



## ISEP Student Exchange

ISEP (International Student Exchange Programs) student exchange started 1979 as 7 higher education institutions program, every year receiving more and more interest from new members willing to apply. Today there are 300 higher education institutions from 50 different countries all around the world.

ISEP allow its partner institutions to apply and directly enroll students into classes at member institutions because of value of the full immersion that can only come from living and learning alongside locals. Our direct enrollment model broadens academic understanding as students engage in a curriculum presented through perspectives different from their home country.

Vilnius University joined ISEP in year 2010. Participating in ISEP can be a wonderful experience, as well as incredibly useful for student future academic development. ISEP allows students to apply previously hard to reach most prestige Universities in the world.



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## 1. What kind of mobility ISEP can offer?

### a) Student exchange possibilities (ISEP-Exchange)

This mobility ensures equal mobility it means institution is responsible to accept same number of the students it sends every year. Every outbound student is guaranteed free tuition, accommodation and meal plan, in exchange every inbound student receive same benefits. ISEP have two types of exchange:

- Exchange between USA universities. All ISEP exchange participant list can be found [here](#);
- Exchange is also possible between ISEP in other countries. International partners, possible for exchange can be found [here](#) (only with institutions, those have *I-to-I International Exchange* sign).

Fees<sup>1</sup>: 100 USD (*application fee*), 325 USD (*placement fee*), ISEP health insurance 75 USD/month., English language test (TOEFL/EILTS), travel and visa fee, deposit for accommodation (returned after exchange), additional spending for academics needs (books, photocopies etc.) and personal spending.

### b) Non-exchange student mobility (ISEP-Direct)

This mobility allows students to study in one of 30 foreign universities. It is available for ISEP partner students; however partner institution does not guarantee accommodation students need to self-support accommodation and all living expenses. Institutions possible for exchange can be found [here](#) (only institutions with *direct* sign).

Fees<sup>2</sup>: 100 USD (*application fee*), 325 USD (*placement fee*), ISEP health insurance 75 USD/month., English language test (TOEFL/EILTS), travel and visa fee, deposit for accommodation (returned after exchange), additional spending for academics needs (books, photocopies etc.) and personal expenses.

## 2. Who can participate?

Students can participate in ISEP exchange, if they are:

- ☒ all VU degree students (BA, MA, PhD, priority for graduate and post graduate students);
- ☒ before planed studies in foreign country have finished two semesters of bachelor study;
- ☒ in graduate studies before start of the study in VU have finished one semester;
- ☒ are motivated and are able to create personal study plan in foreign university in accordance with their own study plan;
- ☒ They are not final semester students.

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<sup>1</sup> Only for students who pass internal selection

<sup>2</sup> Only for *ISEP-Direct*, no internal selection, fees for all students.

### 3. ISEP audition

#### *I round: internal VU audition*

ISEP audition usually is organized once a year: **in December**. In the process of audition we will choose students for next academic year fall semester and/or following academic year. In case there are any empty slots for exchange we will organize additional students audition in May for next academic year spring semester study in foreign universities, so we are welcoming students to follow news by their coordinators,

Deadline for internal application is December 12<sup>th</sup><sup>3</sup>

#### **Documents, you need to prepare for internal audition:**

- 1) Faculty Dean's certificate (Transcript of Records) (graduate and post-graduate students provide copy of diploma(in English, or translated to English);
- 2) Motivation letter in English;
- 3) Institutions, in those student would like to apply (up to 10 by prioritization);
- 4) At least in 5 institutions create preliminary study plan (every institution must have separate *Learning Agreement* all programs must have sign of faculty coordinator).

#### **Audition process organization**

Students audition is organized by ISEP selection committee, participants of committee change every year. At least 2 participants in committee are members of academic society from different faculties. To ensure objectivity, at least one member of committee is independent assessor. Final list of the students is confirmed by Vilnius University ISEP program coordinator. About VU internal audition results all students will be informed personally by phone or email not later than three weeks after the end of final date of audition.

#### **Audition criteria**

Main audition criteria:

- ☒ Correctly chosen universities, it means that you can see clearly, that student will be able to create his/her study level and study program;
- ☒ motivation, it means student are able to express motivation clearly, reasonably set out the reasons, why for her/him study in ISEP is important;
- ☒ Language knowledge, which will be used for study in foreign university. IELTS/TOEFL or other diploma is an advantage;
- ☒ Academic results.

Additional criteria:

- ☒ Priority is for graduate and post-graduate students, however strongly motivated bachelor students, have possibilities to pass the ISEP audition as well.

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<sup>3</sup>Application time can change by year on year basis,you can check information at: [www.vu.lt](http://www.vu.lt) → **Tarptautiniai ryšiai** → **Naujienos**. (in Lithuanian)

- ☑ Priority for students, those can express academic necessity to go for Non-EU country for their studies (to apply for EU universities students have a lot of possibilities through Erasmus+ program).

## *II round: main ISEP program audition*

After internal audition results will be clear, will be organized final meeting of selected students with VU ISEP coordinator and final advices, how to prepare documents to successfully pass ISEP central bureau audition.

Students who passed VU internal audition will be able to login to **ISEP online** registration form.

In two-three weeks after application process ended ISEP start to analyze applications and in 6 to 8 weeks you will know the university you be accepted. Around 90% of applications are successfully approved. After approval the student and university ISEP coordinator will be informed about further process of registration. Student after knowing to which university he/she will be going, can communicate directly to that university coordinator, to start visa application and create study plan.

Deadline for ISEP central bureau in United States of America is **February 15th** (when applying for fall semester or academic year) and September 1<sup>st</sup> (when applying for spring semester, if there was additional audition for spring semester).





## 4. How to choose the university correctly?

When you are choosing universities please consider these questions:

✓ **That kind of exchange is acceptable for you?**

Do you want to study in US or other country? You are only applying for ISEP-Exchange, or would consider to applying ISEP-Direct?

✓ **What are your academic interests?**

Does our study program allow choosing courses in foreign countries? Are courses selections in foreign institution acceptable for your level of studies? You should use ISEP website *Explore* function, to make the search easier.

✓ **What is your language knowledge?**

Is your language level acceptable for the universities you want apply? Do you have required language certificates? IMPORTANT: if foreign university strictly requires IELTS/TOEFL test results, you must provide them before the deadline showed in the main ISEP website (preparing documents for internal audition test results are not necessary. Second and third cycle students could have higher requirements for language skills.

✓ **What size of institutions you are considering?**

Do you want more individualized study? Choose smaller universities! However bigger universities could have more courses acceptable for you.

✓ **What are your financial capabilities?**

Consider if you if you will be able support yourself if you plan to apply for non-exchange program (*ISEP-Direct*)? Always consider: the living cost in the country you want to apply, what will be travel and other expenditures.

✓ **What period of study is most acceptable for you?**

Do you want to study for one semester or academic year?

✓ **Possibility of acceptance**

Some universities accept more students, others less. Ones have more competition, others less. When you choose a program in a university always check **Chances of Placement**.

It is important to understand, that foreign universities can accept only limited number of exchange students, so a lot depends on your documents provided during registration, especially academic achievements, recommendations, motivation, language test results, so prepare all the documents carefully. Final results will depend on number and academic proficiency of the students applying to study in university you have selected, around 85% of all students who applied to ISEP are accepted to one of the first three institution.

## 5. Additional info about the rules of application

Correctly chosen foreign universities are one of main requirement for successful application. When applying for ISEP program, students should be flexible for the selection of the institution for exchange and in application should write down up to 10 institutions (by priority) as a choice of study.

### If you want to study in United States of America:

- ☑ ISEP exchange in USA list can be found [here](#).
- ☑ Make sure that at least one of the top 3 institutions, you written in your application would have excellent, very good or good acceptance possibilities (information can be checked online in program introduction).
- ☑ In application you can have **only one**, which list its program as most competitive (*Chances of Placement: Most Competitive*). This university in your application must be chosen as first priority, otherwise it won't be considered.
- ☑ Do not apply for universities that are unable to receive students (*Closed for Applications*).
- ☑ In ISEP there are three universities consortiums: North Caroline; Georgia and Missouri. Students must know, that by choosing one of consortium university is applying to consortium as a whole, so it possible that student will be accepted by other institution from the consortium.
- ☑ If foreign university requires IELTS/TOEFL test or other certification, to confirm your language ability, you must pass it before the application for ISEP program application deadlines. When applying fall/academic year studies, latest date taking the exam is January 1<sup>st</sup>, when applying for spring semester– July 15<sup>th</sup>. If student can't provide exam result his application won't be considered.

### If you want to study in the other countries in world:

- ☑ ISEP members, those can have exchange with institutions from the other countries of the world, list [here](#).
- ☑ When applying always check your possibilities to be accepted to your selected university (*Chances of Placement*). If you choose institutions with limited chances of placement, you must choose at least few universities in your application.
- ☑ When you are applying you can choose USA or other countries universities, however you have to show for what country you are showing priority.
- ☑ Do not choose European universities, because Vilnius university students have many possibilities to spend some time of their studies in one of European universities through Erasmus+ program.

## 6. ISEP contact

If you have any questions or inquiries please contact

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For students willing to participate in ISEP exchange, please contact Vilnius University ISEP coordinator, any inquiries sent to USA departments will not be responded.



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