



NOTES OF GUIDANCE FOR YOUR EXCHANGE DESTINATION

American University, USA

Fast Facts:

Website:	American University website Study abroad website
Language of instruction:	English
Semester dates:	Semester 1 (Fall): August - December Semester 2 (Spring): January - May
Number of students currently enrolled	14,000+
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>	Students can only take undergraduate level courses. There are some restrictions on courses in the School of International Service and the School of Business.
General Costs	Total estimated cost: \$23,500. Includes mandatory health insurance and visa costs 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	American University creates meaningful change in the world. With highly ranked schools and colleges and internationally recognized faculty, AU offers a balance between class time and career-advancing experience in Washington, D.C., and beyond. Its students, among the country's most politically active, distinguish themselves for their service, leadership, and ability to rethink global and domestic challenges and opportunities. As an institution with a global perspective, American University is committed to hosting students and academics from across the world. Currently, almost 1,000 international students and 60 scholars from over 130 countries call our university home. This diversity is also reflected in their faculty and academic programs.

These guidance notes were correct at the time of publishing on September 2022. Help us keep this information accurate by sending any feedback to the International Programmes team international.outgoing@ed.ac.uk

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 American 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>See this website for a schedule of classes</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>At American, enrolment applies to all undergraduate academic areas and courses of study for which the students are qualified. Students may not be able to enrol in all their desired courses due to capacity constraints, in which case American will make every reasonable effort to accommodate them in alternative courses in the fields of study they wish to pursue.</p> <p>Abroad at AU students cannot enrol in courses that are within University Honours Program, University College Program,</p>

These guidance notes were correct at the time of publishing on September 2022. Help us keep this information accurate by sending any feedback to the International Programmes team international.outgoing@ed.ac.uk

	<p>Washington Mentorship Program, or Washington Semester Program. These are special programs that students have been admitted into and are only for students in those programs.</p> <p>There are some restrictions on courses in the School of International Service and the School of Business. See this website for details of these academic restrictions.</p>
Orientation	<p>An orientation programme is offered for all new students to help them discover the university and inform them about any immigration requirements. For information please visit their website.</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>Due to high demand for and capacity limits of on-campus housing, non-degree seeking students are not able to apply for accommodations at this time. Students should be prepared to find their own off-campus housing and are responsible for all costs.</p>
Private Accommodation	<p>American resources for off campus housing</p>

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.

These guidance notes were correct at the time of publishing on September 2022. Help us keep this information accurate by sending any feedback to the International Programmes team international.outgoing@ed.ac.uk

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>Mandatory university fees: \$642 Room (double occupancy): \$12,000 Board (meal plan): \$5,000 Books: \$800 Health Insurance: \$2,178 Estimated visa fees: \$400 Flights: \$600-1000 Personal expenses: \$1,500 Total: \$23,500</p> <p>As on campus housing is currently restricted for exchange students, these room and meal plan estimates may differ from rent and grocery costs.</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>American University requires all full-time students, all students who live in AU housing, and all international students with F-1 and J-1 visas to carry personal health insurance. Students in these required categories are automatically enrolled in the AU student health insurance plan offered by Aetna. See their insurance webpage for more information.</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>

These guidance notes were correct at the time of publishing on September 2022. Help us keep this information accurate by sending any feedback to the International Programmes team international.outgoing@ed.ac.uk

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>To apply for a J-1 (student) visa, you will be required by a U.S. consular officer to present a Form DS-2019 and supporting financial documents to demonstrate your ability to meet financial obligations for your academic program (costs are outlined above). In order to obtain a Form DS-2019 from American University, the student must first be admitted into the university. For more information, please contact ISSS at (202) 885-3350 or visit this website.</p> <p>Website for the US embassy in the UK to view visa information</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>While in F-1 or J-1 status you must get authorization before beginning any employment (including internships for credit), whether it is paid or unpaid. The Department of Labour's definition of "employment" is very broad and many unpaid positions fall outside of the definition of truly volunteer activity. Please come to ISSS if there is any confusion as to whether your off-campus opportunity is employment or volunteer work.</p>
Disability Statement and Accessibility	<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>

These guidance notes were correct at the time of publishing on September 2022. Help us keep this information accurate by sending any feedback to the International Programmes team 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.