

Things to Consider – Pre-Application

As you come to apply for your exchange, it is important to consider some key factors before completing your application. Please ask yourself the questions below to determine whether an exchange or exchange destination is right for you! If you have any questions, you can get in touch via email:

- europe.outgoing@ed.ac.uk for European destinations
- international.outgoing@ed.ac.uk for international destinations.

You can also find out more information about our [weekly drop-in sessions here](#).

Commitment

Applying for exchange and, if selected, the preparations before you go can be a lot of additional work during both the academic year and the summer before you travel.

- Are you committed to keep an eye on your University of Edinburgh emails between January and April for correspondence about allocations?
- If you are allocated an exchange place, will you be committed to:
 - Work on your application to your host institution during term-time?
 - Attend compulsory sessions around exam time in April/May?
 - Answer correspondence from us sent to your university email address throughout both term-time and your summer holidays?
 - Organise and prepare yourself well when applying for visas and completing other necessary paperwork for your exchange? (This may include not being able to go on extended overseas travel during the summer as you may need to send your passport away.)

If you require this document in an alternative format, please email international.outgoing@ed.ac.uk or europe.outgoing@ed.ac.uk or call 0131 650 3017 or 0131 650 4621.



Academic Considerations

Your academic experience will make up a big chunk of your time when abroad. Make sure you have looked into the differences between the University of Edinburgh and our host institutions to ensure you have a positive academic experience when away.

- What are the main methods of teaching at the host institution?
- Will you have continual assessment throughout your exchange or exams at the end of the year or semester? Will your exams be in a written or verbal format? Does this work well with your learning style?
- Are there any academic areas you want (or need) to focus on specifically? Does the host institution offer access to these areas to exchange students?
- Do the term dates of the institution(s) clash with your summer plans, other work or family commitments if you were to be allocated there?

Personal Considerations

Don't forget, you need to be prepared to live in these destinations too. Make sure you have looked into the culture and lifestyle in the host countries.

- Can you see yourself living in the host country?
- Is the university campus based: in the city; in the countryside; surrounded by mountains; by the sea? Would you enjoy or thrive in these environments?
- Have you considered the differences in culture you will experience? This could be local customs and religions; diet and availability of different foods; the weather, the social behaviour, work ethic and norms of the local population of the country.



Practical Considerations

Now you have decided where you would like to study and live, you need to determine whether it is a practical destination for you.

- Is your passport valid for the full length of your exchange and any additional time after the exchange for visa and entry requirement purposes?
- Will you be able to fulfil the visa and entry requirements of your host country?
- Have you checked the price of a visa and any documents you are required to provide as part of the application process (e.g. medical letters, police checks)?
- Have you checked the price of other big costs during your exchange, such as compulsory health insurance at the host institution?
- Do you need proof of availability of funds to your host institution or for your visa application? If so, how will you do this?
- Have you researched whether you can afford to live in the host city/country? How much is the average rent? How much will your groceries be per week? How much will it cost to go out for coffee, drinks or a meal, and take part in other social activities with the people you meet?
- How will you finance your time abroad? Are there any additional funding bodies you can apply to for loans or grants, or are there scholarships you are eligible for?
- Have you used our budgeting tool, found on our [Fees and Funding webpage](#), for support with the kinds of costs you will have?
- Do you have any medical conditions you will need to manage while away? Will you be able to manage these when far away from family, friends and a healthcare system you are familiar with?

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