

Erasmus / Assistant Teacher - Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Which are the most popular programmes for students wishing to spend a year abroad?

A: The Assistant Teacher programme, in which you teach German in various types of school, or university exchange programmes (Erasmus; Kontaktstipendien.)

For other programmes please see

<http://www.anglistik.uni-muenchen.de/service/downloads/auslandsinfo.pdf>

Q: Which is the better programme?

A: They are equally good, but in different ways:

- The AT programme gives you valuable teaching experience.
- With Erasmus you get to know a different university system, meet students from all over the world and can have courses recognised as a Hauptseminar or part of your Oberkursschein.
- Both are recognised as alternatives to the Intercultural Project;

Q: Who can apply for the AT programme?

A: For the UK and Ireland, students of English with German as their mother tongue, with priority given to future teachers (Lehramtskandidaten). You should have completed at least 4 semesters at university before starting to teach abroad.

Q: Can I also go to other English-speaking countries?

A: Yes, but Australia and New Zealand normally expect a degree (1. Staatsexamen). The US requires at least 6 semesters completed at university before you start teaching. Canada has relatively few places, so these are very competitive.

Q: Who is eligible for university exchanges?

A: German or other EU nationals registered with the LMU (and studying English in the case of departmental Erasmus exchanges), or students from other countries with German Abitur.

Q: What is the advantage of Erasmus over applying direct to British universities myself?

A: You will not have to pay university fees and in addition Erasmus pays pocket money of 100- 150 Euros each month. The application process is also simpler and shorter. DAAD and university scholarships are more generous - but also more competitive.

Q: Can I spend just one semester abroad? I don't want to waste any time!

A: Not normally with the above programmes. Some universities accept visiting students for one semester, but you will have to apply independently and may well have to pay fees. However, you don't waste time anyway as you can be given leave of absence (Beurlaubung).

Q: Can I combine a university exchange with teaching?

A: Not normally.

Q: When should I apply?

A: Approximately one year in advance: each scheme has its own deadlines between October and December for the following autumn.

For initial inquiries and application forms, please refer to Herr HILKER of the International Office or to Fr. QUADFLIEG (Fachstudienberatung). Application forms for Erasmus are available from the International Office (or their website), application forms for assistant teacher can be found on the website of the Pädagogischer Austauschdienst <http://www.kmk-pad.org/index.php?id=168>

Q: How good are my chances of being accepted?

A: Generally good if you have average or above average grades, your English is reasonably fluent and you have a clear idea of how you intend to make the most of your year abroad.