

On behalf of the Higher Education Authority, Irish National Agency for Erasmus+ for Higher Education

FAQs in relation to Erasmus+ and COVID19

Please see below a list of frequently asked questions received by the Irish National Agency for Erasmus+ Higher Education in relation to Erasmus+ mobilities and COVID-19. This list is by **no means exhaustive** but is based on the questions submitted to erasmus@hea.ie. If your question is not answered below, please do not hesitate to contact us at erasmus@hea.ie, please put COVID-19 in the subject line.

1. What is Force Majeure?

Force Majeure refers to unforeseeable circumstances that prevent someone from fulfilling a contract. In this instance, Force Majeure relates to mobilities which must be cancelled, postponed or moved due to the outbreak of COVID-19.

2. A student/staff member is in an at-risk group as outlined by the HSE(<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/at-risk-groups.html>) and does not wish to undertake a mobility to an affected area?

This is Force Majeure.

3. A student/staff member has decided not to go on mobility to an affected area? Does this qualify as Force Majeure?

Before any mobility takes place, the latest travel advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs should be consulted. If the mobility is to an affected area, it is the decision of the individual to decide on the course of action they wish to take. If they decide not to go to an area where there are cases of COVID-19, this will be considered Force Majeure.

4. A mobility qualifies for Force Majeure. What are the financial implications of this?

If a mobility is deemed Force Majeure, the student/staff member will be reimbursed for any Erasmus+ funds which **have already been spent**. The unspent part of the grant must be reimbursed to the HEI.

5. What is considered an affected area?

Any area where there is a case/cases of COVID-19 may be considered an affected area.

6. What happens in the case of a mobility that is declared Force Majeure but the student/staff member wishes to continue the mobility at a later date?

This is an ongoing issue which we are monitoring closely. In relation to these mobilities, they are to be logged as Force Majeure in the Mobility Tool. We will issue updated advice in relation to the rescheduling of mobilities at a later date. At present, it is imperative that these mobilities are logged as Force Majeure and processed accordingly.

7. A student/staff member is nervous about going on mobility because of COVID-19 but the country to which they are due to travel is not affected?

It is the individual's decision whether they decide to travel but this does not constitute Force Majeure.

Please monitor the latest travel advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs on COVID-19 <https://www.dfa.ie/travel/travel-advice/coronavirus/> and the country specific advice provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs <https://www.dfa.ie/travel/travel-advice/>. In relation to incoming students, please follow the latest advice from the HSE <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/coronavirus.html>.

It is for participating HEIs and individuals to decide on the course of action to take in the light of national travel advice and repatriation schemes.

We will post any update or further information in relation from the Irish National Agency for Erasmus+ for Higher Education on the COVID-19 section of our website <http://eurireland.ie/2020/02/28/covid-19/>.