ROTTERDAM SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT
ERASMUS UNIVERSITY

MASTER EXCHANGE PROGRAMME AT RSM

Introduction:
In 1988, RSM started the Master Exchange Programme. The year after, in 1989, RSM became member of 2 important networks, PIM (Partnership in International Management) and CEMS (Global Alliance in Management Education). At that time, both networks and bilateral agreements made it possible for RSM to build up a reputable network of exchange partner schools. At current the master exchange takes place with more than 80 top business schools in Europe, Canada, Latin America, the USA, Oceania, and Asia.

Why master students choose for an exchange
- Term abroad, either by exchange or internship, is indispensable for a business student, especially for those aiming to work at an international company.
- Added value to C.V. when applying for a job. Graduates who do have international experience, have a plus above others who don’t.
- Networking, an exchange abroad enables master students to build up, not only a social, but also a professional network.
- Development personal skills, an exchange always contributes to the development of the student’s personal skills like independency, communication, presentation, language, international orientation, open-mindness etc.
- Academic challenge, students like the idea of studying at highly ranked business schools where they can learn, work and compete with the best business schools of the world.

Implementation exchange within one-year master programme at RSM
In the academic year 2013/2014, RSM implemented the new thesis trajectory. As a result pursuing an exchange is only possible when the student has completed all of his/her master programme curriculum components in the nominal timespan of his/her programme, with the exception of one (6 ECTS) elective which can be done during the exchange. In all cases, the student has to fulfill a minimum workload of 20 ECTS abroad, meaning he/she always participate in extra courses. As the exchange is only allowed to take place upon completion of the master programme, the students do their exchange in autumn (September – December) rather than spring. After the exchange, passed results obtained abroad are converted into the student home studies and are published as (extra) free or master programme electives at the grade certificate belonging to the MSc diploma.

Prior to the academic year 2013/2014, most students were selected during their last Bachelor year already for the master exchange. Students who did not do their Bachelor at RSM could not go on exchange in their first year of studies. By pushing the master exchange to the Autumn Semester, students without an RSM Bachelor¹ are also eligible to apply for a master exchange.

¹ At the moment, more than 50% of the students in the master programmes hold a non-RSM Bachelor degree.

The business school that thinks and lives in the future
**Time line master exchange:**

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<tr>
<td>Core Course Block 1 (11 ects)</td>
<td>Core course Block 2 (11 ects)</td>
<td>Research skills January (4 ects) Elective* Block 3 (6 ects) Elective* Block 4 (6 ects) Elective* Block 5 (6 ects)</td>
<td>Graduation or Master Exchange Abroad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thesis trajectory</td>
<td>Thesis trajectory (16 ects)</td>
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<td>October 2015: students start with their online application for the master exchange</td>
<td>January 18, 2016: deadline to submit master exchange application</td>
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<td>Approx. February 2017: awarding MSc diploma</td>
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*One of these elective courses can be done during the exchange.*

**Importance Master Exchange Programme at RSM**

- Network of partners. RSM has a network of 165 top business schools all over the world and exchanges students on all 3 levels, BSc, MSc and MBA which results in a broad number of exchange spots.
- Recruitment tool. Non-RSM Bachelor degree students choose a master programme at RSM for the exchange opportunity at a top business school.
- Creating other ways of cooperation such as a double-degree programme, staff exchange, benchmarking activities.
- Participation of master students from top business schools can contribute to a better quality and level of master programme courses.

**Number and selection of master exchange students:**

The implementation of the new thesis trajectory caused a decrease (30%) in student numbers applying for the master exchange programme. Prior to the implementation of the new thesis trajectory, students would do their exchange as part of and during their regular master programme, now they do the exchange on top (bonus).

Prior to participation in the master exchange programme, a selection procedure takes place. Students are being assessed on the following criteria: average grade bachelor and master programme, language skills, side-activities, working experience, motivation letter and interview. In autumn 2016, approximately 150 master students will go on exchange.