



## ROMANIA

# INFOPACK - RECOGNITION OF LEARNING PERIODS ABROAD IN GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION

### Contents

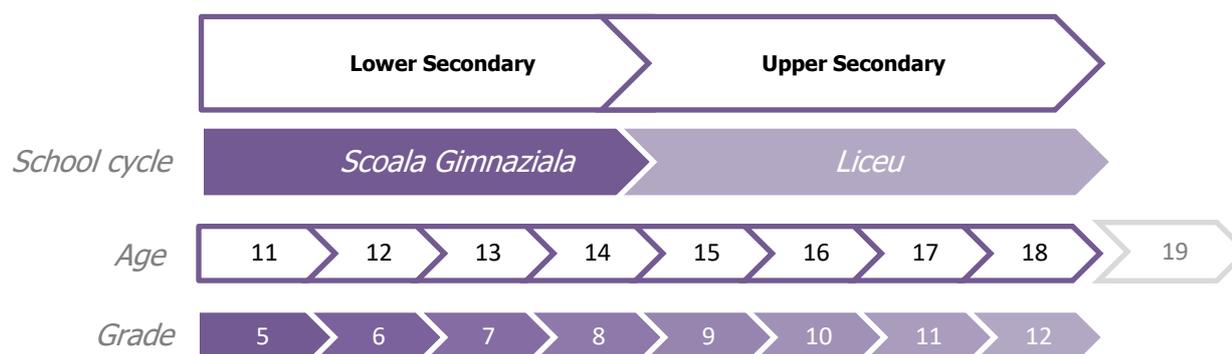
<b><u>GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION SYSTEM</u></b>	<b>2</b>
<b><u>INFORMATION FOR PUPILS GOING ABROAD FROM ROMANIA</u></b>	<b>2</b>
<b><u>RECOGNITION OF LEARNING PERIODS ABROAD</u></b>	<b>3</b>
<b><u>INFORMATION FOR PUPILS HOSTED IN ROMANIA</u></b>	<b>4</b>
<b><u>TESTIMONIAL</u></b>	<b>4</b>

The information below gives an overview of procedures<sup>1</sup> for the recognition of learning periods abroad in general secondary school. It can be consulted by pupils, as well as their families and teachers, who are or plan to be involved in long-term individual pupil mobility programmes abroad. Please note that this general overview does not include details on different programme types (which may be run by governmental agencies, civil society organisations, private companies or schools themselves) and such information can be obtained directly with the provider of the respective mobility programme.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on data gathered in February 2021.

## GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION SYSTEM



Education is compulsory until 16 years of age. General secondary education is divided into two levels: lower secondary (*Gimnaziu*) and upper secondary (*Liceu*) which is a four-year cycle. *Liceu* is offered in three different forms: Theoretical, Technological, Vocational/aptitude-based.

### Graduation and Certification

Pupils must pass the end-of-school examination, the *Baccalaureate* to earn the school leaving certificate. This includes 6 tests: 3 of them to verify linguistic and digital competences, and three written exams for Romanian language, Mathematics or History, and a chosen subject.

Pupils need the school leaving certificate in order to apply for university. The Baccalaureate final mark counts toward a certain percentage of the university entrance requirement, in addition, some faculties require pupils to take an entrance exam.

For more information on the structure and features of the different national education systems in Europe please see the Eurydice overview: National Education Systems | Eurydice (europa.eu).

## INFORMATION FOR PUPILS GOING ABROAD FROM ROMANIA

### Age and grade

Pupils usually enrol in an individual pupil mobility programme during the 2nd or 3rd year of upper secondary school, at the age of 16-17 years old. Generally, pupils do not participate in individual exchange programmes during their fourth and final year of upper secondary school, although there is no rule against this. This is because it takes a certain amount of time to obtain official recognition of the learning period abroad, to make up for any subject-specific knowledge missed during the period spent abroad, and to prepare for the end-of-school examination.

### Registration in the sending school

You continue to be registered in your home school during your exchange period. If your mobility lasts between a semester and a full school year, you are regarded as a pupil "continuing school abroad", hence formally absent in your home school. If your mobility lasts for less than a semester, you are regarded as a pupil attending school in Romania and are therefore registered in the database

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of the national education system (i.e., SIIIR: Integrated Informatics System of Education in Romania).

## Funding for the sending school

The government provides funding to the school only for pupils who are enrolled and attending lessons.

## RECOGNITION OF LEARNING PERIODS ABROAD

The following information addresses learning periods abroad lasting either less than 6 months, or between 6 months and a full school year. According to the analysis conducted, there is no information available on recognition for periods abroad of any duration shorter than 6 months and finishing after the end of the school year in Romania. In fact, mobility programmes foreseeing these timings and durations are not usually offered.

The same procedures are applied, irrespective of which country the learning period is spent in (EU or non-EU).

*Please note that in the case of a mobility within a school-to-school partnership<sup>2</sup> (e.g. Erasmus+) the learning agreement between sending and host school can be used as recognition tool only for periods of less than 6 months. For periods between 6 months and a full school year the procedure described below applies, on the top of a possible learning agreement.*

### Periods of between 2 and less than 6 months

If you go abroad for less than a semester, you continue your studies in the same class in which you were registered before leaving, as this is your right according to the school education regulation. Upon return you should present official documents issued by the host school, which certify that you attended school abroad to your sending school.

### Periods of between 6 and a full school year

According to the law<sup>3</sup>, recognition of learning periods abroad of at least one semester is provided in order to ensure continuity of studies. Repeating a year is therefore usually not required.

School inspectorates are entitled to manage the recognition procedure and require minimal documentation consisting mainly of an official study document from your host school, which includes the list of school subjects learned abroad (with or without marks).

The central principle is to achieve recognition of study periods and not recognition of the learned subjects or contents based on the assessment received on these from the school abroad. This approach is based on the acknowledgement that there are differences among the national curricula.

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<sup>2</sup> within a school-to-school partnership, learning outcomes are usually recognised based on a learning agreement developed between the schools concerned.

<sup>3</sup> Ministry ordinance no. 3217/2018.

In some cases (about 25 %), schools require pupils to pass some exams for the subjects they have not studied abroad.

## INFORMATION FOR PUPILS HOSTED IN ROMANIA

### Registration in the host school

As a hosted pupil, you are registered as a 'regular' pupil in your host school, regardless of whether you will complete the school year in the country. You are required to provide your host school with an official letter or a confirmation from the sending school or organisation. You are placed in a grade corresponding to your age and, more important, based on the grade you would follow in your home country. Because of the language barrier, you are only allowed to participate in some classes. As a hosted pupil, you can also attend the final year in a Romanian school.

### Funding for the host school

The school receives funding for hosted pupils as they are enrolled as regular pupils and attend lessons.

### Certification for hosted pupils

At the end of the schooling period, you receive an official document to certify the period and the subjects which you studied. Optional subjects and extracurricular activities are also included in this certification. The school system may offer you special support if needed – such as help with administrative issues, in integrating with the school community, or in studying the Romanian language.

### Possibility of graduating in the host country during the exchange

If you are hosted in the final grade, you are entitled to take the end-of-school examination, i.e. *Baccalaureate*, and obtain the upper secondary school leaving certificate, provided you successfully complete all compulsory subjects. However, this is a rare practice.

## TESTIMONIAL

### Andreea from Romania: a full school year in Germany

*"This prepares you for life more than anything you may do in school."*

I experienced the exchange as a challenge and an opportunity to make international friends. Before leaving I attended the intercultural trainings provided by my exchange organisation, which, together with some advice from former exchange students, prepared me perfectly for my experience.

At the beginning making friends wasn't easy, but being pro-active made a more sociable person. If I had some difficulties with my host family, I'd tried to not take anything personal, explain my point

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of view and try to understand theirs. I also helped with house chores and initiated activities together. We had a wonderful relationship and we are still in contact.

One funny thing that happened in Germany was at school, where I was always late. My Math teacher started counting all the minutes I was late and it turned out it was almost 50, so he put an absence on my record. Glad he found such a considerate use for his maths skills!

### *An effortless recognition process*

I was aware there could be obstacles upon return, but luckily there were none. It was very easy to integrate back, I only had to take a few tutoring classes in maths to catch up with the curricula, but other than that everything went smoothly.

The exchange prepared me to prosper in a globalised world, by communicating with people from different cultures, adapting in a foreign environment and feeling comfortable being different. These lessons also benefited my career years later. I would recommend other students to participate as early as possible. The exchange gives you a confidence boost, prepares you for life and makes you part of an amazing community of exchange students.

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