

MANCHESTER
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The University of Manchester

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ABROAD**

WITH THE
**UNIVERSITY OF
MANCHESTER**

Course selection and credit load



Course selection and credit load

'Course Units' (the Manchester terminology) may be referred to as modules, units, papers, classes or courses or even subjects in Australia at the partner university. As at Manchester, you will need to research and select the course units you wish to take during your semester/year abroad. In order to do this you need to do the following:



- Discuss with your Academic Exchange Adviser the requirements for your semester/year abroad. Are there any Manchester courses for which you need to find a direct replacement at the host university? Are there any core courses that you will have to take via distance learning? Are there any courses that you will need to take in order to have the necessary background for certain final year course units? If you are studying a language, are there core language courses at the partner university that your Academic Exchange Adviser has already identified as being compulsory? Are you able to take courses from outside of your discipline?



- Research the course units available at the partner university. Most universities will have some form of online catalogue listing the course units that are available. You may find that you have to base your course selections on the course information that is published for the year preceding your period of study abroad and then make adjustments when up-to-date information is available. You will need to make sure that you understand the course-coding system that is used so that you select courses that are at the appropriate level and offered in the appropriate semester, and the credit system/standard workload that is used so that you select the correct number of credits (International Exchange Programme students, see Credit Systems).



“ I got to experience Canadian cultures, being shown around by a local who I lived with. I had more choices for course modules, more niche options, which really helped me realise what I want to do after my degree, as well as for my Masters. On the whole, the best year of my life.

Harry Ballington, Physics,
University of Victoria (Vancouver), Canada ”



Courses for your discipline area may be available under a number of different subject headings, so make sure that you consider this during your course search. For example:

- Drama or drama-related courses may be listed under 'Communications', 'Media', 'Film Studies', 'Theatre', 'Literature' etc.
- Geography or geography-related courses may be listed under 'Environmental Studies', 'Geology', 'Earth Sciences', 'Human and Natural Resources', 'Planning', 'Development Studies' etc.
- Politics courses may be listed under 'Government' or 'International Relations' rather than 'Politics'.
- American Studies may not be listed as a specific discipline area but appropriate courses could be found in 'History', 'Literature', 'Film', 'Politics', 'Sociology', 'Geography' etc.



Search thoroughly to find the most suitable combination of classes to match your course requirements and personal interests. Some universities will also have courses on 'Australian Studies', 'Afro-American Studies' etc. that may be of interest to Humanities students in particular, giving a local focus to your studies.



If you need to take course units that directly replace material that you would have covered in Manchester, (typically this will be the case in BAEcon courses that include Economics and in many Science and Engineering disciplines), then you may need to request the full course syllabi from the partner university to be certain that a particular unit really does cover the material that you need. Do NOT rely simply on a very brief course description.



You will normally be expected to take the equivalent of 60 Manchester credits per semester during your period abroad (i.e. a full course load). If you are taking any Manchester course units via distance learning, the number of courses/credits at the partner university will need to be adjusted accordingly. You should be aware that many universities will have a minimum number of credits that you will need to register for – often this will be tied to immigration requirements and your status as a ‘full-time’ student in the host country.

DO NOT get confused by the number of course units/credits that are being taken by exchange students from other universities. You need to follow the requirements specified by The University of Manchester.

We would not typically expect students on exchange at partner universities to take on-line courses. If you wish to take any on-line courses at your partner university, you will need to seek approval from your Academic Exchange Adviser.



“ *An incredible opportunity to not only experience true American college life and make new friends, but also to travel and explore the vast diversity of American places and cities*

Hattie Charnley-Shaw, American Studies/
University of Maryland, USA





N.B. There will be a number of factors you will need to take into consideration if your host university moves to on-line provision due to the Covid 19 pandemic:

- Check the courses approved in your Learning Agreement are all available on-line and that the requirements of your degree/learning outcomes can still be met;
- Discuss any changes with your AEA and seek approval; notify IPO of these changes;
- Check how any practical elements of your course might be impacted if face-to-face teaching is not possible;
- If your study abroad period counts towards your degree, ensure numerical/letter grades will be awarded, not just pass/fail;
- Check whether on-line provision will be synchronous or asynchronous? What is the time difference with your host country?

Course approval, course changes and learning agreements



You **MUST** make sure that you receive approval in writing/ email from your Academic Exchange Adviser for the course units that you plan to take during your period abroad, and that you obtain written approval for any subsequent changes that you need to make once you are abroad. Please share said approval with the International Programmes Office.

Student Recruitment and
International Development

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