Guidelines on how to use the Learning Agreement for Traineeships

The purpose of the Learning Agreement is to provide a transparent and efficient preparation of the traineeship period abroad and to ensure that the trainee will receive recognition in his/her degree for the traineeship successfully completed abroad.

This template is applicable to Erasmus+ mobility for traineeships between Programme Countries (KA103). It is recommended to use this template. However, if higher education institutions already have an IT system in place to produce the Learning Agreement or the Transcript of Records, they can continue using it, provided that all the minimum requirements listed in this document are made available. Further fields can be added, if needed (e.g. information on the coordinator of a consortium), and the format (e.g. font size and colours) can be adapted.

BEFORE THE MOBILITY

Administrative data

Before the mobility, it is necessary to fill in page 1 with information on the trainee, the Sending Institution and the Receiving Organisation/Enterprise and the three parties have to agree on the section to be completed before the mobility.

In case some administrative data is already available to the three parties, there is no need to repeat it in this template.

On page 1, most of the information related to the trainee, the sending and Receiving Organisations will have to be encoded in the Mobility Tool+.

Traineeship Programme at the Receiving Organisation/Enterprise (Table A)

The Traineeship Programme at the Receiving Organisation/Enterprise should include the **indicative** start and end months of the agreed traineeship, the traineeship title, as well as the number of working hours per week.

The detailed programme of the traineeship period should include the tasks/deliverables to be carried out by the trainee, with their associated timing.

If the traineeship can be considered a Traineeship in digital skills[i] it should be indicated by checking "yes" in the relevant field.

The Traineeship Programme should indicate which knowledge, intellectual and practical skills and competences (Learning Outcomes) will be acquired by the end of the traineeship, e.g. academic, analytical, communication, decision-making, ICT, innovative and creative, strategic-organisational, and foreign language skills, teamwork, initiative, adaptability, etc.

The monitoring plan should describe how and when the trainee will be monitored during the traineeship by the Receiving Organisation/Enterprise, the Sending Institution, and, if applicable, a third party.

The evaluation plan should describe the assessment criteria that will be used to evaluate the traineeship and the learning outcomes.

Language competence

A recommended level of language competence[ii] in the main language of work should be agreed with the Receiving Organisation/Enterprise to ensure a proper integration of the trainee in the organisation/Enterprise.

The level of language competence[iii] in the main language of work, which the trainee already has or agrees to acquire by the start of the study period, has to be reported in the box provided for that purpose in the Learning Agreement or, alternatively, in the grant agreement. In case the level of the selected trainee is below the recommended one when signing the Learning Agreement (or, alternatively, the grant agreement), the Sending Institution and the trainee should agree that he/she will reach the recommended level by the start of the mobility. They should also discuss and decide the type of support to be provided to the student by the Sending Institution (either with courses that can be funded by the Organisational Support grant or with the Erasmus+ OLS language courses, where applicable) or by the Receiving Organisation/Enterprise.

The Erasmus+ Online Linguistic Support (OLS) has been designed to assist Erasmus+ trainees in improving their knowledge of the main language of instruction, before and during their stay abroad, to ensure a better quality of learning mobility.

For mobility between Programme Countries, and for the languages covered by the OLS, the trainee must carry out an OLS language assessment before the mobility, and a final assessment at the end of the mobility, except for native speakers and in duly justified cases (e.g. special needs trainees).

The completion of the OLS assessment before departure is a pre-requisite for the mobility. This assessment will be taken after the trainee is selected, before signing the Learning Agreement or, alternatively, the grant agreement.

Based on the results of the OLS assessment, the Sending Institution may allocate an OLS language course to the trainees who wish to improve their language competences. Mobility participants with a level B2 or higher at the first language assessment in their main language of instruction have the opportunity to follow an OLS language course either in that language or in the local language of the country, provided it is available in the OLS. It is up to the Sending Institution to indicate this choice directly in the OLS.

More opportunities for participants following the OLS language courses (OLS Live Coaching: MOOCs, Forum and Tutoring sessions) are available at http://erasmusplusols.eu

Sending Institution (Table B)

The Sending Institution commits to recognise the learning outcomes acquired by the trainee upon satisfactory completion of the traineeship. There are three different provisions for traineeships and Table B should be filled in accordingly:

1. Traineeships embedded in the curriculum (counting towards the degree);

2. Voluntary traineeships (not obligatory for the degree);

3. Traineeships for recent graduates.

Accident Insurance

It is highly recommended that either the Sending Institution or the Receiving Organisation/Enterprise provide insurance coverage to the trainee, and fill in the information in Table B or C accordingly. The trainee must be covered at least by an accident insurance (damages caused to the trainee at the workplace) and by a liability insurance (damages caused by the trainee at the workplace).

Receiving Organisation/Enterprise (Table C)

The Receiving Organisation/Enterprise should provide appropriate support, including mentoring, supervision and equipment, to the trainee.

The Receiving Organisation/Enterprise should also specify whether it will provide financial support and/or a contribution in kind for the trainee, on top of the Erasmus+ grant.

The Receiving Organisation/Enterprise commits to issue a Traineeship Certificate within 5 weeks after the end of the traineeship.

Signing the Learning Agreement

All parties must sign the Learning Agreement before the start of the mobility. It is not compulsory to circulate papers with original signatures, scanned copies of signatures or digital signatures may be accepted, depending on the national legislation or institutional regulations.

DURING THE MOBILITY

Exceptional Changes to the Traineeship Programme (Table A2)

Table A2 should only be completed during the mobility if changes have to be introduced into the original Learning Agreement. In that case, Table A should be kept unchanged and changes should be described in Table A2. The two Tables should be kept together in all communications.

When changes to the traineeship programme arise, they should be agreed as soon as possible with the Sending Institution.

In case the change concerns an extension of the duration of the traineeship programme abroad, the request can be made by the trainee at the latest one month before the foreseen end date.

Changes of the Responsible person(s)

In case of changes of the responsible person(s), the information below should be inserted by the Sending Institution or Receiving Organisation/Enterprise, where applicable.

Changes of the Responsible person(s)	Name	Email	Position
New Responsible person at the Sending Institution			
New Supervisor at the Receiving Organisation/Enterprise			

Confirming the Changes

All parties must approve the changes to the Learning Agreement. The European Commission would like to limit the use of paper for exchanging documents as much as possible. That is why it is accepted that information is exchanged electronically, e.g. via email, scanned or digital signatures, etc. without the need of a paper signature. However, if national legislations or institutional regulations require paper signatures, a signature box can be added where needed.

AFTER THE MOBILITY

Traineeship Certificate by the Receiving Organisation/Enterprise (Table D)

After the mobility, the Receiving Organisation/Enterprise should send a Traineeship Certificate to the trainee and Sending Institution, normally within five weeks after successful completion of the traineeship. It can be provided electronically or through any other means accessible to the trainee and the Sending Institution.

The Traineeship Certificate will contain at least the information in Table D.

The actual start and end dates of the traineeship programme should be included according to the following definitions:

- The **start date** of the traineeship period is the first day the trainee has been present at the Receiving Organisation/Enterprise to carry out his/her traineeship. For example, this could be the first day of work, a welcoming event organised by the Receiving Organisation/Enterprise, an information session for trainees with special needs, a language and intercultural course organised either by the Receiving Organisation/Enterprise or other organisations (if the Sending Institution considers it relevant for the mobility).

- The **end date** of the traineeship period is the last day the trainee has been present at the receiving Organisation/Enterprise to carry out his/her traineeship, not his actual date of departure.

Transcript of Records and Recognition[iv] at the Sending Institution

The Sending Institution should recognise the traineeship according to the provisions in Table B. If applicable, the Sending Institution should provide the Transcript of Records to the trainee or record the results in a database (or other means) accessible to the student, normally five weeks after receiving the Traineeship Certificate, without further requirements than those agreed upon before the mobility.

The Transcript of Records will contain at least the information that the Sending Institution committed to provide before the mobility in the Learning Agreement, i.e. the number of ECTS credits (or equivalent) awarded and the grade given (which can be expressed in the form of pass/fail).

Diploma Supplement

The information contained in the Traineeship Certificate from the Receiving Organisation/Enterprise should also be included in the Diploma Supplement produced by the Sending Institution (at least for Sending Institutions located in Programme Countries), except if the trainee is a recent graduate.

It is also recommended to record the traineeship in the trainee's Europass Mobility Document (if applicable), particularly in the case of recent graduates, and in any case when the Sending Institution had committed to do so before the mobility.

Steps to fill in the Learning Agreement for Traineeships

Before the mobility

Provide **traineeship programme.**
Commitment of the three parties with original / scanned/ digital signatures.

During the mobility

If modifications **are needed:**
An agreement by the three parties on the changes is possible via email/digital signatures.

After the mobility

The Receiving Organisation/Enterprise provides a Traineeship Certificate to the trainee and sending institution within 5 weeks.
The Sending Institution recognises the traineeship and registers it according to its commitments before the mobility.

[i] **Traineeship in digital skills:** any traineeship will be considered as such when one or more of the following activities are practised by the trainee: digital marketing (e.g. social media management, web analytics); digital graphical, mechanical or architectural design; development of apps, software, scripts, or websites; installation, maintenance and management of IT systems and networks; cybersecurity; data analytics, mining and visualisation; programming and training of robots and artificial intelligence applications. Generic customer support, order fulfilment, data entry or office tasks are not considered in this category.

[ii] **Level of language competence**: a description of the European Language Levels (CEFR) is available at: https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/resources/european-language-levels-cefr

[iii] **Level of language competence**: a description of the European Language Levels (CEFR) is available at: https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/resources/european-language-levels-cefr

[iv] **Recognition**: all the credits that the trainee has earned during the mobility and that were specified in the final version of the Learning Agreement (Table B of the official template) are recognised by the Sending Institution, according to its commitment before the mobility and without further requirements than those agreed upon before the mobility.