

School of Languages, Cultures & Linguistics

German Studies

ERASMUS 2017/18

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General Information on the Exchange Programme

Set up in 1987, the Erasmus exchange programme gives students the opportunity to spend an extended period abroad in an European country. Erasmus stands for **E**uropean **C**ommunity **A**ction **S**cheme for the **M**obility of **U**niversity **S**tudents. The programme is run and funded by the European Commission through the new ERASMUS+ funding scheme. The main objectives of this funding is for students to integrate with other students across Europe, to develop a broader awareness of European culture as well as furthering their academic abilities in a different learning environment.

Funding

Each student will receive an ERASMUS grant from the international office. The levels of grants vary per year, in 2016-17, the grant for students studying in Germany was 220 Euro p.month. The grant is paid in two instalments.

There will be a presentation from the International Office in March/April 2018 on funding and other aspects of the ERASMUS programme.

If you are in receipt of a maintenance grant from the government, please contact either your local county council or SUSI about receiving the “non-adjacent rate” while studying abroad.

Where can I go? Our partner universities

Bayreuth

Erlangen (1 place)

Erfurt (2 places)

FU Berlin (1 place)

Graz (Austria) (2 places)

Konstanz (2 places)

Leipzig (2 places)

München (2 places)

Münster (2 places)

Potsdam (2 places)

Wien (Austria) (2 places)

Würzburg (2 places)

How do I apply?

Please use the application forms you are given. If you are on the BA International Modern Languages programme, you will have received a separate form.

Sabine Krobb will process all German Studies applications, BA and BA International Modern languages. Of utmost importance is, as well as meeting the minimum requirements, that in your application, you give good academic reasons for your choice of university. To do this, you will need to familiarize yourselves with the websites of German universities, which are not all equally user-friendly.

How do I research the German/Austrian university I am interested in?

Websites of German or Austrian universities can be confusing. You may think you find an English language site but it might than not contain very much information or may immediately direct you to a German language site. The terminology can also be confusing, so here are some words you may need:

Faculty: Fakultät

Subject: Fach

German Studies: Germanistik (an umbrella term for both literary and cultural studies as well as linguistics, you may also find the term **Deutsche Philologie** in this context

Literary studies: Literaturwissenschaft

Linguistics: Sprachwissenschaft

DaF: Deutsch als Fremdsprache (will often be taught by a separate faculty or language centre).

Romanistik: encompasses French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese Studies.

How long will I stay? Semester dates in Germany and Austria

Semester dates vary from university to university. However, the German/Austrian academic year is generally organised into two semesters (Wintersemester: September/October and Sommersemester: February and April until July/August). While the 2 months 'Semesterferien' give you an opportunity to travel or visit home, you should expect to have to complete assessments or even sit exams during this period.

Some universities will offer an induction period or intensive language course for international students prior to the official start of the first semester and you are strongly advised to avail of this opportunity should it exist.

Academic Requirements

Requirements to take up an allocated Erasmus place

BA students:

You must have gained 110 credits in total from stage 1 and 2 .

You must have passed your level 2 core language modules (GER 20060 and GER 20070 **OR** GER 20180)

BA International Modern Languages students

You must have gained 110 credits in total from stage 1 and 2 .

You must have passed your level 2 core language modules (GER 20060 and GER 20070 **OR** GER 20180)

You must have passed your level 2 core language modules in your other joint major subject

Academic Requirements for passing your Year abroad

8 graded Modules must be passed, at an appropriate level. For BAIML students, 2 of these must be in their second language.

We do not rely on the standard number of ECTS for Germany or Austria, as the number of credits available for each module is not standardized there, as it is in Ireland and some other countries. You are required to pass **eight graded** modules and the majority of these should be assessed by written examination, essay or other form of assessment. It is therefore not sufficient to have completed a module with a certificate of attendance only.

In choosing your modules, you must aim for a balance of language modules and modules relating to German language culture/literature/linguistics/media/history etc. Taking **ONLY** language modules is not acceptable.

All written assessments completed **MUST** be in German (or, for BAIML students, in the language of your second subject).

Once you have satisfied the requirements set by us, you will be deemed to have passed the year abroad and will be given 60 credits for the year. These 60 credits are GPA neutral, i.e. they will not count towards your final degree result in UCD, they will simply give you the 'international' degree.

Please be aware that a credit shortfall or a failure to adhere to the requirements in terms of the kind of modules you must take, can lead to a failure of the Year abroad and therefore loss of the 'International' degree component, or, for BAIML students the necessity of a programme transfer. In case of failed modules you should make every effort of repeating the module at the host institution, even if this means staying a little longer or returning for a repeat attempt of an exam, as long as this is offered before the start of your final academic year in UCD. There is no guarantee that any remediation will be offered by UCD for significant credit shortfalls after your return.

More information on academic requirements, different type of German 'Lehrveranstaltungen' and assessments will be provided at a second meeting in April 2018, after Erasmus places have been allocated.