EUROPEAN LIBERAL ARTS NETWORK

ELAN STUDENT HANDBOOK

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EUROPEAN LIBERAL ARTS NETWORK

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EUROPEAN LIBERAL ARTS NETWORK

ABOUT THE ELAN NETWORK

Established in 2012, the **European Liberal Arts Network (ELAN)** is a network of 14 leading European Universities designed to promote and develop a Liberal Arts approach to Higher Education. The aim of the Network is to stimulate a more systematic interdisciplinary and international exchange of knowledge and prepare students to navigate complexity, diversity, and change effectively.

Member Universities: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Charles University, Ecole Normale Supérieure – PSL, Heidelberg University, KU Leuven, Trinity College Dublin, University College Utrecht, University of Bristol, University of Coimbra, University of Graz, University of Salamanca, University of Siena, Tallinn University and the University of Turku.

UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES

By fulfilling specific requirements, including a research project on a Liberal Arts topic, students can earn the valuable ELAN Certificate. This certificate not only distinguishes students from other mobility participants but also demonstrates their readiness for global challenges and highlights their commitment to contributing positively to society.

ELAN CERTIFICATE

The ELAN certificate is the chief instrument by which the Network promotes and disseminates the ideals of a Liberal Arts education. It makes an attractive supplement to students' academic transcripts, attesting their versatility, enterprise and social responsibility, and enhancing their employment prospects.

LIBERAL ARTS APPROACH

Promoting the combination of an interdisciplinary approach with disciplinary depth

The Liberal Arts approach combines a traditional scholarly discipline with interdisciplinary inquiry into broad questions relevant to the whole range of arts and humanities.

The Liberal Arts Approach

The Liberal Arts approach is more than just an education – it's a journey of self-discovery, intellectual growth and enhanced employability. It offers a multidisciplinary education that combines diverse subjects such as literature, history, philosophy, arts and more.

It also cultivates critical thinking, communication skills and adaptability – key qualities for success in today's interconnected and evolving society.

This approach encourages a mindset that extends beyond narrow boundaries, prompting students to generate original solutions – a skillset highly prized by leading employers. It also fosters a strong sense of social responsibility and equips students with versatile intellectual and practical skills, including analysis, problem-solving, and the ability to apply knowledge in real-world contexts.

EUROPEAN LIBERAL ARTS NETWORK

ELAN STUDENT JOURNEY

Step by Step Guide

1

Allocation by Home University

You must register your interest to go on an ELAN exchange with your home university, which is responsible for provisionally allocating you to a partner university.

2

Prepare Supporting Documents

Start preparing your supporting documents for your ELAN application. This includes requesting your transcript and exploring units you might want to study etc. The most recent fact sheets can be found on the ELAN website.

3

Application to ELAN Network

Submit the required documents to the ELAN Coordinator at your home university by the ELAN deadline. Your ELAN Coordinator will confirm the deadline with you.

4

ELAN Application Outcome

The ELAN coordinator at your home university will let you know if you have successfully secured a place to study at one of your chosen ELAN destinations and next steps.

5

Exchange Application to Host University

Once you have been accepted via the ELAN Network, your home university will nominate you and you must submit an exchange application directly to your host university.

EUROPEAN LIBERAL ARTS NETWORK

ELAN STUDENT JOURNEY

Step by Step Guide

6

Exchange Application Acceptance & Next Steps

If you submitted your exchange application correctly and by the deadline, your host university will send you an acceptance letter and information on next steps.

7

Predeparture and Preparing for Arrival

Your host university will send you information on key predeparture steps such as unit registration, orientation events, accommodation and visas (if applicable).

8

Arrival – Meet your Host ELAN Coordinator

Your host ELAN coordinator will arrange a time to meet you in the first weeks of term to say 'hi!' and help with any questions you may have about starting your studies.

9

ELAN Certificate

If you want to apply for the ELAN certificate, you must inform your home ELAN coordinator and consult with them about the fulfilment of the requirements.

10

Departure and ELAN Certificate Award

Sadly, it's now time to say goodbye! Your home ELAN coordinator will verify your ELAN certificate requirements (if applicable) and you will be sent your certificate directly.

ELAN APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Overview of ELAN Application

Students interested in participating in an exchange mobility through the European Liberal Arts Network (ELAN) must follow a two-step application process:

1. **Apply to ELAN:**
   Before applying to your chosen host university, you must first submit an application via the ELAN network. This programme is for highly motivated and exceptional students who wish to study at one of the select universities within the ELAN network, which specialises in Liberal Arts. Entry is competitive, with limited places available, so it is important to submit a strong application.

   Documents required for the ELAN Application:

   - ☐ **ELAN Application Form** (completed in **English**, unless otherwise advised)
   - ☐ **Academic Transcript** (showing grades obtained to date)

   ***Please note**: The ELAN Coordinator at your **home university** will provide you with the ELAN application form and submission deadline. If the host university you have chosen requires any additional documents, it will request these from you directly.*

2. **Apply to your Host University:**
   Once you have been accepted by the ELAN network, you can proceed with your application to the central exchange office at your chosen host university. This step can only be completed after you've been selected by ELAN. Your host university will then contact you with next steps.

Top Tips for your Application

Be Specific and Focused:
In your application, clearly explain why you want to join the ELAN programme and how your chosen universities align with your academic interests. We strongly encourage you to give careful consideration to your project proposal.

Do Your Research:
Show that you've researched the host universities, their courses, and research opportunities. Mention specific units, professors, or resources that attract you to your chosen university, and explain how they fit into your academic and career plans.

Keep It Clear and Well-Structured:
Write in a clear and focused manner and avoid unnecessary details. Ensure your documents are well-organised and easy to navigate. Proofread carefully to highlight your strengths and demonstrate why you are a strong candidate for the ELAN programme.

ELAN PARTNER PROFILES

01. Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
02. Charles University
03. Ecole Normale Supérieure - PSL
04. Heidelberg University
05. KU Leuven
06. Trinity College Dublin
07. University College Utrecht
08. University of Bristol
09. University of Coimbra
10. University of Graz
11. University of Salamanca
12. University of Siena
13. Tallinn University
14. University of Turku

Study at one of the best universities for Liberal Arts via the ELAN Network

ELAN brings together fourteen European universities with experience in Liberal Arts and/or a strong focus on interdisciplinary research and teaching in the Arts and Humanities.

Students are strongly encouraged to engage with non-academic partners, including government and non-government organisations, businesses, charities, or cultural institutions such as museums and galleries.

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki, Greece

The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki is the largest university in Greece. The main campus is located in the centre of the city of Thessaloniki and covers an area of about 33.4 hectares. It comprises 10 faculties which consist of 40 schools and 1 single-School Faculty. The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki constitutes a comprehensive institution with Faculties and Schools serving a vast array of scientific fields, ranging from natural and technological to social and health sciences, arts and humanities.

The University aims to offer equal opportunities for learning, research and communication; it aspires to create an environment where education and research thrive, and subsequently, realise the vision for a better world with equal rights for everybody to claim the fruits of economic growth and social prosperity.

KEY INFORMATION

Host Faculty: Faculty of Philosophy, Faculty of Social and Economics Sciences and Faculty of Fine Arts

Level of Study: Bachelor, Master and PhD

Subject Areas Available: Philology, History and Archaeology – Philosophy and Education – English, French, German and Italian Studies – Economics – Political Science –Journalism and Mass Media Studies – Film and Media studies – Drama – Psychology

Subject Restrictions: None

(Local) Language Learning Opportunities:

Course Catalogue Release Date (approximate): June – July

Language(s) of Instruction: English or Greek

Language Requirements for Admission (CEFR Framework): English or Greek B2

Language Certificate Requirements: Yes

Internship Available on Request: Via Erasmus + Traineeships

Research Project Available on Request: Yes, but this is dependent on the topic, the project and the availability of the supervisor. Approval must be sought by the exchange office before arrival.

CHARLES UNIVERSITY

Prague, Czech Republic

The Faculty of Arts is one of the original four faculties of Charles University, established in 1348 alongside the Faculties of Theology, Law, and Medicine. It currently offers 89 fields of study across 45 departments and institutes, making it one of the largest and most significant humanities institutions in the Czech Republic. The faculty occupies several buildings in the city center of Prague, with its main building located at Jan Palach Square.

ELAN students can choose from the courses offered by any of the departments at the Faculty of Arts, with many courses taught fully in English. In addition to the subject areas listed below, students can also take language and literature classes in Czech, English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian, and other languages. Courses are available at the BA, MA, and PhD levels.

KEY INFORMATION

Host Faculty: Faculty of Arts

Level of Study: Bachelor, Master and PhD

Subject Areas Available: History – Sociology – Philosophy – Anthropology – Art History – Archaeology – Political Science – Information Studies and Librarianship – Film studies – Linguistics – Psychology

Subject Restrictions: Students must take at least 50% of their classes in the Faculty of Arts and can take the rest elsewhere as long as they meet pre-requisites.

(Local) Language Learning Opportunities: one-semester "Czech for Beginners" courses (A0-A2 level) are open to all incoming students free of charge.

Course Catalogue Release Date (approximate): March – April

Language(s) of Instruction: English

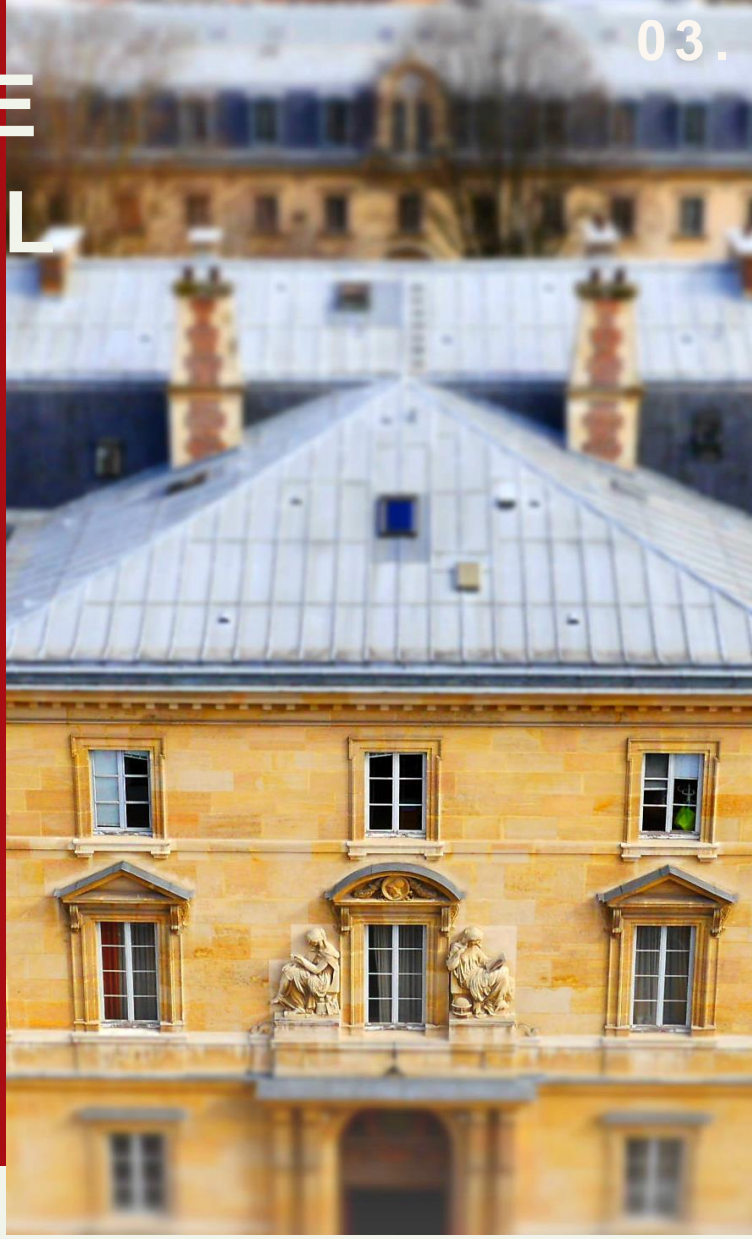
Language Requirements for Admission (CEFR Framework): English B2/C1 depending on course

Language Certificate Requirements: Yes

Internship Available on Request: No

Research Project Available on Request: Yes, but this is dependent on the topic, the project and the availability of the supervisor. Approval must be sought by the exchange office before arrival.

ÉCOLE NORMALE SUPÉRIEURE-PSL



Paris, France

Founded in 1794 during the French Revolution, the École Normale Supérieure – PSL is today both a French grande école and a full member of Paris Sciences et Lettres University. It offers postgraduate and doctoral programmes, as well as top-level research centres that continue to exemplify academic excellence, producing prize-winners and scholars of international renown.

Located in the heart of the Latin Quarter, the ENS-PSL offers intellectual freedom, multidisciplinary approaches in the humanities and sciences, individual attention to students, and a vibrant campus life. For more than two centuries, the ENS-PSL has prepared its students for the most diverse careers and the highest responsibilities, while remaining deeply engaged in the intellectual, scientific, and cultural debates of its time—particularly through the many contributions of the normaliens.

KEY INFORMATION

Host Faculty: Faculty of Humanities and Social Science

Level of Study: Master and PHD

Subject Areas Available: Literature And Language – Philosophy – History – Geography – Social Science – Economy – Classics – Arts – Language Center (Ecla).

Subject Restrictions: Students are recommended to take at least 50% of their classes in one department and can take the rest elsewhere as long as they meet pre-requisites.

(Local) Language Learning Opportunities: Our Languages Center offers French language courses

Course Catalogue Release Date (approximate): The course catalogue is published in September, but students can use the current version to plan their studies and adjust it during their exchange.

Language(s) of Instruction: French (a few courses may be offered in English)

Language Requirements for Admission (CEFR Framework): French B2/C1

Language Certificate Requirements: No

Internship Available on Request: Yes, subject to approval by the hosting department

Research Project Available on Request: Yes, however the student will have to outline their research project proposal via their application form and identify a supervisor.

HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY

Heidelberg, Germany

Founded in 1386, Heidelberg University is Germany's oldest and one of Europe's most research-intensive institutions. With 30,000 students, including over 5,000 internationals from 130 countries, it is deeply engaged in European research and mobility programs. The university participates in networks like the Coimbra Group and LERU and has exchange agreements with 400 universities worldwide, reflecting its strong global focus.

Heidelberg has a long tradition of international cooperation, offering excellent support for inbound students, including German language programmes and extracurricular activities for smooth integration. The university's interdisciplinary approach aligns with its overall educational philosophy of fostering global connections and intercultural experiences.

KEY INFORMATION

Host Faculty: Department of History – Department of Art History

Level of Study: Bachelor, Master and PhD

Subject Areas Available: All subjects from the Faculty of Philosophy

Subject Restrictions: No

(Local) Language Learning Opportunities: The IDZ (internationales Studienzentum) offers an intensive 4 week language course in September (before lectures start in October) or a semester course

Course Catalogue Release Date (approximate): End of July

Language(s) of Instruction: German (Limited number of units available in English)

Language Requirements for Admission (CEFR Framework): German B2, English B2

Language Certificate Requirements: No

Internship Available on Request: No

Research Project Available on Request: Yes

KU LEUVEN

Leuven, Belgium

KU Leuven, founded in 1425, is Belgium's largest and highest-ranked university, currently ranked 43rd in the world (THE World University Rankings 2025). It is home to 15 faculties offering hundreds of degree programmes. KU Leuven's main campus is located in Leuven, approximately 30 kilometres from Brussels, the capital of Belgium and Europe.

The Faculty of Arts is situated in the city centre of Leuven, within walking distance of the railway station and the main university buildings. It also has campuses in Brussels, Antwerp, and Kortrijk. The Faculty offers 9 BA and 20 MA programmes in fields such as linguistics, literary studies, Japanese and Korean studies, Arabic and Islamic studies, Chinese studies, applied foreign languages, archaeology, art history, musicology, and history. All BA programmes are conducted in Dutch, but numerous courses are available in English and other languages. Additionally, the Faculty offers 7 international MA programmes in literary studies, linguistics, European studies, cultural studies, and history.

Photo Credit: Rob Stevens, 'KU Leuven'

KEY INFORMATION

Host Faculty: Faculty of Arts.

Level of Study: Bachelor and Master.

Subject Areas Available: History – Linguistics and Literary Studies (German, Italian, Dutch, English, Spanish, German and French – Japanese and Korean studies – Arabic and Islamic Studies – Chinese Studies – Applied Foreign Languages – Archaeology – Art History – Musicology. Some courses can also be taken at other faculties.

Subject Restrictions: Students must take 50% of courses in the Faculty of Arts and must meet the course prerequisites.

(Local) Language Learning Opportunities: Free introductory Dutch course and tandem language learning classes in select languages.

Course Catalogue Release Date (approximate): Mid-July.

Language(s) of Instruction: English and Dutch. Some courses in Linguistics and Literary Studies (English, Dutch, French, German, Spanish and Italian) are taught in the language of study.

Language Requirements for Admission (CEFR Framework): English B2 minimum, with C1 required for some master classes. Specific language requirements are detailed in the course descriptions.

Language Certificate Requirements: No.

Internship Available on Request: Yes, but only via Erasmus+ Traineeships.

Research Project Available on Request: No.

TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

Dublin, Ireland

Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin, is located in the heart of Dublin, Ireland's vibrant capital city. Ireland's oldest and leading university, it was founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth I and has a rich tradition of scholarship spanning over four centuries. Its historic campus attracts visitors worldwide to see the renowned Long Room Library, the famous Book of Kells, and the beautiful campanile and Georgian squares.

Trinity's 47-acre campus is at the centre of everything Dublin offers. The city blends a high-energy, multinational professional culture with traditional Irish warmth, featuring sprawling parks, historic sites, museums, galleries, cozy cafés, quirky restaurants for the daytime, and lively pubs, music gigs, and theatre by night. Dublin is an international hub for business, culture, and the arts. For an engaging, stimulating experience at a world-class university, Trinity is the perfect choice.

KEY INFORMATION

Host Faculty: Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Level of Study: Bachelor, Master (some subjects only)

Subject Areas Available: Business – Classics – Drama & Theatre Studies – Education – English – Film – French – German – History – History of Art & Architecture – Irish & Celtic Languages – Italian – Linguistics – Middle Eastern Studies – Music – Philosophy – Political Science – Religion & Theology – Russian & Slavonic Studies – Social Work & Social Policy – Sociology – Spanish.

Subject Restrictions: Several departments admit students to a limited number of third- and fourth-year BA modules. Film is available only to students majoring in Film Studies. Education is not offered at BA level. Master's level study is available in Classics, Education, Gender & Women's Studies, History (Medieval, Early Modern, Modern Irish, International, Environmental, and Public History & Cultural Heritage), History of Art & Architecture, Medieval Studies, and select modules in Comparative Literature.

(Local) Language Learning Opportunities: Students can take 1st year language modules in all languages offered including Irish

Course Catalogue Release Date (approximate): June / July

Language(s) of Instruction: English

Language Requirements for Admission (CEFR Framework): English B2. Check webpages for details.

Language Certificate Requirements: Yes, unless the student has been following courses in English at their home university in which case a certificate from the home ELAN Coordinator will suffice.

Internship Available on Request: No

Research Project Available on Request: Yes, but only in some subject areas. Permission to do a research project must be sought before arrival.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE UTRECHT

Utrecht, Netherlands

Founded in 1998 as the first university college in the Netherlands, University College Utrecht (UCU) is an internationally recognised institution offering an English-language undergraduate Liberal Arts & Sciences programme. With around 750 students from nearly 70 nationalities, UCU allows students to tailor their curriculum from over 200 courses in humanities, science, and social sciences, with support from personal tutors.

Situated on a historic campus in Utrecht, UCU fosters a close-knit, intellectually vibrant community. The integrated campus, where students live and study in close proximity, enhances both academic and social experiences. UCU welcomes around 100 exchange students annually, contributing to its diverse, international atmosphere and encouraging cross-disciplinary engagement.

KEY INFORMATION

Host Faculty: University College Utrecht

Level of Study: Bachelor

Subject Areas Available: Students can take any units at University College Utrecht, as long as they meet pre-requisites.

Subject Restrictions: Spaces may be limited for some methodology courses.

(Local) Language Learning Opportunities:

Course Catalogue Release Date (approximate): 6 months prior to the start of the academic year

Language(s) of Instruction: English

Language Requirements for Admission (CEFR Framework): English C1

Language Certificate Requirements: Yes, unless the student has been following courses in English at their home university in which case a certificate from the home ELAN Coordinator will suffice.

Internship Available on Request: Research assistantships offered for 2.5 ECTS

Research Project Available on Request: Only research assistantships

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

Bristol, United Kingdom

Since its foundation in 1876, the University of Bristol has become a vibrant and internationally recognised institution. Ranked among the top 10 universities in the UK and 57th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2027), it stands out for its exceptional research and teaching, fantastic facilities, and a talented community of students and staff.

Located in the heart of Bristol, one of the UK's most dynamic and creative cities, the university provides students with numerous opportunities beyond the classroom. The Liberal Arts program, part of the School of Humanities and the Faculty of Arts, fosters collaboration across disciplines. Students engage closely with active researchers and esteemed faculty, enriching their academic experience alongside a diverse cohort from around the globe.

Host Faculty: Faculty of Arts

Level of Study: Bachelor

Subject Areas Available: Anthropology and Archaeology – Classics and Ancient History – Cultural Studies – English Literature – Film and Television – French – German – Hispanic, Portuguese and Latin American Studies – History – History of Art – Italian – Languages and Linguistics – Music – Philosophy – Religion and Theology – Russian – Theatre

Subject Restrictions: Students can take any units from the Liberal Arts Study Guide as long as they meet the prerequisites. Further guidance on choosing units is available here.

(Local) Language Learning Opportunities: none

Course Catalogue Release Date (approximate): April

Language(s) of Instruction: English (Please note some units from the School of Modern Languages may have other language requirements which are listed in the prerequisites).

Language Requirements for Admission (CEFR Framework): English B2 level in all four components (writing, listening, speaking and reading) based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. Official proof of English skills as outlined on our webpages under Entry Requirements must be submitted.

Language Certificate Requirements: As part of your application, you must provide evidence that you meet Bristol's English language requirements. You may submit one of the accepted certificates listed here and should check the validity period for each certificate. ELAN student can also ask their home university to provide Bristol with a Letter of Attestation to prove language proficiency. See here for details.

Internship Available on Request: No

Research Project Available on Request: No

UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA

Coimbra, Portugal

The University of Coimbra (UC) is a Portuguese public higher education institution with over 700 years of experience in education, training, and research, with the oldest part of the campus dating back to the 16th century. In 2013, the university and its medieval surroundings were classified as a World Heritage site by UNESCO. Coimbra, a district capital, is primarily a university city with around 150,000 inhabitants. Located in central Portugal, it is close to both the mountains and the sea, nestled between Serra da Lousã (part of the European network of protected natural areas) and Serra da Estrela (the highest mountain in mainland Portugal), and less than an hour from the coastline.

The University of Coimbra offers a variety of courses for students visiting through the ELAN network that foster collaboration across different fields, as well as language courses in Portuguese, Spanish, English, French, German, Italian, Dutch, and Russian.

KEY INFORMATION

Host Faculty: Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Level of Study: Bachelor, Master and PhD

Subject Areas Available: Anglo-American Studies – Tourism (specific courses; BA) – Economics and Sociology (specific courses; BA & MA) – Psychology (MA).

Subject Restrictions: Students must take at least one course in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and can take the rest elsewhere as long as they meet the prerequisites.

(Local) Language Learning Opportunities:

Course Catalogue Release Date (approximate): A few weeks before the start of the academic year

Language(s) of Instruction: English and Portuguese

Language Requirements for Admission (CEFR Framework): English B2, Portuguese B2

Language Certificate Requirements: Some Master courses require official proof

Internship Available on Request: Yes. The Faculty of Arts and Humanities has a list of procedures the students have access to, but they are expected to make contact and arrangements themselves.

Research Project Available on Request: Only in very specific cases and upon consultation with teachers.

UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ

Graz, Austria

Founded in 1585, the University of Graz is Austria's second-largest, and one of its most innovative, universities. With around 30,000 students across six faculties, it focuses on addressing societal challenges through education and research. The university offers a wide range of programmes, including Philosophy, History, and Arts, fostering critical thinking, expertise, and social skills. The Faculty of Humanities encourages students to explore various disciplines and pursue academic and professional goals.

Located in the vibrant city of Graz, the university benefits from its cultural and social atmosphere. Graz, Austria's second-largest university city, features a UNESCO World Heritage Site historic center, outdoor activities, and a lively social scene. Known as Austria's most bike-friendly city, Graz is perfect for students seeking both academic and extracurricular opportunities.

KEY INFORMATION

Host Faculty: Faculty of Humanities

Level of Study: Bachelor, Master and PhD

Subject Areas Available: Philosophy – History — German Studies — English Studies – American Studies — Romance Studies — Slavic Studies — Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology Linguistics — Classics — Austrian Centre for Digital Humanities — Arts and Musicology — Sociology — South-East-European Studies — Cultural Studies — Jewish Studies — Aging and Care.

Subject Restrictions: minimum of 16 ECTS per semester. Joint Degree Programs are only open to exchange students enrolled on the equivalent programme at their home university. An application for translation/interpretation/transcultural communication with German is only possible if students have a clearly identifiable focus on the German language in their degree programme at the home university.

(Local) Language Learning Opportunities: yes, for more information see German courses - Orientation

Course Catalogue Release Date (approximate): July

Language(s) of Instruction: English and German

Language Requirements for Admission (CEFR Framework): English B2, German B2
N.B. Students wanting to study only in English, must first check whether they can find enough English-taught courses to fulfil their home university's credit requirements.

Language Certificate Requirements: Students must either upload an official language certificate OR download the template provided in Mobility-Online and have it completed / signed by the home university.

Internship Available on Request: Yes, for students from universities participating in the Erasmus+ programme. Approval must be sought from the ELAN coordinator. Application only via Erasmus+ SMT.

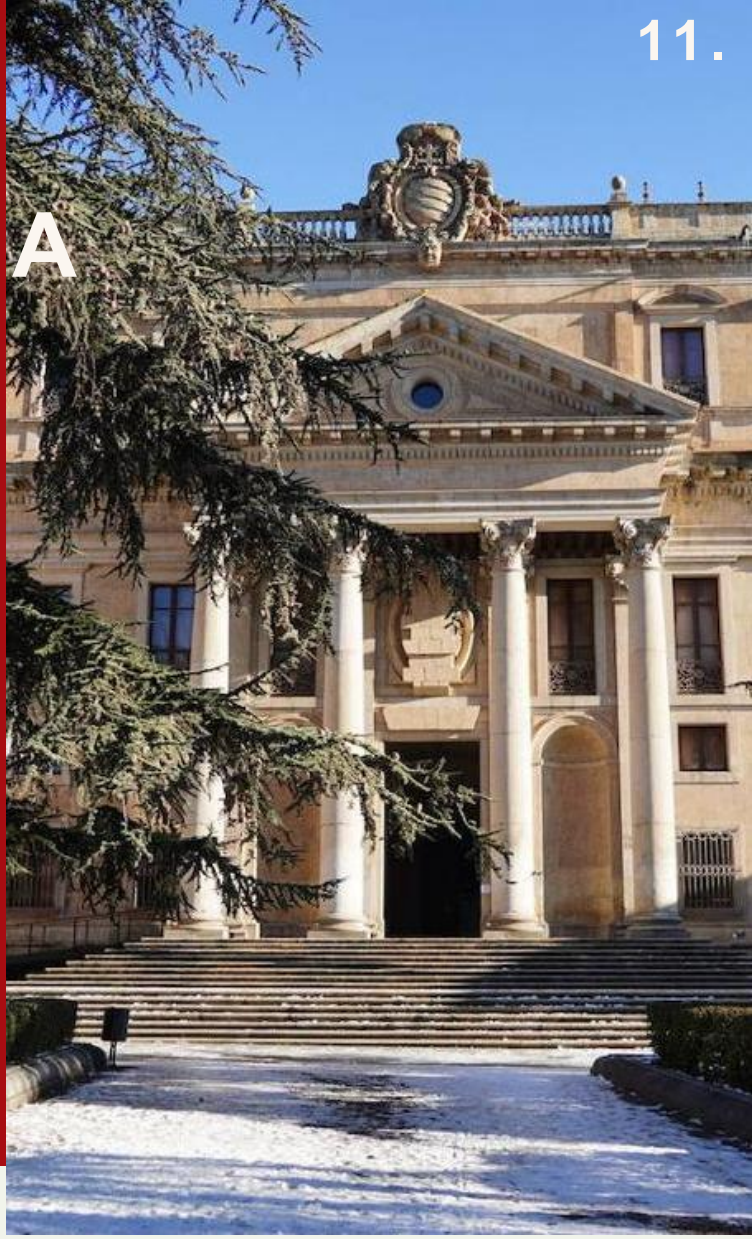
Research Project Available on Request: Yes, but this is dependent on the topic, the project and the

UNIVERSITY OF SALAMANCA

Salamanca, Spain

Founded in 1218, the University of Salamanca (USAL) is one of the three oldest universities in Europe. It offers a wide range of faculties and research institutes in the sciences and arts, positioning it as a leading institution in Spain, Europe, and globally.

The university provides a conducive academic and research environment for nearly 30,000 students annually (both undergraduate and postgraduate) and more than 3,000 researchers, who are distributed across 57 university departments, 29 faculties and schools, 13 research institutes, and more than 250 research units covering social, biomedical, arts, experimental, and formal sciences. The University of Salamanca consistently ranks among the top Spanish universities in both national and international assessments.



KEY INFORMATION

Host Faculty: Faculty of Social Sciences – Faculty of Philology – Faculty of Philosophy – Faculty of Geography and History

Level of Study: Bachelor, Master and PhD (subject to specific conditions)

Subject Areas Available: The Faculty of Philology offers 11 degrees in 23 languages, including English, French, and Arabic. The Faculty of Geography and History: Geography, History, Art History, History and Music Sciences, and Humanities. The Philosophy department provides a degree in Philosophy, Faculty of Social Sciences offers degrees in Sociology, Anthropology, Communication, and Audiovisual Creation.

Subject Restrictions: All faculties offer postgraduate degrees which require special permission.

(Local) Language Learning Opportunities: Exchange students can request to audit language courses. Informal language exchange activities with other students also take place outside the university.

Course Catalogue Release Date (approximate): July

Language(s) of Instruction: Spanish, though some units in the Faculty of Philology may be instructed in a language other than Spanish.

Language Requirements for Admission (CEFR Framework): Spanish B1

Language Certificate Requirements: No

Internship Available on Request: No

Research Project Available on Request: No

UNIVERSITY OF SIENA

Siena, Italy

Founded in 1240, the University of Siena is Italy's second oldest university, with a rich history and a strong tradition of teaching, research, and innovation. Over its eight centuries of existence, it has produced significant knowledge across all academic fields, becoming one of Italy's leading institutions in research, education, and services.

Today, the University of Siena is a globally recognised institution, actively fostering internationalisation through dual degree programmes, increased student mobility, and participation in key international higher education networks. Despite being a medium-sized university, it welcomes over 550 international exchange students annually and hosts more than 400 international students in its summer programmes, contributing to the university's global presence and positively impacting the local community and surrounding areas.

KEY INFORMATION

Host Faculty: Department of Philology and Literary Criticism (DFCLAM) – Department of History and Cultural Heritage (DSSBC)

Level of Study: Bachelor, Master and PhD

Subject Areas Available: ELAN students can choose any module from the regular undergraduate offering of the following departments: Department of History and Cultural Heritage – Department of Philology and Literary Criticism – Department of Social, Political and Cognitive Sciences – Department of Political and International Sciences.

Subject Restrictions: No

(Local) Language Learning Opportunities:

Course Catalogue Release Date (approximate): End of July

Language(s) of Instruction: Italian, English (limited offering)

Language Requirements for Admission (CEFR Framework): Italian B1, English B1

Language Certificate Requirements: No

Internship Available on Request: Yes, students should refer to the Placement Office - Career Service

Research Project Available on Request: Yes

TALLINN UNIVERSITY

Tallinn, Estonia

Tallinn University is Estonia's most progressive and internationally engaged public university, located in the heart of the country's vibrant capital. With academic roots stretching back to 1919, the university blends tradition with innovation, offering a modern, interdisciplinary learning environment.

The university is especially known for its strengths in media, communication, and educational innovation. Tallinn University attracts students from over 70 countries, creating a diverse and inclusive campus culture. Its compact, urban campus offers easy access to cultural life, tech hubs, and nature, making it an ideal setting for both academic and personal growth.

KEY INFORMATION

Host Faculty: School of Humanities

Level of Study: Bachelor and Master

Subject Areas Available: ELAN students can choose any module from the Liberal Arts programme, including humanities, languages, culture, literature, history, anthropology, environment studies.

Subject Restrictions: Students can take courses form other Schools as well but each School has the right to prefer their own exchange students so we cannot guarantee a spot.

(Local) Language Learning Opportunities: practical Estonian

Course Catalogue Release Date (approximate): updated online School of Humanities | Tallinna Ülikool

Language(s) of Instruction: English (for Liberal Arts)

Language Requirements for Admission (CEFR Framework): English B2 unless otherwise stated

Language Certificate Requirements: No

Internship Available on Request: Yes, Erasmus Traineeship | Tallinn University

Research Project Available on Request: Yes

UNIVERSITY OF TURKU

Turku, Finland

Turku is a historic university town, which first saw the Royal Academy of Turku established in 1640 by Queen Christina of Sweden. Following Finland's independence in 1917, a campaign led to the founding of the University of Turku in 1920, initially comprising the Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences.

The Faculty of Humanities, the oldest at the university, focuses on multidisciplinary education and societal development. It includes two schools: the School of History, Culture and Arts Studies and the School of Languages and Translation Studies, offering various Bachelor's and Master's programs. ELAN students can take courses in culture, arts, and languages, including Finnish, French, German, Spanish, Italian, and English. They must choose at least 50% of their courses from the Faculty of Humanities while also considering options from the Faculty of Social Sciences for a broader educational experience.

KEY INFORMATION

Host Faculty: Faculty of Humanities

Level of Study: Bachelor and Master

Subject Areas Available: ELAN students can choose their courses freely from the Faculty of Humanities, including non-degree programmes in Finnish Culture Studies and North American Studies.

Subject Restrictions: At least 50% of courses should be chosen from the Faculty of Humanities. Students can choose courses from other faculties as well, but please check the possible faculty-specific restrictions from the website.

(Local) Language Learning Opportunities: Finnish survival course, Finnish introduction course and Finnish for beginners courses are available at the Centre for Language and Communication Studies. Also language courses in English, Chinese, French, Italian and Russian are available.

Course Catalogue Release Date (approximate): 3 months before the start of the academic year

Language(s) of Instruction: English and Finnish

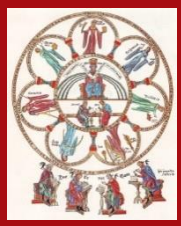
Language Requirements for Admission (CEFR Framework): English B2

Language Certificate Requirements: Official proof of English skills (e.g., TOEFL, IELTS, Cambridge CAE) or a verification document signed and stamped by the home university.

Internship Available on Request: No

Research Project Available on Request: No

ELAN CERTIFICATE



VALUE 01.

The ELAN certificate is the primary means through which the Network promotes the principles of a Liberal Arts education. It complements students' academic transcripts, highlighting their versatility, initiative, and social responsibility, while enhancing their career prospects.

Students should inform the ELAN coordinator at their home institution as they complete individual requirements. Once all criteria are met, the ELAN Network will issue the certificate.

OVERVIEW 02.

Requirements can be fulfilled at the home or ELAN partner university. Activities may count towards both the certificate and the student's degree programme (e.g., the ELAN project may also count towards a dissertation), unless otherwise specified. The ELAN board may accept ECTS equivalents where appropriate. PhD students are also eligible for the ELAN certificate.

All requirements must be approved by the home university coordinator and align with the liberal arts approach.

ELAN CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS 03.

Compulsory (ALL must be completed):

1. An **ELAN mobility** approved by both the home and host university (monitored via the learning agreement), with a minimum of 15 ECTS required for Bachelor and Masters students.
2. Study of or in a **foreign language**, which can be combined with the study of the culture related to that language. Minimum of 5 ECTS.
3. **Liberal Arts Project** – Students are encouraged to take an interdisciplinary approach and explore the relevance of the arts and humanities in a contemporary context. They should consult their home coordinator on length and assessment criteria for the project.
4. **Final Reflection Paper** (700 - 1000 words) – Students should reflect on how their ELAN mobility contributed to their academic and personal goals. The paper must be submitted to the home ELAN coordinator no later than one month after the mobility ends.

Optional (students must select AT LEAST two):

5. Study of or in a **second foreign language**, which can be combined with the study of the culture related to that language. Minimum of 5 ECTS.
6. Internship or placement approved by the ELAN home university coordinator for a minimum period of one week.
7. Participation in an Intensive Study Programme or Summer School approved by the home ELAN coordinator.
8. Participation in a MOOC or other type of online course approved by the home ELAN university coordinator.
9. Participation in, attendance at, or assistance with an academic conference related to liberal arts, approved by the home ELAN university coordinator.
10. Participation in a group project on an interdisciplinary topic and/or one that considers the relevance of the arts and humanities in the contemporary world (minimum of 5 ECTS). Students must achieve a mark of at least Category 2 according to the ELAN Grade Conversion table – see the ELAN webpages for more information.
11. Students may suggest additional forms of extracurricular activity to the home ELAN coordinator for approval. For example, participation or work in:
    - Inter-university programmes
    - Student association projects or events
    - Organisation of art exhibits or events
    - Online seminars
    - Community work

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

What do our ELAN students have to say?

Maui Connock, 2023/24

Home University: *University of Bristol*
Host University: *Heidelberg University*

"My year at Heidelberg University, courtesy of Bristol University's partnership with the ELAN network, was invaluable. Having the opportunity to live and study in another country allowed me to forge new friendships, find my independence, and understand a different way of academic learning. I enjoyed embracing the different academic systems in the university, including new assessments such as spoken rather than written exams, lots of presentations, and collaborative learning. I was able to choose courses from across the board, and although the administration aspects were challenging at times, I would highly recommend this experience to anyone looking to study in a new, beautiful place, make lots of memories, and explore different ways of learning. Joining the ERASMUS network in Heidelberg was the most exciting aspect of it all, having the opportunity to make friends with people from all over Europe and the world."

Louise Van Den Bossche, 2021/22

Home University: *KU Leuven*
Host University: *University of Bristol*

"Participating in the ELAN exchange was an inspiring journey that broadened my academic and personal horizons. The interdisciplinary nature of the program allowed me to explore diverse perspectives by selecting courses across multiple faculties. I delved into Latin American Studies, Anthropology, and History, each offering unique insights that deepened my understanding of global cultures and societies. This experience enhanced my sense of global citizenship, increasing my societal awareness and encouraging me to think more critically about the world around me. Engaging with diverse academic disciplines and peers from different backgrounds inspired me to pursue a master's in Gender and Diversity, as I realized the importance of intersectional perspectives in shaping inclusive and equitable societies. My ELAN exchange was impactful, equipping me with the knowledge and motivation to continue learning and advocating for meaningful change."