

RESEARCHING YOUR PLACEMENT CHECKLIST

Where you go on your study placement is not simply about location, there are many factors to consider before deciding which institution you attend. This checklist will give you an overview of what to research before choosing which institutions to include on your application, if you think there are any additions to this list that will be useful to yourself and other students please email your suggestion to outbound@exeter.ac.uk

CHOOSING THE BEST UNIVERSITY FOR YOU

- Research the modules at several institutions (if you have a choice of where you can study)
- Choose modules that you are interested in, you may wish to take modules that will help you with your dissertation research.

LOCATION

- Where is the university located? Is it in a city or a more rural location?
- What is the climate like? Are there extremes of temperature, humidity, pollution, allergens such as pollen?
- Look at Google Streetview to get an idea of what the area looks like
- Have you researched what leisure activities are available nearby, such as sports or arts?

ACCOMMODATION

- Does the host university have student accommodation?
- Is this available to incoming Erasmus/Study Abroad students?
- How much will it cost per month?
- If there is limited student accommodation, what private accommodation is available?
- What are the accommodation deadlines – make a note of these for future reference
- Factor accommodation costs into your budget

FINANCES

For students studying in Europe:

An Erasmus grant is available to all students studying abroad in Europe. This will not cover all of your expenses whilst you are abroad, and therefore it is important you research the following:

- You can apply for a travel grant from Student Finance UK
- If you are in receipt of bursaries and additional funding, check with the University of Exeter funding team and Student Finance England/Wales to clarify if you are eligible to the additional funding whilst abroad.
- Research the average cost of living at your host country/institution – if it is more than what you would pay in Exeter, will you have enough money for living costs as well as the additional travel costs involved with studying abroad?
- Factor in the additional costs such as book supplies, mobile phone bills, administration fees and photocopying
- Talk to students who have returned from studying abroad and find out about their experience
- Can you work part-time whilst on your placement?
- Budget for extra spending money for travelling and socialising
- How about working over the summer before your placement begins to help boost your study abroad fund?

COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH STUDYING ABROAD

- Return air fare (2 return air fares if you want to travel home for Christmas)
- Visa (if you are studying outside of Europe, or if you are an International Student you will need a visa)
- Travel and Health Insurance (this is compulsory). The University of Exeter offers a comprehensive insurance policy

STUDENT SUPPORT AND ACCESSABILITY

- Do you already have an Independent Learning Plan and/or are likely to require particular support or special dispensation with your learning abroad, does the host university offer the support you require?
- Are you currently or have you in the past experienced mental health concerns? Does the host university have facilities that you will be able to self-refer to if required?
- If you anticipate periods of anxiety or mental health concerns during your placement it would be beneficial to compile a personal action plan to include coping strategies, support networks of friends and family as well as emergency contact details for your host university and medical provision in country.
- Are you currently taking medication? If so speak to your GP to find out if the equivalent medication is available at your country of destination.
- If your medication is not available at your country of destination are you able to take a year's worth of medication into country with you? (Check the FCO website, check with your GP and on the Embassy website of your country of destination as taking medication into country with you may impact a visa application)

LGBTQ+

- If you identify as LGBTQ+ we would recommend you research LGBTQ+ issues at your country of destination, for example (please note this is not an exhaustive list): homophobic violence, trans rights, gender recognition, and marriage laws. In some countries the law differs from state to state, as in the United States of America for example so do be aware of this when conducting your research.
- Does your host university have an LGBTQ+ society?
- Does the university have suitable support services available that you can self-refer to if required?

COMMUNICATION

- Do you need to take a language course before you study abroad (if you are not a Modern Languages student)?
- There are courses available through the Foreign Language Centre

CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Check out local and national news websites for the country you are visiting
- Find out about the culture of the country you want to visit

WHAT ELSE COULD YOU DO TO FIND OUT MORE?

- Check out the International Exeter website for further information on where you can study:
<http://www.exeter.ac.uk/international/abroad/>
- Speak to other Exeter students who have returned from studying at the host university or country – what were their experiences?
- Your College/Department will have a Study Abroad Co-ordinator – make an appointment to talk to them to find out more
- Visit <http://www.thirdyearabroad.com>