

TU Dublin Students abroad on Placement or on an Exchange Programme

TU Dublin is committed to the value of students traveling abroad to undertake a period of placement or exchange with a partner institution abroad. This international experience has been found to be very beneficial to the student and likewise the university benefits in welcoming several hundred international students each year to join our community.

This last year, due to the impact of Covid, international experiences have been more challenging for the student, the host organisation and the university. In recent days with the imposition of a period of mandatory hotel, quarantine (MHQ) for returning students to Ireland from certain countries has created further complications. TU Dublin is committed to adhering to all Government policies and procedures in particular relating to compliance with health and safety guidance.

This FAQ is aimed at providing some guidance to our students who are currently undertaking a Placement or exchange abroad. The provisions outlined below cover the period up to the end of August 2021.

What European countries are included in the Mandatory Hotel Quarantine and when does this requirement come into effect?

TU Dublin students on work placement, teaching posts and other work placements in **Belgium, France and Italy** will be subject to mandatory hotel quarantine (MHQ) on their return to Ireland from this **Thursday 15 April at 4am**. Further countries may be added.

How long will this period of Mandatory Hotel Quarantine continue for?

There is no indication as to how long this requirement will be required. However, if the prevailing Covid environment in Ireland continues to improve it is likely that such an arrangement will be of a temporary nature. It is anticipated that the arrangement will form part of the review of arrangements for combating Covid on a regular basis. It is, none the less likely to remain in place for a period including April and May.

Will other countries be included in this Mandatory Hotel Quarantine?

Yes, all indications are that other countries will be added and indeed removed at each review.

What should such a student do?

TU Dublin advises that the circumstances around the needs of each student will differ and that decisions need to be arrived at on a case-by-case basis. However, on balance the University is recommending that all students should endeavour to complete their period of placement, internship and/or exchange abroad in accordance with the planned arrangements. This would mean that students should, in consultation with their host organisation/partner agree to a plan for the remaining duration of the placement, exchange.

Who will fund the cost of a two-week mandatory hotel quarantine?

The Dept. of Further and Higher Education Research and Innovation have confirmed through the Higher Education Authority (HEA) that the cost of the mandatory hotel quarantine will be funded by the State. **The exact arrangements around this funding are currently being determined and it is expected to be agreed in the coming days.** TU Dublin will update the FAQs accordingly.

Can I receive extra Erasmus funding to cover this unexpected cost?

At present the Erasmus funding assigned to TU Dublin cannot cover these extra costs for returning students.

Should I leave my Host University / placement abroad early, and get home before the MHQ applies to my region?

TU Dublin advises students to remain in their host university location for the duration as originally envisaged.

My term abroad ends in another two weeks, but I am studying/ working remotely in any case because the region is in lockdown. Should I return before Thursday if possible?

Returning before Thursday April 15 would seem a possibility in this case. You could avoid the MHQ and associated costs, but you will remain liable for all costs and contracts you have signed (work contract, rental lease, etc.) until these expire. You MUST liaise with your employer and study coordinator immediately.

My placement does not finish until the end of May / June / July. What should I do?

You should remain in your host location and continue your programme of work / study, as there may be changes to this policy before your term abroad reaches its natural end.

Is my Erasmus grant affected if I come home earlier than planned?

Yes. Erasmus funding is linked to days actually spent abroad. If you return home, even if you continue to study remotely at the host university from your home, your original Erasmus grant entitlement will be reduced.

Is my SUSI status affected if I come home earlier than planned?

No. Your SUSI grant is not dependent on where you are completing study.

13th April 2021