



UNICA IRO Group Meeting 2022

Topic: Cooperation with UK universities

**Transition from Erasmus to post-Erasmus:
new structures of student mobility with UK partners at
Freie Universität Berlin**

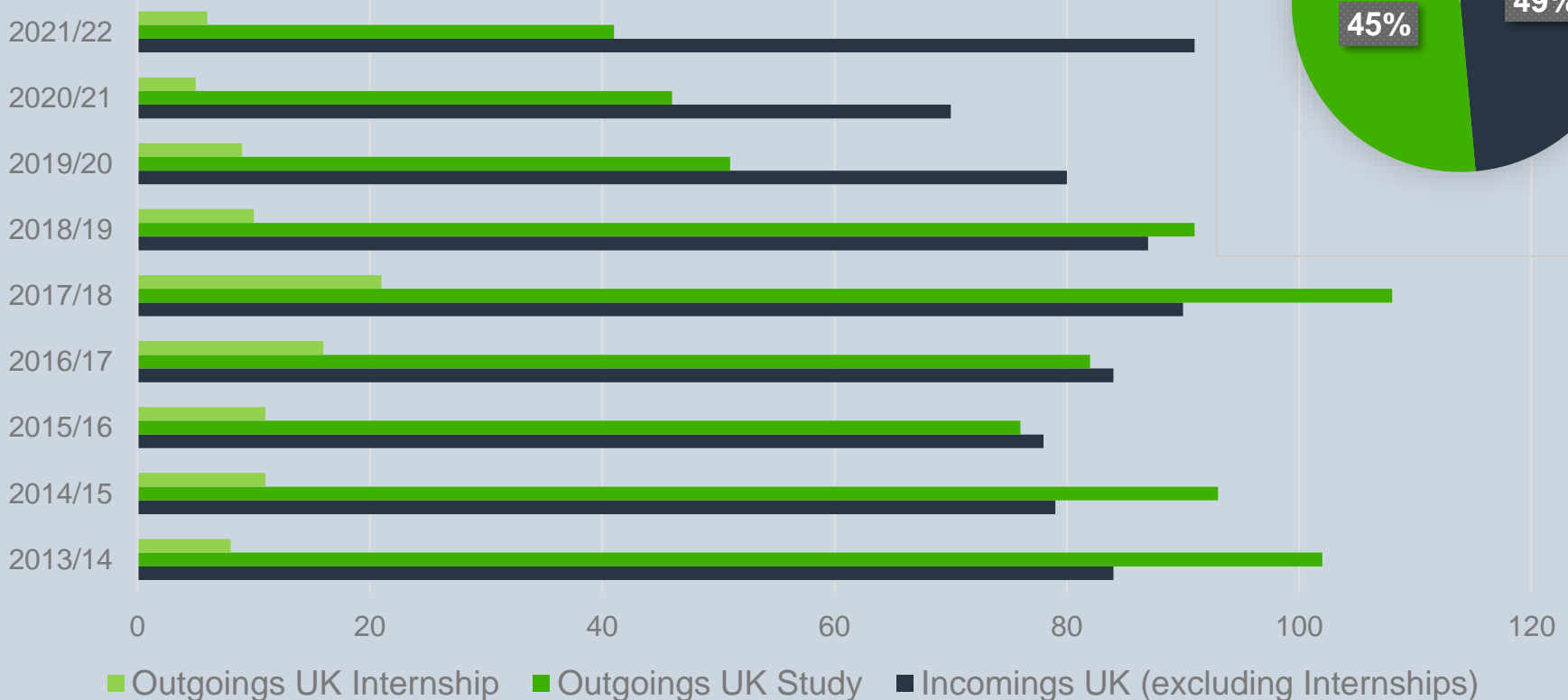
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05.05.2022

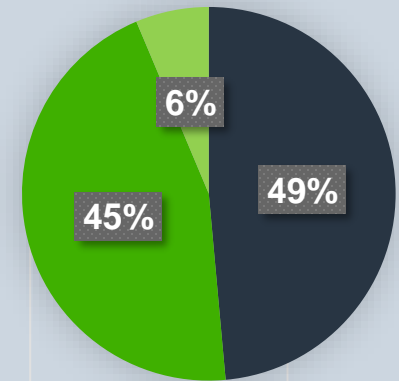
Status quo Ante: Partnership structure

Erasmus+: 33 partner universities in the UK

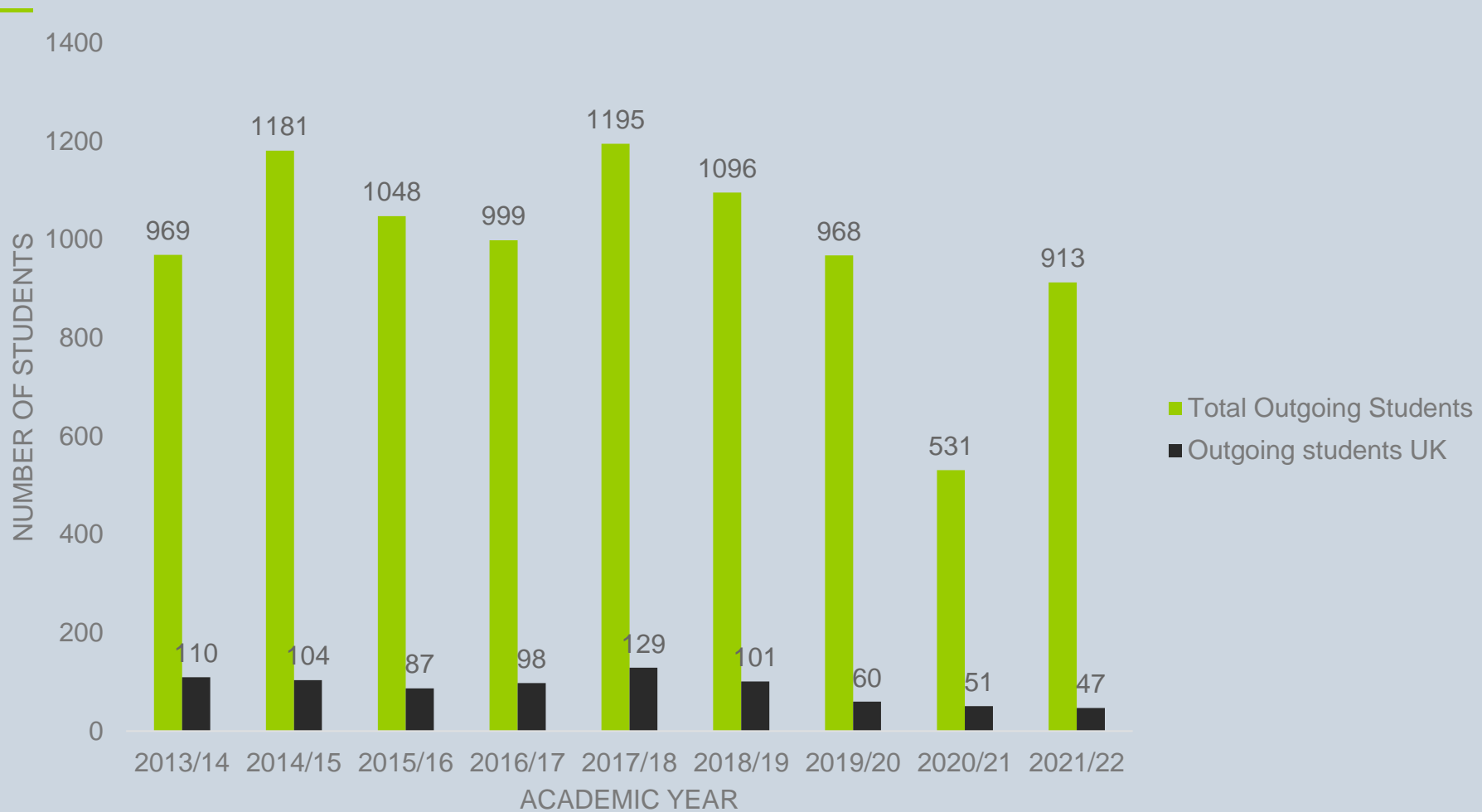
Berlin-UK outgoing/incoming students between AY 2013/14 – 2021/22



Total between AY 2013/14 - 2021/22



Outgoing Berlin students



Planned transition: from Erasmus to Direct Exchange

- 30 partner universities
- Bilateral student exchange agreements
- Post-Erasmus:
 - 25 central partner universities
 - 5 decentral partner universities (1 subject only)
[3 decided to discontinue collaboration]
- Agreements
 - completed: 12
 - underway: 11
 - yet to receive proposal from partner university: 7
- Prioritize „big“ partners with lots of former Erasmus+ Agreements
- Internal deadline for agreements prior to AY 23/24 application:
June 2022 (August 2022)

Planned transition: from Erasmus to Direct Exchange

Direct exchange program of Freie Universität Berlin

- 102 worldwide partnerships (5 with Russian universities currently suspended)
Regions: North America, Latin America, Asia, Middle East & North Africa, Australia
- normally broad subject field agreements, e.g. excluding only Pharmacy / Veterinary Medicine / Law
- otherwise: departmental exchange programmes (Law, Regional Studies, Business...)
- Around 220-240 Outgoing students per AY (pre- and hopefully post-Covid)

Planned transition: from Erasmus to direct exchange

Big challenge:

- most UK agreements are very narrowly limited to subject fields
- only 3 agreements open to all subject fields so far

Application calls per university:

https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/international/studium_ausland/direkt/Programme-und-Ausschreibungen/da_uk/

Overview of exchange opportunities according to subject area:

https://www.fu-berlin.de/studium/international/studium_ausland/direkt/Programme-und-Ausschreibungen/da_uk/Uebersichstabelle_Post-Brexit-Partnerschaften_zur-Beratung-von-Studierenden.xlsx

- Expect a huge and very complicated central selection procedure (thus far within the Erasmus+ departmental selection procedures)
- up to 80 students to be selected, will be our biggest direct exchange program

Why not Erasmus+ KA 131?

- Very clear decision
- Unclear how high the annual grant will be
- Students are interested in many destinations around the world - why deliberately allocate funds to only one country?
- only possible if strategic decision is made (e.g. if we found that UK cooperation is crucial to FUB's international strategy)
- we made other strategic decisions for the use of the international funding within Erasmus+ 131:
 - 😊 complicated and yet to be implemented
 - wait for grant decision in KA 171 / 2022
 - see which regions we got and where we cannot fund Outgoing students due to funding regulations
 - allocate funds: 2 scholarships for outgoings per university in regions where we have or expect an incoming / outgoing imbalance

Funding possibilities for outgoing students

PROMOS programme of DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service):

The unknown twin (or elder sibling) of the Turing scheme

- mobility program for undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD students
- established by DAAD in 2010 (😊 I was the one who introduced it at FUB)

...or DAAD scholarships to UK

PROMOS-Program, a mobility program for undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD students

- Funding for self-organized stays abroad
 - Funding of studies and research abroad worldwide (minimum 4 weeks)
 - internships outside of Europe (minimum 6 weeks)
 - summer schools and similar courses worldwide (from 5 days on)
 - language courses worldwide (from 3 weeks on)
- Up to six months funding per study cycle, repeated funding possible
- Funding by means of:
 - travel cost grant (depending on target country)
 - monthly grants (300 - 500€ depending on country of destination)
 - allowance for tuition fees (500€, language courses and summer schools only, no semester tuition fees)

DAAD Funding

- funding for (self-organized) stays abroad via DAAD
 - scholarships for study visits worldwide for one year
 - research visits
 - funding of internships in selected international organizations
- various deadlines and sometimes very early deadlines for applications
- cannot be combined with PROMOS

Further information

www.daad.de

DAAD data base for scholarships

<https://www.daad.de/ausland/studieren/stipendium/de/70-stipendien-finden-und-bewerben/>

FUNDING POSSIBILITIES FOR OUTGOING STUDENTS

- Expectations:
 - a lot more pressure on the PROMOS-budget expected by integrating UK mobilities into the scheme
 - more competition (now: 60-70% uptake rate)

- hoping that DAAD will make the decision to increase PROMOS as well as specific DAAD UK budget in order to fill at least a part of the gap
 - Very unsure (...ongoing worldwide situation...)

- maybe matching funds from regular university budget
 - Very unsure (...financial outlook Berlin / Germany / Europe / World..)

Communication 1

Decision about future structure of UK exchange:
Head of International Affairs together with Student Mobility Team

- general communication to Erasmus+ departmental coordinators about the next steps
- offer to look into cooperation structures in detail or prioritize where UK cooperation is very central / important or a bit complicated:
 - English Studies
 - North American Studies
 - Agreements with Oxford & Cambridge
 - Biology / Chemistry / Biochemistry

Communication 2

2fold communication to students & departmental Erasmus+ Coordinators during Erasmus+ application round for 22/23:

- last round UK Erasmus+
 - next year: Direct Exchange
 - mentioned on all websites / presentations

 - Special UK session during Erasmus Information Day in Dec 2021
 - Special UK priority information planned during „GoOut-Day of International Student Mobility“ in June 2022
 - Mailing to stakeholders of student mobility within FUB in July 2022, maybe by Vice President International
 - Newsletter International...
- still a lot of questions and confusion expected 😊

Challenges and open questions

- Visa to UK for internships after May 2023
- Year-long stays in UK under pressure? Visa, funding
- Balances: will we be able to attract as many UK students as before?
- Balances 2: will we be able to match our FUB students to new exchange scheme?

→ excited to see what will happen 😊

→ good luck for your transition procedures!

Thank you very much for your attention!

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