

ERASMUS: LIFE BEYOND MARS

Is there a life beyond MARS? You can find out by applying for Erasmus, and here are some guidelines to help you understand the logic.

1) There is one application deadline every year on February 28, where you need to submit your Erasmus application for the next academic year. This means that you can go, at the earliest, for Erasmus in your 3rd semester.

You can go in the 3rd or 4th semester, but also extend your studies for a year, and go on Erasmus in the 5th and/or 6th semester.

Keep in mind that if you want to go for Erasmus in the 3rd semester, one key requirement is that you replace the compulsory MARS courses¹ of the 3rd semester.

If you go on Erasmus during the 4th semester MARS, you will still need to apply during the first MARS year. One way to make the replacement of courses easier is to take all compulsory 4th semester MARS courses already in your 2nd semester. In that way, you can replace elective courses by your Erasmus courses instead. As an exception, the Master Thesis Seminar II can be taken online (during the 4th semester), but other MARS courses will not be offered online for students going for Erasmus or similar exchange.

2) During your Erasmus stay abroad, you need to keep being a MARS student and thus keep paying the tuition fees. You cannot interrupt your studies while you are on Erasmus.

If you cannot take MARS compulsory courses because you are abroad, you will have to extend your studies and may end up paying the full tuition in your third year. However, if you finish all your MARS courses (both compulsory and electives) except for one and except for Master Thesis Seminar II within your standard study period, you are eligible for a tuition fee reduction so that you will only pay 600 EUR / year during your third year. At the same time, the Erasmus scholarship is 480-600 EUR / month.

See: <https://fsv.cuni.cz/en/admissions/scholarships-funding-and-fees/relief-fulfilment-most-study-obligations>

3) You cannot go for Erasmus, or any other exchange, for more than one semester during your standard study period.

If you want to go for a full year on Erasmus, postpone your Erasmus study to the third year, or go to one place in the second year and for another in the third year (But see 2) for information on registration fees). We will not approve a longer exchange period during your standard study period.

4) If you go on Erasmus during the standard study period, you will ALWAYS need to replace your MARS courses, both compulsory and elective, by courses from abroad. Please keep in mind that this is not easy: Each course should be similar to the MARS course that you replace. And you will need to motivate each replacement, and provide a syllabus of that course. You will need to get the guarantor's approval for your plan.

¹ This also includes the compulsory optional courses.

Normally, we recognize courses from Erasmus as credits, 1 ECTS = 1 ECTS. If you want to get an Erasmus course recognized as an equivalent to a MARS course, you need to prove it is a real equivalent. If this is approved, you will have the recognized MARS course in SIS instead of the course from Erasmus, and it will have the MARS credit value, regardless of how many credits the original Erasmus course had. In other words, it is easier to pass all compulsory MARS courses in Prague, but it is possible to replace them through Erasmus courses.

It is important to keep in mind that you need to make sure that you complete all compulsory courses (including the compulsory optional courses) in time. If you miss a compulsory (optional) course during the 3rd or the 4th semester, your next chance to take this course will only be in year 3 (which might be very expensive). But if you (only) have elective courses to replace by Erasmus courses, the replacement will be easier. Also with elective courses, you will still have to list the elective courses that you want to replace by Erasmus course, and motivate that selection.

5) Students that go on Erasmus exchange for a semester will have to take all courses for that semester at the Erasmus host location.

In other words, we do not allow you to take MARS courses and Erasmus courses during the same semester. You should not study at the Erasmus location and in Prague at the same time. You cannot take MARS courses online while you are on Erasmus.

6) The workload for an Erasmus stay is 30 ECTS for one semester.

Your Learning Agreement (a document with tables A+B) should reflect this 30 ECTS workload. We will not approve an Erasmus request with too few or too many credits. Please note that changes to Learning Agreement can be made after arriving to your destination (another document with tables C+D), which (of course) needs to be approved as well.

7) The Learning Agreement will need to be approved by the MARS guarantor.

You will need to submit the following documents to the MARS coordinator:

- *proposed Learning Agreement*
- *a motivation for each course replacement*
- *a note explaining how you will ensure that all compulsory (optional) courses will be completed*

The MARS coordinator will then prepare an advice for the MARS guarantor. The guarantor will decide on the basis of your proposed Learning Agreement (and motivations and note) and the MARS coordinator advice.

8) If in doubt, discuss your plans with MARS coordinator in advance.

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