



ERASMUS+ INFORMATION SHEET FOR STUDENTS 2020/21

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.

Term 1 on Erasmus = 20 - 30 ECTS (35 ECTS for Joint Principal Study)

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?

You can go on Erasmus in term 1 only. This is a result of Brexit and the fact that the Conservatoire only has a limited budget for study mobility which expires in early 2021. Please select term 1 or autumn (or fall) semester on your application on 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, provided your period of study does not go beyond 31 May 2021. Speak to the International and Student Experience team for further information. 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.

- Visas

If you are a UK national and your study mobility is more than 90 days in duration you may be required to apply for a visa in your destination country. There may be a fee charged for this service.

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 will range from **370 to 420 EUR per month** for a proportion of a student's exchange, subject to sufficient budget being available. **Please note that it is very likely, as a result of Brexit, that there will only be a partial Erasmus grant available to students.** A student receives 80% of their allocated grant at the start of the mobility and 20% at the end.

There is also 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.)

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 (or portfolio if you're a DDPF student)
- CV/resumé
- Reference from your teacher
- Letter of motivation

You should discuss your exchange with your teachers, Head of Department and your Head of Programme. Your Head of Department's permission will be sought before you can apply for Erasmus and your Head of Programme should approve your application by signing your Erasmus Learning Agreement.

The Erasmus+ Learning Agreement outlines your module choices and credits. The content must be agreed with your Head of Programme prior to submission of your application. 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 to start your studies. 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 14th November 2019 and 6th January 2020. You should then submit your application via EASY between **6th January 2020** and **21st February 2020**. Late applications will not be accepted.

When will I hear about the decision on my application?

Different institutions have different processing 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, if the institution you have applied to uses the EASY system. If it does not, you will find out the outcome of your application via an email directly from the partner institution. 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?

“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 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 from other institutions thought of their time as an Erasmus student at institutions abroad:

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

What are the implications of Brexit?

In the event of a ‘no-deal’ Brexit, the UK government will underwrite ‘viable’ Erasmus+ projects signed and ratified by the European Commission and UK National Agency prior to the date of Brexit. In practice, this means that outbound mobilities will be underwritten where funding has been received as part of the Conservatoire’s 2019 Key Action 103 grant agreement.

Other useful information

The Conservatoire’s Erasmus code is **UK GLASGOW05**. The Erasmus Coordinator is Ms 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 Sam Ellis
- For BMus Trad = Professor Joshua Dickson
- For MMus/MA Music = Dr J Simon van der Walt

- For all programmes in SoDDPF = Head of Programme