

# Study abroad

## Information for students of English

9 October 2025

# Options for a stay in an English-speaking country

- Study abroad to obtain university credits:
  - Swiss European Mobility Programme (SEMP) (formerly known as Erasmus).
  - Other exchange agreements.
  - Independent stays abroad.
- Language Assistant Programmes.
- Language courses (not for university credit).

# Study abroad for university credit

Main address for all kinds of information:

Service de la Mobilité Académique

Uni Dufour

24 rue du Général-Dufour

1er étage, Bureaux 127-132

Réception “Le Point - Vie de Campus”

Opening hours, see

<https://www.unige.ch/exchange/fr/contact/>

# Study abroad for university credit

- When to go abroad?
  - Faculty regulations:
    - BA: Minimum of 60 credits obtained in Geneva.
    - MA: Any time.
- How many credits can be obtained abroad?
  - Faculty regulations:
    - BA: Up to 90 credits.
    - MA: Up to 24 credits.
  - But: Departments have to approve the programme of studies (and hence the number of credits a student is planning to obtain abroad). Normally, you wouldn't expect to do more than 30 credits per semester.
- Destinations:  
<https://wwwo.unige.ch/RiPanorama/faces/adf.task-flow?adf.tfDoc=%2FWEB-INF%2FRiPanorama-task-flow-definition.xml&adf.tfId=RiPanorama-task-flow-definition>



**Rechercher les possibilités d'échanges et de collaboration à l'étranger (OUT)**

Public concerné

Pays

Localité

Établissement

Cadre d'échange

Domaine d'études

Faculté

Pays	Localité	Établissement	Cadre d'échange	Faculté(s)	Domaine d'études	Bachelor	Master	Doctorat	Enseignants/chercheurs
ROYAUME-UNI	ABERDEEN	University of Aberdeen	Programme ERASMUS / Pluri...	Droit, FPSE, GSEM, GSI, Lettres, Scien...	Generic programmes	Oui	Non	Non	Oui
ROYAUME-UNI	BELFAST	Queen's University of Belfast	Programme ERASMUS	Lettres	History	Oui	Oui	Non	Oui
ROYAUME-UNI	COLCHESTER	University of Essex	Programme ERASMUS	Lettres	Foreign languages (English)	Oui	Non	Non	Non
ROYAUME-UNI	COLCHESTER	University of Essex	Programme ERASMUS / Pluri...	Droit, FPSE, FTI, GSEM, GSI, Lettres, S...	General programmes, to be ...	Oui	Oui	Non	Non
ROYAUME-UNI	DURHAM	Durham University	Groupe Coimbra	Droit, FPSE, FTI, GSEM, GSI, Lettres, S...	All disciplines except English,...	Oui	Oui	Non	Non
ROYAUME-UNI	DURHAM	Durham University	Programme ERASMUS	Lettres	Philosophy and ethics	Non	Oui	Oui	Non
ROYAUME-UNI	DURHAM	Durham University	Programme ERASMUS	Lettres	Philosophy and ethics	Oui	Non	Non	Non
ROYAUME-UNI	EXETER	University of Exeter	Programme ERASMUS / Pluri...	GSEM, GSI, Lettres, Sciences, SDS	all disciplines except,psychol...	Oui	Non	Non	Non
ROYAUME-UNI	LEEDS	University of Leeds	Programme ERASMUS	Lettres	General and comparative lite...	Oui	Non	Non	Non
ROYAUME-UNI	LEICESTER	University of Leicester	Programme ERASMUS	Lettres	English literature	Oui	Non	Non	Non
ROYAUME-UNI	LONDRES	King's College London	Programme ERASMUS	Lettres	Foreign Languages (letters)	Oui	Oui	Non	Oui
ROYAUME-UNI	LONDRES	University College London	Programme ERASMUS	Lettres	Humanities (classical philolo...	Oui	Non	Non	Non
ROYAUME-UNI	LONDRES	King's College London	Programme ERASMUS	Lettres	Foreign Languages (Letters)	Non	Non	Oui	Non
ROYAUME-UNI	LONDRES	Middlesex University	Programme ERASMUS / Pluri...	Droit, FPSE, GSEM, GSI, Lettres, Scien...	General subjects / All progra...	Oui	Oui	Non	Non
ROYAUME-UNI	OXFORD	University of Oxford - St. John's College	Accord de collaboration	Centres et instituts, Droit, FPSE, FTI, G...		Non	Oui	Oui	Non
ROYAUME-UNI	READING	University of Reading	Programme ERASMUS	Lettres	Foreign languages (English)	Oui	Non	Non	Oui
ROYAUME-UNI	YORK	University of York	Programme ERASMUS	Lettres	Foreign languages (linguistics)	Oui	Non	Non	Oui

Many of your basic questions will be answered by the Faculty's memo on Mobilité OUT:

[https://www.unige.ch/lettres/application/files/7216/9539/4858/Memento\\_pour\\_les\\_etudiants\\_OUT2023.pdf](https://www.unige.ch/lettres/application/files/7216/9539/4858/Memento_pour_les_etudiants_OUT2023.pdf)

# SEMP (Erasmus)

SEMP exchanges with British/Irish universities are generally, but not exclusively, for BA level.

Advantages of the programme:

- No tuition fees (but 65 CHF/semester at UNIGE).
- Grant at the following rates:
  - durée des cours de 2-3 mois, petit forfait, CHF 1'330.-
  - durée des cours de 3 à 7 mois, forfait régulier, CHF 1'900.-
  - durée des cours de plus de 7 mois, forfait annuel, CHF 3'800.-

For everything relative to grants, see the following page:

<https://www.unige.ch/exchange/fr/mobilite/mobilite-out/etudiants/bourses-mobilite/>

Since this is Geneva, there are lots of other funds you can apply to, detailed on the link above - make use!

## Help from our Faculty

See our faculty webpage for mobility:

<https://www.unige.ch/lettres/fr/etudes/mobilite/>

Our faculty's coordinator for mobility is Nicolas Fornerod.

For financial help from the Faculty (up to 3000 CHF per year, on top of the SEMP bursary!), see:

[https://www.unige.ch/lettres/application/files/7715/6110/7579/aide\\_financiere\\_mobilite.pdf](https://www.unige.ch/lettres/application/files/7715/6110/7579/aide_financiere_mobilite.pdf)



## SEMP - Destinations

Exchange agreements with our faculty (generally intended for students of English):

- **King's College London:** 5 places. (BA and MA)
- **University of Essex:** 2 places. (BA) (+4 places for candidates from all UNIGE faculties; includes BA and MA)
- **University of Leeds:** 6 places. (BA)
- **University of Leicester:** 2 places. (BA)
- **University of Limerick (Ireland):** 4 places. (BA)
- **University of Reading:** 8 places. (BA)



## SEMP - Destinations

European exchange agreements with the entire university:

- **University of Aberdeen:** 8 places (BA)
- **University of Exeter:** 25 places (BA)

# SEMP - Destinations

Exchange agreements with other departments (i.e. your 2<sup>nd</sup> BA discipline):

- Linguistics: **University of York.**
- Philosophy and ethics: **Durham University.**
- Classics: **University College London**

You would need to check that you will also have access to courses in English in these institutions if you plan to take them: these aren't guaranteed!

# Other exchange programmes: “Accords de collaboration”

- Other exchange agreements with universities in English-speaking countries exist, but they are open to all students from the entirety of UNIGE (“accords de collaboration”).
- Unless mentioned otherwise, the exchange agreement generally covers tuition fees, and the duration is max. 9 months per place.
- In most cases, BA and MA students can apply (restrictions with some US destinations).
- For details, search by country (USA, Canada etc) on the panorama.

# UK

- **University of Oxford, St John's College:** 1 student per year – tuition fee waiver, accommodation, meals. [Level: MA or higher.]. NB this is a research exchange; MA students can write their *mémoire* there, but they can't take courses.
  - Open every two years. Next opportunity: 2027-2028.



## Australia (all at BA/MA )

- **The Australian National University (Canberra): 2**
- **University of Melbourne: 3**
- **Monash University: 3**
- **University of New South Wales (Sydney): 1**
- **University of Technology, Sydney: 2**
- **University of Sydney: 2**
- **University of Wollongong: 1**

# Canada

(all at BA/MA unless otherwise stated)

- **Université Laval: 3**
- **Concordia University (Montreal, QC): 4**
- **Université de Montréal: 30**
- **McGill University (Montreal, QC): 4 (just BA)**
- **Université du Québec à Montréal: 7**
- **Bishops University: 2**
- **University of British Columbia (Vancouver): 5**
- **University of Ottawa (bilingual): 5**
- **University of Toronto: 10**
- **York University (Toronto): 2**

# USA

- **Boston University:** 21 (BA/MA)
- **Smith College (Northampton, MA):** 3 (BA/MA – *bourse tout frais compris*).
- **University of California:** 5 (BA only)
- **University of Wisconsin, Madison:** 3 (MA only)

## How to apply

Details can be found at:

<https://www.unige.ch/exchange/fr/mobilite/mobilite-out/etudiants/sinscrire/>

1. Choose up to four destinations.

N.B. These choices have to be ranked. A destination of the type “accord de collaboration” cannot be ranked after a destination of the type SEMP, as decisions with respect to the former are taken before decisions concerning the latter. The higher your *moyenne*, the more destinations of type “accord de collaboration” you can add to your list.

2. Submit your application online. The whole application process is explained at the link above.



## Deadlines – faculty

1. For exchanges of the type “accord de collaboration” (not SEMP), students are encouraged to contact the person in charge of exchanges in our faculty, Nicolas Fornerod, as soon as possible. He will assist you in the preparation of your application.
2. For exchanges in the academic year 2026/2027, the deadline for applications is 27<sup>th</sup> November at 12.30.

## Deadlines – official application

3. Decisions will be taken by the “Service des affaires internationales”. They should be announced in early January for exchanges of the type “accord de collaboration” and in March for SEMP exchanges.
4. Once a place is attributed, some further paperwork (approval of the “plan d’études” by the departmental study abroad coordinator, application requirements by the host universities etc.) needs to happen...

## “Plan d’études”

- With your application, you will have to submit a provisional learning agreement (“plan d’études”) listing the courses you would like to take abroad.
- If you are accepted for an exchange programme, this “plan d’études” will have to be approved by the departmental study abroad coordinator (me). But it is a great idea to obtain approval already before applying.
- So contact me with your plans for study abroad (by email or appointment, also via Zoom).

# “Plan d’études”

- Some points to be taken into account:
  - Your courses should match, as closely as possible, the module requirements of the Geneva “plan d’études” in terms of content, contact hours, work-load and form of assessment.
  - N.B. It is not necessary to take entire modules abroad, it is possible to do only parts of modules.



## “Plan d’études”

- There can be variation across universities in the way credits are attributed, so ECTS credits are not always sufficient indicators for an “équivalence”.
- Some host universities are relatively generous in attributing credits (10 or 15 per course for a workload often considerably below what is required for one of our modules). We may therefore require two courses, or possibly some additional work (e.g. an essay) as an “équivalence” for one of our modules. Result: 30 credits abroad may not always correspond to 30 credits within the UNIGE “plan d’études”.

# “Plan d’études”

- UK universities generally restrict the number of courses Erasmus students can take to a total of 30 ECTS credits per semester.
- Some English departments may have restricted course lists for exchange students. Consult the website of the university (information on Erasmus or international students) and documents linked to the “panorama” for further information.
- Some English departments may not offer all domains listed in our “plan d’études” (e.g. no medieval literature at Limerick).
- They may not offer the kind of assessments that are obligatory according to our faculty’s “Règlement d’études” (i.e. at least one oral and one written exam per BA subject). This may mean that the BA3 or 7 oral exam and the BA4 or 6 written exam should be taken in Geneva.

## “Plan d’études”

- N.B. The “plan d’études” may have to be revised again once you are at your host university (e.g. because a given course is not offered in that specific semester when you are there). Sometimes – in fact, often, - you have to make your provisional “plan d’études” based on this year’s courses, because next year’s haven’t been published yet.
- Please contact your study abroad coordinator by e-mail to get any modification approved!



# Once you are there – Once you are back

- Make sure you keep as much material related to your courses as possible: Course syllabi, reading lists, any work you produce during your stay (essays, other assignments, exams (if possible) – or copies thereof), official transcripts.
- Once you are back in Geneva, contact me to validate the courses taken abroad. Provide as much documentation as possible on the courses you followed and the work you produced, as well as your grade transcript (pv).



# Study abroad outside established exchange programmes

- Most universities have visiting student schemes that allow students to enroll for a semester or two.
- Information can be found on the universities' websites.
- Application: directly to the foreign university. But make sure to get your choice of courses approved by the departmental study abroad coordinator.
- NB if you go on an independent exchange, you won't get the SEMP grant.

# Language Assistant Programme UK

- Goal: To teach French or German as a foreign language at a school in the UK
- Conditions
  - Duration: 1 October – 31 May or 1 November- 30 April in England and Wales
  - Salary: England (without London), Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales: £1,013; Londres : £1,078 – 1,270
  - Teaching load: ~12 hours per week.
  - Location: Applicants can indicate preferences.
  - N.B. No university credits can be obtained through this programme.

# Language Assistant Programme UK

- Conditions:
  - French (or German, or Italian) mother tongue.
  - At least 4 semesters at UniGE.
  - Schooling in Switzerland (at least since the beginning of secondary school).
  - Age: 21-30.
  - Good general education, good French/German, to have pedagogical abilities, to be able to work in small groups.

# Language Assistant Programme UK

- How to apply :
  - Get the general information and the application forms from the following website:  
<https://movetia.ch/fr/offres-de-soutien/gagner-de-lexperience-en-enseignement/assistance-de-langue-a-letranger>
  - Deadline for applications for the UK: 15 March



# Amity Intern Program USA

- Amity Institute, based in San Diego, sponsors international educators to teach in US schools. The “Intern Teacher Program” targets foreign students. Main conditions:
  - To be enrolled at a university or to have graduated within 12 months prior to program beginning. Age 21-30.
  - Career goal in education.
  - Duration: Up to 12 months.
  - Work in school for approximately 32 hours per week
  - Stay in an American host family, room and board free of charge.
- For details see <http://www.amity.org/>

# English language courses

A wide range of English language courses is available.

As none of the modules in the English department are pure language modules, no credits can be obtained for English language courses taken abroad.

- Thanks for coming!
- You are welcome to contact me to discuss your plans with me: [eric.haeberli@unige.ch](mailto:eric.haeberli@unige.ch)
- Any questions?