

## E-Value-ate Your Exchange: ESNSurvey 2010 reflects on the educational and financial value of an exchange

**How much does an exchange in a foreign university cost? How much does it bring? The topic of the ESNSurvey 2010, edited by the Erasmus Student Network (ESN), focuses on the value of an exchange, on a financial and educational level.**

For its sixth edition, the ESNSurvey puts the spotlight on the value of an exchange: is it really worth it, on a social and educational point of view, to spend some months abroad? Does such experience affect the language skills, open-mindedness and soft skills of a student? And what about the financial cost? Are the grants generous enough to cover the extra expenses, are the students equal in terms of mobility or is a good economic background needed to have a study abroad experience? And what about the quality of the studies at home and host university?

Divided into six sections, the ESNSurvey asks the international students coming back from their exchange to evaluate their stay abroad. On an anonymous basis, they may assess the personal value they saw in this exchange (why they wanted to participate), their financial situation during their exchange, their appreciation of their host university versus their home university and the presence and help of the Erasmus Student Network on a local level.

The results of the survey will be disseminated to Higher Educational Institutions and to the European Commission and National Agencies in order to try to improve the conditions of exchanges regarding the answers of the students. This survey is one of ESN's biggest projects, with the aim of representing the interests, views and rights of exchange students

International students coming back from their exchange year are asked to fill in the survey before the End of September. ESN's presence in 333 Higher Education Institutions from 34 countries around Europe allows it to reach those students through a personalized approach. In average, annually 8000 students respond to the online questionnaire. The expectations for this year's survey are even higher.

*Erasmus Student Network (ESN) is one of the biggest non-profit interdisciplinary student associations in Europe, founded in 1990 for supporting and developing student exchange. ESN is present in 333 Higher Education Institutions from 34 countries. ESN works for the creation of a more mobile and flexible education environment by supporting and developing student exchanges on different levels, and providing an intercultural experience also to those students who cannot access a period abroad ('internationalisation at home').*

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