

OPTIONS FOR STUDYING ABROAD

Why study abroad?

Studying abroad is a fantastic opportunity to learn in a new and exciting environment and get to know and experience a different culture. An extended period abroad gives students a real live understanding of life in another country. When you finish your study abroad programme and return home, you will return with a new perspective and an array of key skills you can showcase to future graduate employers – organisation and planning skills, resilience, adaptability and an enhanced global perspective. Studying abroad counts towards your degree and your time abroad will be recognised in your degree title, e.g. BSc Hons Computing with DIAS (Diploma in International Academic Study).

Finding a Suitable Course or Programme

To make a start, chat to your Studies Adviser. Many lecturers have visited, studied abroad and have links with overseas universities.

1. ISEP (International Student Experience Programme)

ISEP is an affordable exchange programme that enables Ulster University students to study in the USA and allows you endless opportunities for immersion and exploration at one of over 140 public or private institutions across the entire country. The experience will strengthen your CV and expose you to a range of diverse academic topics.

If you are studying through the ISEP programme you will pay Ulster University, the sum of £4,770 (which can be paid in 3 equal instalments). This cost will cover your student accommodation and meals in the USA, for your full year of study abroad. For further programme information, please email: isep@ulster.ac.uk

2. Study USA

Study USA is an opportunity to study business or STEM subjects at a U.S. college for one academic year. Operated by the British Council, each year between 50-60 students from Northern Ireland participate in the Study USA programme. The British Council works with over 140 institutions across the USA to provide students with widespread opportunities. The scholarship funding package is worth an approximate £35,000 and includes room and board for the academic year, text book allowance and one return flight to the USA. Participating students pay a £1,500 fee, visa costs and daily living expenses.

Application will open in October 2019. For full details on the application process, please visit: <https://nireland.britishcouncil.org/opportunities/study-usa>

3. Study Europe (Erasmus Study Abroad)

Erasmus+ is the European Union programme that offers exciting opportunities for UK participants to study, work or volunteer in Europe. As a minimum, students must complete at least one x 3-month semester at an EU university. Your place at the EU host university must be confirmed before applying for Erasmus funding. Our advice is to meet with your Departmental Erasmus Co-Ordinator or Placement Tutor to discuss your study abroad options, researching your options thoroughly to decide where you wish to study.

Erasmus funding up to €420 per month is made available to students studying in Europe until summer 2020. However, in the event of a no-deal Brexit, students should plan for the likelihood that no additional EU funding will be available after summer 2020. The implication at present is that there will be no UK Government funding to replace Erasmus+.

For the latest updates on the Erasmus+ Programme, study options and funding, contact: erasmus@ulster.ac.uk

4. Short-Term Programmes

If you like the idea of an international experience but don't want to or can't commit to a year studying overseas, then there are lots of ways to you can have a short term 'mobility' experience. These can range from two weeks to three months and could be a summer school, work placement or an international volunteering project. 2019 programmes included:

- Mid-West 2019 – a seven-day visit to Southwest Minnesota University, USA
- Experience India 2019 – visit to Christ University to attend a Sustainability and Poverty summer school
- Go Philly 2019 – a seven-day visit to Philadelphia to study on one of eight distinct academic programmes
- Study China – UK Government funded three-week summer school at a Chinese university
- A Taste of India 2019 – two-week summer school at Amity University, Delhi

By undertaking a short-term opportunity, you will gain experience of studying and living in a different cultural, linguistic and social environment. The above programmes also count as an EDGE Award 'Developing a Global Vision' activity. You will learn more about yourself as a global citizen in terms of life skills, career choices and your academic development outside the classroom. Full details of our short-term study programmes can be found at: <https://www.ulster.ac.uk/goglobal/short-term>

Tuition Fees Whilst Studying Abroad

Ulster students studying abroad at a partner institution are not charged tuition fees by the host university (although some partners do charge a small administration cost for applying). Students can expect to pay for their travel, accommodation and other course-related costs such as field trips, books etc.

Ulster will reduce the tuition fees owed for those undergraduate students who study abroad for a semester or year at an exchange partner university. We will continue to invoice students or their relevant funding body for Ulster tuition fees at the appropriate fee level depending on the kind of mobility.



Funding Opportunities Study Abroad

There are a number of funding opportunities available to Ulster students wishing to study abroad. Some of these are internal and available only to Ulster students whilst others are external opportunities provided by the British Council, Student Finance NI or other organisations. For further information on funding your study abroad programme, email: studyabroad@ulster.ac.uk