



NOTES OF GUIDANCE FOR YOUR EXCHANGE DESTINATION

University of Washington, USA

Fast Facts:

Website:	General university website Exchange student website
Language of instruction:	English
Semester dates:	Autumn Quarter: September to December Winter Quarter: January to March Spring Quarter: March to June
Number of students currently enrolled	>48,000
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>	UW will not enrol Exchange Students in graduate courses in the Schools of Medicine, Business and Law unless expressly authorized by the UW Study Abroad Office (based on permission by the applicable School). Demand and space constraints make some department courses (especially engineering and computer science) extremely difficult to get into so we advise students to take classes outside of these fields and to be as flexible as possible when choosing courses.
General Costs	Cost of living for the academic year is around \$22,000, not including flights. 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 in 1861, the University of Washington in Seattle is one of the oldest state-funded universities in US. The University campus is situated between Lake Washington and Lake Union in a residential area of the city. With more than 48,000 students, UW is one of the world's preeminent public universities. Our impact on individuals, our region and the world is profound — whether we are launching young people into a boundless future or confronting the grand challenges of our time through undaunted research and scholarship. UW is No. 14 in the world on the 2018 Academic Ranking of World Universities .

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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 Washington, 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.

Academics	
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 information about academics here. A course catalogue can be found here.</p> <p>All undergraduate students attending the UW on a university-wide exchange will be admitted through Undergraduate Admissions to the College of Arts & Sciences regardless of class standing or degree programme in your home country. The college is divided by four academic divisions: art, humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences. This means that you will be able to select courses from a wide variety of departments during your time in Seattle.</p> <p>Before you can register for UW courses, you must submit proof of immunizations. Review the Immunization Requirement information on the Hall Health website and follow the directions to submit the required documents.</p> <p>**Please be aware, there may not be an up-to-date course catalogue available at this exchange destination. Please use the information</p>

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	available to get an idea about what you can study while on exchange**
Academic Restrictions	<p>UW will not enrol Exchange Students in graduate courses in the Schools of Medicine, Business and Law unless expressly authorized by the UW Study Abroad Office (based on permission by the applicable School).</p> <p>The most capacity constrained majors at UW are Computer Science and Engineering. Demand and space constraints make some department courses, especially within Business, Communications, Economics, Psychology, Law, Societies & Justice and Math extremely difficult to get into so we advise students to take classes outside of these fields and to be as flexible as possible when choosing courses.</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>An orientation will be held for all new exchange students at the beginning of each quarter. The orientation is designed to help you learn about the University community, U.S. customs and lifestyles, and the Seattle area. It is also a great way to explore our city and meet other UW students. Exchange Students are expected to attend the orientation and you should plan to arrive in Seattle according to the recommendations for your term of entry.</p> <p>The FIUTS Homestay Program is a short-term option where host families support incoming students during the transition period to UW and Seattle and serve as an initial introduction to American culture. This program is primarily for students who have never studied or lived in the US, but any student wishing to participate is welcome. If you are interested, please contact FIUTS.</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!

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University Accommodation	<p>Living on campus is convenient and is a great way to meet new people. All residence halls are coeducational, meaning men and women live in different rooms on the same floor, or on separate floors or corridors. The residential life program is at the heart of what makes living in the residence halls different from other student living arrangements. The staff who live in the residence halls develop social and educational programs and events that focus on your needs and interests as you pursue a college education.</p> <p>If you are an undergraduate student and indicated in your exchange application that you are interested in on-campus housing, then you will be included on the priority housing list that will be sent to the Housing and Food Services (HFS) office.</p>
Private Accommodation	<p>Students who choose to live off campus should start planning early. FIUTS has housing resources on their website, including comparisons of living on- vs. off-campus, suggestions for finding off-campus accommodations, and short-term housing suggestions.</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.

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>Estimated costs for the academic year</p> <p>Rent, utilities, and food: \$16,000</p> <p>Textbooks and supplies: \$900</p> <p>Personal expenses: \$2,500</p>

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	<p>Transportation: \$492</p> <p>Health insurance: \$1,300-\$1,800</p> <p>Course fees (if applicable): although tuition fees are waived, some courses may have additional fees for instructional/laboratory costs.</p> <p>Flights: Varies</p> <p>Visa: Varies, usually several hundred dollars</p> <p>Total: ~\$22,000 (not including flights)</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>International students at UW are required by federal and state laws to maintain health insurance while studying in the United States. All F-1 and J-1 eligible international students who are enrolled and actively engaged in a program of study approved by the appropriate UW <i>Principal Designated School Official (PDSO)</i>, and are temporarily outside their home country are required to purchase the UW <i>International Student Health Insurance Plan (ISHIP)</i> in order to meet these requirements. UW international students are automatically enrolled for student-only coverage each quarter they register for classes.</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>
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<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>While at the UW, our colleagues in International Student Services (ISS) will be your main point of contact for all items related to your visa and maintaining your immigration status.</p> <p>As an exchange student you will enter the US on a J-1 visa and should familiarize yourself with the rules and regulations of this visa category.</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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