



Future Plans and Ambitions

Short-answer questions: Erasmus+ study abroad | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0510/0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you read.

1. Would you like to study or train in another country?
2. What skills can people develop by living abroad?
3. What might make studying abroad difficult?
4. How can students prepare for an exchange programme?

Exercise 1 at a glance

Read one factual text. Answers are in the text. Copy exact words and check the question carefully before choosing your answer.

2. Read for overall understanding

Read the text. How can Erasmus+ support students' future plans?

Erasmus+ Study Abroad

Erasmus+ is a European Union programme that supports education, training, youth and sport. One of its best-known opportunities is study abroad. University students can spend part of their degree at another institution, usually in a different European country, while still following an agreed study programme.

A study exchange is not simply a holiday. Before travelling, students normally need a learning agreement. This document sets out what they will study abroad and how those studies will count towards their degree at home. If the agreed programme is completed, the home university should recognise the study period.

The programme can help students develop academic and personal skills. They may attend classes in a different education system, use another language and learn to manage everyday problems away from home. These experiences can build confidence, independence and intercultural communication skills.

For some students, the exchange is the first time they have lived outside their home country. They may have to open a bank account, understand a new timetable or communicate with landlords and local offices. These ordinary tasks can feel challenging at first, but they can also help students become more organised and resourceful.

The academic side can also be valuable. A student might study a subject from a different point of view, use equipment that is not available at home, or take modules taught by specialists in another university. These experiences can influence future study choices, postgraduate plans or career ambitions.

Living abroad can also make students think differently about their own strengths. Someone who solves problems in a new language may realise that they are more adaptable than they expected. This confidence can be useful later in interviews, applications and teamwork.

Erasmus+ may also support traineeships. A traineeship allows a student or recent graduate to gain work experience abroad. This can be useful for people who want to improve their employability, explore a career area or understand how workplaces operate in another country.

There are practical challenges. Students need to organise accommodation, insurance, travel documents and money. Some may worry about being away from family or studying in a second language. Universities often provide advice, but students still need to plan carefully and meet deadlines.

For many participants, the value of Erasmus+ lasts beyond the exchange. A student may return with stronger language skills, new friendships and clearer ambitions. Even if the experience is difficult at times, it can help young people imagine a future that includes study, work or travel beyond their own country.

3. Strategy focus

Follow the process

A text about an exchange may describe steps before, during and after the trip. Check which stage the question asks about.

4. Exam-style short-answer questions

Answer the questions using words from the text.

1. What areas does Erasmus+ support besides education? Give one. [1]

2. What document do students normally need before travelling? [1]

3. What should the home university do if the agreed programme is completed? [1]

4. What can a traineeship help a student or recent graduate gain? [1]

5. What do students still need to meet besides planning carefully? [1]

6. According to the text, what are three skills students may develop through Erasmus+? [3]

5. Vocabulary notebook

Underline five useful words or phrases. Check their meaning, then record them in your vocabulary notebook.

6. Follow-up tasks

1. Discussion: Would studying abroad suit your future plans?

2. Summary: Summarise Erasmus+ study abroad in about 50 words.

3. Creative task: Write advice for a student preparing for an exchange.

4. Research: Find one scholarship or exchange programme for young people.

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4. Exam-style short-answer questions

1. Any one from: training; youth; sport.
2. a learning agreement
3. recognise the study period
4. work experience abroad
5. deadlines
6. Any three from: academic skills; personal skills; confidence / independence; intercultural communication skills; stronger language skills.

Notes for checking

1. Answers should be short and clearly based on the text.
2. Accept bracketed or optional wording if the meaning is clear.
3. For the final question, learners need three separate details.