

English Literature and Culture:
ERASMUS IN ENGLAND,
IRELAND, WALES



PATRICK GILL

CONTENT



- What is ERASMUS?
- Who can apply?
- What is the situation with the UK and Brexit?
- What will successful applicants get?
- What are the difficulties to look out for?
- Where can I go?
- How to apply
- How are applicants selected?
- Any questions?

What is ERASMUS?



- ERASMUS is a **reciprocal** contractual framework **between departments** at universities in the EU and associated countries. It means that students selected for participation can study at a partner university without having to pay tuition fees. In addition, they are paid a monthly stipend of between EUR 250 and 450 (depending on cost of living in host country).
- “Reciprocal” means that they generally have to be interested in sending someone to Mainz
- “Between departments” means that the default position is that you can only take classes in the department with whom we have an exchange
- A number of these contracts are for stays of an entire academic year (9 months). This is not negotiable.*
- *[some changes may be instituted]

Who can apply?



- Degree-seeking students enrolled in the BA/MA English Literature and Culture OR the BEd/MEd Englisch
- Nationality is NOT relevant
- You must have been enrolled in Mainz for one year at the time of departure
- You must NOT have already had an ERASMUS study grant that would take your overall ERASMUS time in one programme (i.e. within your bachelor's degree) to more than 12 months

What is the situation with the UK and Brexit?



- ERASMUS stays are guaranteed until 31 Dec. 2022.
- There is still a theoretical possibility that partners might back out and NOT accept students.
- Generally, though, we will assume places are still available.
- BUT
- you will need an officially sanctioned language exam
- (and those can cost around EUR 200)

What will successful applicants get?



- ERASMUS is a grant that is given to the best applicants to support them in their goal of studying a subject in another European country. As such it provides:
- a) a tuition fee waiver (i.e. you won't have to pay the tuition fees students would normally have to pay at the partner university)
- b) c. EUR 400/450 per month (4 months for a semester-long stay; 8 months for a year-long stay)
- c) classes worth up to 30 ECTS credits in your host department
- d) administrative help with enrolment and acceptance of marks on your return

What are difficulties to look out for?



- ERASMUS is based on contracts between departments. So if you go to Lincoln, say, with the Mainz history department, you will be enrolled in the history department in Lincoln. If you go there with ELC, you will be enrolled in English literature there.
- Some partners send their students of German to Mainz – so in the interest of reciprocity, you will be enrolled in German at the partner university. That is the case in Galway, where it is a mere formality (you'll still get your classes from the English department); it is also the case with Queen Mary, London, where you will only be allowed to study in the School of Languages, Linguistics, and Film, so NOT in English Literature (but SLLF at Queen Mary includes comparative literature, linguistics, film, so you'll get enough relevant classes!)
- Overall, if you're enrolled in English literature departments, as is the case in Lincoln and Keele, don't expect to take any classes in linguistics or didactics – these disciplines are completely separate entities in the UK (or simply don't exist, as is mostly the case for didactics)
- UK credit points are worth 0.5 credits in ECTS terms. So a 20-credit module in England is worth 10 ECTS credits (which equals 10 LPs in Mainz).
- There are no dedicated places in our exchanges for graduate students. If you are an MA or MEd student, you will have to pick undergraduate modules at our partner universities. Your credits will still count for your master's programme!

Where can I go?



- KEELE UNIVERSITY (<https://www.keele.ac.uk/>)
- Semester one (September to January)
- Largest UK campus university
- Staffordshire, England (nearest town: Stoke-on-Trent, half-way between Birmingham and Manchester).
- You would be enrolled in English literature.
- Modules you would take are small enough (ca. 7.5 ECTS credits per module)
- Classes on offer mostly concerned with British/American literature
- Halls of residence available

Where can I go?



- UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN
(<https://www.lincoln.ac.uk/home/>)
- Semester one (September to January)
- A very new university in a very old city.
- You would be enrolled in a department called “English and Journalism”.
- Since we share the exchange with History in Mainz, it is possible to mix and match (i.e. take some classes in literature and some in history)
- Halls of residence available

Where can I go?



- QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON (<https://www.qmul.ac.uk/>)
- Semesters one AND two (September to June) [this is under negotiation]
- You would be enrolled in the School of Languages and Cultures, so would take classes in (general) linguistics, cultural studies, comparative literature, European film and so on, NOT in English literature.
- Accommodation is obviously a challenge in London.

Where can I go?



- BANGOR UNIVERSITY (<https://www.bangor.ac.uk/>)
- Semester one (Sept.-Jan) OR semester two (Jan.-Jun.) [again, talks are ongoing]
- North Wales with just a ferry ride to Dublin or a train ride to Liverpool
- You'd technically be enrolled in German there but would be able to take classes in literature (English), linguistics (English) and culture (Welsh). They will also try to make you learn Welsh ;-)
- You will be offered accommodation, and given the limited private rental market, you'd probably be wise to take it.

Where can I go?



- NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY
(<http://www.nuigalway.ie/>)
 - Semesters one AND two (September to June) [this means that only full-year applicants will be accepted]
 - The beautiful west coast of Ireland (bring wellies!).
 - You will be enrolled in German for administrative purposes but will have access to one seminar and up to six lectures (with essays – so they will be accepted as seminars on your return) in English and Irish literature, drama, history, etc.
 - Accommodation will be offered to you – you may have little choice as the Irish housing market is a bit of a challenge at the moment.

Where can I go?



- Places in Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Dumfries are also available through my colleague PD Dr. Sigrid Rieuwertts.
- There will be a separate information package on those places.
- Only apply for ONE programme: ERASMUS in England, Ireland, Wales **OR** Scotland

How to apply



- Apply only for Scotland OR for England, Ireland, Wales
- Apply for ONE partner university of choice
- Apply punctually
- Provide a complete application in ONE pdf file

How to apply



- Fill in the application form that will be available at <https://www.english-and-linguistics.uni-mainz.de/austauschprogramme-auslandsstudium/>
- Send your application as a single pdf file to patrick.gill@uni-mainz.de by Thursday, 16 December, 11:59 pm
- If you are also applying to study in the rest of Europe, make sure to let me know where your priorities lie!

How to apply



- Your application is for ONE of our partner universities.
- Besides the two-page questionnaire you will download, your application should include the following:
 - 1) A one-page curriculum vitae (in English)
 - 2) A photograph (no prizes for aesthetics – this is just to help me remember who is who)
 - 3) Your current transcript as printed from Jogustine
 - 4) An explanation why you would suit your chosen partner institution
 - 5) A table listing the classes you would like to take there and the classes in Mainz that you think might be substituted

How are applicants selected?



- **THERE ARE AROUND A DOZEN SELECTION CRITERIA**
- Your qualitative (marks) and quantitative (credits/semester) performance will be looked at as will the degree to which studying abroad is obligatory in your programme.
- Your application itself will also be taken into consideration: are the plans you outline realistic? Do you have good (i.e. rational, objective) reasons to want to study in a certain place?
- We will let you know in February whether your application has been successful.

Any questions?



- Remember that ERASMUS in Scotland is looked after by my colleague PD Dr. Rieuwerts – this presentation only covers ERASMUS in England, Ireland, Wales!!
- My consultation time (on TEAMS) Mon, 2-3.30
- Or write to patrick.gill@uni-mainz.de