



**SUPPORTING EXCHANGE
STUDENTS' TRANSITION
INTO NEW CULTURES:
COMPARATIVE APPROACHES**



UNIVERSITE SAVOIE MONT BLANC in brief...



STUDENTS BODY (2016/2017):

14,500 students & 270 PhD students



QUALIFICATIONS:

Bachelor, Master's & Doctoral Degrees



PROGRAMMES: A comprehensive research university covering most academic fields.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION:

373 partner universities in **57** countries

25 dual or joint diplomas

1,450 international students (= 10%):

- * **350** exchange students

- * **1,100** free-movers

900 outgoing students:

- * **600** for studies

- * **300** for placements



RANKINGS:

1st French HEI since 2008/09 for its **outgoing mobility** (*Erasmus+*)

OUR STRATEGY FOR INTERNATIONALISATION

1. DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

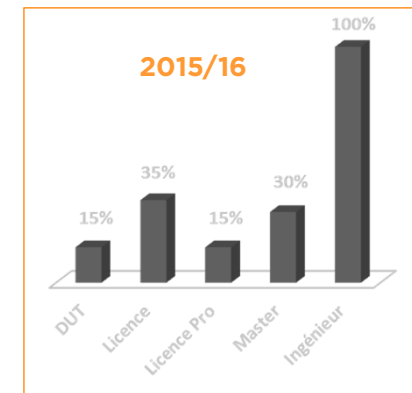
- Cross-border cooperation
- Francophonie network
- Other strategic networks

2. INTERNATIONALISATION « AT HOME »

- Develop English-taught courses
- Welcome more international (*specifically exchange*) students
- Reinforce interculturality
- Develop more international skills among students and staff

3. DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

- Our ambition: all our students should have an experience of international mobility (even a short one) before they graduate.
- Short-term goal (2020): min. 50% for all kinds of degrees*

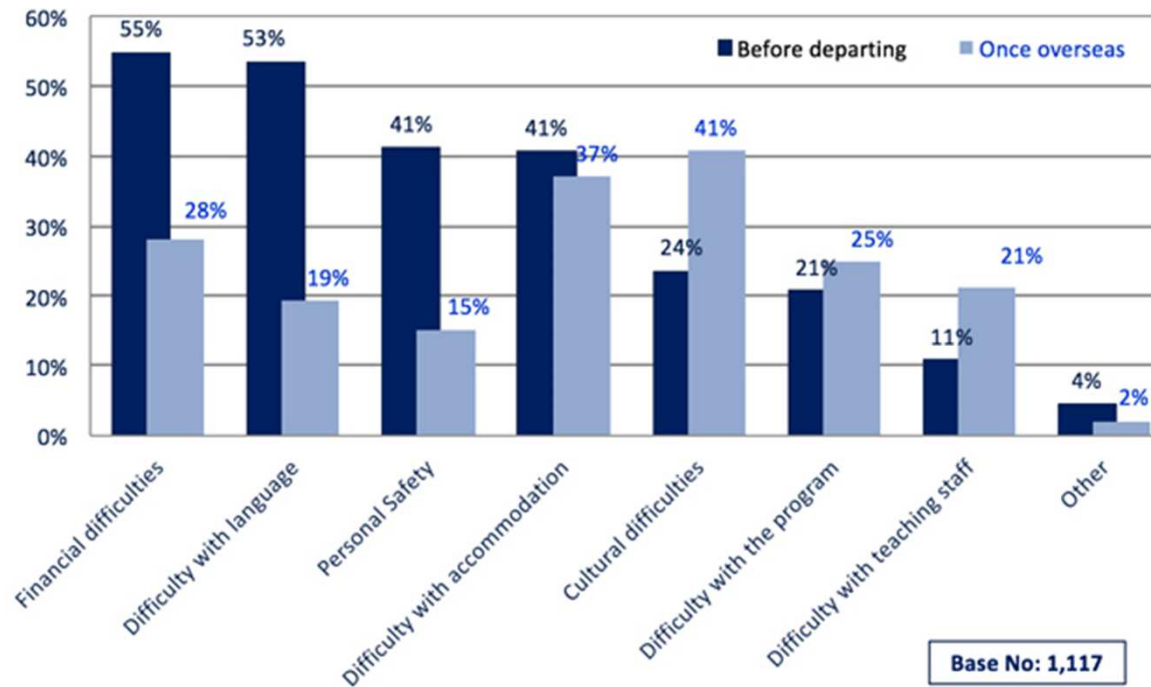


THE BENEFITS OF EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

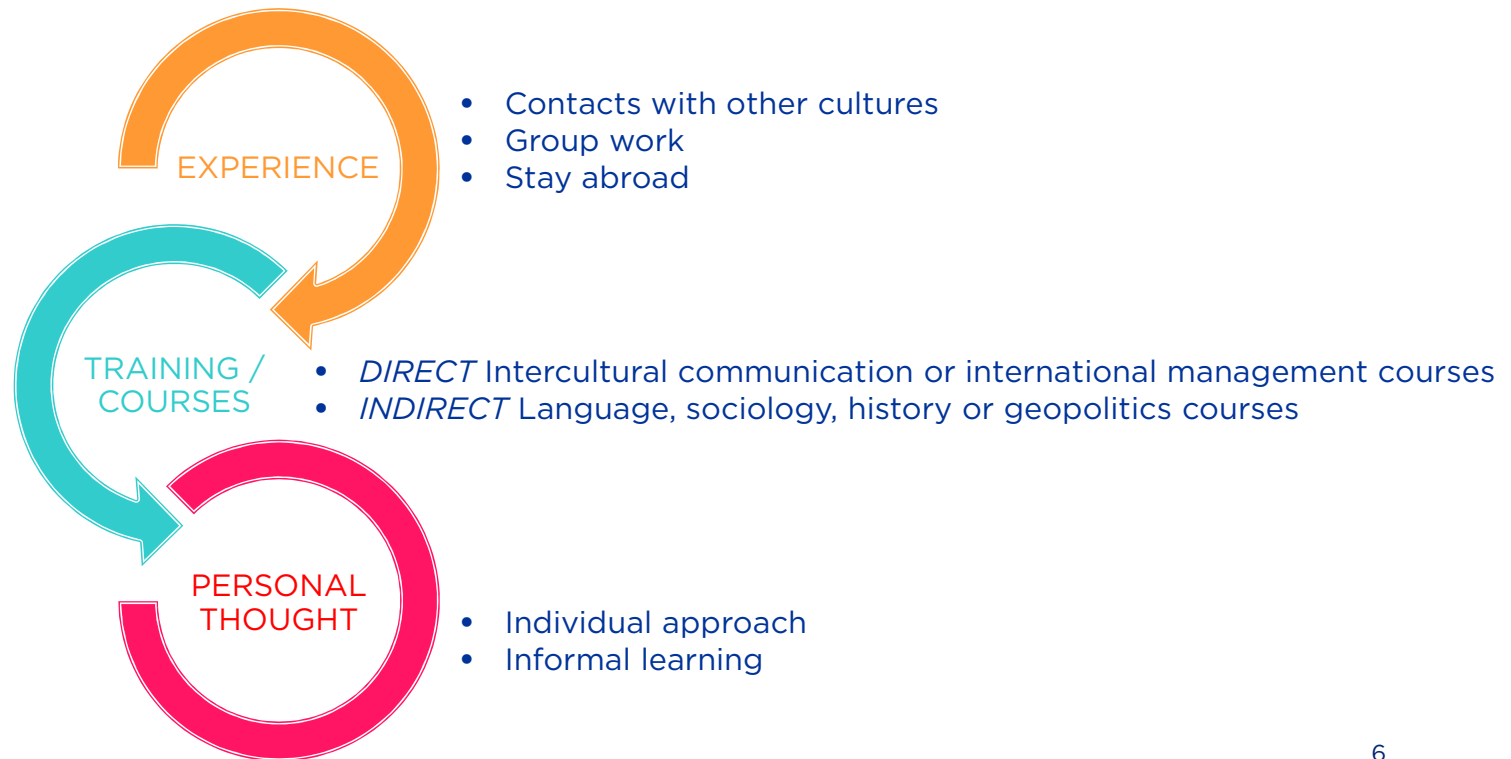
- **Impact assessments** led by the European Commission show clearly the benefits of exchange programs.
- Those benefits have been confirmed within our university: former exchange students consider that their skills (notably their **intercultural skills**) have been strongly improved.



COMPARING MAIN STUDENT CONCERNS BEFORE DEPARTURE AND AFTER ARRIVAL



HOW TO ACQUIRE/IMPROVE INTERCULTURAL SKILLS?



PREPARING DOMESTIC STUDENTS FOR A STAY ABROAD

INTERNATIONAL WEEK @ USMB



Each year in October
 1 day / campus, 8 sessions / day (≈ 1hr each)
 Attendance: **about 1'300 students / year**

Example: Program of conferences for 2017 edition

1. The benefits of an international mobility during your university studies: *learning from other students experience*
2. Where to go?
3. Destination: North America, Australia, Japan Or Brazil
4. Get well prepared before moving abroad
5. How to finance your stay abroad?
6. Careers at the Ministry of foreign affairs
7. Travelling abroad made easy (and not so expensive)!
8. Preparations and certifications in foreign languages

+ **INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY FAIR** : *meet representatives of more than 50 partner universities (27 countries)*

+ **WELCOME PARTY** for international students (350 participants)

CONNECTING DOMESTIC & INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: “TOUR DU MONDE” IN CHAMBÉRY



International students of Université Savoie Mont Blanc present their country and culture to the people in Chambéry



- Over 2 days every year
- More than **5,000** visitors (including primary school pupils)
- Organised in partnership with the City of Chambéry and other schools



LEARNING TO LEAD HEALTHY AND EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION EXPERIMENTAL WORKSHOPS AT USMB



KEY WORDS :

**APPRECIATION - SENSITIVITY - GROWTH - CREATIVITY
- INSPIRATION - PROPULSION - ADAPTATION -
GROUNDEDNESS**

Experimental workshops on **personal development and intercultural team collaboration** → discover new ways of relating to colleagues through solo and partner exercises based on Tai Chi movements.

Purpose = help students, as colleagues and leaders, increase their sensitivity to interpersonal differences and group dynamics as well as their ability to facilitate healthy and effective collaboration.

The workshops took place in the context of the Licence 3 course on “Soft Skills” and the Master 2 course on “Managing Intercultural Teams”.

[Contacts: Caroline Purkhardt & Amy Church-Morel]

INFORMAL LEARNING

LEARNING FROM OTHER STUDENTS' EXPERIENCE



- Students' regular meetings to talk about their experience (through student clubs, specific sessions...);

- Publication of mobility reports written by students who came back from an exchange program;



Example:
French student
at a Canadian
hockey game



THANK YOU!

