



JYVÄSKYLÄN YLIOPISTO  
UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ

# Student application and selection process in outgoing student exchanges

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Coordinator &

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## Guest speakers

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# Application process for outgoing exchange students 1/2



- Application periods:
  - **exchange programmes outside Europe** (bilateral, ISEP)
    - 1 October – 1 November
  - **exchange programmes in Europe** (Erasmus+, Nordlys, Nordplus) + an additional application round to exchange programmes outside Europe
    - 21 January – 4 February (dates vary depending on the calendar)
  - application rounds for the remaining Erasmus+ (and Nordplus) placements
    - 1 April – 31 May
    - 1 September – 30 September

# Application process for outgoing exchange students 2/2



- Online application in the Mobility-Online portal
  - students can apply for several programmes → separate application for each programme
  - possible to apply for 1-3 universities, depending on the programme
  - FOR ALL APPLICANTS:
    - preliminary study plan with reasons for choosing the courses and a credit transfer plan
    - academic reasons for applying
  - REQUIRED ONLY IF APPLICABLE:
    - a language proficiency certificate: only if the language of studying in the host university is other than English, and if the student has not studied that language at JYU
    - support statement from the international coordinator of the student's home faculty in case the student is applying for an Erasmus+ placement at another faculty

# Selection process



university-level  
programmes  
(bilateral, ISEP,  
Nordlys)

- international coordinators at the faculties review and score their applicants and
- at the International Office, two international coordinators (Tiina and Laura) review and score all applications, assign students to host universities, and draft the selection proposal based on the scores given by faculty-level international coordinators
- Director of Student and Academic Services makes the final selection

faculty-level  
programmes  
(Erasmus, Nordplus,  
faculty-level bilateral)

- international coordinators at the faculties review and score applications, assign students to host universities, and draft the selection proposal
- Dean of the faculty makes the final selection

# Selection criteria 1/3

- Updated in 2025, previous selection criteria from 2009
- Need for separate selection criteria for long-term and short-term mobilities
- Selection criteria for short-term mobility were prepared separately
- Preparation of the selection criteria: International Office and faculty-level international coordinators, decision by the vice-rector
- Same selection criteria for all exchange programmes. Departments and faculties no longer have their own criteria.



# Selection criteria 2/3

- Academic performance and progress in studies
  - GPA & number of completed credits per semester
  - Academic performance at a sufficient level for studies at the host institution
- Appropriate timing of the exchange within the degree
  - Faculty/department-specific recommended timing of the exchange taken into consideration
  - Students who have already completed all required studies can only be selected for particularly justified reasons
  - If students have been granted an extension to their study time, they may be selected if the exchange is necessary for completing the exchange
- Applicant's academic reasons for the exchange



# Selection criteria 3/3

- Study plan for the host university
  - Full-time studies required (30 ECTS credits / semester)
  - Studies which can be recognized by JYU ([credit transfer at JYU](#))
- Language proficiency in the language of instruction and any other requirements set by the host university
- Previous exchange experience: students who have already studied abroad through JYU are not selected to highly competitive placements
- Cancelled exchanges: cancelling a confirmed exchange without a justified reason may affect the selection
- Balance between faculties is taken into account in university-level exchanges



# Scoring system 1/2



- Language proficiency in the language of instruction at the host university and any additional language requirements set by the host institution (0-3 points)
  - 3 = C1-C2
  - 2 = B1-B2
  - 1 = A1-A2
  - 0 = no language proficiency in the language of instruction
- GPA (0-4 points)
  - 4 = GPA 4,0 or over
  - 3 = GPA 3,5-3,9
  - 2 = GPA 3,0-3,4
  - 1 = GPA 2,5-2,9
  - 0 = GPA 2,5 or under
- Progress of studies (0-4 points)
  - 4 = 35,0 ECTS per semester or more
  - 3 = 30,0-34,9 ECTS per semester
  - 2 = 25,0-29,9 ECTS per semester
  - 1 = 20,0-24,9 ECTS per semester
  - 0 = less than 20,0 ECTS per semester
- Timing of the exchange in relation to the degree stage (0-5 points)
  - 5 = excellent timing (recommended timing in the degree programme)
  - 3 = good timing
  - 1 = weak timing
  - 0 = timing not recommended

# Scoring system 2/2



- Study plan for the exchange period (0-5 points)
  - 5 = very well reasoned and planned
  - 4 = well reasoned and planned
  - 3 = satisfactory
  - 2 = weakly reasoned and planned
  - 1 = study plan is incomplete (too few courses)
  - 0 = plan is not possible (e.g. courses that you cannot study at host university)
- Preliminary credit transfer plans (0-2 points)
  - 2 = realistic and thorough credit transfer plan
  - 1 = realistic credit transfer plan
  - 0 = no credit transfer plan, or the plan is unrealistic or not possible
- Applicant's academic motivation and reasons for applying (0-3 points)
  - 3 = exchange is important for the progression of studies, strong academic reasons and goals, supports degree and/or future career very well
  - 2 = exchange is good for the progression of studies, good academic reasons and goals
  - 1 = mainly language skills and cultural aspects are mentioned without connection to study progress, no strong academic reasons indicated
  - 0 = lacking or non-academic reasons, reasons that are not relevant to studies

# Pros and cons in the JYU selection process



## Strengths:

- Applications are scored using a common set of criteria and a standardised scoring method → enhances fairness and transparency in the application process
- All components of the application are taken into account in the scoring
- Two teams involved in the selection process: faculty-level international coordinators contribute degree- and study-related academic expertise to university-level selections

## Weaknesses:

- Reading and scoring applications is time-consuming. In some exchanges, this involves two teams → decision made that in future, in university-level calls, both teams will not score all parts of the application
- Scoring is done manually
- Although the scoring method is standardised, there may be variation between evaluators, especially in non-numerical assessment components
- AI-generated applications. → questions have been broken down into smaller parts. Applicants are encouraged to present their own perspective, (e.g. “In your own words, please describe...”)

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# Questions?

## Questions for discussion in pairs or small groups

What is selection criteria for outgoing student exchange at your university?

How do you select your outgoing exchange students in practice; do you for example have a scoring system (based on GPA, motivation letter, interviews, something else), random selection / raffle, are fewer opportunities groups given priority etc.?