

Virtual Mobility Principles



In light of the ongoing public health crisis, UCML has established a Special Interest Group with a view to mitigating the impact this will have on Modern Languages undergraduates due to undertake a Year Abroad in the academic year 2020-21.

The Special Interest Group comprises members from 47 universities, which represents two thirds of Modern Languages degree awarding institutions in the UK, and an even greater proportion of those for whom a Year Abroad is a mandatory part of the degree programme.

The four following principles for Year Abroad 2020-21 have been developed by the Special Interest Group:

1. We will aim to get students abroad when we can, where we can, coordinating with relevant national agencies (such as UCML and the British Council), and being flexible about the standard minimum period abroad requirements.
2. Our universities remain open to exchange students from our existing partner institutions, whenever we are able to be open (including for online learning and teaching provision).
3. We will work together on a suite of joint virtual year abroad activities while students are unable to travel abroad, tailored towards study/teach/work abroad options, and each with additional language support.
4. Each institution will implement a range of flexible alternative assessment provision, in line with each institution's existing programme specifications, recognising the effects of disruption in the final degree calculation.

Our aim is to ensure that the sector is able to be agile and responsive to the evolving context. Working collaboratively across the sector, the UCML Special Interest Group is coordinating a set of shared resources to be published on the UCML website and which will be open access and available to all. These will prioritise linguistic progress in communication skills in the target language(s) and cover a core set of commonly taught Modern Languages including Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, where possible.