

Annex: Guidelines to the Learning Agreement

The purpose of the Learning Agreement is to provide a transparent and efficient preparation of the study period abroad and to ensure that the student will receive recognition in his/her degree for the educational components successfully completed abroad.

It is recommended to use this template. However, if higher education institutions already have an IT system in place to produce the Learning Agreement or the Transcript of Records, they can continue using it. What is important is that all the information requested in this template is provided, no matter in which format, provided that it respects certain requirements outlined in the sections below.

How to use the Learning Agreement:

Before the mobility, it is necessary to fill in page 1 with information on the student, the sending and the receiving institutions and the three parties have to agree on the section to be completed before the mobility (pages 2). On page 1, all the information mentioned will have to be encoded in the Mobility Tool. Institutions can decide to add more information (e.g. additional contact person in the coordinating institution of a consortium) or to request less in case some of the information is already provided in other documents internal to the institution. However, it should at least include the names of the two institutions, and names and contact details of the student and persons of contact in both the sending and receiving institutions.

The section to be completed **during the mobility** (page 3 and 4) should only be used if there are changes in the responsible persons or in case it is necessary to introduce changes to the original mobility programme. This section and the section before mobility (pages 1 to 4) should always be kept together in all communications.

After the mobility, the receiving institution should send a Transcript of Records to the student and the sending institution. Finally the sending institution should issue a Transcript of Records.

PROPOSED MOBILITY PROGRAMME

The Learning Agreement must include **all the educational components to be carried out by the student** at the receiving institution and it must contain as well the group of educational components that will be replaced in his/her degree by the sending institution upon successful completion of the study programme abroad. The presentation of this document may also be adapted by the institutions according to their specific needs. However, **in every case, the two tables must be kept separated**, i.e. they cannot be merged. The objective is to make clear that there needs to be no one to one correspondence between the courses followed abroad and the ones replaced at the sending institutions. The aim is rather that a group of learning outcomes achieved abroad replaces a group of learning outcomes at the sending institution, without having a one to one correspondence between particular modules or courses.

A normal academic year of full-time study is normally made up of educational components totalling 60 ECTS* credits. It is recommended that for mobility periods shorter than a full academic year, the educational components selected should equate to a roughly proportionate number of credits. In case the student follows additional educational components beyond those required for his/her degree programme, these additional credits must also be listed in the study programme outlined in the table on the left side.

When mobility windows are embedded in the curriculum, it will be enough to fill in table (on the right side) with a single line as described below:

Equivalent Component Title or Reason for non-recognition²	Nr of ECTS
<i>Mobility Window</i>	Total: 30

Otherwise, the group of components will be included in Table on the right side as follows:

Equivalent Component Title or Reason for non-recognition²	Nr of ECTS
<i>Course x</i>	10
<i>Module y</i>	10
<i>Laboratory work</i>	10
	Total: 30

The sending institution must **fully recognise the number of ECTS* credits contained in the table on the left side** if there are no changes to the study programme abroad and the student successfully completes it. Any exception to this rule should be clearly stated in an annex of the Learning Agreement and agreed by all parties. Example of justification for non-recognition: the student has already accumulated the number of credits required for his/her degree and does not need some of the credits gained abroad.

Since the recognition will be granted to a group of components and it does not need to be based on a one to one correspondence between single educational components, the sending institution must foresee which provisions will apply if the student does not successfully complete some of the educational components from his study programme abroad.

The student will commit to reach a certain **level of language competence** in the main language of instruction by the start of the study period. The level of the student will be assessed after his/her selection with the Erasmus+ online assessment tool when available (the results will be sent to the sending institution) or else by any other mean to be decided by the sending institution. A recommended level has been agreed between the sending and receiving institutions in the inter-institutional agreement. In case the student would not already have this level when he/she signs the Learning Agreement, he/she commits to reach it with the support to be provided by the sending or receiving institution (with courses at the sending or receiving institution or with the Erasmus+ online tutored courses).

All parties must **sign the document**; however, it is not compulsory to circulate papers with original signatures, scanned copies of signatures or digital signatures may be accepted, depending on the national legislation.

* In countries where the "ECTS" system it is not in place, in particular for institutions located in partner countries not participating in the Bologna process, "ECTS" needs to be replaced in all tables by the name of the equivalent system that is used and a web link to an explanation to the system should be added.

CHANGES TO THE ORIGINAL LEARNING AGREEMENT

The section to be completed during the mobility is **needed only if changes have to be introduced into the original Learning Agreement**. In that case, the section to be completed before the mobility should be kept unchanged and changes should be described in this section.

Changes to the mobility **study programme** should be exceptional, as the three parties have already agreed on a group of educational components that will be taken abroad, in the light of the course catalogue that the receiving institution has committed to publish well in advance of the mobility periods and to update regularly as ECHE holder. However, introducing changes might be unavoidable due to, for example, timetable conflicts.

Other reasons for a change can be the request for **an extension of the duration** of the mobility programme abroad. Such a request can be made by the student at the latest one semester before the foreseen end date.

These **changes to the mobility study programme should be agreed by all parties within four to seven weeks** (after the start of each semester). Any party can request changes within the first two to five-week period after regular classes/educational components have started for a given semester. The exact deadline has to be decided by the institutions. The shorter the planned mobility period, the shorter should be the window for changes. All these changes have to be agreed by the three parties within a two-week period following the request. In case of changes due to an extension of the duration of the mobility period, changes should be made as timely as possible as well.

Changes to the study programme abroad should be listed in the tables on page 3 and, once they are agreed by all parties, the sending institution commits to fully recognise the number of ECTS credits as presented in the tables on page 3. Any exception to this rule should be documented in an annex of the Learning Agreement and agreed by all parties. Only if the changes described in these tables affect the group of educational components in the student's degree that will be replaced at the sending institution upon successful completion of the study programme abroad, a revised version should be inserted and labelled as: Revised group of educational components in the student's degree that will be replaced at sending institution". Additional rows and columns can be added as needed to tables.

All parties must confirm that the proposed amendments to the Learning Agreement are approved. For this specific section, original or scanned signatures are not mandatory and an approval by email may be enough. The procedure has to be decided by the sending institution, depending on the national legislation.

RECOGNITION OUTCOMES

The receiving institution commits to provide the sending institution and the student with a **Transcript of Records** within a period stipulated in the inter-institutional agreement and normally not longer than five weeks after publication/proclamation of the student's results at the receiving institution.

The Transcript of Records from the receiving institution will contain at least the minimum information requested in this Learning Agreement template. In addition, grade distribution information should be included in the Transcript of Records or attached to it (a web link where this information can be found is enough). The actual start and end dates of the study period will be included according to the following definitions:

- The **start date** of the study period is the first day the student has been present at the receiving institution, for example, for the first course, for a welcoming event organised by the host institution or for language and intercultural courses.
- The **end date** of the study period is the last day the student has been present at the receiving institution and not his actual date of departure. This is, for example, the end of exams period, courses or mandatory sitting period.

Where applicable, the sending institution will translate the grades received by the student abroad, taking into account the grade distribution information from the receiving institution (see the methodology described in the ECTS Users' Guide). In addition, all the educational components will appear as well in the student's Diploma Supplement.

Steps to fill in the Learning Agreement for Studies

