

University of Jyväskylä

Dear Erasmus colleagues,

I hope that this message finds you well!

I am very sorry to have to inform you that based on the decision of JYU Management Team taken on 18 May we have been instructed to limit the number of incoming exchange students for the autumn semester 2021 to less than one third of the number of applicants. We received a record number of exchange student applications from Erasmus and other partner universities by May 15. Unfortunately, we cannot provide the arrival and support services that the almost 400 incoming exchange students would have needed, taking into account that most of them will be required to stay in quarantine after their arrival. We have not been able to recruit a sufficient number of student tutors (peer students), which have a crucial role in our arrival services for incoming international students. Furthermore, the regulations governing contact teaching during the first period of the autumn semester (September – October) will be very strict, allowing only very small student groups and thus limiting the possibilities for contact teaching for exchange students.

With very limited time on our hands, a fair, transparent and justifiable way to select and give admission to less than one third of the Erasmus exchange student applicants did not seem possible. We have, therefore, decided to give admission to Erasmus trainees and to students coming from within strategic institutional networks and partnerships of JYU. In addition, we decided to admit those students whose application for the autumn semester 2020 was cancelled due to COVID-19 and who have now applied again.

As some of you may remember, we had a serious outbreak of COVID-19 infections among our international students in January-February 2021. Jyväskylä is a small town with limited health care resources that were very stretched during that time, as were the international administration staff of JYU. Rather than to invite a record number of exchange students on our campuses without being able to provide good support services for them, nor to guarantee sufficient course programme, we have taken the difficult decision to turn down most of the Erasmus exchange student applications. We realize that this will come as a disappointment to many of your students and we sincerely hope that at least some of them will be able to consider applying to JYU for the spring semester 2022.

I also apologise for the delayed decision-making process, hoping that it has not caused too much inconvenience for you!

With apologies and kind regards,

Tuija Koponen

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