



NOTES OF GUIDANCE FOR YOUR EXCHANGE DESTINATION

University of Maryland, USA

Fast Facts:

Website:	General university website Exchange students' website
Language of instruction:	English
Semester dates:	Semester 1 (Fall): August to December Semester 2 (Spring): January to May
Number of students currently enrolled	>42,000
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>	The most up-to-date list of academic restrictions and Limited Enrollment Programs is available on the Incoming Exchange website
General Costs	Around \$22,000 for the full academic year. Including flights, 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	<p>The University of Maryland is one of the world's top-ranked public research institutions. With more than 100 majors as well as customized programs, UMD has something to match everyone's interests. You'll find high-tech labs, world-class performing arts, a hugely popular athletics program, and school spirit that can't be beat. The campus is a 1,250-acre oasis in suburban College Park, with green lawns, shady oak trees, and stately architecture.</p> <p>With a metro stop on campus, College Park is minutes from downtown Washington, D.C. As the nation's capital and home of the federal government, Washington, D.C. is a truly international city hosting foreign embassies, large governmental organizations, and dozens of free museums to visit.</p>

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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 UMD, 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>Exchange students can select from thousands of course offerings in 11 colleges. A complete list of current course offerings can be found on UMD's 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 UMD certain areas of study are classified as Limited Enrollment Programs and entry is subject to applicable prerequisite study requirements as well as available space. The most up-to-date list of academic restrictions and Limited Enrollment Programs is available on our Incoming Exchange website</p>

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	<p>The following courses have very limited enrolment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological Sciences, Biochemistry, Chemistry, & Environmental Sciences and Policy-Biodiversity and Conservation • Business (<i>only business majors from institutions that have a specific exchange agreement with the Smith School of Business may pre-register for business classes</i>) • Communication • Computer Science (<i>priority is given to students who are Computer Science majors at their home institution. Students cannot enroll for more than two, maybe 3 CS classes per semester</i>) • Criminology & Criminal Justice • Economics (<i>priority is given to students who are Economics majors at their home institutions</i>) • Engineering (<i>only engineering majors from institutions that have a specific exchange agreement with the A. James Clark School of Engineering may take engineering classes</i>) • Government & Politics • Information Studies • Journalism • Psychology <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>
<p>Orientation</p>	<p>All exchange students must attend the required Incoming Exchange Student Orientation at the beginning of their first semester. The orientation takes place over the course of 3 days and begins about a week before the first day of classes for the semester. The following topics are addressed: academics, student code of conduct, housing, immigration, campus tour, health & safety, and cultural adjustment. Students will also be provided with the opportunity to do an excursion to DC</p>

Accommodation

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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!

<p>University Accommodation</p>	<p>Undergraduate students ARE guaranteed housing as long as they complete the online housing application on the Department of Resident Life website by the deadline. Instructions on how to apply for on-campus housing are provided in the post-acceptance documents on MyEA. Students can only apply for housing after they have been accepted and assigned a student and university ID number.</p>
<p>Private Accommodation</p>	<p>Off-Campus Accommodations Office. This office provides students with a searchable database of rooms and apartments that are available for rent in College Park and the surrounding communities. There are guides about how to conduct your housing search, safety & security, apartments located on Shuttle-UM routes, the local communities, signing a lease, how to find a roommate, and much more.</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.

<p>Tuition Fees</p>	<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>
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<p>Estimated Cost of Living</p>	<p>Full academic year</p> <p>Housing: \$8,000 for on-campus or ~\$850 a month if off-campus</p> <p>Meal plan: \$5,400</p> <p>Books/Supplies: \$1,200</p> <p>Personal expenses: \$3,200 (\$100 a week for local travel, entertainment, clothes, etc.)</p> <p>Student activity fee: \$80</p> <p>Mandatory insurance: \$2,000</p> <p>Transport to campus on arrival if using SuperShuttle: \$50</p> <p>Other excursions hosted by UMD: \$50</p> <p>Flights: ~\$800-1,200</p> <p>Visa: Around \$400, keeping in mind other expenses like travel to and from the embassy/consulate</p> <p>Total: ~\$22,000</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>
<p>Insurance</p>	<p>Undergraduate and Graduate students attending UMD as exchange students are required to purchase the UMD Student Health Insurance Plan. Incoming exchange students will automatically be enrolled in the program and will pay via their UMD student billing account. It may be possible for students to waive SHIP insurance upon request. Please reach out to UMD Education Abroad to inquire.</p>
<p>Student Loans and Grants</p>	<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>DS-2019 Form</p> <p>Once admitted to UMD, exchange students will request a DS-2019 Form using the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) online portal, iTerp. The DS-2019 form is the immigration document required to apply for a J-1 Visa. Please read more on our website regarding DS-2019 requirements, including information on proof of financial support.</p> <p>J-1 (Exchange Visitor) Visa</p> <p>Exchange students should apply for a J-1 visa. The J-1 visa is used for educational and cultural exchange programs at the University of Maryland. Students on the J-1 visa typically come to the United States to study for a shorter period of time - one to two semesters. Please read more about applying for a student visa.</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>
<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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