Student exchange programmes
Faculty of Spatial Sciences (FSS)
2019/2020 and beyond....

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student exchange coordinator FSS
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 UG
Student exchange.... What is it?

CREDIT mobility  ( = Student Exchange )
( = obtaining credits elsewhere as part of home degree )

vs.

DEGREE mobility  ( = obtaining a degree elsewhere )
[Credit mobility] 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 general answers....
Why study abroad?

› New, additional courses to enrich your FSS degree
› Language – Become more fluent /confident
› Learn about culture, people, country
› Improve quality CV
and....
› 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 UG),
  - 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. Academic level abroad should be 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 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); often only in geography/planning

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

› **Masterthesis** - not everywhere, FSS staff member is primary supervisor, time period? – NEURUS

› **Language course?** – fine, but: 1) FSS does not give credits; 2) often: course fee
Some solutions to some ‘problems’

› **Bachelor**: compulsory ‘Fieldwork Abroad’ 2b (HG&R&UP)
  - if you study abroad in 2b, 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,) add 7th semester

› **Master**: (if you have already developed a delay in your curriculum,) add 3rd semester

Trade-off: tuition fee UG vs. tuition fee abroad

– *often ‘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)

A. Partners of the Faculty of Spatial Sciences:
   A1. in Europe (Erasmus scholarship)
   A2. outside Europe (Marco Polo scholarship)

B. Non-EU partners University of Groningen (Marco Polo)

C. European partners other RUG Faculties (Erasmus)

D. Rest of the world (Europe and beyond) (??)

A to D: very easy (A1) or easy (A2/B), to difficult (C, D) to arrange; many (A/B) to few (C) to almost no (D) scholarships available; short (A1) to very long (D) preparation time, etc.
Partners of FSS or UG

1. **In Europe:**
   - 38 FSS partners in 17 countries (group A1)
   - Limited access to 200+ partners other UG Faculties (group C)

2. **Outside Europe:**
   - 15 FSS partners in 8 countries (group A2): USA, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Brazil, Mexico, Chile
   - Multi Faculty Exchanges UG (group B) – 12 partners in 9 countries
Partners FSS - United Kingdom

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

Reading

› Courses
› Human Geography
› Physical Geography
› October-December (January-March)
› Campus, residence halls for students

3 months = short option
Partners FSS - United Kingdom

Newcastle
› Courses
› School of Geography, Politics and Sociology
› late Sept – late Jan, late Jan – mid-June
Partners FSS - United Kingdom

Coleraine

› Courses, BA project, MSc project
› Human Geography, Environmental Sciences
› mid Sept - late January; February - mid June
› Campus, most students stay in Portrush or Portstewart
Partners FSS - North

Iceland (new) University of (and in) Akureyri
Partners FSS - NW Europe

- Joensuu
- Uppsala (new)
- Helsinki (new)
- Stockholm (only MSc)
- Agder (in Kristiansand)
- Lund - courses!
Partners FSS - East/Central Europe

Tallinn (Estonia)
School of Humanities

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)

- **Volos** (Greece)
- **Athens** (Greece) *(new)*
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

NW: Oldenburg, Bremen, Hamburg

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

Barcelona (new)

Lisbon
- BA project, MSc thesis
Partners FSS - Belgium

Ghent University

- Faculty of Engineering and Architecture = Faculteit Ingenieurswetenschappen en Architectuur
- MSc courses
Partners of Spatial Sciences

Outside Europe:

• North America: USA – 8 partners
• New Zealand – Auckland
• Indonesia – Yokyakarta (UGM) (new partner)
• Hong Kong – Baptiste University (*)
• Brazil – near Sao Paulo + 3 under construction
• Mexico – Mexico City (not UNAM) (*)
• Chile – Catholic University (PUC), Santiago (*)
• China – Renmin University (new partner)

(*) cooperation with FEB
Highlight: Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Faculty of Social and Political Sciences ('FISIPOL')

Faculty of Engineering (Department of Architecture and Planning) (**)
Faculty of Geography (**)

(**) exchange
under construction
Partners FSS - USA, exchanges

Geneseo, NY
▶ Courses
▶ Campus town
▶ Geography
▶ USD 7,500
(but negotiations to reduce this fee!)
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

› 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, compulsory ‘meal plan’
Partners FSS - NEURUS

NEURUS

Network for European and US Regional and Urban Studies
Europe: Groningen, Berlin, Vienna
USA: Irvine, Urbana, Gainesville, Phoenix

At this very moment: 6 Spatial Sciences working on MSc thesis in the USA, 1 more in the USA in Spring 2019; and 2 BSc students in Berlin (bachelorproject)
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
› Timetable:
  • semester 1 February - June,
  • Semester 2 July – November
Partners FSS - China

Renmin University, Beijing (new partner)

› (BSc? and) MSc students, Planning
› Also possible: courses in other disciplines
› Unclear at this stage: number of courses offered in the English language
Partners FSS - Brazil

(1) Federal University of ABC, Santo Andre (near Sao Paulo)
(2) University of Fortaleza (UNIFOR), Fortaleza (North)
+ Federal University Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre
+ Federal University Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte
+ Federal University of Brasilia, Brasilia

- Courses in Portugese (but: free Portugese language courses) – (1) and (2) have 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 of University of Groningen

- New Zealand: Victoria University, Wellington 1
- Australia: Australian National University 1
- Australia: Macquarie University 1
- Canada: Calgary 1
- Japan: Tohoku University 1
- Japan: Osaka University 1
- Korea: Korea University, Seoul 1
- Korea: Seoul National University, Seoul 1
- China: Fudan University 1
- Brazil: University of Sao Paulo 1
- Colombia: University of Antioquia 1
- Mexico: UNAM, Mexico City 1

*So-called “Multi-Faculty exchanges”; only the above-mentioned slots have been allocated to FSS*
Student exchanges....
A few questions....

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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!
› starts next Monday, October 29, 12-14
› all dates and times also mentioned on website Spatial Sciences

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 7, 2019
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: € 83/month)
3. rent room Groningen?
4. additional scholarship:
   • Erasmus (€ 173 or € 222 or € 271 per month)
   • or Marco Polo Funds scholarship
   • GUF = ‘Groningen Universiteits Fonds’
   • ??? other, private funds (Student Service Centre)
1. Submit application form in time: not later than January 7, 2019 for FSS & UG partners, in mailbox Paul van Steen (ground floor)

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

3. In January/February: selection non-EU destinations, next (in February/March): selection for EU destinations
Application & Selection (2)

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)
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 approx. € 700, second year € 2,100
   • Apply through/in Oldenburg
2. Social Demography

- 1st year in Barcelona, 2nd year Population Studies in Groningen
- tuition fee first year approx. € 2,400 (scholarships available), second year approx. € 2,100
- 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 approx. € 2,100
   • First year in Bandung: courses in Regional and City Planning
   • Admission via ITB Bandung
DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAMS

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!