# **FAQ - Marino Institute of Education Erasmus+ Outgoing Students**

**Where can I find Information about Marino Institute of Education Erasmus+ Mobility Programme?**

You can find detailed Information about our Erasmus+ Mobility Programme in the [Handbook 2022/23](https://www.mie.ie/en/student_life/erasmus_mobility/erasmus-handbook-2021_22-outgoing-students.pdf) on our website www.mie.ie

**Are there restrictions and requirements due to Covid-19?**

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic is on-going and is a constantly evolving situation.

The restrictions and requirements vary for each country, depending on their current

situation.

Updated travel information is available on the [Department of Foreign Affairs](https://www.dfa.ie/travel/travel-advice/coronavirus/general-covid-19-travel-advisory/) website and should be checked regularly. It is also advisable to check the latest information provided on the  [HSE website](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/).

**Which MIE Programmes facilitate the Erasmus+ Programme?**

Bachelor in Science (Education Studies)

Bachelor in Science (Early Childhood Education)

Bachelor in Education (Primary)

Baitsiléir san Oideachas (Bunmhúinteoireacht)

**When can I start the Erasmus+ Mobility Programme?**

A student can start their Erasmus+ study abroad programme anytime from the end of their

first year in university to one year after they graduate. Upon completion, students receive

full recognition of their Erasmus+ study programme utilising the European Credit Transfer

System (ECTS).

Please note that B.Ed. students can only take a semester abroad in Year 3 (semester 1).

**Where can I study abroad?**

We currently have agreements in place with universities in Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland.

Only universities that have an inter-institutional agreement in place with MIE can be considered for Erasmus+ programmes. You can currently study abroad at the universities listed in our [Handbook 2022/23](https://www.mie.ie/en/student_life/erasmus_mobility/erasmus-handbook-2021_22-outgoing-students.pdf). New universities are added all the time.

**What do I do if a University I want to study in is not listed?**

Please contact the Erasmus+ Coordinator if you wish to travel to a university that is not currently on this list.

**What do I need to consider when making my decision about Erasmus+ Mobility Programme?**

It is important to plan ahead and understand the requirements and processes involved. When considering a particular institute to study in, check the modules listing and ensure that the required modules are taught through English.

You should look at the timetable, check the start, and end dates of each semester. Do not assume that these will exactly match those of MIE.

**Is there an Erasmus Student Network (ESN) and where can I find information?**

The ESN is a non-profit international student organisation run by students. With approximately 13,000 active members, their mission is to represent and take care of international students. You can access more information about the ESN [here](https://esn.org/).

**What is the European Credit Transfer System ECTS?**

The ECTS, a tool of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and facilitates the recognition of credits from learning mobility being formally recognised by the sending institution thus easing movement for learners/students to an institution in another country for all or part of a programme of study.

**How does the ECTS work?**

ECTS credits represent a student’s learning outcomes and workload by summing up, through credits, the student’s knowledge, understanding and ability of a given programme or course. Under ECTS, students are required to obtain 30 ECTS credits for a semester (30 ECTS credits is the maximum per semester) or 60 ECTS credits for a full year. Further details can be found on the [ECTS Website](https://education.ec.europa.eu/education-levels/higher-education/inclusive-and-connected-higher-education/european-credit-transfer-and-accumulation-system).

**ECTS Transcript**

At the end of their stay abroad, each student is provided with an ECTS Transcript. This transcript will indicate the number of ECTS credits completed and must be interpreted by the student’s MIE Erasmus+ Coordinator to ensure a satisfactory number of credits was completed.

Important: It is the responsibility of the student to ensure the collection of this transcript before their return to MIE.

**What Financial Considerations of the Erasmus+ Programme to I need to be aware of?**

* **Fees:** Students pay the usual fees to MIE and are not required to pay tuition fees at the host university. However, an administrative fee to their host university for student services charges or registration for the semester may apply. Furthermore, some universities may charge for language courses.
* **Travel**: Booking and Costs of transport to and from their host university i.e. flights, ferry, train, bus. You must ensure that you have booked and have proof of a return flight.
* **Living Costs:** If you are thinking of taking part in the Erasmus+ programme, it is important to research the typical living expenses in the country and city you are going to. This [cost-of-living website](https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/) may assist you in estimating the costs in your proposed country.
* **Accommodation:** You may be expected to pay a month's deposit as well as a month's rent in advance. Other costs may include bedding, cleaning products, utensils etc. Some countries may offer some local financial assistance towards the cost of rent. If this is the case, your host university will have details on how to apply. IMPORTANT You are required to source your own accommodation.
* **Other Expenses:** like Medical expenses, Local travel costs 11, Food costs, Trips home, Phone and data charges, Excursions, Gym membership, Socialising, Books and stationery, Clothing
* **Student Discount Cards** The [Student Discount Card](https://momailmie-my.sharepoint.com/personal/smcloughlin_mie_ie/Documents/isiccard.ie) (ISIC card) may entitle you to discounts in local stores and the [ESN membership card](https://esncard.org/) entitles you to discounts with a broad range of international and local services.
* **Part-Time Work:** Part-time work is a great way to develop your language skills and meet new people when studying abroad. If you choose to work part-time, you are advised to investigate what documentation you may need to complete to do so.

**Are there any Grants I can apply for?**

There is a variety of Grants you can apply for. Please check the respective website for more information and eligibility.

- Erasmus+ Grants: Eligible students will receive an Erasmus+ grant paid through MIE.

 More information can be provided by the Erasmus+ Coordinator.

**-** [SUSI Grants](https://susi.ie/)

- [MIE Student Assistance Fund (SAF)](https://hea.ie/funding-governance-performance/funding/student-finance/student-assistance-fund/)

**Do I need a private Health and Travel Insurance?**

Yes. You MUST have private medical insurance cover while abroad and are advised to keep a record of both your health insurance policy number and any emergency numbers. You must ensure that the cost of repatriation is included on health insurance.

The following are the three main Irish Health Insurance providers who can be contacted directly to organise cover.

- [VHI](https://www.vhi.ie/home)

- [Laya Healthcare](https://www.layahealthcare.ie/)

- [Irish Life Health](https://www.irishlifehealth.ie/)

Note: If you are covered by your parents' private healthcare insurance plan, it is important you’re your contact your health insurance provider to confirm the level of cover your policy will give you while studying abroad and ensure that cost of repatriation is covered.

**Do I need a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)?**

Yes. If you are an EU/EEA national, the EHIC entitles you to receive emergency medical care ONLY. You are strongly advised to have a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) for the duration of your stay abroad. Further details on the EHIC card and how to apply can be found on the [EHIC website](https://www2.hse.ie/services/schemes-allowances/ehic/).

**How do I apply to the MIE Erasmus+ Programme?**

Prior to making your application, research and choose your preferred institution. Please see the [handbook](https://www.mie.ie/en/student_life/erasmus_mobility/erasmus-handbook-2021_22-outgoing-students.pdf) for detailed information and the application process.

The Erasmus+ Mobility process for Outgoing students is as follows:

1. Expression of Interest
2. Application for Erasmus+
3. Nomination to host institution
4. Attend an Information Session
5. Apply to your chosen institution
6. Confirmation of Acceptance by host institution.
7. Complete a Learning Agreement

**What do I need to do before I depart MIE?**

Every Students must read the [Erasmus+ Student charter](https://eurireland.ie/assets/uploads/2017/06/student-charter-Web-english.pdf) before departure.

**Will there be a pre-departure orientation?**

Yes. You are asked to attend a pre-departure orientation in MIE. This orientation will provide you with information around your Erasmus+ programme and what you will need as you prepare to travel. Students will be informed of the orientation date via email.

**What do I need to do if I am taking prescription medication?**

If you take prescription medication, it very important that you inform your GP that you will be going abroad and ensure you have enough medication for your stay abroad. If necessary, request a cross-border prescription from your own doctor. Please check this website for information on [cross-border prescriptions](https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/health/prescription-medicine-abroad/prescriptions/index_en.htm). Please note that it is illegal to post drugs - even prescription ones - through the Irish postal service.

**Is there any advice for Health and Wellbeing?**

It is important that you look after yourself by eating well and getting adequate rest. However, a combination of factors such as the exposure to new people, food, and language as well as adjusting to a new sleeping pattern may lead to students feeling slightly run-down when they first move abroad. It is recommended that you dedicate extra resting time during these initial few weeks to help prevent this.

**Can I use my Mobile phone abroad?**

In order to prevent additional costs, please check with your Mobile Provider about a plan for using your mobile phone abroad. Buying a local Sim Card might be a cheaper option for the time you are abroad. You may need to get your phone unlocked so that you can use a local SIM card.

**What do I need to consider when travelling?**

Be aware of the [DAA](https://www.dublinairport.com/) requirements for security and baggage check-in prior to flight departure. Get confirmation of the earliest possible dates / times for arrival on campus and accommodation check-in times.

**What do I need to consider when I arrive in my host country ?**

When you arrive, be sure to:

1. Explore your new surroundings.
2. Get familiar with local transport routes.
3. Find your nearest supermarket, bank and pharmacy.
4. Ensure you take plenty of rest.

**What do I need to do when I arrive at my host university?**

Make sure to meet with your International Officer to:

1. Find out when and where to register.
2. Ask for campus maps and any other useful information.
3. Ask about a link-up with a peer mentor i.e. another student from your host university. Peer mentors can be very helpful in providing information on university life including where to shop or socialise.
4. Know where the student health and support centres are located.
5. Sign up for any orientation days happening on campus.

**Do I need to update my Learning Agreement when I arrive?**

Yes. You must update your Learning Agreement when you arrive. If any changes need to be made to module choices, please liaise closely with your Erasmus+ Coordinators at both your host institution and in MIE.

**When do I need to get my Certificate of Attendance form stamped & signed?**

Erasmus+ grants are awarded for the number of days spent abroad. Students are required to get their Certificate of Attendance form signed & stamped at the start of their exchange period.

It is expected that you attend your lectures in full when on a semester abroad, and comply with the attendance policy in the host institution. If you have concerns about your attendance you should discuss this with your host institution, and with the MIE Erasmus+ Coordinator and/or your personal tutor.

**What do I need to consider for Safety Abroad?**

It is vital that students consider carefully their own personal safety and are advised to:

1. Not to be out alone at night and to be careful if they find themselves in this situation.
2. To stay in groups if possible.
3. To carry minimum amounts of cash.
4. To enquire from peers at your host institution about the areas that may be ‘best avoided in your town or city.
5. To be aware of the occurrence of theft and violence.
6. To be aware of cultural differences and that these differences can sometimes be misinterpreted in a foreign country.

**Who do I contact if I feel I am not benefiting from my experience abroad?**

It is important that you contact your Erasmus+ Coordinator at your host university or in MIE if you feel you are not benefitting from your experience abroad, feel isolated as an exchange student or feel circumstances are preventing you from being able to complete your work.

Studying abroad should be a joyous experience where students can grow personally and develop their academic and professional skills.

**What is expected of me while I study abroad?**

While the study abroad will involve all the fun and excitement of a new adventure, it is important that you conduct yourself in an appropriate manner. As an MIE student, students on the Erasmus+ programme are asked to continue their positive representation of MIE and its ethos when abroad. Students are asked to respect the community ethos and policies of their host university.

**What do I need to consider before returning home**?

Ensure you have completed all agreed modules and necessary coursework at your host university.

**Do I need to collect my transcript before I return home?**

Yes. It is your responsibility to ensure the collection of the transcript before your return to MIE. Some institutions may forward transcripts to MIE, some may not. It is your responsibility to have a procedure in place for receiving your transcript from your host institution before your return to MIE. If this is not provided to MIE in time you will not advance to the next year of studies in MIE.

**Do I need to provide the Certificate of Attendance?**

The Certificate of Attendance is required to confirm your end date and determine the level of Erasmus+ funding you will receive. For this form, students must enter the last date on which they are required to be on their host campus for classes or exams and have it signed & stamped by the host university.

**Do I need to submit a Final Report to the European Commission?**

The European Commission will email you directly inviting you to complete a Final Report online. This is required before the last Erasmus+ Grant payment can be released.

**Any other important tasks to do before returning home?**

1. De-register from the university if necessary.
2. Ensure all your bills are settled with your landlord.
3. Close your foreign bank account if necessary

**Are there Checklists available?**

Yes. You can Find the following checklists in our [handbook:](https://www.mie.ie/en/student_life/erasmus_mobility/erasmus-handbook-2021_22-outgoing-students.pdf)

1. Checklist for before you depart MIE
2. Remember to Pack
3. Checklist for when you arrive in your host country
4. Checklist for before your return home
5. Checklist for after you return home

**When are the Erasmus+ Application deadlines?**

Full Academic Year students: 01st March

Semester One students: 01st March

Semester Two students: 01st October

**Are there any helpful links?**

You can find a summary of all helpful links at the end of the [handbook](https://www.mie.ie/en/student_life/erasmus_mobility/erasmus-handbook-2021_22-outgoing-students.pdf)

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