomodations
ISTANBUL

Istanbul Kültür Üniversitesi, Turkey

https://legacy.iku.edu.tr/ENG/index.php

City:

Istanbul is Turkey’s cultural, financial and economic centre. It is located on the Bosporus 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 Department 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. Incoming exchange students from Trier are permitted to take any courses within the Dept. of English Language and Literature, which include language-based, translation-based, and literature-based classes.

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
- Western Culture and Civilization
- The Romantic Hero
- Language and Culture

Housing:
The University runs two residences, separate for male and female students. It is possible to arrange private accommodation. In any case, contact the European and International Centre.

Useful Links:
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:
LCC International University was founded in 1991 as a joint Canadian and American foundation. Following an American-style liberal arts programme, and with 60% international lecturers, 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.

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.

You can take any class taught in English unless it is a higher-level class in a subject you have not studied before. Although most classes are taught in English, you are recommended to take an EILC course in Lithuanian 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
https://www.lcc.lt/home/study-abroad/cie/erasmus-2/erasmus-incoming-students/
Luxembourg: The capital of Luxembourg is a city rich in culture and history, placed in the middle of the continent. It is home to the European Court of Justice and many other EU institutions. The city has a population of roughly 104,000 habitants.

University: The University of Luxembourg was founded in 2003 and is our neighbour’s only public university. Situated in the middle of the country, the university has close links to the European Institutions in Luxembourg as well as the banking quarters. It is likely to be one of the most multilingual places of study in Europe. This university offers great international research opportunities to its students as well as vocational courses and a variety of doctoral programmes.

The academic year is split into two semesters: September-February, February-September. One semester stays in Luxembourg are possible.

You are not required to take a language test before applying here. However, your level of English must be high enough for you to be able to follow the courses.

Courses: University of Luxembourg offers a whole range of subject areas; from Communication and Economic Studies over Biomedicine and International Security to the Humanities with Literature and Languages. The Humanities department has a long list of interesting classes for interdisciplinary studies.

Courses may include:
- Language, Society and Power
- Comparative Literature
- Linguistics in the Real World

Housing: Prices at university accommodation range from approximately 360€ to 600 € per month.

Useful Links:
http://wwwen.uni.lu/international/courses_taught_in_english
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 each 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 are 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 exchange students in its halls of residence. Instead they advise you to seek private accommodation. The ESN Milano offers help. The costs of accommodation range between €2,700 and €3,900 per semester.

Useful Links:

http://www.ucscinternational.it/student-services-at-cattolica/students-services-in-milan-campus
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. You can take any class in the language section, however classes in linguistics are subject to availability, and classes in literature may not exceed 20 ECTS.

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 for you to be 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 £130 to £170 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
City:

Verona is located in the north east of Italy and is the capital of the province Verona. The city has a population of approximately 260,000 and is famous for its Roman and Medieval heritage, as well as providing the setting for Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet”.

University:

Verona University is a relatively young facility; it dates back to 1982. According to the newspaper “Il Sole 24 Ore”, it was ranked as the best university in Italy in 2014 and has about 23,000 students. Some of the research focuses on Sociolinguistics, Old German languages, science fiction in literature and Shakespeare. Verona is not a campus university but the university buildings are located at various seats in town.

The academic year is split into two semesters from October to January and again from February to May. Examinations take place during the breaks after each term.

The university’s curriculum is generally taught in Italian, except for language, linguistics and literature classes which are taught in the target language. Also, there are several classes within the frame of humanities’ subjects that are taught in English. Verona also offers charged language courses for Italian.

Courses:

The university offers courses in language, linguistics and literature as well as other humanist subjects. On the bachelor level, the courses often cover more general overviews on a given field of literature or a time period rather than specific and narrower topics. In the course catalogue on the university website it is possible to look for classes taught in English.

Housing:

The University offers rooms in its halls of residence on a first-come-first-served basis with a priority for non-local students. Rooms can be single or shared and cost up to €195 per month. Alternatively, the Student’s Union has a private accommodation platform.

Useful Links:

https://www.univr.it/en/international-programmes
City:

Vilnius is the capital of and largest city in Lithuania. It can look back on a long history of being a very liberal town, e.g. for giving shelter to persecuted Jews. During the 16th century, Italian builders started to create what is today one of the largest old towns in Europe.

University:

The University of Vilnius was founded in 1579. It describes itself as “one of the oldest and most famous institutes for higher education in Eastern and Central Europe.” Today, Vilnius University has about 20,000 students, with about 880 international students, and is still located in beautiful old houses the managed to preserve their 16th century charms.

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

Although many classes are taught in English, you can take language classes in Lithuanian and Russian which are offered every semester. There are also “Survival Lithuanian” classes which only take 8 days that will give you a very basic introduction into basic communication in real-life situations.

Courses:

The faculty of philology offers a wide range of literature and language courses in English as well as in German such as American Short Stories, English Stylistics or the Victorian Novel. In addition, students are allowed to take courses in other subjects outside the English department, even courses offered by other faculties like e.g. the Academy of Music.

Housing:

The university offers accommodation based on applications. The houses are all close to each other and fairly close to the university. Rent is as cheap as about €50-90 a month, depending on the number of people in a shared room. For more private accommodation, there is no information on the university website. Therefore, personal investigation would be necessary.

Useful Links:

http://www.vu.lt/en/
http://www.vu.lt/en/studies/exchange-students/courses-taught-in-foreign-languages
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 Kaczyński. 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. You may not take more than 30 ECTS per semester.

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 and the Institute of English offer 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://bwz.uw.edu.pl/en/international-projects/erasmus-students
http://www.bwz.uw.edu.pl/en/?page_id=93
FURTHER INFORMATION

Anglistik Studienberatung: Dr. Bettina Kraft

B355
kraftb@uni-trier.de
Office hours during term time:
Wednesdays 15:00-17:00 and Thursdays 10:00-12:00 (sign up via Stud.IP)

Anglistik European Exchange Coordinator:

Mrs Clare Maas

B339
cmmaas@uni-trier.de
Office hours during term time: Mondays 14:30 – 15:30 (sign up via Stud.IP) or by appointment via email

ERASMUS+ Student Assistant: Carlotta Müller

B339
s6camuel@uni-trier.de
Office hours: Wednesdays 13:00 – 14:00