



Universidad de Jaén

Vicerrectorado de
Internacionalización

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS COVID 19 UJA

Students benefiting from an Erasmus+ mobility programme or from the UJA International Mobility Plan for the 2020/21 academic year

Update: September 3rd, 2020

1.1. In view of the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, I am not sure how to proceed with regard to the outgoing international mobility post that I have been granted for the next academic year 2020/21. What is the University of Jaén's recommendation?

So far, the European Commission, which is responsible for the Erasmus+ programme, has not suspended this programme for the coming academic year 2020/21. As a result, the University of Jaén has not suspended the mobilities belonging to this programme, as well as those of our UJA International Mobility Plan. Unless there is an express indication from the host university (which we would transfer you ipso facto), we recommend that you do not give up the mobility place that you have been granted for the 2020/21 academic year and that you continue with the physical mobility procedures. If this is not possible, you can consider postponing your mobility or, if your host university allows it, the virtual-digital modality.

1.2. I understand that at present there is no cancellation of the Mobility Programmes, but what are the forecasts for the next academic year 2020/21?

Depending on the region of the world, teaching at different host universities may be adjusted in various ways, if necessary, to cope with the evolution of the pandemic. The University of Jaén is in permanent contact with its partner universities, and working in a framework that allows the greatest possible flexibility so that, if necessary, we can make the relevant adjustments and adaptations to facilitate mobility. As we have additional information from official sources, we will communicate it to you by e-mail, through the notification system in UMove or on the web www.ujaen.es, and, more specifically, on their site about the aforementioned pandemic: <https://www.ujaen.es/informacion-sobre-coronavirus-covid-19>. CRUE (Conference of Spanish University Rectors) Internationalisation and Cooperation has drawn up a "Contingency analysis and scenarios for international mobility in the 2020/21 academic year", in which three different scenarios are distinguished, which may depend on the country of the host university or on different chronological moments in the same country in view of the evolution of Covid-19: scenario A, or "adapted normality" (estimated probability of 20-30%); scenario B, or "mixed scenario" (estimated probability of 50-60%); and scenario C, or "confinement/severe restrictions" (estimated probability of 10-20%). For more information on the definitions of these scenarios, as well as possible academic, technical and institutional adaptations, see full details in this document.

1.3. Is there any additional solution that would reconcile this official position with my own position on the issue?

At this time, for the reasons given above, we advise against a cancellation. You can request the postponement of the mobility from the first to the second term, reduce your annual stay to the second term or, in the case of full year mobility, postpone the annual mobility to the calendar year 2021 (i.e. 2nd term of the 2020/21 academic year and 1st term of the 2021/2022 academic year). Provided that the host university allows it, these may be suitable options that will allow you, on the one hand, not to give up a grant for which you are already a beneficiary, and, at the same time, to have a greater time frame to analyse how events develop. Only if none of these options is viable for justified reasons, you will be able to cancel your mobility without penalty for the next call.

1.4.1 My host university has not yet contacted me. Is this normal?

Due to the current circumstances, the nomination and preparation processes for mobility for the 2020/21 academic year may be somewhat delayed at this time.

The University of Jaén, however, has already informed its partner universities of all the nominations of UJA students receiving outgoing mobility grants.

1.5 What steps should/can I take now, regardless of whether the host university has contacted me or not?

You can carry out all the procedures that are mandatory for outgoing mobility students on the UMove virtual platform. You can find all the necessary information, including relevant information on the procedures to be carried out before, during and after the mobility, as well as a summary of the last information session for beneficiaries, and a recorded session of the same through GSuite Meet) at <http://www.ujaen.es/serv/vicint/home/page/82>.

1.6 Will there be any additional briefings?

In addition to those held on 29 April, we will be holding further information sessions through GSuite Meet in the first week of June to analyse the situation and possible developments at that time:

- Students benefiting from the International Mobility Plan: Tuesday, 9 June, 10:30.
- Students on the Erasmus+ Programme, first surname A-L: Tuesday, 9 June, 11:30.
- Students on the Erasmus+ Programme, first surname M-Z: Tuesday, 9 June, 13:00.

Notification will be sent with the link to the session through the notification system within your UMove beneficiary profile.

1.7 What are your recommendations regarding the management of mobility, which I should already foresee?

We recommend that you delay the purchase of air tickets or any other means of transport as long as possible and that, as far as accommodation is concerned, you consult available options, among which we recommend that you choose those that can be cancelled and refunded. What is described here is especially relevant for 1st term mobility.

1.8 I am afraid that the host university for which I was selected has already informed me that the mobility for the academic year 2020/21 has been cancelled. What happens in that case?

In this case, the University of Jaén will make arrangements so that, whenever possible, you can carry out your mobility in a different destination, preferably from among those you applied for in the corresponding call.

1.9 In order to be able to join the host university I need to prove a language level that was not a requirement at the end of the application period but is now a requirement, or it was necessary to provide such proof before joining the host university. How can I obtain such proof in these circumstances of gradual confinement/detachment?

The Centre for Advanced Studies in Modern Languages (CEALM) is establishing procedures for language accreditation during the current health crisis. We recommend that you consult the Centre's website: <https://cealm.ujaen.es/>. Likewise, the health emergency has led some internationally recognised accreditation institutions, such as Cambridge or TOEFL, to offer online accreditation exams. For the duration of the health emergency, these certificates will be accepted for the purpose of accrediting the language level for your mobility placement.

1.10 If my host university allows virtual mobility (without physical travel) or blended mobility, will I still receive the financial support established in the calls?

For physical and combined (blended) mobility, insofar as they involve physical movement, the amounts of aid stipulated in the respective calls will in principle be respected. If the combined mobility modality is not the result of adaptation to new possible scenarios (in which case it would in principle count as physical mobility), but the host university could stipulate a specific schedule for the physical and virtual time period, adjustments can be made to the allocation so that the time period corresponding to physical mobility counts for 100%, while the time period corresponding to virtual mobility counts for a smaller percentage. With regard to possible virtual mobility: those corresponding to the Erasmus+ Programme will receive the corresponding financial aid as long as they involve physical travel; with regard to the mobility of the Own International Mobility Plan (outside Europe), CRUE Internationalisation and Cooperation recommends that the financial allocation for entirely virtual mobility (that is, without moving from Spain at any time) should not exceed 20% corresponding to physical mobility, although in the final analysis each university, as it is an Own Plan, will have the final say in this regard.

1.11 I have decided to postpone my mobility to the second term of the 2020/2021 academic year. As a beneficiary originally for the first term, can I consider this postponement insured?

The University of Jaén will apply the necessary measures to make the processing of applications more flexible, although ultimately the postponement, extension, etc. of mobility places is the responsibility of the host university. In this sense, it should be taken into account that it is foreseeable that a significant number of mobility applications will be postponed until the second term and, consequently, the host universities could, if necessary, establish possible corrective admission measures for the second term so that the flow of mobility is sustainable.

1.12 I have decided to postpone my annual mobility to the calendar year 2021 (i.e. 2nd quarter of the academic year 2020/2021 and 1st quarter of the academic year 2021/2022). As the original beneficiary for the full academic year, can I consider this annual mobility insured?

The University of Jaén will apply the necessary measures to make the processing of applications more flexible, although ultimately the postponement, extension, etc. of mobility places is the responsibility of the host university. In addition, you should bear in mind that the mobility corresponding to the first four-month period of the 2021/2022 academic year will coincide with that of other mobility beneficiaries in the next selection call during the 2020/2021 academic year, so that for this period you will enter into competitive competition with the rest of the applicants, although it is expected that, as a beneficiary of a previous academic year in these exceptional circumstances, a preference factor will be applied to you.

1.13 In relation to the above-mentioned contingency analysis and mobility scenarios (see 1.2), will I know in advance of my mobility which of the scenarios (a, b or c) my particular mobility is attached to?

At the time of the implementation of your individual mobility agreement (bureaucratic procedures prior to mobility), you will be informed about the scenario in which the country of your host university is located, although you should take into account that, due to the evolution of the Covid-19 pandemic, the country of your host university may change from one scenario to another during the course of your mobility. In this sense, the most likely scenario is the mixed one (50-60% probability), so we recommend that you consult this document for the possible health, transport, academic, technical, evaluation and institutional implications, etc., which are detailed in this document. At the time of formalising your individual mobility agreement, a clause will therefore be included stipulating the type of mobility (physical, virtual or combined-blended) that you will carry out

at the beginning, as well as another on possible contingencies that could cause a change of scenario from those listed in point 1.2.

1.14 I am a beneficiary of an Erasmus+ internship grant. Is virtual internship considered, as in the case of study grants?

Yes, it is also envisaged, although such a virtual modality would have to meet the requirements that the Erasmus+ Programme stipulates in respect of the employer and the very conditions under which such placements are carried out.

1.15 I am grateful for the guidelines, recommendations and scenario forecasts, but I still have doubts about my personal decision as a beneficiary of aid for international mobility. What should I do? What will the University of Jaén do about it?

This document describes the different possible scenarios and, by virtue of them, includes a series of recommendations that try to combine the scope for action in relation to the present context in relation to Covid-19 with their status as beneficiaries of an international mobility grant, which is of benefit to their curriculum. Be that as it may, we understand that the ultimate decision in this respect is of a personal nature, since, unfortunately, the University of Jaén cannot foresee the specific situation of each university and each of the countries with which we have a mobility student exchange agreement. In this scenario, the University of Jaén will do everything possible to apply principles of flexibility, generosity and transparency to address any possible contingency, under the premise that any possible economic and/or academic damage will be absorbed if the health context in the destination country should suffer any alteration after the date of incorporation of the outgoing international student body.

1.16 Who can I contact if I still have questions and/or need further guidance?

For academic issues (subject offerings, awards, etc.), you can contact the academic coordinator at your university and area of knowledge. For technical-administrative questions about your file (procedures at UMove, nomination procedures, etc.), you can contact the International Relations Section, secrel@ujaen.es.