International student exchange
18.2.2010

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Life-Long Learning Programme

Erasmus is part of the LLP

Erasmus-programme

http://fi.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erasmus_Rotterdaminainen
Common principles

- starting from the second year at university
- Demands longterm planning
  - application ... (months) ... leaving
  - financing
  - language skills (before!)
  - commitment (cancellations not so nice)

- Duration 3-12 months (agreement has limitations), in practice one or two semesters
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

Planning of studies: major or minor subject studies (might be limitations)
- obligatory, optional, language studies

Erasmus exchange once in a lifetime
**Common principles - 3**

- Use local language
  - There is NOT always teaching in English!
  - Certificate of language skills can be required
- time of semesters varies
- Right to minor-subject studies varies
- You should/must study,
  not only for travelling ...
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 %
**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 (\(\Rightarrow\) recognition of credits)
- **Study the language** of the host country - at the latest now immediately!
- **Arrange** funding (and other practical things)
  - Study grants, summer job etc.
Erasmus-programme

There should be an agreement between sending and receiving department/university

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

- Spain: Barcelona, Madrid, Valencia, Las Palmas
- Italy: Pisa
- Austria: Graz
- France: Caen, Lyon
- Germany: Berlin, Bielefeld, Darmstadt, Hanover, Lubeck, Munich, Paderborn
- Hungary: Budapest
- Estonia: Tallinn
The Nordic countries

- The department does not have a Nordplus network

- Freemover exchange (Nordlys) possible,
  Time to apply ~ January
**Other options**

- exchange agreement of the University of Helsinki
- general applications to various parts of the world ISEP, MAUI, ... 
- time to apply 
  (generally in January, even in November), Freemover without deadline

NB! There is no difference in recognition, whether you are in an exchange programme or not, but in a programme
  - it is usually easier to get in 
  - different kinds of grants 
  - support from department and international services of UH
Application (Erasmus positions of the department)

in March: 8-26.3.2010

- The exchange website of the department (Finnish): http://www.cs.helsinki.fi/instr.engl/vaihto/
- Application portal for students MobiltySearchServlet: https://kvl.it.helsinki.fi/mobility/MobilitySearchServlet?sprache=en&identifier=helsinki01
- Reasons for wanting to go, transcript from study register
- Study plan (as exact as possible, not necessarily final)
- CV in language of target country and English
- Personal meeting (Erasmus liaison)
Application (Erasmus positions of the department) contd.

- The department decides in April
- Actual application to target university (sent by the department!)

  Varying schedules:
  May-June for the whole academic year or autumn semester,
  October-December for the spring semester (sometimes earlier)
## ERASMUS exchange university timetables

*(examples!)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Application deadline</th>
<th>Semesters (～)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>31.5. / 31.10.</td>
<td>Sept – Jan, Feb – June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graz</td>
<td>15.6. / 15.11.</td>
<td>Oct - Feb, Feb - June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyon</td>
<td>1.5./30.10.</td>
<td>Sept – Feb, Feb - June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td>1.7/1.1</td>
<td>Oct – Feb, April - July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paderborn</td>
<td>30.6. / 31.1.</td>
<td>Oct – Feb, April - July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pisa</td>
<td>1.6/1.11</td>
<td>Oct – Dec, Feb – May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tallinn</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sept – Jan, Feb – June</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
After the application of the department (only for those chosen by the dept.)

- detailing of application material and sending to target university
  - actual application form (paper or web)
  - learning agreement (compulsory), possibly language certificate
  - housing form (if required)
  - possibly special language courses
- 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!
Selection criteria

- study progress (amount and level)
- necessary language skills (language of target country, English)
- study plan
- other reasons (to do with degree programme)

(more on the criteria on the int. services website, to be followed when applicable)


**Grant amounts**

(in academic year 2009-2010; 2010-2011 not yet known)

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)

Freemover travel grant 200 € (Europe, Russia) or 400 € (other countries)
International student services 1/4

information in Alma (in Finnish):
Opiskelu, tuet ja palvelut
→ Opintopalvelut ja kansainväliset asiat
→ Opiskelu ulkomailla
International student services

- 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
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
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
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: paivi.kuuppelomaki@cs.helsinki.fi

- http://www.moveonnet.eu (Search for institutions)
  Information on Erasmus universities (not much so far)
Reasons not to go

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

- family or friends: 69%
- in a hurry to graduate: 42%
- too complicated: 31%
- not interested: 28%
- not financially possible: 28%
- I do not want to leave Finland: 28%
- no language skills: 21%
- hobbies: 20%
- not useful for finding work: 9%
- studies abroad are not credited well enough: 8%
- work: 6%
- other reasons: 13%