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PENN STATE EDUCATION ABROAD EXCHANGE PROGRAMS FACT SHEET

CAMPUS INFORMATION

Most exchange programs take place at **Penn State's University Park campus**. However, exchanges are available at several of the Commonwealth Campuses as well. For non-University Park exchanges, students will follow many of the same application processes, but will also work with designated staff at the campus regarding arrival and orientation, academic advising, and accommodation.

PENN STATE ABINGTON

- Exchange with Hof University of Applied Sciences
- Abington Contact: Dolores Arevalo dar35@psu.edu

PENN STATE BEHREND

- Exchange with Rosenheim University of Applied Science
- Behrend Contact: Ruth Pflueger rcp1@psu.edu

PENN STATE HARRISBURG

- Exchange with Hochschule Darmstadt, University of Applied Science
- Harrisburg Contact: Marie-Louise Abram mla9@psu.edu

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION - ENGLISH

PROOF OF ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

International students whose native language is not English must submit proof of English language proficiency.

- TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) minimum score of 80 on internet-based or 550 on paper exam
- IELTS (International English Language Testing System) minimum score of 6.5 on the academic test

APPLICATION TIMELINE FOR EXCHANGES

ACADEMIC YEAR AND FALL SEMESTER

- Nomination rosters are sent in January and are due March 1
- Students' online applications open at the end of January and are due April 1
- The decision date is June 1 – Decision letters are sent at this time

SPRING SEMESTER

- Nomination rosters are sent in July and are due September 1
- Students' online applications open at the end of July with a deadline of October 1
- The decision date is December 1 – Decision letters are sent at this time

ACADEMIC CALENDAR (SEMESTERS)

FALL SEMESTER

August-December

ACADEMIC YEAR

August – May

SPRING SEMESTER

January-May

APPLICATION ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED (AFTER NOMINATION)

Education Abroad (EA) requires the following items to be completed online in StudioAbroad:

- **Application Questionnaires:**

1. Academic Transcript
2. Advance Course Registration Form
3. Non-Degree Enrollment Form
4. On Campus Housing request Form

Directorate of International Student and Scholar Advising (DISSA) requires the following forms to be completed online in iStart:

1. EA Exchange: Passport & Biographical Information
2. EA Exchange: Financial Documentation
3. EA Exchange: Academic Information
4. EA Exchange: Submit Request for Review of Visa

Students will receive their DS-2019 visa document from DISSA via express mail service and are responsible for the mailing fee.

HOUSING

On-campus housing is available for exchange students, but is not guaranteed. Exchange application materials include an On Campus Housing Request Form. Applicants planning to apply for University housing will create a Friends of Penn State Account (FPS) and include the FPS on their Campus Housing Request form. When all exchange application materials are approved, the Housing Assignments Office will send an on-line housing contract to the FPS account for the applicant's review and acceptance. The housing contract is a legally binding agreement. Details about housing and meal plans, including cost, are available on the [Housing website](#). Students can visit Off-Campus Living to find resources for apartments off campus. They may choose this option rather than living on campus. It is also possible that on campus housing will not be available – students and partners will be notified as soon as possible if that is the case. It may benefit students to look at this site ahead of time to decide where they wish to live.

COURSE ENROLLMENT

- Course descriptions, pre-requisites and credits can be found in [Penn State's Course Catalog](#)
- Courses listed in the Bulletin are not offered every semester. Penn State's LionPATH system indicates course availability for a specific semester.
- Exchange students will finalize their course schedule after arriving on campus and in consultation with an assigned academic adviser. Penn State cannot guarantee enrollment in requested courses.

COURSE RESTRICTIONS

Some colleges and academic departments at Penn State restrict enrollment in specific courses. The departments/colleges listed below may not be able to accommodate students' requests. In many cases, level of ability in the area of study needs to be determined in person. Whether you can add these courses may not be known until students arrive and talk to the instructor/adviser.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE

- Spaces in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Graphic Design studio courses are limited.
- Spaces in Music, Theatre, and Dance performance courses are limited.
- Musical Theater courses are not available.

SMEAL COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

- Students must be business majors to take business courses at Penn State.
- The college guarantees each exchange student two business courses each semester. The rest of the courses selected must be from other colleges/disciplines.
- Refer to the material "Courses for Exchange Business Majors" for a list of the courses students may select from. Business courses outside of this list cannot be selected; requests will be denied.

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATIONS, DONALD P. BELLISARIO

- Studio and production courses are not available.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

- Not available unless specified in the exchange agreement.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

- Mechanical Engineering courses can be difficult to schedule. Students need to have back-up options.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

- Kinesiology courses are very limited.
- Nursing courses are not available unless specified in the exchange agreement.

COLLEGE OF THE LIBERAL ARTS

- Courses in Political Science and History fill quickly.
- It is not advisable to schedule more than two 400 level courses in Political Science (PL SC). Students should not select writing intensive ("W") courses in PL SC.

ACADEMIC STATUS AND CREDIT LOAD

- Participants in the Penn State Education Abroad (EA) exchange program are enrolled as non-degree undergraduate students.
- Undergraduate students are required to enroll in 12 credits per semester, with an average semester load of 15 credits.

FINANCIAL GUARANTEE

Students must provide an official letter from a bank, in English and in U.S. dollars, verifying possession of the money to pay for the portion of their educational and personal expenses not covered by the exchange agreement based on the intended duration of study. Parents and guardians who will financially support a student must also write a letter stating that they intend to use their finances towards the student's expenses. Verification of financial support from the home university or home government is also acceptable.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Health insurance is mandatory while at Penn State. Beginning fall 2017, waiver requirements have changed and are very strict. [The Student Health Insurance Office](#) recommends purchasing the Penn State Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP).

PRE-ARRIVAL INFORMATION

The Directorate of International Student and Scholar Advising (DISSA) provides services in pre-arrival immigration documents, immigration advising, general advising including cultural and social advising, and administration of grants and loans for international students. Document check-in is required for new exchange students.

ORIENTATION

International Student Orientation for incoming exchange students is offered at the beginning of each semester. [Orientation](#) is generally 1-2 weeks prior to the start of classes.

ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPTS

Official academic transcripts will be sent to partners within six weeks of the program ending (from the last day of finals). Students are able to order official copies for their records through the [Registrar's Office](#) at a cost of \$10 per copy.

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PennState