

GLOCAL FAQs 2020-22

Teaching format and dates for first mobility period in Glasgow

Q: What are the semester dates for the first mobility period in Glasgow?

A: You should aim to be in Glasgow on 14th September, and classes will start on the 21st. The final day of the semester is 18th December.

Q: Will there be an induction week and what format will this take?

A: There will be an induction week with a range of activities. Some of this will be on-line, and there will also be some in-person sessions and opportunities to meet your fellow students.

Q: Will classes in the first mobility be taught online, face-to-face or using blended learning?

A: We are planning to be able to deliver all teaching on-line in the first semester. We think this is sensible, since we need to be able to respond in case the situation worsens in some way. But we are also planning for small-group tutorials, skills sessions, workshops etc. to be delivered face-to-face. This is a very fast-moving situation but we are convinced that there will be significant advantages and added-value from being on campus.

Q: If face-to-face teaching is to take place, how will this be managed on campus?

A: The University of Glasgow takes the safety of its staff and students very seriously. We are actively planning around room capacity, safe circulation, study spaces, timetables, cleaning regimes etc. Detailed plans and up-to-date information can be found [here](#).

Q: Can I study the first mobility period from my home country?

A: Our expectation is that you will make every effort to travel to Glasgow. If you are prevented from doing so by a COVID-19 -related event, such as illness, travel restrictions or inability to secure a visa, then please contact us as soon as possible.

Arriving in the UK

Q: What date should I aim to arrive in Glasgow?

A: You should aim to arrive in Glasgow by the 14th of September.

Q: Will I be required to quarantine on arrival in the UK?

A: The UK government has introduced quarantine regulations for people travelling to the UK. Details on how these apply in Scotland can be found [here](#).

Q: What should I do if there are travel restrictions between my home country and the UK?

A: Keep us informed of your plans. We expect you to make every effort to come to Glasgow but, if you are not able to do so, we will be flexible.

Second mobility period in Barcelona or Uppsala

Q: Does the Consortium expect the second mobility periods in Barcelona and Uppsala to begin normally?

A: Yes, we expect the mobility periods in Barcelona and Uppsala to begin as planned.

Visas

Q: When should I begin my visa applications?

A: You can begin your UK visa application once you have accepted an unconditional offer for the programme and received your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) letter or Short-Term Study Supporting Letter from the UofG Admissions team. You should be able to start your Spanish or Swedish visa application from six months ahead of arrival in those countries (so from July 2020).

Q: When will I receive my CAS letter?

A: The UofG Admissions team will begin issuing CAS letters to applicants who have accepted unconditional offers from early July 2020.

Q: When will UK Embassies be open for visa applications and should I expect delays in processing times?

A: This will depend on current lockdown and social distancing regulations in your home country. You should check the website of your local UK Embassy. It is possible that you will experience some delays in the processing of your visa; however, normal processing times are around three weeks so there is still plenty of time for you to receive your visa in time for the start of term. If your visa application is delayed due to COVID-19 it will be possible for you to begin following the programme online and come physically to Glasgow once you receive your visa.

Q: Should I apply for a Tier 4 or Short-Term Study visa for the UK?

A: For the UK, you can apply for either a two-year Tier 4 visa or a Short-Term Study Visa. Please note that for a number of reasons we recommend that you apply for the Tier 4 visa, including:

- The Tier 4 visa will be valid for the UK for the entire two-year duration of the programme. This also means that should any new travel restrictions arise to Spain or Sweden after the first semester, you will be able to remain in the UK until these are lifted.
- Only the Tier 4 visa will allow you to apply for the UK post-study work visa under current plans for students beginning their studies in 2020, details of which can be found [here](#).

- If you have to make any subsequent visa applications from within the UK, most Embassies will only accept applications from students who have a Tier 4 visa.

You can find all details on the Tier 4 and Short-Term Study visa application processes on the International Student Support Team's webpages [here](#).

Q: If I apply for a Tier 4 visa, until when will this be valid?

A: Your Tier 4 visa will be valid for the entire two-year duration of the programme.

Q: Will I be eligible for the UK's post-study work visa at the end of the programme?

A: If you obtain a Tier 4 UK visa, this will allow you to apply for the UK post-study work visa under current plans for students beginning their studies in 2020, details of which can be found [here](#).

Q: When and how should I apply for my Spanish or Swedish visa for the second mobility period?

A: Under new EU regulations, it should now be possible to apply for a study visa for any Schengen country up to six months in advance of arrival. This means that you can apply for your Spanish or Swedish study visa from your home country before coming to the UK. Details of the new regulations can be found [here](#). If you are going to Spain in the second semester you should contact the local Spanish Embassy in your home country for details of how to apply. If you are going to Sweden in the second semester you can find details of how to apply for a residence permit for higher education on the Swedish Migration Agency's website [here](#).

Q: If I have dual international and EU nationality, but applied to the programme as a Partner Country applicant, can I travel on my EU passport?

A: Yes, you can travel on your EU passport throughout the programme. If you have dual nationality please inform us at socpol-glocal@glasgow.ac.uk.

Accommodation

Q: What accommodation options do I have for the first mobility period in Glasgow?

A: We have two organisations in Glasgow who have agreed to provide accommodation to University of Glasgow's Erasmus Mundus students on a first come, first served basis for your first mobility period – UNITE Students and Fresh Student Living. Details of these deals can be found in the Welcome Pack sent to applicants who have been awarded a scholarship or who have paid a deposit to secure their self-funded place on the programme.

You can also look for privately rented accommodation independently with a private landlord; however, please be aware that it may be difficult to find a short-term contract, and you should be wary of scams.

Q: Is it possible to access University of Glasgow accommodation in the first mobility period?

A: No, the accommodation owned by University of Glasgow is only available to students who will be in Glasgow for the entire academic year.

Q: When should I book my accommodation in Glasgow?

A: You should book accommodation during the summer before arriving in Glasgow. You can book one of our negotiated deals with UNITE Students or Fresh Student Living as soon as you receive your Welcome Pack.

Q: What happens if I book accommodation and am unable to arrive in September due to COVID-19 travel restrictions?

A: [New legislation](#) has recently come into effect in Scotland which allows you to give 28 days' notice to quit your contract with any Purpose Built Student Accommodation provider for reasons related to COVID-19. Please note that these regulations do not apply to accommodation contracts taken out with a private landlord.

Q: What are the best areas to live in while in Glasgow?

A: As the University is located in Glasgow's West End, you may wish to look for accommodation in this area. Alternatively, you may wish to stay in the City Centre, which is just a short Subway ride from the University. The city has lots of other nice areas; however, transport to the University may be more difficult from some of these, so please check transport links before confirming your accommodation.

Q: When should I look for accommodation for my second and third mobilities?

A: The sooner the better! We recommend beginning to look for accommodation for your second mobility period shortly after beginning the programme in Glasgow.

Preparing over the summer

Q: What should I do over the summer to prepare for the start of the programme?

A: There is nothing specific that we ask you to do or look at to prepare for the start of the programme. If you can read *The Economist* or the *Financial Times*, that might provide you with the kind of current topics and thinking that we will engage with but you really should not worry about this.

Q: Are there reading lists available I can look at over the summer?

A: Some reading lists will be available once course registration begins in early August.

Programme content and assessment

Q: Will I be in classes with students from other programmes?

A: Yes – you will share some classes with other students, but there will also be others that are run specifically for GLOCAL students. This will depend on your study track and location.

Q: What type of assessment will I have on the programme?

A: There are a number of types of assessment across the programme – groupwork, presentations, short and long essays. Because this is a Masters programme, there are few exams, but that will depend on the courses and options that you choose on your specific study track.

Q: What study trips will be available on the programme?

A: There are a number of study trips in the programme – usually in the second year. Colleagues in Rotterdam, Göttingen, Kyoto and Los Andes arrange trips to a range of locations, institutions and companies as part of particular courses.

Consultancy projects and internships

Q: What internship opportunities are available throughout the programme?

A: All of our universities have internship support offices that you can access. Our [Website](#) provides details on some of the opportunities. We do not advise that you undertake any internships in the first semester.

Q: Can you tell me a bit more about the Consultancy Projects available in Barcelona?

A: These consultancy projects have groups of three or four students working together on particular issues or research projects with mostly small-scale, third sector or public organisations in Barcelona. They take place either in January (before the second semester) or June (at the end of the second semester). We strongly advise that at least one person in each group can speak Spanish. More details and some of the final reports can be found [here](#).

Q: Can you tell me a bit more about the Research Internships available in Rotterdam?

A: These credit-bearing research internships are usually located in museums, research institutes or other universities. Students focus on particular projects and work with colleagues in those institutions. They may be aligned with the thesis workshop in which the student is enrolled.

Q: Can I source my own internship?

A: Yes, and we would encourage that.

Dissertations

Q: How does dissertation supervisor allocation work?

A: We try to match your interests with particular expertise as much as possible. This is not always possible, of course, but all supervisors are able to provide the required level of support and guidance to a broad range of topics.

Q: What is the relationship between primary, secondary and third supervisor?

A: The primary supervisor takes the lead and will be your first and closest advisor. They will usually be located in the university at which you spend your third and (if applicable) fourth semesters. The second and third supervisors will play smaller roles. We have this structure to maintain cross-university input and to ensure that you receive a range of advice and guidance.

Q: By when must I finalise my dissertation topic?

A: There may be slight variations and flexibility depending on your study track, but 15th January of your second year of study is the established deadline for notification of your dissertation topic.

Q: Where do students on track C and G spend their final semester?

A: This depends on a number of factors, including whether you have a scholarship and whether you are a Partner-country or Programme-country student. In most cases we expect students on tracks C and G to return to Glasgow for their fourth semester and to complete the dissertation.

Q: Can you give me some examples of previous students' dissertation topics?

A: Some previous dissertation topics can be found [here](#).

Summer School

Q: Will the 2020 Summer School in Gdansk be going ahead?

A: No, unfortunately we have had to cancel the 2020 summer school in Gdansk.

Q: If my third mobility period begins in August, will I be able to attend the Summer School?

A: Yes, we will give careful thought to when the summer school is scheduled, so that all students can attend.

Language classes

Q: If the programme begins online, will language classes still be available in the first mobility period?

A: Yes, language classes will be available in Glasgow.

Q: Will language classes be available in the second and third mobilities?

A: Language classes are available at all of our universities. At the moment, only specific languages are available free of charge or at discounted rates – Catalan in Barcelona, Swedish in Uppsala, Dutch in Rotterdam etc.

Extracurricular activities and events

Q: What kind of extracurricular activities are available on the GLOCAL programme?

A: There are many opportunities to engage in the broader life of the universities and cities in which you will be studying. Sports, volunteering, internships, part-time jobs are all possible. One of the significant benefits of the GLOCAL programme is that you will live and study in (at least) three countries and that is central to the entire experience. We very much encourage you to immerse yourself in the life of the city in which you are living.

Q: Will club and sports facilities be functioning in the first mobility period, and what costs are attached to these?

A: The University of Glasgow has many sports and other opportunities to engage in student life. Further details of the sports activities, including membership costs, can be found [here](#). Further information on life as a student in Glasgow is available [here](#). Currently the University's sports facilities are closed; however, these are currently being prepared to be opened with physical distancing and other health and safety measures in place.

Q: How will the cohort become acquainted during the first mobility period if teaching is primarily online?

A: There is much more to the GLOCAL experience than being in the classroom. Many of you will live in the same accommodation, and we will work very hard to ensure that you have the opportunity to meet with each other and share thoughts and ideas. This will begin, we hope, even before you arrive in Glasgow.

Q: Is the programme schedule flexible enough to permit engagement in other extracurricular activities on campus?

A: Yes – you will work hard, but living in and getting to know the various universities and cities in which you study is one of the important benefits of the GLOCAL programme.

Health and wellbeing

Q: Will I have access to the NHS while in the UK?

A: Yes, you have the right to access the NHS while in the UK either as an EU citizen or under your UK visa as an international student. On arrival in the UK you should register with a GP practice. Details of how to do this can be found [here](#).

Q: Does the insurance coverage provided by the GLOCAL Consortium cover COVID-19-related situations?

A: The insurance policy provided through Marsh offers cover for emergency healthcare. However, the policy does not include cancellation or curtailment cover, so if this is something you would like, you may wish to take out an additional policy.

Q: What sort of support is available for the mental health challenges of social distancing and online learning?



A: The University of Glasgow offers a number of mental health and wellbeing support services. Details of many of these can be found on our [Counselling and Psychological Services webpages](#). Please remember that you can also always reach out to one of the programme's academic or professional services staff if you are struggling.

Financial issues

Q: If I am unable to travel to the UK due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, will I still receive my scholarship payments?

A: Yes, if you are unable to travel to the UK in September due to demonstrable COVID-19 related reasons, you will still be eligible for your scholarship payments until such time as it is possible for you to travel to the UK.

Q: I am a Partner Country scholarship holder on track C, D or G. Will I receive scholarship payments while studying in Bogotá/Kyoto?

A: You will receive scholarship payments for the first three months that you spend studying in Bogotá/Kyoto. We would recommend that you then return to Glasgow to complete your dissertation, as you would then be eligible to continue receiving your payments while in Glasgow.

Q: Can I work alongside studying on the programme?

A: Depending on the regulations of your visa this may be permitted; however, given the demands of the programme, we do not recommend working alongside your studies if this is an option for you financially.

Q: Are there any scholarships still available?

A: No, all of the Erasmus Mundus scholarships for entry in September 2020 have now been allocated and accepted.

Admissions

Q: What is the deadline for providing translated proof of residency documents for scholarship students?

A: We must receive these before we can pay your advance payment (due to be paid in early August 2020).

Q: Am I required to provide any further application documents?



A: You must provide any documents which are a condition of any conditional offer you hold. All documents must be uploaded to your online application. Please note that we do not accept any applications or supporting documents via email.

Q: Am I required to provide any hard copies of any application documents?

A: No, you are not required to provide any hard copies of application documents to the University of Glasgow. All applications are made online and all supporting documents must be uploaded to your online application. Please note that we do not accept any applications or supporting documents via email.

Q: Will the changes to acceptable English-language tests in place for September 2020 entry be valid for the two-year duration of the programme with no visa implications for the second and third mobilities?

A: For some students who have been admitted under the changed English-language requirements in place for 2020 we may require you to complete an English-language course during the first semester. We will inform you if this is the case.

Graduate opportunities

Q: After graduation, will I be eligible to pursue a PhD in one of the GLOCAL Consortium universities?

A: Yes – all of the universities offer PhD opportunities.

Q: Where are current graduates of the programme working?

A: We have only had one graduating class so far, but they are engaged in a variety of careers – some are undertaking PhD study or academic research, some are working for private sector organisations, some in the public sector. The [Glocal Alumni Association](#) provide some insights into what their members are doing.