STUDY AND WORK ABROAD IN EUROPE
2019/20
Janet Wilson-Sharp
• Meet the team
• The current situation
• Practical preparation
• Insurance and Finance
• Health, welfare and safety
• Personal preparation
• Contact
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Key responsibilities

- Provision of information and advice
- Student support before and during the time abroad

- Room 155, first floor of the Registry Extension
- T: +44 (0)1227 824042 or 827818
- E: erasmus@kent.ac.uk
The current situation

- No decision on the UK’s participation in Erasmus+ so far.
- We are monitoring the situation closely and liaising with partners.
- We will update you as soon as we can.

In the event that the UK does continue in Erasmus+:

- We will host an Erasmus+ information session in the Summer Term.
- We will email the Erasmus+ paperwork and information to all eligible students as the appropriate times.

In the event that the UK does not continue in Erasmus+:

- We are already in contact with our partners in preparation to negotiate new exchange agreements.
- No Erasmus+ grant, so you should be prepared to support yourself.
- Switzerland: it is expected that the Swiss-European Mobility Programme will continue as usual, subject to the final decision of the Federal Government.
PRACTICAL PREPARATION
Your placement

• Follow the host’s instructions/procedures carefully and meet deadlines
  • Study: application, module registration, exams, submitting work
  • Work/assistantships: Sick leave, dress code, holiday, etc

• Support and supervision at Kent and host
  • Communicate with host before and during the placement, NB:
    – Primary/secondary schools and French/Spanish universities will be closed in late July and August
    – Assistants: Contact your school as soon as you get the details.

• Year Abroad Pass/Fail grade will be based on
  • Work/assistantships: report or essay submitted to Kent. Info will be provided by your Kent School.
  • Study: exam marks and credits from host university. Take 30 ECTS per semester.
Residence documents and visas

- Passport
  - **Must** be valid for full period and six months afterwards
  - If renewing, allow plenty of time
- Registration with local authorities
  - Follow local instructions
- Visas for host country, if necessary
  - Time, costs
- Holders of Tier 4 visas
  - UKVI requires Kent to monitor your activity abroad
Accommodation

- Check the Kent student questionnaires for recommendations
- Private accommodation:
  - Get advice from your employer/school/host university
  - Beware scams!
- Student residences: Follow instructions sent by host university
- Be prepared for administration fees/deposits
- Read contracts carefully
- Find out:
  - When/where will you get your keys?
  - France: will you have to buy Multi-risques insurance first?
  - Make alternative arrangements for first night/s if necessary, e.g. if arriving on a public holiday, late at night or at a weekend
Arrival and departure

Arrival

• Don’t book travel or a summer holiday until you know when you are expected to arrive.

• Find out what to do/where to go on arrival

• Participate in training/orientation events

• Make sure you have any documents required by host:
  • E.g. Proof of identity/right to work, evidence of health insurance, other…

Departure

• Study placements: Don’t book your travel home until you know your exam dates.
Insurance

- Kent’s Travel and Personal Accident Insurance
  - Free, obligatory!
  - Register online before departure
  - Does not cover routine doctor’s appointments
    – If you will need regular appointments, obtain health insurance

- EHIC
  - In the event of No Deal, a UK EHIC may not be accepted.

- Health Insurance
  - You may be required to obtain health insurance in the host country in the event of a No Deal Brexit:
    – Germany: likely to be approx. 90 Euros per month
Tuition fees

• Under exchange agreement, no tuition fees payable to host universities
  • Possible charges for membership of student union, materials, use of sports facilities
  • Germany: semester fee for administration, public transport

• Tuition fees payable to Kent:
  • Undergraduate Year Abroad: reduced fee (2019/20: £1,385)
  • Undergraduate Term Abroad: normal tuition fees
  • Postgraduate study abroad: normal tuition fees
Other finance matters

- Update your budget
- Talk to your bank
- Notify SFE
  - Course Abroad form
  - Timing of student loan payments
  - Travel Grant
  - Paid work placements
- Disability Support Allowance
HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY
Health and welfare

• Confidential Health Questionnaire
  • Basic/Full, Fitness to Travel Certificate
  • If you do not submit a questionnaire, you will **not** be allowed to go.

• Your GP
  • Prescriptions: can you take enough with you? Will you need to get it there? Is it allowed in the host country?
  • You will be deregistered from your UK doctor’s surgery whilst abroad.

• Research medical or other provision at host
  • Private/public/university services? Costs? Access to facilities or special foods?
  • Register with a local doctor on arrival

• Student Support and Wellbeing at Kent
  • Skype or phone appointments
  • Make contact with SSW or Erasmus Team if you’d like to talk
Safety

Most placements are trouble free, but incidents can happen. Using common sense will help to reduce risks:

- Be vigilant when travelling or out late at night
- Be cautious with new people, particularly about accepting drinks/lifts home or inviting people to your accommodation
  - Consider cultural differences
- Keep valuables secure
  - Smartphones are always a popular target
PERSONAL PREPARATION
It’s your time abroad

- What do you want to get out of it?
- What skills do you want to develop?
- What attitude will you take with you?
- Take responsibility
- Be realistic
  - Allow time to adjust
    - Most people feel homesick or anxious at the start, sometimes the feelings recur during the time abroad.
    - Eat and sleep well, keep active and take time to do things you enjoy
- Focus on your time abroad
  - …Not on what’s happening here!
  - Enjoy the differences
  - Make the most of the opportunities
Cultural awareness

What differences might you encounter?*

- Communication styles, body language, formality/informality…
- Culture:
  - history, religion, customs, manners…
  - stereotypes, prejudices, attitudes to authority…
- Your expectations and theirs
  - Behaviour and attitudes: personal space, (un)acceptable behaviour…
  - Work environment, expectations of roles
  - University environment, teaching/learning styles, division of work…
- Find out as much as you can in advance
  - It’s very different from going on holiday

* Ref: “Race, Culture & Counselling” Colin Lago
Reflection

• What skills or attributes will help you deal with the differences?
  • Communication, team work, perseverance, adaptability, a sense of humour…
  • Being able to pause and think before reacting
  • All highly valued by employers.

• It works both ways!
  • Misunderstandings can occur on both sides
  • Don’t expect everyone to fit in with you.
  • Check your behaviour against your local peer group to avoid giving offence or the wrong impression

• Personality still plays a part!
Keeping in touch

- Update your contact details on SDS
- Check your Kent email regularly
- Keep in contact with home, but beware the Curse of Social Media!
  - Don’t envy friends at home, let them envy you!
- Please keep in touch with the Erasmus Team yourself
  - Don’t rely on other people to contact us for you, unless it’s impossible for you to do so
  - Data protection
  - Going through an intermediary can lead to misunderstandings or delays.

Remember: We won’t know that you need help unless you tell us!
Next steps

- Study and Work Abroad Guide
- Look out for your host university’s information email

Now…

- Get to know others going to the same country in the foyer
With thanks to our students and partners for providing the photos