

## Exchange Options 2020/21

### FAQs for Students of BA International Modern Languages and the English, European and World Literatures Pathway of the BA Humanities Programme

Q. If I choose Option 1, will I still graduate with a BA International degree?

A. Yes. If you choose this option, and pass all the credits required, you will graduate with a BA International degree.

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Q. What percentage of our final year grade will this reduced workload in the autumn trimester of 2020/21 be worth if I choose Option 1?

A. The minimum credit requirement for the autumn semester is 20 credits, which is one third of the 60-credit requirement for your final year. You may, of course choose to take a normal load of 30 credits, which would be half of your final year credits.

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Q. If I choose Option 1, can I travel to my host country during the autumn trimester and do my UCD coursework online from there?

A. It is possible for you to take your autumn trimester 2020 UCD modules remotely. If immigration and public health regulations allow, you can travel to your host country during the autumn trimester and take your UCD courses. Anything else you might engage in in your host country such as classes at another institution or work will not count towards your UCD degree. You are also not eligible for an Erasmus grant for the autumn trimester of 2020.

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Q. With option 1, what is involved in the summer project (summer 2021)?

A. The summer project will be worth 15 credits and will be approximately 4,000 words. It will be designed to build on learning already undertaken rather than introducing a completely new concept. If you are a language student, there will be an element of writing in your host country's language as part of the project. It will be possible for students to fit the project around other commitments such as having a summer job.

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Q. Because we will have taken roughly half of our final year credits in autumn 2020, will we only have one trimester to complete in 2021/2022 if we choose Option 1?

A. You will need to take modules over the 2021/22 academic year as you will need to take core modules in both autumn and spring trimesters.

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Q. I am a language student. Will my language be negatively impacted by the fact that I can only go on exchange for one trimester, especially for an ab initio learner?

A. Any length of time spent abroad improves your language skills. With this option, you will have the opportunity to spend 3 to 4 months immersed in your host country's language. Depending on host country immigration and public health regulations, you may also have the opportunity, if you so choose, to stay on in your host country during the summer to further help your language learning.

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Q. Will our workload at our host university abroad be reduced if I choose Option 1?

A. No. You will be required to take and pass a full courseload of 30 credits at your host university during the spring trimester. You will then need to complete a summer project worth 15 credits. BA International students are required to take and pass 45 credits in order to pass their year abroad.

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Q. If I choose Option 1, will I have the opportunity to talk to someone about this before we choose our modules in September?

A. Yes every student who chooses this option will be directed to an academic who will give them individual advice on modules for the autumn 2020 trimester. Your Programme Manager in the College Office will also be on hand to assist you.

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Q. Would the summer project count towards our GPA or would it be graded on a Pass/Fail basis?

A. As the summer project is part of your exchange programme, and exchange is GPA neutral, the summer project will not count towards your final-degree GPA.

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Q. If I choose option 1, as we are required to take the level-3 language modules in autumn 2020, will that mean we will not be doing any language modules when we are in final year?

No. You will still need to complete semester two language modules and you may of course avail of modules in language-related content such as translation, where these are available. Don't forget that your option modules will also allow you to engage with the language and that taking a reduced credit load should allow you to focus on these in more depth.

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Q. If I choose option 1 and exchange ends up being cancelled for spring, could we take absence and go along with option 3 ? (BAIML)

A. Yes that will be possible.

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Q. If it is possible to go on exchange in the spring, but I decide I don't want to, can I at that late stage continue with final year and transfer to BA?

A. Yes that is possible.

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Q. With Option 1, if we do the autumn semester of 20 credits in UCD and then take the leave of absence for the spring semester even if the Erasmus goes ahead in the spring semester?

A. Yes that is possible.

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Q. If we go with Option 1 and then spring Erasmus gets cancelled can we finish up in UCD in spring and then go away the following year?

A. This is possible. You should note, however, that you will need to reapply for an Erasmus place as it is not possible to defer the place you have been allocated for 2019/20. You should also be aware that your international degree cannot be awarded until the host institution has provided your transcript to prove you have met the requirements of the year abroad. As this process can take until the autumn this could delay the conferring of your degree until December 2022.

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Q. Would there be a significant jump in the level of difficulty in the modules in the trimester if we were to choose option 1?

A. There is a progression in difficulty from level 2 to level 3. Remember, however, that many BA students do move directly to level 3 modules and they are able to complete them and this will continue to be the case in 2020/21. In addition, in this exceptional year, many students returning from a year abroad will have experienced disruptions to their studies and the level 3 modules will have to be accessible for these students also. Please talk to your module and programme coordinators about your specific concerns - we will do all we can to support students in their choices.

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Q. Would there be a chance if we took a leave of absence for the year/semester that we wouldn't get going on Erasmus or are we guaranteed a place when reapplying?

As it is a compulsory part of your programme to go on exchange, you will be guaranteed an exchange place for 2021/2, if you take leave of absence in 2020/21. You are not however guaranteed of getting a place at the same institution where you were due to go in 2020/21.

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Q. If we have filled out the exchange declaration, can we always change our minds afterwards?

A. Yes you can. The exchange declaration is a document issued by UCD Global. It is possible still to decide not to go on exchange after signing it. Any queries about your exchange declaration

specifically should be sent to UCD Global  
([outgoing.erasmus@ucd.ie](mailto:outgoing.erasmus@ucd.ie)/[outgoing.exchanges@ucd.ie](mailto:outgoing.exchanges@ucd.ie))

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Q: When do we need to make a final decision about what option we choose?

A. You received a survey on 26 June where you can indicate what option you are considering at this stage. You will not be required to make a final decision until later in the summer.

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Q. I still have questions about my options and I would like to talk them through with someone, what should I do?

A. Please email [outgoing.artshumanities@ucd.ie](mailto:outgoing.artshumanities@ucd.ie) where we will assist you and can set up a meeting with you if you would like to chat to someone.