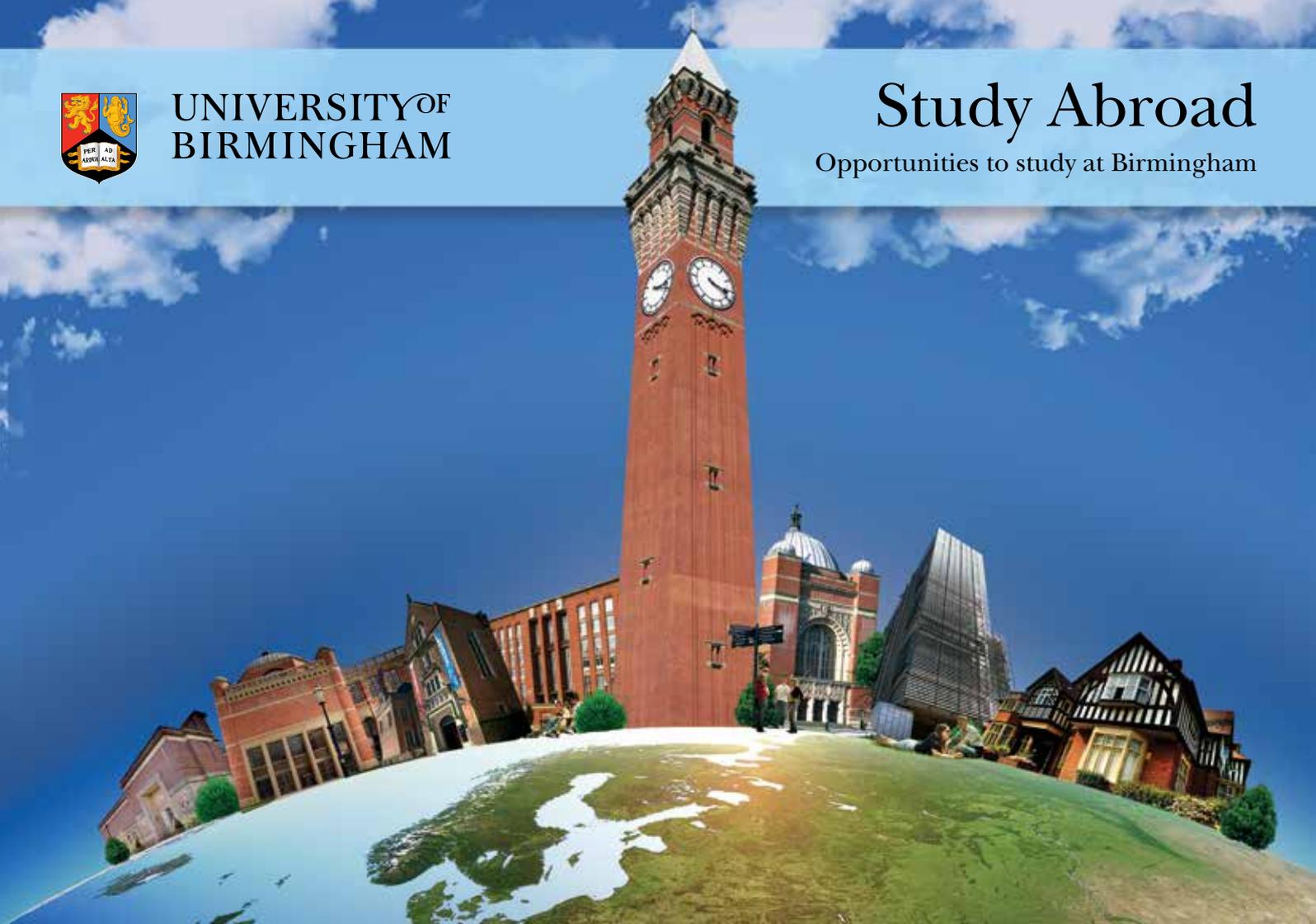




UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

# Study Abroad

Opportunities to study at Birmingham



## Study abroad in Birmingham

We are home to one of the largest communities of international students in the UK. More than 5,000 international students study here from over 150 different countries. Having over 100 years' experience of welcoming international students to our campus, we fully understand the needs of those who are coming to study in the UK as part of an exchange or study abroad programme.

### Which programme?

We welcome students from across the globe, who come to Birmingham for a term or year. There are several options for Studying Abroad at Birmingham:

- **The Erasmus exchange programme**
  - for European students studying at one of our partner institutions
- **The International Exchange programme**
  - for international students studying at one of our partner institutions
- **The Study Abroad programme**
  - our fee-paying programme for students currently studying at a non-partner institution

- **Birmingham International Summer School**
  - a fee-paying two- or four-week programme for international students currently studying at another institution

You can take courses from across the University (excluding the Medical School), subject to satisfying the academic entry requirements.

We are also delighted to be one of the UK institutions selected to participate in the Science without Borders Scheme (Ciência sem Fronteiras), available to undergraduate or PhD students from Brazil.

Over 450 Erasmus students and 300 International Exchange students study here each year.

fact



We were awarded *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* University of the Year award in 2013–14.

fact

## What does the Study Abroad programme involve?

A full year's course load at Birmingham is 120 credits. Most modules are worth 10 or 20 credits. There is only one examination period at Birmingham, which is at the end of the academic year in May/June. If you plan to spend only the first term with us then you will have special assessment in place of the end of year exams.

### Courses

Our Study Abroad programme offers you a broad portfolio of courses from which to choose and we are sure you will find something to suit you at Birmingham.

Birmingham is organised into five colleges and modules are available to Study Abroad students in most subject areas, except for those in the College of Medical and Dental Sciences.

We also offer a two- or four-week summer programme as part of our Birmingham International Summer School, giving you the chance to spend time at Birmingham during the summer vacation.

If you do not meet our English language requirements, summer pre-session English courses are available starting in April, June, July and August.

If you want to refresh your academic English skills (and already meet our English requirements) we also offer a four-week preparation course for unconditional offer holders.

Courses are offered in the following broad subject areas:

□ **Life and Environmental Sciences**  
(Biosciences, Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Psychology)



□ **Engineering and Physical Sciences**  
(Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Computer Science, Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Mathematics, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, Metallurgy and Materials, Physics and Astronomy)

□ **Arts and Law**  
(Historical Studies, Music, English and Drama Studies, Languages, Philosophy, Theology, Anthropology, Art History, Law)

□ **Social Sciences**  
(Business, Education, Public Policy, Social Policy, Politics, Economics)

Search our module directory:

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/studyabroadmodules](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/studyabroadmodules)

### Teaching methods

Methods of teaching will vary depending on the subject you study. Humanities and social sciences students are likely to attend more lectures whereas engineering and science students are likely to spend more time in laboratories. Whichever you choose, you will benefit from the small group teaching characteristic of the UK higher education system. You may also find that you spend less time in formal lessons than you would at your home institution and will be expected to spend more time on private study.

### Teaching environment

You will study alongside our degree students, completing the same assignments, projects and assessments. We appreciate that this can be a daunting experience and we do our best to offer as much support as possible. We pride ourselves on the care we take in advising you at the start of the year so that the courses you choose are appropriate to your needs and present level of

achievement. You will also be allocated a personal tutor with whom you can discuss your course choices and academic issues.



**We offer one of the broadest portfolios of courses of any UK university, offering over 400 undergraduate programmes, 350 taught postgraduate programmes and a wealth of research opportunities, including ambitious and interdisciplinary research topics.**

**fact**

Birmingham is part of the Russell Group, an association of 24 major research-led universities.

The University has eight Nobel Prize winners among its alumni and staff. From revealing the structure of DNA to developing new treatments for heart disease and cancer, their research and work has made an impact worldwide.



## Why Birmingham?

As University of the Year, Birmingham enables you to gain the most from studying in the UK. We have welcomed international students for more than 100 years and the city has one of the youngest populations in Europe. The following pages will give you more information on why Birmingham is the perfect study abroad destination.

We have a dedicated Study Abroad team which is always on hand to answer your questions by telephone, email or in person. The International Student Advisory Service (ISAS) can assist with issues such as visas and immigration, support for dependants, financial matters, housing problems and employment.

International Welcome Week takes place one week before the start of the Autumn Term, which gives you the chance to participate in various practical and social activities and help settle in. A free airport collection service is also available at certain airports for new international students who arrive in September.

In addition there are specialist services which offer support and advice throughout your stay in Birmingham:

- Student mentors within every hall of residence
- The Advice and Representation Centre in the Guild of Students (our Students' Union)
- The Multifaith Chaplaincy
- The Job Zone in the Guild
- Careers and employability advice through our Careers Network
- Disability and Learning Support

Birmingham is one of only 23 UK universities to be placed in the top 150 in *The Times Higher Education Supplement World University Rankings*.

fact

Birmingham made an impressive 15 place rise to 62nd in this year's QS World University Rankings, cementing our position in the top 100 universities globally and placing us 10th out of the 24 Russell Group universities to feature in the ranking.

info

The English for International Students Unit (EISU) offer free, term-time classes in academic English and free individual support to help you develop your ability to write academic essays. Visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/eisu](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/eisu)



fact

## Our campus

Sport, leisure and teaching facilities at Birmingham are among the best at any UK university. The beautiful green and leafy campus, located just a few miles from the city centre and covering 250 acres, is a great environment in which to live and study. It is also very safe with all buildings equipped with CCTV and a dedicated community police offer and security team based on site.

Across campus, you can enjoy culture, sport and beautiful scenery. The stunning campus is here for every student to enjoy and experience whether your passion is art, music, antiques or sciences, and all our students have the opportunity to use our unique facilities and collections during their studies.

Our Edgbaston campus offers the amenities of a small town, enabling our students to enjoy a bustling community on campus with many events and activities on offer. Our monthly farmers' market provides fresh produce and artisan products from local businesses and the Guild of Students offers many social nights and events in which to get involved.

The Edgbaston campus is bursting with remarkable finds: rare books and archives, a campus-wide art collection, the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, a 450-seat concert hall and an Arts and Crafts house with botanic gardens; all discovered among the lecture theatres and laboratories.

We continue to expand and improve our campus, with our most recent investments being in the planned building of a brand new multi-million pound sports centre, a redeveloped library with a cultural hub and a brand new student hub housed in the iconic Aston Webb Building.



The Munrow Sports Centre





#### Campus facilities include:

- A post office, supermarket and gift shop.
- Banks, an optician, a hairdresser, a medical and dental practice, a nursery and a dry cleaner.
- Catering outlets offering a wide variety of food and drink including halal and other specialist options.
- The world renowned Barber Institute of Fine Arts housing the works of Monet, Manet, Renoir, Turner, Degas, Picasso and Rubens and offering special events and exhibitions throughout the year [www.barber.org.uk](http://www.barber.org.uk)
- Winterbourne Botanic Garden housing plants from around the world.
- The Munrow Sports Centre which has a gym, swimming pool, squash courts, tennis courts,



Winterbourne Botanic Garden

- running track, all weather pitches and a dance studio. The Centre also offers an Active Lifestyles Programme which consists of 75 fitness classes per week [www.sport.bham.ac.uk](http://www.sport.bham.ac.uk)
- A railway station with regular services taking just seven minutes to the city centre.
- Free email and internet access across campus and internet points in study bedrooms.
- Joe's Bar within the Guild providing a great place to socialise.

fact

The University's 250-acre campus was recently listed in the top ten most beautiful universities in Britain by *The Telegraph*.

## Our accommodation

Settling down to university life can be a challenging time and it is important you have your own space where you feel safe and supported. We offer a wide range of purpose-built accommodation on campus. This includes traditional halls of residence where meals are provided in a communal dining room as well as self-catering flats.

We have three accommodation villages, each offering a safe and friendly place to live, just a short walk from the main campus. The Vale Village, Pritchatts Park Village and Jarratt Hall in the Selly Oak Village provide a choice of quality accommodation, each with its own student community and social hub.

Detailed information on accommodation, including prices, can be found on the housing website at:  
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/accommodation](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/accommodation)



We provide a wide variety of accommodation types:

- **Single study bedrooms** based in cluster flats, sharing kitchen and bathroom facilities  
**From £82 per week**
- **En-suite bedrooms** with your own bathroom, plus shared kitchen  
**From £126 per week**
- **Studios and apartments** with exclusive use of a bathroom and kitchen  
**From £180 per week**
- **Privately owned** purpose-built student accommodation  
**Between £110 and £185 per week**



Once you have received an offer pack from the University you can apply online for University accommodation.



Self-catered accommodation is available across all of our villages, while the Meal Plan is provided at the Vale Village, enabling you to purchase food in a variety of campus catering outlets.



All of our accommodation is furnished and centrally heated and we try to place students in single-sex accommodation where requested.

Alternatively, students may decide to rent a house in the private sector. Housing Services at the University offer a list of approved landlords for students who wish to rent privately. We also run a house hunting event at the start of each year.

Students from outside the European Union who apply before the deadline are guaranteed campus housing.



# The city of Birmingham

One of Europe's most exciting destinations and with one of the youngest populations in Europe, Birmingham is brimming with life and culture, making it a wonderful place to live and study. The city boasts a variety of art galleries, museums and live performances which play a central role to the life of the campus. The thriving cultural scene also includes concerts, student theatre, dance, volunteering and exhibitions, as well as city-wide festivals and events.

The city is a hive of live entertainment, with several music venues across the city, including the O2 Academy, The Institute, National Indoor Arena (NIA) and National Exhibition Centre (NEC). Smaller, independent venues host emerging new talent and Birmingham also boasts one of Europe's finest concert halls, Birmingham Symphony Hall, home to the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

Birmingham boasts a diverse range of food cultures and a flourishing ethnic restaurant scene. Catering to all tastes and budgets, it boasts the famous Balti Triangle, a must-visit for curry lovers. The Chinese district sits alongside traditional 'pub grub', meaning you really are spoilt for choice.

The city also boasts Michelin-star restaurants, and you can sample this food at student prices during one of the many food festivals, which also feature local culinary delights.

From the historic Jewellery Quarter and its shops, cafes and pubs, to the quirky Custard Factory; you can enjoy the eclectic city of Birmingham, just a short journey away from our Edgbaston campus.

The Jewellery Quarter is home to Birmingham's historic jewellery trade and boasts more than 400 shops to enjoy as well as being home to the UK's second oldest independent art gallery.



**'What I love about Birmingham is that it truly reflects the vibrant, multicultural city that surrounds it. There is a myriad of student societies and there is always something exciting you can get involved with. I've discovered the city like never before and I've made loads of friends. It made my Birmingham experience fabulous.'** Olivia, Romania

# University of Birmingham Sport (UBSport)

We are one of the UK's leading sporting universities, regularly finishing in the top three of the BUCS (British Universities & Colleges Sport) championship. We call it 'Playing with Pride' and is one of the reasons why student athletes from across the country and around the world choose to study train and compete here.

Whether you are an aspiring athlete or simply hoping to stay fit and enjoy sporting activities during your studies, UBSport offers fitness classes, a swimming pool, athletics track and much more. If you enjoy team sports, join one of our clubs, which get together weekly to train on our pitches.

For more information visit [www.sport.bham.ac.uk](http://www.sport.bham.ac.uk)



University of Birmingham Sport houses the only fully interdisciplinary sports science and sports medicine support unit in the West Midlands.

The aim of the unit is to provide specialist support to athletes and coaches. The Hi Performance Centre provides cutting-edge applied sports science and sports medicine support that contributes to enhanced training and performance, diagnoses and treatment of injury, rehabilitation and recovery.



Our campus-based facilities are soon to undergo a major £55 million redevelopment, including a 50-metre swimming pool, the first in Birmingham.



The fastest people on the planet chose Birmingham to complete their preparations for the London Olympics. Team Jamaica, including world and Olympic champion sprinters Usain Bolt and Yohan Blake, rated Birmingham as their best pre-Olympic training base to date.



## Get involved

The Guild of Students is home to over 200 clubs and societies. Joining a student group is a great way to make friends and help you settle in during your first weeks on campus. They are also a fantastic way of developing your personal skills. There is a huge range to choose from, be it an international society bringing together people from your own country, performance and arts appreciation, a debating society or a subject-related group.



During International Welcome Week there is a Society Fair, where you can sign up to as many student groups as you like. You can also join student groups at any time throughout the year. You can even volunteer to be an ambassador at our exchanges fair and encourage Birmingham students to do a year abroad in your home city.



## English language requirements

All students whose first language is not English must meet the English language requirement. The standard requirement is IELTS 6.5, with not less than 6.0 in any one component, or TOEFL iBT 88 with no less than 21 in Reading, 20 in Listening, 22 in Speaking and 21 in Writing.

Please note that higher English scores are required if you wish to take Law modules; IELTS 7.0 with no less than 6.5 in any band and TOEFL 100 overall with no less than 23 in any band

If you do not meet the English language requirements for entry to the study abroad or exchange programmes, it is possible to attend a pre-sessional English course first. The English courses vary in duration; students who need more improvement in their English scores need to take longer English courses.

The pre-sessional English courses can be joined in April, June, July and August, ranging from six- to 20-week courses. The costs of pre-sessional courses and further information about them are available on the EISU website [www.birmingham.ac.uk/eisu](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/eisu)



## Finance

For living expenses we estimate you will need between £10,000 and £12,000 for a full year which should cover accommodation, food, local travel, study materials and some social activities. This will obviously vary depending upon your standard of living, how often you go out and how many extracurricular activities you take part in.

Further advice and resources to help you manage your money can be found at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/moneyadvice](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/moneyadvice)



### Fees

- **International Study Abroad programme:**
  - September 2014–June 2015: **£11,500**
  - September 2014–December 2014: **£6,000**
  - January 2015–June 2015: **£6,000**
- **EU Study Abroad programme:**
  - September 2014–June 2015: **£9,000**
  - September 2014–December 2014: **£4,500**
  - January 2015–June 2015: **£4,500**

Universitas 21 (U21) is the leading global network of research-intensive universities. The University of Birmingham is proud to be a founding member of such a group.



## Next steps

### How to apply

For the **International Exchange programme** and Erasmus exchange programme you will need to apply online:

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/studyabroad-incoming](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/studyabroad-incoming)

For the **Study Abroad programme** please apply online:

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/studyabroad/feepaying](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/studyabroad/feepaying)

### Academic calendar

For term dates, please see

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/termdates](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/termdates)

**Autumn term:** September–December

**Spring term:** January–March

**Summer term:** April–June (exam period)



Students can attend for:

- **A full academic year:** September–June
- **Autumn term:** September–December
- **Spring and Summer term:** January–June

It is not possible to study at the University of Birmingham for just the Spring or Summer terms.

### Contact us

[studyabroad@bham.ac.uk](mailto:studyabroad@bham.ac.uk)

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/studyabroad](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/studyabroad)





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