

# STEM in Ireland - Opportunities in Education and Employment

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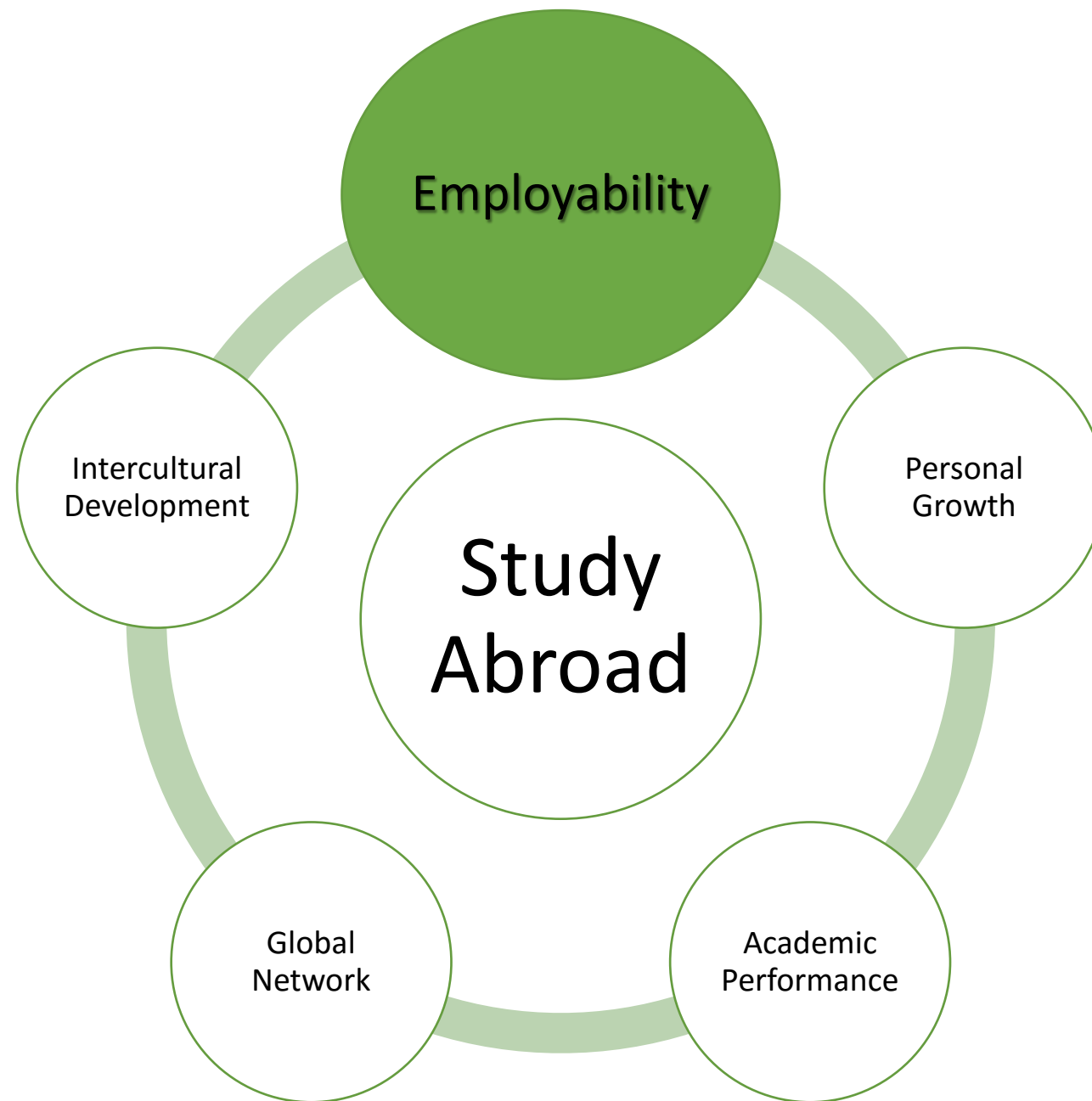
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# Overview

- Study Abroad Benefits
- Erasmus Case Study
- Why study in Ireland?
- Why study STEM in Ireland?
- STEM eco-system
- Employability Factors
- Opportunities for Canadian Students
- UCD overview/pitch



# Employability

Crucial Interpersonal Skills

Language Proficiency

Independence/Adaptability

# Case Study: Erasmus

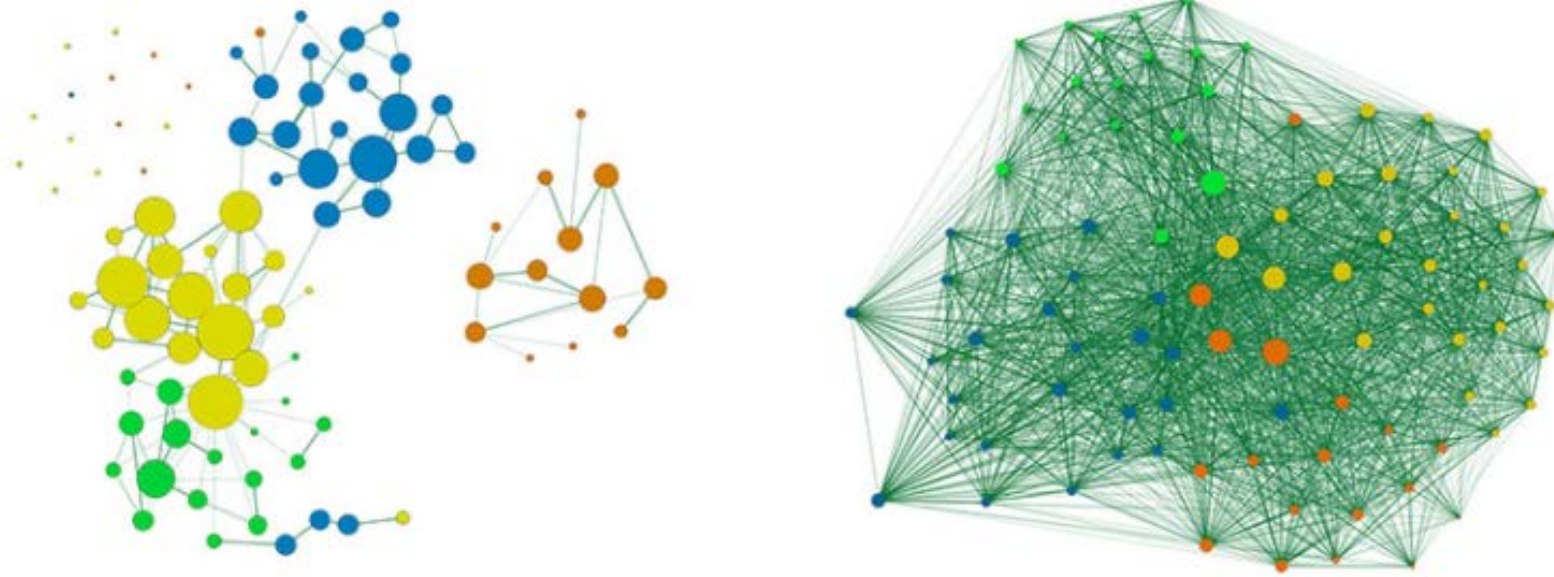
- A 2016 European Commission study highlighted the impact of participating in Erasmus, the EU's student mobility programme.

## Among the key findings...

- Participants are 23% less likely to be unemployed 5 years post graduation
- Significantly more Erasmus alumni (64%) than non mobile alumni (55%) hold a management position 5-10 years post after graduation.
- 30% of Erasmus alumni express a desire or plan to start their own business, compared to 7% of non mobile alumni.



# Social Networks: Non-mobile vs. Mobile



Source: European Commission, 2015

# Factors Influencing Students Study Abroad Uptake

Figure 2-4 Employability-related reasons for participation in student mobility programmes abroad related to employability, perspective of Erasmus students, by region

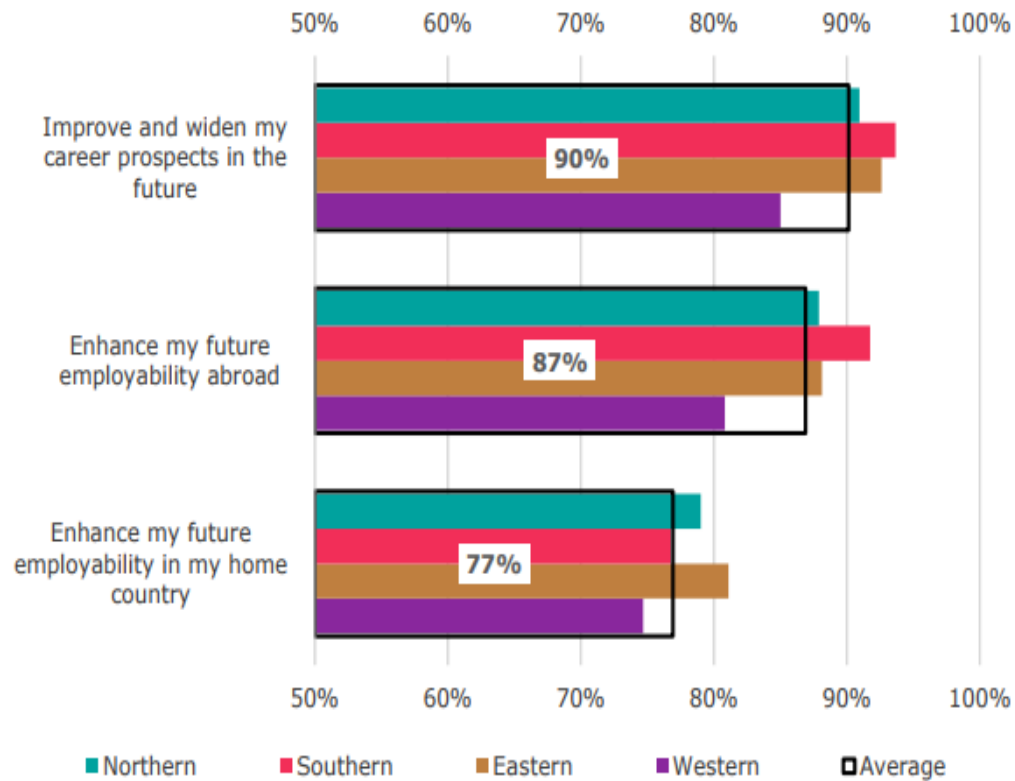
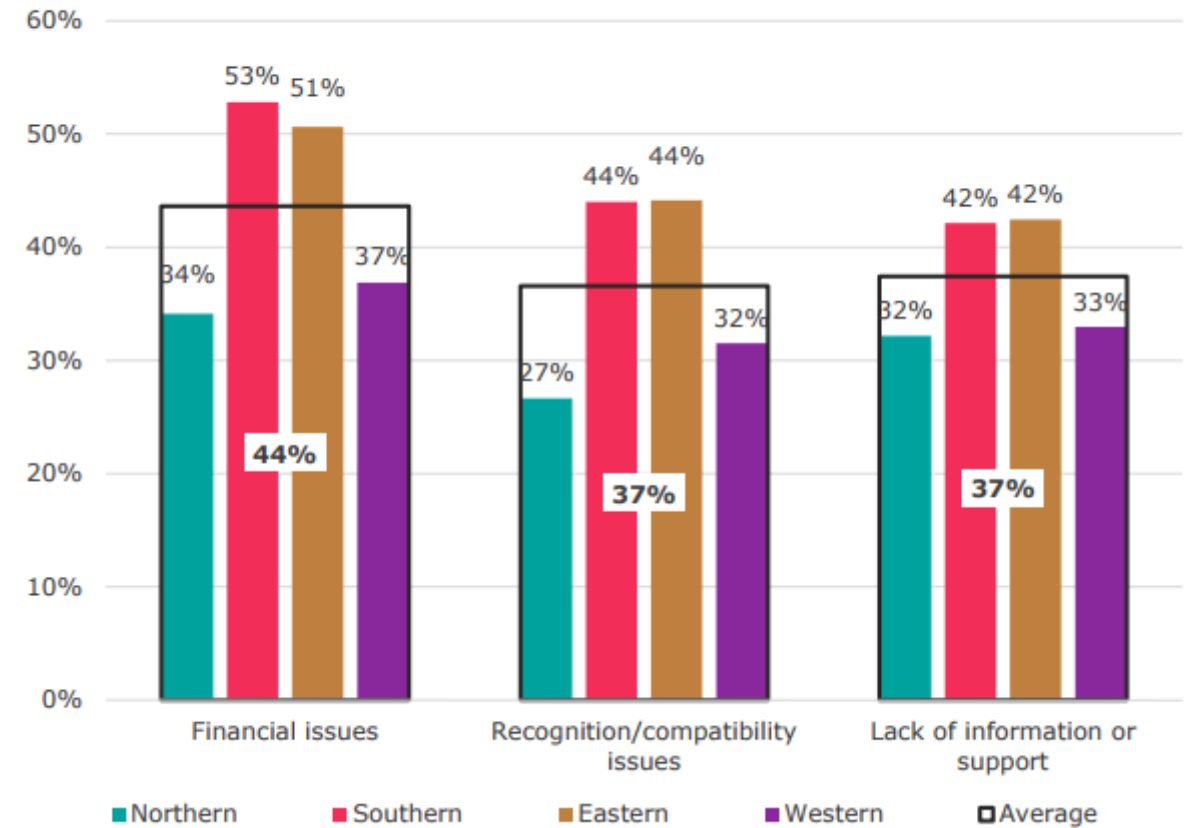


Figure 2-9 Main groups of reasons for not participating in mobility, perspective of non-mobile students, by region



# What about Canada?

- In 2016, CBIE undertook a large scale survey on outbound mobility, engaging 35 member institutions across the country.
- Findings
  - Only 3% of Canadian university students partake in a ‘for credit’ study abroad experience. The figure is 1% for college students.
  - Top destinations include France, Germany, the US and the UK.
  - 71% of respondents who went abroad say their experience influenced their choice of career path and 65% say that it influenced their academic path.
  - 86% of students expressed an interest in learning overseas.



**Source:** CBIE, 2016



# So What's Stopping Them?

**80% of students**  
cite lack of financial  
resources as main  
barrier to study  
abroad

Finance



Concern that study  
abroad experience  
does not translate  
to **academic credit**

Credit  
Recognition



“Will my  
international  
degree be  
**recognised** in  
Canada?”

Qualification  
Recognition



## Brainstorm / Discussion

- What are the barriers to study abroad opportunities for Canadian students?
- How can higher education institutions encourage greater study abroad participation?
- How can government and industry help?

## Why Ireland?

- English-speaking, safe & friendly country
- Strong cultural, economic and familial ties to Canada
- Gateway to Europe
- Competitive tuition and access to scholarships
- Post graduate ‘stay-back’ visa option
- Vibrant Irish alumni networks in Canada and across the globe



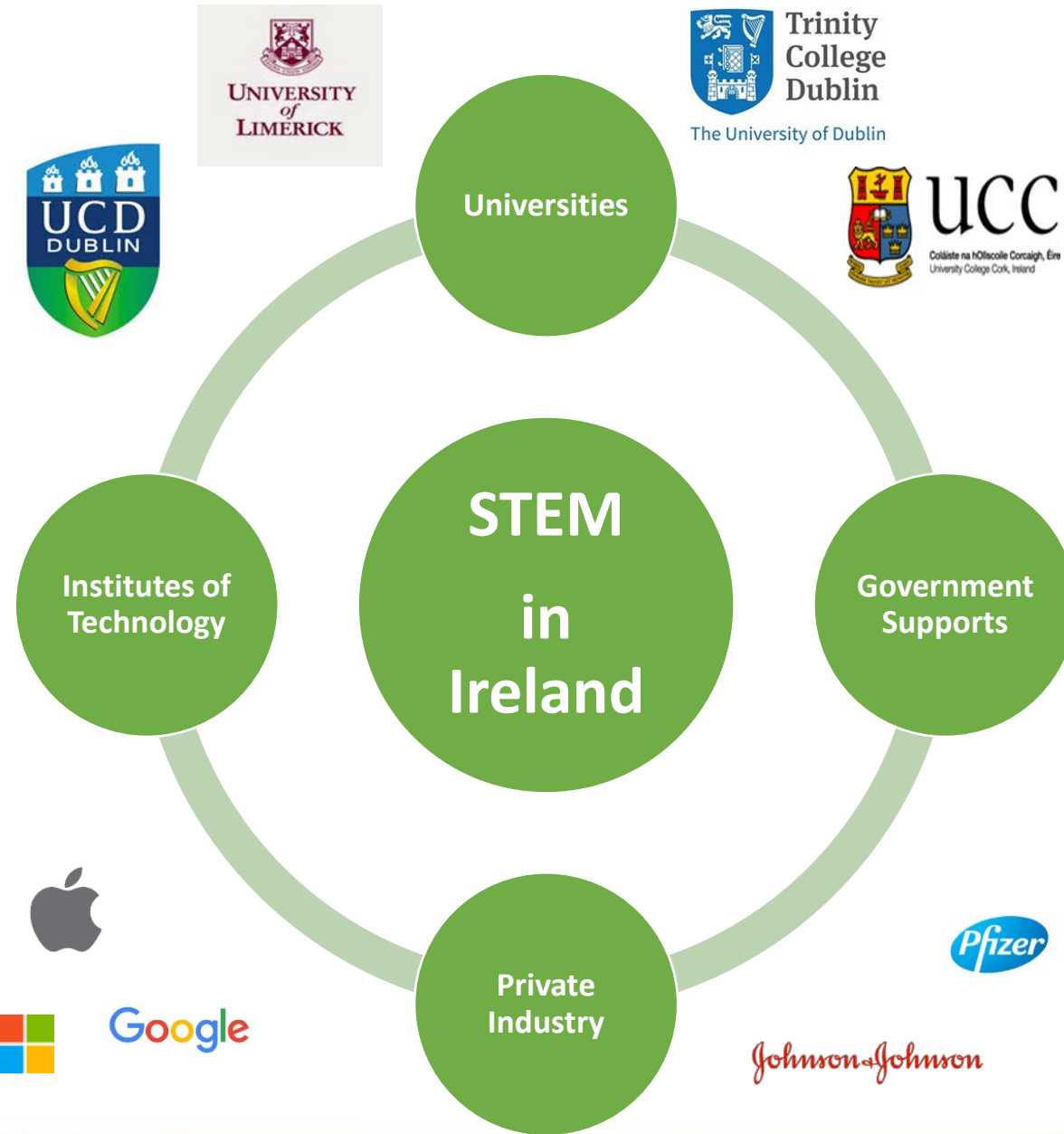
## Why Ireland Now?

- Stable political climate
- Post-Brexit position
- Increased governmental commitment to international education  
e.g. postgrad stayback
- Mobility within study abroad



## Why STEM in Ireland?

- Most innovative country in the EU
- Quality of Universities – 7 institutions ranked in top 500 of world universities for 15 STEM subjects
- High collaboration between education and industry
  - - e.g. Horizon 2020 Commercialization Grants, Technology Gateways
- Large presence of Multinationals across STEM disciplines
- Internship/work placement opportunities
- Government supports



# Opportunities for Canadian Students

- 921 distinct STEM course choices across UG and PG levels at 25 institutions
- Internationally recognized qualifications across STEM courses
- No general education requirements means students dive into STEM courses from day one!
- Internships & Research during study
  - TCD – CS internships for undergraduates at: Accenture, Google, Deloitte, MasterCard, Oracle and more
  - UCD Engineering - Professional Work Experience (PWE) – 6-8 month paid internship required
  - UCC – Science, Engineering, & Food Science summer research bursaries

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- Post-Degree Employment
  - 12 month stayback visa for undergraduate degrees
  - 24 month stayback visa for graduate degrees
  - University careers supports



# Graduate Employment

For international graduates from 7 Irish universities, nine months after graduation:

- 94% of Honours Bachelor Degree grads employed or in further studies
  - 67% employed; 37% in Ireland and 31% overseas
  - 27% in further studies
- 86% of Masters and Doctorate graduates employed or in further studies
  - 76% employed; 44% in Ireland and 32% overseas
  - 10% in further studies
- Among all grads, STEM students have higher rate of employment than non-STEM

Higher Education Authority, “What Do Graduates Do? The Class of 2015”

## Testimonial: Cameron Bradley

*“Studying in Ireland opened up doors that allowed me to further develop skills that employers are looking for today.*

*It not only provided me with a degree, but I was also fortunate enough to find employment upon graduating.*

*The people you meet while abroad allow for you to network and make connections worldwide. These friends come from all over and expose you to different cultures, religions and school of thoughts. “*



**Cameron Bradley pictured with the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins**

# Testimonial 2: TBC

# Process

- Admissions
  - Academic achievement is most important
  - Focus on advanced coursework in desired discipline
- Schedule
  - Starts Fall before year of entrance
  - Mostly rolling admissions
- How to Apply
  - Direct applications
  - Common App
- More Information
  - [www.educationinireland.com](http://www.educationinireland.com)

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