

STUDENT EXCHANGES INFORMATION MEETING FOR PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS

15th December, 2023

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Programme:

- 12:00 - 12:05 Introduction and Welcome
- 12:05 - 12: 20 Presentation by Ms Monique Mallia International Office- ISEP
- 12:20 - 12:30 ISEP Q&A
- 12:30 - 12:45 Presentation by Dr Lorleen Farrugia Department of Psychology - Erasmus
- 12:45 - 13:15 Presentation by Mr Bernard Cachia Zammit International Office - Erasmus
- 13:15 - 13:30 Erasmus Q&A

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ERASMUS INFORMATION MEETING

DR GOTTFRIED CATANIA
DR CHANTAL AVELLINO
DR LORLEEN FARRUGIA

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What is Erasmus?

- The **Erasmus** programme (European Region Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students) is an EU funded programme that organises student exchanges

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B. Psy (Hons)

- Generally, **B. Psy students** attend Erasmus programmes when they are in the **second semester of second year**
- During **semester 2 of year 2**, B. Psy students in Malta are required to sit for compulsory study units:
 - **PSY2610 Psychopathology**
 - **PSY2623 Work Psychology**
 - **PSY2633 Health Psychology**

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- Usually, EU-universities often tend to have study-units that **relatively** match the course descriptions of these compulsory study-units
- B.Psy students are required to complete 180 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) throughout their three-year course. These are split into 60 ECTS per year
 - However, study-units offered by EU universities have different weightings
- Therefore, students who go to Erasmus might exceed 60 ECTS when they come to the end of second year (e.g. in second year, an Erasmus student might have completed 64 ECTS)

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However...

- A student who goes on Erasmus can only proceed to the third year of the B.Psy programme if they have completed 60 ECTS
 - If they have completed less than 60 ECTS, then they **cannot** proceed to third year
- If a second year student goes on Erasmus and completes second year with for example, **64 ECTS**, the student still needs to complete 60 ECTS in third year- the ECTS from the second year **cannot** be carried into the third year of the B.Psy programme

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Selecting an appropriate University...

- John is interested in going on an Erasmus exchange when he is in Year 2, semester 2 of his B.Psy programme. It is **his responsibility** to search for a university which offers study-units as similar to those currently offered on the B.Psy programme. He can research the study-unit descriptions of the EU University to see if they complement the study-units offered here in Malta, including the ECTS value.



Selecting an appropriate University...

- John manages to find two study-units at the EU university that are very similar to PSY2610 Psychopathology and PSY2623 Work Psychology
- However, he cannot find the equivalent for PSY2633 Health Psychology
- In that case, John can take a different study-unit to PSY2633 when he is on Erasmus
 - He can then sit for PSY2633 in third year instead of an elective-year

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Another scenario...

- John manages to find one study-unit at the EU university that is very similar to PSY2633 Health Psychology. In this instance, he can select other study-units at the EU university
- Then, when he is in third year, John can sit for PSY2610 Psychopathology and **choose** the elective study-unit **PSY3647 Selected Topics in Organisational Psychology** in second year
 - In this instance, the elective study-unit **PSY3647 Selected Topics in Organisational Psychology** can be taken in lieu of **PSY2623 Work Psychology**
 - **Note: PSY2610 Psychopathology and PSY2623 Work Psychology cannot both be taken in third year**

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Therefore, what do I need to do?

- Find an EU university where the study-units offered match the B.Psy programme of studies
- It is the student's responsibility to verify that the credits selected match- contact the Host University's Erasmus office & lecturer concerned (Malta) to verify comparability
- On the Erasmus website one can find a list-matching exercise:
 - <https://www.um.edu.mt/studentlife/internationalopportunities/erasmus>
 - <https://www.um.edu.mt/studentlife/internationalopportunities/erasmus/umstudents/listofplacements/facultyforthesocialwellbeing>

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- Please note that B. Psy students cannot go on Erasmus when they are in their third year of studies. This is because some year-long compulsory study-units do not have equivalency with study-units offered at other universities abroad
- Also note that you cannot take an elective study-unit on Erasmus that you have already done previously in Malta or that you intend to complete in third year

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B.A. Students

- B.A. students go on Erasmus when they are in the **first semester** of **second year**
- The compulsory psychology study-unit for BA students in year 2, semester is:
 - **PSY1606 Social Psychology**

B. A. Psychology & Other Area

- BA students need to ensure that by the end of year 2, they have completed: 26 credits in Psychology, 26 credits in the other area, 8 credits optional study-units.
- Those students who wish to read for the Higher Diploma in Psychology (once completed undergraduate studies), will also need to ensure that they have passed the pre-requisite study-units for this course. These include:
 - Quantitative & qualitative research methods
 - Biological psychology 1

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Next...

- Discuss your choices with the Erasmus coordinator, Dr Lorleen Farrugia- via email- title of email "Erasmus" (3-5 choices)
- Complete the Department of Psychology Agreement Regarding Compulsory Modules and ensure that it is signed by the coordinator and the Head of Department
 - Ensure that a signed copy of this is stored in your student file
- Complete the Programme of Studies & Learning Agreement document that is provided by the Erasmus Office

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Application and Selection

- Applications open in December/ deadline January- please contact the Erasmus office to check when applications open
- If a university receives many applications from different students, it is possible that they will select a limited number of students. This selection usually depends on academic performance, where students with the *highest grades* will be chosen

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