

Euro-Quest

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Euro-Quest is a programme currently being finalised by NCGE/Euroguidance Ireland designed to motivate Transition Year students to consider education and training opportunities across the EU.

Why consider mobility in Europe?

Increasingly, there is demand for students with language skills and greater international awareness. The opportunity to look beyond home shores and 'internationalise' one's education is now more valuable than ever.

The budget for the next Erasmus programme period, 2021-2027, will double to €30bn, evidencing the value placed on mobility education at EU level. The EU has a target that by 2020, at least 20 % of all graduates should have spent a period studying or training abroad. It also emphasises the need to make the Erasmus programme more inclusive. It recognises that 'investing in people, their skills, and their knowledge will help respond to global challenges, maintain social fairness and drive Europe's competitiveness'.

It can be a challenge for students considering 'mobility' or study opportunities in Europe to find out what's out there and know where to start looking. Indeed, many are completely unaware of these opportunities. Knowing how

to support them through this process can be a challenge for Guidance Counsellors too.

From a student perspective, there are several positives to availing of the opportunity to learn in another European country:

- the fees and the cost of living are lower in several European countries;
- if you are eligible for a grant, it is possible that your SUSI maintenance grant will travel with you; and
- many degree programmes are taught entirely through English.

Entry requirements to Universities in Europe are different and not points-based, a welcome fact also for many students!

For those who would just like a taste of life in another culture, many Higher Education and FET programmes in Ireland offer part-study Erasmus opportunities abroad.

EUROGUIDANCE: EURO-QUEST continued

What is EURO-QUEST?

Euro-quest was designed to meet the needs of Guidance Counsellors and students looking to explore mobility opportunities in Europe. It is a practical resource that aims to plant the seed of curiosity in students regarding mobility in Europe, equip them with the necessary skills to conduct independent research and bust some common misconceptions that exist around the topic.

Euro-Quest a is a free-to-use blended learning programme, designed for Transition Year students, promoting educational mobility across Europe. It comprises of four online modules accompanied by a Student Workbook and a Staff Whole School Guidebook.

Euro-Quest can be delivered by the Guidance Counsellor in collaboration with the TY Coordinator, or as part of a team of teachers who work together with Europe as a cross-curricular theme. In this way, the Euro-Quest programme operates within the context of the **Whole School Guidance Framework**, with the learning outcomes of the programme designed in line with the Guidance Outcomes of the Framework and the **NCCA** guidelines for module delivery.



How has it been received?

Between February 2018 and May 2019, NCGE/ Euroguidance Ireland completed a pilot with 15 schools nation-wide of the programme. Feedback from Guidance Counsellors, teachers and students was extremely positive, and we are very grateful for the valuable insights and engagement of all involved.

Interested?

The final version will very shortly be available for all schools to use. Euroguidance will deliver a workshop on Euro-Quest at the IGC Conference in March where we will provide additional information and access to resources to Guidance Counsellors interested in delivering the programme.

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If you interested in your students embarking on 'Euro-Quest' please complete the initial registration form which can be found here:

<https://euroguidance.ie/euro-quest/enquiry>



To learn more about Euro-Quest and study opportunities in Europe, visit our website at

<https://euroguidance.ie/euro-quest>



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For more about Mobility see Anne Marie O'Brien's contribution to the 'Danish Study Visit' article in the 'Europe in Practice' section of this issue.

