

Guidelines for "Free Mover" mobility

Approved by the Academic Senate at its session of 20 July 2020

Who is a "Free Mover" student

"Free Movers" are students who undertake international mobility by independently organizing their period of study abroad. This mobility is not linked to an exchange programme organized by the Politecnico di Milano, such as Erasmus.

As this is not a structured and community-based program, applicants for "Free Mover" mobility must personally organise their stay abroad (contact with the chosen university, meals, accommodation, health care, etc.) and there is no provision for any kind of contribution to support the expenses for the mobility period.

The activities recognized in the context of the "Free Mover" mobility are for frequency of teaching or for work of thesis, with different requirements for the application process and approval by the Course of Studies/ thesis rapporteur.

Mobility "Free Mover" leaving for exams

Application for a "Free Mover" mobility can be approved by the Course of Studies to which the student is enrolled only if certain criteria are met, which include both the analysis of the candidate's CV and the evaluation of the reputation of the place where the mobility would be carried out.

In detail:

- the place of mobility cannot be a place for which there are exchange agreements with the Polytechnic for the School where the student is enrolled;
- The location to be moved must be recognised as being of high quality within the Course of Studies and students applying must describe and demonstrate the validity of the proposed location (the presence of the proposed location in a high position in international rankings may be a criterion, but not exclusive);

- the candidate for "Free Mover" mobility must have a weighted average examination specification, defined for each School as follows:

School of Urban Architecture Construction Engineering 26/30 for the courses of Bachelor's and Master's Degree to Single Cycle 28/30 for the courses of Master's Degree

School of Design

26/30 for all courses

School of Civil, Environmental and Territorial Engineering

23/30 for Graduate courses

School of Industrial and Information Engineering

24/30 for all courses

Students can apply for a "Free Mover" mobility:

- students enrolled in a degree course and who have already registered at least 60 CFU in their careers;
- who are enrolled in a Master's degree course and have obtained their degree at the Politecnico di Milano;
- enrolled in a Master's degree course with a degree awarded by another University and who have already registered in their career at least 30 CFU or the number of credits equal to those offered in the first semester of the first year.

In analogy with the institutional mobility organized by the Politecnico di Milano, the "Free Mover" mobility is not allowed for the first semester of the Master's Degree. Students may still apply during their first semester for subsequent semesters.

Students with at least non-Italian citizenship will not be able to apply for a period of mobility abroad, either in the country of nationality or in that of academic origin.

The student must make a formal request to the Council of the Study Course, through the mobility contact. The request must be submitted through the on-line services and be accompanied by:

- Justification of the requested mobility including description and demonstration of the validity of the proposed location; list of courses (Learning Agreement) to be followed at the foreign location, respecting the same limitations as the institutional mobility organized by the Politecnico di Milano. The maximum number of credits recognised for mobility is normally set at 30, with flexibility depending on the curricular credits of the Course of Study in the mobility semester. Credits validated with the "Free Mover" mobility are counted as part of the total credits validatable in international mobility.

If the application exceeds the above criteria, the SAB delegate approves the application. The application must be approved before the start of the period of mobility abroad, under penalty of automatic

impossibility to register the experience in teaching career. It is therefore advisable and strongly recommended to start building your own plan and ask for all the necessary directions in time.

Each student can make a "Free Mover" mobility only once in their cycle of studies (it could be once in Bachelor and once in Master).

If mobility is approved, the credit validation process will be managed with the same tools used for mobility linked to an exchange programme organized by Politecnico di Milano and in any case on the basis of a Transcript of Records issued by the host institution.

International activities such as Summer School, Workshop and/or laboratory workshops, internships cannot be considered in this context.

Mobility "Free Mover"

Thesis activities abroad may be formally recognised by the Degree Programme as international experience. The student who intends to apply for a mobility for thesis must make a formal application to the Council of Study Course, through the contact person/ speaker.

In contrast to the frequency of instruction, "Free Mover" mobility for theses can also be carried out in places with which the school of affiliation has active exchange agreements.

The request must be submitted through the on-line services and be accompanied by:

- Indication of the institution abroad;
- provisional title of the thesis to be carried out and brief description of the activities to be carried out abroad;
- the name of the rapporteur at the Politecnico di Milano.

If the application meets the above criteria, the rapporteur shall approve the application. The application must be approved before the start of the mobility period abroad.