



# 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 Australasia.

## Where can I go?

UCD has both Erasmus and Non-EU exchange agreements with leading universities throughout Europe, the United States of America and Asia. These are either specific or general agreements with spaces available for application from Social Sciences students. 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 the BSc Social Sciences for one trimester or one full academic year, depending on your field of study. Consult [Outgoing Erasmus and Exchange Programmes on BSc Social Sciences](#) for further details.

## How long can I study abroad for?

Students can spend either one trimester or one full academic year abroad during Stage 3, depending on Programme requirements. Check our [website](#) or our Student Exchange Handbook for how long you can go on exchange specific to your studies.

## 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 and 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 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, in 2019/20 this was roughly €250.

The grant is paid by electronic transfer to your bank account after your arrival at your host university, as long as 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](mailto: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.

Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility is a European Union-funded programme that supports the mobility of students between Europe and the rest of the world. For further information, please contact the Erasmus+ ICM team by email: [erasmusicm@ucd.ie](mailto:erasmusicm@ucd.ie)

Universitas 21 is an international network of universities that collaborate together. For the 2020 - 21 academic year, UCD students on exchange at a Universitas 21 partner universities in Asia or Latin America will receive a small scholarship from UCD Global, provided they do not receive a scholarship from another source.

Within Asia there are country specific scholarships. UCD Global will alert eligible students of the scholarships that are available via your ucdconnect email and the partner universities in Asia will share relevant information.

## When and where can I attend information sessions?

Exchange talks and information sessions are organised 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?

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.

For more information on what universities are available to you, visit [Outgoing Erasmus and Exchange Programmes on BSc Social Sciences](#).

## 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 check 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 is dependent 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 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.

Further information on the student visa application process for your host country is available in the Student Exchange Handbook.

## How do I know if I am eligible to apply?

There are minimum GPA and subject score requirements within the BSc Social Sciences programme. The eligibility is listed under your degree, linked from the website page [Outgoing Erasmus and Exchange Programmes on BSc Social Sciences](#).

## When do I apply?

For students applying to go abroad in 2022/23, the application system will be open from early November 2021 - mid January 2022 (exact dates to be confirmed by UCD Global). An information session will be held in advance of this to provide further advice on the application process.



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## How do I apply?

You will be emailed when the application system is open and sent full details of how to apply. Making 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 tip from students: 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 Exchange information sessions during Trimester 1 of Stage 2 (September - November). Consult the schedule and make sure to go to the ones relevant to you.

## What happens after I submit my application?

The applications made by Social Sciences students are reviewed by relevant programme and academic staff. You will be notified in Spring to confirm if you have been nominated to one of your chosen partner university destinations. **If you have been successfully nominated, the next step is to complete your host university's application by their deadline.** Consult the Erasmus or exchange website of your host university for application instructions and deadlines.

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

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

If you are studying with a two subject combination (eg. Joint Major in Politics & Economics, or Major with a minor) and are doing both an internship and studying abroad, you will be required to study **both** of your subjects while abroad.

## 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 up to 10 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](mailto: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 equivalent to progress on their return. Trimester exchange students should take a minimum of 20 ECTS or equivalent to progress on their return. For Outside of Europe destinations ECTS credit does not apply and you will need to complete the minimum workload required per institution, which will be shared with you.

## 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 take 60 credits while abroad for a year and 30 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 a 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 coordinator and agreed 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 familiarise 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.

Students who have not fully completed the academic requirements of their time abroad as determined by UCD will be expected to remediate their academic shortfall. Depending on the shortfall and circumstances, students may be required to take further action, the exact remediation process will be determined by the Programme Examination Board. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that an official transcript of your final results are returned to UCD. Any delays in receiving these documents following your time abroad may delay this advice on an appropriate remediation process. Further details on this can be found in the Student Exchange Handbook.

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

Students should check their UCD email regularly during their time abroad. Once abroad, students can contact the Social Sciences Exchange Programme Manager at [outgoing.socialsciences@ucd.ie](mailto:outgoing.socialsciences@ucd.ie) with any queries.