**Guidelines on how to use the Learning Agreement for Studies**

The Learning Agreement template is applicable to Erasmus+ mobility for studies between Programme Countries (KA1), between Programme and Partner Countries (KA1), and for Higher Education Capacity Building projects involving Partner Countries (KA2).

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. All the information requested in this template is to be considered as minimum requirements, meaning that further fields can be added, if needed, and the format (e.g. font size and colours) can be adapted.

**BEFORE THE MOBILITY**

**Administrative data**

Before the mobility, it is necessary to fill in page 1 with information on the student, the Sending and the Receiving Institutions. The three parties have to agree on this section to be completed before the mobility.

On page 1, most of the information related to the student, Sending and Receiving Institutions will have to be encoded in the Mobility Tool+ (for Capacity Building projects, in the EACEA Mobility Tool).

**Educational components (Tables A and B)**

The study programme includes the indicative start and end months of the agreed study programme that the student will carry out abroad.

The Learning Agreement must include all the educational components to be carried out by the student at the Receiving Institution (in Table A) and it must contain as well the group of educational components that will be replaced in his/her degree by the Sending Institution (in Table B) upon successful completion of the study programme abroad. It is necessary to fill in Tables A and B thoroughly before the mobility. Additional rows and columns can be added as needed. However, the two Tables A and B must be kept separated. The objective is to make clear that there is no need to have one-to-one correspondence between the components followed abroad and the ones replaced at the Sending Institution. The aim is rather that a group of learning outcomes achieved abroad replaces a group of learning outcomes at the Sending Institution.

An academic year of full-time study is normally made up of educational components totalling 60 ECTS credits (and 30 ECTS credits for one semester of full-time study). 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 Table A.

The Sending Institution should indicate in Table B the group of educational components counting towards the student’s degree that would normally be completed at the Sending Institution and which will be replaced by the Study Programme at the Receiving Institution. The total number of ECTS credits (or equivalent) in Table B should correspond to the total number of ECTS credits (or equivalent) contained in Table A. 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 a discrepancy in the total number of ECTS credits (or equivalent) between Table A and Table B: the student has already accumulated the number of credits required for his/her degree and does not need some of the credits gained abroad.

The group of components can be included in Table B as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Recognition at the Sending Institution*** | | | |
| **Table B**  **Before the mobility** | **Component code**  (if any) | **Component title at the Sending Institution** (as indicated in the course catalogue) | **Semester** [e.g. autumn/spring; term] | **Number of ECTS credits (or equivalent) to be recognised by the Sending Institution** |
|  |  | *Course X* | *…* | *10* |
|  |  | *Module Y* | *…* | *10* |
|  |  | *Laboratory Work* | *…* | *10* |
|  |  |  |  | **Total:** *30* |

Where all credits in Table A are automatically recognised as forming part of the programme at the Sending Institution, typically in the case of **mobility windows**[[1]](#endnote-1), Table B is **simplified** and reduced to one single line, as described below:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Recognition at the Sending Institution*** | | | |
| **Table B**  **Before the mobility** | **Component code**  (if any) | **Component title at the Sending Institution** (as indicated in the course catalogue) | **Semester** [e.g. autumn/spring; term] | **Number of ECTS credits to be recognised by the Sending Institution** |
|  |  | *Mobility window* | *…* | **Total:** *30* |

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, by providing a web link.

**Language competence**

A recommended level in the main language of instruction has been agreed between the Sending and Receiving Institutions in their Inter-Institutional Agreement.

The level of language competence in the main language of instruction, which the student already has, has to be reported in the box provided for that purpose in the Learning Agreement for Studies or, alternatively, in the grant agreement.

**The Erasmus+ Online Linguistic Support (OLS)** has been designed to assist Erasmus+ students in improving their knowledge of the main language of instruction, before and during their stay abroad, to ensure a better quality of learning mobility.

For mobility between Programme Countries, and for the languages covered by the OLS, the student must carry out an OLS language assessment before the mobility, and a final assessment at the end of the mobility, except for native speakers and in duly justified cases (e.g. special needs students).

The completion of the OLS assessment before departure is a pre-requisite for the mobility. This assessment will be taken after the student is selected, before signing the Learning Agreement or, alternatively, the grant agreement.

Based on the results of the OLS assessment, the Sending Institution may allocate an OLS language course to the students who wish to improve their language competences. More opportunities for participants following the OLS language courses (OLS Live Coaching: MOOCs, Forum and Tutoring sessions) are available at <http://erasmusplusols.eu>

**Signing the Learning Agreement**

All parties must sign the Learning Agreement before the start of the mobility. It is not compulsory to circulate papers with original signatures; colored scanned copies of signatures or digital signatures may be accepted, depending on the national legislation.

**DURING THE MOBILITY**

**Exceptional Changes to the Study Programme**

Changes to the study programme should be exceptional, as the three parties have already agreed on a group of educational components that will be taken abroad, based on the course catalogue that the Receiving Institution has committed to publish well in advance of the mobility period and to update regularly.

Any party can request changes to the study programme within five weeks after the start of each semester. These changes should be agreed by all parties as soon as possible, within two-weeks following the request.

In case of changes due to an extension of the duration of the mobility, a request can be made by the student at the latest one month before the foreseen end date.

All changes should be indicated in Tables A2 and B2, while Tables A and B should not be modified. All Tables (A, B, A2 and B2) should be kept together in all communications. Changes to the study programme abroad should be listed in Table A2. Please refer to endnote 12 to indicate the reason for change.

For example:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Exceptional changes to Table A**  (to be approved by e-mail or signature by the student, the responsible person in the Sending Institution and the responsible person in the Receiving Institution) | | | | | |
| **Table A2**  **During the mobility** | **Component code**  (if any) | **Component title at the** **Receiving Institution** (as indicated in the course catalogue) | **Deleted component** [tick if applicable] | **Added component** [tick if applicable] | **Reason for change[[2]](#endnote-2)** | **Number of ECTS credits (or equivalent)** |
|  |  | *XXX* |  |  | Choose an item. | *5* |
|  |  | *YYY* |  |  | Choose an item. | *8* |

Table B2 should be completed only if the changes described in Table A2 affect the group of educational components agreed in Table B.

**Changes of the Responsible person(s)**

In case of changes of the responsible person(s), the information below should be inserted by the Sending or Receiving Institution, where applicable.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Changes of the Responsible person(s)** | **Name** | **Email** | **Signature** |
| New Responsible person at the Sending Institution |  |  |  |
| New Responsible person at the Receiving Institution |  |  |  |

**Confirming and signing the Changes**

All parties must approve and sign the Changes to the Learning Agreement.

#### **Steps to fill in the Learning Agreement for Studies**

Provide study programme.

Identify Responsible persons.

Commitment of the three parties with original / scanned / digital signatures.

**Before the mobility**

**If modifications are needed:**

A party requests changes within 5 weeks after the start of each semester. Agreement by the three parties has to be reached within 2 weeks after the request.

Request for extension of the duration has to be made at the latest one month before the foreseen end date.

**The Receiving Institution** provides a Transcript of Records to the student and Sending Institution normally within 5 weeks after publication of the results.

**The Sending Institution** recognises the activities successfully completed by the student during the mobility and registers them in the student’s Transcript of Records normally within 5 weeks.

**After the mobility**

**During the mobility**

1. **Mobility window**: a period of time reserved for student credit mobility that is embedded into the curriculum of a study programme. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. **Reasons for exceptional changes to study programme abroad (choose an item number from the table below):**

   |  |  |
   | --- | --- |
   | ***Reasons for deleting a component*** | ***Reason for adding a component*** |
   | 1. Previously selected educational component is not available at the Receiving Institution | 5. Substituting a deleted component |
   | 2. Component is in a different language than previously specified in the course catalogue | 6. Extending the mobility period |
   | 3. Timetable conflict | 7. Other (please specify) |
   | 4. Other (please specify) |  |

   [↑](#endnote-ref-2)