

Study Abroad for LyIT Students

Overview

The International Office assists students in preparing for the year abroad. Students will be provided with information regarding all aspects of studying abroad:

- Choosing host university
- Applying to host university
- Applying for accommodation, language courses, orientations etc at host university
- Financial Aspects/Erasmus Grant
- Travel and health insurance
- Registration
- Approval of courses/examinations

The International Office will be your point of contact during your studies at LyIT but most importantly during your period abroad.

How Do I Apply?

Students who are interested in studying abroad as part of their studies at LyIT should follow the following steps:

- Look at the list of partner universities available under the subject(s) that you are currently studying
- Check what courses are offered by the university
- Speak with the relevant Academic Coordinator to get further details. The Academic Coordinator will help you to determine if the university you are interested in is suited to your own studies.

Once a suitable host university has been agreed with your Academic Coordinator, the Academic Coordinator will send your details to the International Office. The International Office will then send your nomination to the host Institution.

The host university will advise you of their application procedures (you will be required to complete separate application forms for your host university).

Deadline for Applications:

Closing date for receipt of application forms are:

- Students going abroad for semester 1/full academic year: **March**
- Students going abroad for semester 2: **October**

Any queries please contact **Peter Dobson** - email: peter.dobson@lyit.ie

Search for Erasmus+ Partner Universities

LyIT has many partner universities. Please click on the following link to search for <https://www.lyit.ie/Study-at-LYIT/International-Students/Why-choose-LYIT-/Erasmus-Partner-Institutions>

Erasmus+ Grant

All students participating in the Erasmus+ programme are entitled to apply for an Erasmus grant. The Erasmus grant is intended as a contribution to the overall cost of the year abroad, to cover the cost of living differential associated with living abroad. The grant will be calculated based on the total number of days at the host university rather than total number of months. During the academic year, students will be required to submit certificates to LyIT confirming date of arrival and date of departure.

The Erasmus grant for the 2018/2019 academic year will be as follows:

Amounts per month

Austria €230	Malta €230
Belgium €230	Netherlands €230
Czech Republic €230	Norway €280
Denmark €280	Poland €230
Finland €280	France €230
Germany €230	Spain €230
Italy €230	UK €280

For grant payments purposes, the International Office will require the student's Bank Account details. It is essential that the International Office be informed of any change in bank account details.

The Erasmus grant will be paid in four instalments as follows:

- 40% before departure
- 25% during study period
- 25% during study period
- 10% on return & after submission of Certificate of attendance, Erasmus Online Language Assessment, Online Final Report & Grant Receipt Form.

Local Authority Grant

If you are entitled to a local authority grant, this entitlement continues for the period of your stay abroad. Your local authority should be informed of your year abroad. The International Education Office will provide a supporting letter.

Students are requested to contact your relevant school to complete the necessary forms in order to receive their local authority grant whilst abroad.

Estimated Cost of Living

Living abroad as an exchange student can be expensive as the costs vary from country to country, and according to the period you spend abroad. While you are not charged for tuition at the host university, you will need to budget for flights, accommodation, food and other general expenses. Some countries are more expensive than others are, as are some cities, and the extra expenditure involved will also depend on whether you are currently living at home. If you are, you will find that accommodation will become a major cost. However, if you are already paying rent in Letterkenny, you will probably find that accommodation costs are cheaper abroad than they are in Ireland. In some countries, you may be entitled to some financial assistance towards the cost of your rent. For example, in France you may be able to get a substantial rent rebate of approximately 50% and maybe more. Your host university will have details on the procedure for applying for this.

Calculate how much money you will need and plan for higher costs at the beginning. You will probably be required to pay a month's deposit for your accommodation as well as a month's rent in advance. Extra money is also likely to be needed for a travel pass, for other deposits, student discount cards, etc. You may need to purchase extra household items if those supplied are insufficient.

You may also find the following website useful in order to learn about the average cost of living abroad: [Cost of Living](#)

Online Linguistic Support

The Online Linguistic Support portal provides participants with the opportunity to assess their knowledge of the language they will use to study abroad. In addition, selected participants may follow an online language course to improve their competence.

Online Linguistic Support explained

Erasmus+ participants can benefit from OLS in different ways. Before you set off, you can assess your language level online.

Once this has been done, Erasmus+ participants can access online materials, courses and language learning forums so that you can improve your language level. After your Erasmus+ experience, participants have the opportunity to assess the progress they made.

OLS is currently available in the following languages: **German, English, Spanish, French, Italian and Dutch**. By 2020, Erasmus+ aims to have language learning online up-and-running for all official EU languages.

Online Linguistic Assessment

The OLS language assessment provides Erasmus+ participants with an easy and simple way to assess their proficiency in the language they will mostly use to study during their mobility abroad. By taking the OLS language assessment, you will be able to determine both your overall level in the language and detailed performance in each language area (reading comprehension, listening comprehension, grammatical competence, semantic competence and lexical competence), with final scores in line with the [Common European Framework of Reference for Languages \(CEFR\)](#).

The OLS language assessment is also a quick way for participants to know whether they might need additional linguistic support, in order to make the most out of their exchange abroad.

The OLS language assessment is compulsory for all students, and taking the OLS language assessment before their departure is a pre-requisite for the exchange. However, in no case will the results of the assessment prevent you from taking part in the mobility activity. On the contrary, participants with lower language skills will have a greater chance of being offered a language course, in order to be best prepared for their mobility.

By taking the second OLS language assessment upon return from their mobility, Erasmus+ participants will have the possibility to evaluate how their language level has developed during their stay abroad and to quantify their progress. After having taken each of the OLS assessments, you will be able to save and print your language assessment results for further reference.

Online Linguistic Course

The advantages of the Erasmus+ OLS language courses can be summarized in a few words: *à la carte* exercises, where and when you want them. Thanks to unlimited access, it is possible to use the language courses both day and night, and study as much as you want at your own pace. As no installation is required, the Erasmus+ OLS language courses can be followed from any computer or tablet, if the device is connected to the Internet. To make the best possible use of the course, please make sure that your loudspeakers are turned on, or your headphones plugged in.

Each user is assigned a personalised training programme. However, you are entirely free to choose the courses you find useful and you can follow them at your own pace and in the order of your choice. Animations and videos based on real life allow you to practice your listening comprehension, reading comprehension, writing and speaking skills.

Please click on the following links to download the relevant information guides to assist you with completing the language assessment and language course:

- [OLS: Language Assessment Guide](#)
- [OLS: Language Course Guide](#)

Please click on the following link for the EU's FAQ: [Online Linguistic Support FAQ](#)

Health and Travel Insurance

All students going abroad are advised to have comprehensive health and travel insurance policy.

European Health Insurance Card

Students will need the **European Health Insurance Card**, which is obtainable from the relevant local health board. The EHIC entitles holders to full medical treatment in any European Union country, for any condition, whether or not it is of an emergency nature.

When applying for the EHIC you will need to present a letter from the International Education Office confirming your placement (this will be sent to your home address). You will also be required to provide your PPS number.

Full information on the EHIC is available on the European Health Insurance Card website:

<http://www.ehic.ie>

Private Health Insurance

It is highly recommended that you take out some form of private health insurance policy to cover you while you are studying abroad. You should not rely on the cover provided by the EHIC as this may be quite limited. Public healthcare systems vary from country to country, and few countries pay the full cost of healthcare for holders of the EHIC.

If you are covered by your parent's private health insurance plan, you should confirm the actual level of cover you will have while abroad. Make sure that you keep a record of any emergency numbers that they give you in case you have to make a claim.

Travel Insurance

Students are advised to secure **private travel cover** for the duration of the period abroad. Just because you have emergency health insurance it does not mean you will be covered for the cost of repatriation, delayed or cancelled flights, loss of luggage or money while you travel. Students should consult the web along with health insurance companies.

Important Forms for Erasmus+ Students

All students are required to return a number of forms to LyIT during the semester/year abroad.

- Certificate of Attendance
- Erasmus Online Language Assessment
- Online Final Report
- Grant Acknowledgement Form

Certificate of Attendance Form

All students studying abroad under the Erasmus+ programme are required to have the completed by your host university and returned to the International Office before you depart your host city.

Certificate of Attendance

A copy will be given to you before you depart.

Acknowledgement of Erasmus Student Mobility Grant Form

All students are required to complete and return to the International Office at the end of their study period.

Final Report

All students are required to complete an online report. An email with a link to the online report will be sent to students email address from Brussels at the end of their study period.

Erasmus Online Language Assessment

All students studying abroad through the medium of French, German, and Spanish will be required to complete the second language assessment. An email with a link to the online language assessment will be sent to your student email address at the end of the study period.

Academic Requirements

Learning Agreement/Approval of Courses

Students are required to take courses of a certain type and of a certain standard during the year abroad.

Students must complete a Learning Agreement listing the courses they wish to study at the host university. This should be done in consultation with your departmental coordinator(s). The learning agreement should be signed by the department coordinator (s) at Lyt and returned to the host University for Approval.

If you make a change to your original learning agreement (before section) then you must complete the During Section of the learning agreement.

Please click on the following link to download the Learning Agreement:

- [Erasmus+ Learning Agreement](#)

Please keep in close contact with your departmental coordinator regarding your courses when you are abroad. If you encounter any problems, it is important that you contact them immediately.

Return of Examination Results from Host Institution

Examination results from your year abroad should be submitted to the International Office as soon as they are available.

Some institutions forward transcripts to LyIT, others do not. Please ensure that you are clear about the procedure at your host institution before you return to Ireland. It is the responsibility of the student to prove that they have successfully achieved the required number of credits at their host institution.

Contact

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the Erasmus office.

Peter Dobson

Erasmus Coordinator

peter.dobson@lyit.ie

Tel: 00353 74 9186063