

Assessment for Year Abroad Students 2022-23

This document sets out the YA assessment for the academic year 2022-23. Please note that both the PDP, Reflective Essay and the Current Affairs Portfolio Assignment have to be written in the target language.

ALL students will have to produce one YA mark per language (see points 4 & 5 below).

Different assessment requirements are in place, depending on your programme of study. These are outlined below:

Students Studying Two or More Languages

You are required to produce a YA assessment **per language**, which will take the form of:

- a 300-word language specific PDP (Personal Development Portfolio)

PLUS a choice of

1. a 900-word reflective essay specific to the nature of the placement, i.e. study, work or language course

OR

2. a 900-word Current Affairs Portfolio specific to the language/country of the placement. [Please see the end of this document for details of this assessment.]

The following rules and options will apply:

- 1) Students on study placements** (university study or language school) will produce a YA assessment consisting of
 - i.** *a language specific PDP* (max 300 words)
This should address weaknesses, problems and solutions/plans for the future in areas of writing, speaking, listening and grammar (as appropriate).
 - ii.** *A reflective essay OR current affairs portfolio* (max 900 words)
Students can choose between a structured newspaper article portfolio or a short essay of 900 words outlining the academic skills they have acquired during their YA studies.

The final mark will be an average (40/60) for the language specific section and the reflective essay or portfolio respectively.

2) Students on work placements will produce a YA assessment consisting of

i. *a language specific PDP (max 300 words)*

This should address weaknesses, problems, solution/plans for the future in areas of writing, speaking, listening and grammar (as appropriate)

ii. *an employability-related reflective essay OR current affairs portfolio (max 900 words)*

Students can choose between a structured newspaper article portfolio or a short essay of 900 words outlining the specific work based/transferable/employability skills they have acquired during their Year Abroad.

The final YA mark will be an average (40/60) for the language specific section and the reflective essay or portfolio respectively.

Students Studying Only One Language

Your YA assessment will take the form of:

- a 300-word language specific PDP (Personal Development Portfolio)

PLUS a choice of the following

Reflective Essay

EITHER

1. a **1,800-word** reflective essay specific to the nature of the placement (if only one type of placement completed)

OR

2. **two 900-word reflective essays** specific to the nature of the placements, where different placements are completed in each semester (e.g. language school / work); one reflective essay for each placement

Portfolio

EITHER

1. a **1,800-word Current Affairs Portfolio** specific to the language/country of the placement.

OR

2. a **900-word Current Affairs Portfolio** specific to the language/country of the placement **plus** a **900-word reflective essay** on one of the placements

The final YA mark will be an average (40/60) for the language specific section and the reflective essay or portfolio respectively.

- 3) **Study marks** will no longer be accepted by the department. University study exchanges will be based on the number of credits obtained (i.e. 30 ECTS per term, with a minimum of 25 ECTS per term). It should be noted that students still have to fulfil AQRO-related requirements, such as length of study, type of placement etc. A full record of regulations can be found in the Academic Handbook (<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/agro/handbook/>).

Please note that ERASMUS+ funding regulations mean students have to bring back the required minimum amount of credits and be present at the partner institution for the times specified in their learning agreements to be entitled for ERASMUS+ funding.

More information can be found here:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/repository/education/opportunities/higher-education/doc/charter-annotated-guidelines_en.pdf

4) **Students studying two or more languages**

Students studying two or more languages with the department will have to produce one mark per language, i.e. if they are studying two languages, they will have to produce two YA Assessments [PDP + reflective essay/portfolio] (one per language)

according to the rules set out above. Taken together, the length of the assessments is not to exceed 2500 words i.e. not more than 1300 words per assessment.

Students studying three languages (e.g. on R900 language schemes) will only have to produce YA Assessments for the two major language components of their respective degree schemes. In other words, the two languages of your YA placements.

5) Students studying only one language

Students studying only one language with the department will have to produce one mark for both exchange semesters, i.e. if they are studying one language, they will have to produce one YA Assessment [PDP + reflective essay/portfolio] according to the rules set out above. Taken together, the length of the assessments is not to exceed 2500 words.

6) Submission

All assessments need to be **submitted electronically** via Turnitin. Students should clearly delineate between the two elements of their assessment – the PDP and the Reflective Essay / Current Affairs Portfolio. In the case that the Current Affairs Portfolio has to be submitted separately and in hard copy format, please contact your Year Abroad Tutor for submission advice.

Although accuracy of language will be a main component, each section will be marked for both content and language to make sure students receive a fair average mark for their efforts.

7) Deadlines

All YA assessment will need to be submitted by **Date TBC in September 2023**.

8) Extensions can only be granted in the case of extenuating circumstances or for placements that last well into September and where these final legs of the YA are deemed vital for the completion of the YA assessment.

Should you have any questions please contact the relevant Year Abroad Tutors as per language:

French: Julie Duran-Gelleri jud20@aber.ac.uk

German: Alex Mangold arm@aber.ac.uk

Italian: Roberta Sartoni rrs@aber.ac.uk

Spanish: Jennifer Wood jiw17@aber.ac.uk

YEAR ABROAD CURRENT AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

Current Affairs Portfolio Assignment for Year Abroad Students

Students should select a topic related to the current affairs of the language, country or region in which they are based. You should select a topic and submit the title of your portfolio by email to your Year Abroad Tutor for approval.

The Current Affairs Portfolio should be presented in a document that adheres to the following structure:

Section 1: Introduction *in the language of study* to the topic in question, consisting of:

- an outline of the area
- indication of its relevance to national/regional society
- main points of interest in relation to the topic
- general summary of the arguments/contents of the articles provided.

Word Count:

Students submitting a **900-word portfolio**: Approx. 600 words

Students submitting a **1,800-word portfolio**: Approx. 1,000 words

(This must be in your own words. The University Regulations on Acceptable Academic Practice will be applied.)

Section 2: Articles. You will attach 20-25 articles for a 900-word portfolio, and 30-35 articles for a 1,800-word portfolio, from newspapers, magazines and Internet sources which are of relevance to your topic. Articles may be presented as scans from paper sources (newspapers, magazines), or by cutting and pasting copies of the articles and providing the web links to them. Please ensure that you write the date of the article and the title of the newspaper or magazine on any scan. For electronic articles, please include the date of access on your copies.

Students submitting a **900-word portfolio**: 20-25 articles

Students submitting a **1,800-word portfolio**: 30-35 articles

Section 3: Glossary/Term Base relating to your topic, consisting of a list of *30-40 terms or phrases* for a 900-word portfolio, and *50-60 terms or phrases* for a 1,800-word portfolio, which are of some relevance to your chosen topic or which are often encountered in discussions of the topic in question. List each term or phrase in the language of study and list an English translation beside it. This section should also reflect the acquisition of new, *topic-specific vocabulary*.

Students submitting a **900-word portfolio**: 30-40 items

Students submitting a **1,800-word portfolio**: 50-60 items

Section 4: Personal Reflection. In this section, you will *reflect in the language of study* on if and how you have achieved the learning outcomes of this assignment (please see overleaf).

Word Count:

Students submitting a **900-word portfolio**: Approx. 300 words

Students submitting a **1,800-word portfolio**: Approx. 800 words

Total Word Count: 900 or 1,800 words

Learning Outcomes for Year Abroad Current Affairs Portfolio:

1. Students will be able to identify and write in the language of study about issues of Current Affairs of direct relevance to life in the relevant country or region.
2. Students will be able to engage critically with newspaper and journal articles in the language of study and assess their relevance to their chosen topic.
3. Students will be able to distinguish between topic-specific vocabulary and general vocabulary / language use.
4. Students will be able to express themselves cogently in the language of study and be able to present a topic in a clear and concise manner through that language.
5. Students will be able to synthesise and assimilate a selection of material on a particular topic in order to be able to discuss this topic in a coherent and intelligible manner.