



# NOTES OF GUIDANCE FOR YOUR EXCHANGE DESTINATION

## University of Virginia, USA

### Fast Facts:

<b>Website:</b>	<a href="#">General university website</a> <a href="#">Exchange student website</a>
<b>Language of instruction:</b>	English
<b>Semester dates:</b>	Semester 1 (Fall): August to December Semester 2 (Spring): January to May
<b>Number of students currently enrolled</b>	>25,000
<b>Academic restrictions at a glance</b> <i>Please note: These are guidelines. It is your responsibility to research whether the partner provides appropriate courses for your degree programme.</i>	Check information provided on host's website.  Courses offered through the McIntire School of Commerce are all restricted unless stated otherwise.
<b>General Costs</b>	\$21,500 minimum estimated cost for the academic year not including flights or visa costs <b>Important information:</b> 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.
<b>About the University</b>	The University of Virginia was designed and conceived by Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States and the author of the Declaration of Independence. The University continues to reflect Jefferson's intent to prepare and produce leaders—independent and intelligent citizens ready to make their mark on the future. Founded in 1819, the University had a total enrolment of 25,018 for the 2019-2020 academic year. UVA is the only U.S. university listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. UVA is home to the nation's oldest student-run Honor System, which requires that students pledge not to lie, cheat, or steal. For 2018 U.S. News & World Report's rankings of best colleges, the University of Virginia was ranked the No. 3 best public university in the United States. UVA also ranks in the Top 25 among the best of all national universities, public and private, at No. 25.

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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 University of Virginia 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.

<b>Course Load and Credit Load</b>	<p>You are normally <b>required</b> 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 <b>International Exchange Credit Requirements</b>. 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><a href="#">Academic matters   The University of Edinburgh</a></p>
<b>Courses</b>	<p>The course catalogue can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>**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**</b></p>
<b>Academic Restrictions</b>	<p>Exchange students are eligible to enrol in any courses from the 1000-5000 level. Courses with restrictions or pre-requisites listed will require additional permissions in order to enrol. Courses offered through the McIntire School of Commerce are all restricted unless the course description states that it is open to non-Commerce school students.</p>

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	<b>Please note:</b> These are guidelines. It is <b>your</b> responsibility to research whether the partner provides appropriate courses for your degree programme. <b>Even if there are not restrictions on your degree subject, it does not mean that there are appropriate courses for you. Please check.</b>
<b>Orientation</b>	All new exchange students are required to attend a <b>mandatory</b> orientation session held by the International Studies Office.

## 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!

<b>University Accommodation</b>	<p>Exchange students are eligible for residential (on-Grounds) housing at UVA. You can search available options and find information about applying for on-campus housing <a href="#">here</a>. Housing options available to undergraduate exchange students are listed under the <a href="#">Incoming Transfer Students</a> link on the housing webpage. Graduate exchange students may apply for <a href="#">Graduate Housing</a> but please note, priority is given to students who will be enrolled for the entire academic year.</p> <p>On-Grounds housing costs are listed on the <a href="#">Housing Rates</a> page. Undergraduate students coming to UVA for a single semester will be charged half of the listed cost.</p> <p>When applying for housing you can select first, second, and third choice options. Please note, however, that <b>housing is NOT guaranteed</b>. Housing offers are made on a space available basis. The housing office makes every effort to match students with their choice of housing, but cannot guarantee space will be available for all students requesting housing.</p>
<b>Private Accommodation</b>	If you elect NOT to live in residential housing there are many options available off-Grounds near the University. Find information on a wide variety of off-Grounds accommodations <a href="#">here</a> .

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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.

<b>Tuition Fees</b>	<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 <a href="#">here</a> and follow the link to consult the university's information on tuition fees for students studying abroad.</p>
<b>Estimated Cost of Living</b>	<p>Estimated minimum cost for the academic year</p> <p>Housing: \$7,800</p> <p>Dining: \$5,800</p> <p>Books and supplies: \$1,400</p> <p>Personal expenses: \$2,800</p> <p>Health insurance: \$3,800</p> <p>Visa costs: Varies, but several hundred</p> <p>Flights: Varies, ~\$1,500</p> <p>Total: ~\$23,000</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>
<b>Insurance</b>	<p>Exchange students are subject to the "hard waiver" requirement for students. The hard waiver is a verification process that enables the University to verify that your insurance meets the University's standards of coverage. <b>If your insurance does not meet these standards you will be automatically enrolled in the University's insurance program through Aetna.</b> For more information about the hard waiver requirements and process as well as details about the Aetna insurance program, please visit the <a href="#">Elson Student Health Center</a> website.</p>

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	The University also requires that you complete a <a href="#">pre-entrance health form</a> . The form should be submitted directly to the Elson Student Health Center.
<b>Student Loans and Grants</b>	<p>Consult our <a href="#">funding webpages</a> 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

<b>Passports</b>	<p><b>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.</b></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>
<b>Visas</b>	<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>The University of Virginia issues the Certificate of Eligibility for J-1 Status (Form DS-2019) to all international students that will be enrolled as exchange students. The DS-2019 form will be mailed directly to your home institution to distribute to you. The J-1 Exchange Visitor Program allows you to study as a non-degree student at the University of Virginia. The DS-2019 is required in order to apply for the J-1 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 <a href="#">here</a>.</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>

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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](mailto: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.