



Study Abroad

The School of Computer Science and Statistics encourages students to consider studying abroad in one of Trinity's partner universities. There are two types of opportunities to study abroad.

1. Erasmus/EU Exchanges
2. Non-EU Exchanges, also referred to as International Exchanges

Whether you are embarking on an Erasmus/EU exchange or a non-EU exchange, it is essential that you fully consider the impact that studying abroad will have on your studies.

Detailed information, including application instructions, internal School deadlines and key contacts in the School can be found on the School's Teaching and Learning website: <https://www.tcd.ie/scss/study-abroad/outbound-students/>.

It is essential that you begin your application to study abroad well ahead of the relevant deadlines. Your preparations should include investigating host institutions and modules that align with your degree course, discussing your intentions with key members of staff in the School and attending any presentations provided by the School or by the College's Global Relations office. Note that for all courses it is expected that core (compulsory) modules for your course are mapped closely to your proposed host modules.

The School will set internal School application deadlines in line with College deadlines and late applications will not be considered for approval by the School.

As a rule of thumb, if you are considering a non-EU/International programme in your third year, you should be investigating your options when your Senior Fresh year begins. If you are considering an EU/Erasmus programme, you should extend your fluency in the primary language of the EU host countries you hope to target, and you should be investigating your options by the second half of the first semester of your Senior Fresh year.

Eligibility for Study Abroad

To be eligible for either an Erasmus/EU exchange or another non-EU, international exchange in Junior Sophister year, you must achieve an **overall II.1 standard in your first attempt at Junior Fresh assessments** prior to making an application (during Senior Fresh year) to Global to study abroad. Note also that before final School approval is issued to finally proceed with an approved international exchange, **you must also have achieved an overall II.1 in your Senior Fresh year**. Being in a situation in which marks are withheld at the time of exchange application is disqualifying.

If you are a Computer Science Joint Honours student, you must achieve an **overall II.1 standard in your first attempt at Junior Fresh assessments** and overall II.1 in Senior Fresh year of the **Computer Science subject modules** but will otherwise be subject to overall College study abroad requirements



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and any additional requirements specified for your other subjects.

If you are a Computer Science, Linguistics and a Language student, you are exempt from achieving both the School and College requirements for study abroad due to the mandatory nature of Erasmus in your Junior Sophister year for students of French and Spanish. Exchange is not currently available to Computer Science, Linguistics and Irish.

Also note that eligibility to commence your year abroad is conditional on you being in *good standing* before you begin your studies in your chosen host institution. If you are required to present for TCD assessments during the reassessment session (either reassessments or deferred first assessments), the timing of these assessments and the date of publication of your results may disrupt the start of your year abroad and it may be necessary to seek to defer or withdraw from the exchange programme.

Timing and Duration of Study Abroad

Normally, if you are intending to study abroad you will do so in your Junior Sophister year (applying during your Senior Fresh year) and this is the College expectation. Special arrangements permitting study abroad in the Senior Sophister year apply to Engineering.

If you are applying to study abroad under the EU/Erasmus programme, you should spend a full academic year abroad.

If you are intending to study abroad under a non-EU, international exchange programme, you can study abroad for a full academic year or for just one semester. In most SCSS curricula, the Junior Sophister year is fully “semesterised” with no full-year modules and this more readily facilitates studying abroad for just one semester. The exception to this is the Junior Sophister year of the MSISS programme and MSISS students who are considering studying abroad for just one semester are advised to discuss this with their Course Director.

When considering studying abroad, you should be aware that the TCD academic year structure may conflict with the academic year structure of your intended host institution, *particularly in relation to assessments and reassessments*. You must prioritise completion of any mandatory TCD assessments at the start of a study abroad programme and must prioritise the completion of any mandatory host institution assessments at the end of a study abroad programme. You should fully investigate the implications of this for the commencement of both your year abroad and your year in TCD when you return.

Programme of study

Students participating in exchange are responsible for proposing a selection of modules from the host institution that correspond to TCD third year requirements for their course, and are equivalent to 60 credits on the European Credit Transfer System. Host university modules that are **only assessed on a pass/fail basis will not contribute** to a student’s ECTS or grade calculations for their time abroad. Negotiation of a suitable selection of modules may take some time. Any selection **must be approved by the TCD coordinator** before embarking on them. Module selections frequently require revision when in place, due to scheduling conflicts and comparable issues. Revised proposals **must be negotiated with the TCD coordinator**.



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Calculation of Results

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 studying abroad, your overall result from your year abroad will contribute in the same ratio to your degree result.

The School will calculate your overall Junior Sophister result for a year or a semester spent studying abroad. This calculation will use the grade conversion table provided by the School. Your result will be a credit-weighted average of the converted grades achieved in modules worth 45 ECTS for full year (22.5 ECTS for a single semester abroad for MSISS and ICS; 20 ECTS for Joint Honours), taking modules in descending grade order. (Where the final module to be included in the calculation would cause the credits counted to exceed 45 (22.5), its credit weighting will be capped at the credits required to total exactly 45 (22.5) credits, for the purposes of the calculation.)

The determination of the year abroad result is on the basis of the *best* 45 credits earned of 60 attempted is intended to create an allowance for the extreme challenges of studying in other university systems within distinct cultural settings in a language other than English. It remains necessary to pursue supplemental assessments for failed modules, just as within TCD. SCSS does not host supplemental assessments on behalf of exchange partners. It is therefore the responsibility of the student to establish supplemental/reassessments regulations/timings within the exchange University. These timings may not align with TCD requirements for progression.