Exchange Info Session 2019
BSc Social Sciences
Overview

• ERASMUS
  • Nomination and selection procedure
  • Destinations
• Non-EU destinations
  • Nomination and selection procedure
• Contacts

IMPORTANT: please refer to this presentation for the most recent and correct information (e.g. concerning destinations)
WHY STUDY ABROAD?
Reasons to study abroad

❖ Study & learn differently
❖ Brush up on your language skills
❖ Boost your employment opportunities
❖ Enhance your intercultural competences
Reasons to study abroad

❖ Learn about yourself & your culture
❖ Boost your self-confidence & independence
❖ Be adventurous & explore the world
❖ Friends for life from all over the world
ERASMUS is a right and a privilege!

Requirements for the final ‘go’ – not for applying!

• Finished BA1 and BA2
• Obtained an average score of at least 12/20 in BA1 and BA2 combined
Requirements

- Exchange 3rd Bachelor – 1st semester
- No internship abroad
- Bachelor paper in distance learning
- Complete a non-binding language test before and after return

- Look up the guidelines:  
**Application**

**DEADLINE – FEBRUARY 16th 2020**

1. Find ‘nomination dossier’ template on

2. **Send nomination dossier per email to exchangesocialsciences@vub.be before the deadline**
   a) One pdf including destination selection, language skills, motivation letter and grades

*Only correct and complete nomination dossiers handed in before the deadline will be considered!*
How to choose your destinations

• Consider (twice!) the teaching language of the host university
  • E.g. France: you will need to have a very good command of French
  • Follow free (summer) language trainings at the host university (register in time!)

• Consider the courses of the host university
  • You need to look for the courses yourself – might take some time and effort
    • If you cannot find any information, write an email to the exchange coordinators
    • Look for courses open for international students
    • Look for courses that match the courses in the BScSS programme

• You can also apply to universities offered by POLI, SCOM and SOCI
  • BUT: you might only have access to courses in the respective discipline (e.g. only political sciences courses for host universities offered by POLI)
  • Please check in advance or ask your exchange coordinators in case you cannot find out yourself
Nomination dossier

• Choose 3 destinations (in order of preference) from BScSS/POLI/SOCI/SCOM destinations; including *at least one from BScSS destinations*
  • Priority rules apply!
  • Be aware: there are more free places offered by SOCI and SCOM than by POLI (normally, you can still pick political science courses in non-POLI destinations)

• Language skills
  • Will not be taken into consideration for the nomination

• Motivation letter
  • Why do you want to go on an exchange?

• Grades
  • All grades from the first bachelor (full year, transcript of records with GPA) and the second bachelor (first semester, including GPA)
Selection procedure

Your application will be ranked according to the following criteria:

1. Grades
2. Motivation letter

In case there are problems with the allocation of preferred destinations, the exchange coordinator might contact you for additional destinations.
Selection procedure

• Students will receive an email with either a rejection or conditional approval (together with an allocated destination)
  • End of February/ Beginning of March

• Final allocation occurs after the first (or second – please avoid!) exam session
  • After the receipt of all grades
  • In case of retakes: write an email to the exchange coordinators but do not ask professors for earlier grading yourself!

• If you do not meet the requirements after the exam session, you cannot go
  • Do not book your tickets, rooms, etc. before the results of your exams! (The university will not be able to reimburse any costs!)
Outlook: Application procedure

- Students go through the application process of the VUB (March)
  - Help of exchange coordinators
  - 'Mobility Online’ application tool

- Students draft their Learning Agreements (March/April)
  - Semester plan followed at the host institution
  - Language courses cannot be included
  - The Bachelor paper is not included in the LA
  - See ‘fact sheet’ online + we will organise an information session for drafting the LA in March/April

- Students register at the host university (March/April)
ERASMUS destinations
## Social Sciences

### Destinations (primary)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
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## Political Science

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## Sociology

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## Communication Studies

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# Communication Studies

## Destinations

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Non-EU destinations
Non-EU destinations

Requirements for the final ‘go’ – not for applying

• Finished BA1 and BA2
• Obtained an average score of at least 12/20 in BA1 and BA2 combined

Requirements for applying

• Finished BA1 before applying for the exchange!
Non-EU destinations: requirements

• Exchange 3rd Bachelor – 1st semester
• No internship abroad
• Bachelor paper in distance learning
• Complete a non-binding language test before and after return

• Look up the **guidelines**:
  
Non-EU destinations: application

1. Contact IRMO (exchange.outgoing@vub.be) and your VUB Exchange Coordinators (until 15 December) by e-mail to express your interest and receive more detailed info on the specific host institutions
   • Put exchange coordinators (exchangesocialsciences@vub.be) in cc in the initial email to IRMO

2. Look up the offered programs online and compose a draft learning agreement
   • LA template in nomination dossier
   • See fact sheet online
Non-EU destinations: application

DEADLINE – FEBRUARY 16th 2020


2. Send nomination dossier per email to exchangesocialsciences@vub.be before the deadline*
   a) One pdf including destination, language skills, motivation letter, grades and draft learning agreement

*Only correct and complete nomination dossiers handed in before the deadline will be considered!
Timeline

- **Submission of nomination dossier: 16 February 2020**
- Selection of candidates and allocation of destinations: end of February/beginning of March
- Application procedure VUB: March
- Application procedure guest institution: March/April
- Draft of Learning Agreement + Info Session: March/April
- Approval departure: after 1st or 2nd exam session (after the receipt of all grades)
- Departure: August/September/October
- Submission of changes in Learning Agreement: September/October
Keep in mind!

• Always send your draft Learning Agreement (with matching courses) in a word document first to the exchange coordinators and wait for their OK before inputting the information in Mobility Online.

• Re-enroll at VUB and register for all courses which are not included in your Learning Agreement (e.g. Bachelor paper).

• If you fail a course abroad, you have three possibilities:
  (1) retake abroad – preferred option
  (2) retake at VUB of the original course
  (3) retake at VUB with matching course
Keep in mind!

• Think carefully if you really want to go on ERASMUS before applying!
  • In case you anticipate retakes: do you want to put the additional pressure on yourself?
  • Are there any classes you really don’t want to miss at VUB?

• Think carefully if you really can follow classes in the language of your host university before applying!

• Keep in mind that the grade conversion might ‘downgrade’ your grades obtained at the host university
It's in your hands!

- You’re responsible for...
  - Checking courses
  - Checking teaching language
  - Compiling Learning Agreement
  - Registering at host institution
  - Organising your stay

- There is always a second chance: if you cannot go in BA3, you will get another chance during your Master’s programme
  - You can go abroad twice during your education
Contacts

• BScSS exchange coordinators:
  • exchangesocialsciences@vub.be
  • Catalina Iordache, Dilara Asardag & Hanna Schneider

• International Relations and Mobility Office
  • exchange.outgoing@vub.ac.be