



GR 395
THIRD COMMERCE WITH GERMAN
(YEAR ABROAD)

B.Comm.(German) students spend their third year of study at a university or Institute of Technology / Business School in Germany or Austria under the SOCRATES/ERASMUS programme. During their year abroad students enrol in courses recommended by the Departments of Commerce and German.

The German Department requires that B.Comm. (German) students take at least 20 out of 40 ECTS of language modules. Students are also required to take at least one module in the area of Managerial Economics (VWL) or Economics (BWL) worth 5 ECTS.

In general students take language modules like:

Leseverständnis, Aussprache, Übersetzung, Schreibwerkstatt, Grammatik, Konversation, Wirtschaftsdeutsch, Linguistik, Literatur, DaF, Landeskunde etc.

The aim of the year abroad is for students to

- * broaden their understanding of the culture and civilisation of Germany or German-speaking countries
- * enhance their language skills by exposing them to academic and social life in Germany/Austria
- * have the opportunity to choose a variety of different Commerce and language courses which they might not be able to take in Ireland
- * receive encouragement to communicate as much as possible in their target language
- * travel widely in Europe and meet other European ERASMUS students
- * receive the chance to take up part-time employment or an internship during their semester holidays
- * compare different teaching and learning practices and develop critical and analytical learning techniques
- * acquire a multitude of interpersonal, intercultural & linguistic skills which national and international employers are looking for in Commerce graduates

Third year Commerce/German students can study at the following universities:

Fachhochschule Aachen

www.fh-aachen.de

Fachhochschule Bochum

www.fh-bochum.de

Universität Göttingen

www.uni-göttingen.de

Universität Nürnberg

www.uni-erlangen.de

Fachhochschule Steyr (Österreich)

www.fh-steyr.at

Universität Trier
www.uni-trier.de

B.Comm. (German) students must obtain **40 ECTS** during their year abroad to be able to progress into final year. The course coordinator monitors the students' progress closely during the year and ensures through learning agreements and email contact that students choose appropriate subjects to satisfy the Commerce and German departments requirements.

The Year Abroad is considered by most students who have returned for their Final Year in NUIG as *“an experience of a lifetime.”*

Students' comments after the Year Abroad:

“Never realised what a beautiful country Germany is until I lived there.”

“I made so many new friends from all over the world during my year in Germany. It was a wonderful experience and I'm so glad I had the chance to do it.”

“One of the most significant elements of my Commerce and German degree was the year spent on Erasmus in Germany where I followed a course in European Studies and more or less found my vocation. After finishing university I moved on to do a traineeship in the European Commission, something which I had become aware of during my year away. That experience acted as a springboard to other positions within the European institutions and got me where I am today.”

“I was fortunate to spend my Erasmus year in Germany during the World Cup 2006. The atmosphere was great, the organisation was brilliant, the weather was excellent. Never realised how friendly, generous and great fun the Germans are. It was an experience I'll never forget. I'm quite fluent in German now and I know that the experience has vastly improved my chances in getting a job after graduating. ”

“I came back from Germany a different person; much more open minded and culturally aware. The year has been the biggest shaping influence in my professional life. It inspired me to travel more, meet new people and continuously try out new things. My job has taken me all over the world. Had it not been for the year in Germany, I would not have been suitable for the job and I probably wouldn't have even considered applying for it.”

