



ECTS MA ANNUAL MEETING 2022 IN VALENCIA
UNIVERSITY

BEST PRACTICES, EXAMPLES OF STUDENT AND STAFF EXCHANGE

Problem of limited places for clinical practices at the hospitals within the Erasmus+ traineeship programme





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INTRODUCTION

The current COVID-19 pandemic has created global challenges in medical education. In order to face them, many classes moved to a virtual platform. However, considering their peculiarity in medical education, it is not easy to do the same with clinical rotations.



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INTRODUCTION

Therefore, the Erasmus+ for Traineeship programme may have suffered even more the consequences of the pandemics, compared with the Erasmus+ for Studies programme, at least in the medical field.

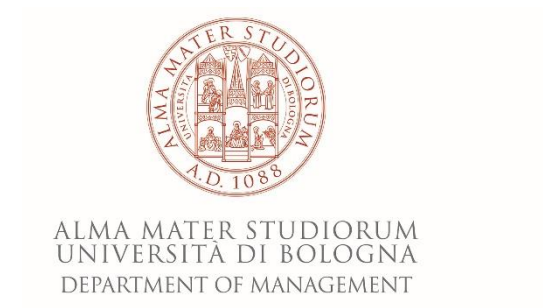




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EXPERIENCES IN BOLOGNA AND COIMBRA UNIVERSITY

Valencia, 14th May 2022





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Admission procedure

In Bologna, the administrative process regarding incomings is substantially different between Erasmus+ for Studies and Traineeship programmes: we cannot sign specific agreements in the field of Erasmus+ for Traineeship, and therefore there is not the possibility to foreseen how many incoming applications will be received.

Therefore, incoming students that apply through the Erasmus+ for Studies programme, or with which Universities we hold an Erasmus agreement, have priority access to clinical practices.

Clinical practice places assigned to incoming students that apply through the Erasmus+ for Studies programme have a specific planning; while, when we receive an application for the Erasmus+ for Traineeship, we manage it by asking the availabilities to the required wards, that can give or deny it.

In Coimbra, incoming students are accepted for a Traineeship mobility under a bilateral agreement or not, depending on the number of incoming applications received and depending on the number of places defined by each ward.

Since our course units include already practical lessons, students applying for a Traineeship mobility do not attend these courses. Traineeships are thus individually organized and according to the availability of the required wards.





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Language requirements

In Italy, it is very hard to work within the wards if you do not speak Italian language.

Therefore, we have a quite high Italian language level requirement (B1) for incomings that apply for a clinical practice only.

However, wards' Directors are still a little skeptical when asked to give a foreign student the availability for a clinical practice.

In Coimbra, incoming students applying for Traineeship mobility can attend most of the wards knowing little Portuguese, although it is recommended that they have a good command of the language at B1 level.

They are thus asked to speak in English.

There is though the exception for the Paediatric traineeship, where students must speak Portuguese for obvious reasons.





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Ward selection

Considering the application received during the last years, the most coveted wards usually are Pediatrics and Gynecology/Obstetrics.

Unfortunately, these are mandatory clinical practices for our enrolled medical students, and this limitates significantly the number of available places. Instead, there are several wards (as Radiology and Rheumatology, for example) for which we would have more available slots.

In Coimbra, the most coveted wards are the ones of Surgery and Internal Medicine. Because of that these wards offer more places to incoming students.

In those wards where the acceptance depends on the situation at the time, places are limited or don't exist at all. For that reason, every year the wards define a number of places.





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Covid- 19 Vaccination certificate

It must be outlined that we have not faced any troubles with the Covid-19 vaccination certificates.

In order to start the traineeship, the student is asked by some department to present the Covid-19 vaccination certificate and must do a PCR test at the Laboratory of the University of Coimbra.

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Occupational Medicine appointment

A big issue was represented by the Occupational Medicine appointment, that must be carried out by any student that carry out clinical practices within the wards in Bologna.

In Bologna, Occupational Medicine also has to deal with vaccines and swabs: therefore, their availability to carry out medical examinations on potential trainees was significantly reduced. This is one of the main reasons why we reduced as well the number of accepted Erasmus+ for Traineeship incoming applications.

Occupational medicine appointment is not required to the incoming student for traineeship mobility.





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Covid-19 restrictions

In Bologna, we had to cancel all Erasmus+ for Traineeship mobilities for Academic Year 2020/21.

For Academic Year 2021/22, we could accept only 2 incoming Erasmus+ for Traineeship applications for the 1° semester, and 4 for the 2° semester.

In Coimbra, traineeship mobilities have been suspended in March 2020. Incoming students returned back home or it was given to them to attend some classes remotely.

For Academic Year 2021/22, in the 1st semester no traineeship mobility took place. In the 2nd semester, it was resumed but very conditioned, because most wards maintained their suspension.

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Expectations

The Occupational Medicine issue should be solved by Academic Year 2022/23. Therefore, unless an upsurge of the pandemic situation occurs, we expect to go back to the pre-pandemics situation.

More broadly, we are trying to expand the training network, and we expect this to end up with more opportunities to host incoming Erasmus+ for Traineeship applicants. However, that is a long-term range goal, because the priority still must go to enrolled students.

For Academic Year 2022/23, and if the pandemic situation evolves positively, we expect to be able to increase incoming mobility for Traineeships, bearing always in mind both the Coimbra Hospitals conditions and restrictions.

It is expected to have agreements with private hospitals in Coimbra to start receiving incoming students.





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**Let's discuss the results of the survey and share
your experience with us!**



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