



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

School of Natural Sciences

Study Abroad Handbook 2026-27



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Introduction

Trinity is committed to educating globally aware and engaged citizens and as such, Trinity students are strongly encouraged to explore and participate in opportunities to study, work, or volunteer abroad. Studying abroad is an important part of a Trinity education and students who undertake global mobility programmes have the opportunity to develop sought after skills and attributes such as linguistic skills, intercultural competencies and global citizenship. Students can avail of an Erasmus+ or International Exchange during the course of their studies. The number of students at Trinity studying abroad has significantly increased in recent years. In 2025/2026, over 1000 students participated in an outbound mobility.

This handbook is designed to provide exchange information for students in the School of Natural Sciences. This concerns undergraduate students on one of the following courses:

- TR060 Botany, TR060 Zoology and TR060 Environmental Sciences
- TR062 Geography and Geosciences
- TR064 Environmental Science and Engineering
- Joint Honours/Single Honours Geography

Contact

Role	Name	School/Course	Email
Global and Industry Engagement Officer	Julie Boustie	Study Abroad (Erasmus+ and International Exchange) general Enquiries School of Natural Sciences	SNSGlobal@tcd.ie boustiej@tcd.ie
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Study Abroad Academic coordinator	Pepijn Luijckx	TR060 Zoology School of Natural Sciences	LUIJCKXP@tcd.ie
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Study Abroad Academic coordinator	Silvia Caldararu	TR064 School of Natural Sciences	CALDARAS@tcd.ie

Rules according to your course:

TR062 Geography and Geosciences

Students who wish to go on exchange will apply in **Semester 1 of their Senior Freshman year**.

As study abroad options are discipline specific, students choosing this option are required to make their TR062 Sophister moderatorship selection earlier than those remaining in Trinity (i.e., it is not possible to do a Geography Erasmus exchange and then return to college on the Geoscience moderatorship, or vice versa).

Joint Honours / Single Honours Geography

Students who wish to go on exchange will apply in **Semester 1 of their Senior Freshman year**.

Students are permitted to go on exchange for the **Full Year**, in **Semester 1** or in **Semester 2** of their Junior Sophister year.

JH students apply to their subject's Department for the exchange(s) they wish to go on.

TR062 Geography moderatorship

Students are permitted to go on exchange for the **Full Year**, in **Semester 1** or in **Semester 2** of their Junior Sophister year.

TR062 Geosciences moderatorship

Students are only permitted to go on exchange in **Semester 1** of their Junior Sophister year.

TR064 Environmental Science and Engineering

Students who wish to go on exchange will apply in **Semester 1 of their Junior Sophister year**.

Students are only permitted to go on exchange in **Semester 2** of their Senior Sophister year.

TR060 Biological and Biomedical Sciences Zoology, Botany and Environmental Sciences only

TR060 Zoology

Study abroad cannot be offered to students choosing the Zoology or Botany moderatorship due to course restrictions

TR060 Botany

TR060 Environmental Sciences

Students who wish to go on exchange will apply in **Semester 1 of their Senior Freshman year**.

Students are permitted to go on exchange for the **Full Year**, in **Semester 1** or in **Semester 2** of their Junior Sophister year.

Erasmus +

Erasmus + applications and nominations are dealt at School level. The School of Natural Sciences has exchange partnerships agreed with various host universities. These partnerships are made with disciplines so you can only select universities that have agreements with your course.

Students will apply through a form sent by the School's Global Officer following the Study Abroad information session in Semester 1. Students will need II.1 or above (60% minimum) with no supplementals (this does not concern deferrals) for exchange offer consideration and will need to write a personal statement. The School's Global Officer will issue offers for Erasmus in late January (same time as International Exchange offers from Trinity Global).

Students will have a week to accept/reject offers. If you reject an offer but wish to be considered for potential following rounds, please let the School's Global Officer know.

You may not be issued your first choice so it's important to only apply to universities you really want to go to.

It is the responsibility of the students to be aware of term times, assessment and re-assessment periods for each university they apply for as they can vary.

You can apply to both International Exchange and Erasmus **but can only accept one offer**. Always confirm your choice with the School's Global Officer and Trinity Global. You cannot accept both as a reserve as this is blocking other students from possibly being issued with an offer.

Students going on Erasmus+ are eligible to apply for an Erasmus+ Grant. This is fully managed by the Trinity Global Office. You can email erasmus.outgoing@tcd.ie for more information.

Geology – suitable for TR062 Geoscience moderatorship (Earth System Science and Geology)

TR062 students choosing the Geosciences moderatorship (Earth System Sciences and Geology) wishing to go abroad will apply in Semester 1 of their Senior Freshman year.

As study abroad options are discipline specific, students choosing this option are required to make their TR062 Sophister moderatorship selection earlier than those remaining in Trinity (i.e., it is not possible to do a Geography Erasmus exchange and then return to college on the Geoscience moderatorship, or vice versa).

Geoscience students are currently only permitted to study abroad in **Semester 1 of their Junior Sophister year**. Geoscience students are not permitted to study abroad in Semester 2, with no exceptions.

Country	Institution	Erasmus code	Partnership with	Modules	Places
Iceland	University of Iceland	IS REYKJAV01	Faculty of Earth Sciences	Course Catalogue	4
Norway	University of Bergen	N BERGEN01	Department of Earth sciences	Course Catalogue	2
Sweden	Stockholm University	S STOCKHO01	Department of Geological Sciences	Course Catalogue	2
Norway	University of Tromsø UiT The Arctic University of Norway	N TROMSO01	Department of Geoscience	Course Catalogue	4
Netherlands	Utrecht University	NL UTRECHT01	Department of Earth Sciences	Course Catalogue	4
France	Université Clermont Auvergne*	F CLERMON02	Ecole de l'OPGC		4
UK	University of Birmingham	Not eligible for EU mobility grant	School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences	UG courses	2

*** Minimum French B2 is required for Clermont-Auvergne**

Geography – suitable for TR062 Geography moderatorship and Geography Joint Honours/Single Honours

TR062 students choosing the Geography moderatorship and Geography Joint Honours, Single Honours and Geography MAJ wishing to go abroad will apply in Semester 1 of their Senior Freshman year.

For TR062 students, as study abroad options are discipline specific, students choosing this option are required to make their TR062 Sophister moderatorship selection earlier than those remaining in Trinity (i.e., it is not possible to do a Geography Erasmus exchange and then return to college on the Geoscience moderatorship, or vice versa).

Geography students (TR062 and JH/SH/MAJ) are permitted to study abroad in **Semester 1, Semester 2 or for the Full Year of their Junior Sophister year.**

Country	Institution	Erasmus code	Partnership with	Modules	Places
Iceland	University of Iceland	IS REYKJAV01	Department of Geography	Course Catalogue	4 Semester, 2 Full Year
Sweden	Stockholm University	S STOCKHO01	Human Geography	Course Catalogue	4 Semester, 2 Full Year
Czechia	Charles University	CZ PRAHA07	Faculty of Sciences, Geography section	Course Catalogue	4 Semester, 2 Full Year
France	Université Bordeaux Montaigne*	F BORDEAU03	Geography Department	Course Catalogue	4 Semester, 2 Full Year
France	Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne*	F PARIS001	Geography Department	Course Catalogue	4 Semester, 2 Full Year
France	Sorbonne Université*	F PARIS468	Geography Department	Course Catalogue	6 Semester, 3 Full Year
Sweden	Uppsala University	S UPPSALA01	Department of Earth Sciences	Course Catalogue	2 Semester, 1 Full Year
Netherlands	Utrecht University	NL UTRECHT01	Faculty of Geosciences	Course Catalogue	4 Semester, 2 Full Year
UK	University of Exeter	Not eligible for EU mobility grant	Geography	Course Catalogue	4 Semester, 2 Full Year

*** Minimum French B2 is required for Paris and Bordeaux**

Joint Honours

Each of your subjects will have exchange partnerships agreed with various host universities. Students apply to their subject's Department for the exchange(s) they wish to go on. You can apply to either one or both of your subjects' exchanges. The host university does not have to have a partnership with both of your subjects, however, you

need to be able to study both subjects there. You can find more information here: [Exchange - Trinity Joint Honours | Trinity College Dublin](#)

Joint Honours students should take into account that they will need to study two subjects while abroad. Joint Honours students should remember that their other subject department will also have Erasmus+ partner departments. JH students can go on an Erasmus+ exchange through either of their subject departments.

Geography/Political Science students should not consider Stockholm or Bordeaux, as there are problems with enrolling for suitable Politics modules. Students are required to select a set of modules based on the Pathway they have chosen at Trinity.

Uppsala University is best suited to Single Honours students with a main interest in Physical Geography.

Paris I (Panthéon-Sorbonne) is not suitable for students of French.

Important note: any student on a Semester 2 or Full Year exchange doing their dissertation with Geography will have to be enrolled and audit remotely on GGU33028 Advanced Research Methods. You will not receive any ECTS or marks from this module, but it is a compulsory module as it will allow you to develop a dissertation topic and be allocated a supervisor for your final year. You must contact the Geography department to be manually enrolled in this module.

Environmental Science and Engineering (TR064)

TR064 students wishing to go abroad will apply in Semester 1 of their Junior Sophister year.

Environmental Science and Engineering students are only permitted to study abroad in **Semester 2 of their Senior Sophister year**. Students are not permitted to study abroad in semester one, or for a full year, with no exceptions. This does not apply to UNITECH.

Country	Institution	Erasmus code	Partnership with	Modules	Places
Iceland	University of Iceland	IS REYKJAV01	Department of Botany	Course Catalogue	4
Portugal	IST Lisboa (Universidade de Lisboa)	P LISBOA109	School of Engineering	Course Catalogue	2

Note: students can apply to the two universities above but also to every university that has a partnership with Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering and general

Engineering (the list can be found here: [Study Abroad | Outbound Student Handbook 2025](#)) however you should note:

- Students will be required to find a list of available modules in the host universities that are suitable to their course and chosen stream.
- Places from partnerships from other disciplines are not reserved to TR064 and thus students will be competing against other students in the discipline.

Environmental Science (TR060)

TR060 students choosing the Environmental Sciences moderatorship will apply in **Semester 1 of their Junior Sophister year.**

Environmental Science are permitted to go on exchange for the Full Year, in Semester 1 or in Semester 2 of their Junior Sophister year.

Students apply to their Academic coordinator and the School's Global Officer presenting course equivalents covering core modules, learning outcomes and credits.

Country	Institution	Erasmus code	Partnership with	Modules	Places
Iceland	University of Iceland	IS REYKJAV01	Department of Botany	Course Catalogue	4 Semester, 2 Fully Year

Students will be permitted to go on exchange if they are granted the Environmental Sciences moderatorship after finishing their Junior Sophister year of TR060 Biological and Biomedical Sciences. The Science Course Office must be informed if you have applied and/or received an offer for Erasmus+ or International Exchange.

International Exchange

International Exchanges, or 'College-wide' exchanges, are open to all eligible students at Trinity and are thus dealt at College-level. They are exchanges to universities outside Europe and are managed by the central College team in Trinity Global. You can find the list of universities you can apply to here: [Outside Europe - Trinity Global | Trinity College Dublin](#)

There are a few rules to follow when applying for International Exchange:

There will be a pre-application process for all students in the School of Natural Sciences who want to go for an International Exchange. This is to make sure the School and the academic coordinators are aware of which students are applying for International

Exchange and if the universities they wish to go to are suitable for the course they are taking. Students will be required to apply first through a form shared by the School's Global Officer.

Students will need II.1 or above (60% minimum) with no supplementals (this does not concern deferrals) for exchange offer consideration and will need to write a personal statement. Once approved by the School, students will apply directly to the Trinity Global Office through a form shared on their website. Offers for International Exchange will be issued directly by the Trinity Global Team in late January/early February.

Students will have a week to accept/reject offers. If you reject an offer but wish to be considered for potential following rounds, please let the Trinity Global Office know.

You may not be issued your first choice so it's important to only apply to universities you really want to go to.

It is the responsibility of the students to be aware of term times, assessment and re-assessment periods for each university they apply for as they can vary.

You can apply to both International Exchange and Erasmus+ **but can only accept one offer**. Always confirm your choice with the School's Global Officer and Trinity Global. You cannot accept both as a reserve as this is blocking other students from possibly being issued with an offer.

Students going on Erasmus+ are eligible to apply for a Global Mobility Bursary to receive funding for your time abroad. This is fully managed by the Trinity Global Office. You can email global.mobility@tcd.ie for more information.

Other Exchanges - College-Wide Erasmus+

Trinity is a part of networks that offer Erasmus+ exchanges not tied to a particular School/Discipline. The Coimbra & CHARM programmes are college-wide Erasmus mobilities. This means they are open to all Trinity College students eligible for an Erasmus+ mobility.

Students must review and research available host universities and confirm course availability. They will be nominated by the Trinity Global Office and hosted by the relevant faculty/department at the host institution based on their subject area

You must notify the Global Officer in the School and your academic coordinator that you wish to apply through Coimbra or CHARM. Offers will be issued by Trinity Global.

Please be aware that you still need to comply with your pathway and submit your Learning Agreement to the School's Global Officer if on any of the following exchanges:

- COIMBRA - Coimbra Group's Student Exchange Network

- CHARM-EU
- UNITECH – only for TR064 students

Please visit the Trinity Global webpage for further information [Coimbra ELAN Unitech Cluster - Trinity Global | Trinity College Dublin](#).

Learning Agreements and module choices

The offer you will receive (from the School's Global Officer for Erasmus+ or from Trinity Global Office for International Exchange) is provisional. Your host university will review your application and contact you. You must inform the School's Global Officer as soon as you receive application details from your host university.

All the modules you wish to take in your host university will have to be approved by the academic coordinator in your discipline. Students should email SNSGlobal@tcd.ie with their chosen list of modules (and backup modules) when they start the application process with their host university.

Once your modules have been approved by both the sending and receiving universities you can start your Learning Agreement:

- **For Erasmus+ students** you can create your Online Learning Agreement through this link: <https://learning-agreement.eu/> and list Julie Boustie SNSGlobal@tcd.ie as the responsible person in the sending institution. More information on how to create your Online Learning Agreement can be found here: [Creating your Online Learning Agreement](#)
- **For International Exchange** – the form will be sent by the Trinity Global Office or School's Global Officer.

Note: Joint Honours students must submit both their Learning Agreement and module choice through a form: [UCAO - Learning Agreement and Module form upload](#) and must enter the UCAO office as responsible person in the sending institution, using the name Elaine Denehan and email address tjh.erasmus-studyabroad@tcd.ie because this is the person that signs the OLA once your Exchange Co-ordinator(s) have approved it. The Sending Admin Responsible Person should be Julie Boustie SNSGlobal@tcd.ie

The Learning Agreement must be signed by you, the responsible person in the sending university (School's Global Officer or UCAO office for JH/SH) and the responsible person in the receiving university. You cannot start your exchange without a signed Learning Agreement, and it is mandatory to receive your Erasmus+ mobility grant.

Any changes to your Learning Agreement must be approved first. No changes to the Learning Agreement can be made two weeks after starting your exchange.

Credits and enrolments:

Students should enrol in 30 ECTS per semester (60 ECTS per year). Trinity will take their best 22.5 credits per semester (45 per year) towards their grade.

It is important to select modules that match Trinity's academic offering both in terms of content and credits. The rationale is that the exchange experience is academically similar (and substitutable for) to those offered at Trinity. When reviewing your choice of modules, the School's Global Officer and Academic Coordinator in Trinity will assess:

- Overlap with completed modules.
- Overlap with forthcoming modules at Trinity.
- Although modules do not need to directly replace the exact curriculum at Trinity, they should be relevant and aligned to your course of study and graduate attributes.

Any change to your Learning Agreement must be approved by both the sending and receiving university. If you wish to change any modules you need to do so within two weeks of classes starting at your host university.

For Joint Honours/Single Honours the rules of exchange can vary and can be found here: [erasmus_tjh_student_advice.pdf](#) as well as here: [Exchange - Trinity Joint Honours | Trinity College Dublin](#)

Transcripts and grade conversion

Transcripts

At the end of your exchange, you should send a copy of your Transcript of Results to SNSGlobal@tcd.ie. Transcripts that are not returned by deadlines may impact a student's ability to progress to the next academic year. If you will be delayed for any reason in submitting your transcript, please contact the School's Global Officer and academic coordinator.

Joint Honours students should also upload their transcript through an online form provided by the Joint Honours Office (tjh.erasmus-studyabroad@tcd.ie). Marks will be converted based on the ECCTIS grade conversion tables.

"Pass or fail" modules will show as a 40% mark on Trinity's transcript when passed.

Students going on a Semester 1 exchange will have their results published at the Annual Examination Session. Students on a Full-Year or Semester 2 exchange will have their results published at the Reassessment Examination Session.

Students should enrol in 30 ECTS per semester (60 ECTS per year). Trinity will take their best 22.5 credits per semester (45 per year) towards their grade.

In case a student does not reach the required pass mark while abroad, it may be necessary to pursue host supplemental assessments for failed modules, just as they would in Trinity College. The School of Natural Science does not host supplemental assessments on behalf of exchange partners. Therefore, it is the students' responsibility to establish reassessments regulations and timings in their host university. These timings may not align with Trinity's requirements for progression.

Your final degree result will be calculated as a weighted combination (30:70) of your Junior and Senior Sophister results. If you spend your Junior Sophister year/semester studying abroad, your overall result from your year/semester abroad will contribute in the same ratio to your degree result.

Environmental Science and Engineering students need to achieve a II.1 from their combined (30:70) Junior and Senior Sophister years to qualify for the Integrated Master's. If you spend your Semester 2 in Senior Sophister year studying abroad, your overall result from your Semester abroad will contribute in the same ratio as if you had done an internship.

Grade Conversion

Grade conversions are set at College level, and although the conversion is applied at School level, we are required to follow College's conversion table. For Joint Honours students, the conversion will be carried out by both of their subjects.

For marks that fall within a grade band, there can be some subtlety in how the exact percentage is decided, as the final decision lies with the individual School. As marking cultures can vary between subjects and Schools, there may also be some differences in how equivalent bands are converted from one School to another and discipline norms will be applied.

Please be assured that we do our very best to apply the conversion as fairly and consistently as possible, and that strong performance in a module will be reflected in the converted mark. It is also worth noting that being marked on your best 22.5 ECTS (or 45 ECTS for FY), rather than the full 30 ECTS (or 60 ECTS for FY), generally works in the students' favour.

Withdrawal, extension, changes

Withdrawal

Students who wish to withdraw from Study Abroad must inform the School's Global Officer, their academic coordinator and the Trinity Global Office as soon as possible.

Before accepting their offer, it is the student's responsibility to research the host country and city, including the cost of living, accommodation availability and cost, and any other practical factors, in order to assess whether the exchange is feasible for them. Students should not wait until the last minute to withdraw if they have concerns. Early notice gives the Global Office the best chance to reallocate places and support other students.

If a student wishes to withdraw for any reason after their exchange has already started, they must inform the School's Global Officer as soon as possible. Please note that return is not possible after the 4th week of the teaching term, thus, any decision to withdraw must be made quickly and with full awareness of the consequences. These can include difficulty catching up on missed material, not being able to enrol in preferred optional modules on return, and, if the decision comes too late in the semester, not being permitted to join classes at all.

Extensions

Only students on a semester-long exchange who are eligible to apply for a full year may request an extension from a semester to a full-year exchange. Approval is not guaranteed.

Students wishing to request an extension must inform the School's Global Officer, their academic coordinator and the Trinity Global Office first. The Trinity Global Office will then contact the host university to establish whether an extension is feasible before any decision is confirmed.

Changes

Full-year students who wish to shorten their exchange to a single semester must inform the School's Global Officer, their academic coordinator and the Trinity Global Office as soon as possible.

Students who wish to move from a Semester 1 exchange to Semester 2, or vice versa, must also inform the School Global Officer and the Trinity Global team as soon as possible.

All requested changes are subject to availability of places at the host university and cannot be guaranteed. Only students who are eligible to apply for Semester 1, Semester 2, or full-year exchanges may request these changes.

Life abroad

Going abroad means adapting to a new culture, and sometimes a new language. While this can take some adjustment, it is also a genuinely enriching experience, and you will likely notice differences in how teaching, assessment, and academic life work compared to studying in Ireland.

Before you go, it is a good idea to research what life will be like in your host country, including the culture, climate, cost of living, and day-to-day practicalities, so that you know what to expect and can prepare accordingly.

Accommodation

When considering potential Study Abroad destinations, students should also research the local cost of living and housing situation. Just as in Dublin, this can sometimes be a challenge, and it is worth being aware of this before accepting an offer.

Securing accommodation at the host destination is entirely the student's own responsibility. Some host universities offer student accommodation to visiting students, but places are often limited and cannot be guaranteed. Students should not assume they will be offered student accommodation and should be prepared to arrange private accommodation if needed.

Getting in touch with other students

If you would like to get in touch with students who have previously gone on exchange, to hear about their experience and get some tips, we can put you in contact with them. This can be arranged by the School's Global Officer at your request.

It is also possible to be put in contact with other students doing the same exchange as you, so that you know who else in the School will be going at the same time. This can also be arranged by the School's Global Officer at your request.

In addition, testimonies from past Study Abroad students are available on the [Joint Honours website](#) and on the [Trinity Global webpage](#).

Timeline for Study Abroad

