

Q&A report

Studies abroad during the Covid-19 pandemic, 21 May 2021

- 1 How does the advice look like for EU exchange right now from the ministry of foreign affairs?
The following countries (EU) are exempted from the UD advice against unnecessary travel. Andorra, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Greece, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Croatia, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Switzerland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, the Vatican City and Austria."
- 2 If you are required to do a quarantine upon arrival, how do you solve practical things like food shopping and such if you don't know anyone?
I didn't have to quarantine since I had taken a antigen test but I did order food which was delivered to the door the first day. It was great to not have to think about shopping during the first day. Today there's a 14 day quarantine needed I think so then I think online shopping is good.
- 3 Do you have any tips on how to meet people on the exchange if the studies are online?
Join all online activities possible that the university offers. In Heidelberg they had like a speed-dating online (but for making friends instead).
- 4 Have you been there both semesters or just this spring?
I have been here since february when the spring semester started. It ends by the end of July. But I have a classmate who came here in fall and is doing two semesters.
- 5 did you have to take a covidtest before leaving? How much did it cost if you did?
I took the swab quick test which was 600 kr/60 euro. Results came after 15 minutes and there were plenty of places to take it. The results needed to be no older than 48h upon entering the country.
- 6 Do you know if you have the possibility to get vaccinated for COVID-19 at your country?
I think it's possible to get vaccinated, you need a social number which you receive by the university. You can use that to sign up for vaccination, but I will get mine from Sweden.
- 7 How did you find accommodation in Milan?
I looked at several different sites, also using facebook groups like "Svenskar i Milano" and other large groups for accommodation. It's a buyers market so it's not difficult at all to get a room or an apartment. I first shared a 80 sqm apartment with my ex through "The Best Rent" and then I moved to a shared apartment with Italians via DoveVivo.
- 8 @André How did you go about finding housing/accommodation in Milan? Was it through the university?
Not through the university. I looked at several different sites, also using facebook groups like "Svenskar i Milano" and other large groups for accommodation. I first shared a 80 sqm apartment with my ex through "The Best Rent" and then I moved to a shared apartment with Italians via DoveVivo. AirBnB, Immobiliare and some other sites have a lot of apartments in Italy.
- 9 were there any problems with entering germany for you because of covid? were there any requirements for entry when you were coming to do your studies?
No. I had the zulassungsbescheid (which I got from the university) and then the PCR test. That was basically it.
- 10 What type of accommodation would you recommend?
Living with roommates. Own apartment is ok, but if I could do something differently, I would choose

11 Have you (all) been able to travel around to the extent that you have wanted? Like visiting cities/countries nearby

Cities, yes. There is a Ausgangssperre (curfew) in Mannheim, but it doesn't start until 21-22 at night.

12 Will you be able to get vaccinated whilst on your exchange? Or do you have to wait until you get back from your studies?

I won't get vaccinated but I think that you can apply for it quite easily in Italy

13 How did you think regarding if it was worth it to go on your exchange with the pandemic going on? Pros and cons?

I'm happy with my decision. Knowing what I know now I would still apply. You learn a lot despite restrictions.

14 Did you have to quarantine when arriving, if so, how did it go?"

Yes. 5 (or 10 days if you didn't get a quick test being negative). Difficult, wanting to go out and meet people when you're in a new country. But time actually went by quite fast."

15 how much rent do you pay in newcastle? //someone that is going to newcastle in autumn

I forgot to mention actually about the price difference between private and via the university. I payed 137 per week in uni accomodation and now i am paying 104.

16 Do you suggest to look for your own accommodation in the UK because of the difference in age as you mentioned? Can that be done after you move in or do you have to arrange it before? I think it depends where you are. In the UK, student normally only live in university accomodation the first year, hence the age difference between us. The university accomodation was arranged maybe a month before but i would recommend to maybe go there in advance and have a look at the different areas and decide then where to live. It is more convenient by arranging it via the university but if there is one thing i would change that would be it."

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17 Would you make the same decision today knowing what you know now?

Yes absolutely.

18 André, thank you replying and thank you for your great presentation! I get excited for my exchange there. I heard that you should be aware of "accomodation-scams" in Italy, is that something you heard of? Or it feels safe with those web pages you recommended? Also how is the rent in Milan? :)

Thank you! Yes it might be good to be cautious with the renting. That's why I rented via sites which I knew I could trust. However there are many desparate and seemingly serious property owners on Facebook. The pandemic is great for the housing situation. I had video calls with several private renters.

My rent is 650€ now for a big room with a balcony in Buenas Aires, Milan. The apartment is about 120 sqm but I share it with three others. My first apartment was 80 sqm and 1500€ each month. You can go much cheaper than both of those."

19 Who should be contacted if a student is interested in bcoming a guestgrammer?

The account is lund_university_abroad. You can get in touch with them by email: lunduniversityabroad@er.lu.se

20 When quarantining did you book a hotel for ten days before moving in to a shared flat? Or practically how does it work when the place that you will move in to is shared?

My friends moved in directly. They had to keep distance and try to use bathroom/kitchen when no one else was using it.

21 Ellen, did you get Erasmus stipend? I'm nominated to Edinburgh and I'm thinking about how Brexit might effect.

Yes I got the erasmus stipendium. I wasn't directly affected by brexit because I came before the "deadline" but what I know is that you would need a student visa which cost (not sure about the amount)

22 how does one apply for erasmus?

Once you have been selected for exchange studies within EU by your department/faculty you may apply for an Erasmus+ grant online. You need to apply at least one month before the start of the mobility. More info can be found here: <https://www.lunduniversity.lu.se/current-students/study-abroad/grants-and-scholarships-study-abroad/study-erasmus-mobility-programme>

23 Sara was it hard to find accomodation? How did you go about finding one?

It was very easy for me. I checked the serinar website. It's an agency that give out accommodation to students. you can email them and request a place

24 I have been nominated to go to Bologna, so it's interesting to hear about your experience! Do you have any advice about finding a place to live and how to make friends/keeping up a social life in Bologna?

Check Serinar online, they give out accommodations to students

25 As I've understood it, you can only use your swedish phone subscription abroad within the EU for 4 months and thereafter there are extra expenses, have you gotten a phone subscription in the country where you're doing your exchange?

I havn't and I haven't heard anything from my friends who stayed here last semester. But maybe it's true.

26 UK: are all courses still online?

Yes i think they decided just to stick to online with the little amount left of the semester (even though easing of restrictions)"

27 was there a lot of exchange students in newcastle? due to corona

out of the 15 erasmus student studing at Newcastle I was the only one actually in Newcastle

28 Do you recommend fixing accomodation beforehand or stay at an airbnb the first few days and find accomodation while you're there?

It is convenient to have accomodation all sorted out before you go but in my experience that is one of the things I would have done differently

29 Did you guys travel to these different countries now without travel insurance?

Lund university has an insurance for students going abroad

30 Is anyone going to University of Toronto in the spring of 2022? Lavin

Bahzad,lavinbahzad@hotmail.com

please contact your coordinator to get in touch with other outgoing students /Isabelle International office

31 Did you have to apply for a visa for the UK, as I read form the website it says there is no need for one if you are staying less than 6 months.

I didn't have to apply because I came before the brexit deadline. I am unsure how it works with the visas now

32 André. Thank you once again for your great response.!How about this question or Milan: Do you recommend fixing accomodation beforehand or stay at an airbnb the first few days and find accomodation while you're there? :),Alicia Lundh,alicia.lundh@gmail.com

I came the day that I was starting the semester so for me it was nice to have the apartment settled. I think you will get a better apartment also if you book ahead :)

33 hi, thanks for the webinar! I was wondering whether it is possible to attend courses online in Lund while studying abroad. there is one here which i'd like to participate. could i combine it somehow?

It is up to your department what they recommend. we do not in general recommend to study more than 100% since it will be very much to do. /Isabelle International Office

34 What's the plan for this autumn in Germany? Will it be in school or distance?

Plan is on campus. But difficult to say

35 Great thank you so much for all your help @André!

No problem good luck with your exchange!