



NOTES OF GUIDANCE FOR YOUR EXCHANGE DESTINATION

George Washington University, USA

Fast Facts:

Website:	General university website Exchange students' website
Language of instruction:	English
Semester dates:	Semester 1 (Fall): August - December Semester 2 (Spring): January - May
Number of students currently enrolled	25,000
Academic restrictions at a glance <i>Please note: These are guidelines. It is your responsibility to research whether the partner provides appropriate courses for your degree programme.</i>	Exchange students may not enrol in these courses: graduate level courses (labelled 4999 and above), courses in the fields of interior design & architecture, law, nursing, medicine, or courses in the Semester in Washington Program (denoted as PGMT). Please note students may have a difficult time obtaining entry into Communications classes, as well as Business classes.
General Costs	Around \$27,000 for the full year, includes mandatory health insurance Important information: You will be asked to provide proof of sufficient finances in order to receive your visa. Your host will provide more information on this if you are allocated an exchange place.
About the University	The George Washington University was created in 1821 through an Act of Congress, fulfilling George Washington's vision of an institution in the capital of the United States dedicated to education and the preparation of future leaders. Today, GW is the largest institution of higher education in the nation's capital. In addition to engaging in rigorous academic programs, GW students value the energy and excitement of the university's social and service-oriented communities. Students take full advantage of the fact that the world intersects GW's campus and participate in a wide range of cultural, political, culinary, and social ventures off campus.

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What to expect

Application process

You apply for study exchanges through SWAY. You can find out more about our [study exchange routes here](#), and more about the [application process here](#).

After applying, if you are allocated an exchange place at George Washington University, you will be officially nominated by the International Programmes Team. We will then provide you with your detailed application instructions. **You can ONLY apply to any exchange destination if you have been allocated a place there, and if you are officially nominated by us.**

Academics

For support with the academic side of your exchange, your best point of contact is your Exchange Coordinator, [found here](#). The Exchange Coordinator is a member of academic staff who will be a key contact throughout your exchange.

Course Load and Credit Load	<p>You are normally required to take whatever constitutes a full academic credit or course load at your host university.</p> <p>The page linked below contains a copy of the International Exchange Credit Requirements. This outlines the number of credits you are required to take at your host institution. There are also more answers to frequently asked questions about the academic side of your exchange.</p> <p>Academic matters The University of Edinburgh</p>
Courses	<p>Information about the schools</p> <p>**Please be aware, there may not be an up-to-date course catalogue available at this exchange destination. Please use the information available to get an idea about what you can study while on exchange**</p>
Academic Restrictions	<p>Exchange students may not enrol in these courses: graduate level courses (labelled 4999 and above), courses in the fields of interior design & architecture, law, nursing, medicine, or courses in the Semester in Washington Program (denoted as PGMT).</p> <p>Please note students may have a difficult time obtaining</p>

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	<p>entry into Communications classes, as well as Business classes.</p> <p>Please note: These are guidelines. It is your responsibility to research whether the partner provides appropriate courses for your degree programme. Even if there are not restrictions on your degree subject, it does not mean that there are appropriate courses for you. Please check.</p>
Orientation	<p>Exchange Orientation (ExO) Week is a mandatory orientation program held the week before classes start and designed especially for exchange students! ExO Week combines social and academic activities to introduce you to Washington, DC and the GW community. Orientation is hosted by the Office for Study Abroad, volunteer orientation leaders (who are returned study abroad students or international students themselves), and staff from various offices across campus. Our program offers students the ability to familiarize themselves with campus & D.C. , to meet people, and get prepared to study at one of the top universities in the country.</p>

Accommodation

Finding accommodation that you are happy with on your year abroad is very important and there are often many aspects to consider when looking for somewhere to live.

Many host institutions do offer university accommodation but please do note, **this is not always guaranteed**. You may also need to pay for things like agent or administrative fees that is not always the case here in Edinburgh. It is a good idea to do your research so you do not have any surprises!

University Accommodation	<p>Exchange students are guaranteed housing on campus and are housed in apartment style dorms (including a kitchen) with two or more suitemates. Students typically only share an immediate bedroom and bathroom with one other person. In the past, exchange students have lived in 1959 E Street, City Hall, Ivory Tower, and Amsterdam Hall.</p> <p>The housing team works hard to try and ensure that exchange students are mixed in with American students and exchange students from countries other than your own.</p>
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Costs

It is important to budget for different expenses while on exchange. Your exchange destination may be more expensive than Edinburgh, and different expenses may be required. For example, rent may be higher; you might need to take public transport more; essentials may be more expensive or different, like sun cream in warmer climates or woolly socks in colder climates! These costs will add up so it is good to have an estimate of how much money you might need.

Tuition Fees	<p>While on exchange, you will continue to pay fees to the University of Edinburgh, as appropriate, and your fee status will determine how much you pay.</p> <p>Consult our webpage here and follow the link to consult the university's information on tuition fees for students studying abroad.</p>
Estimated Cost of Living	<p>Room and board: \$20,000</p> <p>Mandatory student fees: \$290</p> <p>Books/supplies: \$1400</p> <p>Personal expenses: \$1600</p> <p>Flights: \$600-1000</p> <p>Visa: Varies, but several hundred dollars</p> <p>Health insurance: \$2,180</p> <p>Total ~ \$27,000</p> <p>You may also be required to pay for administrative fees at your host institution. This can include paying for your transcript to be sent to us at the end of your exchange.</p>
Insurance	<p>Insurance is mandatory for exchange students</p>
Student Loans and Grants	<p>Consult our funding webpages for more information about the Funding available to you through SWAY while on your year abroad.</p> <p>If you receive a student loan or grant, you may still be eligible to receive them during your exchange. Contact your funding providers for more information on the availability and eligibility of funding during your exchange, as well as any additional support they may offer. For example: some loan providers offer travel grants to students.</p>

Other

Passports	<p>Make sure that your passport will be in date for the entirety of your stay, and for any additional required time after the end of your exchange for entry requirements and visa purposes.</p> <p>If you need to apply for a new passport during the application process to your host institution, this may delay the application and visa processes.</p>
Visas	<p>The visa process will vary from country to country, and your own citizenship will influence the visa process you need to undertake. You must make sure to enter your host country on the appropriate visa.</p> <p>After you have submitted the application documentation, the Office for Study Abroad's Exchange Team will do a preliminary application scan for completeness. The Exchange Team will then forward your file on to the International Services Office which will process your documentation to create a DS-2019 (a Visa request document for a J-1 visa). You will be guided through the visa application with help from the ISO and the GW Exchange Team.</p> <p>George Washington immigration advice Website for the US embassy in the UK to view visa information</p> <p>Important information: You will be asked to provide proof of your finances in order to receive your visa.</p> <p>Here in SWAY we cannot give specific visa advice. Please research using the relevant embassy and government websites for more information. There is more information on our webpage about things to consider regarding visas here.</p> <p>Once you have received an offer from a host institution, you will be given more advice from them about the visa processes.</p>
Employment	<p>Students are eligible to participate in Academic Training (an internship that directly relates to your field of study) after one semester as a full-time student at GW. Most students typically intern over the summer, but some who arrive in the fall are eligible in the spring semester.</p>

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**Disability
Statement and
Accessibility**

Some destinations may be more accessible than others for disabled students. If you require any adjustments due to disability or specific learning difficulties or disabilities and you wish to study abroad please contact The International Programmes Team via email: international.outgoing@ed.ac.uk.

We will work together with you to explore the help available at your host institution. It may also be helpful if you discuss this with your Personal Tutor and the Disability and Learning Support Service as well.