

Higher Education Authority/Department of Education and Skills

Advisory to the Sector regarding student and staff mobility (Higher Education)

16 March 2020

To Erasmus+ students and staff currently studying/working abroad:

- The Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak is a rapidly evolving situation so students/staff who wish to return to Ireland are advised that it will become increasingly more difficult to return to this country as airlines cancel/restrict flights to and from Ireland
- In order to receive the latest developments on this rapidly evolving situation we encourage students/staff to download the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT's) Travel Wise App which will help you to stay safe and informed while abroad:
<https://www.dfa.ie/travelwise/>
- You can also contact DFAT via Twitter on @dfatirl or @dfatravelwise followed by your nearest Irish Embassy who will be in contact as soon as possible and as appropriate
- In addition, you can register your contact details on Citizens' Registration, which allows DFAT to contact you and provide assistance in the event of an unforeseen crisis or family emergency while you are overseas: <https://www.dfa.ie/travel/citizens-registration>
- There is a dedicated DFAT information line available on +353 (0)1 6131733 which may be contacted by students or their families to discuss specific issues pertaining to their situations
- We advise all Irish students who are studying abroad to remain vigilant and follow the instructions and advice from the local authorities
- The HSE information line can be reached at 1850 241 850 or if abroad +353 41 685 0300
- Individuals returning to Ireland in the coming days are advised to follow the precautionary instructions given by the health authorities in the host country and in Ireland in relation to personal hygiene, social distancing and self-isolation
- Mobile learners and staff are asked to keep in contact with their home and host institutions with a view to following whatever alternative learning provision that can be provided at this time such as e-learning
- Students on an Erasmus+ mobility will not suffer any academic loss during this time
- Erasmus funding will continue to be provided for the duration of the approved mobility