



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHÉ  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

# Study Abroad for non-language B.A. students

Mary Lyons  
Mobility Officer,  
College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies  
*January 2024*



University  
ofGalway.ie



## 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.”

*University of Galway student who previously took part in Erasmus*



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHÉ  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



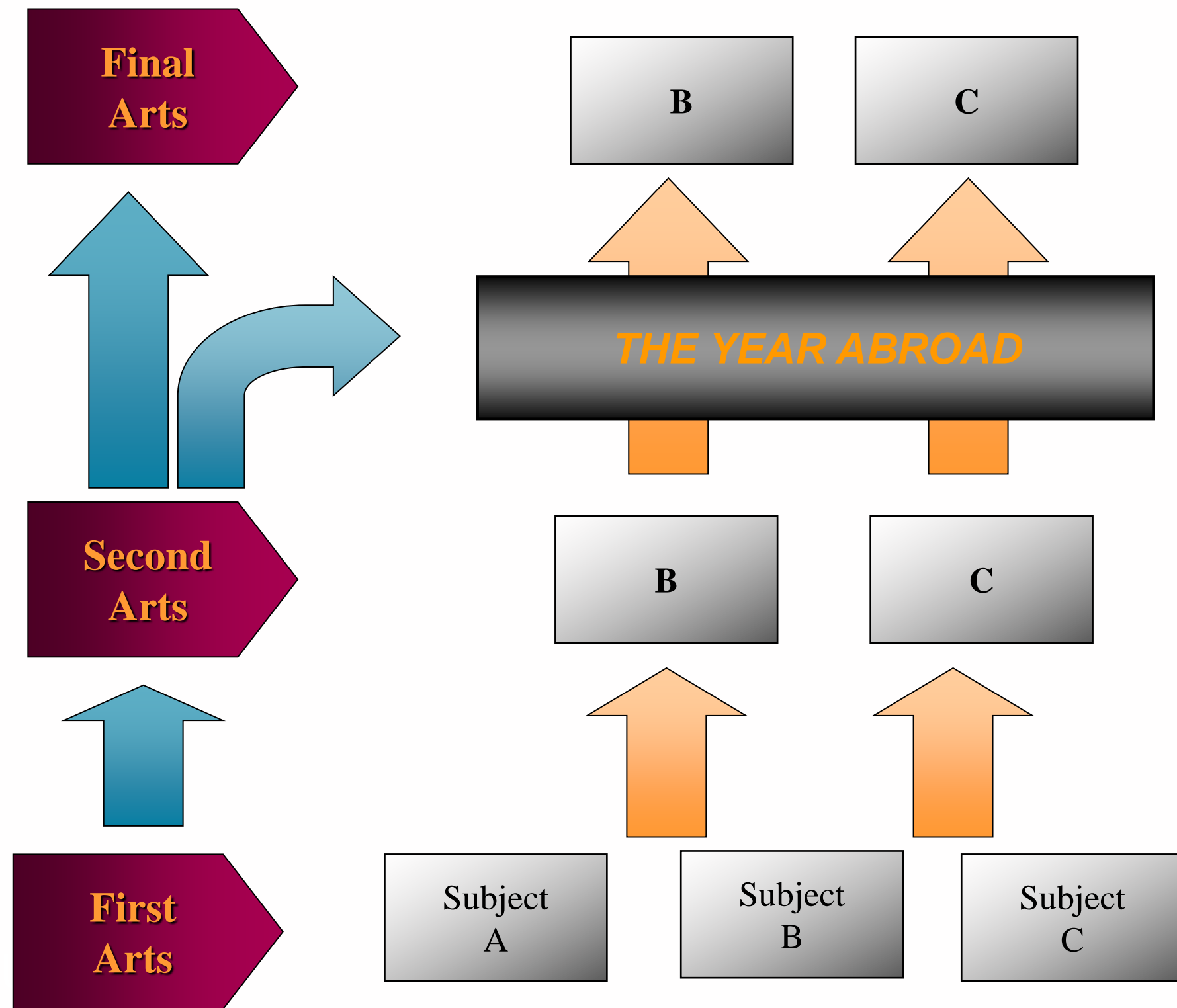
OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHÉ  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

# Outline

- Some basic facts
- How it works
- Benefits
- Student testimonials
- Destinations
- FAQs
- Costs
- Your application



University of Helsinki Library  
Photo: Nicola Bugler



## BA Joint Honours Students

- Must pass Second Year
- Transfer from 3 -year BA to 4 -year BA International
- Secure 40 ECTS on Year Abroad
- Return to Galway for Final Year



## ***HOW IT WORKS for Joint Honours students***

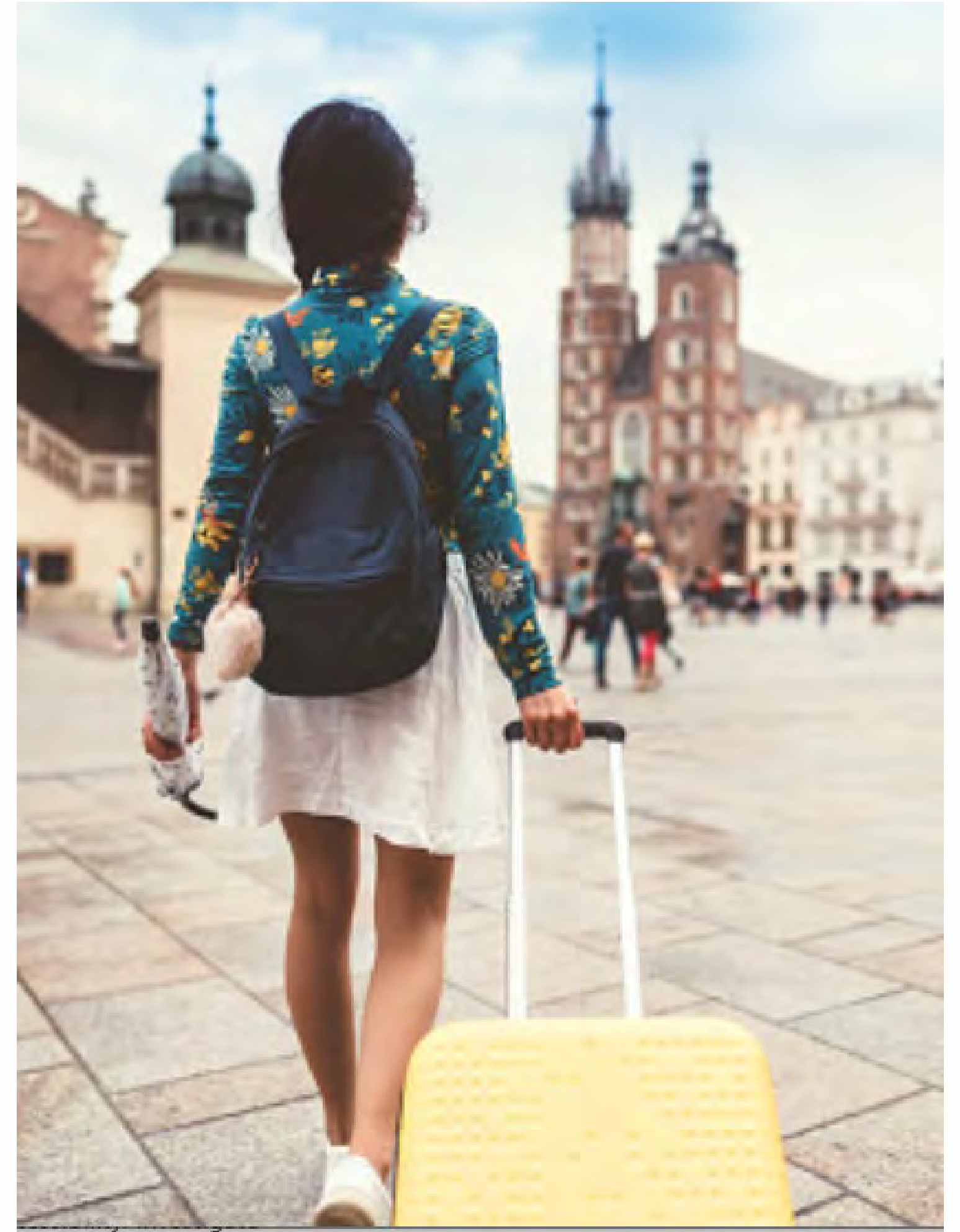
- Period of study is 1 academic year (not a semester)
- No tuition fees to Host University – but pay normal registration fee to the University of Galway.
- So you remain registered as a University of Galway student while studying abroad.
- The year abroad must be completed successfully.
- 40 ECTS credits in total: 20 ECTS in each of your degree subjects
- Pass all modules abroad: receive 60 ECTS from University of Galway, i.e. a Pass in the Year Abroad



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHÉ  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

# 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



# 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!

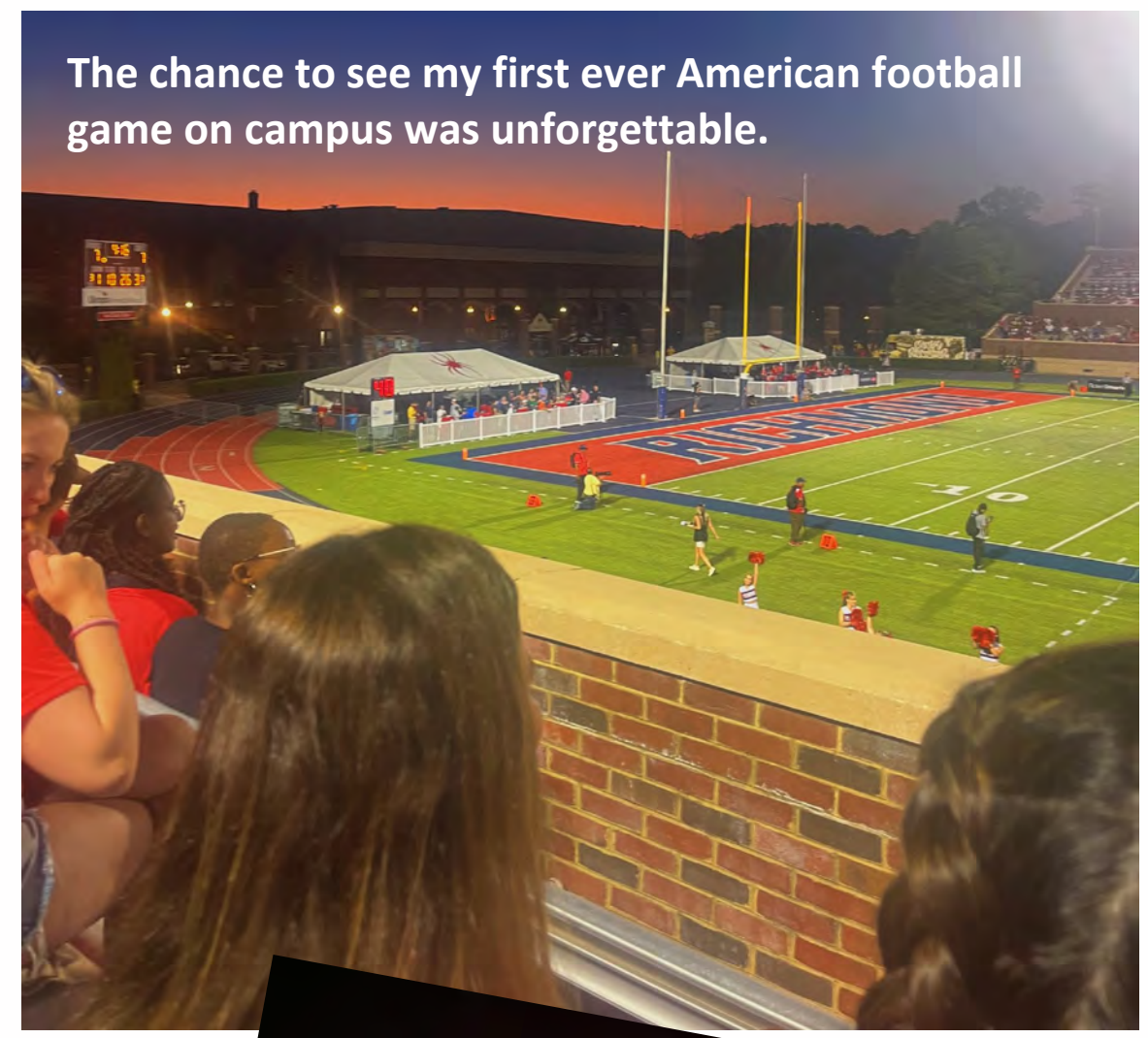




Some of the international students photographed at our first darty before a football game

# 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



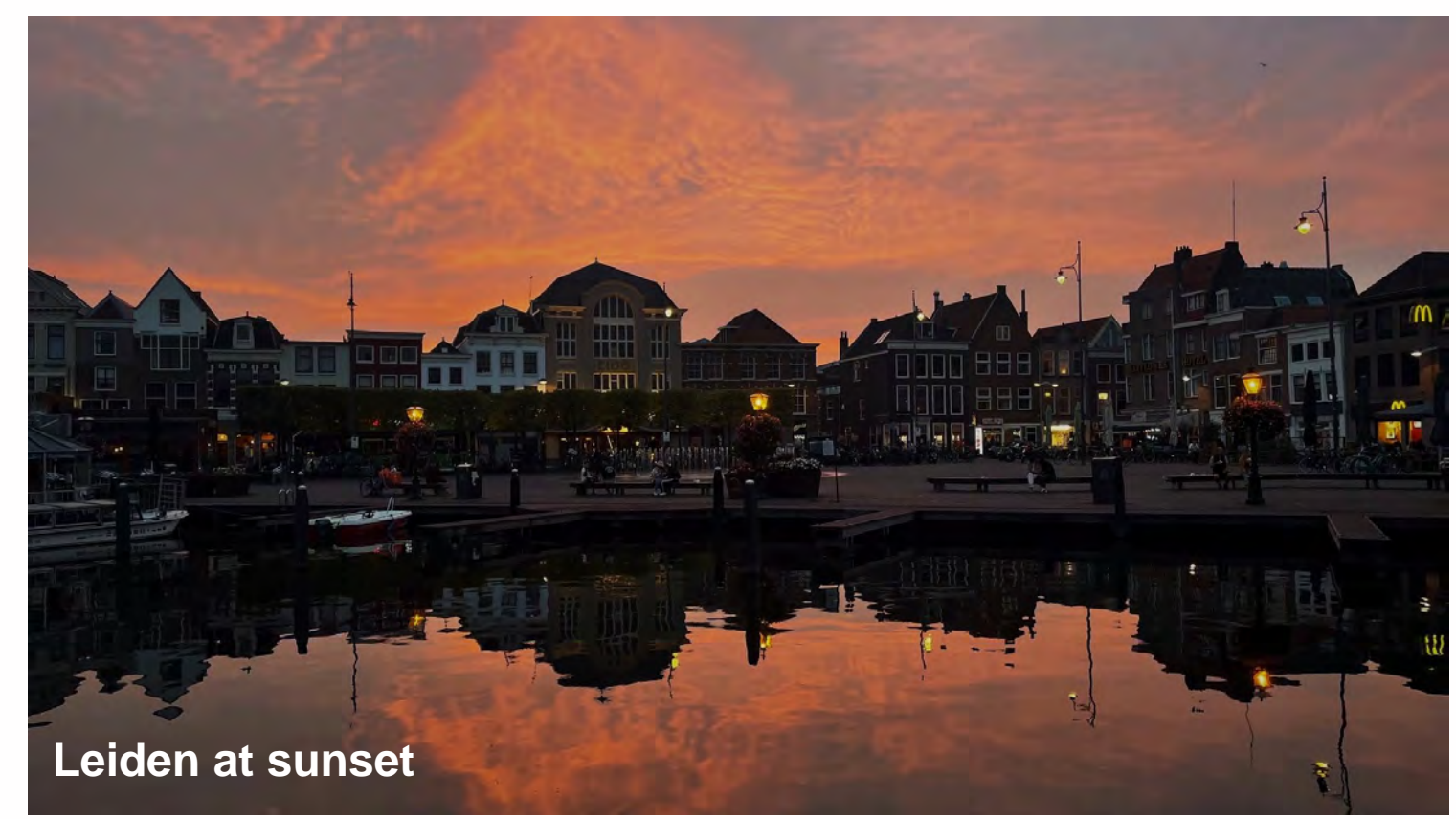
# Cian, currently on Erasmus in Leiden

“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.





OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHÉ  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



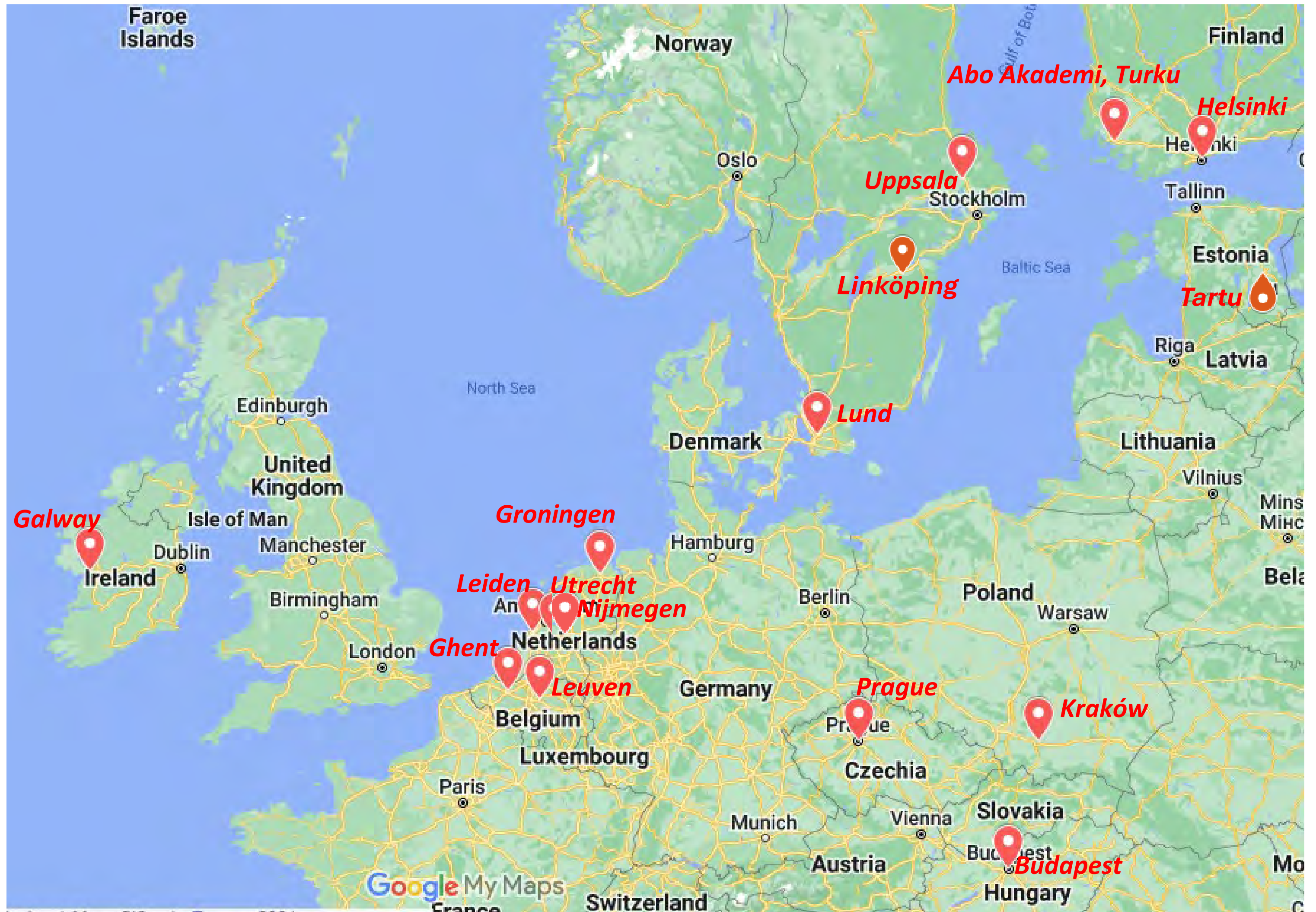
# ***POSSIBLE STUDY DESTINATIONS***

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 the **USA** and **Hong Kong**

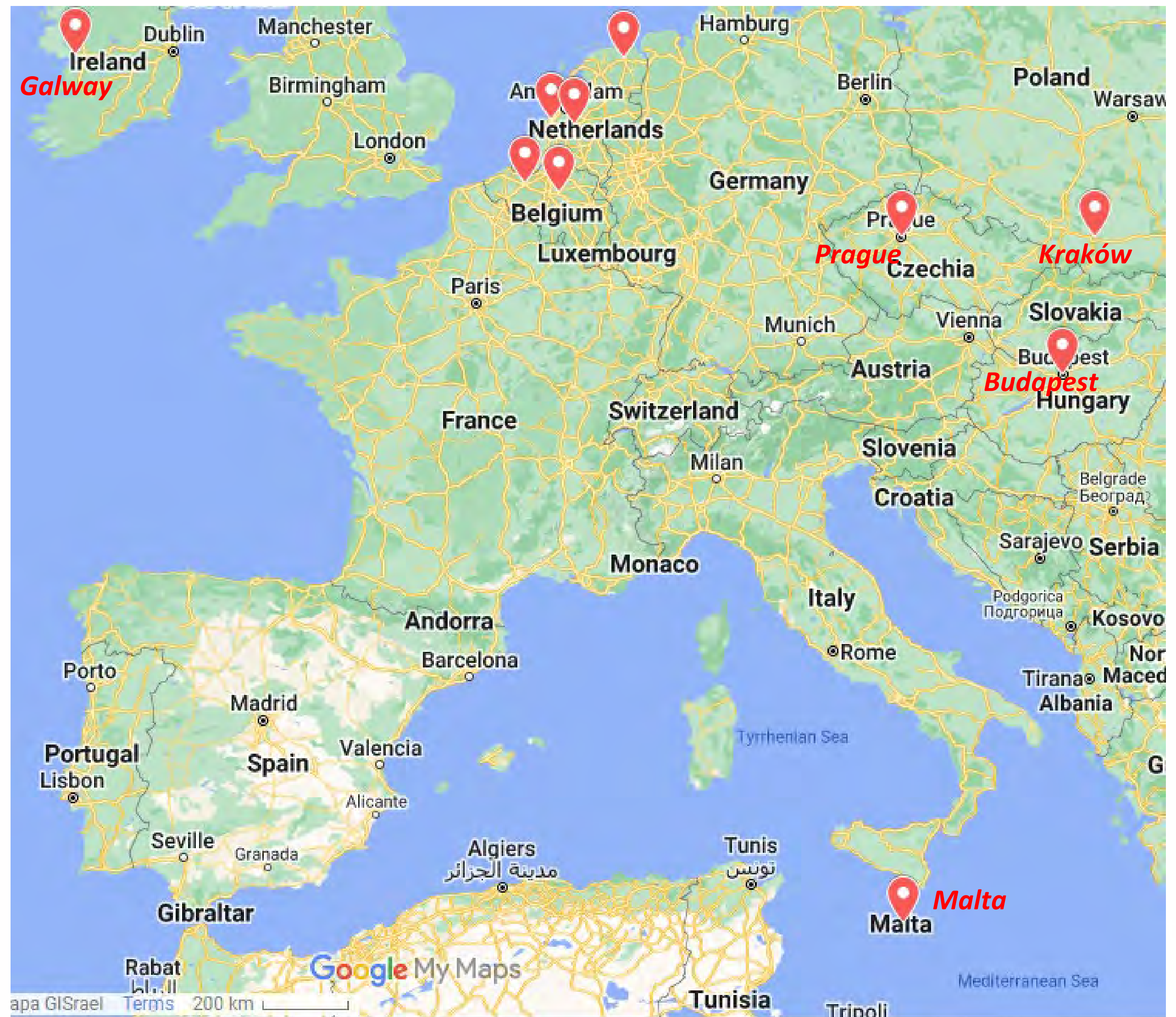
(Not all subjects may be available through English in every university.)

# Destinations: Northern and Central Europe



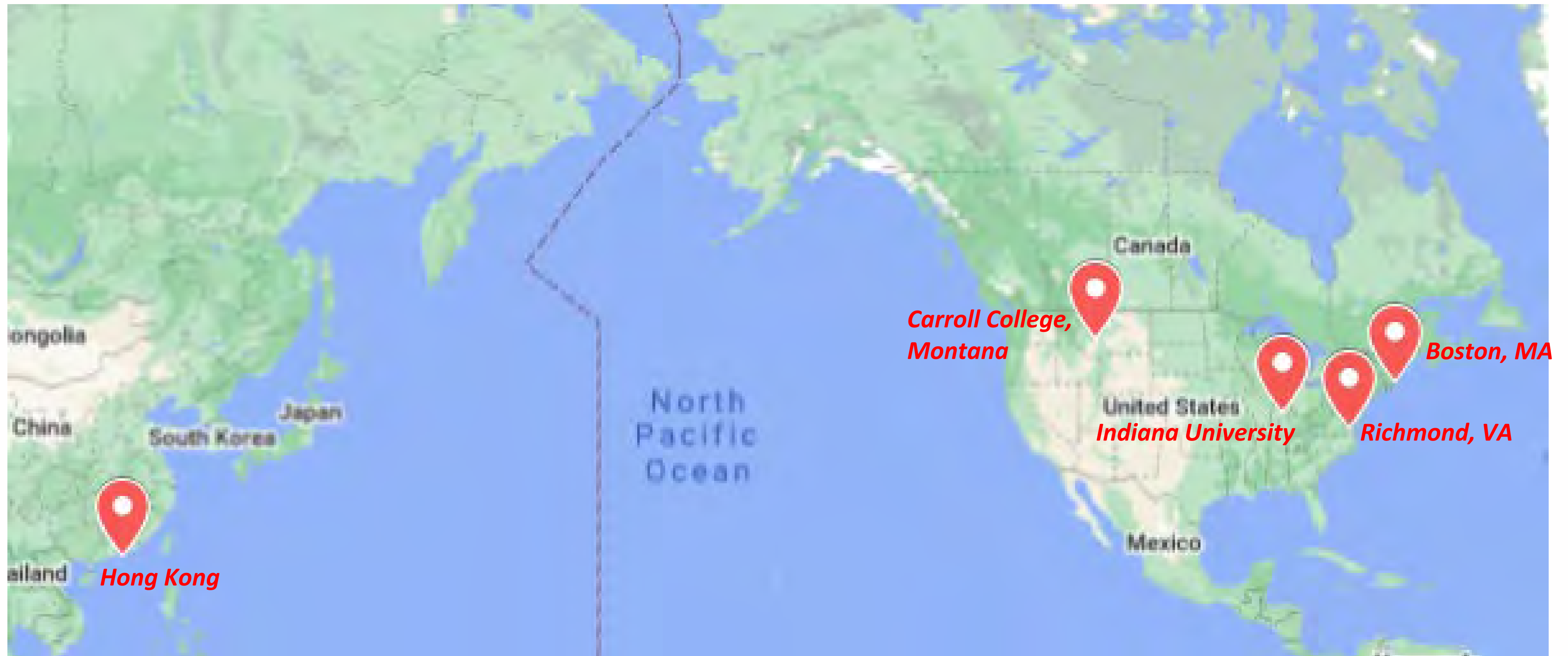
OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

# Destinations: Central and Southern Europe



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHÉ  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

# Destinations: rest of the World



# 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.







# *Where can I go?*

- It depends on what subjects you are studying
- Many subject -specific exchange agreements (or “links”)
- Go to CASSCS website – click on International, then Outgoing Students, then Opportunities for non -language students
- Consult table of partner unis and subjects
- Pay attention to “ **core subject** ” requirements!
- BA Joint Hons and BA Govt: Erasmus AND non-EU, *provided your degree subjects are eligible and suitable*
- Denominated Psychology/Creative Writing/Global Media/Journalism: non - EU links only



# Please pay careful attention to this table!

ERASMUS CODE	UNIVERSITY NAME	exchange is with	useful info and practicalities	Archaeology	Celtic Civilisation / Gaelic	Classics	Economics
BE LEUVEN01	NO LEUVEN, BELGIUM	<a href="#">Social Sciences Faculty of</a>	<a href="#">Erasmus students info for international students</a>	no	no	no	yes
CZ PRAHA07	Charles University Prague, Czech Republic	<a href="#">Arts/Archaeology</a>	<a href="#">Info about exchange studies</a>	core subject	yes	yes	maybe
EE TARTU01	University of Tartu, Estonia	<a href="#">Institute of</a>	<a href="#">Information for exchange students</a>	no	no	no	yes
H BUDAPES01	Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary	<a href="#">Law Faculty</a>	<a href="#">Erasmus mobility for incoming students</a>	maybe	n/a	no	maybe
MT MALTA01	University of Malta	<a href="#">Dept of Classics &amp; Archaeology</a>	<a href="#">Info for exchange</a>	yes	no	core subject	no
	University of Groningen.	<a href="#">Faculty of</a>					

What does “ core subject ” mean?”

It means that our exchange with that university is specific to that subject.

To select that university, you must be taking that subject as part of your degree.

e.g. You cannot apply for Prague unless you are studying Archaeology.

You cannot apply for Malta unless you are studying Classics.

See tab called “key” for explanations of “yes”, “maybe” and “?”.



## *How should I choose courses?*

- Consult the host university's online course catalogue (links provided).
- 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.
- Check location of teaching (some unis have multiple campuses)
- Avoid self - study modules.
- Need approval from University of Galway academic coordinators.



# *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!



# *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 happens if I fail the Year Abroad? Or if I withdraw halfway through?*

- No International degree
- Return to enrol on Year 3 of normal BA
- Fees will be payable (currently €5,738 for full year without Government -funded free tuition fee)
- Withdrawal after 60 days but before 30 Jan.: Leave of absence for semester 2, and one semester of fees (€2,870) payable in final year. Partial Erasmus grant repayment.
- Withdrawal before 60 days: repay Erasmus grant, and LoA not possible after 30 September



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHĒ  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

# 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/](https://www.numbeo.com/cost_of_living/)

**Start saving early!**





OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHÉ  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

# 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







## Be aware that ...

- *Study abroad is demanding*
- *It will require hard work, commitment and 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.*



# *Making your application*

- Online form will be circulated by e-mail on Wednesday
- Strict deadline: **midnight on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> February**
- Consult the materials on the web page mentioned earlier, especially the Appendix and list of host universities.
- In your application you must
  - provide First Year and 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Semester 1 results;
  - choose up to 3 potential host universities and explain your choices;
  - write a statement of motivation.
- Selections will be done in consultation with academic coordinators.
- In some cases, students may be called for brief informal interview.





# STUDY ABROAD: A STUDENT VIEW

“For me, Erasmus is more than just University: it’s the people, the culture, the places, the friends that I’ve made, the experience I’ve gained and the memories that I’ll have forever.”





OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHÉ  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

# Next steps

- Look up the materials.
- Start researching possible host unis.
- Consult Galway academic coordinator if necessary.
- Explain your choices and write a personal statement.
- Submit your form before the **deadline**.
- Successful candidates will be nominated to a host university early in 2024.



University of Helsinki Library  
Photo: Mary Lyons



Any questions??



Please feel free to ask  
now!

or  
e-mail

[mary.lyons@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:mary.lyons@universityofgalway.ie)



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY