

## ***Stage Linguistique/Stay Abroad: Requirements and Options***

Please note that the following regulations will be in place as of October 1, 2020. Students who had made arrangements with Prof. em. Daphinoff before his retirement in July 20 are kindly asked to contact Prof. Straub, ideally providing documentation of previous e-mail correspondence etc.

### **Basic Information**

- Duration: 12 weeks
- Where: English-speaking country
- We recommend that you do your stay abroad between your 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years at university, to allow for flexibility in case you need to change plans (the Covid pandemic has taught us a lesson in this regard).
- In order to receive ECTS points for your report, you must have a stay abroad agreement signed by Prof. Dr. Julia Straub, the BAS1 programme co-ordinator.
- Workload: min. 40%, i.e., 16 hours/week
- English-speaking countries: Countries in which English is an official language and/or spoken by a majority of the inhabitants.
- Splitting the stay abroad: You can split your stay abroad into two halves (2x6 weeks) or 8 + 4 weeks. The two parts should not be more than 12 months apart.
- Each part requires its own agreement sheet. All documentation remains with the students until completion of the full requirement.
- Waivers: waivers or partial waivers are possible for students who have done a stay abroad, no more than 1 year prior to beginning their studies, which fulfils the usual requirements concerning duration and workload. To request a waiver, please write a formal letter including all necessary documentation, addressed to Prof. Dr. Julia Straub.
- Native Speaker criterion: the *stage linguistique* requirement can in principle be waived for students who qualify as native speakers. Students who consider themselves such and who would like to be exempt from the *stage linguistique* ought to submit a formal request to the programme co-ordinator, describing their biographical background. Please note that just holding e.g., a British passport, or having been born in an English-speaking country will not automatically count as a native speaker equivalent.

Stay abroad agreement:

Regardless of what it is you'd like to do abroad, you need to have completed this form and have it signed by the study programme co-ordinator before you leave.

### **Completing the Module 04 requirement *Stage Linguistique***

To complete the *stage linguistique* requirement as part of Module 04, you will need to write a report. More information can be found here:

[http://www3.unifr.ch/english/en/assets/public/plans\\_detudes/Stagelinguistique2020\\_report\\_style\\_sheet.pdf](http://www3.unifr.ch/english/en/assets/public/plans_detudes/Stagelinguistique2020_report_style_sheet.pdf)

Please also submit copies of the following documents (for each stay, if it was split):

- The original Stay Abroad Agreement Sheet
- Proof of the duration of the stay (e.g., plane tickets, employer's letter, booking confirmation from language school)

And either:

- A university transcript, or other certificate (plus a signed ETCS Learning Agreement for Erasmus students); or
- A letter from the student's employer/manager
- The certificate your language school provided you with

### OPTIONS FOR THE *STAGE LINGUISTIQUE*

You have three options for your stay abroad:

(1) you can study at a university in an English-speaking country

(2) you can work

(3) or you can take language classes at a certified language school.

Travelling or simply living abroad (e.g., family visits) are no options. In any case, it will be your responsibility to organize your stay abroad independently. You have to find the option that suits you best yourself and take care of all the necessary administrative steps (both with your home and host institutions and other authorities, e.g., visa application).

### STUDYING ABROAD

Taking classes at a university abroad is a most enriching experience. Ideally, you will be able to take classes in English that can be counted towards your studies at the University of Fribourg. This way you not only fulfill the *stage linguistique* requirement but you will also be able to complete requirements for your degree. In order to get your studies abroad acknowledged, you need to fill in an agreement sheet with Prof. Straub **before** you leave.

There are several options to organise your study abroad:

Your first point of contact will be the University's International Office:

<https://www3.unifr.ch/studies/en/mobility/outgoing/a-mobility-placement---why-not-you.html>

There are two exchange schemes, SEMP (previously Erasmus) and ISEP, which are potentially suitable for you.

Our Department has affiliations with the

University of Arizona, Tucson (USA)

University of Mississippi (USA)

University of Nebraska at Omaha (USA)

Lancaster University (UK)

Bangor University (UK)

You can check with the International Office whether a co-operation with these universities exists or consider going abroad as a so-called “freemover”.

#### “Freemover”: Self-organised studies abroad

Of course it is possible for you to organise your study abroad by yourself. This may well enable you to go to a part of the world that you are specifically interested in, but it also takes some extra time and advance planning, so please make sure that you start thinking about options early on.

#### WORKING ABROAD

Working abroad is the other option chosen by many of our students. In order to get your studies abroad acknowledged, you need to fill in an agreement sheet with the Prof. Dr. Straub **before** you leave. The minimal workload is 40% across the whole duration you wish to be acknowledged.

Please note that neither the Department of English nor the University’s International Office can help you find a work assignment abroad. Also, please make sure to get the necessary information concerning work permits through the respective embassies or through the EDA’s page on “Auslandaufenthalte”.

A few links that may be useful:

<https://www.workaway.info>

<https://www.helpx.net>

<https://www.hippohelp.com>

<https://www.aupairworld.com>

<https://www.wwoof.net>

<https://www.aiesec.org>

<https://www.aupair.com>

## LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

You can also spend these 12 weeks taking language classes at a certified language school. There is a prospering private market, especially in the United Kingdom. Attending language classes, and obtaining, e.g., a CELTA certificate, is a valid option if you're keen to improve your English with the help of tuition in classroom settings. There are two drawbacks: some of these schools are rather expensive and they might not allow you to immerse into an English-speaking environment as well as other options do. Please provide specific details concerning the school that you have chosen and the level of tuition you will receive when submitting your stay abroad agreement to the programme co-ordinator. If in doubt about a particular school or offer, please contact Prof. Dr. Straub before making a booking.