

Traineeship and internship opportunities at the University of Parma Specific actions and activities

Teaching Placement (T.P.)

This activity was started in 2008. It gives Erasmus students (but, increasingly, also students outside the Erasmus scheme) the opportunity to work together with a foreign language teacher in a school in Parma (4th and 5th classes of the primary school, junior school and high school) for a semester or the whole school year. The languages they can teach are English, French, Spanish and German. The T.P. consists of 125-hour work (covered by insurance), of which 45 are spent in class with the teacher, and, at the end, students obtain 5 ECTS and an academic mark. The International Students' Office selects the T.P. applicants, provides the training (10 hours) and teaching materials, finds the school where the students will work, assesses their final essays and collects the teachers' reports. By means of periodic meetings, the Office also oversees the network formed by university, schools, the Municipality of Parma, and the local education agency. International students from any academic Department can benefit from this opportunity allowing them to enter the Italian socio-cultural fabric by means of a close cooperation with teachers. On their part, teachers are always enthusiastic about the T.P., because it gives them the chance to brush up their own language expertise and fluency thanks to their interaction with young native speakers helping them to introduce their pupils to the idiomatic and colloquial aspects of language. Data confirm that the T.P. is a very successful activity: both the students' and teachers' reports are always extremely positive about the results of the experience; in 2008/2009 10 schools and 23 students took part in it; at present, 18 schools and 65 students are involved. The Erasmus National Agency regards the Teaching Placement as a good practice to be exchanged within Erasmus Plus. It certainly raises the attractiveness of the University of Parma for foreign students, since it gives them a unique opportunity to get academic credits by means of an experience that is both gratifying on a human level and enriching in terms of educational and professional achievements.

Spreading Research – traineeship and internship in a museum

From September 2014 incoming students will have the opportunity to get an internship in one of the museums of the University of Parma. This Museum System consists of a central coordinating structure and 8 museums located in various urban sites and in the university departments. A detailed description of this System is to be found at

<http://www.unipr.it/ateneo/organi-e-strutture/musei-centri-e-altre-strutture> .

It includes the following structures:

- Natural History Museum (Department of Biosciences)
- Botanic gardens (Department of Biosciences)
- Physics and Geology Museum (Department of Physics and Geology)
- Biomedical, Biotechnological and Translational Science Museum - S.Bi.Bi.T. (Department of Biomedical, Biotechnological and Translational Sciences)
- Veterinarian Anatomy Museum "A. Lemoigne" (Department of Veterinary Medicine)
- Maths and I.T. Department Museum (Department of Maths and I.T.)

- CSAC (Centre of Communication Studies and Archives): these archives were created in the 1960s with the aim of collecting, preserving, cataloguing and consulting materials divided into the following sections: Art, Media, Project (design and architecture), Photography and Film. The Centre is located in the beautiful Abbazia di Valserena, which dates back to the 18th century. Since 1968 the CSAC has published 100 exhibition catalogues. It collaborates with the University of Parma in terms of didactic support (stages, doctorates, dissertations) and research. It also cooperates with Italian as well as foreign Museums and Foundations in the organisation of exhibitions.

In each of these museums, incoming students may take part in various kinds of activity concerning, among others: the cataloguing and preserving of finds, specific research projects, university and school teaching, the didactics of sciences and environment studies, and the spreading of science, culture, as well as the knowledge of the Parma heritage among its students and citizens.

Various initiatives have been planned which will take place between 2014 and 2016. They are listed as follows:

- Lectures within the project “Culture, University and Surroundings”, open to all the citizens
- Training courses for teachers in the university museums
- Guided tours of the university museums organised for students
- Orientation classes addressed to high school pupils
- Work experience opportunities for high school pupils
- Work experience opportunities, internships and apprenticeships for university – including incoming – students
- Training courses and apprenticeships for university – including incoming – students
- Training courses and apprenticeships for museum operators
- Creation of Apps

Clerkship and Research

Medical students are given a further placement opportunity in Parma based on either a professional or research exchange.

A Professional Exchange is a clinical and preclinical experience abroad. Established after the second World War, it was created and carried out by students, oriented to promoting the competence and cultural formation, as well as the scientific formation, of future doctors.

A Research Exchange is based on a Research Project. It is managed on a theoretical and practical level, and requires an active role on the part of the student, under the careful supervision of a qualified Tutor who introduces the student to the basic principles of scientific research. There are three types of research project: Basic Research Project, Clinical Research Project, Clinical Research Project + Laboratory Research.

The Exchange program is entirely run by Medical Students and is exclusively dedicated to Medical Students. It provides an important educational experience, allowing students to spend a month in a different country, where they are hosted by a students’ association. There they have the unique

opportunity of meeting new people, getting into contact with different cultures, and, of course, learning or improving the local language. So the exchange ensures both a professional and cultural enrichment, by fostering the knowledge and the integration with new cultures and realities, which are essential also to the formation of new medical professionals.

Apart from the chance of knowing and understanding different realities and cultures, medical students also have the opportunity to increase and improve their practical skills. Through a Professional Exchange abroad, future doctors become aware of the structure and organization of another country's Health Care System, and can learn abilities and knowledge in a field of their own choice. Moreover, the close and continuous contact with students from the host country will allow them to have a first-hand experience of the local situation, and an in-depth knowledge of the foreign health system.

Useful links for this kind of placement:

www.sism.org

www.ifmsa.org

<http://www.ifmsa.org/Activities/Standing-Committees/Professional-Exchange>

Further placement opportunities at the University of Parma

Incoming students may also get an internship experience in one of the following structures:

University libraries in the various departments

Communication Sector

International Students Office

Research Centres (see <http://www.unipr.it/ateneo/organi-e-strutture/musei-centri-e-altre-strutture/centri-universitari>)