



University College Dublin
Ireland's Global University

Empowering UCD students to participate on a semester abroad

Lisa Kehoe & Emma Hamilton

Global Week 2018



UCD International

Recruitment & Admissions
Global Relations & Partnerships
Study Abroad
UCD Volunteer Overseas
Operations and Communications



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Reasons to study abroad

We asked the question on why students should study abroad. The word cloud on the next slide shows the responses submitted. This is an excellent overview of the reasons, and are good to share with students to ensure they are aware of the many great benefits to having this abroad experience. In general, we believe the experience gives the students a unique insight into a different culture, gives them independence, resilience, an opportunity to learn/master a new language, and develops them personally. All in all, contributing to their employability upon graduation.



Reasons to study abroad



Student Experience

Student Chris Foley (Psychology) spent a year at the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2016-2017, and shared his experience with us – reflecting on:

- **UCD's role in exchange experience** – UCD International's Talks, but especially those from the coordinator within the school were valuable. She really encouraged students to go, and provided clarity on the academic requirements. Making it all seem less daunting and exciting to students.
- **Application Process** - the academic end of it was as straightforward and simple as the faculty make it! Having support from both UCD and the Partner University in this process was very helpful.
- **Benefits of Exchange** – Students will actually gain more than just memories from an academic exchange – the experience provides so many opportunities; in the shape of job and work opportunities, but mainly in gaining skills: Language, Networking, and Independence. It's also an opportunity to develop your interests and come home with a clearer career path in mind.



Alumni Experience

UCD Alumn Emer Beesley went on Erasmus Exchange in 1992-1993, to Université Lumière Lyon 2, and graduated from her degree in French and Philosophy in 1994. Since then she worked in a variety of marketing roles, in advertising and media in, Paris, Brussels and Dublin . She is now back at UCD again, working as Marketing and Communications Manager at the College of Arts & Humanities.

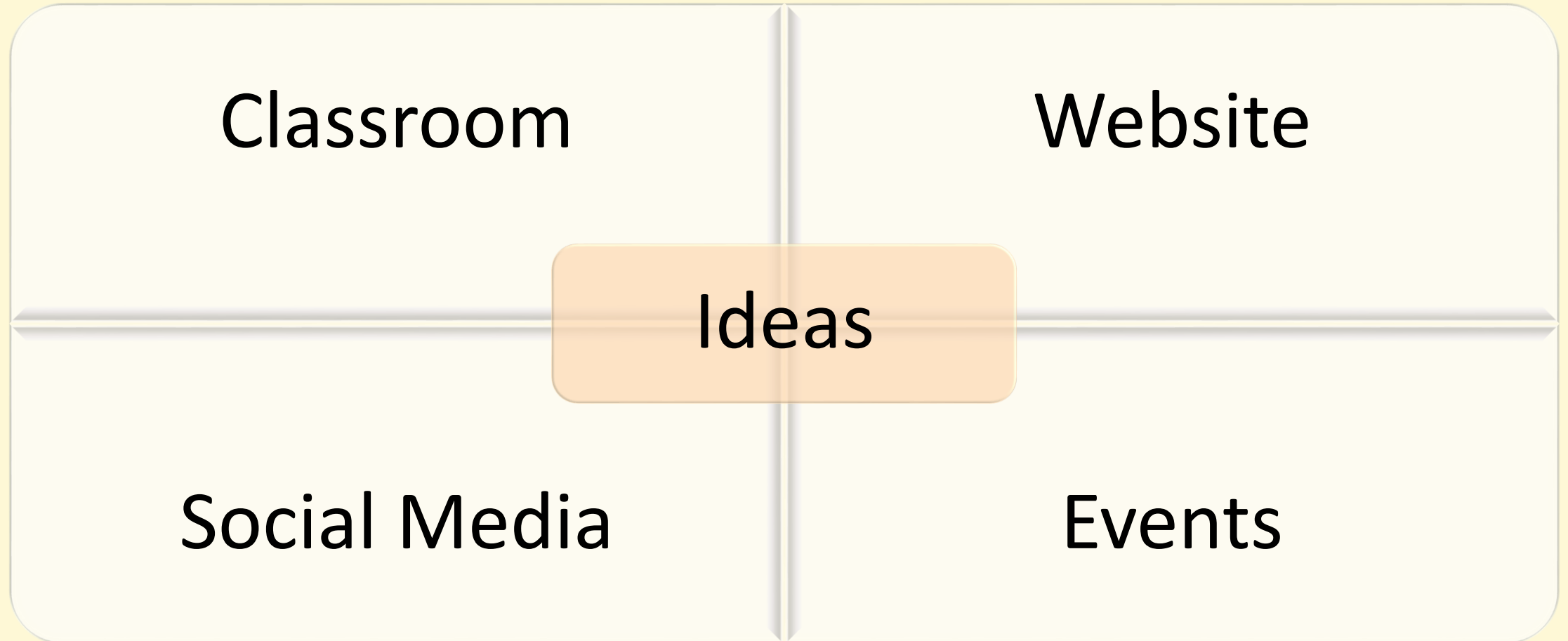
She reflected on many good memories of her time in France, and share some tips on embracing the experience – and how it gave her new perspectives. Emer also shared some insights in how the College of Arts & Humanities encourage students to go on exchange, by e.g. already presenting the option to study abroad to prospective students, and having student profiles of students who went abroad on their website.



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What could you do in your College and School to encourage students to go on exchange?



Outcome of Discussions

Several ideas were discussed in small groups, and shared during the session. Some of these ideas are ones that are for UCD International to take on, while others would be important for the Colleges and Schools to consider. On the next few slides we share (some of) the ideas.



- **Host Language & Exchange Café's**, where returned, prospective, and incoming students can network with one another, learn a language from each other, or just hear what it's like to be on exchange. This should already be open for year 1 students – to get them excited from the very first moment.
- **Actively share the students' experiences**, through posting testimonials online, having them do Social Media Take Overs, and bringing them in for talks in schools.
- **Academic Advocacy** – Heads of Colleges and Schools as well as Academic Coordinators are to advocate to peer lectures (and students!) how valuable an period abroad is for the students. This can be through regular meetings, but also through video testimonials, and actively encouraging peers to visit partner institutions while abroad.
- **Hosting Intercultural Awareness workshops** in class from year 1 onwards, makes the students aware of being in an intercultural environment – and how meaningful it can be. Going on an exchange will be a next step they can look into.
- **Follow UCD International on Social Media**, and share updates on e.g. Information Talks, Experiences, etc. on the School & College Social Media channels.



- **Faculty Briefing Sessions** by UCD International at the start of the academic year, to give an overview of what will happen in the coming months – and what will be expected of the Colleges and Schools.
- Host **Information Talks** within Schools and invite returned students to share their personal experience. Highlight the academic requirements, and stress that exchange would not necessarily always be a more expensive option (e.g. through scholarships (Erasmus+ Grant), and just general cheaper cost of living than in Dublin). Enable the students to go, make information on the options readily available, and support them in their decision. Making it sound easy for the students to go, is key.
- When **partner institutions visit** UCD, have them host an information talk for students. Hearing what it's like to study somewhere is always best heard from someone first hand!
- Invest in **relationships with partner institutions**. Get to know counterparts in relevant academic departments, so it's easy to reach out in case of questions.



Timeline 2018-2019

A detailed overview of events and deadlines for students going on exchange in 2019-2020 will be developed over summer.

The general timeline will be as follows:

October-December	end of January	end of February	February-April
Promotion & Marketing	Application Deadline (Outside Europe & Open Places)	Application Deadline (Inside Europe)	Nomination & Application Period

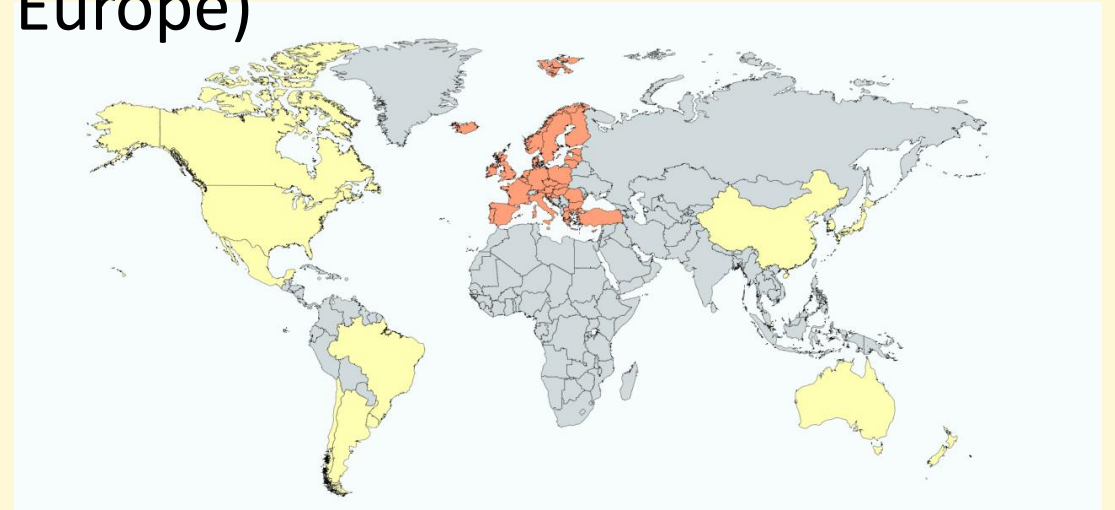


Questions or Suggestions?

Feel free to reach out to us!

[Emma Hamilton](#) – Erasmus+ (inside Europe)

[Lisa Kehoe](#) – outside of Europe



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