

Study Abroad

If you wish to work abroad in the future or simply want to look into studying at Higher Education level overseas to broaden your horizons you will need to do a lot of research.

Due to Brexit and all of the negotiations that will now need to take place with European countries with regards to our young people and their education opportunities abroad it is difficult at this moment to be certain of what lies ahead, however there are still opportunities to study abroad in non-European countries.

Many of the universities in the UK currently have links with both European and non-European universities and offer courses which include a period of study overseas. However it is also possible to make your own arrangements and study for the whole duration of a Higher Education course abroad.

Studying abroad can bring with it many benefits:

- You may enhance your future job prospects in the UK and abroad
- Many universities offering post graduate studies will value your experience
- You may gain a global mind-set and expand your world view
- You may get to travel around and explore during your holidays and ‘see the world’
- You may get to experience a new way of teaching
- You may have an opportunity to learn a new language
- You will meet a wide variety of people, some who may become lifelong friends
- You will experience different cultures
- You will develop many skills e.g. communication and interpersonal skills and you will learn to be independent and self-reliant. Your self-confidence is likely to develop also
- You will discover new and exciting food
- You may get a chance to be spontaneous and adventurous
- It may be your one chance in life to live and travel abroad for a long period of time, so potentially a wonderful, exciting life experience

Nevertheless studying abroad can offer great challenges too:

- You will need to research the entry requirements for your chosen course and university and you may need to show the university evidence that your exam results are equivalent to those required. You may even be expected to sit an entrance test. UK NARIC provides information on the comparability of international and UK academic qualifications
- You will need to get a student visa
- You will face financial challenges as you will need to pay tuition fees, accommodation fees, travel and living costs. Do compare the costs attached to studying on a Higher Education course e.g. a degree in the UK, as in some cases you may find it is cheaper to study in some countries overseas. Also research thoroughly as there may be some form of financial support such as scholarships based on criteria such as need or merit that you can apply for
- You may need to have to take out insurance for healthcare and other types of insurance, again more finance will therefore be needed
- You may have to pass a medical examination
- You may face some language barriers whilst studying and living abroad
- You will be a very long way from home and if you feel homesick or have any other difficulties you will need to reach out to the relevant departments at the university for assistance i.e. counselling services, welfare services, the finance department
- It may be difficult to readjust to living and studying in a different culture
- Methods of studying may be quite different to those used in the UK so research this in depth
- It is important to check that the qualification that you gain abroad is recognised in the UK if you intend to return to the UK to work in the future. UK NARIC may be of assistance

Luckily there are places and organisations and websites that can help you with your research:

- For information on opportunities and advice on visas and similar, contact the High Commission or the Embassy of the country where you would like to study or use the relevant website
- The British Council can provide information and advice for those wishing to study abroad www.britishcouncil.org/study-work-abroad

- UK NARIC provides advice and information on the comparability of international and UK academic qualifications www.ecctis.co.uk/naric Links to NARIC offices that give advice about recognition of qualifications in different countries can be found at www.enic-naric.net
- The Student World and A Star Future Ltd are both organisations that specialise in providing advice and information to students from the UK thinking of studying abroad <https://thestudentworld.edufindme.com/> and www.astarfuture.co.uk
- You can search for degree courses in Europe and further afield at <https://www.studyportals.com>
- The Top Universities website ranks universities in the world and within countries, see www.topuniversities.com
- www.ucas.com has a page on studying abroad and gives a useful summary of the pros and cons, plus it has links to international universities <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/studying-overseas>
- Programmes offered through Erasmus+ (which provides information on opportunities for study) are available in many non-EU countries look at <https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk>
- <https://www.studyabroad.com/> is a leading source of information on educational opportunities for students to study in other countries
- <https://www.eunicas.co.uk> – EUNICAS European Universities Central Application Support Service – It enables UK and Irish students to apply to up to eight degree programmes, taught through English, in universities across Europe
- For those wishing to study in New Zealand and Australia use www.studyoptions.com for information and advice. Also use for Australia www.studyinaustralia.gov.au and www.studiesinaustralia.com the website for the Australian High Commission is www.uk.embassy.gov.au For New Zealand use <https://studyinnewzealand.govt.nz>
- For those wishing to study in Canada use www.educanada.ca and www.canadainternational.gc.ca and www.studyincanada.com
- For those wishing to study in South Africa look at <https://sastudy.co.za>
- For those wishing to study in the USA look at the section of this Careers Website called ‘Study in the USA. The Fulbright Commission – fostering cultural understanding between the USA and the UK through our Fulbright Awards, summer programmes, events and advice for US-UK higher education students’ is a good source of information