

#universityonthebeach



Erasmus +

Student Study Mobility

Scottish Association for Marine Science, Scotland UK

Academic session 2021/22

What is Erasmus +?

The Erasmus + exchange programme is an opportunity for short term study or work placement in another European country. All activities are carried out within the [Erasmus + Programme Framework](#). For study you can choose to come to exchange for 1 or 2 semesters.

Going on Erasmus + exchange is a great opportunity to live and study in a new place, meet new people and learn some new things too! It's a great way to improve your CV and increase your employability. It's an adventure! So why not come take the plunge and study at SAMS – the 'university on the beach'!

Your home institute should be able to give you information on what Erasmus + study options are available to you.

SAMS- UHI

The Scottish Association for Marine Science is Scotland's oldest and largest independent marine organisation, set up in 1884 by Sir John Murray. It has an international research reputation working in a wide range of marine topics and areas – from the deep sea to coastal fringes and the Arctic to the Antarctic. We are dedicated to delivering marine science for a healthy and sustainable marine environment through research, education and engagement with society.

SAMS is a partner in UHI – University of the Highlands and Islands, Scotland newest university. We have around 150 students across undergraduate, masters and PhD. As an exchange student you will become part of our small but vibrant student community here at SAMS. It doesn't take long to get to know everyone! Staff are very friendly and there is always someone you can ask for help or advice.

Location, location, location

SAMS is perched on the coastline on the west coast of Scotland, near Oban in Scotland. It has its own beach (actually more than one!) and there are hills and mountains not too far away. We even have a castle just a 5 minute walk away. It was recently voted one of the most beautiful campuses in the world. Oban is known as the gateway to the isles making SAMS a great place to start exploring the Western



Isles of Scotland. If you enjoy the outdoors Oban is a great place for diving, walking, running, kayaking or sailing. SAMS is situated on a peninsula therefore surrounded by beaches and rocky coastline. Dunstaffnage Castle is a few hundred metres from SAMS.

Want to see for yourself? **Check out our webcams**

<https://www.sams.ac.uk/about/webcams/>

Why come to SAMS?

If you are studying biology, zoology, ecology, environmental sciences, applied science or earth sciences spending a semester or a year at SAMS will immerse you in all things marine. You will gain a sense of the importance of the marine environment and why the wellbeing of the global ocean matters; how the ocean and our climate are connected; what marine organisms look like and how they are adapted for life in the ocean; what resources do we use from our planet and should we use them better?; reveal the biochemical and molecular biology secrets of



marine organisms; how can we look after our oceans better and conserve the natural beauty of the marine environment and its organisms.

SAMS students and graduates are motivated, independent, research orientated and innovative. They have a passion for the marine environment – for both study and leisure!

SAMS News and social media

There are lots of ways to find out more about SAMS

Check out all the news on SAMS on our news site <https://www.sams.ac.uk/news/>

[FaceBook - @SAMS.Marine](#) [Twitter @ScotMarineInst](#) [Instagram SAMSmaringscience](#)

We have our own **YouTube channel** – check us out.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/SAMSmaringscience>

#universityonthebeach

With its location with direct access to a range of beaches sea lochs and coastal habitats SAMS really can call itself the #universityonthebeach! Most modules will have lab and/or field work components. We believe it is important to be able to apply what you learn in the marine environment and to prepare students for life in employment and study after students have completed their



degree. The marine environment plays a big role in student life beyond study with a very active SCUBA Diving Club, Wind & Wave (all things watersports!) Club. There are even informal lunchtime swimming and snorkelling! There are also beautiful mountains to climb in the surrounding area and cycle tracks to help students make the most of the scenic surroundings.

Check out our webcams <https://www.sams.ac.uk/about/webcams/>

Student and local Community

With around 150 undergrad, master and PhD students incoming students are immersed in an active and inclusive student community. Students are also well established in the local community with many students active in local groups, activities and sports, from amateur dramatics and photography, to rugby, hockey and octopush (underwater hockey... yes underwater!!).



What to study?

As you might expect our modules are aimed at providing a good depth of understanding of the key marine science fields – marine biology, oceanography, marine geology and chemical oceanography. All our lecturers are research-active experts in their field, so you will be gaining the most up to date knowledge in your chosen modules. Depending on your level of study you can choose between the modules below. It is best to try and choose your modules from the year that best suits your level of study. However, if you would like to choose modules across different years drop us an email so we can find the best study solution for you. The modules you can choose from are detailed below. **Please note that if you chose across different years there may be timetable clashes and it is best to try and avoid these if possible.**

Do not hesitate to contact us if you need information on any modules on offer at SAMS.

Year 2 modules

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Autumn semester | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemical Oceanography • Marine Geology |
| Spring semester | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Biology • Physical Oceanography • Biochemistry & Molecular Biology • Marine Resources • Advanced Maths and Programming |

Year 3 modules

- | | | |
|-----------------|--|---|
| Autumn Semester | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature Review • Marine Pollution • Marine Instrumentation & Data | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Zoology • Marine Microbial Ecology |
| Spring Semester | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature Review • Marine Biotechnology • Ocean Circulation and Climate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Robotics • Marine Biogeochemical Cycling • Marine Conservation |

Year 4 modules

- | | | |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Autumn Semester | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Environmental Assessment • Behaviour & Biological Clocks • Coastal and Shelf Sea Dynamics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact • Aquaculture • Fisheries Science |
| Spring Semester | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polar Seas • Marine Modelling • Deep-Sea Ecosystems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining the Marine Carbon Cycle |

Credits

All of our modules are 20 SCQF credits – equal to 10 ECTS credits. So if you decide to come for a semester you should take 3 modules (30 ECTS credits) and 6 for a full academic year (60 ECTS credits). You will receive a transcript detailing the credits gained and the areas you have studied.



What do you need to do now?

If you are interested in coming to SAMS on Erasmus + exchange there are a few people you should speak to.

- The International Office at your home university and ask about the possibility of taking part in the Erasmus+ programme
- Your Course tutor, who could help you choose modules that suit your interest and fit well with your main study areas
- The Erasmus Coordinator at SAMS (see below for contact details), who can provide information on semester start dates and help with suitable modules.

Once you have decided to come to SAMS-UHI we will send you a link to our application form

- You need to obtain a Learning Agreement for from you home institute. You should detail your choices. It should be signed by your home institute and sent to SAMS for us to sign and return to you

- You should provide proof of your language level, which should be no lower than English B1 (your home institute will help you with this).
- Once your Learning Agreement is being processed we can send you more information on coming to study in Oban.

If you need to discuss anything or have any questions do not hesitate to contact us, or your home institute.

Key dates

Application for Semester 1 (September –December) – 1st June

Application for semester 2 (January – May) – 1st November

Autumn Semester Induction starts week beginning 29th Aug 2022 (semester end 16th Dec)

Spring Semester Induction starts 30th January 2023 (semester ends 12th May 2023)

Contact

Shona Magill – SAMS Erasmus Coordinator

erasmus@sams.ac.uk or Shona.Magill@sams.ac.uk Tel - +44 (0) 1631 559290.

Education Department

Scottish Association for Marine Science, Dunbeg, Oban, Argyll PA37 1PA

Scotland, United Kingdom

Student testimonial

Lea Prox University of Konstanz Full year Erasmus + exchange

I came to SAMS for two terms as an Erasmus exchange student at the end of my Bachelor's degree. For me, this was an additional year, as at my university, like in most German universities, the courses cannot replace my compulsory lectures back home, but only contribute to the ECTS. I wouldn't have had to do it and still am so glad that I chose to do so.



SAMS has a very research orientated, practical make up of its bachelor degree and I will be taking home extremely valuable skills on scientific writing, project planning, and modelling, I have learnt how to create scientific posters, gained more expertise in presentations and have become more confident at reviewing papers and gaining expertise on a topic I had no idea of before. I have evolved to be a much more self-contained scientist and feel now well prepared for my Master's degree or any other steps on the scale of academia yet to come.

The courses themselves are carried out in very small groups of only a hand full of students and a lecturer, which makes the learning experience very different as there is room for discussions and questions and the content is forwarded in an engaging and relatable manner. In general, relations between lecturers, students and other people involved in the education are very good and personal and the student coordinators put a lot of dedication into making everyone feel welcomed and are very responsive to individual problems.

Apart from this, Oban is a great little town surrounded by stunning nature. Anyone who likes the outdoors will love this place. I can truly recommend SAMS to anyone who is interested in Marine Science and would definitely re-choose it any time.

Lea chose Marine Zoology, Behaviour & Biological Clocks, Literature Review, Marine Modelling, Deep Sea and Ocean Circulation & Climate

