



International student exchange

31.1.2013

- ✚ Common principles
- ✚ Arrangements
- ✚ **Erasmus**-places
- ✚ Other programmes
- ✚ Timetables
- ✚ Applying and what after that
- ✚ Grants
- ✚ International exchange services
- ✚ Additional information
- ✚ Why leave, why not ?

1



Common principles

- ✚ starting from the second year at university
 - ▣ Need to have at least 60 credits
- ✚ Demands longterm planning
 - ▣ application ... (months) ... leaving
 - ▣ financing
 - ▣ language skills (before!)
 - ▣ commitment (cancellations not so nice)
- ✚ Duration 3-12 months (the exchange agreements have limitations),
in practice one or two semesters

2



Common principles -2

- ✚ Places
 - ❑ The Nordic countries (Nordplus, Nordlys)
 - ❑ In Europe (**Erasmus**)
 - ❑ elsewhere (ISEP, bilateral agreements, MAUI etc.)
- ✚ **Erasmus exchange:** department, others: international exchange services
- ✚ Different kinds of application times, often only once a year
 - ❑ In 2013, **Erasmus application period is 1.2. – 25.2.**
- ✚ Planning of studies: major or minor subject studies (might be limitations)
 - ❑ obligatory, optional, language studies
- ✚ Erasmus exchange once in a lifetime

3



Common principles - 3

- ✚ Use of local language?
 - ❑ There is NOT always teaching in English!
 - ❑ It is always good to know the basics of the local language
 - ❑ Certificate of language skills can be required (depends on the receiving university)
 - ❑ Language training usually offered by the receiving university
- ✚ Time of semesters varies
- ✚ Right to minor-subject studies varies
- ✚ You must study, not just learn the culture
 - ❑ If not enough credits earned (20 cr. per semester), you may need to pay back part or all of the travelling grant

4



Why leave?

(source: HS newspaper – education supplement, January 2006 – 1st-year students in Helsinki and Tampere)

■ for experience	96 %
■ to learn language	91 %
■ to learn multiculturalism	91 %
■ to improve chances of getting work	79 %
■ to tie new contacts	72 %
■ to get out of Finland	33 %
■ for teaching not available in Finland	25 %
■ for a better standard of teaching	16 %
■ other reasons	9 %

5



Arrangements

⊕ **Think**

- suitable time for your studies
- suitable university

⊕ **Make** study plan

- courses you need for your degree
 - major subject, minor subject, others?
- not overlapping (=> recognition of credits)

⊕ **Study the language** of the host country – start now!

⊕ **Arrange** funding (and other practical things)

- Study grants, summer job etc.

6



Erasmus-programme

- ✦ Based on an agreement between the **sending** and the **receiving** department/university

The department of computer science has altogether 22 partner universities, in the following cities:

- ✦ Spain: Barcelona, Madrid, Valencia
- ✦ Italy: Pisa, **Padova**, Turin, **Bolzano**
- ✦ Austria: **Graz**
- ✦ France: Caen, **Lyon** (?)
- ✦ Germany: Berlin, Bielefeld, Darmstadt, Hanover, Lubeck, Frankfurt, Munich, **Paderborn**
- ✦ Hungary: Budapest
- ✦ UK: **Bath**
- ✦ Estonia: **Tallinn**
- ✦ Czech Rep.: Prague

Teaching in
English
(at least some)

7



Applying for Erasmus Exchange

- ✦ There are three parties involved
 - ✦ The **sending** university/department (=UH)
 - ✦ The **receiving** university/department
 - ✦ **You**
- ✦ Both the *sending* and the *receiving* university must accept the applicant
- ✦ You must be satisfied with the offering at the receiving university

8



The application process

- ✦ There are two phases in the process
 1. You must first apply to be *nominated by the department* as an Erasmus exchange candidate to the receiving university
 2. If you are nominated, you then need to submit a *second application* to the receiving university

9



Application I (For nomination by the department)

- ✦ **in February: 1-25.2.2013**
 - ✦ Application portal for students
MobiltySearchServlet:
<https://kvl.it.helsinki.fi/mobility/MobilitySearchServlet?sprache=en&identifier=helsinki01>
 - ✦ A motivation letter stating the reasons for wanting to go (in Finnish or in English)
 - ✦ Transcript from study register (unofficial)
 - ✦ Study plan (as exact as possible, not necessarily final)
- ✦ Application delivered on paper with annexes to Antti-Pekka Tuovinen by the dead-line

10



Application I contd.

- ✚ The department selects the nominees in March
 - ▣ Study progress (amount and level)
 - ▣ necessary language skills (language of target country, English)
 - ▣ study plan
 - ▣ other reasons (to do with degree programme)

11



Application II

- ✚ After you have been nominated, you can submit the *second application* to the receiving university
 - ▣ Following their requirements and process
 - ▣ Each university has their own schedules and deadlines for the applications

12



ERASMUS exchange university timetables

(examples! Please check the dates from the university)

	Application deadline	Semesters (~)
Spain	31.5. / 31.10.	Sept – Jan, Feb – June
Graz	15.6. / 15.11.	Oct - Feb, Feb - June
Lyon	1.5./30.10.	Sept – Feb, Feb - June
Berlin	1.7/1.1	Oct – Feb, April - July
Paderborn	30.6. / 31.1.	Oct – Feb, April - July
Munich	31.5 /31.10.	Oct – Feb, April – July
Pisa		Oct – Dec, Feb – May
Tallinn	1.6/1.11	Sept – Jan, Feb – June

13



After you have been accepted

- ✚ International services sends information package to elected students
 - 📅 in addition, travelling orientation in summer, December
- ✚ Grant application (international services)

+ more, details in info package from int. service

Important: take care of the schedule yourself!

14



Funding – Travel grant amounts

Erasmus exchange

3 months	1000 €
4-6 months	1200 €
7-10 months	2000 €
11-12 months	2400 €

- finding housing is generally assisted (paid by student)

This is a **lump sum** paid once, not a monthly allowance!

15



Funding contd.

- ⊕ In exchange programs, you do not need to pay tuition fees at the receiving university
- ⊕ You may use the government paid financial aid for studying abroad (e.g. Study Grant)
 - ▣ See pages of KELA for more information
- ⊕ The receiving university often assists in finding housing
 - ▣ They may offer student quarters at campus, for example

16



International student services

1/4

- ✚ information in Flamma:
 - Opiskelijalle
 - **Opiskelu ja harjoittelu ulkomailla**
 - Students
 - **Exchange opportunities and training abroad**
- ✚ Some information still in Alma (in Finnish):
 - ▣ Opintopalvelut ja kansainväliset asiat -> Opiskelu ulkomailla

17



International student services

2/4

- ✚ information meetings for those elected for an exchange programme
- ✚ guide for exchange students
- ✚ travel orientations:
 - ▣ contents of orientation:
 1. Arrangements before leaving
 2. Settling down in the exchange target: bureaucracy, studying, and everyday life
 3. Presentation of countries + former exchange students' presentations
 4. Sources for additional information
 5. Returning to your home university

18



International student services

3/4

- ✚ Each exchange student receives an information package by post:
 - ▣ a guiding letter
 - ▣ a grant application form
 - ▣ the elemental book for Erasmus students
 - ▣ the form Letter of Confirmation for an Incoming Erasmus Exchange Student
 - ▣ bulletin on study grants for studying abroad
 - ▣ a guidebook with practical instructions for exchange students
 - ▣ **invitation to orientation event**

19



International student services

4/4

- ✚ Erasmus Intensive Language Courses applications in May and October (courses in target country)
- ✚ Student Exchange Certificate
 - ▣ exchange target, exchange period, and amount of grant
- ✚ notifying study grants office about exchange period
- ✚ granting and paying out of exchange grants

20



More details

- ✚ Some feedback from former exchange students (in Finnish) in Alma: ... Opiskelu ulkomailla -> Vaihtopalauteet ja maakohtaiset kertomukset
- ✚ CIMO: <http://www.maailmalle.net>
 - ▣ country guides
 - ▣ student histories
- ✚ ulkomaillaopiskelu@helsinki.fi (UH, int. services)
- ✚ Inquiries about Erasmus positions to the department: antti-pekka.tuovinen@cs.helsinki.fi
 - ▣ <http://www.cs.helsinki.fi/opiskelu/kansainv-linen-opiskelijavaihto-ja-ty-harjoittelu>
 - ▣ <http://www.cs.helsinki.fi/en/studies/international-student-exchange-and-traineeships>