The Year Abroad
School of Languages, Linguistics and Film
Dr Falco Pfalzgraf
What is the Year Abroad?

- Third year of any language degree and **compulsory** for all students on a Modern Language Degree or with French, German, Russian, Portuguese, Catalan and/or Hispanic Studies in their degree title.

- **Minimum of 6 months** studying and/or working abroad (a longer YA is encouraged, up to 15 months) **in countries where languages in your degree title are spoken**.

- Worth 120 credits and you will have to complete an assessment whilst you are abroad (accounts for 9.09% of your degree).
Benefits of the Year Abroad

Better employment prospects

Compared to graduates without the Year Abroad, graduates with the Year Abroad experience are:

• less likely to experience a period of unemployment
• more likely to be involved in higher-status employment sector
• have much higher than average income
Benefits of the Year Abroad

*The Erasmus Impact Study*

Effects of mobility on the skills and employability of students and the internationalisation of higher education institutions found that **internationally mobile students are half as likely to experience long-term unemployment** compared with those who have not studied or trained abroad and that, **five years after graduation, their unemployment rate is 23% lower.**
Research shows that the Year Abroad is highly valued by employers.
Benefits of the Year Abroad

Personal and linguistic benefits

The Year Abroad helps you:

• gain near native fluency in the language
• better understand the culture, history, philosophy, politics of the countries you’ll spend time in
• develop cultural awareness, confidence, independence, adaptability, problem-solving and resilience
• build a network of contacts and make friends for life
Benefits of the Year Abroad

Personal and linguistic benefits

In a recent survey conducted by ThirdYearAbroad.com, 86% of 600 interviewed graduates said that the Year Abroad was the most valuable part of their degree course.
Current Year Abroad Options

- **Study placement** at a university under the European exchange programme (Erasmus+) or independently
- **Work placement**: Teaching English as a foreign language assistant (British Council)
- **Work placement** within Europe (Erasmus+) and beyond (Canada, Latin America)
Flexibility on your Year Abroad

You can study for a full year at one institution OR
You can work for a full year for one employer OR
You can split your year abroad by:
• country
• placement type (study or work placement)

Studying two languages?

We recommend that you spend more time in the country where your weakest language is spoken.

Studying German, Spanish, Portuguese, Catalan or Russian at Introductory Level? We recommend a full year abroad for ab initio students. You’ll have to spend at least 3 months in a country where your ab initio language is spoken.
What Year Abroad students are currently doing

- Work Placements: 32 Placements
- Study Placements: 46 Placements
- BC Language Assistantships: 9 Placements

What type of placements are students on?
What Year Abroad students are currently doing

Year Abroad 2017-18 students by placement type (and by full-year or single-semester placement)

- Full-year Study: 24 Placements
- Single-sem Study: 44 Placements
- Single-sem Work: 20 Placements
- Full-year Work: 22 Placements
- BC Language Assistantships: 9 Placements

Colors represent:
- Single-sem Work
- Full-year Work
- Single-sem Study
- Full-year Study

meta-chart.com
Study Placements

• Study at one of our Erasmus+ partner institutions.

• We currently have Erasmus+ agreements with universities in Belgium, France, Germany, Latvia, Portugal and Spain

• Erasmus+ grants are currently available to support your studies

NB: Funding (either through Erasmus+ or the UK government) has been guaranteed until the academic year 2019/20. It is hoped that the UK will remain part of the Erasmus+ programme until the end of 2020/21, however, this is not confirmed yet at this stage.
French-Speaking Erasmus+ Study Placements

• Université François-Rabelais (Tours)
• Aix Marseille Université
• Université d’Avignon
• University Paris Sorbonne-Paris IV
• Université Catholique de Lille
• Université de la Réunion
• Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium)
Erasmus+ Study Placements in Spain

- Universidad de Almería
- Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona
- Universidad Pompeu Fabra de Barcelona
- Universitat Jaume 1
- Universidad Complutense de Madrid
- Universidad Carlos III Madrid
- Universidad de Malaga
- Universidad de Murcia
- Universidad de Oviedo
- Universidad Pablo de Olavide [Seville]
- Universidad de Salamanca
- Universidad de Santiago de Compostela
- Universitat de Valencia
- Universidad de Vigo
Erasmus+ Study Placements in Germany

- Universität Augsburg
- Otto Friedrich Universität Bamberg
- Freie Universität Berlin
- Technische Universität Dresden
- Ruprecht Karls Universität Heidelberg
- Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz
- Universität Mannheim
- Ludwig Maximilians Universität München
- Universität Potsdam
- Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen
- Europa Universität Viadrina
Erasmus+ Study Placements in Portugal

- Universidade de Coimbra
Russian-Speaking Study Placements

**Erasmus+ Placement**
- Daugavpils University (in Russian-speaking Latvia)

**Non Erasmus+ Placements**
- St Petersburg State University
- Yaroslavl State University
- Tver State University
- Petrozavosdsk State University
- Kazan Institute of Social Sciences & Humanities
- Moscow Language Link
Other Study Placements (non-Erasmus+)  

SLLF Partner universities in Latin America: 

• Universidad de Guadalajara, Mexico (Spanish)  
• Universidad de Los Andes, Colombia (Spanish)  
• Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro (Portuguese)  

SLLF Partner universities in Europe: 

• Université de Genève (École d’interprétariat et de Traduction) (French)  
• Universität Zürich (German)
Other Study Placements (non-Erasmus+)

Independent study placement

This option is only for those who:

a) wish to study at another EU university with which we do not have an Erasmus+ agreement

OR

b) wish to study at a university outside the EU
Language Assistantships

• Teaching English as a foreign language assistant

• Teaching in primary or secondary schools or in universities

• Locations:
  France, Germany, Spain, Belgium (French), Canada, Latin America, Austria, and Switzerland

• Generous salary in addition to Erasmus+ grant (if eligible)

Check the British Council website for more information.
Work Placements

• **Employability skills** and **relevant work experience** are seen as increasingly critical by employers, and are among the most significant factors considered when recruiting graduates.

• Great way of gaining valuable work experience in an international setting whilst improving your language skills.

• Earn a salary in addition to an Erasmus+ grant if your work placement is in the EU.
Where some of our students have worked
Currently, students on Erasmus+ study and/or work placement(s) (incl. British Council) for a minimum of 24 weeks:

- pay £1,385 fees for the full year
- can take out tuition fee loans to cover these fees
- do NOT have to pay any fees to their host institution(s)
- are entitled to an Erasmus+ grant since their study or work placement(s) is within the EU.

NB In 2018/19, the Erasmus+ grant was 250-400 € per month depending on the country.
Currently, students on study placements outside the Erasmus+ scheme for a minimum of 24 weeks:

• pay £1,385 for the full year
• can take out tuition fee loans to cover these fees.
• pay tuition fees to their host institution(s).

Currently, students on work placements (incl. British Council) outside the Erasmus+ scheme for a minimum of 24 weeks:

• pay £1,385 fees for the full year
• can take out tuition fee loans to cover these fees.
Currently, overseas students on Erasmus+ study and/or work placement(s) (incl. British Council*) for a minimum of 24 weeks:

- pay 50% of the full-time QMUL tuition fee rate
- Do NOT have to pay any fees to their host institution(s).
- Are entitled to an Erasmus+ grant since their study or work placement(s) is within the EU.

* There are certain eligibility criteria to be able to work as an English language assistant through the British Council.
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• pay 50% of the full-time QMUL tuition fee rate
• pay tuition fees to their host institution(s).

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• pay 50% of the full-time QMUL tuition fee rate.

* There are certain eligibility criteria to be able to work as an English language assistant through the British Council.
Year Abroad Contacts

- YA Admin Team ([slf-yearabroad@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:slf-yearabroad@qmul.ac.uk))
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- Frances Goodingham, YA Coordinator for Portuguese ([f.goodingham@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:f.goodingham@qmul.ac.uk))
- Birgitta Hall, Work Placements (not for British Council Language Assistantships) ([b.y.hall@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:b.y.hall@qmul.ac.uk))
- Wiebke Leugers, QMUL Erasmus Coordinator ([w.leugers@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:w.leugers@qmul.ac.uk))
Student Testimonials

Listen to Kate (French and Hispanic Studies finalist) talk about her Year Abroad (3’45):

http://qmplus.qmul.ac.uk/pluginfile.php/1001842/mod_resource/content/2/Kate.mp4

And Finlay (Hispanic Studies and Portuguese) (2’):

http://qmplus.qmul.ac.uk/pluginfile.php/981162/mod_resource/content/4/Finlay.mp4
Any Questions?
Grazie  謝謝  Спасибо  感谢  شكرا  Merci  ありがとう  Dzięk  ขอบคุณ  Danke  Gracias  Dankie  Obrigado