UUKi Flash poll: Outward Student mobility Plans, Academic Year 2020-21

Universities UK International (UUKi) conducted a flash poll of UK universities attending its joint Europe-OSM Network meeting on Friday June 12. The findings from this poll update on some of the findings of UUKi’s April survey on the impact of Covid-19 on student mobility next academic year 2020-21.

Sixty-two institutions responded to the poll. The survey asked three questions and the full aggregated results are available here.

Key findings

- 71% of respondents had taken a decision on Semester 1 outbound mobility (either internally or publicly). 29% had not yet taken a decision.

- 26% of respondents had already taken a decision on Semester 2 outbound mobility. 11% of respondents would be taking the decision by end-August; 21% would be taking the decision over the Autumn and by end-November. 35% of respondents did not yet know when they would be making a decision on Semester 2 outward mobility.

- Universities are considering many options for students going abroad at the beginning of next academic year (both Semester 1 and Academic Year mobilities). The top five responses were:
  - Mobilities postponed to Semester 2 (65% of respondents);
  - Starting online with the host institution with a view to going abroad physically when possible (53% of respondents);
  - Cancellation of all mobility in Semester 1 (45% of respondents);
  - Virtual mobility/exchange (40% of respondents); and
  - Students enrol on home modules as a back-up (37% of respondents).

Full findings

Have you taken a decision on semester 1 outbound mobility?

- Yes: 44
- No: 18
What options are being considered/offered for students going abroad at the beginning of next academic year (e.g. both semester 1 and academic year mobilities)? Multiple responses are possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Universities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mobilities postponed to second half of year</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starting online with host institution/employer with a view to going abroad physically when possible (blended mobility)</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancellation of all mobility in semester 1</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual mobility/exchange (including virtual internships)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students enrol on home modules as back-up</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancellation of some mobility (e.g. optional mobility, mobility to specific locations)</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobilities postponed to next academic year</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change of mobility destination</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home university modules with a view to going abroad physically when possible</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delayed physical start to semester at host</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shorter mobility periods (e.g. reduced year abroad number of weeks)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work placement in the UK</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students made exempt from programme</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business as usual</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancellation of all mobility for academic year 20/21</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No alternatives possible/being considered</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What options are being considered/offered for students going abroad at the beginning of next academic year (e.g. both semester 1 and academic year mobilities)? Multiple responses are possible.

- Mobilities postponed to second half of year
- Starting online with host institution/employer with a view to going abroad physically when possible (blended mobility)
- Cancellation of all mobility in semester 1
- Virtual mobility/exchange (including virtual internships)
- Students enrol on home modules as back-up
- Mobilities postponed to next academic year
- Cancellation of some mobility (e.g. optional mobility, mobility to specific locations)
- Change of mobility destination
- Home university modules with a view to going abroad physically when possible
- Delayed physical start to semester at host
- Work placement in the UK
- Shorter mobility periods (e.g. reduced year abroad number of weeks)
- Other
- Business as usual
- Students made exempt from programme
- Cancellation of all mobility for academic year 20/21
- No alternatives possible/being considered