

# YOUR STAY ABROAD AND YOUR RIGHTS AS AN EXCHANGE STUDENT

## ESN Survey 2006

### PART 1. YOUR STAY AS AN EXCHANGE STUDENT

1. Through which programme did you study abroad?  
(please refer to your most recent exchange or the one you are completing now)

- a) Socrates/Erasmus Programme
- b) CEEPUS
- c) Bilateral agreement between universities
- d) Governmental programme
- e) Private foundation
- f) Arranged by myself
- g) Other:

2. Country where you studied in as an exchange student? \_\_\_\_\_

3. City where you studied in as an exchange student? \_\_\_\_\_

4. The university you studied at as an exchange student?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. When did you start your stay abroad? Month: \_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_

6. How long was the period of your stay there? \_\_\_\_\_ Months

7. Please indicate how important for you were the following reasons to go on exchange

	not important at all	not important	neither important nor unimportant	important	very important
To improve my academic knowledge	1	2	3	4	5
To have new experiences	1	2	3	4	5
To learn about different cultures	1	2	3	4	5
To have fun	1	2	3	4	5
To meet new people	1	2	3	4	5
to practice a foreign language	1	2	3	4	5
To be independent	1	2	3	4	5
To live in a foreign country	1	2	3	4	5
To enhance future employment prospects	1	2	3	4	5

8. Please evaluate the following aspects of your stay abroad

	Very dissatisfied	rather dissatisfied	neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	rather satisfied	very satisfied
a) Courses at the host university	1	2	3	4	5
b) Professors	1	2	3	4	5
c) University facilities	1	2	3	4	5
d) Local language courses at the university	1	2	3	4	5
e) Sufficiency of information prior to your studies abroad (from home university)	1	2	3	4	5
f) Sufficiency of information while studying abroad (from host university)	1	2	3	4	5
g) Help from International Office at the host university	1	2	3	4	5
h) Financial situation	1	2	3	4	5
i) Contacts with local students	1	2	3	4	5
j) Contact with the host country's culture	1	2	3	4	5
k) Social life	1	2	3	4	5
l) The atmosphere of the city and country where the university was located	1	2	3	4	5

9. What is your overall level of satisfaction with your studies as an exchange student?

Very dissatisfied                        Very satisfied

10. What is your overall level of satisfaction with your stay abroad as an exchange student?

Very dissatisfied                        Very satisfied

11. Would you recommend a foreign exchange to your friends?

Definitely no                        Definitely yes

12. What are the factors that most influence your choice of the programme abroad? (please choose up to 3 answers)

- a) Country/city where the university is located
- b) Reputation of the faculty
- c) Tuition fee
- d) Prestige
- e) Courses taught in English
- f) Opinion of people who have studied there
- g) Programme offered

13. Which criteria are the most important for a university to be considered **European**? (please choose up to 3 answers)

- a) Professors of different European nationalities
- b) European student body
- c) Courses taught in English
- d) Courses taught in different European languages
- e) Being located in few European cities
- f) Giving students opportunities of exchange abroad
- g) Cooperating with other European universities
- h) Being known around Europe

## PART 2. EXCHANGE STUDENTS RIGHTS

14. Were the courses you took abroad recognised by your local university?
- yes, all of them
  - yes, most of them
  - yes, but only few of them
  - no
15. Does your home university use the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)?
- yes
  - no
  - I do not know what ECTS is
16. Were you granted any ECTS credits for an internship?
- I did not do an internship
  - yes
  - no
17. Were you granted any ECTS credits for volunteer work?
- I did not do a volunteer work
  - yes
  - no
18. Were you given an opportunity to participate in the language course at the host university before starting your studies?
- yes
  - no
  - I do not know
19. Did you get ECTS credits for participation in the language course at the university before starting your studies?
- yes
  - no
  - I did not participate in it
20. Compare the host and home university: did you get the same number of ECTS credits for the same amount of work?
- yes
  - no, I worked **more** at the host university
  - no, I worked **less** at the host university
  - I did not receive any ECTS credits
21. Did you lose semester/s at your home university because you went on exchange?
- yes
  - no
22. Were you able to choose freely any course at the host university (within your subject area)?
- yes
  - no
23. Was there an opportunity to take courses in English?
- yes, all courses at the university were in English
  - yes, some courses at the university were in English
  - no

24. Did you have to pay fees for:

Tuition at host university	Yes	No
Registration	Yes	No
Examinations	Yes	No
Access to laboratory	Yes	No
Access to library	Yes	No

25. As far as fees were concerned how would you compare your situation with local students:
- We had similar fees to pay;
  - Local students were treated favourably;
  - Exchange students were treated favourably;
  - I did not have to pay any fees

26. Amount of received grant/scholarship? \_\_\_\_\_Euros/month
27. Besides your main scholarship (e.g. Erasmus grant), please mark other sources of financial support:
- My host university
  - My host country
  - My home university
  - My home country
  - A private foundation
  - I did not get support from any of those
28. What part of your overall expenses did your overall grant cover?
- Almost all of my expenses (more than 80%)
  - Most of my expenses (60-80%)
  - Around half of my expenses (40-60%)
  - Around a quarter of my expenses (20-40%)
  - A small part of my expenses (less than 20%)
29. How did you pay for the expenses that were not covered by your scholarship/grant?
- Working legally in the host country
  - Working illegally in the host country
  - From my savings
  - With the support of my parents
  - I took out a loan
  - Other:
30. Were you able to work legally in your host country?
- yes
  - no
  - I do not know
31. Were you charged more than the local student for your accommodation?
- yes
  - no
  - I do not know
32. How would you compare your living standard with that of the local students?
- My standard was much higher
  - My standard was higher
  - They were similar
  - Local students' standard were higher
  - Local students' standard were much higher
33. Whom did you ask for help while facing a problem?
- The International Office
  - The Erasmus Coordinator
  - The Erasmus Student Network
  - Another student organisation that took care of exchange students
  - The student union
  - Exchange students
  - Local students
  - Other
  - I did not know whom to ask for help
34. Did you have any problems with visa or permit of stay?
- No
  - I had to wait very long for a visa/permit
  - I had to pay a lot for a visa/permit
  - The process was very complicated
  - Other (please describe): \_\_\_\_\_
35. Did you notice whether the students from outside the European Union had different rights than those from EU?
- They had the same rights
  - Students from inside EU were treated favourably
  - Students from outside EU were treated favourably
  - I don't know

If you chose b or c please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

36. Did you notice whether the exchange students had different rights from those of the local students?
- a) They had the same rights;
  - b) Local students were treated favourably;
  - c) Exchange students were treated favourably;
  - d) I don't know

If you chose b or c please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

37. Were you ever treated unjustly by your host university or your host country institutions? Please describe.
- a) Yes
  - b) No

If you answered yes, please explain.

38. Did you feel discriminated during your stay abroad?
- a) No
  - b) Yes, because of my origin
  - c) Yes, because of my religion
  - d) Yes, because of my language skills
  - e) Yes, because of my gender
  - f) Yes, because I was a foreigner
  - g) Yes, because I was an exchange student

39. Select one area of intervention you would like ESN and other student organisations to work on for the exchange students in the next months.

- a) Access to exchange programmes
- b) Recognitions of academic and non-academic achievements
- c) Information about mobility possibilities
- d) Quality of education at the host university
- e) Visa issues
- f) Financial issues
- g) Language issues
- h) Discrimination
- i) Legality of work

### **PART 3. ABOUT ERASMUS STUDENT NETWORK (ESN)**

40. Have you ever heard of Erasmus Student Network?

- a) Yes
- b) No → Go to question 46

41. If yes, how did you learn about it?

- a) From a friend
- b) From the ESN section at my home university
- c) From the ESN section at the receiving university
- d) From my International Relations Office
- e) On the internet
- f) Other:

42. Is there an ESN section at your host university?

- a) Yes
- b) No → Go to question 46
- c) I don't know → Go to question 46

43. Please evaluate the help of ESN in the following areas

	very dissatisfied	rather dissatisfied	neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	rather satisfied	very satisfied	I did not use (not applicable)
a) providing information	1	2	3	4	5	NA
b) helping with finding accommodation	1	2	3	4	5	NA
c) helping with settling in a new place (visa, banking)	1	2	3	4	5	NA
d) intervening on your behalf when having problems	1	2	3	4	5	NA
e) getting in contact with local students	1	2	3	4	5	NA
f) getting in contact with other exchange students	1	2	3	4	5	NA
g) learning the culture of the host country	1	2	3	4	5	NA
h) practicing your foreign language skills	1	2	3	4	5	NA
i) representing my rights as an exchange student	1	2	3	4	5	NA

44. Please evaluate the services of ESN

	Very dissatisfied	rather dissatisfied	neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	rather satisfied	very satisfied	I did not use (not applicable)
a) Buddy/mentor/tutor system	1	2	3	4	5	NA
b) Tandem project/language exchange programme	1	2	3	4	5	NA
c) Orientation week/welcome days	1	2	3	4	5	NA
d) Organising trips and visiting tours	1	2	3	4	5	NA
e) Organising parties and informal meetings	1	2	3	4	5	NA
f) Informing about upcoming events	1	2	3	4	5	NA
g) Helping with finding a job	1	2	3	4	5	NA

45. What is your overall level of satisfaction with the help provided by the Erasmus Student Network?

Very dissatisfied                        Very satisfied

46. Was there any other student organisation at your host university helping exchange students?

(please refer to the one that helped you most)

a) Yes - name of organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

b) No → go to question 49

c) I don't know → go to question 49

47. Please evaluate the help of this organisation in the following areas:

	Very dissatisfied	rather dissatisfied	neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	rather satisfied	very satisfied	I did not use (not applicable)
a) providing information	1	2	3	4	5	NA
b) helping with finding accommodation	1	2	3	4	5	NA
c) helping with settling in a new place (visa, banking)	1	2	3	4	5	NA
d) intervening on your behalf when having problems	1	2	3	4	5	NA
e) getting in contact with local students	1	2	3	4	5	NA
f) getting in contact with other exchange students	1	2	3	4	5	NA
g) learning the culture of the host country	1	2	3	4	5	NA
h) practicing your foreign language skills	1	2	3	4	5	NA
i) representing your rights as an exchange student	1	2	3	4	5	NA

48. What is your overall level of satisfaction with the help provided by this student organisation?

Very dissatisfied                        Very satisfied

#### **PART 4. PERSONAL INFORMATION**

49. Age:

50. Gender:  
a) female  
b) male

51. Country where your home university is located: \_\_\_\_\_

52. City where your home university is located: \_\_\_\_\_

53. Home university: \_\_\_\_\_

54. Level/type of studies:

- a) BA (3-4 years)  
b) MA (5-6 years)  
c) PhD, doctoral studies

55. Major/area of studies: \_\_\_\_\_

56. Year of graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

57. Do you plan to continue your university education? (please choose up to 2 answers)

- a) Yes, at two-year Master of Science programme  
b) Yes, at one-year Specialized master programme  
c) yes, at PhD programme/doctoral studies  
d) yes, at MBA studies  
e) No  
f) I do not know yet

58. Are you a disabled student?

- a) Yes  
b) No

59. Who in your family has a higher education degree? (such as a university degree)

- a) Mother  
b) Father  
c) Both  
d) None

60. Which phrase below best describes the area where your family lives?

- a) A big city  
b) The suburbs of a big city  
c) A town or a small city  
d) A country village  
e) A farm or home in the countryside

61. How would you describe your family's income?

- a) Above my country average  
b) Average  
c) Below my country average

THANK YOU FOR FILLING OUT THE QUESTIONNAIRE!!!