



UCD BSc Social Sciences (BHSOC010): Outgoing Erasmus and Exchange FAQs

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What is the difference between Erasmus and Non-EU Exchange?

The Erasmus Programme provides students with an opportunity to study in a different country within the European Union. Erasmus exchanges are generally subject-specific with a grant available for your time abroad.

Non-EU Exchange provides students with an opportunity to study outside of the EU, across destinations in Asia, North America, South America, and Australia.

Where can I go?

UCD has both Erasmus and Non-EU exchange agreements with leading universities in Europe and outside Europe. These are either subject-specific or college/university-wide agreements. Where exactly you can go is dependent on the combination of subjects you study.

Please refer to [Outgoing Erasmus and Exchange Programmes on BSc Social Sciences](#).

When can I go abroad?

You can go abroad in stage 3 of your degree for one trimester or the full academic year, depending on your subject pathway (and subject availability). BSc Social Sciences students studying EMS, PPE and CSS can only apply to go on exchange for one trimester. Consult [our website](#) for more information.

Do I have to pay fees?

Students on exchange pay their usual student contribution fees to UCD. Students are not required to pay tuition fees at the host university, although there may be an administrative fee for registration, or student services charges. All other expenses such as travel, accommodation, health insurance and general living costs are the student's own responsibility.

How much does it cost to go on exchange?

The cost of going on exchange can vary enormously from country to country depending on how long you plan on being overseas. Many University websites outline the estimated monthly Cost of Living for exchange students. Students are strongly encouraged to look up these costs when deciding which Universities to apply for. Information about the cost of living and other expenses will be provided at information sessions, so please attend those sessions to get detailed information on your destinations of interest.



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Is there a grant for Erasmus?

UCD students who are selected to go on an exchange to an Erasmus partner institution may apply for an Erasmus+ grant. There are eligibility criteria, but in general, almost all students qualify for the grant. When you have been selected for an exchange place to one of the Erasmus partners, you will automatically receive more information from UCD Global about the application procedure. You will receive this information approximately three months before departure.

To avail of funding, the student must complete an exchange of at least 3 months. A student is entitled to a maximum of 12 months' funding at each cycle of their studies.

The grant amount varies depending on where you are going and for how long. The exact amount of the Erasmus grant is not set until the academic year in which the exchange takes place. The grant is based on a monthly amount.

Additional funding may be available for upper-level SUSI grantees as well as HEAR students. Students who have been selected for an exchange destination within Europe will automatically receive more details about applying for the grant. This information will be sent approximately three months *before departure*.

The grant is paid by electronic transfer to your bank account after your arrival at your host university, if you have completed the necessary steps of the application process. UCD Global will guide you through the Erasmus grant process. Any queries in relation to this should be directed to UCD Global at outgoing.erasmus@ucd.ie.

Is there a grant for non-EU exchanges?

There is no specific grant for students going on exchange outside of Europe, however there are some options.

Scholarships are available to undergraduate students going on exchange to some Universitas 21 (www.universitas21.com) partner institutions. The U21 partners are selected each year and will be advertised during promotion. Some partner universities in Asia offer other scholarships which students can apply for e.g., DUO Scholarship in Korea, JASSO scholarship in Japan.

When and where can I attend information sessions?

Exchange talks and information sessions are organized by UCD Social Sciences and UCD Global throughout the first trimester of Stage 2 of your programme (October - November).

Stage 2 students will be notified of the events offered by UCD Social Sciences once the details have been confirmed.

Also, keep an eye on UCD Global's schedule of events which will be published on their [website](#) once available (make sure you go along to the ones that are relevant to you). The dates of the info sessions will also be emailed to all students.



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Do I need to speak a second language to go abroad?

Generally speaking, you do **not** need a second language to study abroad. Many universities in Europe and worldwide offer courses taught through English. However, we strongly advise you to start studying the host country's language before you depart, and to continue studying it once you are there. The better your language skills, the more you will get out of living there.

If you do not speak the language of the country where your selected university is located, please check the course catalogue of the university to see if any classes are offered through English for your subject and the duration of exchange, and [this document](#) offers more information on courses offered in English in Erasmus partner universities.

Language requirement and subject selection

It is important that you research the language requirements for any institution that you wish to apply to. As the exchange programme is very competitive and you may not be offered your top preference, you are encouraged to research at least a few options - which you can then include in your application.

It will be your responsibility to ensure that you check in advance the course catalogue on a host university website to see if there are sufficient subjects/modules offered through English.

You don't need to select modules before you apply but you must check their suitability in advance so you are fully aware of subjects' choices should you be nominated to that institution. Your [Academic/ Erasmus exchange Coordinator](#) will be able to advise you if you have a specific question on particular subjects offered in host university.

For more information on requirements please check the [UCD Global website](#).

Do I need a visa?

Whether or not you need a visa depends on where you are studying abroad. If you are an EU citizen, you will not require a visa if you travel to another EU member state. However, you may be required to register as a resident with the local authorities.

If you are going on an exchange outside of the EU, you will need to apply for a student visa in your host country. You are advised to apply for your visa as soon as you receive the relevant documentation from your host university.

How do I know if I am eligible to apply?

There are minimum GPA eligibility criteria requirements. The eligibility criteria can be found on [our website](#).

When do I apply?

For students applying to go abroad the application system will be open from November until January (as per the dates confirmed by UCD Global). Information sessions and drop-in office hours will be held in advance of this to provide further guidance.



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How do I apply?

You will be emailed when the application system is open with instructions on how to apply. Make sure you have noted and met the relevant deadline for application which can be found on the form.

What tips do students who have studied abroad have on the application process?

TOP TIPS:

- Research Partner Universities of interest and Attend Exchange Talks.
- Find information about universities that interest you via their website. Search for relevant information from incoming exchange students.
- Speak to Peer Exchange Advisors who have studied or are currently studying at your Host University of interest.
- Attend the Exchange information sessions or watch the pre-recorded information sessions held by UCD Global. Consult the schedule and make sure to go to the ones relevant to you.
- Complete the Digipass module on Brightspace

What happens after I submit my application?

The applications made by Social Sciences students are checked by UCD Global and reviewed by the relevant programme and academic staff. You will be notified in Spring to confirm if you have been successful with your exchange application

Can I apply to go on exchange and apply to do an internship?

If your subject combination allows semester-long Erasmus/Exchange and Internship, you can apply to do both in stage 3.

In this scenario if you are due to go on internship one trimester and exchange in the other, you only need to study one of your subjects (if on a two-subject combination) for trimester you spend on exchange.

What happens if I don't get a place in my preferred partner university?

If you are eligible to study abroad but are not offered one of your preferred destinations (listed in your application), you may be offered an alternative destination to study abroad. Therefore, it is important that you list other destinations. You can include several choices in your application.

Can I split my time studying abroad between two different locations/universities?

No, students should stay with the same partner university for the duration of their time abroad.



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I have been nominated to go on exchange, do I have to pass all my modules to be eligible to go?

You will need to have completed 60 credits at Stage 1 including all core modules, and at least 50 credits in Stage 2, to be eligible to take your Exchange or Erasmus place.

Note: It is strongly advised that any student who does not pass all stage 2 modules, does not take up an opportunity to study abroad for a full year as it will be very difficult to remediate your outstanding modules and successfully complete stage 4 on your return. Should you wish to discuss this further, please contact the Social Sciences office.

What happens if I don't like it and want to come home?

It is quite normal for students to take some time to adjust to their new city, university, and life as an exchange student. It is always best to share any concerns you may have. Firstly, we would advise you to contact the coordinator at the host institution, then also make contact with the Social Sciences Exchange Programme Manager at outgoing.socialsciences@ucd.ie.

Can I work while I am on exchange?

Depending on your visa type, you may be able to work when you are on exchange. Part-time work while studying abroad can be a good way to improve your language skills while also meeting new people. However, it may be difficult to balance a part-time job, your studies, and still gaining the most out of your exchange experience. Therefore, it is not advised to rely on part-time work to fund your exchange period.

What will my course load be like when I study abroad?

Your course load will depend on how many classes you need to take to satisfy UCD's credit requirements as well as the usual course load at your exchange university. Course loads vary from university to university and from country to country. To meet UCD's credit requirements, students on a full year exchange must pass a minimum of 45ECTS or non-EU courseload equivalent and trimester exchange students must pass a minimum of 20 ECTS or non-EU courseload equivalent bprogress on their return. Students are advised to register to 30 ECTs or courseload equivalent while on exchange, per term.

Do my grades count for my graduating GPA?

Your Study Abroad period is GPA neutral. The results of your period studying abroad are, however, recorded on an official transcript from your Host University and will be sent to the Social Sciences Programme Examination Board.

Details on how your GPA will be calculated following successful completion of a trimester or a year abroad is available on your [programme website page](#).

Should I take an extra module abroad to guarantee I pass my year abroad?

It is advised that you register to 60 ECTS credits while abroad for a year and 30 ECTs credits when abroad for a trimester as the academic standard of the university or the style of exams may be different.



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from what you are used to at UCD. Students going abroad to non-European destinations will need to take the full course workload required as ECTS credits system is not in place.

Can I change courses or drop credits while abroad?

Changes to learning agreements must first be discussed with your UCD academic exchange coordinator and agreed to by your host coordinator.

What is the pass rate while I'm abroad?

The pass rate **may differ from the 40% pass rate in UCD**, in some European universities it can be as high as 55%. It is essential that you familiarize yourself with the grading system of the Host University.

What happens if I fail an exam abroad?

Students are expected to maintain good academic standing while on exchange and should aim to remediate any failing grades before returning home (when offered).

Students who have not fully completed the academic requirements of their time abroad as determined by UCD will be expected to remediate at the host university in the first instance. They may also avail of an opportunity to remediate at UCD if this is not possible.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that an official transcript of your final results is returned to UCD. Any delays in receiving these documents following your time abroad may delay advice on an appropriate remediation process.

Do I need to stay in contact with UCD while I'm away?

Students should check their UCD email regularly during their time abroad and remember they are still considered full-time UCD students. Once abroad, students can contact the Social Sciences Exchange Programme Manager at outgoing.socialsciences@ucd.ie with any queries.

Resources

[Cost of Living \(numbeo.com\)](https://numbeo.com)*

[Differences of Academic Calendars throughout Europe](#)

[UCD Non-EU Exchange Credit Conversion Guide](#)

[UCD Social Sciences Exchange Website](#)

[UCD Student Exchange FAQs webpage](#)

*Not an endorsement and merely for reference purposes

-Last updated on 26th November 2025