



Information Sheet for Incoming Students - 2021/22

Birmingham Global

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If you need to speak to one of the members of the Study Abroad team, please email us and we will contact you to arrange a meeting via Microsoft Teams or Zoom.

Partner Enquiries

If you are a member of staff at one of our partner universities and you need to ask a question or send us an update, please email us at this address:
exchangepartners@contacts.bham.ac.uk

You can also look at our guidance for partners [here](#).

Study Abroad and Exchanges Website (Incoming)

Study Abroad and Exchanges – Incoming information can be found [here](#).



Requirements

Study requirement - Students must have completed at least 2 semesters at the undergraduate level or equivalent before applying for their exchange programme at UoB.

Academic requirement - For Non-Erasmus partners, we have Country specific academic entry requirements. A cumulative UK 2:1 (or country equivalent) is necessary to apply for an exchange in the Birmingham Law School; applicants must have prior experience of studying Law. Academic entry requirements can be found [here](#).

Language Proficiency - English language requirements can be found [here](#).

Nomination and Application

Deadlines:

Nomination – **31 March** for Fall semester or full academic year and **30 September** for Spring semester.

Application – **30 April** for Fall semester or Academic year and **31 October** for Spring semester.

Procedure:

Nomination - Using an [online nomination form](#) by the UoB Study Abroad team, including Home university coordinator's details and the Student's details *e.g. contact details, academic background, study period etc.*

Application:

1. Official nomination needs to be submitted by the home institution's exchange advisor/coordinator;
2. Students will receive an email with a link to the online application form
3. Student to follow the instructions on how to complete the online application form and upload all the necessary supporting documents.

Notice of Acceptance – September entry (June – July) and January entry (November – December)

Academics

Academic Calendar

Welcome and Orientation – Fall semester from 20 to 24 September 2021 and Spring semester from 24 to 28 January 2022

Term dates - Fall semester – 27 September 2021 to 17 December 2021 and Spring semester – 31 January 2022 to 24 June 2022

Examination dates - at UoB are different in each College and depend on the modules students choose.

The assessment periods take place in January and June for **full year** students.

Alternative assessments will be arranged for students who attend the **first semester only**.

Second semester only students must complete their assessments in June.

Module Load

Exchange students must study 60 UoB credits (equivalent to 30 ECTS) per semester and 120 UoB credits (equivalent to 60 ECTS) per full academic year.

Modules (courses)

The University is structured around five Colleges, four of which are open to Study Abroad and Exchange students. Only the College of Medical and Dental Sciences is excluded. Students need to select their



preferred College, which is relevant to their degree subject, and up to two optional colleges. At least 40 credits per semester should be selected within the preferred College, but can be in multiple Schools within that College.

The four Colleges that are open to Study Abroad and Exchange students are:

- College of Arts and Law
- College of Engineering and Physical Sciences
- College of Social Sciences
- College of Life and Environmental Sciences

We also have an independent school – Liberal Arts and Natural Sciences.

More information regarding modules can be found [here](#).

Restrictions

All modules are subject to availability and academic pre-requisites.

The College of Medical and Dental Science is not open to Study Abroad and Exchange students.

A cumulative UK 2:1 (or country equivalent) is necessary to apply for an exchange in the Birmingham Law School; applicants must have prior experience of studying Law, even if they choose Law modules as optional modules.

Postgraduate level modules are only available on a case by case basis once the application has been accepted by the relevant Schools.

Transcripts

The University has moved to a secure online system called 'VERIFY'. This online platform is for students to share their academic results with their home university. Please find the Verify website [here](#).

Please note that home universities will not be sent hard copy transcripts, home universities can view and download an electronic copy of each student's official transcript from Verify after the student gives them access to their record.

Students will receive one hard copy version of their transcript, which will be sent directly to their home address upon completion of their study in Birmingham.

Living in Birmingham

Housing

For Study Abroad and International Exchange students from outside of Europe, the University is able to guarantee housing in one of the many "villages" across campus. University accommodation is not guaranteed for students travelling from inside Europe. Therefore, European students are advised to apply for accommodation as early as possible. However, if a place in university housing is not available, there is plenty to choose from in the private sector. Please note that housing is easier to secure if students stay in Birmingham for either the spring semester or the full academic year.

Additional information can be found [here](#).

Insurance

We recommend that you take out health insurance before you travel and arrive in the UK.

The University has a health centre on campus and you should register with this service on your arrival. If you will be in the UK for more than six months, you will be able to use the National Health Service in the same way as anyone permanently resident in the UK. However, pre-existing medical conditions requiring long-term medication or hospital treatment may not be covered. Repatriation would also not be covered. It is therefore essential to take out health insurance before you arrive.



If your course lasts six months or less, you will be treated as a private patient and will have to pay to see a doctor. The charges for this can be especially high if you need medication or hospital treatment. Dental and optical treatment must also be paid for, as is the case for those permanently resident. It is therefore very important that you take out insurance cover before you travel.

Living Expenses

The cost of living here in Birmingham is low when compared to some other major cities like London and Edinburgh. The cost of living in the UK will depend on a number of factors such as the type of accommodation you have, the amount you spend on food, travel, clothing and social activities.

Estimated budget

Essential Living Costs	Catered Halls	Self-catered Halls	Private House
Rent	£175	£150	£100
Gas & Electric	Included	Included	£11
Water	Included	Included	£3
Food	Included	£50	£50
Toiletries	£5	£5	£5
Laundry	£5	£5	£5
<u>Weekly Total</u>	<u>£185</u>	<u>£210</u>	<u>£174</u>
<u>Annual Total</u>	<u>£7,770</u>	<u>£8,820</u>	<u>£7,308</u>

Visas

Advice and support with visa applications can be found on the University's webpages [here](#).

Memberships, rankings and additional information

The University of Birmingham is a member of:

- Russell Group, a group of leading UK universities which are committed to maintaining the very best research, and providing an outstanding teaching and learning experience.
- Universitas 21, the leading global network of research-intensive universities for the 21st century.
- Birmingham is 87th in this year's QS World University Rankings, cementing our position in the top 100 universities globally.
- In the latest Complete University Guide league table for 2020, Birmingham is ranked 13th out of 131 institutions surveyed in the UK.

The University of Birmingham has been challenging and developing great minds for more than a century. Characterised by a tradition of academic excellence and innovation, research at the University has broken new ground, pushed forward the boundaries of knowledge and made an impact on people's lives. You'll discover Birmingham is a dynamic and diverse city at the heart of the United Kingdom, known for its eye-catching architecture, friendly people and vibrant culture. You will live and study on our beautiful leafy campus, just minutes away from the UK's second largest city and Europe's youngest.



Links to promotional videos

Study Abroad at UoB - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnphgmewN54&feature=youtu.be> (2 min 28 sec)

International - <https://youtu.be/86CLmOmhe4Q> (3 min 08 sec)

Campus Tour - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-bsH8hw_U8&t=36s (5 min 28 sec)

We are Birmingham (City focus) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKh6ltfMC2w> (1 min 18 sec)



Study Abroad & Exchanges
English language requirements 2021/22

In order to undertake an exchange programme at the University of Birmingham, Study Abroad and Exchange students will need to demonstrate a suitable level of English proficiency. As part of the nomination process, the institution will confirm the English level of the student on the nomination form.

Please note that no proof of English language proficiency is required from Irish nationals.

To assess the student's English language level we will look at the following:

1. Nationals from EU / EEA and Switzerland (studying for six months or less)

- EU/EEA Nationals who will be **studying for six months or less** do not require a visa before they travel for study in the UK and can use the e-gates to enter the UK at their port of entry. These students are still able to provide the qualifications in the table below (table A) as evidence of their English proficiency.
- EU/EEA Nationals who will be **studying for more than 6 months** are CAS requiring (they must apply for a visa under the Student Route) so **cannot offer the qualifications in the table below as evidence of English proficiency** and must offer an English qualification from table B.

A) COUNTRY SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS ACCEPTED AS PROOF OF ENGLISH LEVEL FOR EU/EEA/SWISS STUDENTS STUDYING FOR 6 MONTHS OR LESS:

Partner Country	Qualification	Minimum core/grade required in 'English'
Austria	Matura/Reifeprüfung	2 (written and oral)
Belgium	Getuigschrift Van Hoger Secundair Onderwijs/ Certificat d'Enseignement Secondaire Superieur/ Abschlusszeugnis der Oberstufe des Sekundarunterrichts	7.5 or 75%
Denmark	Studentereksamen	10
Finland	Ylioppilastutkinto/ Studentexamen	5
France	Baccalauréat	14/20
Germany	Abitur	10
Netherlands	Voorbereidend wetenschappelijk onderwijs (vwo)	8
Norway	Vitnemål fra den Videregående Skole	3
Spain	"6/10 in English Language I in the European Baccaureat or 8/10 in English Language II in the European Baccaureate"	8
Sweden	Fullständigt Slutbetyg från Gymnasieskolan/ Slutbetyg från Komvux/ Avgangsbetyg	15 / C



Partner Country	Qualification	Minimum core/grade required in 'English'
Switzerland	Certificat de Maturité Federale / Maturitätszeugnis/ Attestato Di Maturità	5
B2 Certificate from the Student's home institution	We can also accept an official certificate produced by the home institution. The B2 Certificate must be signed by the student's academic tutor, certifying that the student's standard of English is equivalent to the minimum of the B2 level based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. It must be produced on the home institution's letterhead and uploaded together with the application. <u>The B2 certificate is only acceptable for EU/EEA and Swiss Nationals who will be studying for 6 months or less; and are either coming through an Erasmus agreement or are coming as Study Abroad Fee-Paying students.</u>	

EU/EEA students studying for 6 months or less who are not offering one of the qualifications in Table A above must provide an **Approved English test** (e.g. IELTS or TOEFL). Details of all accepted qualifications are available at <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/requirements/international/index.aspx>, and in Table B below.

2. Non EU/EEA Nationals (studying for six months or less)

- Non EU/EEA Nationals who will be **studying for six months or less** require a Standard Visitor Visa for study in the UK.
- Unless they meet English proficiency as Nationals of a UKVI recognised English Speaking Country (as defined in point 3. below) these students will need to provide evidence of English from table B below.
- Nationals of a non-UKVI recognised English Speaking Country and who are already studying in a non-UKVI recognised English Speaking Country will need to provide an English language proficiency document from Table B.
- Nationals of a non-UKVI recognised English Speaking Country but who are already studying in a UKVI recognised English Speaking Country will **not** need to provide evidence of their English language proficiency.
- Students who currently study at the University of Nottingham at the Ningbo or Malaysia campuses also will not need to provide evidence of their English language proficiency.

3. All Nationals studying for more than 6 months

- If the student is a National of a recognised **English Speaking Country (as defined by the UKVI at <https://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa/knowledge-of-english>)** no proof of English language proficiency beyond confirmation of Nationality in the applicant's passport is required since English can be met under the 'Migrant from a Majority English Speaking Country' UKVI provision.



- Canadian Nationals are an exception: although Canada is not listed as an English Speaking Country by the UKVI, we do not need a proof of English unless the student is taught in French. In this case a high school certificate should be submitted to demonstrate the student's English language proficiency.
- If the nationality of the student is from a country outside the UKVI list, the student must provide an **Approved English test** (e.g. IELTS or TOEFL). Details of all accepted qualifications, including some country specific qualifications, are available at <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/requirements/international/index.aspx> and Table B below.
- Singapore nationals are an exception: although English is widely spoken in Singapore, it is not listed as an English Speaking Country by the UKVI. This means we do need a proof of English from the students' but this can be their O Level, A Level or Integrated Programme certificate from the student's pre-university education to demonstrate the student's English language proficiency.

B) QUALIFICATIONS ACCEPTED AS PROOF OF ENGLISH FOR STUDENTS STUDYING FOR MORE THAN 6 MONTHS:

Qualification	Group A	Group B	Group C
IELTS <i>(IELTS Indicator test is also accepted for 2021 entry)</i>	6.0 overall with no less than 5.5 in any band	6.5 overall with no less than 6.0 in any band	7.0 overall with no less than 6.5 in any band
TOEFL <i>(TOEFL At Home test is also accepted for 2021 entry)</i>	80 overall with no less than 19 in Reading, 19 in Listening, 21 in Speaking and 19 in Writing	88 overall with no less than 21 in Reading, 20 in Listening, 22 in Speaking and 21 in Writing	95 overall with no less than 22 in any band
Pearson Test of English (PTE)	64 with no less than 59 in all four skills	67 with no less than 64 in all four skills	76 with no less than 67 in all four skills
Cambridge English	Advanced Minimum overall score of 169, with no less than 162 in any component	Advanced Minimum overall score of 176, with no less than 169 in any component	Advanced Minimum overall score of 185, with no less than 176 in any component

Qualifications must not be more than 2 academic years old at the start date of the UoB study period.