



NOTES OF GUIDANCE FOR YOUR EXCHANGE DESTINATION

University of Pennsylvania, USA

Fast Facts:

Website:	General university website Exchange student website
Language of instruction:	English
Semester dates:	Semester 1 (Fall): August to December Semester 2 (Spring): January to May
Number of students currently enrolled	>26,000
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>	At PENN, Exchange Students are not permitted to take graduate-level courses OR courses in Penn's Law, Medical, Dental, or Veterinary Schools. Exchange students must take the majority of their courses (two of four or three of five) within their home school of admittance. Edinburgh students studying on exchange are expected to take all of their courses within their specific subject area.
General Costs	Estimated cost for the full academic year is \$26,000, including flights and mandatory 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	Founded by Benjamin Franklin in the middle of the 18th century, the University of Pennsylvania claims to be the oldest University in the United States. Like Edinburgh, Penn is a large multi-faculty University; more than 20,000 students are housed within 6 undergraduate schools, 4 graduate schools and 6 professional schools. Penn's situation at the heart of a historical city furthers the similarity with Edinburgh. Penn is a member of the 'Ivy League' group of elite private East Coast Universities.

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 University of Pennsylvania, 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>Course catalogue can be found here</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 are not permitted to enrol in courses in Penn's Law, Medical, Dental, or Veterinary Schools. Students generally cannot enrol in graduate-level courses. Students must demonstrate they meet course pre-requisites.</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,</p>

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	it does not mean that there are appropriate courses for you. Please check.
Orientation	There is a mandatory exchange student orientation. Students learn about campus resources to help them acclimate to studies and life at Penn. Students will go through a visa check-in process, learn about opportunities, events, safety, and more while getting to know fellow exchange students.

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	All exchange students are required to live in on-campus housing and enrol in a dining plan , therefore housing is guaranteed. Students are eligible to live in any of Penn's Four-Year or Upperclass communities.
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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	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.
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	Consult our webpage here and follow the link to consult the university's information on tuition fees for students studying abroad.
Estimated Cost of Living	<p>The following estimates are for the 2022-2023 Academic Year, costs may increase in future years:</p> <p>Room (housing): \$11,754</p> <p>Board (meals): \$6,134</p> <p>Books and supplies: \$1,358</p> <p>Insurance: \$4,029</p> <p>Local transportation: \$500</p> <p>Flights: Varies, \$1,500</p> <p>Clinical fee: \$664</p> <p>Orientation fee: \$355</p> <p>Total estimate: \$26,000</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	Penn's Student Health Services (SHS) requires students to enrol in a health plan that meets certain minimum insurance requirements . While the Penn Student Insurance Plan (PSIP) is a possibility, many students waive PSIP coverage and submit different insurance plan for approval, though home country insurance generally does not meet eligibility requirements.
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

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<p>Passports</p>	<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>
<p>Visas</p>	<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>To obtain a student visa, students must produce financial documentation showing that they have at least \$29,526 (for two semesters) or \$14,763 (for one semester) in assets. These numbers are accurate for 2022-2023 but will change for 2023-2024. Penn's International Student and Scholar Services office's website for more information.</p> <p>Exchange students can choose between an F-1 or J-1 visa. US citizens do not need a visa. Detailed instructions on how to obtain a visa are provided upon acceptance.</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>
<p>Disability Statement and Accessibility</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

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