Student exchange programmes
Faculty of Spatial Sciences (FSS)
2017/2018

November 23, 2015 – 17:00

Paul van Steen
Student exchange.... What is it?

Student exchange =

› you study at *another university* in a *different country*,
› but you *remain enrolled at your home university (UG)*.

The courses you do abroad will be recognized by your home university.

Student exchange.... What is it NOT?

1) Enrolling in a degree-program elsewhere (to obtain a MSc degree or a PhD degree)

2) Enrolling in a so-called DOUBLE-DEGREE program, with one degree from RUG
Student exchanges....
A few questions....

› Why study abroad?
› For whom? When? How long?
› Where to go? To do what?
› How to prepare? Information?
› Costs? Subsidies?
› How to apply? Selection?

Some answers....
Why study abroad?

› New, additional courses to enrich your FRW degree
› Language – Become more fluent
› Learn about culture, people, country
› Improve quality CV
› Other, more personal motives
› New perspective on own country, culture, discipline (the ‘mirror’ function)
› Confrontation with yourself
For whom? When? How long? (1)

- **Bachelor students** – in third year:
  - semester 1: courses (in stead of 'Minor' at RUG),
  - semester 2.b (for example, Bachelorthesis)

- **Master students** - semester 1 or 2

- **Approval needed beforehand** (level of courses; credits; progress in/conflict with FSS curriculum?)

- **Minimum 3 months, mostly 4 or 5 months** (problem/challenge: different academic timetables)
For whom? When? How long? (2)

Other conditions:

1. If academic level abroad is equivalent - *BSc students should not take first year courses*

2. If host university has space/capacity – *for each partner university, only a limited number of FSS students welcome*

3. If there is a ‘balance’ in the number of students exchanged – *for each partner university, only a limited number of FSS students welcome*
What can you do abroad?

› **Courses** - sometimes very ‘different’, language!, time period (serious differences in academic timetables)

› **Bachelorthesis** - not everywhere, FSS staff member is primary supervisor; in 2b or in semester 1

› **Masterthesis** - not everywhere, FSS staff member is primary supervisor, time period? - NEURUS
Some solutions to some ‘problems’

› **Bachelor**: compulsory excursion 2b (in SG&P) - if you go abroad when excursion is offered, you can apply for waiver:
  * but you need another 5 EC course to compensate
  * if that is not possible: separate assignment
  * ‘costs’, benefits

› **Bachelor and Master**: combination of BA project (or MSc thesis) and elective course abroad

› **Master thesis**: if host university only allows for course participation, work 100% independently on MSc thesis
Some ‘solutions’ to some ‘problems’

› **Bachelor**: if you have already developed a delay in your curriculum, include 7th semester in your plans

› **Master**: if you have already developed a delay in your curriculum, include 3rd semester in your plans

*But: study abroad does not automatically imply a delay in your study program.*

*And: sometimes ‘cheaper’ to study abroad as exchange student, maintaining your enrollment at UG*
Where can you go to? (1)

Important distinction:

- **FSS partners**: Exchanges to partner universities of the Faculty of **Spatial Sciences**
  = many options, more flexibility, less competition

- **UG partners**: Exchanges to partner universities of the **University** of Groningen (so-called “institutional partners” = “Multi-Faculty Exchange”)
  = not that many options

- **Rest of the world** = much more, to very difficult
Where can you go to? (2)

A1. European partners Spatial Sciences (Erasmus)
A2. Non-European partners Spatial Sciences
B. Non-European partners University of Groningen
C. European partners other RUG Faculties (Erasmus)
D. Rest of the world

A to D: very easy (A1) or easy (A2/B), to difficult (C, D) to arrange; many (A/B) to few (C) to very few (D) scholarships available; short (A1) to very long (D) preparation time, etc.
Partners of FSS or UG

1. **In Europe:**
   - 32 FSS partners in 17 countries
   - Very limited access to 200+ partners of other UG Faculties (e.g., Arts; Economics & Business)
   - Erasmus scholarship almost ‘guaranteed’

2. **Outside Europe:**
   - North America: USA + Canada
   - Oceania, Asia: New Zealand, Indonesia
   - *New, to be confirmed: Brazil, Chile*
Partners FSS - United Kingdom

- Coleraine
- Belfast (new)
- Edinburgh
- Newcastle
- Leeds
- Cardiff
- Reading
- Southampton
Partners FSS - United Kingdom

Reading
› Courses
› Human Geography
› October-December, January-March
› Campus, residence halls for students
Partners FSS - United Kingdom

Newcastle
› Courses
› School of Geography, Politics and Sociology
› September - January, February - May
**Partners FSS - United Kingdom**

**Coleraine**

- Courses, BA project, MSc project
- Human Geography, Environmental Sciences
- late Sept - late January; late January - early June
- Campus, most students stay in Portrush or Portstewart
Partners FSS - United Kingdom

Queen’s University Belfast
School of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Planning
Partners FSS - NW Europe

Joensuu
› courses in English
› Sept/Dec, Jan/March

Stockholm
• MSc courses

Agder (in Kristiansand)

Lund - courses!
Partners FSS - East/Central Europe

Tallinn (Estonia) (new)
School of Humanities
(fields of culture, history)

Riga, Jelgava
(Latvia)

Wroclaw, Krakow (Poland)
Partners FSS - Latvia

**Riga**
- BA project, also in 2b
- MSc thesis
- Growing number of courses (outside Geography) in English

**Jelgava - Agricultural Univ. (BA projects)**
Partners FSS - Central Europe

- Prague (Czech Republic)
- Vienna (Austria) 2x!
- Budapest (Hungary)
- Pecs (Hungary)
- Milan (Italy)
- Istanbul (Turkey) - ???
- Volos (Greece)
Partners FSS - Austria

Vienna
› University of Economics & Business Administration
› large no. of courses, incl.
   large number in English

Other partner: Vienna University of Technology – bachelor courses in German (Urban/Infra Planning)
Partners FSS - Hungary

**Pecs**
- BA project, also in 2b
- MSc thesis
- small number of courses in Geography/Nature Sciences

**Budapest**
- BSc / MSc courses
Partners FSS - Germany

Bremen ( + Oldenburg)

Berlin

› Geography, Planning
› + Ba project / MSc thesis

Munster - Geography, Planning

!!! Semesters in Germany
October - February,
April - August
Partners FSS - SW Europe

Zaragoza
- ‘traditional’ teaching (in Spanish)
- Ba project, MSc thesis

Lisbon
- BA project, MSc thesis
Partners FSS - Belgium

Ghent University

› Faculty of Engineering and Architecture = Faculteit Ingenieurswetenschappen en Architectuur
› BSc courses, MSc courses
Partners of Spatial Sciences

1. **In Europe:**
   - 32 partners in 17 countries
   - Very limited access to 200+ partners of other RuG Faculties (e.g., Arts; Economics & Business)
   - Erasmus scholarship almost ‘guaranteed’

2. **Outside Europe:**
   - North America: USA + Canada
   - Oceania, Asia: New Zealand, Indonesia?
   - Brazil (under construction)
Partners FSS - USA

Seattle

Urbana

Geneseo

Muncie

Irvine

Phoenix

Gainesville

NEURUS partner
Partners FSS - USA, exchanges

Geneseo, NY
› Courses
› Ba project
› MSc thesis
› Campus town
› Geography
› USD 7,500
Partners FSS - USA, Exchanges

Seattle, WA

› Priority for MSc students
› Priority for students Real Estate, Planning or Economic Geography
› courses
› ‘trimester’ system: Sep-Dec, Jan-March (Apr-Jun not possible)
› ‘in city’ campus location
Partners FSS - USA, Exchanges

Muncie, Indiana (new)
› Ball State University
› College of Architecture and Planning
› courses
› BSc level, MSc level
Partners FSS - USA, Exchanges

Omaha, Nebraska

- Geography,
- International Studies
- courses
Partners FSS - United States

Fees

› Student exchange programmes: students do not pay tuition fees ('collegegeld')
› However: students do pay local fees, e.g. for on-campus health services, sports facilities; sometimes also for use of computer labs, library
Partners FSS - NEURUS

NEURUS

Network for European and US Regional and Urban Studies
Europe: Groningen, Berlin, Vienna (+ more)
Asia: South Korea
USA: Irvine, Urbana, Gainesville, Phoenix
Partners FSS - NEURUS

NEURUS - for MSc thesis

› September: seminar EU: present and discuss research proposal MSc thesis
› September: workshop EU (research methods)
› Arrive in USA in January
› January - May: MSc thesis ( + course possible)
› April: seminar USA: present work-in-progress
› April: workshop USA (policy implementations)
Partners FSS - New Zealand

Auckland
› BSc and MSc students, Geography and Planning
› academic year: February-June, July-November
› in 2017/2018: 3 students

Partners FSS - Australia

Newcastle
› MSc students in Population Studies c.a. / research
Partners FSS - Brazil

(1) Federal University of ABC, Santo Andre
(2) Federal University of Rio Grando do Sul, Porto Alegre
(3) Federal University of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte

› Courses in Portugese (but: free Portugese language courses) – (1) has growing number of BSc courses in English
› More realistic – bachelor project (together with Brazilian students), masterthesis research
› (1) has only bachelor program “Territorial Planning” in Brazil → good fit for planning/spatial design (but also for Real Estate Studies, Economic Geography)
Partners FSS - Indonesia

Yogyakarta, Indonesia
› University of Gadjah Mada
› Faculty of Social and Political Sciences
› courses, BSc level, in English
› new partner

Bandung, Institute of Technology
› courses, bachelor project, master thesis
› not as part of Double Degree program!
Partners of University of Groningen

› Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand 1
› Australian National University, Canberra, Australia 1
› University of Calgary, Calgary, Canada 1
› Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, Canada 1
› Queen’s University, Kingston, Canada 1 or 2
› Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico 1 or 2
› University of Tokyo, Japan 1

So-called “Multi-Faculty exchanges”

Only the above-mentioned slots have been allocated to FSS
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Some answers....
Preparations (1)

Collect information
› website FSS (Education → Study Guide)
› travel reports FSS students on Nestor → ask Paul van Steen to be enrolled in Nestor Organization “Spatial Sciences abroad” (p.j.m.van.steen@rug.nl)

Identify or create time in study programme
› decide what to do, and when (timetables!)
› find other students (for Ba project)

Make shortlist of possible/desired destinations
Preparations (2)

Have 1 (or 2) personal talks with Paul van Steen
› 20 minutes, sign up (see list on room door 0.19) – prepare!
› Nov. 24 + 25 + 28: priority for students for destinations outside EU
› later in December, January: for all students

Make budget expenses vs. subsidies

Fill in application form
› available at Student Support Desk (for FSS + UG partners),
› available on website FSS (teaching → study guide → studying abroad)
› submit not later than January 20, 2017 for non-EU destinations,
  not later than February 24, 2017 for EU destinations
Costs

1. Travel
2. Housing abroad
3. Other survival expenses abroad
4. Decide on ‘local’ travel behaviour
5. Tuition fees (waived if you go to FSS or UG partner)
Funds

1. IBG/DUO scholarship continues (advance payment)
2. reimbursement OV card (at this moment: €102/month)
3. rent room Groningen?
4. additional scholarship:
   - Erasmus (€150 or €210 or €270 per month)
   - or Marco Polo Funds scholarship
   - GUF = ‘Groningen Universiteits Fonds’: €300 (BSc)
     or €400 (MSc) - or nothing
   - ??? other, private funds (Studenten Service Centrum)
Application & Selection (1)

1. Submit application form in time:
   - Not later than January 20, 2017 for FSS & UG partners outside Europe, in mailbox Paul van Steen (ground floor)
   - Not later than February 24, 2017 for FSS partners in Europe, in mailbox Paul van Steen (ground floor)

2. Submission of application form is expression of ‘serious intention’ to participate, but not (yet) a “contract”
Application & Selection (2)

3. In January/February: selection of non-EU destinations, next (in February/March): selection of EU destination

4. If demand for FSS partner > contract specification:
   • we will try to let everybody go
   • if not possible: selection (motivation, progress in study programme, advise of program coordinators)
DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAMS

FSS/RUG is partner in 4 Double-Degree programs
These are NOT student exchange programs! But... if you intend to take the FSS part of the DD program, and would like to take another full year of courses...

1. Water and Coastal Management
   - 1st year in Oldenburg, 2nd year EIP in Groningen
   - tuition fee first year € 656, second year € 1.951 (fees 2015-2016)
   - Apply through/in Oldenburg
DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAMS

2. Social Demography
   - 1st year in Barcelona, 2nd year Population Studies in Groningen
   - tuition fee first year approx. € 2400 (scholarships available), second year € 1,951 (fees 2015-16)
   - For students with an interest in sociological and demographical issues
3. Development Planning & Infrastructure Management
   • 1st year in Bandung, 2nd year EIP in Groningen
   • tuition fee first year approx. € 6,300, second year € 1,951 (fees 2015-16)
   • First year in Bandung: courses in Regional and City Planning
   • Admission via ITB Bandung
4. Demography & Social Inequality
   • 1st year in Cologne (Germany), 2nd year MSc Population Studies in Groningen
   • more information: dr Fanny Janssen, FSS
Questions?
Thank you - See you in Elsewhere!