

ECTS QUICK GUIDE for incoming and outgoing students

The European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) guarantees international academic recognition of successful completion of studies. It is particularly useful as a tool for partner institutions under the ERASMUS programme.

In RIAM, the following ECTS credits apply to study programmes:

Bachelor in Music Performance (4 years) 240 credits

Master in Music Performance (2 years) 120 credits

ECTS GENERAL INFORMATION

The ECTS weighting for a module is a measure of the student input or workload required for that module, based on factors such as the number of contact hours, the number and length of written or verbally presented assessment exercises, class preparation and private study time, laboratory classes, examinations, clinical attendance, professional training placements, and so on.

All RIAM modules must carry 5 ECTS credits as a minimum or multiples of 5.

1 credit represents 20-25 hours estimated student input, so a 10-credit module will be designed to require 200-250 hours of student input including class contact time and assessments.

ERASMUS AND ECTS

A Learning Agreement is drawn up at the RIAM, signed by you and the academic supervisor/international relations coordinator, and then forwarded to the host institution to be counter-signed by the International Relations Coordinator and academic supervisor, if the programme of study is approved.

This Learning Agreement specifies your study programme, and indicates the number of ECTS credits allocated to each subject.

A "Transcript of Records" at the end of your period of study is sent to the International Office in the home institution. This transcript shows the number of ECTS credits gained, as well as the local marks and ECTS grades achieved. You should receive this transcript of records not less than 20 working days after your stay abroad.

You will normally need to achieve 30 credits for a half year and 60 credits for a full year of study.

Please note that you are responsible for informing the RIAM Erasmus Co-ordinator of any changes made to your learning agreement during the year. If you fail to do this, then you may not be able to sit examinations in certain subjects. All changes to learning agreements have to be signed off by staff at the home and host institutions.

One of the underlying principles of the ECTS system is that Erasmus exchange students ***should be replacing an equivalent part of their normal studies whilst studying at the host institution.***

If you need further guidance on the course/modules you require, please contact Sinead Heyenga (sineadheyenga@riam.ie)