

Ad hoc Directive relating to the "alternative exchange programme" offered by the GSI in the spring semester of 2021 (academic year 2020-21) to students of the Bachelor in International Relations (BARI) registered for an exchange in the said semester and to students of partner Universities

Taking into account the fact that the structure of the BARI programme insists on the importance of an exchange within the framework of a Bachelor's degree in international relations;

Considering that 147 BARI students are enrolled in an exchange programme for the spring semester of 2021 and that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, almost all of these exchanges have been or will be cancelled, it would be unacceptable for GSI academic management not to offer an alternative solution to these students;

Based on the BARI study regulations of 14 September 2020 and the BARI study plan, which provide for an "Exchange" module, which allows for the acquisition of 24 ECTS credits;

Determined not to leave students unable to complete their exchange without an attractive alternative solution;

The Director of the GSI decides, on the basis of article 24 §§ 1 and 2 of the BARI study regulations, to create an alternative exchange project for the spring semester of 2021, open to all BARI students registered for an exchange in the spring semester of 2021, upon registration. Where appropriate, this programme is also open to students from partner universities.

Art. 1 Establishment of the programme

1. The programme is established by the GSI from 7 January 2021 to 30 June 2021.
2. This programme is neither extendable nor renewable.

Art. 2 Support, collaboration and partnerships

1. This programme benefits from an exceptional financial support from the Rectorate of the University of Geneva (hereafter UNIGE).
2. This programme is organised in collaboration with the Academic Exchange Office and the International Relations and Partnerships Office of the UNIGE.
3. Partner Universities of the UNIGE may be offered to participate in this programme.
4. Non-academic partners may be involved in the various activities of the programme.

Art. 3 Pedagogical objectives

1. To offer a different, innovative and exciting perspective to GSI exchange students (and, where appropriate, those from partner universities).
2. To enable students to acquire in an online collaborative environment:
 - a. the basics of teamwork
 - b. the experience of management of a project over a five-month period.
 - c. specific skills as detailed in art. 5.6.
3. Based on the premise that a crisis of the magnitude generated by COVID-19 presents opportunities for change, student groups are expected to assume their share of social responsibility by proposing an ambitious and useful project in order to actively contribute to the search for solutions to the global challenges facing our societies in 2021.

Art. 4 Registration

1. Only BARI students who were validly registered for an exchange in the spring semester 2021 can apply to this programme, as well as students from partner Universities according to the conditions set forth in § 5 below.
2. Students fulfilling the condition of paragraph 4.1. who have already notified the cancellation or postponement of their exchange for the spring semester 2021 may nevertheless enrol in this programme.
3. Registration is made using the form available at the following internet address: <https://formulaire.unige.ch/outils/limesurvey3/index.php/362291?lang=fr>.
4. Registration is open from 7 January to 1 February 2021, 12:00 noon (CET). Registration is confirmed by an email sent from the address alt-mob-gsi@unige.ch.
5. Students from partner universities may, if their home university so authorises, enrol in this programme under the conditions detailed in Art. 7 below.

Art. 5 Status of students during the spring semester 2021

1. UNIGE students enrolled in this alternative exchange programme are considered as regular UNIGE students.
2. GSI “alternative mobility” is a full-time programme during the spring semester 2021.

However, students enrolled in this programme are allowed to follow BARI courses during this alternative exchange semester.

It is then their own responsibility to assess and assume the cumulative workload.

Under no circumstances can the constraints linked to regular teaching followed in the UNIGE course programme justify non-participation in an event of the present programme.

Students who wish to be excused at the May/June examination session from one of the examinations of a BARI regular class taken during the alternative exchange

semester may send a request for an excuse to the Director of GSI, within two weeks of the publication of the examination timetable.

3. Students regularly enrolled in a partner university who participate with the approval of their home university in this programme (see art. 7 below) will have the status of incoming exchange students at UNIGE.

Although the alternative exchange programme is a full-time programme, they are entitled to follow BARI courses during the alternative exchange period.

It is then their own responsibility to assess and take on the cumulative workload.

4. Under no circumstances can the constraints linked to regular teaching followed in one of the UNIGE course programme justify non-participation in any event of the present programme.

Art. 6 Terms and conditions of participation

1. Students enrolled in this alternative exchange programme must participate, unless an excuse is duly validated by the Programme Steering Committee, in all the activities listed in this article.

A tolerance for unjustified absences not exceeding 10% of the total workload may be applied by the Steering Committee of this programme when validating the alternative exchange semester.

2. Most of the activities - in view of the conditions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic - will be held online. If, however, the evolution of health conditions and the decisions of public authorities and universities allow it, face-to-face events may be organised. If possible, the presentation of projects in the partner Universities will be done in person at these Universities, insofar as these Universities allow it (see Annex 4).
3. Students participating in this programme must collaborate with other students in order to produce the results required under point 6 § 6.
4. Teams of students (from 3 to 6 persons) are formed by the programme Steering Committee (cf. Art. 9 § 1); they may include one or more students from partner Universities.

A criterion of diversity (in particular taking into account affiliation to a BARI orientation) will govern the constitution of the teams.

Except during the "mercato" - which allows teams to exchange a member of a student team between February 17 and 18 (see Annex 2) - students are required to collaborate within the group to which they have been assigned.

5. **It is the responsibility of each team to choose a project that will be its own for the whole semester. The deadline for submitting the theme is 15 February 2021 (see Annex 1).**
6. During this semester, students participating to the alternative exchange programme will be required to hand-in, usually as a team, the following deliverables:
 - a. Produce and broadcast a 180" video presenting their project;

- b. Conclude one or more partnership agreements with one or more partners linked to International Geneva (companies, NGOs, IOs, Government representations based in Geneva, etc);
- c. Actively participate in at least 2 press conferences;
- d. Make a financing plan for the implementation of their proposal;
- e. Produce a "scientific report" (or academic paper) presenting the merits of their proposal;
- f. Evaluate (individually) another team's scientific report (or academic paper) (peer review process) (see Annex 5);
- g. Produce a policy brief based on their project;
- h. Produce and publish an op-ed or, alternatively, obtain an interview of at least 30 seconds in the news of a major radio or TV channel with an international audience to present their project;
- i. Participate in an international conference to present and defend their project.

7. Students during the programme will have to attend the training sessions listed below:

- a. How to prepare and conduct a successful press conference ;
- b. How to prepare and write a "scientific report" or an "academic article";
- c. How to work with non-academic partners;
- d. How to produce a good 180" video;
- e. How to produce a policy brief;
- f. How to evaluate an academic article or scientific report (peer review process):
- g. How to successfully negotiate the "final declaration" of an international conference
- h. How and why self-evaluate.

Art. 7 Participation of students from partner universities

1. Insofar as their University of origin has a partnership agreement with UNIGE and considers participation in GSI's alternative exchange semester as equivalent to an exchange semester in their own training programme, students who are regularly enrolled in a training programme related to international relations in such a partner University may participate in the present programme.
2. They must register on the same portal as GSI students (see art. 4.3 above) and within the same deadlines. However, registration will only be validated after the agreement of the University of origin has been received and confirmed by the competent UNIGE bodies. A specific form will be put online.
3. Students from partner universities participate in the programme under the same conditions as regular GSI students, with the student status of incoming exchange

students at UNIGE. In particular, these students are assigned to a team under the same conditions as GSI students.

4. Students from partner universities are assessed according to the same criteria and procedures as GSI students.
5. The allocation of credits for this programme, however, depends on their home University.

GSI will issue to students from partner universities an individual certificate of participation and evaluation on the same basis and under the same conditions as for BARI students, in accordance with the conditions set out below in Article 10 § 5.

Art. 8 Working languages

1. The working language of each team is of its own free choice. However, each team must use a working language that is accessible to all its members.
2. Deliverables or oral participation to events must be in French or English.

Art. 9 Academic supervision

1. Academic responsibility for this programme lies jointly with the Director of BARI, the Director of Studies of GSI and the Director of GSI. They form the Steering Committee of the alternative exchange programme.
This committee is assisted by the Academic Coordinator of this programme, Dr. Stephan Davidshofer.
2. The main academic support for students participating in the alternative exchange programme will be provided by Dr Stephan Davidshofer (alt-mob-gsi@unige.ch).
3. Depending on the theme chosen by each team, a small academic support team (one to three persons) will be assigned to each team by 17 February 2021.

Art. 10: Evaluation methods and criteria

1. Each team will be provided with a self-assessment portfolio (Annex 6). They will be required to complete the portfolio at each stage.
The common assessment will have to be validated by consensus by all team members.
In case of disagreement on the collective self-assessment, academic support should be consulted.
In case of persistent disagreement, the programme Steering Committee will be consulted.
2. Each participant will be provided with a self-evaluation portfolio. He/she will have to fill it in at each stage.
3. Each of the tasks indicated in Art. 5 § 6 will be subject to collective and, where appropriate, individual evaluation.

4. A specific Evaluation Committee will be set up and announced before each "test". He will evaluate all the teams for this event. He will have access to the collective and individual evaluation portfolios prior to the event.
Dr Stephan Davidshofer and at least one member of the Programme Steering Committee will be a member of each Evaluation Committee.
5. The four main evaluation criteria are as follows:
 - a. Quality and effectiveness of the collective work (including inclusive participation of all team members);
 - b. Knowledge acquisition by participants;
 - c. Quality and relevance of the deliverables indicated in Art. 5 § 6 above;
 - d. Motivation and involvement in the project.
6. As a reminder - this is one of the main pedagogical objectives of this alternative exchange programme - collective evaluation is more important in this programme than individual evaluation.
7. A ranking between the teams will be established at the end of the programme. The best teams will be rewarded.
8. Each participant will receive an individual certificate of participation and evaluation. A description of the programme as well as an evaluation of their participation will be included. This document will be signed by the Director of GSI.

Art. 11 Credits award

1. For students regularly enrolled in BARI, upon successful completion of the programme, 24 ECTS credits will be acquired in accordance with Art. 24 § 1 of the BARI study regulations, and will be recorded on the transcript of records for the May/June 2021 examination session.
2. In the event of withdrawal from the programme, failure to fulfil the requirement of Article 6(1) of this Directive (unless a valid reason is given), or failure to pass the assessments, the procedures set out in Article 24(3) of the BARI Regulations shall apply to BARI students.
3. For incoming exchange students from a partner university, it is as a result of "classical" exchange stays that the home university allocates credits according to its own rules. If an incoming exchange student fails to complete the programme, the rules of the home university apply.
4. On the basis of serious motivation, a student participating in this programme may request to waive the acquisition of exchange credits through this alternative exchange programme.

In such case, s/he must submit a reasoned request by letter to the Director of GSI between 1 and 15 May 2021, who will decide, after consultations, within 10 days of receipt of the letter.

This decision may, if necessary, be subject to opposition.

The waiver of credits does not exonerate the student from continuing the programme.

The student will, despite the waiver of credits, receive the individual certificate of participation and evaluation in accordance with Art. 10 § 8.

Art. 12 BARI exchange students not participating in the programme

Participation in this alternative exchange programme is voluntary. Non-participation does not entail any negative consequences for a student.

Participation is validated by the student's registration in accordance with the procedures set out in Article 4 above.

Consequently, a student who registered for an exchange for the spring semester 2021, whose exchange could not be completed in that semester and who does not wish to participate in the present programme, will have to acquire by other means the 24 ECTS credits equivalent to the "Exchange" module.

- a. Either by postponing and carrying out a classic exchange during a later semester (provided that the conditions and availability of the exchange programmes can be applied to him or her) ;
- b. Or by accumulating 24 ECTS credits in the BARI course programme, which will be registered in an "*A la carte*" module which, exceptionally, will be substituted for the "Exchange" module.

Art. 13 Miscellaneous provisions

1. In the event of doubt as to the interpretation or application of this Directive, any participant in the alternative exchange programme may refer the matter to the Director of the GSI, who shall decide on the matter.

The request must be made in writing and must be substantiated.

Comparison with the original French version of this Directive may be used to determine proper interpretation¹.

2. Ordinary appeal procedures against a decision of the Director shall be open in accordance with the UNIGE RIO Regulation.
3. If necessary and after consultation with the Steering Committee of the programme, the Director of the GSI may take decisions derogating from this directive.
4. If a point in the directive proves inapplicable or unsuitable, the Director of the GSI may, after appropriate consultations, amend this directive.

Any amendment shall immediately be brought to the attention of all participants in the programme.

Any amendment shall be accompanied by an appropriate transitional provision.

¹ This paragraph is only found in the English version of the Directive.

5. Students must respect the practices of the University within the framework of their studies and activities at the University of Geneva, as well as when using the various services and resources made available by the institution.

Failing this, in accordance with Article 18 of the University's Statutes, the Director of GSI may refer the matter to the Disciplinary Council of the University of Geneva if it considers that disciplinary proceedings should be envisaged.

Prior to any referral to the Disciplinary Council, the Director must have heard the student in question.
6. The present directive applies, *mutatis mutandis*, to students from the partner Universities participating in this programme.
7. A BARI student who has acquired his/her ECTS exchange credits in accordance with Art. 11 of this Directive may not carry out any other exchange during his/her BARI studies.
8. This Directive will no longer be applicable after 15 July 2021, except for situations relating to events occurring or decisions taken before that date.
9. For any question relating to this programme and its implementation which is not regulated by this Directive, the rules in force at the GSI and at UNIGE – respectively and as need be of their home University for incoming students – shall apply.

This directive, adopted on 8 January 2021 by the Director of the GSI in accordance with art. 24 §§ 1 and 2 of the BARI Study Regulations of 14 September 2020, shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.

1. Annexes :

Annex 1: "Guidelines" for the choice of a work theme (to be published on 20 January)

Annex 2: Rules applicable to "Mercato" (17-18 February 2021) (to be published on 20 January)

Annex 3: Rules on partnership agreements (to be published on 17 February)

Annex 4: Conditions for the presentation of projects in the partner Universities (will be specified in connection with each partner University by March 1st)

Annex 5: Terms and conditions of the peer review (to be published on 3 March)

Appendix 6: Team self-assessment portfolios (will be available from 25 January)

Annex 7: Individual self-assessment portfolios (will be available from 25 January)