SURVEY:
UKRAINIAN STUDENTS ABROAD

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Survey 2022: Ukrainian students abroad
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New York, USA - 24 February 2022: Ukrainian citizens protests in New York City against the war after Russia started the invasion of Ukraine — Photo by JANIFEST
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PREAMBLE

This survey was initiated and conducted by the union of volunteer student organisations: NGO "Erasmus Student Network Ukraine", NGO "Ukrainian Student League", NGO "Ukrainian Students for Freedom", and other students and volunteers with the support of the National Erasmus+ Office in Ukraine.

Our group used only its own volunteer resources to distribute, analyse and write this report. We do not claim the absolute perfection of this survey. Still, we believe that this initiative will help all stakeholders to learn more about the problems and attitudes among Ukrainian students.

We understand that in the conditions of war society faces a large number of challenges, but we consider it extremely important not to lose sight of the problem of students. With this research and its results, we hope to highlight key issues that need to be addressed quickly, and we encourage all parties involved, partners, and stakeholders to continue researching the needs of Ukrainian students in wartime.
95% of respondents said that their educational process takes place in a remote or hybrid format due to hostilities on the territory of Ukraine. 

44% of respondents answered that they feel the need, and 14% indicated a partial need for legal support. 

67% of those who need foreign language courses want to study the national languages of their host countries and 33% — English. 

50% of respondents said they felt the need and 10% indicated a partial need for online training on university admission abroad, such as writing cover letters, CVs, etc. 

57% of respondents answered that Ukrainian higher education institutions fully or partially do not support the initiative of students to study abroad. 

30% of respondents say that they have encountered significant or partial difficulties and criticism regarding the organisation of the educational process or enrollment abroad. 

83% of respondents answered that they had not participated in exchange programmes / academic mobility / internships / volunteering / etc. abroad before. 

53% of respondents indicated that their financial situation requires or will require to combine studying with work, and 15% indicated that they will need partial employment.
Since the occupation of Crimea and Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2014, thousands of young people, students and educators have become innocent victims of Russian aggression. Internally displaced universities, teachers, and students have become a daily reality in Ukraine. Since February 24, 2022, the full-scale invasion of Russia, students in exile and emigration added to these realities.

Nowadays, there are 42 damaged or completely destroyed higher education institutions, including 33 universities that operate as relocated educational institutions¹. Unfortunately, there are currently no official statistics on the number of teachers and students who have gone abroad and whether they continue their activities remotely. This complicates the collection of information and analysis of their needs and existing problems.

That is why, realising the need to consolidate data and gather information on the problems of Ukrainian students who are planning or already studying abroad, we decided to create this survey. We hope that its results and recommendations will be the basis for discussion and further cooperation between student organisations, representatives of the Ukrainian government and European partners.

Tetyana Fedorchuk
Liaison Officer for the Western Balkans and Eastern Neighbourhood at Erasmus Student Network

¹ Destroyed universities, schools and kindergartens: how pupils and students can return to school, 2022
The Survey: Ukrainian students abroad is an attempt by the largest Ukrainian student organisations to join forces and explore the needs and problems of those students who have decided to study abroad in connection with the start of a full-scale war.

The target audience of the survey was people who are already studying or planning to study abroad. The survey was conducted via a Google form with open and closed questions, where students could share their experiences. The form was disseminated through social networks and information resources of volunteer student organisations and their partners. Due to the most active activities of organisations in Kyiv, the largest number of respondents are from Kyiv and Kyiv Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

The main question we sought to answer in this survey was: **what problems do students who study or plan to study abroad face?**

The survey consisted of six parts and 34 questions. In total, we collected 528 responses, which were analysed, described and based on which recommendations were developed.
This section presents the demographic indicators of the respondents in this survey.

Sex

Among the respondents, 68.75% are women, 30.75% — men and 0.5% — others. We believe that the issue of gender is particularly important in the analysis of problems of movement and border crossing because due to the low level of communication, unclear interpretation of legislation and established rules of border crossing by men, there are many problems which practically make it impossible for male students to study abroad.

Figure 1. Gender:
- Women — 68.75% (319 people)
- Men — 30.75% (143 people)
- Other — 0.5% (2 people)
Age

68% of surveyed students said that they are currently 19-21 years old. At the same time, 17% of respondents aged 17-18. For the underaged students, it may be particularly difficult to manage their studies abroad.

**Figure 2. Year of birth respondents:**
- "2004-2005" — 17% (79 people)
- "2001-2003" — 68% (314 people)
- "1999-2000" — 10% (48 people)
- "1996-1999" — 4% (20 people)
- "1995 and earlier"— 1% (3 persons)

![Year of birth respondents chart](chart.png)

**Geographical indicators**

As mentioned above, the largest share of respondents indicated that they were born in Kyiv — 32.5%. This is due to the limited access to the media channels of survey organisers to the students from other regions.

**Figure 3. Area of birth respondents:**
- Kyiv — 32.5% (151 people)
- Dnipro — 8% (37 people)
- Kharkiv — 6.5% (30 people)
- Lviv — 6.5% (30 people)
- Odesa — 6% (28 people)
- Donetsk — 5.8% (27 people)
- Zhytomyr — 3.9% (18 people)
- Cherkasy — 2.6% (12 people)
- Vinnytsia — 2.6% (12 people)
- Poltava — 2.6% (12 people)
- Chernihiv — 2.4% (11 people)
- Sumy — 2.4% (11 people)
- Rivne — 2.2% (10 people)
- Zaporizhia — 2.2% (10 people)
- Others — 14% (65 people)
"I don't know... Just tired, sorry"

— the answer of one of the respondents
when asked about future plans

More than 50% of respondents study in the first and second years of bachelor's degree, which is due to the biggest activity of students at this age.

Figure 4. Year of study:
- 1st year (1st year of bachelor) — 30.5% (142 people)
- 2nd year (2nd year of bachelor) — 27.5% (128 people)
- 3rd year (3rd year bachelor) — 20.5% (95 people)
- 4th year (4th year of bachelor) — 13.5% (62 people)
- 5th year (1st year of master's degree) — 5% (22 people)
- 6th year (2nd year of master's degree) — 2.5% (12 people)
- Did not answer — 0.5% (3 people)
Most of the respondents study at the Taras Shevchenko Kyiv National University and the Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute. This is due to the large number of students in these HEIs and our ability to reach, in particular, these universities.

**Figure 5. HEIs:**
- Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv — 25.6% (119 people)
- Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute — 19.8% (92 people)
- Kyiv National Economic University — 5% (23 people)
- National Aviation University — 4.7% (22 people)
- Odesa Polytechnic National University — 4.3% (20 people)
- National University of "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy" — 2.6% (12 people)
- National University of Ostroh Academy — 2.2% (10 people)
- Bogomolets National Medical University — 1.7% (8 people)
- Ukrainian Catholic University — 1.7% (8 people)
- Lviv Polytechnic National University — 1.5% (7 people)
- Kyiv National Linguistic University — 1.5% (7 people)
- Borys Hrinchenko Kyiv University — 1.5% (7 people)
- Others — 22.8% (63 people)
- Did not answer — 5% (23 people)

Almost 70% of respondents study Humanities and Creative Art; Mathematical, Information and Computing Sciences; and Economics and Commerce.

**Figure 6. Branches of Science:**
- Humanities and Creative Arts — 27% (123 people)
- Mathematical, Information and Computing Sciences — 20% (94 persons)
- Economics and Commerce — 20% (94 people)
- Engineering and Environmental Sciences — 9% (40 people)
- Medical and Health Sciences — 6.5% (30 people)
- Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences — 5% (25 people)
- Biological and Biotechnological Sciences — 5% (23 persons)
- Education — 4% (18 people)
- Did not answer — 3.5% (17 people)

95% of respondents said that the educational process takes place in a remote or hybrid format due to hostilities on the territory of Ukraine.

**Figure 7. Do you keep studying at Ukrainian HEI?:**
- "Yes, online / hybrid" — 95% (441 people)
- "No" — 2% (10 people)
- "Yes, physically" — 2% (8 people)
- Did not answer — 1% (5 people)
"So far I'm studying remotely, I don't know about the future. Because my house is gone, and I lived in a dormitory in Kharkiv."

Out of 464 respondents:

44% of respondents said that they are in Ukraine, of which 37% said they did not decide where to continue their studies, and 22% are confident in continuing their studies in Ukraine.

Figure 8. **Students' location:**

- 44% in Ukraine (204 people)
- 56% not in Ukraine (260 people)
Of the 204 respondents in Ukraine, 37% said they had not decided where to continue their studies, and 22% would continue their studies in Ukraine:

- 37% did not decide where to continue their studies (76 people)
- 22% will continue their studies in Ukraine (44 people)
- 41% will not continue their studies in Ukraine (84 people)

**Figure 9. Studying (who are in Ukraine)**

“I want to study in Ukraine, but I will also apply abroad.”

Of the 76 respondents in Ukraine who have not decided where to continue their studies, 49% will remain in Ukraine after completing their training and war.

- 14% hesitate to stay in Ukraine after studying / war (11 people)
- 49% will remain in Ukraine after studying / war (37 people)
- 12% will not stay in Ukraine after studying / war (9 people)
- 25% did not answer (19 people)

**Figure 10. After studying / war (who are in Ukraine and have not decided where to continue their studies)**
Of the 84 respondents in Ukraine who will not continue their studies in Ukraine, 44% intend to stay in Ukraine after studying and war, and 24% said they will not stay in Ukraine after studying and war.

- 19% hesitate to stay in Ukraine after studying / war (16 people)
- 44% will remain in Ukraine after studying / war (37 people)
- 24% will not stay in Ukraine after studying / war (20 people)
- 13% did not answer (11 people)

Of the 260 students who are not in Ukraine, 55% will continue their studies abroad, and another 40% have not decided where they will continue their studies:

- 40% did not decide where to continue their studies (103 people)
- 5% will continue their studies in Ukraine (14 people)
- 55% will continue their studies not in Ukraine (143 people)

“I will look at the further situation in the country. If it gets worse, I will go abroad.”
Of the 103 respondents who are not in Ukraine and have not decided where to continue their studies, 45.5% will remain in Ukraine after completing studying and war, and 14.5% will leave the country.

- 32% hesitate to stay in Ukraine after studying / war (33 people)
- 45% will remain in Ukraine after studying / war (47 people)
- 15% will not stay in Ukraine after studying / war (15 people)
- 8% did not answer (8 people)

![Figure 13. After studying / war (who are not in Ukraine and have not decided where to continue their studies)](image)

Of the 143 people who are not in Ukraine and will not continue their studies in Ukraine, 42% said they would stay in Ukraine after completing their studying and war, and 34% said they would leave the country.

- 19% hesitate to stay in Ukraine after studying / war (27 people)
- 42% will remain in Ukraine after studying / war (60 people)
- 34% will not stay in Ukraine after studying / war (49 people)
- 5% did not answer (7 people)

![Figure 14. After studying / war (who are not in Ukraine and will not continue their studies in Ukraine)](image)
In this part of the analysis, we have identified issues that can be resolved by partners and institutions both in Ukraine and abroad. We are convinced that cooperation between the parties with the assistance of student and youth organisations is the key to solving these problems.

One of the main focuses of our survey was to identify the need to help students in legal, psychological, linguistic and other areas of well-being.

In particular, with regard to legal aspects, 44% of respondents said that they felt the need, and 14% indicated a partial need for legal support. The assistance of universities together with local authorities is critical in this aspect.

Figure 15. “I feel the need for help with legal issues and other issues of living abroad.”:
- "No" — 33% (154 people)
- "Partially" — 14% (65 people)
- "Yes" — 44% (202 people)
- Did not answer — 9% (43 people)
At the same time, when asked about psychological help, 55% answered that they do not feel the need for help in this area. However, we urge universities to continue encouraging students to seek help from psychologists and psychotherapists, as well as to establish or disseminate contacts of the existing help centres for Ukrainians, as we believe that many psychological problems may arise later in the active learning and adaptation phases.

**Figure 16. “I feel the need for psychological help (existing anxiety, mental disorders, etc.)”:**
- "No" — 55% (255 people)
- "Partially" — 11% (51 people)
- "Yes" — 26% (120 people)
- Did not answer — 8% (38 people)

50% of respondents said they felt the need and 10% indicated a partial need for online training on university admission abroad, such as writing cover letters, CVs, etc. We are convinced of the need for cooperation between universities and youth and student organisations in order to provide students with maximum support in this matter through peer-to-peer workshops and training.

**Figure 17. “Do you feel the need for online training on university admission abroad? (creation of motivation letters, CVs, etc.)”:**
- "No" — 31% (144 people)
- "Partially" — 10% (47 people)
- "Yes" — 50% (233 people)
- Did not answer — 9% (40 people)
Also, one of the biggest problems is the issue of available resources for learning foreign languages. 56% of respondents answered that they have a full need and 10% that feel a partial need for language courses.

Figure 18. "I feel the need for language courses":
- "No" — 24% (111 people)
- "Partially" — 10% (46 people)
- "Yes" — 56% (262 people)
- Did not answer — 10% (45 people)

In particular, 67% of them need courses in the national languages of their host countries and 33% need English language courses.
- "English" — 33% (102 people)
- "National language of the host country" — 67% (206 people)
At the same time, the majority of respondents indicated that they would study in English (47%), 23% in the language of the host country, and 23% did not yet know.

**Figure 20. “What language will you study in?”:**
- “English” — 47% (217 people)
- “In the language of the host country” — 23% (106 people)
- “Don't know” — 23% (106 people)
- “Mixed” — 2% (10 people)
- “Other” — 2% (9 people)
- “I do not study abroad” — 3.5% (16 people)

We believe that the study of foreign languages by Ukrainian students needs to be addressed by both European partners and universities, and the Ukrainian government’s assistance in finding socially responsible businesses that would help by opening as many online language resources as possible for students from Ukraine who are currently abroad. We are convinced that knowledge of foreign languages will promote adaptation and will be an indisputable advantage for the development of education and science in the future.
We were also interested in how higher education institutions provide educational, organisational, informational and advisory support to students in the process of changing higher education institutions during the war.

57% of respondents said that Ukrainian higher education institutions do not fully or partially support the initiative of students to study abroad, while 29% said that the institution provides full support in implementing their choice.

From 464 respondents:

- 17% answered that the Ukrainian HEI does not support the initiative of students to study abroad (77 people)
- 29% answered that the Ukrainian HEI has very little support for the initiative of students to study abroad (134 people)
- 11% answered that the Ukrainian HEI partially supports the initiative of students to study abroad (53 people)
- 29% answered that the Ukrainian HEI supports the initiative of students to study abroad (136 people)
- 14% did not answer the question (64 people)

Figure 21. Ukrainian HEI supports the initiative to study abroad
“The information on the site does not correspond to reality, so I had to ask several times in person.”

Information assistance to students is not organised at the best level – this statement is confirmed by the results of the survey: 59% of respondents believe that the educational institution does not help students in finding opportunities during the war, while 36% say the opposite.

From 464 respondents:
- 29% answered that the Ukrainian HEI does not help students to find opportunities during the war (133 people)
- 30% answered that the Ukrainian HEI helps students very little in finding opportunities during the war (140 people)
- 14% answered that the Ukrainian HEI partially helps students to find opportunities during the war (64 people)
- 22% answered that the Ukrainian HEI helps students to find opportunities during the war (100 people)
- 6% did not answer the question (27 people)

![Bar chart showing responses to the question about the help of Ukrainian HEI in finding opportunities during the war](chart.png)

**Figure 22. Ukrainian HEI helps to find opportunities during the war**

“The administration of my HEI does not understand the documentary procedure for giving the approval of academic mobility.”
To the question “Were there any difficulties with the registration of academic mobility from the side of the home HEIs” 35% of students said that their HEIs created significant, partial or minor difficulties in the design of academic mobility.

From 464 respondents:
- 27% answered that HEI did not create difficulties for students in the design of academic mobility (126 people)
- 14.5% answered that students had minor difficulties in obtaining academic mobility (68 people) due to the EIT.
- 7.5% answered that due to the HEI students had partial difficulties in obtaining academic mobility (35 people)
- 13% answered that students had significant difficulties in registering for academic mobility due to the HEI (60 people)
- 38% did not answer the question (175 people)

“**It seems that Ukrainian HEI lacks administrative resources and clarity of mechanisms for effective processing of students' needs in academic exchanges.**”

During the registration of academic mobility, most students faced problems related to the lack of assistance with registration (34.5%), low information support (21%), lack of opportunities (19.5%), and long process of the registration (9%) and so on.
Due to the introduction of distance learning due to martial law in Ukraine, most students are dissatisfied with the organisation of distance learning in educational institutions, given that educational institutions have extensive experience in this field after 2 years of distance learning during the pandemic.

31% of respondents said that they have a high workload, 23% are convinced of the inadequacy of the educational process, 6.5% claim insufficient information and 6% lack assistance in the organising of academic mobility and more. All of this has a significant impact on ensuring the quality of higher education and training of competitive professionals.

**Figure 24. “What are the difficulties with your HEI in Ukraine?” The main problems were:**

- "High workload" — 31% (73 complaints)
- "Incomplete educational process" — 23% (54 complaints)
- "Lack of assistance for academic mobility" — 6.5% (15 complaints)
- "Insufficient information" — 6.5% (15 complaints)
- "Difficulty in obtaining documents from the HEI" — 6% (14 complaints)
- "No alternative to lectures and seminars" — 5.5% (13 complaints)
- "Bad connection" — 5% (12 complaints)
- "Fear" — 5% (11 complaints)
- "Distance learning" — 4% (10 complaints)
- "Lack of technical capacity" — 3% (6 complaints)
- "Lack of assistance to students who are in the Armed Forces / Territorial defence" — 1% (3 complaints)
- "Destroyed HEI" — 1% (3 complaints)
- "Occupation" — 1% (3 complaints)
- "Destroyed housing" — 0.5% (1 complaint)
- "Offline exams" — 0.5% (1 complaint)
- "Financial problems" — 0.5% (1 complaint)
In order to analyse the problems of students abroad, we were interested in the student’s whereabouts, student status, the presence of issues related to the university, financial difficulties and the availability of housing.

40.5% of respondents answered that they are already in the country of their foreign HEI. 15.5% plan to move in the near future, and 13% plan to move closer to the beginning of the autumn semester.

6% of respondents are still looking for learning opportunities and 10% are hesitant about deciding where to continue their studies. We believe that this points to the importance of disseminating information about studying abroad, in particular under the Erasmus+ programme, especially among marginalised categories of students.

Also, 4% of respondents stated that they do not have the opportunity to cross the border, which once again emphasises the need to clarify the legislation on crossing the border by male students.

Figure 25. “Are you currently in the country of your study abroad?”:

- “Yes, I’m already here” — 40.5% (188 people)
- “I plan in the near future” — 15.5% (71 people)
- “I will move in the fall” — 13% (62 people)
- “Don't know yet” — 10% (46 people)
- “No, I will not move at all” — 10% (45 people)
- “Looking for an opportunity to study abroad” — 6% (27 people)
- “It is not possible to cross the border” — 4% (19 people)
- Did not answer — 1% (6 people)
Regarding the dissemination of information about study opportunities, respondents who have already found options for continuing or starting their studies abroad mainly used the Internet or the advice of their Ukrainian universities. That is why we are convinced that more active promotion of opportunities through these resources is the most appropriate solution.

Figure 26. “How did you find out about your educational opportunity?”:

“Ukrainian HEI” — 14% (66 people)
“Internet / news” — 13% (59 people)
“Various sources” — 7.5% (35 people)
“Acquaintances / friends” — 5.5% (25 people)
“Foreign HEI” — 4% (18 people)
“Other” — 3.5% (17 people)
Did not answer — 52.5% (244 people)
“I do not have enough information on how to continue free education abroad. I do not have the resources. There is little information to make a decision.”

In total, 30% of respondents said that they had encountered significant or partial difficulties and criticism regarding the organisation of the educational process or enrollment abroad.

Figure 27. "I have difficulties, wishes, criticism of the educational process abroad":
- "No" — 44% (203 people)
- "Partial difficulties" — 14% (63 people)
- "Significant difficulties" — 16% (76 people)
- Did not answer — 26% (122 people)

Among the main problems were excessive bureaucracy, lack of information and difficulty in finding it, financial problems, lack of opportunity to obtain a language certificate or lack of knowledge of a foreign language at the level required for study, and so on.

Figure 28. Problems:
- "Over-bureaucratization" — 20% (27 complaints)
- "Insufficient amount of information" — 20% (27 complaints)
We urge universities to pay attention to student criticism and to contribute as much as possible to the systematic solution of emerging problems.

At the same time, it should be emphasised that a large number of students are likely to encounter for the first time the educational systems of other countries, other cultures, norms and rules. 83% of respondents answered that they had not participated in exchange programs / academic mobility / internships / volunteering / etc. abroad before. In our view, this underscores the need for wider dissemination of information, consultations from universities and activities aimed at explaining the principles of mobility, existing exchange programs and differences between education systems in Europe.

Figure 29. “Have you participated in exchange programmes / academic mobility / internships / volunteering / etc. abroad before?”

"No" — 83% (385 people)
"Yes" — 15% (71 people)
"In process" — 2% (8 people)
As for the number of students who have already decided to study, as of early May, the question "Are you already enrolled in an educational institution abroad?" 18% of respondents answered "Yes", 11.5% were in the process of submitting documents and 24% indicated that they plan to do so in the near future.

**Figure 30. “Are you already enrolled in an educational institution abroad?”:**
- “No” — 46.5% (216 people)
- “I will submit documents in the near future” — 24% (113 people)
- “Yes” — 18% (82 people)
- “In the process” — 11.5% (53 people)

43% of respondents indicated that the studying will be physical, 7% said they will study in a hybrid mode, but 41% are unsure of the format. We call on all educational institutions that will introduce online learning to make sure that they have access to the Internet, the availability of technical means and a favourable learning environment for Ukrainian students.
Figure 31. “How will study abroad take place?”:
- “Physically” — 43% (201 people)
- “I don’t know” — 41% (190 people)
- “I do not study abroad” — 9% (42 people)
- “Hybrid” — 7% (31 people)

One of the biggest problems for Ukrainian students is financial support for their studies. Only 26% of respondents said they would receive financial aid or a scholarship abroad. 54% do not yet know whether they will have financial support and 19% answered that they will not have it at all. This certainly emphasises the urgency of the issue of maximum dissemination of information on the availability of scholarships under the Erasmus+ exchange programme and other options for financial support for students.

Figure 32. “Will you receive financial aid / scholarship abroad?”:
- “In question” — 54% (251 people)
- “Yes” — 26% (121 people)
- "No" — 19% (87 people)
- Did not answer — 1% (5 people)
Financial difficulties create related problems and the need to solve them. 53% of respondents indicated that their financial situation requires or will need to combine training with work, and 15% indicated that they will need partial employment.

**Figure 33. “My financial situation needs / will need to combine study with work”:**
- "No" — 24% (110 people)
- "Partially" — 15% (69 people)
- "Yes" — 53% (246 people)
- Did not answer — 8% (39 people)

In general, only 7% of respondents indicated that their financial situation allows them to pay for education and accommodation abroad. 18% have the opportunity to pay for accommodation, but not tuition fees, 33% rely only on free study options, which include the possibility of receiving a scholarship and 38% of respondents count on the opportunity to earn extra money in order to cover accommodation and tuition costs.

**Figure 34. Choose the option that best describes you: “My financial situation...”:**
- ... allows me to partially cover my expenses while studying abroad, so I expect to earn extra money while abroad " — 38% (177 people)
- ... does not allow me to pay for the study and living abroad, so I rely solely on free educational opportunities with a scholarship " — 33% (153 people)
- ... allows me to pay for living abroad, but not tuition fees " — 18% (83 people)
- ... allows me to pay for the study and living abroad " — 7% (31 people)
- Other — 4% (20 people)
We are convinced that the combination of study and work will significantly affect the quality of students' studies, their mental health and their level of adaptation to life abroad, especially given that they are all victims of war, experiencing significant stress and psychological pressure.

Also, the majority of 51% of respondents said they were more likely to choose a free curriculum than a better but paid one.

**Figure 35.** *I'm more likely to choose a free curriculum than a more prestigious but paid one*:
- "No" — 17% (79 people)
- "I hesitate" — 18% (83 people)
- "Yes" — 51% (237 people)
- Did not answer — 14% (65 people)

Despite the already existing variety of programs and scholarships for Ukrainian students, 35% of respondents said they would not pay for tuition, many tuition programs involve payment for registration, admission or semester tax. 23% of respondents said that training in the program they chose involves payment, and 25.5% are unsure.
Figure 36. “Does the submission of documents to the educational institution involve any payments? (tuition fee, tax, etc.)”:  
- “No” — 35% (162 people)  
- “I don’t know” — 25.5% (118 people)  
- “Yes” — 23% (109 people)  
- “Other” — 5.5% (25 people)  
- “Partially” — 0.5% (2 persons)  
- Did not answer — 10.5% (48 people)

Another related problem is housing for students. Due to the fact that in Ukrainian reality, universities often provide subsidised housing in dormitories, the same is often expected from universities abroad. Only 21% indicated that the university helped with preferential accommodation, for example in a dormitory. 17% answered that they do not have such help, and 54.5% are still unsure.

Figure 37. “Did the university give you the opportunity for subsidised accommodation? (for example, dormitory)”:
- “Don't know” — 54.5% (254 people)  
- “Yes” — 21% (97 people)  
- “No” — 17% (78 people)  
- “In the process” — 3% (14 people)  
- “I have a place of residence in Ukraine” — 3% (13 people)  
- Did not answer — 1.5% (8 people)
Of course, a large number of respondents have temporary accommodation, such as with relatives, volunteers or friends. Only 3% indicated that they rent housing. We urge universities not to leave Ukrainian students alone with housing problems, as mentioned above, most of the students in exile are women under the age of 20, with no experience of living abroad, which increases the likelihood of harassment and/or violence and make them the main targets of fraud.

In addition, even the availability of temporary accommodation for relatives, friends or volunteers does not solve the problem of the need for permanent residence with the opportunity to study and take an active part in student life.

Figure 38. "If you have settled down on your own, how? (relatives, friends, volunteers, etc.)":
- “Relatives” — 11.5% (53 people)
- “Volunteers” — 7.5% (35 people)
- “Friends” — 3% (14 people)
- “Rent” — 3% (14 people)
- “Other” — 2% (11 people)
- Did not answer — 73% (337 people)
We call on higher education institutions in Ukraine to create/update institutional provisions, instructions and mechanisms on access to mobility opportunities, academic mobility and communication with students, and to adapt them to martial law. We are convinced that the exchange of best practices between mobility / international relations departments can facilitate procedures for students.

We propose to conduct a series of training among employees of mobility departments or international cooperation departments of Ukrainian HEIs on the developed mechanisms in cooperation with the National Erasmus + Office in Ukraine. We also encourage the creation of a feedback channel, such as a chatbot at the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine on academic mobility.

We encourage all student organisations, universities and other educational institutions to disseminate information, cooperate with the National Erasmus+ Office in Ukraine and other organisations responsible for international programs in Ukraine, develop (video) resources, and conduct workshops and meetings on opportunities to continue studying abroad in conditions of war.

In the long run, we call for intensified reform of the education sector in order to fully integrate the Ukrainian education system into the European Education Area, as well as improve the strategy of internationalisation of higher education through training in strategy, planning and setting indicators.

We call on the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine to pay attention to the need to reform the strategy of teaching foreign languages in secondary and higher education institutions.
• We call on the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine to express a clear position of the government on the crossing of the border by males for training, research, participation in international projects abroad during martial law, and to develop clear instructions and mechanisms of action and contacts for complaints about illegal actions of the border service.

For European partners:

• We encourage all interested partners to create effective and affordable medical and psychological care centres for students from Ukraine.

• We call for consultations from universities and events aimed at explaining the principles of mobility, existing exchange programs and differences between education systems in Europe, including through targeted advertising on the Internet.

• We encourage students to use available open resources to find studying opportunities abroad, for example: study in Europe, study in the USA, etc.

• We appeal to European partners, in cases of online learning, to make sure the technical means available to students from Ukraine in order to ensure their ability to continue their studies.

• We ask to disseminate information on financial support (scholarships, grants) and create funds to help students, cancel tuition fees or reduce them to a minimum.

• We call on educational institutions abroad to help students find housing and, if possible, to promote preferential accommodation in dormitories and student residences.

• In case of the working within the Erasmus+ framework, we encourage the institutions to be as open about the opportunities within the framework as possible, as well as to be proactive in the actions such as: paying the grant in advance or at the soonest point, lift any language certificates requirements or provide a free opportunity to pass a language test, etc.
Figure 1. Gender
Figure 2. Year of birth respondents
Figure 3. Area of birth respondents
Figure 4. Year of study
Figure 5. HEIs
Figure 6. Branches of Science
Figure 7. Do you keep studying at Ukrainian HEI?
Figure 8. Students’ location
Figure 9. Studying (who are in Ukraine)
Figure 10. After studying / war (who are in Ukraine and have not decided where to continue their studies)
Figure 11. After studying / war (who are in Ukraine and will not continue their studies in Ukraine)
Figure 12. Studying (who are not in Ukraine)
Figure 13. After studying / war (who are not in Ukraine and have not decided where to continue their studies)
Figure 14. After studying / war (who are not in Ukraine and will not continue their studies in Ukraine)
Figure 15. I feel the need for help with legal issues and other issues of living abroad
Figure 16. I feel the need for psychological help (existing anxiety, mental disorders, etc.)
Figure 17. Do you feel the need for online training on university admission abroad? (creation of motivation letters, CVs, etc.)
Figure 18. I feel the need for language courses
Figure 19. Language courses
Figure 20. What language will you study in?
Figure 21. Ukrainian HEI supports the initiative to study abroad
Figure 22. Ukrainian HEI helps to find opportunities during the war
Figure 23. HEI creates difficulties for students
Figure 24. What are the difficulties with your HEI in Ukraine? The main problems were:
Figure 25. Are you currently in the country of your study abroad?
Figure 26. How did you find out about your educational opportunity?
Figure 27. I have difficulties, wishes, criticism of the educational process abroad
Figure 28. Problems
Figure 29. Have you participated in exchange programs / academic mobility / internships / volunteering / etc. abroad before?
Figure 30. Are you already enrolled in an educational institution abroad?
Figure 31. How will study abroad take place?
Figure 32. Will you receive financial aid / scholarship abroad?
Figure 33. My financial situation needs / will need to combine study with work
Figure 34. My financial situation...
Figure 35. I'm more likely to choose a free curriculum than a more prestigious but paid one
Figure 36. Does the submission of documents to the educational institution involve any payments? (tuition fee, tax, etc.)
Figure 37. Did the university give you the opportunity for subsidised accommodation? (for example, dormitory)
Figure 38. If you have settled down on your own, how? (relatives, friends, volunteers, etc.)
The Erasmus Student Network Ukraine is a national-level student organization that represents local Erasmus Student Network sections. At the moment, we have a section in Kyiv and another one in Chernivtsi. Our mission is to represent international students, thus provide opportunities for cultural understanding and self-development under the principle of Students Helping Students and promote the Erasmus+ programme in Ukraine.

https://esnukraine.org/

The Ukrainian Student League is an organization created by students for students to develop and fully support the student community, as well as movements and projects that affect our lives. Our mission is to form a culture of student life in Ukraine to pursue a change in our society. Our vision is to be the finest part of student life and to create an ecosystem of youth local communities in Ukraine for the growth, coordination and representation of the students' interests.

https://www.usl.org.ua/

The Ukrainian Students for Freedom is a non-profit organized around safeguarding freedom, encouraging just policy making, and spreading the principles of liberty. Our mission is to unite, educate, and mobilize young Ukrainians who are committed to the ideal of freedom. Our generation was the first to be born in a free and independent Ukraine. We want to preserve that freedom for present and future Ukrainians. With this freedom, we believe Ukraine can achieve new heights of peace and prosperity.

https://studfreedom.org
Our Partner

The National Erasmus+ Office - Ukraine assists the European Commission, the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), the national authorities and higher education institutions in the implementation of the ERASMUS+ Programme. We follows closely the policy developments in Ukraine, particularly in the field of higher education but also at other levels of education, if required.

https://erasmusplus.org.ua