



**Swiss International
Institute Lausanne**

VIRTUAL MOBILITY REGULATIONS

Swiss International Institute Lausanne - SIIL

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I INTRODUCTION

In the words of the glossary of the elearningeuropa.info portal, Virtual Mobility (VM) means: “the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) to obtain the same benefits as one would have with physical mobility but without the need to travel”. Virtual Mobility is made possible through ICT supported environments that include, for example, collaborative workspaces, computer mediated conferencing, live streaming and videoconferencing. Virtual Mobility is a form of learning which consists of virtual components through a fully ICT supported learning environment that includes cross-border collaboration with people from different backgrounds and cultures working and studying together, having, as its main purpose, the enhancement of intercultural understanding and the exchange of knowledge.

II VIRTUAL MOBILITY TYPES

Virtual Mobility activities can be subdivided into several categories. we have mainly looked at the type of activity taking place. This provided us with four main types:

- A virtual course (as part of a programme) or seminar (series) at a Higher Education Institution
- A whole programme at a Higher Education Institution
- Virtual student placements
- Virtual support activities to physical exchange

For our VM activities SIIL has chosen the first type or separate virtual certifying courses or series of courses in different Higher Institutions and companies all over the world.

1. Virtual Courses or Seminar (series)

This category focuses on the virtual course(s) as part of a whole study programme at a HEI or a virtual seminar or seminar series, also in the framework of a HEI. Here, students only engage in Virtual Mobility for a single course (or series of courses) or seminar (series) and the rest of their learning activities take place in the traditional way. We do not distinguish between a course (series of courses) or a seminar (series) because there are few differences in either the use and purpose of each. Inside of this VM type there are subdivisions:

- Collaborative arrangements
- Non-collaborative arrangements

We have borrowed this distinction from the UNESCO/Council of Europe Code of Good Practice in the Provision of Transnational Education (2001): collaborative arrangements hold that parts of a course of study, seminar (series) or other educational services of the awarding institution are provided by a partner in another country, while non-

collaborative arrangements include branch campuses, off-shore institutions, corporate and international institutions whereby study programmes, parts of a course of study, seminar (series) or other educational services are provided directly by an awarding institution in one country to another country or countries.

For its VM activities SIIL has chosen the *non-collaborative arrangements*. This means that one HEI or HE organisation (e.g. several universities who have created a new organisation that provides in a course or seminar series) is leading the organisation for the course or seminar (series). Often these activities do involve a partnership, but then only for the distribution of the course or seminar (series) and/or adjusting the content to the local culture and language. The main difference lies in the fact that there is no mutual consultation between the different participating countries: all communication goes through the lead organisation. In case of SIIL the leading organisation is the EdX Platform. SIIL has signed the contract with EdX and elaborated together the series of courses for each study programme in order to assure the richest international virtual study experience.

The academic department in collaboration with each faculty established the credit (ECTS) equivalence of proposed courses for VM. In the Study programmes each VM course or series if courses were attributed a correspondent ECTS credit number.

2. Virtual Mobility Destinations (VM Courses Institutions)

ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants)
Amazon Web Services
Arizona State University
Babson College, Massachusetts, USA
Catalyst, Washington, USA
Codio, Massachusetts, USA
Curtin University, Perth, Australia
Davidson College, North Carolina, USA
Delft University of Technology, Netherlands
Doane University, Nebraska, USA
École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland
Harvard University, USA
HEC Montréal, Canada
IBM, USA
Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, India
Indiana University, USA
KU Leuven, Belgium
LCI Education, Québec, Canada
LOGYCA, Bogota, Colombia
New York Institute of Finance, USA

Raspberry Pi Foundation, England
Rochester Institute of Technology, New York, USA
SDA Bocconi School of Management, Milano, Italy
SDG Academy, Jakarta, Indonesia
Stanford University California, USA
Technische Universität München, Germany
Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico
Tel Aviv University, Israel
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong
The Linux Foundation, USA
The London School of Economics and Political Science, England, UK
The University of Edinburgh, Wales, UK
The University of Maryland Eastern Shore, USA
The University of Maryland, College Park, USA
The University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA
The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), USA
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain
Universidad Anáhuac, Mexico
Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, Italia
Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain
University of Adelaide, Australia
University of California, Davis, USA
University of California, Riverside, USA
University of Canterbury, UK
University System of Maryland, USA
Wageningen University & Research, Netherlands
Waseda University, Japan
WOBI

3. VM Course List

Each study programme offers each semester selected VM courses as electives chosen and thought for this particular semester and Study Programme. At the same time students can find in their student account the catalog of 152 optional (payable separately) courses in more than 40 institutions in more than 10 countries.

III APPLICATION

1. Application Period: Elective and Optional VM Courses

For the VM courses that are proposed as *electives* in each semester, student must chose the elective courses at the moment of the semester access activation.

For the optional courses (VM course catalog of 152 courses), they can be chosen at any moment of the study process.

When the student decides which course (elective or optional) he/she wants to undergo, the student informs the Academic assistant about this choice and during one week the access to the VM courses will be granted. For the Optional VM course catalog the access will be granted after the payment of the access fee.

2. How to Apply?

To apply for the VM courses (electives or optional), student must contact his/her academic assistant.

3. Who is Eligible to Apply?

Applicants must be registered at SIIL as full-degree undergraduate or graduate students at the time of application.

4. Language Requirements

For English speaking VM courses applicants (no native speakers) need to have a document indicating their level of English proficiency (at least B2) and/or have the specified minimum score for the examination

- TOEFL IBT 80
- IELTS 6.5
- TOEFL PBT 550

For Russian speaking VM courses applicants (no native speakers) need to have a document indicating their level of Russian proficiency (at least B2).

IV RECOGNITION OF THE VM COURSES

1. Principle of the automatic recognition of credits

Recognition of credits “earned abroad” or during the study of different disciplines in the framework of the VM (on the EdX Platform), means credits that are counted fully towards the student’s degree, without the need for exchange students to retake exams or carry out extra work at their home institution (SIIL).

European University Foundation in its policy paper 2019 based on the last recommendation for EU Erasmus programme, in applying the student-centered approach advises to *implement the automatic recognition of the credits for the disciplines taken during the mobility programme, out of the home HEI.*

Virtual Mobility refers to a set of ICT-supported activities that realize or facilitate international collaborative experiences in a teaching or learning context.

ECTS Credits represent the workload and defined learning outcomes of a given course or program. Automatic Recognition refers to the direct acceptance of credits without additional verification requirements beyond the established course approval process.

The simplest way to make automatic recognition happen is to consider all ECTS stated in the transcript of records (ToR) as counting towards the degrees of outgoing students, provided that the courses listed match those indicated in the Study plan. This could be achieved by distinguishing which of the courses/modules/learning outcomes/credits to be taken abroad will be counted towards the degree upon successful completion, and which ones are learning components that will only be added to the Diploma Supplement. This does not mean the latter are less important, since there are several valid reasons why exchange students might choose to take part in courses that will not count towards their degree.

SIIL distinguishes *VM elective courses* that will be counted for the SP degree with automatically transferred credits upon successful completion and *VM optional courses* that will not be counted for the degree. Upon successful completion of the VM optional courses, they will be mentioned in the Diploma supplement as a professional certification and additional courses to the Study Plan.

The institution hereby establishes the automatic recognition of ECTS credits for Virtual Mobility elective courses that have been pre-approved through the SIIL Academic Department's evaluation process. The number of credits for each elective course or a block of courses are reflected in the study plans.

This recognition is granted based on the verified equivalence of:

- Learning outcomes alignment with institutional standards
- Academic workload compliance with ECTS requirements
- Assessment methods meeting institutional quality criteria

2. Course Evaluation and Approval Process to guarantee the automatic recognition of the ECTS for VM elective courses.

The SIIL Academic Department conducts a thorough evaluation of each Virtual Mobility course, examining:

- Detailed course descriptions and syllabi
- Specified learning outcomes
- Teaching and learning methodologies
- Assessment criteria and methods
- Student workload calculations
- Quality assurance measures

The department verifies that the workload corresponds to ECTS standards where:

- One ECTS credit represents 25-30 hours of student work

- Total workload includes direct instruction, independent study, and assessment activities
- Credit allocation aligns with institutional degree requirements

3. Recognition Implementation

Automatic Credit Transfer

- Credits from approved Virtual Mobility courses are recognized without additional student petition
- Credits are recorded directly on the student's academic transcript

V FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact the Academic Department, t.zarubina@siil.ch

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