

## Erasmus information for B.Ed students taking at least one Modern Language

### Overview Stage 3/Third Year

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All B.Ed students taking either Irish and a Modern Language, or taking two Modern Languages, go abroad on Erasmus exchange in the Spring semester of Stage 3. All students must have passed all core language modules before going on exchange (Ia, Ib, IIa and IIb) and all 60 credits at Stages 1 and 2. All students taking two Modern Languages (Strand 1) will also undertake a self-financed month-long work placement in their second language.

Students taking Irish and a Modern Language (Strand 3) will spend the Autumn semester in the Gaeltacht (30 credits), while those taking two Modern Languages will spend the Autumn semester at UCD, taking cultural modules in their languages (10 in their first language [language of Erasmus exchange], 20 in their second language).

If you started a language as a Beginner, you are going to that country on Erasmus. Please note that it is your responsibility to have taken and passed 60 credits (12 x 5 credit modules) in your Modern Languages by the end of your degree, in order to fulfil Teaching Council requirements.

### Application process and UCD Global Talks

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<https://www.ucd.ie/global/learningabroad/exchanges/outboundexchange-students/how/>

See useful FAQs are on the Global website: <https://www.ucd.ie/global/faqs/>

### Erasmus partners, semester dates, Erasmus grant

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The Erasmus exchange takes place at different partners in Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and Latin America (although we do not recommend Latin America for one semester). The Semester dates differ, depending on the university and country, but broadly speaking, the below holds true:

End January/start February to May (France, Italy, Portugal, Spain) March/April to July/August (Austria, Germany)
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The full list of Erasmus partners for your languages is at:

<https://www.ucd.ie/global/t4media/Languages,%20Linguistics%20&%20Cultures%20Erasmus%20Options.pdf>

During the Spring semester of Stage 3 you will continue to pay UCD tuition fees. You will not have to pay a tuition fee at the Erasmus partner, but you may have to pay some administration costs. You will receive an Erasmus+ Grant (ca. €330 per calendar month, usually paid in 2 installments) depending on the destination. Some countries offer some other/additional form of financial assistance. Additional funding may be available for SUSI grantees and HEAR

students. The Erasmus talks offered by Global will provide more information, and there is lots on their website.

It is often a good idea to pick a smaller university / smaller town for your Erasmus semester, as accommodation will be cheaper and there will be fewer English speakers. Each partner only has a fixed number of places, so you will have to give a number of options. It is also a good idea NOT to go with a friend, as you will have a better chance of meeting other students if you are not in a ready-made group from UCD!

### **Work placement in Spring/Summer of Stage 3 for students taking two Modern Languages**

Those students taking two Modern Languages will do the month-long, self-financed work placement in an educational institution (primary, second or tertiary) either before or after the Erasmus exchange in the other language (i.e. the placement will usually be in January or July, but will be in January/February/March for those going to a German-speaking partner). We are sourcing employers for the work placement, but students should budget for the month-long placement (ca. 1,500-2,000 Euros for travel, accommodation and living expenses).

### **Modules and Credits during the Erasmus Semester**

You will take a total of 30 credits.

- 10 of these are for 2 x online Education modules
- 15 are for modules taught and assessed in the target language at the Erasmus partner
- 5 are for an online reflection module run by the School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics (for students taking Irish and a Modern Language) OR 5 for the month-long work placement before or after the Erasmus exchanges (for students taking two Modern Languages).

Modules taught and assessed through English at the Erasmus partner will not be accredited by the Teaching Council of Ireland.

For the 15 credits at the Erasmus partner, you must take and pass at least 2 cultural modules and 1 language module (level B2 or higher). There may also be a pre-semester language module. As a safety-blanket, you should choose 4 modules in total, in case one proves harder than the others and you do not pass it. Also, some modules will only carry 3 credits, while others will carry more. You will have to run your module choices at the partner university by Dr Siobhán Donovan before you complete the learning agreement. You will also have to copy and paste in the module descriptors and modes of assessment and save them as separate files (for the Teaching Council).

### **GPA Weightings for your degree**

Stage 2: 20%

Stage 3: 30% (applies to the 30 credits taken in Autumn, and the 15 credits taken for the online UCD modules in Spring; the 15 credits taken at the Erasmus partner are GPA neutral)

Stage 4: 50%

**Questions to...**

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