



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHÉ  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

# BA Global Experience: Year Abroad

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University  
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# Outline

- How it all works
- FAQs
- Student testimonials
- Costs and Funding
- Benefits and Challenges
- Timeline
- Questions?



University of Helsinki Library  
Photo: Nicola Bugler



# *Students not studying a continental language*

- Full Third Year Abroad
- Europe (ERASMUS)
- USA, Hong Kong
- All Subjects through English







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# ***POSSIBLE STUDY DESTINATIONS***

The College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies and its disciplines are linked – through the Erasmus Programme - with a number of partner universities in **Europe** that offer courses through English.

There are also some links with universities in the **USA** and **Hong Kong**.

(Not all subjects may be available through English in every university.)



# Some terms we use

**Home University:** University of Galway

**Host University:** the university where you study abroad

**Exchange agreement:** a “contract” between universities to exchange students, usually in a particular subject area

**Learning agreement:** a “contract” between you and your home/host universities, setting out what courses you will take while abroad.

**Academic coordinator:** the lecturer at the University of Galway who will provide guidance on course choice and sign your learning agreement, and with whom you are expected to keep in touch before and during your year abroad.







# *HOW IT WORKS*

- Period of study is 1 academic year (not a semester)
- No tuition fees to Host University – but pay normal registration fee to the University of Galway.
- So you remain registered as a University of Galway student while studying abroad.
- The year abroad must be completed successfully: 40 ECTS in total
- Ideally you'll take both of your degree subjects, but you must take 40 ECTS of modules related or complementary to *at least one* of your degree subjects.
- Pass all modules: receive 60 ECTS from University of Galway, i.e. a Pass in the Year Abroad





## *How should I choose courses?*

- Consult the host university's online course catalogue
- Avoid duplicating what you've already studied.
- Avoid significant overlap with your Final Year courses.
- Modules to complement and enhance your study of your degree subjects.
- Modules that you wouldn't ordinarily get the chance to study.
- Modules related to society/culture of host country.
- Avoid self-study modules.
- Need approval from University of Galway academic coordinators.





# *Will the marks I get while abroad count towards my degree?*

- Period abroad assessed on **Pass/Fail** basis by University of Galway
- Transcript from host university will show all your results
- Valuable document, e.g. for postgrad applications, seeking employment, etc





## *What if I fail the Year Abroad?*

- Upon return to University of Galway, you register for 3BA1
- Fees: ~€6,000\*
- Lose SUSI funding\*
- Erasmus grant may have to be repaid

*\*GY129 is a 4-year programme. If you fail Year 3 and have to join Third Year of GY101, you are now on a 3-year programme, but have already used up 3 years' worth of government-funded tuition fees, so are liable for Full Fees.*





# *Will the University of Galway arrange my accommodation abroad?*

- No, but ...
- We will offer advice on this topic
- Each host university has a dedicated **Accommodation Service.**
- Possibility of a room in a student residence
- Early application advisable!





# Nicola, Erasmus in Helsinki, 2022/23

I'm beyond grateful to be doing my exchange in such a beautiful country, Finland is truly magical. I was lucky enough to get to go Finnish Lapland in the first semester, which was an amazing experience. We did skiing, husky sledding, ice fishing, swam in the Arctic Ocean and saw the beautiful Northern lights.

I've been lucky enough to travel to many countries around Finland too. In my first semester I visited Sweden, Norway, Estonia, and Latvia. The study abroad year provides you with amazing opportunities that you wouldn't otherwise get.

The University of Helsinki is amazing, all of the coordinators and lecturers are beyond helpful and they really enforce a relaxed, non-hierarchical atmosphere in the classroom. I'm learning so much both inside and outside of the classroom.

Studying abroad is a really incredible opportunity and I would recommend it to anyone!







Some of the international students photographed at our first darty before a football game

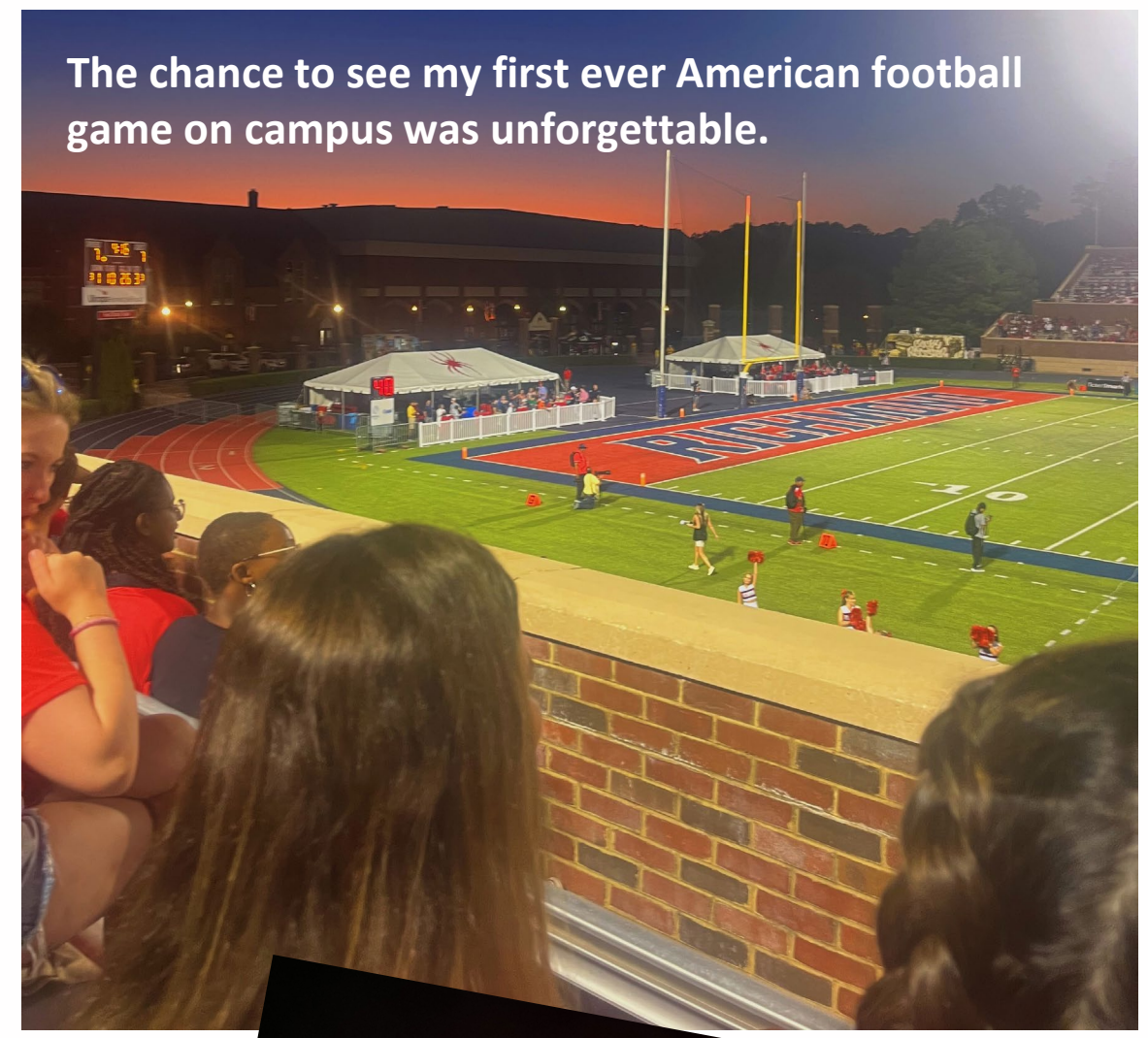
# Abbie, currently at the University of Richmond

I'm a third year BA Government student who was given the exciting opportunity to study in the University of Richmond and I absolutely love it. Studying abroad gives you so many wonderful opportunities to further your studies in a new environment with new cultures and opinions that are indescribably valuable.

As a law major, it has been eye-opening to learn of new laws and opinions on various different topics that I otherwise wouldn't have been able to study.

Studying abroad also allows for new adventures with friends you make from all over the world. So far, I have been able to visit amazing, accessible places such as Washington DC, Puerto Rico, and for Thanksgiving Break I will be going on a road trip up to Toronto in Canada while also stopping at various different US destinations along the way.

I would definitely recommend that everyone sign up for study abroad for it's already an unforgettable experience and I have yet to finish the year! You will definitely not regret it.



The chance to see my first ever American football game on campus was unforgettable.



The first basketball game of the season



The University of Richmond welcomed back everyone to campus with the spider, their college mascot, projected on the library tower.



With friends in a park in The Hague



# Cian, currently on Erasmus in Leiden

“It's been one of the biggest leaps I've ever taken. It's tested me in every way. But the leap has done nothing but pay off. I've loved every moment of my experience here in Leiden. I've made friends from every corner of the world, from Finland to Korea, from Australia to Canada, from India to Slovakia. The people I've met, I am sure will be lifelong friends.”

Boating around the Leiden canals



Silent disco in an old church in Leiden



Leiden at sunset



# Selma, currently studying in Hong Kong

“Everything’s been going well so far. I’m really enjoying my classes and I’ve met a lot of different people from all over the world. It’s a fantastic place and I’m really glad I got the opportunity to take this year abroad.”





# Sarah, currently on Erasmus in Lund, Sweden

I would highly recommend Lund University for a study abroad experience.

The town itself is beautiful with a vast variety of things to do during your free time. The student life/night life is a huge part of Lund, similarly to Galway it is largely a student city. Lund is only a twenty-minute train journey to Malmo and a forty-minute train journey to Copenhagen, which makes it super easy to head over there for a trip whenever you fancy it!

Both the other Erasmus students and the Swedish students here are so friendly and welcoming, and I already feel over the last three months I have made friends for life.

Lund University itself is amazing. Their way of teaching here is hugely different from anything I have experienced before. The lecturers place a large focus on student-led learning which I was initially sceptical about, but it has really allowed me to form close relationships with my peers and helped with my studies.

As I said, I would really recommend Lund as a study abroad location, I am so glad I did it !

I cannot believe how fast the time is going here, I'll be very jealous of next year's study abroad students.







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# COSTS– What to budget for

- Flights, including flight home at Christmas
- Accommodation
- Household bills
- Food
- Books, materials
- Leisure
- Insurance (for North America)

ESTIMATES – some examples

Uppsala University: ~ €920 per month

University of Tartu: €400 to €600 per month

Boston College: \$28,000 for the academic year (~ €26,000)

*(Check partner uni websites for estimated costs!)*

<https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/>

**Start saving early!**







# FUNDING

- Erasmus funding for study in Europe:
  - €330 per month for most countries
  - €385 per month for Scandinavia
  - 80% of total grant at start, balance on return
  - Supplementary Erasmus funding for financially disadvantaged students
  - Maintain eligibility for SUSI grant, etc
  - “non-adjacent” rate may apply, provided study abroad integral to course
  - Erasmus Disability grant, if applicable
- Boston College: \$5,000 scholarship
- Other non-EU: no funding

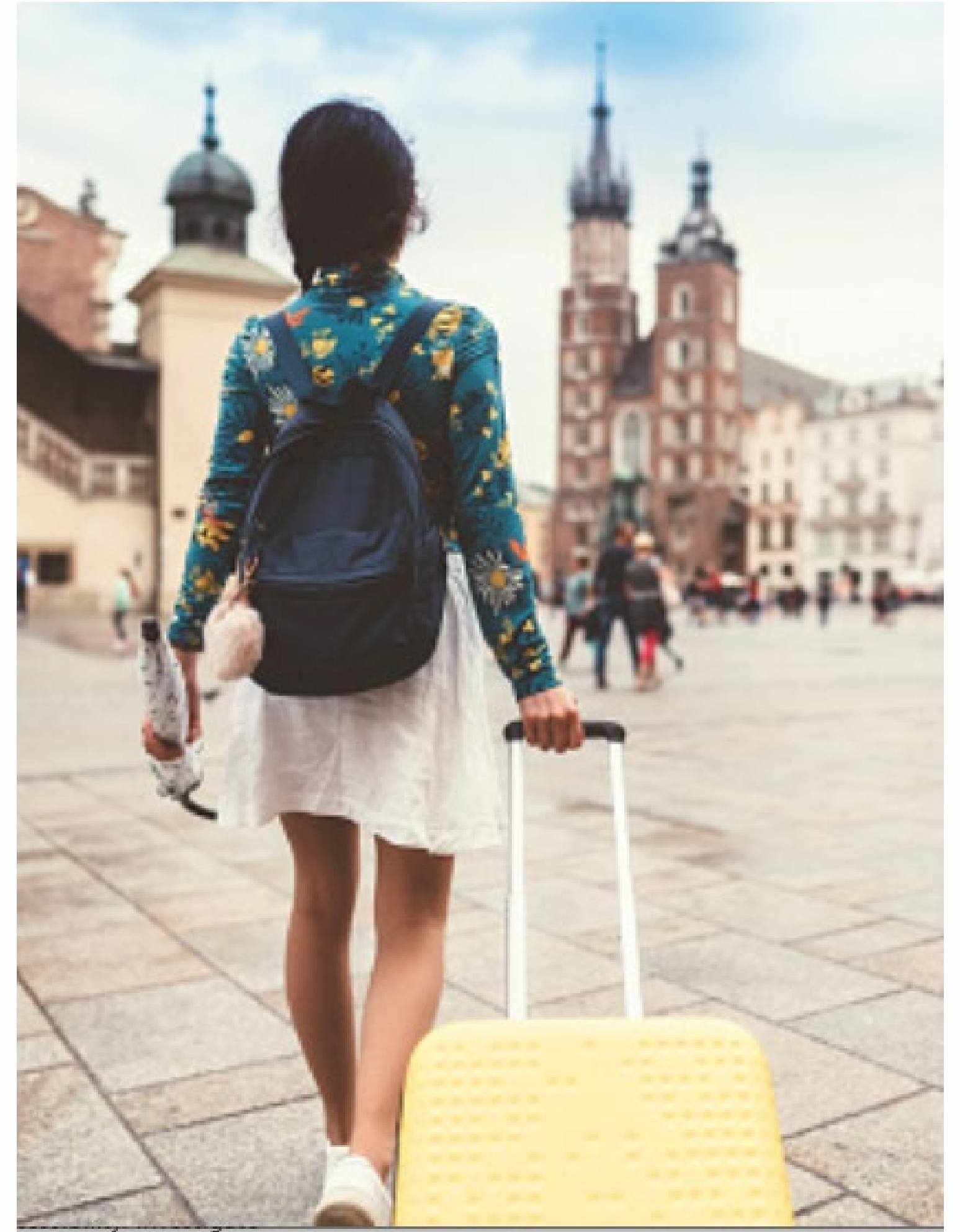




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# BENEFITS OF STUDYING ABROAD

- Academic development
- Personal development
- Cultural and social aspects
  - Get to know another country and its culture
  - Perhaps learn some of the language
  - Make friends from all over the world
  - Expand your horizons
- A positive addition to your CV







## WHAT STUDENTS SAY ABOUT STUDYING ABROAD

“I feel like Erasmus really added to my degree and to who I am as a person. There will be work but it'll be rewarding, you get out of it what you put in. The modules I took added more variety to my education and this definitely benefitted me for final year. Adapting to a different lifestyle is challenging but that's what encourages growth.”



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## Be aware that ...

- *Study abroad is demanding*
- *It will require a whole set of personal qualities to deal with the everyday challenges.*
- *These qualities can be developed, but you must be prepared to step out of your comfort zone.*
- *It's important to do thorough research on academic, practical and financial matters.*





# So what's next?

- Have a look at the website <https://tinyurl.com/BA-Global-Experience> and the table of destinations/subjects
- You'll get an e-mail from me, outlining your options.
- Please research these and list up to 3 in order of preference.
- Consult academic coordinators *if necessary*.
- Explain your choices.
- We will meet to discuss.
- You should be offered a study abroad place before Christmas.
- If you accept, you'll be nominated to a host university early in 2024.





Any questions?? 😊  
Please feel free to ask  
now!

or  
e-mail

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