



Before you apply to Study Abroad

Everything you should know when you are considering to study abroad



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Orientation

Are you thinking about studying abroad but you don't know where to start looking? Going abroad for a minor is not the easiest option out there, but it may be the most fulfilling. Before you actually decide to apply for the minor Study Abroad, there is a lot to think about and consider. This manual will provide you with some tips to point you in the right direction.

If you wish to talk to somebody in person about your possibilities to go abroad, you can contact the [coordinator Internationalisation](#) of your Fontys School.

Step 1: Explore your motives and expectations

First of all you will have to think about what you want and what is possible. At this stage, ask yourself a number of questions such as:

- When can I go abroad and for how long?
- Where do I want to go and why do I want to go there?
- Does a minor abroad fit into my study program?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of a minor abroad compared to a minor at Fontys?
- What are my learning objectives? What are the competences I would like to develop?
- What do I expect from my experience abroad?
- Do I have the finances for a minor abroad in the country I would like to go to?
- Do I believe I have sufficient determination and motivation to handle the extra preparations the minor abroad requires?

Step 2: Look at the available partner universities and choose a top 3

At Fontys there are three different options if you want to study abroad for a minor:

- **A Fontys-wide partner university:** Universities with whom Fontys has an exchange agreement on a university-wide level, meaning these universities are available to all Fontys students. However, this does not mean that every Fontys-wide partner offers courses that are suitable for students from all Fontys Schools. Applications for these universities are handled by **Fontys team Study Abroad**. A complete list of all Fontys-wide partner universities is available at our [website](#).
- **A Fontys Cluster partner university:** Fontys schools are grouped in clusters, based on their Study Field. Each cluster has agreements with partner universities all over the world. Depending on which school/cluster, the Cluster partners may differ (e.g. Fontys ACI students can go to different Fontys Cluster partners compared to Fontys Marketing & Management students). Applications for a study abroad to partner universities are handled by the **International coordinators** of the specific schools/clusters. For a list of all Fontys Cluster partner universities please go to our [website](#).

- **Go as a Freemover:** Go as a Freemover; Fontys has a large number of excellent partner universities all over the world and because we have agreements with these universities, we can support students in their application and enrolment procedures. However, if you decide you want to study at a university that Fontys does not have an agreement with, we cannot offer you the same support. You will need to make all the arrangements yourself, most likely pay tuition fee and applying for a scholarship is not possible. You do however still need to register in [Mobility Online](#).

Please note: When selecting your top 3 universities you are able to mix between Fontys-wide and Fontys Cluster partners.

- **Fontys Fee paying partners:** It is important to know that Fontys has **exchange** partner universities and **fee-paying** partner universities. If you go to an exchange partner university you will only pay tuition fees at Fontys like you normally do. However, if you are going to study at a fee-paying partner university, you will have to pay tuition fees both at Fontys as well as the partner university. Fee-paying partners are normally located in the United States and Oceania and, details about tuition fees can be found in the description of the university.



Step 3: Prepare application

Now that you have found a maximum of three preferred universities, it is important to prepare your application. Please make sure you only select partner universities you really want to study at and have access to. Once the selection has been done it is not possible to change the spot you have been offered.

The application form in Mobility Online will be accessible two weeks prior to the application deadline. Before that, you can already start preparing your application by formulating the answers to the questions below (maximum of 1000 characters per answer).

- Why do you want to study abroad?
- What is the added value of a study abroad for your studies at Fontys and your competences?
- Why do you choose this country/city/university? (you are able to give a 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice here, per choice, you are asked to give a motivation)

We strongly recommend that you select three partner universities. Selecting just one partner university will not enhance your chances of being placed at that partner.

More information about applying for the minor Study Abroad can be found in the manual 'Applying for a minor Study Abroad'.



FAQ

Underneath are a number of common questions asked by students before they applied to Study Abroad.

- **Q: How many places are available per country?**
A: Depending on how many universities are available per country, usually 2 to 4 places per university
- **Q: Some of the wide partners are considered as ‘highly competitive’, what does that mean?**
A: Meaning many students apply for them so you need to really work hard on your motivation when you apply.
- **Q: Some minors have 25 or 35 credits, how does that work?**
A: You need to have at least 30 ECTS. You will have to add an extra course to add up to 25 ECTS, the 35 ECTS will not be granted since you will get a maximum of 30 ECTS for your minor abroad. There is separate credit to ECTS converter chart per university, so you will need to check the partner university for more details.
- **Q: Do you have any information about studying in the UK at this time, given the progression of the brexit and its effect on partner universities?**
A: Fontys still has agreements with UK partner universities, also after Brexit. However, due to Brexit, the UK left the Erasmus+ programme. This means that from fall 2022 semester no Erasmus+ scholarships can be given to Fontys students going to the UK.
- **Q: Do the universities arrange housing?**
A: Yes, some universities will offer accommodation at their own dorms or will help you find a place nearby. In some cases, you will be asked to look for your own accommodation.
- **Q: Can your minor be different than your current study?**
A: It depends on the school you choose. Normally with Fontys Cluster partners, the partners have an agreement that is normally in accordance to your Fontys school program. If you choose a Fontys Wide partner, you can choose a different study.
- **Q: What if you don’t have your propedeuse?**
A: You can only apply when you have passed your propedeuse
- **Q: Who can I go to when I need help looking for a minor?**
A: It is best to contact your school CI (coordinator internationalization).
- **Q: Is it possible to split the study so you can do half of it in the Netherlands and the other half abroad?”**
A: Blended learning can done only if your university of destination allows it.