



# Student Mobility

## Country Specific Drop-in

### 2023/2024

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This isn't a formal session. It is designed to try to give you as much information and support as we can as you start preparing. At the end are all the questions that we received at the online sessions together with the answers.

There is a slide that gives you the times and dates of the international meetings, please join as many as you need or want to.

This year we are holding these regional meetings much earlier in the year, to allow you to meet your fellow students earlier on, to build strong support groups, but also to:

- Support some of the feedback we have had from the 2022/2023 cohort.
  - Accommodation – problems with accommodation. European Universities are generally not campus Universities which means you will be one of many hundreds of exchange students competing for quite limited accommodation. Finding accommodation is proving to be an increasing problem, and certainly gets worse the later in the process you leave it
  - Planning and preparing – making sure that you comply with your Host institutions requirements and meet their deadlines is ESSENTIAL
  - Need to plan earlier to manage your summer

A lot of this has been as a direct result of Covid and Brexit with changing process for different countries and the need for visa's for Europe

Time line of events and actions

What you need to do

Where to find important information

What some of the pitfalls can be in the preparation process

We will be looking at the things listed on the slide because the main thing that we noticed last year is that there were a number of issues and a number of those were directly because of late planning or not fully researching timelines for the things that need to be done.



We are looking at the months between now and the end of this academic year. You will be looking for as much information as you can. These photos are from students out on mobility now. The absolute best way of getting information is from students who have been and have now returned to Warwick to finish their degree, those who are on placement now or those who are here from your planned host. Please participate in any opportunity that you can to talk to these students, remember how important information it is to you, then when you are on placement try to use one of the openings to give us feedback for next year. You can do this by joining:

- Instagram
- Photo competition
- Questionnaires
- Letting us know

We will be sending information out about how to join all of these, so just keep looking for it.

We've already got through January but what was happening was following your application for student mobility, departments were looking at the exchanges places that they had available, the applications that they received and allocating those places. They have then sent the allocation list to student mobility, we are still waiting for a couple but are hopeful that we will have them all by the end of next week.

Student mobility is working hard to make sure that eVision is updated for all the students we have been made aware of. Check on eVision if you have been given access to the 'student mobility' tab. If you have, check that it is for the correct placement (study/work), correct country and host and that it shows as status 'approved'. If not, then give us another couple of weeks as we hear from the last departments and get the records up to date.

Student Mobility will start sending nominations to our partners at the end of February (when their process opens).  
Partners will respond directly to students Warwick email address.

FEBRUARY



Successful students can start investigating their chosen partner website to research: term dates, module availability, accommodation offering's, immigration advise

From the end of February, you should have access to eVision student mobility and have an approved study placement.

If you are working, then you should have an open eVision placement ready for you to enter the information about your placement.

Student Mobility will start to inform the host institutions who have been selected to join them under the exchange places. Remember the timeline for this will be different depending on the country you are going to and the exchange partner, so don't expect your timings to match your friends, everyone will be different, international placement processes open earlier (generally) than Europe and some European countries/partners open up quite late, nominations can open as late as April. Because of this there is a certain amount of repetition on these next slides, this process could take place any time between now and May.

When we have sent your information to your host institution your status will change to 'nominated' on eVision.

While you are waiting for that to happen start looking at your host website and researching.



Student mobility will continue nominating students meeting the partner deadlines.

**Once your status has changed to 'nominated' the project is your's to manage**, Student Mobility is here to facilitate and support you if you need it where we can.

You will hear from your host, they will email you direct on your Warwick email address, keep checking this, check junk and spam folders because they use generic email subject lines, and it is common for the emails to get lost or overlooked.

Your department will start arranging meetings to support you, make sure you attend anything that you can, these meeting will go into the academic side of things and what you need to do to meet your degree regulations. Student mobility will be planning pre-departure presentations, look out for those we are trying to do them on a more informal social basis to allow you the opportunity to network.

On eVision in the additional documents, before placement, we will be putting

- Word document with weblink to your Host website and a link to the Country teams group relevant to you
- Living-in country guide from FCDO website
- Country wide risk assessment – start looking at what you think might impact you on placement and what you might need to put into place to support this. Things like:
  - Do you take regular medication? Is it available/legal in your host country?
  - Are you prone to heat stroke? what is the average temperature?
  - Are there any possibilities of natural disasters

These shouldn't necessarily stop you going on placement, they are just a sensible idea of wat you should be thinking about before going

Start your preparation by researching your host website modules, accommodation, immigration advice.

Any questions join a team drop-in session, details on slide 6. If you don't need an immediate reply send a query on

<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/studentopportunity/studentmobility/about/contact/contactform>

Partners will respond directly to students Warwick email address

**CHECK YOUR WARWICK EMAILS REGULARLY**  
Check your spam and junk folders

Look out for departmental student mobility meetings make



Look out for Student Mobility Preparation Meetings and information posted on the website

**APRIL**

Successful students can start investigating their chosen partner website to research: term dates, module availability, accommodation offering's, immigration advise

Review your application pack. Be aware of:

1. Deadlines\_when do you need to submit your application?
2. Documents\_what do you need to submit?
3. Are you going to have get documents from home
4. Are you going to have to apply, insurance, GHIC card, new passport?

### Make sure you read your application instructions carefully:

What documents do you need – do you need to bring anything back to Warwick from home over the Easter vacation?

What are the deadlines: you **MUST** meet them; your host can refuse to accept you if you don't

Is your passport in date (you need 6 months clear)

GHIC card – you may already have an EHIC or GHIC card for family holidays or school trips. You **DO NEED** to apply for a student GHIC, it states the dates of your placement and is a requirement for you to get NHS treatment overseas

This is when you need to develop your plan for when things need to be completed by and when you need to factor time in:

1. Application process

2. Visa process

3. Accommodation – we can't tell you how best to do this you need to decide this for yourself. Last year there was a significant increase in problems with securing accommodation. European Universities are not traditionally campus universities, they will be based in towns/cities. Depending on the size of the town/city you will be competing with several hundred maybe thousands of exchange students. You will be given a link or advice on how to apply through a website with your application pack/information. You need to consider:

- Your placement will not be confirmed until you receive an offer letter from your host, remember not meeting deadlines or not sending all of the information can mean that you aren't accepted
- Accommodation can be exceptionally limited in particular if you have specific requirements (i.e., a ground floor room etc)

Use whatever resources you can to help you decide when to start booking accommodation:

- Visit if you can over Easter vacation
- Talk to current and previous students
- Use weblinks

**BE AWARE OF SCAMS** – be careful what you sign

If you have any queries or concerns Student mobility run drop in on Tuesdays and Thursdays please join those, if there is an issue sorting out problems earlier is much easier than when they have been left, the longer the issue goes on the harder it might be to sort it out. Keep us up to date see page 09.

Any questions join a team drop-in session, details on slide 6. If you don't need an immediate reply send a query on <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/studentopportunity/studentmobility/about/contact/contactform>

You should already have received your application information and submitted it or be ready to. Please chase your host direct if not.

Attend departmental student mobility meetings



MAY

Attend Student Mobility Preparation Meeting and keep up to date with information posted on the website

Plan your summer:

1. Is your passport current
2. Do you need a visa? when will you need to apply?
3. Research and agree accommodation
4. Plan your travel

Review your application pack. Be aware of:

1. Deadlines\_when do you need to submit your application?
2. Documents\_what do you need to submit?
3. Are you going to have get documents from home
4. Are you going to have to apply, insurance, GHIC card, new passport?

Everyone should have heard from their host by May **please let us know at a drop-in session if not** (see page 09).

Remember all of the meetings that are going on (departmental and student mobility), they will all cover different things – departments look at what you need to do for your degree programmes, your module selection amongst other things, student mobility look at insurance, welfare, and other support, join all of them that you can.

Planning at this stage is vital, you will be starting your exams, but you can't forget your planning and the deadlines that you have.

Factor in time for your visa applications and appointments, this is likely to over the summer when you want to take a holiday so be careful to give yourself time for preparing your application, arranging an appointment (getting to London if you need to) doing this in time to get to your host for the start of their academic year. If you are going to arrive late partners may refuse to allow you to join them, after the start of term.

Some points we have been given from previous students about visa appointments:

- I had to use colour printing, not black and white
- I had to provide a copy of my learning plan (this is probably part of your application process so you will have already done this)
- A letter from student mobility to confirm your status (<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/studentopportunity/studentmobility/about/news/confirmationofplacement>):
  - This letter can be used for your GHIC, accommodation, visa any number of things
  - It may need to be dated within a month there is no problem with requesting it again to have current date

Any questions join a team drop-in session, details on slide 6. If you don't need an immediate reply send a query on <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/studentopportunity/studentmobility/about/contact/contactform>

You should already have received your application information and submitted it. Please chase your host direct if not.

Attend and student mobility meetings or networking session



JUNE

Book your appointments and check your documents:

1. Is your passport current
2. Do you need a visa? when will you need to apply?
3. Research and agree accommodation
4. Plan your travel

Review your application pack. Be aware of:

1. Deadlines\_ when do you need to submit your application?
2. Documents\_ what do you need to submit?
3. Are you going to have get documents from home
4. Are you going to have to apply, insurance, GHIC card, new passport?

By June the process should be well underway, and you will be able to concentrate on your exams while just monitoring your list of priorities.

## REMINDER What you need to do:

1. Application to your host
  1. Meet their deadlines
  2. Provide all the documents requested by the partner university
  3. Follow the instructions
2. Start Planning
  1. Finance – have you planned for finance until your student loan. There is currently no additional support through grants or external funding, if it becomes available we will contact you direct
  2. Do you need a visa? (<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>). What do you need for this application – Letter from Warwick, an overseas address, passport in date, insurance, GHIC card, work plan, finance <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/studentopportunity/studentmobility/about/news/confirmationofplacement>
  3. Research accommodation
  4. Research insurance take a look Overseas Business Travel at [warwick.ac.uk/insurance](http://warwick.ac.uk/insurance). We recommend that you also look at personal health/travel cover, to meet your own needs
  5. <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/finance/insurance/keypolicies/traveloverseas/>
3. Module selection/work plan – speak to your academic department
4. Engage with other students going to host destination

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## Where to find important information:

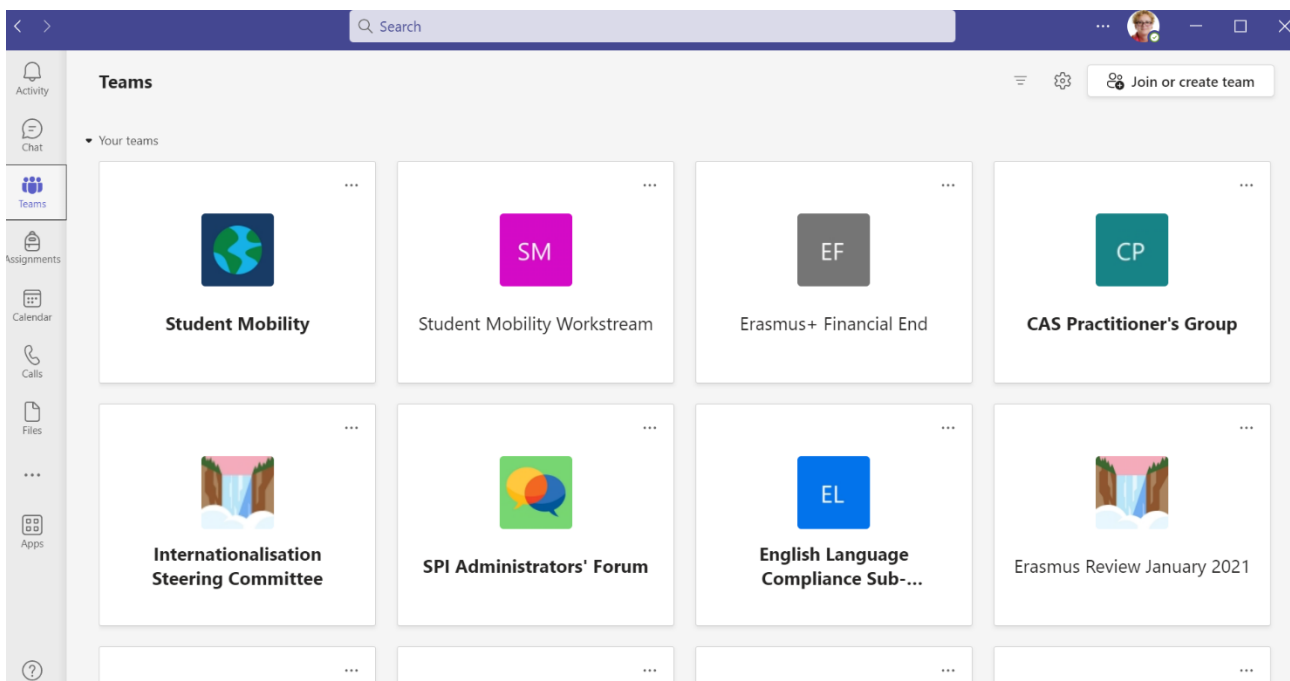
1. Your University eVision this is where you upload any forms that you are requested to and where we will upload important information.
2. The Warwick Student Mobility website @ [warwick.ac.uk/studentmobility](http://warwick.ac.uk/studentmobility)  
news items forms pages  
information pages
3. Your Warwick email address – keep up to date with this, check spam/junk
4. Host websites – saved on your eVision
5. FCDO Travel advice
6. Teams groups – use this group to set up a 'whats app' group if you want
7. Student Mobility - Instagram

## Join the Country Team Group to engage with other

Select Join or create Team

Enter 'Country – Student Mobility'

Request to join



At the online sessions, student set up 'WHATS APP' groups try to get the links for that so that you can join in the conversations.

## Pitfalls in the preparation process:

1. Not meeting deadlines
2. Not returning required documentation
3. Not reading information
4. Not Planning: timeline for visa applications
5. Not enough months left on your current passport
6. Poor financial planning
7. Language learning
8. Problems with 2 overlapping country placements
9. Accommodation scams
10. Accidents/Incident – keep us informed

### **Additional Information**

#### 6. Poor Financial Planning

Remember Erasmus+ ends on 31 May 2023. Turing is not guaranteed year on year and there is no way of predicting what a Turing award will cover if we do receive an aware as it is very restrictive. For planning purposes please assume that there will be no grants or funding available for student mobility.

This does not apply to your Student Finance applications your eligibility will remain the same for Finance England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales – maintenance and tuition fees. If you are entitled to any additional bursaries they should also remain the same.

We recommend that you make a financial plan to cover you up to December. The reason for this is because there are occasionally issues with getting your maintenance loan money to you and being in a country overseas it can cause massive issues.

#### 7. Language learning

You will see on eVision that all exchange partnership agreements are written with an expectation of B2 in the local language. This does not mean that you will have to provide certification, you should have been made aware where that is the case. For everyone else, you do not have to prove your level of language, but you do need to think about living in the local community and buying things, having a haircut, banking, the day to day things which might need you to have the ability.

We have found on occasion partner Universities change their process and introduce the need for certification, it is unusual for this to happen mid-cycle, but not unheard of. If this happens we will contact you direct to manage the new process.

#### 8. Problems with overlapping placements

Are you going to two different countries during the year? Have you checked that the academic years of the two institutions that you are going to don't overlap?



# Intercultural Training

- Workshops to you prepare for your intercultural experience abroad and help you reflect on your return
- Provide a great chance to connect with other students who are going / returning from abroad



- Student feedback 2021/22

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FOR INFORMATION



# Intercultural Training

- Optional supporting online course includes stories and advice from previous study abroad students
- Workshops will run regularly in term 3
- Sign up today / join the waiting list at [warwick.ac.uk/interculturaltraining](https://warwick.ac.uk/interculturaltraining)

*"This was incredible - honestly the best workshop I have ever attended"*



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# P

## Personal Awareness

mental health - homesick - adapting to change

# A

## Admin

paperwork - passport - visa

# C

## Cultural Awareness

awareness of different rules - views & beliefs

# K

## Keep Safe

have some strategies in your toolbox in case of emergency - where to go & who to call

### FOR INFORMATION

#### Other Country specific meetings:

- Japan: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb - 12 to 12.30pm
- South Korea: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb - 1 to 1.30pm
- Singapore: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb - 12 to 12.30pm
- Hong Kong: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb - 1 to 1.30pm
- China: Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March - 12 to 12.30pm
- Australia - Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Feb, 12pm
- North America (USA & Canada) - Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Feb, 1pm
- South America (Chile, Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Peru) - Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Feb, 1.30 pm



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## ACCOMMODATION

- 1. apologies if you've already mentioned this but is there a company that arrange accom for students? Like an equivalent to Unite students here**
  - a. Your host University will send you information on accommodation with their application instructions or you can look on their website and they will have information there. In Europe it is unlikely to be campus accommodation like it is at Warwick, but they will have a department or a link to a company or companies that they work with*
  
- 2. Do you know when we will know for definite that we have a place at university to start looking for accommodation?**
  - a. Unfortunately, no. Each university works to a different timeline to suit their own processes. Therefore, it is impossible to say when you will here. It is recommended that you:
    - i. Get your application to study straight back as quickly as you can*
    - ii. start researching what the availability of accommodation is, where you would like to be now, so that you won't be delayed in applying*
    - iii. As time passes, make the judgement between waiting for your final offer of placement and applying for your accommodation. Applying for accommodation may not be restricted by receiving and accepting an offer like it is at Warwick, so some accommodation may be taken up before offers are made, it is a judgement you need to make and be comfortable with.**
  
- 3. what is the best way to look for accommodation for a language assistant placement and how long is the turnaround usually to hear where you've been allocated for a language assistant placement?**
  - a. For the British Council language assistantship scheme, this is something that SMLC know more about rather than us, so do ask them.*
  
- 4. If we need a uni email in order to apply for visa- will this be ok? Will I need a visa to apply for accommodation? Should I contact the university before I get an email from them? So that I can apply for my visa?**
  - a. The university you're going to might know about this. In the same way that Warwick has an Immigration Team that can help students get visas to study at Warwick, your host university should have someone who can help with your visa. Same for accommodation. Wait until you get your application pack/information as it should be included in that, if not drop them an email.*
  
- 5. a question about accommodation - would we book with other people going, or do we book independently?**
  - a. That is your choice, I that past students have done both*

## GENERAL

6. do you know the numbers of students going to each university - so we know if we will be with anyone else etc?

**Can we find out who else is going to our location so that we can coordinate on accommodation etc. (before the summer term)**

a. *We will do over the next week (plus) we are expecting to hear from the last of the departments, however we can't give out the information because of GDPR and privacy regulations. You can connect with other students going to the same country as you via Teams. You should see a link for that on the email you were sent inviting you to this meeting. We also have a facebook page (search for Warwick Study Abroad, Instagram and if you want to email them you can draft an email and the student mobility team can send it out on your behalf so that they can reply to you.*

7. **Do you have any advice about bank accounts/phone numbers and accounts whilst abroad?**

a. *Those are questions worth asking students who've been out there this year via the Teams group for the country you're going to or on our facebook page (search for Warwick Study Abroad)*

8. **Will our department contact us for a meeting or do we have to contact them?**

a. *I'm not sure how each academic dept contacts students about meetings they run I'm afraid, but I would imagine you will get a notification. You could ask your Departmental Exchange Coordinator.*

9. **you said earlier on about EHICs and GHICs, and that you need a student GHIC if you have the latter - do I still need to get a student GHIC if I still have a valid EHIC?**

b. *As far as we are aware you MUST have a 'student GHIC' not a standard travel one, it states the dates of your placement*

## INSURANCE

10. **I have just looked at the link for Warwick's travel insurance, and the policy showing is still for 2022-2023, when is this likely to be updated? And sorry this sounds like a silly question but how do you actually make a claim to use this insurance policy, i can't seem to find out on the website?**

a. *I think the Insurance Office might only update the insurance policy at the end of this academic year. They'll know how to make a claim if you need to -*

[www.warwick.ac.uk/insurance](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/insurance)

11. **Can the student mobility policies just cover one term? i.e. for people doing a volunteer placement and then doing a study placement Or would they also cover volunteer and work placements in non European countries**

b. *If you split your year, doing one semester and one institution and the second somewhere else, as part of your degree, you still automatically qualify for the Business Travel Insurance. All countries qualify, not just Europe. I think though that if you're going to your home country you might not qualify. The Insurance Office will have the details -*

[www.warwick.ac.uk/insurance](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/insurance)

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

12. **Hi i am an international student and my BRP is only hold until 2024, I wonder will Warwick help me to prolong the BRP if i do the exchange program?**

*Yes you should get support and information from the Immigration Team about that -*

[www.warwick.ac.uk/immigration](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/immigration)

## LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

### 13. How do we know the exact language requirements?

- a. *It should say on the partner website, search 'study abroad' or 'exchange' or 'Erasmus' and the information pages should give more details. The exchange agreements are written to ask for B2 level, but not all partners ask for certification or proof. Most teach a large number of modules in English which your academic department here at Warwick might allow you to take. Remember that you do need to live in country and will need to do day-to-day things like shop, get your hair cut etc. so it is good to have some ability.*

### 14. Is there a way to find out which course I've actually applied for because at Sciences Po Aix they offer both an English Study course but also a course that requires a B2 language certificate

- a. *You haven't applied for a course yet, you will be nominated by Student mobility and then the information you receive for your application from your host should give you more direction Which course you apply for depends on your department at Warwick and your degree and whether you would be able to take modules in English. You can talk to your academic departmental co-ordinator about this.*

### 15. I applied Sciences Po Lyon and they offer both English and French course. However, the number of English course is very limited. I wonder if I cannot select enough credit for full year will I be rejected? Or will I have choices to switch to other Uni?

- a. *See above*
- b. *This also depends on your course remember that in some degrees Student Mobility offers an opportunity to take modules not available at Warwick, or a language module even if you aren't taking a language degree, to support your year abroad, or even a module in a specific subject area if you can justify this in terms of career progression etc. Talk this through with your academic co-ordinator here at Warwick.*

### 16. The language levelling is for more day to day dealings, is it?

- a. *Not all partner universities teach in English, so do check that. A few may require you to evidence your language competency to accept you*

### 17. Who do we contact to check about language requirements and if it's taught in English or not?

- a. *Your host partner website is the best place*

## PLANNING

### 18. Is the next step now (bar planning) waiting to be contacted by the host uni?

- a. *Yes when your status changes from approved to nominated on eVision, you know that we have sent your details to your host institution*

### 2. when should we contact you if the host university hasn't yet emailed? I know it's different for different universities, but is there an average time to expect information from them?

- a. *Once we nominate you you'll get an automatic email telling you that there's been a change to your evision record. If you don't hear from your host university a month after that please let us know.*

## VISA

### 19. Will we need a to get a student visa if we have a European passport?

- c. *We're not experts on visas and in fact I'm not legally allowed to give advice on visas as I don't hold the relevant professional qualification (no-one at Warwick does, but someone at your host institution should do) but I wouldn't have thought you'd need a visa for the EU if you're an EU national*

### 20. If we need a uni email in order to apply for visa- will this be ok? Will I need a visa to apply for accommodation? Should I contact the university before I get an email from them? So that I can apply for my visa?

- d. *The university you're going to might know about this. In the same way that Warwick has an Immigration Team that can help students get visas to study at Warwick, your host university should have someone who can help with your visa. Same for accommodation. Wait until you get your application pack/information as it should be included in that, if not drop them an email.*
- 

## FEEDBACK RELEVANT TO THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/2023

### Information from students about Visa appointments and information:

You need to submit:

- Evidence of finance
- Evidence of insurance (GHIC card)
- Letter from Warwick confirming your status  
<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/studentopportunity/studentmobility/about/news/confirmationofplacement>
- You may need a Drs letter confirming your health (this was mainly Spain in 2022), your visa information will state which DR's you are allowed to use. They may not be local to you so you need to allow you to get this – phone calls, post etc
- Photocopies or print outs of information need to be very clear and in some cases colour not black and white

### From a student going to France:

“I would recommend that you have your Etudes en France application approved before your visa appointment. It was a bit confusing on the French Visa website as it said there that you only needed to be ‘registered’ with EEF to go to the visa appointment when in reality you needed the file approved. It appears this is an issue that other people in the Visa centre are having as well”