Ollscoil na Gaillimhe
University of Galway

College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies

2027/28 Study Abroad
for non-language students on the
BA Global Experience programme (GY129)

APPENDIX

to the Application Form

Version 1, 4th November, 2026

Essential information

Please read this carefully before making your application!

Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information provided here and in the list of CASSCS study abroad partners and subject combinations, the University of Galway accepts no responsibility for errors or omissions therein. This document is intended as a guideline for potential study abroad candidates, who should carry out their own research into courses available at partner universities and, when necessary, discuss possible course choices with their academic coordinator(s) at the University of Galway.

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Identifying a suitable host university and appropriate courses (modules)

How many credits do I need, and how should they be divided?

Your study abroad programme will involve securing 40 ECTS credits in total at the host university, across the academic year. Ideally you should take your two degree subjects at the host university, but in any case you must ensure that your course choices will be relevant or complementary to at least one of your two degree subjects.

How do I go about picking possible host universities?

Consult the table called "CASSCS Study Abroad partners and subject combinations" that you'll find on this page. Here you will be able to see what subjects are offered through English at each partner university. The table also has links to useful resources, such as websites, exchange student information, etc. for each institution.

Based on the information provided in that table, you will be asked to list up to 5 choices of university on the application form, in order of preference.

The choices open to you are determined to a large extent by the subjects you are studying here at the University of Galway.

Because it's such a large spreadsheet, it might be a good idea to download a copy, then delete columns with subjects that are not at all relevant to you, and delete rows with universities you know are unavailable to you or not of interest to you. But do read the information below first!

What does "core subject" mean?

You will notice that "core subject" occurs in red throughout the table. This means that this exchange is "owned" by the University of Galway Discipline or School whose name appears at the top of the column, and only their students can avail of the exchange. For instance, you cannot be considered for a place at ELTE Budapest unless one of your subjects is Law.

Please do not disregard this requirement!

If you are considering a subject-specific exchange like this, it might be a good idea to have a chat with the University of Galway study abroad coordinator from the relevant Discipline or School (see page 6), to signal your interest and perhaps get some advice on that university and whether it would suit you.

If there is no "core subject" indicated, what does this mean?

Some exchanges are "College-wide". This means you may apply for them if (a) it's indicated that there are English-taught modules in at least one of your degree subjects at those universities, and (b) you have satisfied yourself that you could secure 40 ECTS in modules relevant or complementary to at least one of your degree subjects, and ideally covering both subjects.

Where do I find the actual list of courses available to me?

Not all modules at every university might be open to exchange students. For information on the modules that are open to exchange students at any given partner university, you should click on the link given in the "modules available" column in the table (scroll to the right). In general, that web page will lead you to a course catalogue or lists of modules for visiting students, but you *might* need to search also by faculty/subject area. You should note the subject area or faculty of the agreement in column C, and look first for modules in that area.

If there's a "language" field with a drop-down menu, make sure it's set to "English". If there's a field for "level", make sure you differentiate between Bachelor and Master level courses.

Don't forget to look at the offerings for both semesters, if these are listed separately.

For more detailed explanations of the yes/maybe/? in the table, take a look at the second page of the Excel sheet – click on the tab called "key".

Can I choose courses from any faculty?

In a few cases yes, you may, but only where it says "all fields" or "university-wide" in column C.

Keep in mind, though, that many exchanges may be restricted to one faculty, or there may be a limit on the modules that can be taken from other, different faculties. Check what it says in the columns headed "exchange is with" and "rules specific to host university".

When you see "maybe" in the above-mentioned table, it means you might be able to take some modules from a faculty other than the one specified for that exchange. Have a look to make sure that such modules are relevant to your studies, taught at the right level, and of interest to you.

It's important to check the final column, on the right, to see what restrictions there might be. Many universities, particularly in Europe, will require exchange students to take at least half their modules from a particular faculty or school (the one with which we have the exchange agreement).

For more detailed explanations of the yes/maybe/? in the table, take a look at the second page of the Excel sheet – click on the tab called "key".

"Relevant or complementary" – how much flexibility does this give me?

As a basic rule, you must make sure to observe the "core subject" requirement: if you aren't registered for a particular subject here at the University of Galway, you won't be able to avail of an exchange that is "owned" by that subject.

However, after that, there is some leeway.

In some cases, you may find that there is a real problem finding modules in one of your degree subjects at a university that appeals to you, and you might have to look at taking the majority of your modules from the area of your other subject.

As you know, there is often overlap or complementarity between different Arts disciplines. For example, you might find that the area of International Relations at a partner university includes studies related not only to Politics, but to Law, Economics, Geography or History. This could open up more options for you. Students of Global Media, depending on their personal academic interests, might find that not only Media/Communication is relevant to them, but also modules from English, Economics or Politics. Not all of these fields of study might be freely available to you at a particular university, but you may be able to choose one or two such modules.

In general, you should take a broad view of what's available, and consider what would contribute to a better understanding of and appreciation for the subjects you are currently studying, especially if studying abroad can offer new perspectives on them.

We would encourage you to consider taking a module related to the language, culture or society of your host country, as this will enhance your international education experience.

If I'm selected for a particular university, when would I finalise my course choices?

Not until much later on. If you have concerns about the suitability of a particular module or its relevance to your programme, you may consult the relevant University of Galway academic coordinator. There's a list of these on page 6. However, there is no need at this stage to draw up a comprehensive study plan. In relation to your application for study abroad, it's enough to have a reasonable idea that you'll be able to find courses appropriate to your needs at any university that you select. You can use your common sense for this. There is definitely no need to contact our partner universities at this stage.

When you are nominated to a host university (but not until then), the modules to be taken abroad must be agreed with the relevant subject coordinators at the University of Galway in advance of travelling abroad to study. For Erasmus students, this will be done by means of the Erasmus Learning Agreement; for students going to other destinations, there will be a similar signing-off procedure. Students selected for Erasmus destinations may be required to complete a learning agreement at the time of application to the host university. For now, you do NOT need to prepare a learning agreement.

Do all universities have the same credit system?

No, there is a difference between European universities and those outside the EU in this regard.

The ECTS system, or European Credit Transfer System, is used in European Higher Education and is one way of measuring the learning outcomes and the associated workload of a particular course (module). At the University of Galway, most courses (modules) carry 5 ECTS credits, and a standard year's workload is 60 ECTS.

At our partner universities outside of Europe, different systems apply. For instance, an American 3-credit module would be roughly equivalent to 5 ECTS credits. Students going to North America are expected to register for 12 North American credits per semester. This normally means four courses (modules) per semester.

You should be aware of these differences between credit systems when considering courses (modules).

List of Year Abroad Academic Coordinators at the University of Galway

SUBJECT	UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY ACADEMIC COORDINATOR	Coordinator e-mail address
Archaeology	Dr Michelle Comber	michelle.comber@universityofgalway.ie
Celtic Civilisation & Gaeilge	Dr Liam Ó hAisibéil	liam.ohaisibeil@oegaillimh.ie
Classics	Dr Pádraic Moran	grace.attwood@universityofgalway.ie
Economics	Dr Aidan Kane	aidan.kane@universityofgalway.ie
English	Dearbhla Mooney	dearbhla.mooney@universityofgalway.ie
Gaeilge	Dr Liam Ó hAisibéil	liam.ohaisibeil@oegaillimh.ie
Geography	Professor Ulf Strohmayer	ulf.strohmayer@universityofgalway.ie
Global Media	Tom Felle	tom.felle@universityofgalway.ie
History	Dr Anita Rupprecht	anita.rupprecht@universityofgalway.ie
IT	Dr Matthias Nickles	matthias.nickles@universityofgalway.ie
Law	Nicola Murphy	nicola.murphy@universityofgalway.ie
Léann an Aistriúcháin	Dr Aine Nic Niallais	aine.nicniallais@ollscoilnagaillimhe.ie
Léann na Cumarsáide	Dr Dan Dwyer	dan.dwyer@universityofgalway.ie
Maths	Dr Emil Sköldberg	emil.skoldberg@universityofgalway.ie
Modern Irish Culture Studies	Dr Méabh Ní Fhuartháin	meabh.nifhuarthain@universityofgalway.ie

Performance & Screen Studies	Dr Charlotte McIvor	charlotte.mcivor@universityofgalway.ie
Philosophy	Dr Tsarina Doyle	tsarina.doyle@universityofgalway.ie
Political Science & Sociology	Prof. Niamh Reilly	niamh.reilly@universityofgalway.ie
Psychology	Dr Mike Hogan	michael.hogan@universityofgalway.ie