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MILANO 1863

Guidelines for “Free Mover” Mobility
Approved by the Academic Senate at the meeting on July 20th, 2020

Who is a “Free Mover” student?

“Free Movers” are students who undertake an international mobility and independently organize their period of study abroad. This mobility is not within the frame of an exchange programme managed by the Politecnico di Milano, as, for example, Erasmus.

Since the “Free Mover” mobility does not involve a structured international or European programme, candidates for “Free Mover” mobility must personally organize their stay abroad (contact with the chosen university, meals, accommodation, health assistance, etc.). Moreover, no contribution is provided to a “Free Mover” mobility.

Activities recognized under “Free Mover” mobility include attending lessons or conducting thesis work, with different requirements for the application process and approval by the Study Programme/Thesis supervisor.

Outbound “Free Mover” mobility for exams

Application for “Free Mover” mobility may be approved by the Study Programme in which the student is registered only if certain criteria are satisfied, which involve analysis of the applicant’s CV and assessment of the reputation of the foreign university where the mobility is to be done.

In detail:

- the foreign university in question cannot be a partner university with exchange agreements with the Politecnico for the School in which the student is enrolled;
- the foreign university in question must be recognized as a quality institution for the Study Programme attended and students applying must describe and demonstrate the validity of the proposed foreign university (a high position of the proposed foreign university in international rankings may be one possible criterion);
- candidates for “Free Mover” mobility must have a specific weighted exam average, which is defined for each School as follows:

School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering

26/30 for single-cycle MSc and MSc Study Programmes

28/30 for MSc Study Programmes



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School of Design

26/30 for all Study Programmes

School of Civil, Environmental and Land Management Engineering

23/30 for BSc Study Programmes

School of Industrial and Information Engineering

24/30 for all Study Programmes

Students applying for “Free Mover” mobility must be:

- enrolled in a BSc Study Programme and have already registered at least 60 ECTS credits;
- enrolled in a MSc Study Programme_course and have obtained a BSc degree from the Politecnico di Milano;
- enrolled in a MSc Study Programme_with a BSc degree from other university and have already registered at least 30 ECTS credits or a number of credits equal to those offered in the first semester of the first year of second level.

Like the institutional mobility organized by the Politecnico di Milano, “Free Mover” mobility is not allowed in the first semester of the Laurea Magistrale. Students may anyway present their request during their first semester for later semesters.

Students with at least one non-Italian citizenship may not ask to carry out a period of study abroad in any of their countries of citizenship or in the country of academic origin.

The student must present a formal request to the relevant Programme Board through the mobility Referee. The request should be presented through the designated tool in the Online Services and supported by:

- motivation for the mobility request, including a description and demonstration of the validity of the proposed foreign university;
- list of courses (Learning Agreement) that will be taken at the foreign university, respecting the limits of institutional mobility managed by the Politecnico di Milano. The maximum number of credits recognized for mobility is normally fixed at 30, with flexibility depending on the curricular credits of the Programme in the semester of mobility. Credits validated with “Free Mover” mobility are counted in the total credits that may be validated in international mobility.

If the application meets the criteria mentioned above, the Professor Referee delegated by the Programme Board will approve the request. Approval of the application must be made before the period of international mobility begins; otherwise, the experience will not be recorded in the educational career. It is therefore best and eagerly recommended to start building your plan and ask for all necessary information in good time.



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Each student may use “Free Mover” mobility only once in his or her course of study, it may be once during the BSc (first level) and once during the MSc (second level).

If the mobility is approved, the process to validate the credits will be managed in the same way as mobility within the frame of an exchange programmes managed by the Politecnico di Milano, and anyway based on a Transcript of Records issued by the host foreign university.

International activities such as summer schools, experimental workshops and/or laboratories, or internships are not be considered as “Free Mover” mobility.

Outgoing “Free Mover” mobility for thesis

Thesis activities abroad may be formally recognized by the Study Programme as international experience. Students intending to apply for mobility for their thesis must present a formal request to the relevant Programme Board through the mobility coordinator/thesis supervisor.

In contrast to “Free Mover” for exam purpose, “Free Mover” mobility for thesis may also be conducted at foreign universities with which the relevant School has active exchange agreements.

The request should be presented through the designated tool in the Online Services and supported by:

- name of the foreign institution;
- provisional title of the thesis and brief description of the activities to be carried out abroad;
- name of thesis supervisor at the Politecnico di Milano.

If the request meets the criteria above, the supervisor will approve the request. The application has to be approved before the start of the period of foreign mobility.