



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHÉ
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

Study Abroad for non-language B.A. students

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College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies
28 January, 2025



University
ofGalway.ie



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.”

University of Galway student who previously took part in Erasmus



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Outline

- Some basic facts
- How it works
- Benefits
- Student testimonials
- Destinations
- FAQs
- Costs
- Your application

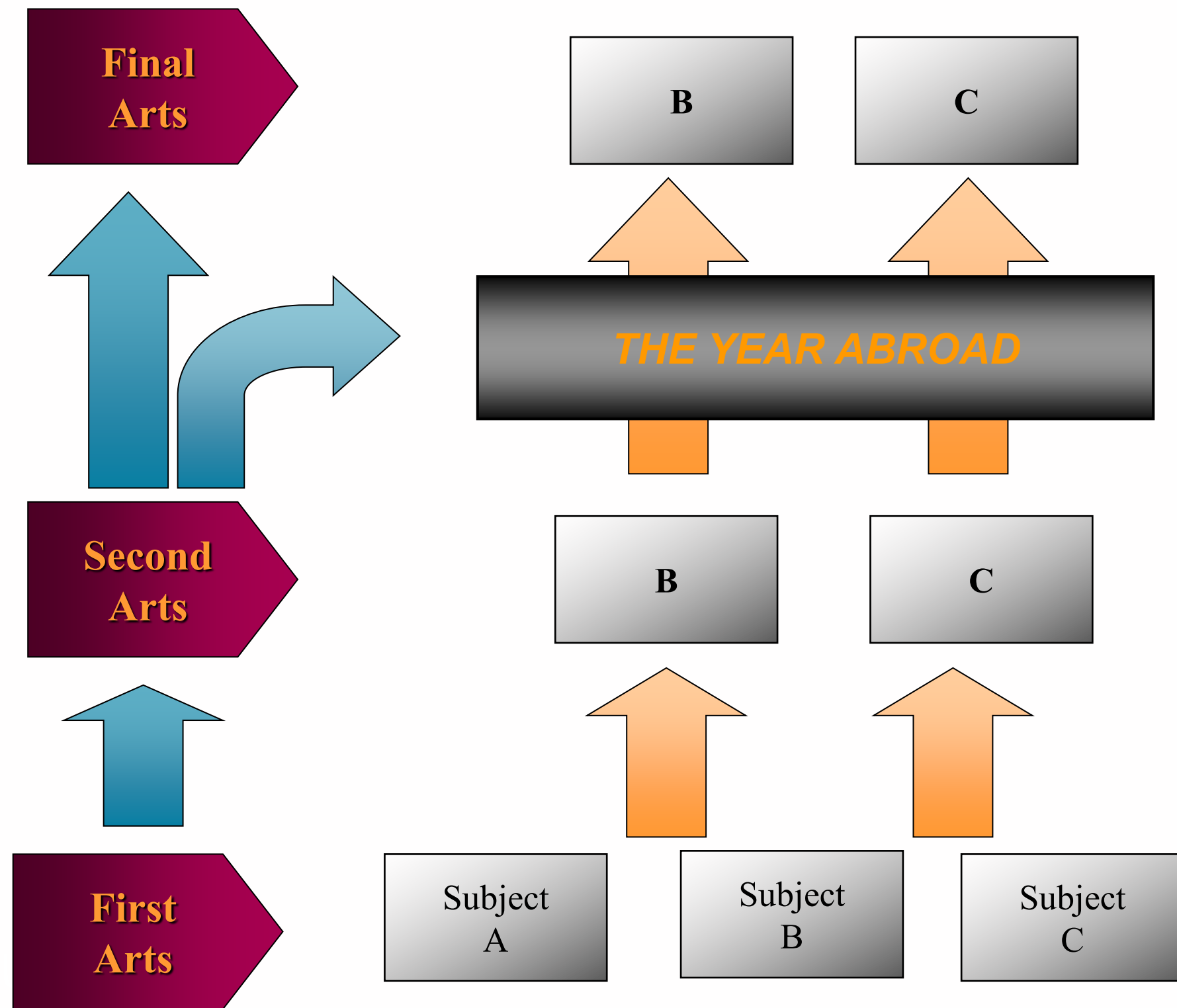


University of Helsinki Library
Photo: Nicola Bugler



HOW IT WORKS for Joint Honours students

- Period of study is 1 academic year, not just 1 semester *(unless you are doing Irish)*
- If selected, you are transferred to 3BA4, Third Year of the BA International
- 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 credits in total: 20 ECTS in each of your degree subjects
- Pass all modules abroad: receive 60 ECTS from University of Galway, i.e. a Pass in the Year Abroad



BA Joint Honours Students

- Must pass Second Year
- Transfer from 3-year BA to 4-year BA International
- Secure 40 ECTS on Year Abroad
- Return to Galway for Final Year



HOW IT WORKS for other programmes

- BA Government: 1 semester (Semester 2)
- Other, denominated programmes: usually 1 semester
- No tuition fees to Host University – but pay normal registration fee to the University of Galway.
- Remain registered as a University of Galway student while studying abroad.
- The studies abroad must be completed successfully.
- 20 ECTS for one semester of study abroad
- Pass all modules abroad: receive 30 ECTS from University of Galway, i.e. a Pass in the Semester Abroad
- See Appendix for more information



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College of Arts study abroad web pages

College of Arts
homepage



“International
Students”



“Outgoing Students”

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/colleges-and-schools/arts-social-sciences-and-celtic-studies/international-students/outgoingstudents/studyabroad/>

Partner uni fact sheets here


Appendix to application form is here

A range of useful documents here for later


Study Abroad

- Overview
- Current Students
- Schools and Subject Areas
- Undergraduate Programmes
- Taught Postgraduate Programmes
- PhD and Research Degrees
- International Students
- Collaborate with Us
- Research
- Arts in Action
- College Office Staff
- Strategy 2021-2025
- Centre for Creative Technologies


On these pages you can learn more about the many study abroad opportunities for students of the College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies.




DESTINATIONS FOR STUDY ABROAD >



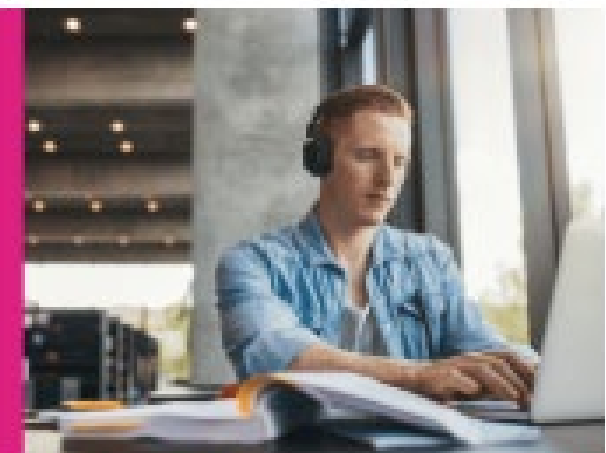
WHO CAN STUDY ABROAD? >




OPTIONS FOR NON-LANGUAGE STUDENTS >



BA GLOBAL EXPERIENCE >



NEWS & RESOURCES >



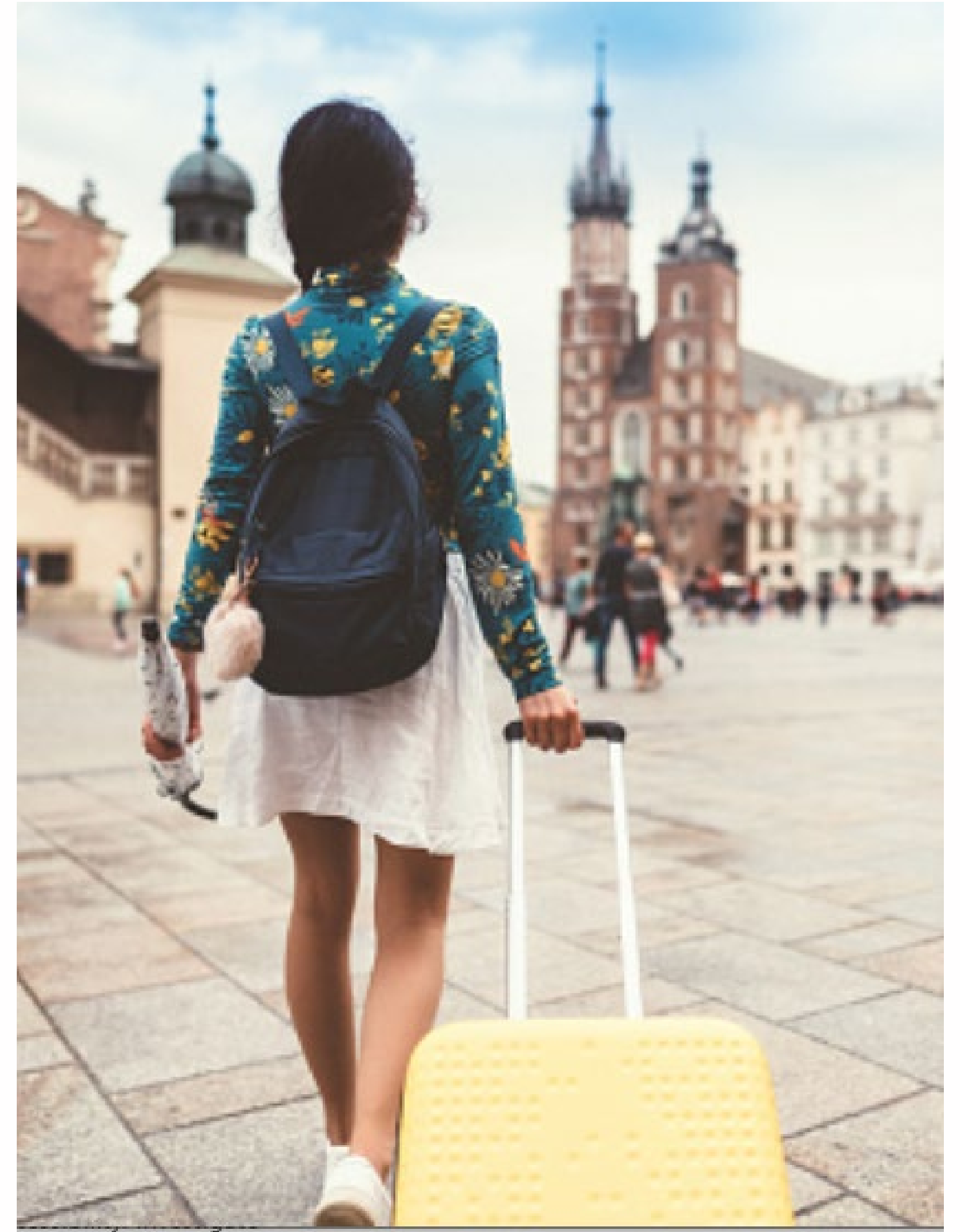
TESTIMONIALS >



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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



Chloe, currently on Erasmus at KU Leuven, Belgium (Soc. & Pol. exchange)

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!



Nicola, Soc. & Pol. 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!





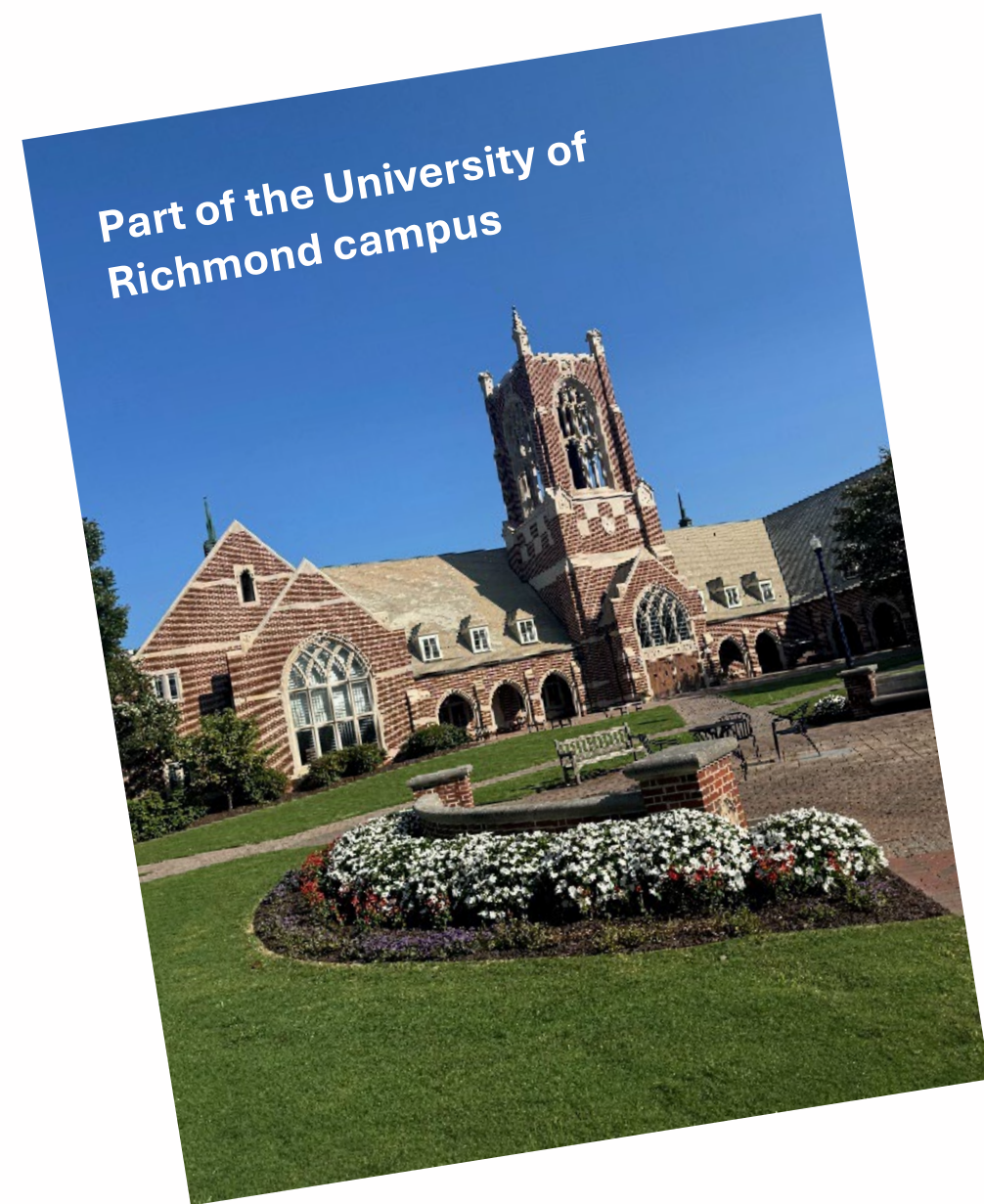
Lanah, currently on Erasmus in Leiden

“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”.





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.

*Applicants please note that only one single semester is currently available at the University of Richmond, so this is not a suitable option for a Joint Honours student, who must usually spend a full year abroad unless one of their subjects is Gaeilge.



Photo with our school mascot
before the Richmond Spiders
VS Charleston Buccaneers
Football game



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



Weekend Trip to
Washington D.C, just
a 2-hour train journey
away from Richmond!



Virginia State Capitol

Photo with our school mascot
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Dara, University of Richmond

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Virginia State Capitol

Selma studied in Hong Kong

My study abroad experience was probably the highlight of my university time so far. It broadened my worldview incredibly. The lecture environments were much more personal and discussion-based, creating a rich environment of learning and cultural exchange. It was difficult to get used to at first, but the lecturers at HKBU were really helpful. I lived on campus and made friends with both local and international students, building lifelong friendships. As well as studying, I spent some time travelling to countries like Vietnam, Thailand, mainland China, Macau, and more. It was fantastic to hop on a cheap flight and discover an entirely different culture! But even Hong Kong itself was a wonderful place to explore and there's so much to see.



Maggie studied Archaeology at Charles University Prague

Prague was amazing, and I'd love for other students to experience it as well!

Registration was straightforward, staff were very helpful and lovely. The student life is great, lots of social events to take part in. Prague itself is an amazing city that is active all year round, obviously around Christmas and Easter there are the markets and all the touristy things such as Charles bridge, Prague Castle and the astronomical clock. However, there are always different events going on, such as concerts, cultural events and sports games.

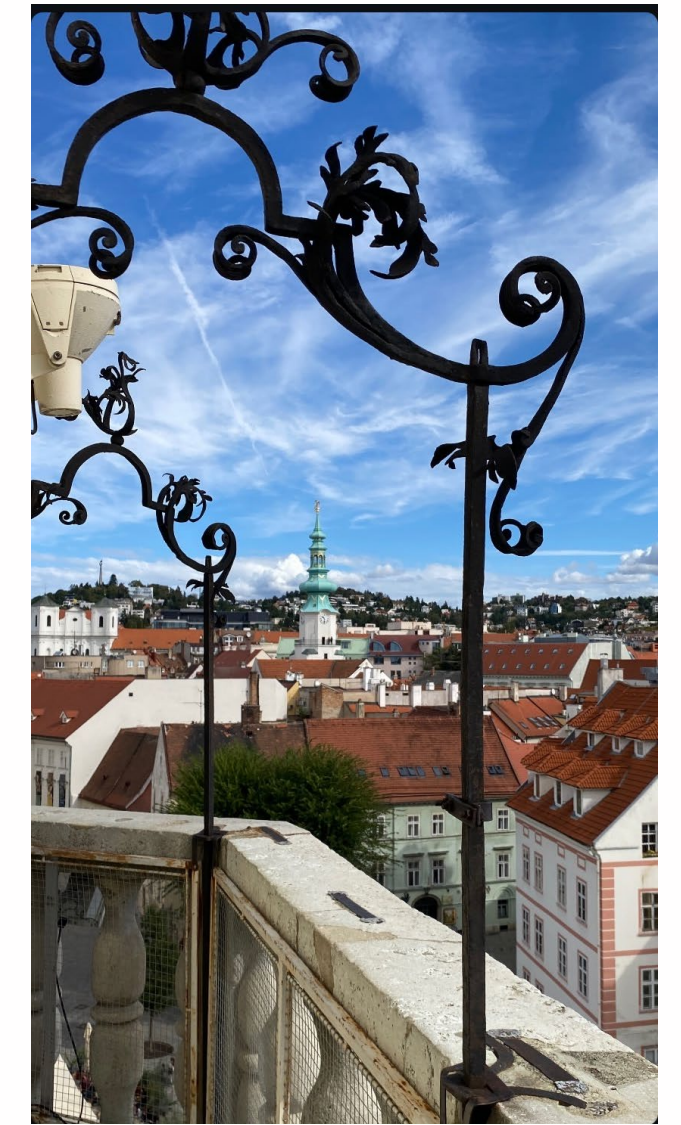
I cannot even begin to describe how great the cost of living is. The price of groceries, going out, transportation is unmatched. Transportation is amazing as a student; you can get a monthly pass for a fiver and that is valid for bus, tram and metro all around Prague. Going out is affordable as well - in most restaurants a full meal will cost €8-10. Travelling outside of Prague is great as well, with trains and buses being so frequent and cheap.

I would absolutely 100% do it again and I wouldn't change a single thing about my time in Prague. The memories I've made and the friendships I've developed will stay with me forever.



Anna studied at Comenius University Bratislava

Overall I found Bratislava to be a nice city to spend a few months. It's relatively cheap and its in an ideal location to travel around eastern and central Europe. I went to Vienna multiple times, to Brno in Czechia and to Budapest for a few days. I also know people who took trips to Prague, Krakow, Kosice and loads of other places too, so that's a really good reason to go to Bratislava. The food is decent, it's a city so there's a good few options. There are good pubs and some nightclubs too. The ESN there organises loads of nights out and also activities during the day and trips away if you want. So, I would recommend Bratislava to people considering their options.





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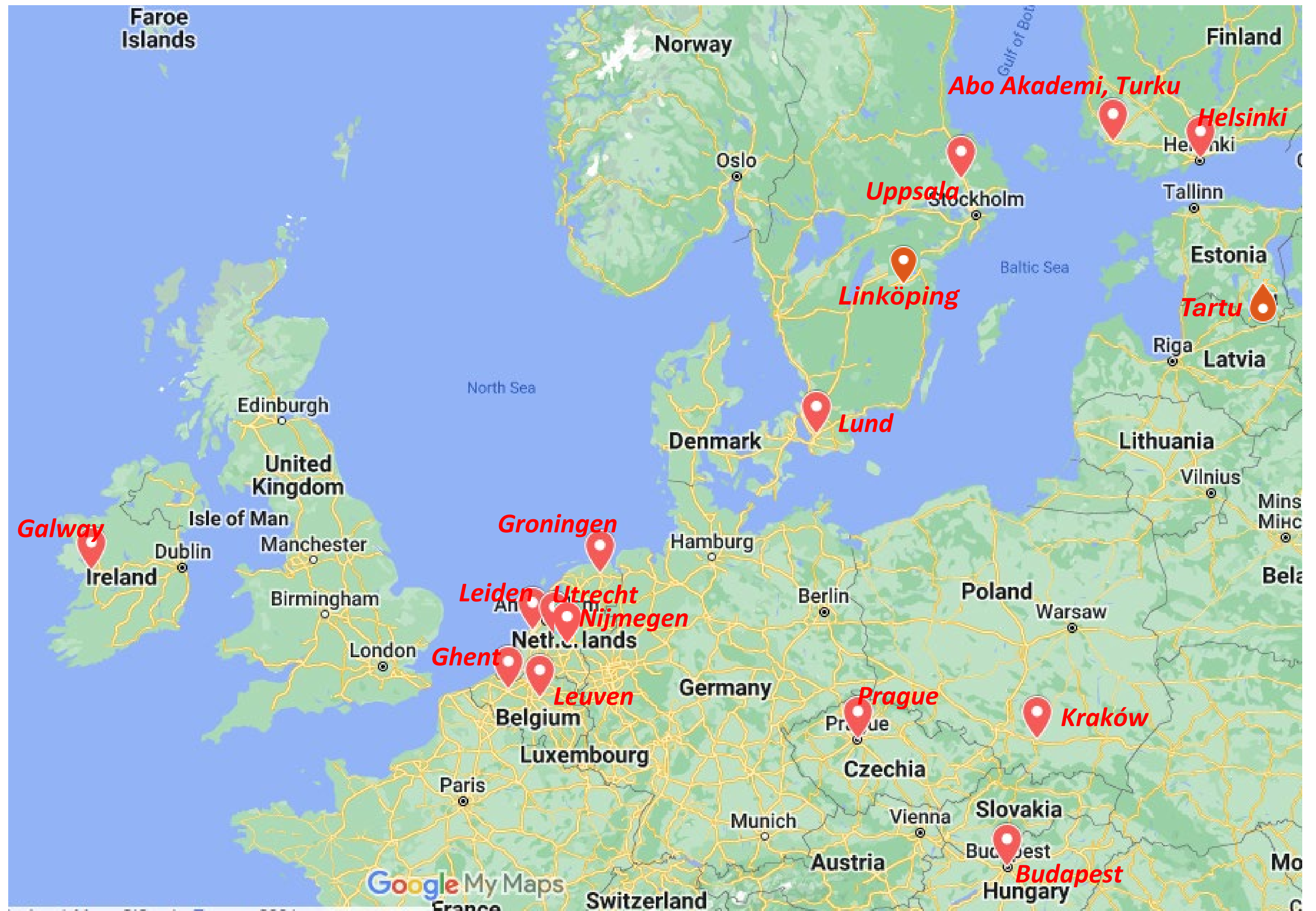
POSSIBLE STUDY DESTINATIONS

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 links with the **USA and Hong Kong**.

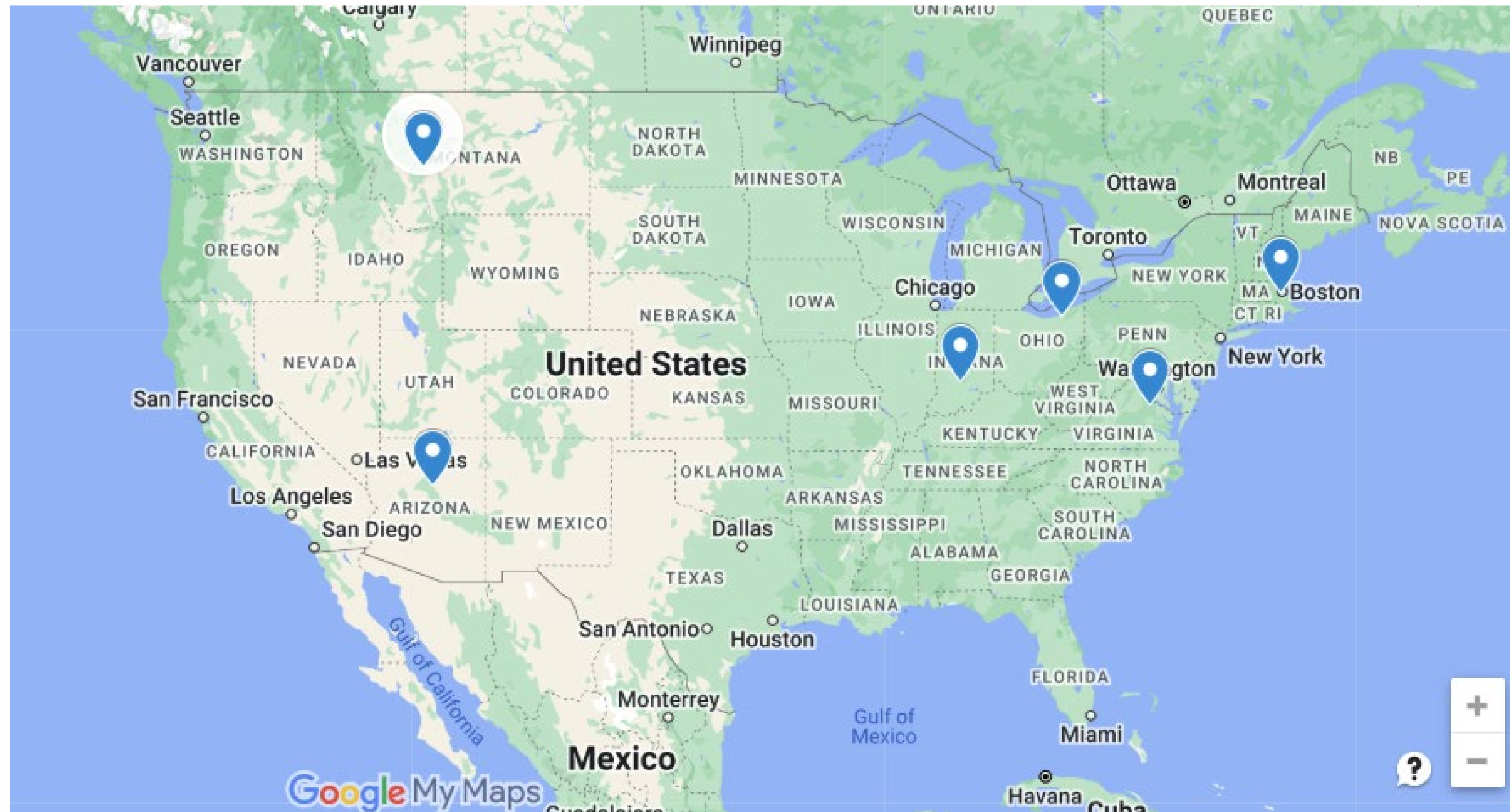
(Not all subjects may be available through English in every university.)

Destinations: Northern and Central Europe



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Destinations: USA



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.





Where can I go?

- It depends on what subjects you are studying
- Many subject-specific exchange agreements (or “links”)
- Go to CASSCS website – click on International, then Outgoing Students, then Opportunities for non-language students
- Consult table of partner unis and subjects
- Pay attention to “**core subject**” requirements!
- BA Joint Hons and BA Govt: Erasmus AND non-EU, *provided your degree subjects are eligible and suitable*
- Denominated Psychology/Creative Writing/Global Media/Journalism: non-EU links only



Please pay careful attention to this table!

ERASMUS CODE	UNIVERSITY NAME	exchange is with	useful info and practicalities	Archaeology	Celtic Civilisation / Gaeilg	Classics	Economics
BE LEUVEN01	KU LEUVEN, Belgium	Social Sciences Faculty of	Erasmus students info for international students	no	no	no	yes
CZ PRAHA07	Charles University Prague, Czech Republic	Arts/Archaeology Institute of	Info about exchange studies	core subject	yes	yes	maybe
EE TARTU01	University of Tartu, Estonia	Law Faculty	Information for exchange students	no	no	no	yes
H BUDAPES01	Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary	Dept of Classics & Archaeology	Erasmus mobility for incoming students	yes	no	core subject	maybe
MT MALTA01	University of Malta	Faculty of	Info for exchange				

What does “core subject” mean?”

It means that our exchange with that university is specific to that subject.

To select that university, you must be taking that subject as part of your degree.

e.g. You cannot apply for Prague unless you are studying Archaeology.

You cannot apply for the Malta Classics exchange unless you are studying Classics.

See tab called “key” for explanations of “yes”, “maybe” and “?”.



How should I choose courses?

- Consult the host university's online course catalogue (links provided).
- 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.
- Check location of teaching (some unis have multiple campuses)
- Avoid self-study modules.
- Need approval from University of Galway academic coordinators.



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!



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 happens if I fail the Year Abroad? Or if I withdraw halfway through?

- No International degree
- Return to enrol on Year 3 of normal BA
- Fees will be payable (currently €5,738 for full year without Government-funded free tuition fee)
- Withdrawal after 60 days but before 30 Jan.: Leave of absence for semester 2, and one semester of fees (currently €2,899) payable in final year. Partial Erasmus grant repayment.
- Withdrawal before 60 days: repay Erasmus grant, and LoA not possible after 30 September



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





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FUNDING

- Erasmus funding for study in Europe:
 - €330 per month for most countries
 - €385 per month for Scandinavia
 - plus one-off travel grant, based on distance
 - 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





Be aware that ...

- *Study abroad is demanding*
- *It will require hard work, commitment and 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.*



Making your application

- Online form will be circulated by e-mail.
- Strict deadline: **midnight on Wednesday, 5th February**
- Consult the materials on the web page mentioned earlier, especially the Appendix and list of host universities.
- In your application you must
 - provide First Year and 2nd Year Semester 1 results;
 - choose up to 3 potential host universities and explain your choices;
 - write a statement of motivation.
- Selections will be done in consultation with academic coordinators.
- In some cases, students may be called for brief informal interview.





STUDY ABROAD: A STUDENT VIEW

“For me, Erasmus is more than just University: it’s the people, the culture, the places, the friends that I’ve made, the experience I’ve gained and the memories that I’ll have forever.”



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Next steps

- Look up the materials.
- Start researching possible host unis.
- Consult Galway academic coordinator if necessary.
- Explain your choices and write a personal statement.
- Submit your form before the **deadline**.
- Successful candidates will be nominated to a host university in coming months.



University of Helsinki Library
Photo: Mary Lyons



Any questions??



Please feel free to ask
now!

or
e-mail

mary.lyons@universityofgalway.ie



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