

## FAQs about Erasmus + stays in the context of the corona pandemic

### 1) Is it currently possible to start an Erasmus + study period or traineeship abroad?

Yes, Erasmus + study periods and traineeships abroad can be started and funded if the participant, the sending institution, and the receiving institution agree.

Please follow and comply with the latest information on travel warnings and restrictions on the website of the Austrian Ministry for European and International Affairs: <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/>

The OeAD-GmbH advises against stays in countries and areas for which travel warning has been issued. If the participant, despite this recommendation, should travel to a risk area, OeAD-GmbH cannot be held liable for any damages resulting from this.

### 2) My host university informed me that in the first weeks of the winter semester all courses will take place in form of e-learning. Afterwards, the courses should be continued in classroom teaching where possible. How does this impact my Erasmus+ funding?

Erasmus+ grant is given to cover the increased living costs that arise from a staying abroad (housing, travel etc.). You will therefore receive funding for period spent in the host country and/or host city regardless of whether you participated in e-learning or classroom teaching. The e-learning period outside the host country cannot be funded.

If your mobility period begins with e-learning in Austria or your country of residence, you will be nominated by your home university for the entire period (including the e-learning outside of host country/city). Your home university will make note in the nomination to the responsible Erasmus office at OeAD-GmbH (Erasmus-Referat) that you will travel to the host country later.

After your arrival at the host institution, please obtain a "Certificate of arrival" and send it by email to the responsible Erasmus office at OeAD-GmbH (Erasmus-Referat). Alternatively the host institution can also send an email directly to the Erasmus office to confirm your arrival. Please bear in mind that the grant agreement cannot be made available until your arrival confirmation has been received. Failure to comply with these rules may result in the agreement being canceled.

### 3) My host university informed me that all courses in winter semester will take place online. Will I receive an Erasmus+ grant for participating in online courses?

Erasmus+ grant is given to cover the increased living costs that arise from a staying abroad (housing, travel etc.). Therefore, no funding can be granted for e-learning outside the host country.

If you do not plan to travel to the host country, you will be nominated for an Erasmus+ study period abroad but you **will not** receive an Erasmus+ grant. In this case the e-learning period will not be deducted from your maximum funding duration (12 months per study cycle).

If you prefer to travel to the location of the host institution and participate in e-learning from there, you can do so. You would be eligible to receive an Erasmus+ funding for the time spent abroad.

Please follow the instructions described under Question 3 in order to receive the grant.

Same principle applies to traineeships and telework as well.

**4) What is the minimum duration for an Erasmus+ study period or traineeship placement?**

The minimum duration for an Erasmus + study period is **three** whole months. The minimum duration for traineeship placement is **two** whole months. E-learning or telework outside the host country does not count towards the minimum duration.

If possible, the minimum duration requirement should be fulfilled. A shortening of the mobility period is possible under certain circumstances (*force majeure* rules).

**5) Do I need to gain ECTS credits for e-learning courses that I complete during my Erasmus+ stay abroad?**

Yes. Only the e-learning courses for the funded duration have to fulfill the minimum eligibility criteria (3 ECTS per month). In general the e-learning should count towards the recognition of learning outcomes. Therefore you have to gain ECTS credits for e-learning courses if these courses are part of your Erasmus+ Learning Agreement.

**6) I will follow e-learning classes at the location of the host institution. What documents do I have to submit at the end of my stay to prove my physical presence in the host country?**

After your study period or traineeship placement please submit the "Confirmation of attendance" to the responsible Erasmus office at OeAD-GmbH (Erasmus-Referat). Please note that your presence at the location of the host institution must be confirmed by the confirmation from the host university or other suitable evidence (travel documents).

**7) What happens if there is a stronger Covid-19 outbreak in the host country and I have to cancel my stay?**

Covid-19 has been classified by the European Commission as justification for invoking *force majeure* rules. If the situation in your host country worsens and you have to leave, you can submit costs incurred (only costs related to travel and/or accommodation) to the National Agency under the condition mentioned below.

The classification as a case of *force majeure* due to Covid-19 is only possible in the case of travel warnings from the Austrian Ministry for European and International Affairs for your host country or the region in which your host institution is located, or if your study period or traineeship cannot be continued due to Covid-19 - measures (e.g. in case of closure of your host institution).

Please note the current information on travel warnings, travel restrictions, etc. on the website of the Austrian Ministry for European and International Affairs:

<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/>

**8) Due to the Covid-19 pandemic I could not start my planned traineeship placement as a recent graduate. Is it still possible to start the traineeship, although I already finished my studies some months ago?**

The period for completing an Erasmus + traineeship placement for recent graduates has been extended to 18 months after graduation. Please note that you must have already applied for an Erasmus + grant for a traineeship placement as a recent graduate during your studies.

**9) Due to Covid-19 pandemic I have to spend first two weeks in quarantine. Will I receive funding for this period?**

Yes, under the current Erasmus+ rules quarantine period is eligible for funding.