

STW Aarhus 4th October 2022

Purpose and themes of the staff week

Circle U. has rather ambitious goals for increasing student mobility and meanwhile commits to sustainability in all its actions. The overall purpose of this staff week is to bring together staff that work with mobility as a way to share best practices and spark ideas on how to reach these goals. We will be looking at predefined tracks, the use of internships and promotion strategies as a way to increase student mobility between our universities. With a presentation of AU sustainability initiatives as our starting point we will also be discussing how to make mobility between our universities more sustainable.

**How to increase outgoing student mobility -
Experiences and perspectives from University of Oslo**
followed by a discussion and sharing of best practices

By Guri Vestad, Special Adviser, Educational Quality Office, UIO and
Sara Marie Ullerø, Senior Adviser, Educational Quality Office, UIO

How to increase student mobility in Circle U.?

- 10-10.30: A status on stud mobility more than halfway through the project (Lotte)
- 10.30-10.45: Coffee break
- 10.45-11.15 (11.10?): Presentation UiO initiatives
- 11.15-12.00: Discussion and sharing of best practices
- How to organize the dicussion/best practice sharing: Should each university just bring home ideas for their university or 2.4. CU Top down initiatives to be carried out in the Taskforce?
- Participants preparation: We would like you to come prepared for this session by thinking of 2-3 activities or arrangements your university has put in place to increase mobility (institution/faculty/department/programme - all levels are relevant). Examples could be exchange days, programmes with embedded mobility, involvement of academic staff etc. This is for use in the discussion, no need to make presentations.
- Split into 5 groups to discuss the activities/arrangements, and write the best ideas on flipover to share with the other participants and later «vote» for the most feasible and/or effective activities/arrangements.
- Green dot: very good idea, should be implemented in my institution too
Yellow dot: we are already doing it
Red dot: not possible in my institution (....as of now)

UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

How to increase outgoing student mobility (?)

- experiences and perspectives from UiO

Guri Vestad
Special Adviser

Sara Ullerø
Senior Adviser

Educational Quality Office University of Oslo

Aarhus Staff Week, October 4th 2022



Quality assurance in European cooperation at UiO

- Decentralised, unit-led international cooperation
- Mobility as a tool for better cooperation or increased mobility as a goal in itself
- Circle U.: Initiative for closer cooperation, varied opportunities of high quality – mobility as integrated part of all activities → increased mobility

Successful Summer School at the University of Oslo

28 students from 8 universities and 17 different nationalities attended the course “Evidence and Democracy in Times of Crises”. It was an inspiring week in Oslo in the beginning of August.



<https://www.circle-u.eu/news/2022/report-from-oslo.html>

Quality assurance, new mobility formats «on demand»

→ Integrating new formats into routines whenever possible vs. Changing routines to fit the Erasmus+ programme

Examples:

- Post-graduate traineeships (not the highest numbers.... but, nevertheless!)
- Short-term mobility
- Blended intensive programmes (BIP)

... and not forgetting: Erasmus Without Paper (EWP) and the pandemic, enabling us to think faster and differently in order to better carry new formats for mobility



Mobility as building block for cooperation



Mobility enables the implementation of activities **in addition** of being a means to and end

[This Photo](#) by Unknown author is licensed under [CC BY](#).

Quality assurance in bilateral agreements

What makes a «good» bilateral agreement?

- Grounds for cooperation
- Balance and attractiveness
- Recognition
- Administrative support

Division of labour between UiO units and the central administration

- Locally: Erasmus+ IIAs are negotiated, signed and managed
- Centrally: «proof reading», registration in SIS, website structure

Support to local coordinators:

- Developing tools for quality assurance («Quality Assurance Checklist for mobility agreements»)
- Training/workshops
- Monthly network meetings

Quality assurance checklist for student exchange agreements

Partner university, department/faculty and contact persons:

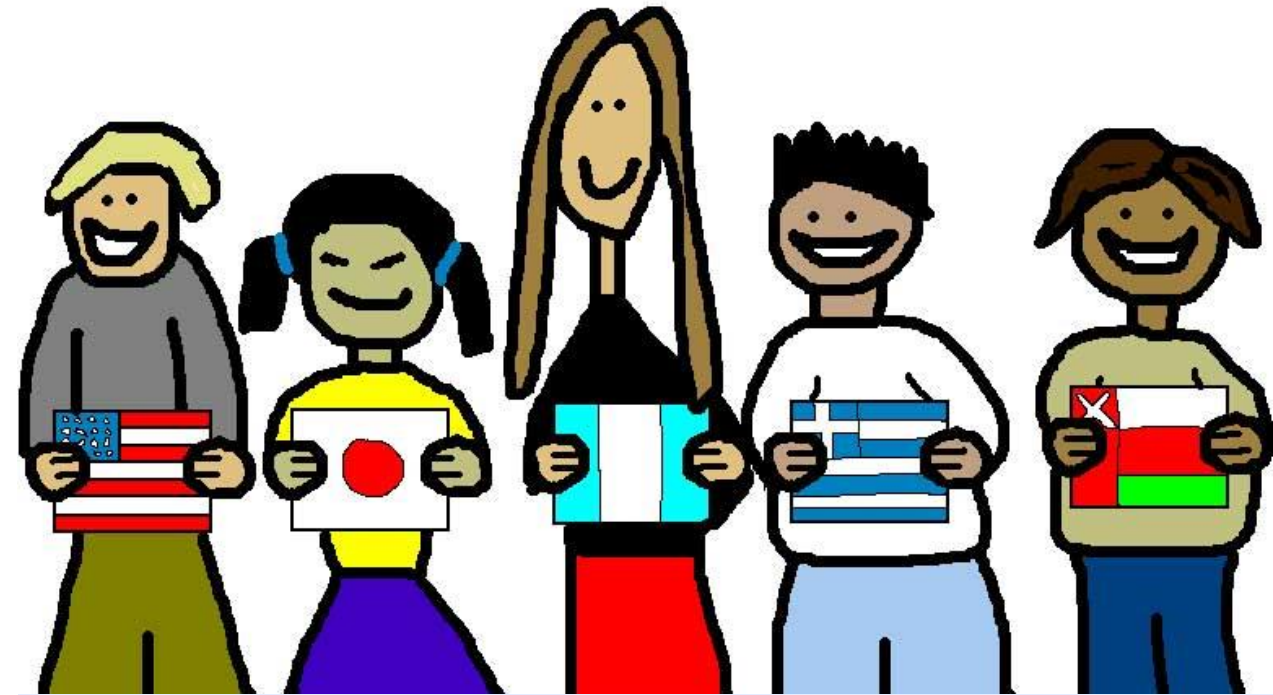
Part 1 – All agreements	
Programme and subject area at UiO	
Cycle/level of study (bachelor/master/PhD)	
Programme and subject area at partner university	
Recommended courses/units (subject area, language of instruction, level)	
Are there specific courses that fit well in existing study programmes (e.g. as elective course or as replacement for a specific course)?	
Other cooperation with partner university (e.g. joint programmes, research, staff exchange, other)	

Part 2 – New agreements only	
Academic system (credit and grading system, use of ECTS, language requirements, semester dates)	
Number of exchange places/positions for UiO students	

- Quality Assurance checklist and guidelines for new agreements
- For the Erasmus+ programme:
 - QAC integrated in an online form where information necessary for registration in SIS also is provided
 - On-line form also to be completed for changes of importance in existing agreements

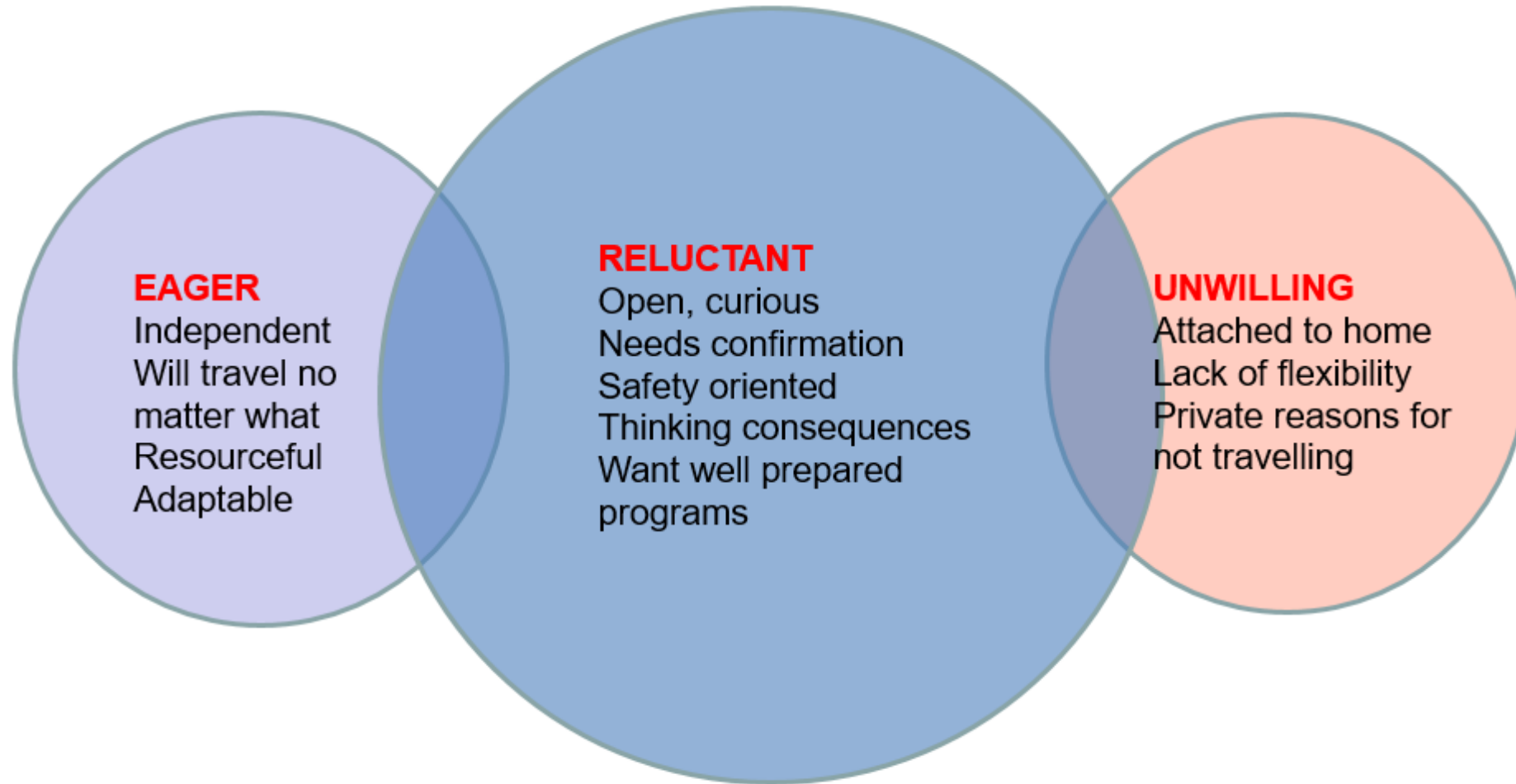
Project 2016-18

«Increase Outgoing Student Mobility»



**UNIVERSITY
OF OSLO**

Three kinds of students



We need to improve the conditions for the big group of reluctant students

Project «Increase Outgoing Student Mobility» 2016-18

- 2016: University board initiative to find out why the number of outgoing students is relatively low - map the obstacles:
 - **Culture and leadership**
Lack of leaders' commitment and culture for exchange
 - **Organisation**
Large differences in how exchange is organised in the various study programmes
- continues.....

- **Structure and approval**
Lack of quality assured exchange options in programmes, and insecurity regarding recognition
- **Promotion and information**
Lack of recommendations from **academics** and no organised **peer-to-peer** advising
- **Economy**
Overall students are OK with financial support from government and scholarship programmes (Erasmus+, etc.), but lack of administrative resources.

Project «Increase Outgoing Student Mobility» 2016-18

The road to success

- Leadership (local and central) supporting a culture where international exchange is the right thing to do
- Well-developed interaction between management, academics/teachers and administration
- Focus on selected partners and clear recommendations on where you should travel and which subjects you should take

Continues....

Project «Increase Outgoing Student Mobility» 2016-18

- Flexibility and predictability for students in the recognition process
- Avoid that exchange “looses” priority because there always are other more important administrative tasks



What have we done since 2018?

- [Exchange ambassadors](#)

← Studier ← Utveksling ← Utvekslingsambassadører ← 2022

Martin i Wien

Martin studerer psykologi i Wien.

Navn: Martin

Hvor: Universitæt Wien, Østerrike

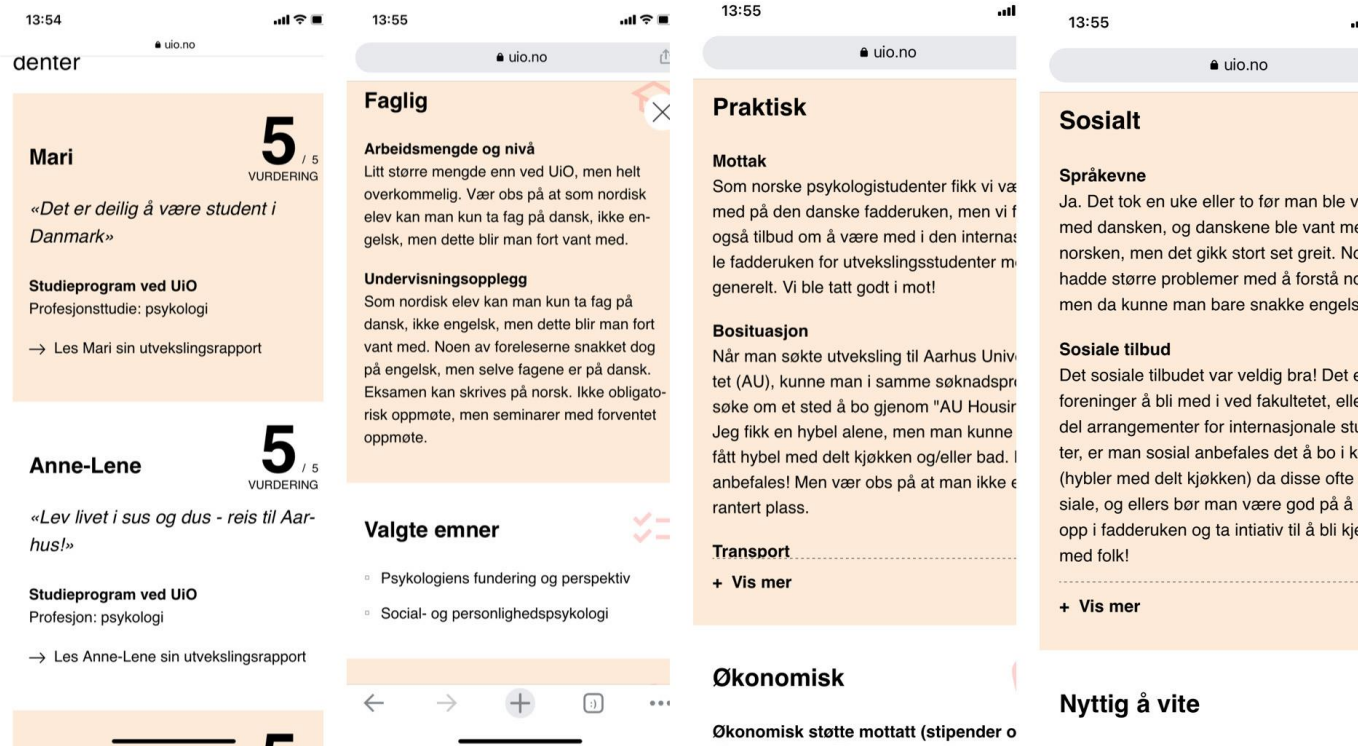
Studieprogram: Psykologi profesjon

Hvorfor valgte du dette stedet: I 2022 ble igjen Wien kåret av The Economist til verdens beste by å bo i. Tidsskriftet trekker fram god infrastruktur, og et overveldende kulturtilbud. Som utvekslingsstudent fra UIO er det mulig å utveksle til den gamle imperiehovedstaden med erasmus stipend i tillegg til lånekassen. Universitæt Wien er et av verdens beste universitet med alumni som Sigmund Freud, Friedrich Hayek og Erwin Schrödinger. Send meg gjerne epost om du ønsker å bli en del av denne lista.

Har du spørsmål til Martin - [send en e-post](#) eller kontakt han i Facebook-gruppen [UIO:Utteksling](#)!



What have we done since 2018?



New student report format with specific course recommendations

What have we done since 2018?

Aktuelle avtaler:

Hvordan søke

Du [søker om utveksling innen søknadsfristen 15. februar](#). Avtalene finner du i Søknadsweb.

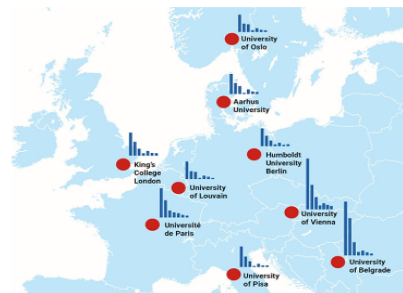
Ekstra stipend?

Alle studenter som reiser til en Circle U.-partner vil motta et stipend fra Erasmus+. I tillegg vil de motta et stipend fra [UNIFOR](#). Dette stipendet vil ligge på mellom 5000-7500 kroner.

Uttevslingsambassadører

UIO har flere utvevslingsambassadører hos våre Circle U.-partnere. [Les om deres erfaringer og kom i kontakt med dem her](#).

- [Aarhus Universitet](#), Danmark
- [Univerzitet u Beogradu](#), Serbia
- [Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin](#), Tyskland
- [King's College London](#), Storbritannia
- [Université Catholique de Louvain](#), Belgia
- [Université de Paris](#), Frankrike
- [Università di Pisa](#), Italia
- [Universität Wien](#), Østerrike



[Les mer om Circle U. og våre partneruniversiteter.](#)

<https://www.uio.no/studier/utveksling/aktuelt/utveksling-til-circleu.html>

What have we done since 2018?

- Member of Circle U., a European alliance with high ambitions for mobility and international exposure
- Meetings and seminars with departments and local international coordinators to get them on board
- Top up grants (UNIFOR) for students to CU partners and other strategic partners

What have we done since 2018?

- A few study programs have established exchange as an opt-out or a compulsory part of the program (Example: 5 years' Law program has opt-out exchange, if students do not go they have to take courses taught in English in Oslo)
- Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences «[Utviklingssemester](#)» (development semester): exchange, internship and/or alternative subjects



Thank you!