



ERASMUS+ INFORMATION SHEET FOR STUDENTS 2019/2020

This information sheet aims to provide an overview of the Erasmus+ opportunities available to Royal Conservatoire of Scotland students.

More detailed information can be found on our portal <https://portal.rcs.ac.uk/erasmus-and-international-exchange/> or from the International and Student Experience team (international@rcs.ac.uk)

What is Erasmus+?

Erasmus+ is the European Union's Programme in the fields of education, training, youth and sport for the period 2014-2020. The Programme is split into three key areas; Key Action 1, Key Action 2 and Key Action 3. Key Action 1 supports mobility projects in the field of education, training and youth, large scale European Voluntary Service events, Joint Master Degrees and the Master Student Loan Guarantee. In the field of education and training, funding is available for mobility projects for higher education students and staff.

Study mobility gives Conservatoire students the opportunity to study at one of our partner institutions for term 1 or terms 2 and 3.

Why study overseas as an Erasmus+ student?

The EU highlights a number of very positive reasons for participation in Erasmus+:

- improved learning performance
- enhanced employability and improved career prospects
- increased sense of initiative and entrepreneurship
- increased self-empowerment and self-esteem
- improved foreign language competences
- enhanced intercultural awareness
- more active participation in society

- better awareness of the European project and the EU values
- increased motivation for taking part in future (formal/non-formal) education or training after the mobility period abroad.

What can I study?

You can study a programme of study that is similar to your own at the Conservatoire with the added advantage of being able to choose some modules that are not offered here. For example, students who have gone on Erasmus to Spain have been able to study Flamenco music and dance, something which is not offered at the Conservatoire. Most partner institutions offer a programme similar to BMus Performance and several also a traditional music course. For students in the School of Drama, Dance, Production and Film the opportunities are more limited and you should speak to the International and Student Experience team for advice. At present there are no partner institutions that are suitable for BA PAD/PTM students.

The study period abroad is fully integrated into a student's programme of study as credits earned are fully transferred to their Conservatoire programme of study. This process is referred to as 'recognition'. Most partners use the European Credit Transfer system (ECTS) where one ECTS credit equals two Scottish (SCQF) credits. You will be expected to take the appropriate load of credit for your duration of stay.

One or two terms of study abroad* = 30 ECTS

*If you are studying on the BMus (Hons) Joint Principal Study programme your load is 140 SCQF credits (70 ECTS) per year. Your Erasmus credits should therefore equal 35 ECTS.

Where can I go?

We have a very wide range of partnerships with institutions across Europe. They are listed on our website and although you are able to apply to any of them who offer a programme of study similar to your own we would encourage you to seriously look at those partners who have recently received Conservatoire students.

<https://www.rcs.ac.uk/apply/erasmus/internationalpartners/>

How long can I study for?

For term one or terms two and three. You propose the length of study for your exchange on your application via the EASY system. European institutions tend to have semesters rather than terms and you may find that they do not match up well with the Conservatoire term dates. This does not matter and we can work around it. Speak to the International and Student Experience team for further information.

If you choose to study abroad in term one then music students will take their mid-session recitals and exams at the host institution meaning that you won't have to sit additional exams when you return.

How much does it cost?

- Tuition fees

Erasmus students do not pay any tuition fees to the host institution, as students continue to pay tuition fees (where applicable) to the Conservatoire. Remember to apply for any student support (e.g. student loan and tuition fee support) as you usually do. International students are able to participate in Erasmus.

- Living costs

During your period of study, you will be required to pay for your accommodation and general living costs so please ensure that you budget well in advance of your exchange period. Often, institutions will include localised estimations of living costs in their information packs for accepted students to assist with budgeting.

Erasmus students are currently awarded a grant from the British Council in order to assist with exchange costs. It is a contribution towards costs and will not fully cover the cost of your mobility. The grant amount in the 2018/2019 session ranges from **300 to 350 EUR per month** for the duration of a student's exchange. The monthly amount depends on the destination country. A student receives 80% of the grant at the start of the mobility and 20% at the end.

There was also, in 18/19, an additional payment of **€120 per month** available to those students with a family income of under **£25,000 per annum**. This is known as the Widening Participation supplementary allowance. If you are offered an Erasmus study placement and you feel that you should be eligible for this payment please speak to Sarah Ward, Assistant Registrar (International and Student Experience.) The rates for 2019/2020 are not yet known.

How can I apply?

You can apply to up to three partner institutions. Information and guidance about applying can be found on the portal at: <https://portal.rcs.ac.uk/erasmus-and-international-exchange/> Before applying you must submit a Notification of Interest form via the portal followed by an application via the EASY system.

As well as a completed application via EASY you will need:

- Copies of transcripts of records from previous years' study at RCS (accessible via your Student Contract)
- An online recording of your work
- CV/resumé
- Reference from your teacher

You should discuss your exchange with your teachers, Head of Department and your Head of Programme. Your Head of Programme should approve it by signing your Erasmus Learning Agreement.

The Erasmus+ Learning Agreement outlines your module choices and credits. These must be agreed with your Head of Programme (for SoM) or Programme Leader (SoDDPF.) The content should not differ from the modules you have selected on EASY as part of the Study Plan, if you have chosen to complete that section of the application. The host institution will also approve your course choices when you arrive on study mobility. If there are any changes to the modules you take on Erasmus, post-arrival in the host country, you must amend your Erasmus Learning Agreement via the EASY system.

If the institution you'd like to apply to does not use the EASY you may also be required to complete an on-line application form or paper form as instructed by the International and Experience team

When should I apply?

Please ensure that you submit your Notification of Interest form via the portal between 26th November 2018 and 14th December 2018. You should then submit your application via EASY between **15th December 2018** and **28th February 2019**. Late applications will not be accepted. Even if you are applying to study in terms 2 and 3 you should adhere to this deadline.

When will I hear about the decision on my application?

Different institutions have different processing and decision times. You will find out by email when your application has been 'nominated' by the RCS to be reviewed by the prospective host institution. This is done via the EASY system. If you are placed on a waiting list, are successful in getting a place, or are ultimately unsuccessful, you will hear of the outcome via an email from the EASY system. The majority of students tend to receive their final outcomes in May/June. However, you may not hear an outcome until July.

What support can I receive throughout the application/exchange?

The International and Student Experience team keeps in contact with all students throughout the application and exchange process. If you have any

questions or issues, please do contact them at any time, either in person in the AAS office or via international@rcs.ac.uk

What is it like being a Royal Conservatoire of Scotland student on an exchange abroad?

Some of the best people to tell you what it is like to be an exchange student are the students who have been on an exchange themselves! Look out for the Erasmus+ information sessions offered throughout the year.

“My ERASMUS experience has given me a different perspective on life and the people on this planet. It has made me a happier, healthier, more informed, independent and confident person. Meeting lots of new people, living in another culture and trying out new things has given me confidence.”

Jonathan Edwards, BMus (Hons) Jazz student who studied for a year at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam in the Netherlands in 2011/12

At the mandatory pre-departure briefing in June all Conservatoire students who have accepted a place on an exchange get the opportunity to meet up with other Conservatoire students who have previously been on exchange to discuss issues and share experiences.

Click on the links below to find out what these students thought of their time as an Erasmus student at institutions abroad:

<https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/stories/sector>

Other useful information

The Conservatoire's Erasmus code is **UK GLASGOW05**. The Erasmus Coordinator is Sarah Ward and her contact details are:

international@rcs.ac.uk

0141 2708281

The Responsible Person at RCS is:

- For BMus Perf, Jazz, Composition = Dr Diana Salazar
- For BMus Trad = Professor Joshua Dickson
- For MMus/MA Music = Dr J Simon van der Walt
- For all programmes in SoDDPF = Head of Programme