



IRO IGNATIANUM BULLETIN

ISSUE 2, JULY 2020

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE
OF JESUIT UNIVERSITY IGNATIANUM IN KRAKOW, POLAND



ACADEMIC LIFE AT THE IGNATIANUM IN THE LIGHT OF COVID19

The spring semester 2019/2020 was completely different because of the coronavirus epidemic. For the sake of the health and safety of the entire academic community of the Ignatianum, from March 12th 2020, all of the classes were held on the Internet, and were continued in this online form till the end of the semester, with the possibility of the remote version of the final exams.

The work of the administrative staff was also held in an online form. Both outgoing and incoming mobilities of staff members were also cancelled or shifted for the next academic year.

All 13 students from the Ignatianum who studied abroad in the spring semester, had a chance to come back to Poland or stay in a foreign country. However, despite this decision, all of them could continue participating in the classes online thanks to the quick adaptation of partner universities to this difficult situation. In this way, all outgoing students could complete their Erasmus mobility.

Similarly, 20 foreign students, who were hosted by our university in the spring semester, completed their mobility following the previous plan by online participation in all classes. Only one exchange student from Hungary decided to finish her mobility earlier, in April 2020, because of the Covid19 epidemic.

Even though we couldn't attend academic classes, this experience, and being able to study at the Ignatianum as Erasmus student, has been truthfully amazing and I will always remember it.

MONICA
Student from Spain

If the situation allows, the Ignatianum intends to start all classes in a face-to-face way from the beginning of the winter semester 2020/2021. However, since the situation is uncertain, different scenarios for conducting classes might have to be adopted: for example, a hybrid programme (combining physical and online classes) or only online learning.

NEWS IN BRIEF



ECOLOGICAL APPROACH OF THE IGNATIANUM

To commemorate the 5th anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical letter *Laudato si'*: On Care for Our Common Home, the Rector of Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow signed **The Environmental Sustainability Policy Statement** of the University.

The academic community of the Ignatianum is eager to contribute positively to addressing climate change and supporting environmental protection movements, through practical changes, research and educational practices.

INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS OF THE IGNATIANUM



Participation in international organisations is one of the priorities in the scientific and educational activities of the Ignatianum. This is indicated by the membership of several prestigious international organisations, such as IFCU, FUCE or SCRIBANI. Recently, the Ignatianum has joined to a newly established but promising association, the **Kircher Network** of Jesuit institutions in Europe and the Near East, which is seeking collaboration to strengthen the sense of shared apostolic mission among its members in all aspects of academic life.



Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow (photo, Promotional Office)

MOBILITY FOR STUDY

OUTGOING STUDENTS

From 8th January to 23rd March 2020 the IRO was recruiting for the exchanges within the Erasmus+ Programme. The number of students who qualified for the exchange was **17. 13 students are leaving** during the upcoming **winter semester** and **4** of them in the **spring semester**. Our students will be guests at the universities in:

- Spain (University of Deusto, Comillas Pontifical University, Abat Oliba CEU University of Barcelona, Universidad Cardenal Herrera, University of Oviedo, Universidad Loyola Andalucia, University of Jaen)
- Ireland (Pontifical University of St. Patrick's College at Maynooth)
- Italy (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart)
- Hungary (Karoli Gaspar University of the Reformed Church)
- Ukraine (Ukrainian Catholic University)
- Lebanon (Saint-Joseph University of Beirut)
- Czech Republic (University of Ostrava)
- Portugal (Universidade Catolica Portuguesa)

The total number of mobility in the 2020/2021 academic year may change as a result of the uncertain situation regarding the COVID19 epidemic and the complementary recruitment for going abroad in the spring semester, which will take place in September/October 2020.

Erasmus for me was the time of discovering the largest region of Spain - Andalucia. I improved my Spanish and learned more about Spaniards. I worked as a volunteer with amazing people. Erasmus exchange was also a great excuse for my friends to visit me.

ANNA, ENGLISH PHILOLOGY STUDENT



Anna, English philology student of AIK, Erasmus academic year 2019/2020, Cordoba, Spain

INCOMING STUDENTS

In the **winter semester** 2020/2021, we will host **14 foreign students** at our university. They will come here within the Erasmus+ Programme from:

- Portugal (Portuguese Institute of Marketing Management (The Marketing School) - IPAM)
- Spain (University of Deusto, University of Jaen, Universidad de Almeria, University of Oviedo)
- Italy (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, University of Milano-Bicocca, University of Salento)
- Ukraine (Ukrainian Catholic University)
- Czech Republic (University of Ostrava)
- Germany (Munich School of Philosophy)

Due to the epidemiological status of coronavirus, the final number of students may change.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/2020 IN COMMENTS OF OUR FOREIGN STUDENTS

The most benefit of my experience is my personal growth. Krakow is a very admirable city. You will be amazed at it. Give your best.

CHIARA, Italy

I had a great time at the Ignatianum. I met a lot of friendly people during my stay in Krakow. I would say some of them became my friend.

KATALIN, Hungary

Participating in Erasmus at the Ignatianum allows me to have very engaging psychological and educational courses, to discover the Polish culture and Krakow and to improve in Polish.

MARIE, France

I spent a good time during Erasmus. Polish students were friendly and helpful. I liked that we met with students from Erasmus from other countries and we had joint programmes.

TEREZIA, Slovakia

I can't be happier with this school year. I definitely would say that there is no better place to go on Erasmus.

LOREA, Spain



STUDENT MENTOR



From 7th April to 4th May 2020 the IRO was accepting applications from students interested in being a mentor for foreign students in the academic year 2020/2021. **The number of volunteers is impressive – 40.** We are remarkably happy that so many students want to contribute to the international community of the Ignatianum.

The Mentor's role is to take care of the allocated exchange student. The Mentor's help is not limited only to organisational issues, but involves meetings, trips, learning foreign languages, during all of which incoming students have an excellent opportunity to integrate better with the AIK academic community and the local environment. Very often, the friendships made during the mobility, are continued after the end of the exchange semester.



Student Mentors integration meeting, 2019

NEW ERASMUS CHARTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION FOR 2021-2027



The current **Erasmus+ Programme** for the period 2014-2020 is replaced by the next one for **2021-2027**. Our own higher institution can still participate in the new edition of Erasmus Programme, provided that the European Commission grants the Ignatianum a new **Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE)**. Universities were required to submit an application to the European Commission for granting such a chart until 26th May 2020. The probable date of announcement of the results is November 2020.

The application for a new ECHE was prepared by the IRO and submitted at the required time. An essential part of this application was the preparation of a new **Erasmus Policy Statement of Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow for 2021-2027.**

In signing ECHE, the University confirms that its participation in Erasmus+ Programme is part of its strategy of modernisation and internationalisation.

ERASMUS WITHOUT PAPER AT THE IGNATIANUM

With the new Erasmus+ Programme for 2021-2027, one of the most fundamental objectives is **to digitise mobility management and bilateral agreements**. The implementation of the new premises is described by the European Commission in the digitalisation roadmap:

1. manage inter-institutional and e-learning agreements on the Erasmus Dashboard platform till 2021
2. send and receive student nominations and acceptances via online till 2022
3. exchange transcripts of records related to student mobility via online till 2023.

The following measures have already been implemented by the IRO:

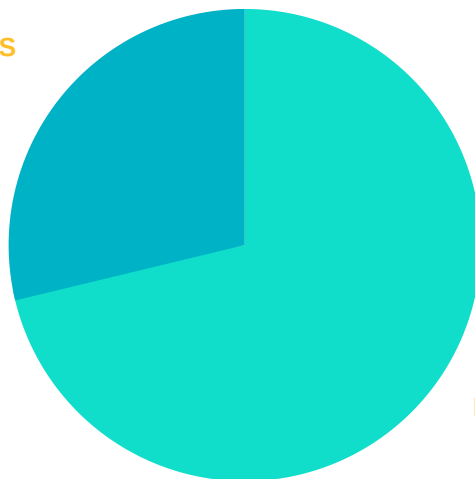
- all outgoing students who were enrolled in the academic year 2020/2021 have been preparing the **Online Learning Agreement (OLA)** in the Erasmus Dashboard platform. The document is only in an online form and it is being accepted in the same way. As a result, it no longer requires a handwritten signature and, most of all, it shortens the waiting time for all parties to accept the document. Moreover, the student can have access to OLA within the Erasmus+ App.
- Erasmus Dashboard platform also facilitates the **online management of the bilateral agreements** between universities. Till the end of October 2020, all universities can test this function. The IRO actively participates in all of these activities. Till the end of 2021, AIK intends to renew/ sign the Erasmus bilateral agreements with all partners using the Erasmus Dashboard.



MOBILITY STATISTICS 2019/2020

- **INCOMING students** for study – 52 (49 within the Erasmus+ Programme and 3 within the bilateral agreements)
- **OUTGOING students** for study – 21 (19 within the Erasmus+ programme and 2 within CEEPUS)

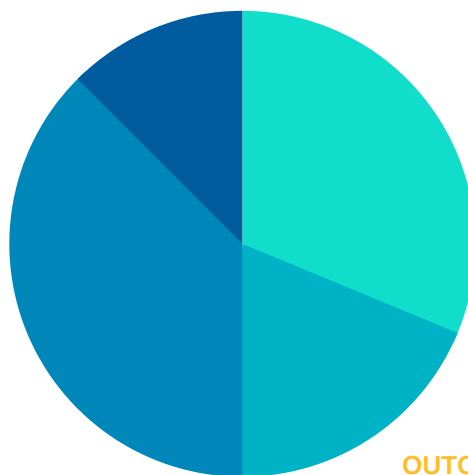
OUTGOING STUDENTS
28.8%



INCOMING STUDENTS
71.2%

- **INCOMING staff** – 6 for teaching and 2 for training (administration staff members) within the Erasmus+ Programme
- **OUTGOING staff** – 5 for teaching and 3 for training (1 teacher and 2 administration staff members) within the Erasmus+ Programme

INCOMING STAFF for training
12.5%



OUTGOING STAFF for teaching
31.3%

INCOMING STAFF for teaching
37.5%

OUTGOING STAFF for training
18.8%

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