



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHÉ
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

BA Global Experience: Year Abroad

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Outline

- How it all works
- Student testimonials
- FAQs
- Costs and Funding
- Benefits and Challenges
- Timeline
- Questions?



University of Helsinki Library
Photo: Nicola Bugler

Students not studying a continental language

- Full Third Year Abroad
- Europe (ERASMUS)
- USA, Canada, Hong Kong
- All Subjects through English





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POSSIBLE STUDY DESTINATIONS

The College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies and its disciplines are linked – through the Erasmus Programme - with a number of partner universities in **Europe** that offer courses through English.

There are also some exchange links with universities in the **USA, Canada** and **Hong Kong**.

(Not all subjects may be available through English in every university.)

Some terms we use

Home University: University of Galway

Host University: the university where you study abroad

Exchange agreement: a “contract” between universities to exchange students, usually in a particular subject area

Learning agreement: a “contract” between you and your home/host universities, setting out what courses you will take while abroad.

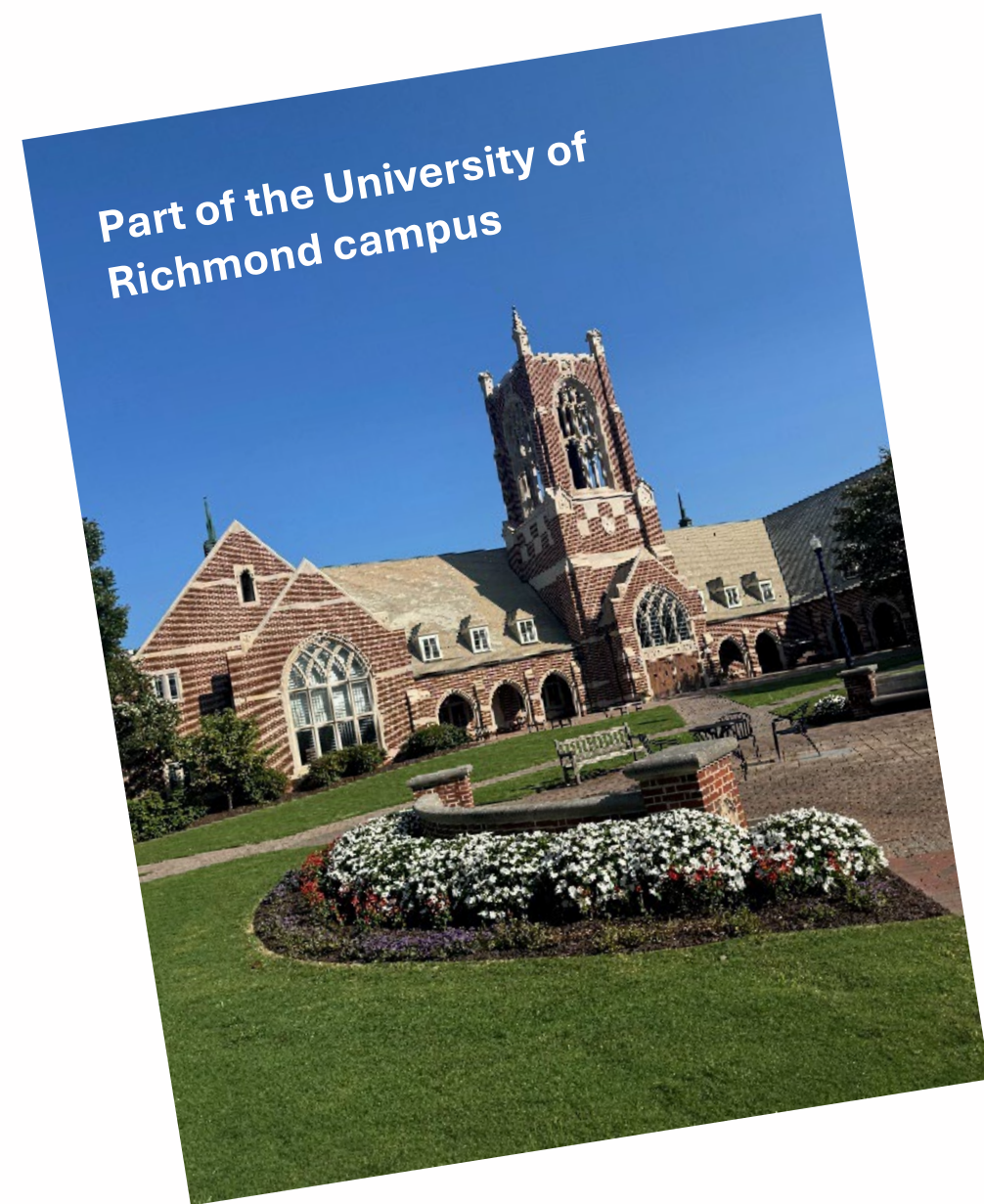
Academic coordinator: the lecturer at the University of Galway who will provide guidance on course choice and sign your learning agreement, and with whom you are expected to keep in touch before and during your year abroad.





HOW IT WORKS

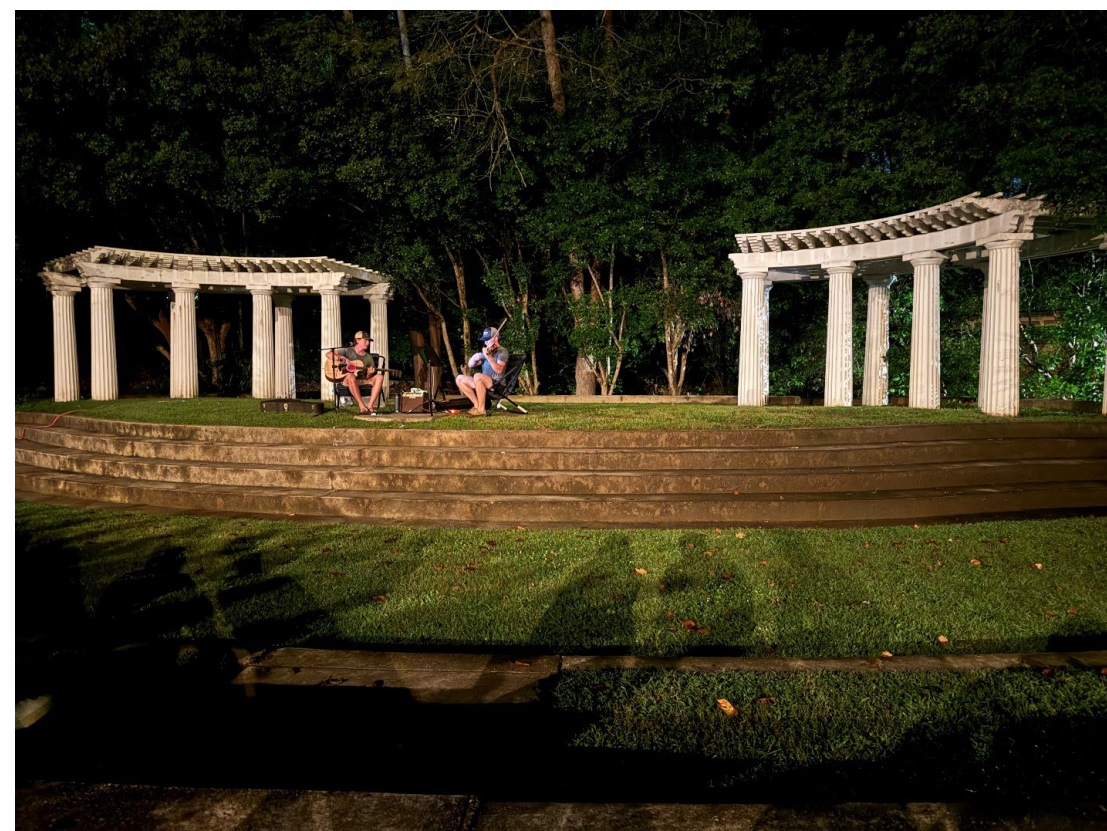
- Period of study is 1 academic year (not a semester)
- No tuition fees to Host University – but pay normal registration fee to the University of Galway.
- So you remain registered as a University of Galway student while studying abroad.
- The year abroad must be completed successfully: 40 ECTS in total
- Ideally you'll take both of your degree subjects, but you must take a total of 40 ECTS of modules related or complementary to *at least one* of your degree subjects.
- Pass all modules: receive 60 ECTS from University of Galway, i.e. a Pass in the Year Abroad



Dara, studying Soc. & Pol. and History, currently at the University of Richmond

The orientation programme began two weeks before my classes commenced, and this was a really great chance for me to become acquainted with the beautiful campus and make so many great friends from every corner of the world. Since classes began in September, I have been fully immersed in the interactive teaching style and multi-dimensional assessment structure. Preparing for each class (which has a maximum size of 20 students) by analyzing the assigned readings and raising questions for discussion has been quite intense, but it has paid off hugely as I have grown so much as a student from it.

Richmond also offers so many options for personal growth. Music and Intra Mural sports have been my favourites so far.



Country Music Concert in the University's Greek Theatre, a 2-minute walk away from my residence hall



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Dara, University of Richmond

(continued)

Richmond also offers so many options for personal growth. Music and Intra Mural sports have been my favourites so far. The Acapella group I joined, the Richmond Octaves, has built my confidence for performing, introduced me to some of the best American friends I've made so far and taken me to so many cool places for performances, including the prestigious Duke University and the Robins Stadium to sing the National Anthem before one of our college football teams games. Intra Mural Sports is a system where you pay a certain amount to play in tournaments for various different sports. The atmosphere is lighthearted and fun, and it's been a great way to discover new pastimes.

As for the city of Richmond, it is one of my favourite places in all of the US. As the capital of Virginia, it is full of Revolutionary and Civil War History, and its art and music scene is so diverse and unique. Getting around without a car requires some planning ahead, but all city and campus bus services are completely free and Ubers are very cheap if you travel in a group. I would heavily encourage anyone considering their options for study abroad to choose Richmond. GO SPIDERS!



Virginia War Memorial



Virginia State Capitol



Lanah, currently on Erasmus in Leiden

“So far, my experience at Leiden University (studying Politics and Psychology) has been beyond ideal. The modules offered here align so well with my interests and future career ideas, and the university is an incredible and prestigious place to be. The Hague is the core of international politics, making it a thrilling place to have the privilege of studying in (it is like a mini New York to me) and Leiden is the epitome of a picturesque yet lively Dutch experience. The orientation weeks instantly set me up with the best group of friends that already feel like siblings to me. Geographically, it's perfect for visiting other Dutch cities and countries too! I couldn't have chosen a better place for Erasmus if I was free to choose anywhere in Europe, honestly”.



Paula, currently on Erasmus in Utrecht

Studying at Utrecht University has been such a wonderful experience so far. Not only is the city absolutely gorgeous, but the whole vibe of the place is honestly completely unlike Galway (in a good way!). It's so easy to make friends here because there are quite a lot of students. I like how the semesters are split into blocks; it allows for more self-study and gives me time to do things by myself or my friends around the city.

Oh, and one thing to note: you will 100% need to get a bike. It makes life so much easier around the city, and on the weekends, you can cycle to nearby towns to go exploring. The sheer number of cycle lanes is something I will definitely miss when I get back to Ireland!



Chloe, currently on Erasmus at KU Leuven, Belgium

My experience so far in KU Leuven in Belgium has been so fun and a great experience. Leuven reminds me of Galway in the way it is such a student town, and I've met so many people from all over the world here! The gorgeous architecture, delicious food, and cheap beer make it such a lovely place to study and live. The college itself offers such interesting modules and I'm really enjoying living in Leuven!



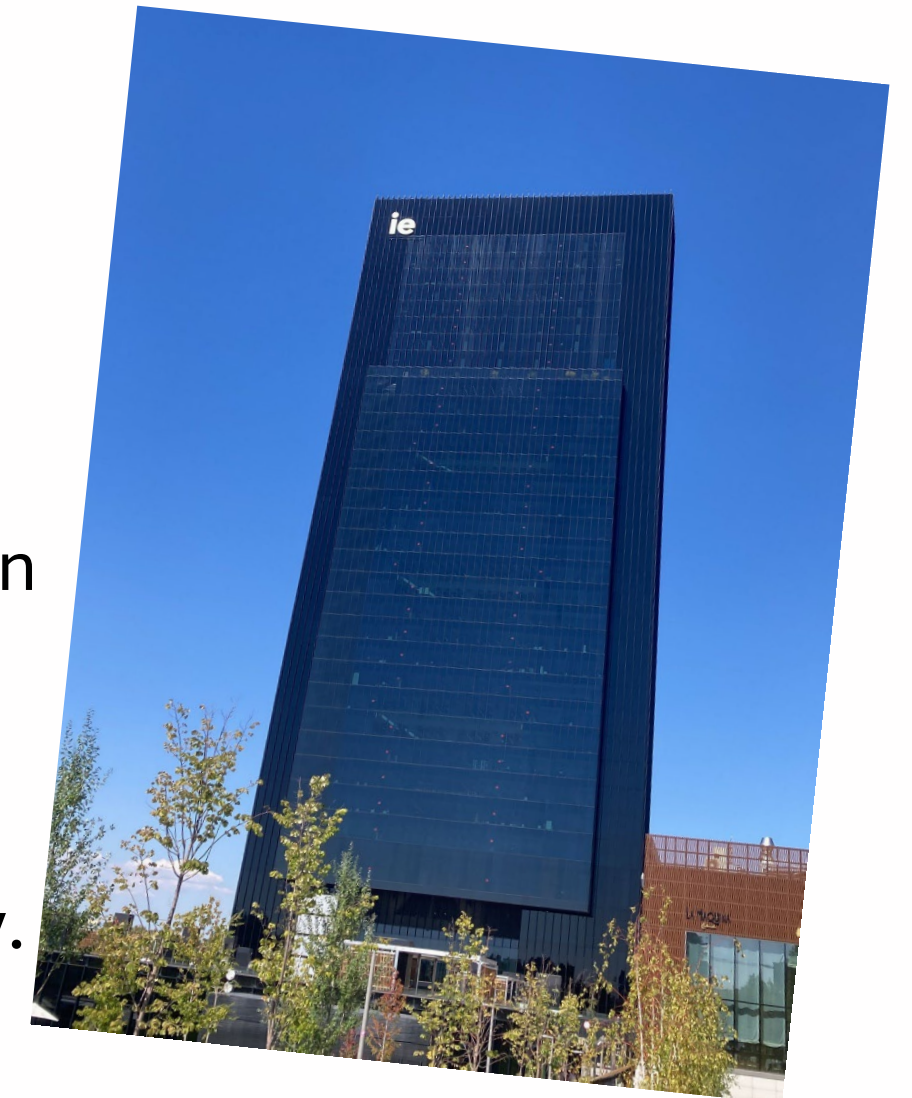


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Cian, currently on Erasmus at IE Madrid

I would really recommend Madrid to students for exchange- the size of the city offers so much and there is always a new spot to explore/town nearby to go on a day trip. Its location in Spain makes it very useful for planning weekends away, whether a train to Valencia/Sevilla or a cheap flight to Morocco. The international community here is massive, nightlife is really good, cheap metros connect the whole city. IE University is a fantastic university for exchange, with the majority of students coming from outside of Spain, and a large exchange student presence making it really easy to meet new people. The facilities are all state of the art- it is one of the "Cuatro Torres" of Madrid (about 5km north of the city centre), and the whole campus is in one huge tower, with my classes being anywhere from the 1st to the 24th floor. It has plenty of coffee shops, food spots and is also fully equipped with a gym, basketball court and swimming pool open for all students to use. It is mainly a business school, but offers other subjects such as international relations and behavioural science also.





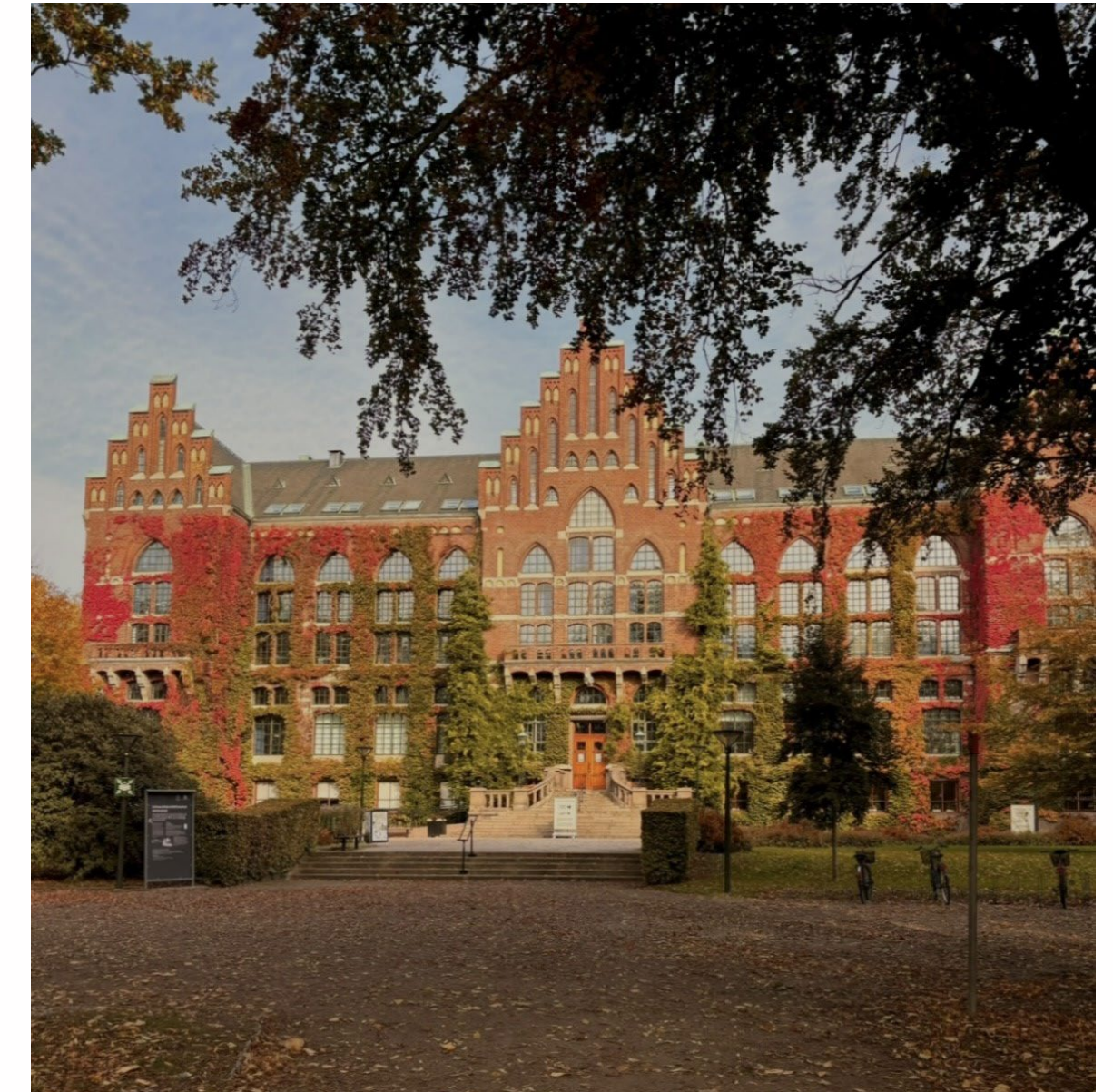
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Róisín, currently on Erasmus in Lund, Sweden

I can't believe I'm in my third month of my study abroad - it's flying by! Lund is a beautiful town with the most amazing architecture and history. One thing I really love about this University is its student-led approach - we prepare presentations every week for most of my modules and it's very interesting to talk about my views and hear others' opinions! It was a little daunting at first but now I feel it's second nature! Studying abroad is an amazing opportunity and I think everyone should take this experience if they're able!

Here are some pictures:

1. A view from a sunset tower in Copenhagen (which is a mere 35 minute train from Lund!)
2. The stunning library at Lund University during Autumn



Nicola, Erasmus in Helsinki, 2022/23

I'm beyond grateful to be doing my exchange in such a beautiful country, Finland is truly magical. I was lucky enough to get to go Finnish Lapland in the first semester, which was an amazing experience. We did skiing, husky sledding, ice fishing, swam in the Arctic Ocean and saw the beautiful Northern lights.

I've been lucky enough to travel to many countries around Finland too. In my first semester I visited Sweden, Norway, Estonia, and Latvia. The study abroad year provides you with amazing opportunities that you wouldn't otherwise get.

The University of Helsinki is amazing, all of the coordinators and lecturers are beyond helpful and they really enforce a relaxed, non-hierarchical atmosphere in the classroom. I'm learning so much both inside and outside of the classroom.

Studying abroad is a really incredible opportunity and I would recommend it to anyone!





Will the University of Galway arrange my accommodation abroad?

- No, but ...
- We will offer advice on this topic
- Each host university has a dedicated **Accommodation Service.**
- Possibility of a room in a student residence
- Early application advisable!



How should I choose courses?

- Consult the host university's online course catalogue
- Avoid duplicating what you've already studied.
- Avoid significant overlap with your Final Year courses.
- Modules to complement and enhance your study of your degree subjects.
- Modules that you wouldn't ordinarily get the chance to study.
- Modules related to society/culture of host country.
- Avoid self-study modules.
- Need approval from University of Galway academic coordinators.



Will the marks I get while abroad count towards my degree?

- Period abroad assessed on **Pass/Fail** basis by University of Galway
- Transcript from host university will show all your results
- Valuable document, e.g. for postgrad applications, seeking employment, etc



What if I fail the Year Abroad?

- Upon return to University of Galway, you register for 3BA1
- Fees: ~€6,000*
- Lose SUSI funding*
- Erasmus grant may have to be repaid

**GY129 is a 4-year programme. If you fail Year 3 and have to join Third Year of GY101, you are now on a 3-year programme, but have already used up 3 years' worth of government-funded tuition fees, so are liable for Full Fees.*



COSTS – What to budget for

- Flights, including flight home at Christmas
- Accommodation
- Household bills
- Food
- Books, materials
- Leisure
- Insurance (for North America)

ESTIMATES – some examples

Uppsala University: ~ €920 per month

University of Tartu: €400 to €600 per month

Boston College: \$28,000 for the academic year (~ €25,640)

(Check partner uni websites for estimated costs!)

<https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/>

Start saving early!

ESTIMATES – some more examples
Helsinki: ~ €900 - €1250 per month
Leiden, Leuven: €950 to €1300 per month
Malta: €400 - €700





FUNDING

- Erasmus funding for study in Europe:
 - €330 per month for most countries
 - €385 per month for Scandinavia
 - 80% of total grant at start, balance on return
 - Supplementary Erasmus funding for financially disadvantaged students
 - Maintain eligibility for SUSI grant, etc
 - “non-adjacent” rate may apply, provided study abroad integral to course
 - Erasmus Disability grant, if applicable
- Boston College: \$5,000 scholarship
- Other non-EU: no funding

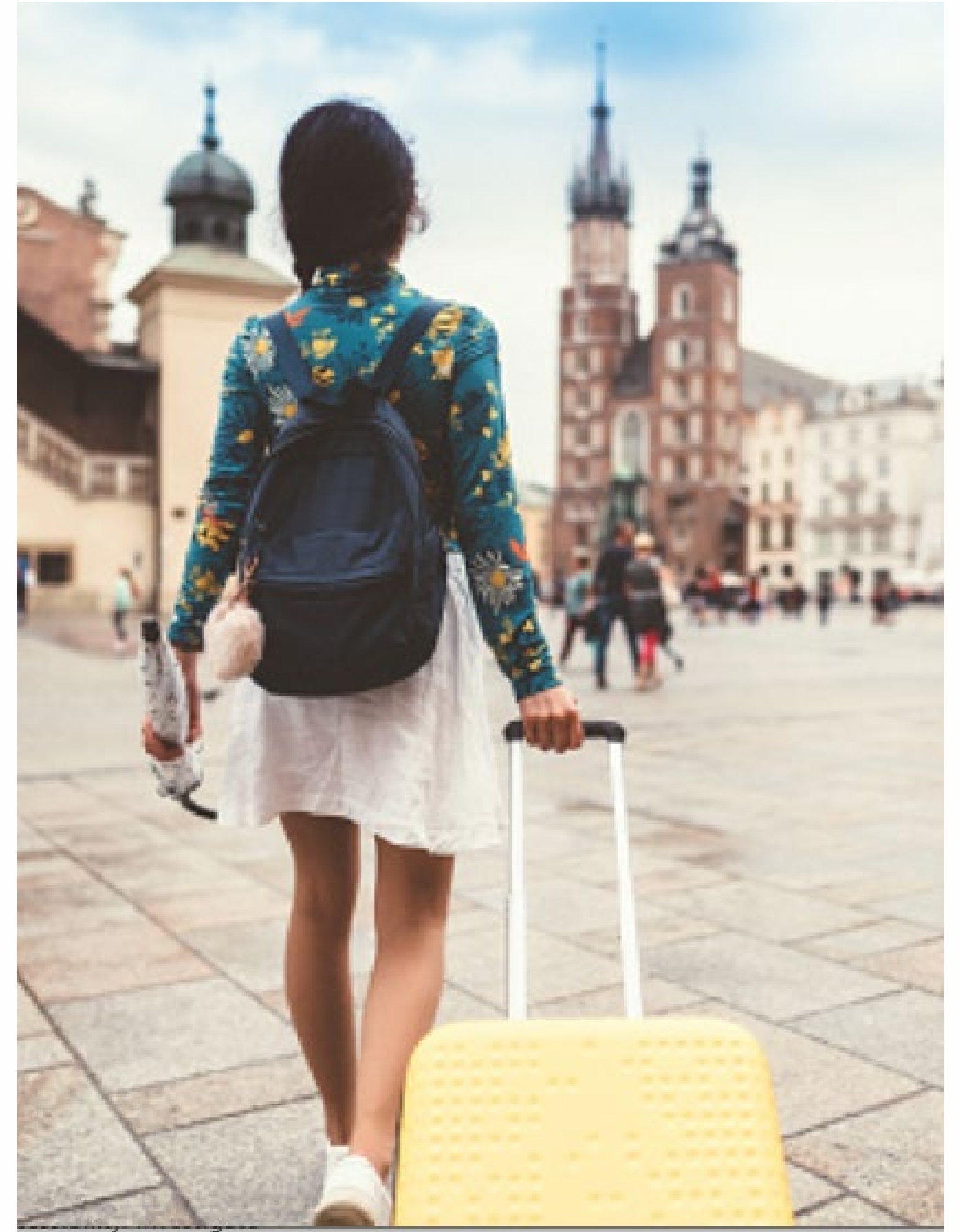




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BENEFITS OF STUDYING ABROAD

- Academic development
- Personal development
- Cultural and social aspects
 - Get to know another country and its culture
 - Perhaps learn some of the language
 - Make friends from all over the world
 - Expand your horizons
- A positive addition to your CV





WHAT STUDENTS SAY ABOUT STUDYING ABROAD

“I feel like Erasmus really added to my degree and to who I am as a person. There will be work but it'll be rewarding, you get out of it what you put in. The modules I took added more variety to my education and this definitely benefitted me for final year. Adapting to a different lifestyle is challenging but that's what encourages growth.”



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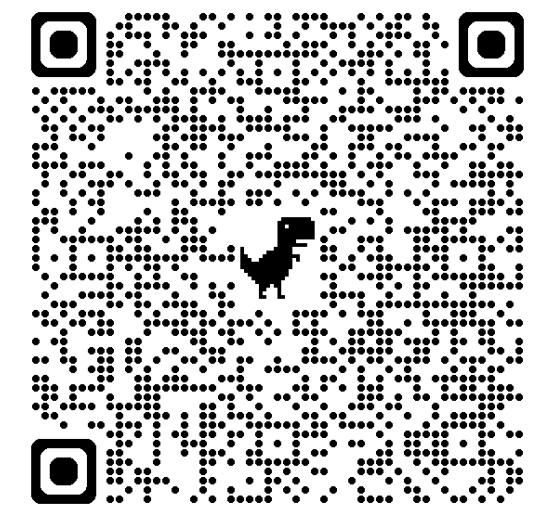
Be aware that ...

- *Study abroad is demanding*
- *It will require a whole set of personal qualities to deal with the everyday challenges.*
- *These qualities can be developed, but you must be prepared to step out of your comfort zone.*
- *It's important to do thorough research on academic, practical and financial matters.*



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So what's next?



- Please complete the brief survey you'll get from me.
- Have a look at the website <https://tinyurl.com/BA-Global-Experience> and the table of destinations/subjects.
- I'll circulate an application form and an **updated version** of the table of destinations. Please research these and list up to 5 in order of preference.
- Explain your choices (in your own words).
- **Deadline** for submitting form: **Monday, 2nd December, 12 noon.**
- We will meet to discuss.
- You should be offered a study abroad place soon after Christmas.
- If you accept, you'll be nominated to a host university early in 2025.



Any questions?? 😊
Please feel free to ask
now!

or
e-mail

mary.lyons@universityofgalway.ie



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