

# Welcome to the Student Blog

Written by Maynooth University students abroad, sharing their experiences.

**3 of our students have written to tell us what it's like preparing for their year abroad in Germany and Austria and updating us on their journey. You can read all about it here!**

Albina English Language Assistant Programme (ELA) [Albina blog 1](#), continuing their story: [Albina blog 2](#),

Laura English Language Assistant Programme (ELA) [Laura blog 1](#), continuing their story: [Laura blog 2](#),

Zoya Erasmus Student Exchange [Zoya blog 1](#), continuing their story: [Zoya blog 2](#),

## Opportunities for Spending a Year Abroad:

- **Erasmus Student Exchange Programme:**

Students who intend to spend one academic year at a university in a German-speaking country usually do so after completing their second year at Maynooth University. The existing Erasmus links with a variety of German and Austrian universities are used for these exchanges. Students express their interest in **February/March** of their second year at Maynooth University. All relevant information will then be given by the German Studies Erasmus Coordinator (Dr Böcking) and the Maynooth University [International Office](#). Information on finances and on conditions for availing of this unique opportunity will be given at information meetings and are always available from the International Office (Humanity House, first floor).

According to international practice and to the regulations adopted at Maynooth University, students spending a year at a university abroad aspire to accumulate 60 ECTS during the year. Of these credits, we expect all students of German to take 30 ECTS of courses in German or courses taught through the medium of German. Aside from this stipulation, students have considerable flexibility in choosing courses they would like to take during their Erasmus year abroad.

- **English Language Assistant Programme (ELA)**

The ELA programme offers students the opportunity to work as an English Language Assistant at a German/Austrian secondary school for one school year. Working at a German/Austrian/Swiss school is amongst the most beneficial ways to immerse yourself in the foreign culture. Student teachers also receive a

small monthly stipend for their work, which makes the scheme a good option for those who are concerned about the cost of spending an undergraduate year abroad.

The ELA scheme is particularly appropriate for students who hope to go on to a career in teaching, as it offers a very valuable opportunity to acquire teaching experience.

Information on the ELA schemes is available on the website of the Department of Education and Skills.

- **Erasmus Internship**

German Studies at Maynooth University has an agreement with the Sprachcenter Mouroum in Berlin whereby three students every year are offered the opportunity to undertake an Erasmus internship with the school. The Sprachcenter Mouroum offers English language classes to young children in “Kitas” (kindergartens) and primary schools around Berlin. The interns receive training in class preparation and delivery during the summer months, and they spend their year in Berlin giving classes in English.

They work approx. 30 hours a week (taking into account travel between classes); in return, they receive a monthly allowance from the school and a reduced-price travel card for Berlin. The school can also offer the interns reasonably priced accommodation in a central Berlin location. Students may also apply to Erasmus+ for funding in support of their internship.

This Erasmus Internship would be particularly appropriate for students who hope to go on to a career in primary teaching, as it offers them the opportunity to acquire teaching experience.

See here for further information on the [Sprachcenter Mouroum](#).