



University of
BRISTOL

Erasmus+ Study Guide
2019/20
Civil Engineering

Department of Civil Engineering

GUIDE FOR INCOMING ERASMUS STUDENTS 2019-20

Welcome to the Department

Prior to your arrival within the Department of Civil Engineering you will be emailed information with details on how the Department and the Academic year are organised. You should read all the material carefully as it will help you to understand how our system works. You will also find information on some activities that you are recommended to attend during the first week of the term.

Our Exchange Partners

The Department of Civil Engineering has Erasmus exchange agreements with a number of European Universities. These are all long-standing agreements that have resulted in successful exchanges for many students. We look forward to welcoming more students from our partners:

Austria:	Leopold-Franzens Universitat, Innsbruck Technische Universitat Wien, Vienna
France:	Institut National des Sciences Appliquées de Lyon (INSA) Université Joseph Fourier Grenoble
Germany:	Leibniz Universitat Hannover
Netherlands:	Delft University of Technology
Spain:	Universidad Politecnica de Valencia Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya
Sweden:	Chalmers Tekniska Hogskola, Gothenburg
Italy:	Università di Bologna Alma Mater Studiorum

Academic Calendar and Structure

Welcome week (or Week 0) starts on **23 September 2019**. This week allows you to finalise your programme, familiarise yourself with the campus and to attend introductory events. The **academic year** starts on **30 September 2019** (Week 1), and by this date you should know what your study programme is. A meeting will be organised in Welcome Week where you will be able to ask any questions concerning your study programme.

- a) The **term dates** are: (<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/academicregistry/office/almanac/>)
 - Welcome week: 23 September – 27 September 2019
 - Teaching block 1 (TB1): 30 September - 20 December 2019
 - Teaching block 2 (TB2): 27 January – 8 May 2020
- b) The **exam dates** are:
 - January assessment period: 13 – 24 January 2020
 - Summer assessment period: 18 May – 5 June 2020

- c) There is an exam session at the end of each teaching block in January and May/June. Units taught in TB1 only will be assessed in January. All other units will be assessed in the Summer Exam period. There are no resits for final year units (i.e. 4th year units). There are **NO resits** for Erasmus students. If you fail a unit, you will **NOT** be allowed to take a supplementary examination.
- d) Note that there are some 4th year 'fat' (ie, intensive delivery) units, which are delivered in 2-3 weeks. Please be aware that if you select any 4th year fat unit you may be unable to take other units from level 3 (or 2, 1) because of clashes in the timetable.
- e) If coming for a full year, for lecture courses and/or research projects, you must arrive at the start of the autumn term, see above. If you are coming for a research project only then you need to come for a full year. If coming for only one teaching block you will need to check the appropriate start dates and make sure the courses that you are planning to do are taught in that teaching block.

Units, Credits and Research Projects

The list and descriptions of 2019/20 Engineering units (Years 1-4) are available at:

<https://www.bris.ac.uk/unit-programme-catalogue/OrganisationDepartmentsForUnits.jsa?orgCode=FENG&ayrCode=19%2F20>

Please avoid selecting units which require as a pre-requisites any material taught in the previous years at Bristol and which you have not covered at your home university and select **up to 120 credits** (equivalent to **60 ECTS**) for a full academic year.

Note that the unit code for courses from year 1 to year 3 start with '**CENG**', which indicates that this unit is from Civil Engineering, followed by the year (**1, 2, 3 or M**) and then followed by a 4-digit unit number. Units from year 4 start with '**CENGM**' indicating that these units are at Master Level ('**M**'). The **pass mark** for units from years 1-3 is 40%, whereas the pass mark for M-level units is 50%.

- a) You **must take entire units** and not fractions of units.
- b) You must take units from the Undergraduate MEng programme only (see link above). **Exchange students are not** allowed to take units from the taught postgraduate programmes (MSc Earthquake Engineering and Infrastructure Resilience; MSc Water and Environmental Management; MRes Systems).
- c) **Field Methods (CENG10005)**. Formerly known as Surveying 1 (CENG16100). The course requires you to attend a compulsory one week field course organised normally the week before the Easter holiday; in addition you will have to contribute financially for this field trip;
- d) **Research Project 3 (CENG30007)**: This is a 40-credit research project and the students work individually in their projects. The unit director (Dr. Paul Vardanega) will provide a list of supervisors and their research areas so that incoming Erasmus students can choose from that list.
- e) **Scheme Design (CENG30009)**. Note that this unit replaces the Water Resources Project. Scheme Design runs during the whole year, but it has a dam design exercise in weeks 1 and 2 of TB1. Therefore, if you are interested in this course, you need to select it well in advance prior to coming to the University of Bristol otherwise there will be no option to join it at a later time. If you select this unit a priori, you will need to confirm the enrolment for this unit in full by Tuesday Week 0 (i.e., the week just before the beginning of TB1, also known as Welcome Week). Note that Scheme Design is required for all students enrolled in Civil Engineering Systems 3 (CENG33900). Scheme Design requires essential background in Hydrology, Hydraulics, Geology, Design, and technical writing skills. Scheme Design builds on 2 years of design intensive teaching and some erasmus students have struggled

with this unit in the past as they don't always have the relevant design experience. Please feel free to speak to the unit director (Dr Lloyd) before choosing this unit.

- f) **Civil Engineering Systems 3 (CENG33900)**: Note that normally the completion of a group design project in civil/construction sector is a pre-requisite for this unit.
- g) **Civil Engineering Systems 4 (CENGM1800)**: Note that this unit requires substantial reading and the exam requires you to write a reflective essay (i.e. students are tested on their ability to present an argument and express their thoughts in writing). Past Erasmus found the writing of the reflective essay very challenging.
- h) Report writing for some courses: The assessment of some units is based on coursework (e.g **Soil-Structure Interaction 4 - CENGM2700**, , **Engineering Seismology - CENGM0041**) where the students are required to write an individual report or in some cases a group report (e.g. **Scheme Design - CENG30009**). Past Erasmus found the writing of this report very challenging. Please read carefully the information for individual units and make you have the prerequisite knowledge (including in some cases programming skills such as in **Engineering Seismology - CENGM0041**) if you want to select a particular unit. If you have any doubts please contact the corresponding unit director.
- i) **Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Enterprise (INOV0013)** Erasmus students are not allowed to take this unit.

Please note: Erasmus students are expected to take the majority of their credits in the School of Civil, Aerospace, and Mechanical Engineering.

Information for Undergraduate Students Using Exchanges with other Bristol Departments

You can **select any unit within the school and across the University**, as long as you meet the academic prerequisites for the unit and the course is approved by your home institution and the Erasmus coordinator. If you intend to choose a unit offered by another department, please contact the relevant unit director and ask them to register on that unit. It is your responsibility to make all the necessary arrangements. Note that any non-Civil Engineering units need to be registered in our system.

Information for Postgraduate Students

We do not accept postgraduate exchange students, but note that our undergraduates are working towards a Master's degree and year 4 courses are at Master's level.

English Language Requirements

Students must have a good standard of both written and spoken English before arriving in Bristol - minimum B2 level or equivalent. Students must be able to converse freely with native English speakers and in addition must be able to read and write extended pieces of technical writing. Experience has shown that it is not possible for students to improve their English to the required level and at the same time reach the required level in technical studies; attempts to do so have resulted in failure.

If you need to develop your academic English language skills, you can take optional units at CELFS (the Centre for English Language and Foundation Studies). These units focus on listening and speaking, reading and writing, and advanced grammar. Visit the CELFS website to register for these units: www.bristol.ac.uk/english-language/study/current-students/for-undergraduate/open-units/

Arrival in Bristol

1. The Global Opportunities team will email you instructions regarding what to do on your arrival. They will also supply you with a starter pack, your library/security card etc.
2. You should then attend the recommended events on the Welcome Week (or week 0) timetable which will be emailed to you along with information on how the Department and the Academic year are organized. You should read all the material carefully as it will help you to understand how our systems work.
3. If you have contacted us about a project, you will be given the name of your project advisor if appropriate and you should arrange to meet them during the scheduled slots.
4. You are advised to meet the ERASMUS coordinators during Welcome week. You will be advised of times when they will be available on arrival.

Useful Contacts and Links

Department

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International Office

Tel : +44 117 39 40207

E-mail: global-opportunities@bristol.ac.uk

Website: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/international/>

General

Maps: <http://www.bris.ac.uk/university/maps/>

Please make sure that you read all the **safety and security information** which is available at:
<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/civilengineering/safetyandsecurityinformation/>

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I apply?

A: You must apply online and then email a PDF copy of your Learning Agreement to the Global Opportunities team. Do not send paperwork to the Civil Eng Department. You only need to contact the Department if you want to do a research project or the design project. This should be done by email.

Q: How do I arrange accommodation?

A: When the Global Opportunities team receives your application they will send you information including accommodation information.

Q: What should I do when I arrive in Bristol?

A: First you will need to follow the arrival instructions from the Global Opportunities team. They will supply you with a starter pack, which includes your Ucard. You should then come to the School for your Welcome Week department events and to meet co-ordinators to confirm unit choices.

Q: Can postgraduate students come on the exchange?

A: No

Q: Are fees payable?

A: No, under Erasmus no fees are payable for students from universities with which Bristol has a formal exchange agreement.

Q: My University does not have an agreement with the University at present. Can a new agreement be arranged?

A: No. The Department has exchange agreements with a number of European Universities and we fill all available exchange student places from these institutions. We will not make any new exchange agreements.