EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO ON EXCHANGE

2017 Student Exchange

PRE-DEPARTURE GUIDE
CONTENTS

Please read through this guide carefully as it will help you plan for your studies overseas and your return home.

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Cover photo: Emma, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Colombia. Information in this guide is correct as at May, 2017.
LEARN ABOUT YOUR DESTINATION

Have you found out a little about the country and city that you will be studying in?

- Google Maps can show you where the host university is in relation to the city centre.
- Host university information sheets (on the UQ Abroad website) can give you useful information about cost of living, what to do on arrival, where to get more information etc.
- Guidebooks such as Lonely Planet can give you a feel for the country/city.
- Chat with returned/current exchange students through our Facebook group (UQ Abroad – Student Exchange).
- Find out if your host university provides a greeting service at the airport on arrival. If not, you will need to check out the local transport and have small change in the local currency to pay for it.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

It is important to leave plenty of time to arrange your travel documents, such as your passport, visa, tickets for travel and your most recent academic transcript etc.

PASSPORT

- You need to ensure that your passport has adequate validity to meet the entry requirements of the countries you intend to visit (or transit).
- Some countries require travelers to have at least six months validity remaining on their passports beyond the period of intended stay, and immigration authorities may refuse entry if you arrive with less than this.
- Check the location of the nearest Australian consulate/embassy to your host university in case of emergencies.

Make a copy of the ID page of your passport and make sure you always have access to that copy somehow - scan it to your email account, leave a copy with your family or a friend in Australia, have it hidden somewhere in your hand luggage etc. If you lose your passport and you don’t have access to your passport number, the renewal/replacement process will take much longer.

STUDENT VISA

- Check with the host country’s consulate/embassy here in Australia or a travel agent to find out about the visa requirements and costs.
- Don’t leave your student visa until the last minute because it can take up to 90 days to process. As soon as you have received your acceptance letter from the host university, you should apply for a student visa.
- You may also need a visa for other countries you plan to travel through while you are overseas (particularly the USA), so make sure you check out those embassy/consulate websites as well.
- If you want to work while you are studying overseas, please check with the host country’s embassy/consulate whether it is possible to work on a student visa.
- UQ Abroad cannot provide visa advice as we are not the ‘visa issuing authority’, so please contact the consulate/embassy of your host country if you have any specific questions about getting a visa.

TICKETS FOR TRAVEL

- Check out your flight options but do not confirm or pay for your tickets until you have received:
  - Your full acceptance from UQ Abroad (including faculty-approved study plan)
  - Your host university acceptance
  - Your student visa
- It is risky to pay for your tickets before you know you have been accepted and have received a visa.
- Plan to arrive at least one week before the study period begins (including the pre-semester language course and/or orientation program, if offered).
RECENT ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPT

- Make sure that you take a copy of your most recent official academic transcript, as results from the latest courses you have taken may fulfill the prerequisites of your selected courses at the host university.

CULTURAL TIP: GERMANY
Remember, in Germany, a comma (when used in monetary values or numbers) is equivalent to an Australian decimal point.

VOTING FROM OVERSEAS

- When you go overseas there are requirements you must meet in order to remain on the electoral roll, and in some cases to avoid a fine.
- Familiarise yourself with your electoral responsibilities by visiting the Australian Electoral Commission website at aec.gov.au.
- Bulletins are published on smartraveller.gov.au to advise of state and federal elections, including information for Australians who choose to vote while overseas.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

As you will be leaving Australia for more than 30 days to participate in the exchange program, you will be eligible for Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) overseas credit. You must apply for this credit within 28 days of returning to Australia on the completion of your exchange.

As proof of your overseas studies, please take a copy of the identification page of your passport and a copy of the Australian Immigration departure and arrival stamps in your passport to the OSHC desk in the Student Centre.

You can then apply for a full refund of the unused portion of your OSHC policy on the completion of your degree program at UQ.

Please remember that, as an international student, you are obliged to complete your UQ degree within the duration of your Australian student visa. Going on exchange does not exempt you from this obligation.

WHAT TO TAKE

Returned exchange students often comment that they took far too much, so think carefully when packing:

- Check your airline for regulations on how much weight and/or the number of bags you can take.
- Check out the weather of your host city and pack appropriately. If you are traveling to a colder climate, take enough clothes (especially a jacket) to make sure you will be warm when you first arrive. Other clothes can be bought once you settle into your new surroundings.
- Bring a few mementos from home so you won’t be too homesick - family photos, Vegemite, your favourite doona cover!

ESSENTIAL ITEMS IN YOUR HAND LUGGAGE

- Air ticket (and evidence of return ticket)
- Passport and visa
- Official acceptance letter from the host university
- Financial statement (e.g. bank statements)
- Immunisation document
- Receipts for all prescriptions and letter from doctor about medical conditions
- Essential toiletries (toothbrush, deodorant)
- Any electronic equipment (laptop, phone, camera), their power cords and foreign power adaptors
- Spare change of clothes

USEFUL ITEMS TO PACK IN YOUR CHECKED LUGGAGE

- Guidebooks
- Sleeping bag
- Over-the-counter medication
- Australian souvenirs for gifts
- Australian powerboard

USEFUL ITEMS TO ORGANISE BEFORE YOU GO

- Hostel membership (YHA or IH) for cheap accommodation
- International Student ID Card (ISIC) for discounts on flights or tourist activities
FINANCIAL ISSUES

BUDGET

- Know how much you have to spend while you are on exchange and create a budget based on suggested costs of living, so that you are not left in the lurch after 3 months.
- Consider using a budget tool such as budgetsimple.com/
- Keep in mind the exchange rate and how it might go up and down during your time on exchange.
- Remember that you may need to purchase household items upon arrival – check out local markets, charity shops and ask local students about cheap buys.

BANKING

- Notify all financial institutions in Australia (e.g. banks, credit card companies) about your travel plans if you plan to use your Australian bank account/cards while overseas.
- Be aware of any fees associated with international withdrawals/purchases from an Australian account/card.
- Check out the local banks in your host city if you wish to open an account once in country – they may have lower fees and special student deals.

HOW TO TAKE YOUR MONEY OVERSEAS

- Travel Cards are pre-paid debit cards for travellers and some do not have any exchange rate/withdrawal fees associated to them.
- Electronic transfers from your Australian account to a local bank are useful for transferring large amounts of money, but can be costly.
- Traveller’s cheques may not be that common anymore, but they are a safe way to travel with money.
- Debit and credit cards are useful when making larger payments for travel bookings etc. Visa and MasterCard are more widely accepted than American Express.

TAX

- If you have been working in the lead up to your exchange, please make sure that you lodge a tax return with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) before you leave for your exchange.
- If you will not be able to complete your tax return prior to your exchange, please contact the ATO or your accountant/tax agent.

OS-HELP

- The Commonwealth Government loan scheme, known as OS-HELP, assists eligible Australian and New Zealand students to study overseas as a part of their degree.

Application deadlines are:
- 15 September: for overseas study commencing November to April
- 15 January: for overseas study commencing March to August
- 15 March: for overseas study commencing May to October
- 15 June: for overseas study commencing August to January

Find out more: employability.uq.edu.au/financial-support.

CENTRELINK

- If you are receiving assistance from Centrelink, it is possible to continue to receive these payments while you are overseas as a UQ exchange student.
- Contact your Centrelink Officer for eligibility information.
- It is your responsibility to understand the rules and regulations of Centrelink.
- Centrelink requires written confirmation from UQ that you are enrolled in a full time study load at the host institution. If you require a Centrelink letter, please fill in the online form at uq.edu.au/uqabroad/centrelink.
- Please contact your nearest Centrelink Office (humanservices.findnearest.com.au) for more details concerning your payments.
ENROLMENT AND TUITION FEES

ENROLMENT AT UQ
During your exchange, you will remain enrolled as a student at UQ.
UQ Abroad will automatically enrol you in four 2-unit exchange codes (EXCH xxxx) before your exchange starts (#8 units per semester).
If you are in the final semester of your degree program and have only #6 units left to complete, or if you have received prior special permission to be enrolled in only #6 units; you will need to withdraw yourself from ONE #2 unit EXCH code before the appropriate census date (March 31 for Semester 1 or August 31 for Semester 2).

International Students
International students on exchange who commenced their current program of study before 2016 will be charged 8 units at the Band 9 international student tuition fee rate ($1,540.00 per unit in 2017).
International students who commenced their program of study after 2015 are charged program based fees. Program based fees means that all courses, including exchange courses, are charged at the same tuition fee rate for a given academic year. 2017 indicative program fees for one semester are available here.

All students
Please note that tuition fee and student contribution rates increase each year. You can use the Fee Calculator to check the fees for exchange (EXCH) courses.

STUDENT SERVICES AND AMENITIES FEE (SSAF) AT UQ
While on exchange, students will be exempt from paying the SSAF.

TUITION FEES TO HOST INSTITUTION
As an exchange student, you pay no tuition fees to your host university. If you have been asked to pay tuition fees to the host university, contact the UQ Abroad office and we will discuss the matter with the host university.
Some host universities require exchange students to pay a small fee to cover student services and/or public transport concessions. For more information about possible host university fees, please see the individual host university web pages on the UQ Abroad website.
If you are going to any of the following, expect to pay a ‘student services/concession fee’: any university in Sweden, most universities in Germany, universities in South Africa, University of Saskatchewan (Canada), University of Calgary (Canada), University of Illinois (USA), all California State University campuses (USA), or Arizona State University (USA). Please note that this is a non-exhaustive list and other universities may have a similar fee.
If you are taking a language course outside the university, you may be asked to pay an additional fee.

ENROLMENT AT THE HOST UNIVERSITY*
As an exchange student, you must complete the standard full time load of study at the host university during your exchange (unless otherwise pre-arranged).
Check out the required full time load for your host university on the individual university web page on the UQ Abroad website.
*More details on enrolment at the host university can be found on page 12.

TUITION FEES TO UQ
As an exchange student, you still pay your tuition fees or student contributions (HECS) to UQ. You will be enrolled in #8 units per semester (a standard full-time load) at UQ while on exchange (unless otherwise pre-arranged), so you will be charged tuition fees for #8 units of study per semester.
If you happen to fail/drop any courses overseas and cannot get the full #8 units per semester of credit towards your UQ degree, you will still be charged for the full #8 units of tuition.

Australian Citizens, PRs, New Zealand Citizens
Australian citizens, Australian permanent residents with or without a Humanitarian visa and New Zealand citizens will continue as Commonwealth supported (HECS) undergraduate students and will have their student contribution charged at the Band 1 (Arts) rate (in 2017 $396.81 per unit).
Postgraduate domestic students on exchange will be required to pay fees at the Band 2 domestic student tuition fee rate for 8 units (in 2017 $1090.00 per unit). Australian Citizens will continue to be eligible for FEE-HELP for exchange courses; Australian Permanent Residents and New Zealand citizens (who are not eligible for FEE-HELP) will be required to pay their tuition fees up-front.

It is your responsibility to make sure that you are enrolled correctly at UQ for your exchange. If your circumstances change and you need to return home early, you will need to drop the EXCH codes (especially if you return to Australia before Census date, i.e. March 31 or August 31).
HEALTH AND SAFETY PREPARATIONS

REGISTER WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE (DFAT)
- Registering with DFAT will help you gain access to consular services, should you need help while overseas. To register, visit: smartraveller.gov.au/help/me/australia/planning/Pages/register-travel.aspx.
- Non-Australian citizens should register with consular officials from their home country.
- Check the travel situations for your destination on smartraveller.gov.au. If the security situation increases to level 3 or 4 while in the country, the exchange program to that region may be cancelled. If you are concerned for your safety, please contact ACE Assistance on +61 2 8907 5995.

TRAVEL SPREADSHEET
- You will be required to fill in an Excel travel spread sheet with your travel and contact details so that UQ has a record of your whereabouts if an emergency situation arises. Details will be sent to your UQ student email address.

MEDICAL TIPS
- Arrange to have a check-up with your doctor, dentist and optometrist before you leave.
- If you have a medical condition, carry a doctor’s letter listing your medications (the trade and generic names) and the dosages.
- Carry a supply to cover the period you are away as it may be difficult to obtain similar medication in your host country.
- Ensure that you are up to date with routine immunisations e.g. tetanus.
- If you require travel immunisations for the region you are visiting, see a doctor at least six weeks before you leave.
- Carry your Medicare card with you, as the countries you visit may have a reciprocal healthcare agreement with Australia.
- Make up a small first aid kit. Items to include are headache tablets, tissues, antiseptic cream, Band-Aids, hand sanitiser, condoms, thermometer, tweezers, anti-diarrheal medication and electrolyte sachets.

POWER OF ATTORNEY
- It might be worth considering giving a family member or a trusted friend Power of Attorney before you leave for your exchange, so that they can sign important documents while you are overseas or take action if an emergency arises.

UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS IN MYSI-NET
- You won’t be in Brisbane during your exchange so please make sure that your postal/residential address is updated in mySI-net.

PRIVACY OF INFORMATION
- The University of Queensland complies with Australian and Queensland privacy laws and guidelines. The University of Queensland treats information collected by it as confidential. Information supplied by you will only be used for the administrative or educational purposes of The University of Queensland or in accordance with a specific consent given by you.

KEEP UQ ABROAD INFORMED
- If you have any concerns or worries before, during or after your exchange, please do not hesitate to contact UQ Abroad.
- Email uqabroad@uq.edu.au or telephone (Brisbane business hours) +61 7 3365 2852.
TRAVEL AND HEALTH INSURANCE

It is essential that you have sufficient travel and health insurance for the entire period you are away from Australia.

UQ TRAVEL INSURANCE

UQ exchange students are covered by UQ’s Corporate Travel Insurance for up to two semesters (maximum 12 months) plus five days immediately before the first semester (including any orientation and compulsory language classes) and five days immediately after the designated exam period for each semester while at the approved exchange location.

Events covered by this insurance include medical expenses overseas, medical evacuation, luggage, personal effects, credit cards and specific items (e.g. laptop). A summary of the Student Travel Insurance policy can be found at fbs.uq.edu.au/online-forms-insurance. Please note that this page is password protected and you will be required to login using your UQ username and password.

FIELD TRIPS

If you are participating in a field trip as part of a course you are taking at the host university you must inform UQ (by writing to insurance@uq.edu.au) as soon as you are aware that you will be participating in the field trip. Failure to inform UQ of this travel may result in not being covered by UQ’s insurance.

In the event of a medical or other emergency overseas, you should telephone Chubb Assistance on +61 2 8907 5995 (reverse charge call from anywhere in the world) and provide them with UQ’s Travel Insurance Policy Number: 01PP529201. Please save this phone number to your mobile phone.

MAKING A TRAVEL INSURANCE CLAIM

If you need to make an insurance claim, download and complete the Travel Insurance claim form.

Make sure that you include all documents related to your claim (receipts for electronic equipment, police reports (in the event of a theft), doctor’s/hospital’s bills in the event of a medical claim) and forward the paperwork to insurance@uq.edu.au.

If approved, claim funds, less any excess, will be paid directly into your bank account.

ADDITIONAL PRIVATE TRAVEL INSURANCE

Taking out additional private travel cover with UQ’s insurer, Chubb Travel Insurance, is possible and up to you to organise through Chubb Travel Insurance.

If you take out cover with a different insurer you will have to check their terms and conditions, as some insurers will only provide cover if they are insuring the whole trip.

Please note: Students on exchange in a country where they also have citizenship may not be covered for medical expenses while overseas or medical evacuation.

MANDATORY HOST UNIVERSITY/COUNTRY HEALTH INSURANCE

Many exchange partners require students to purchase a mandatory local health insurance package to meet student visa requirements (despite already being covered by UQ’s insurance).

If your host university/country does NOT need you to purchase additional insurance, you may be required to present proof of what is covered in the UQ policy (a Certificate of Currency) in order to be exempt from purchasing your host university’s insurance policy. If you require a Certificate of Currency, please email insurance@uq.edu.au.

Before a Certificate of Currency can be provided, you must complete and submit the UQ Abroad travel spreadsheet detailing travel and semester dates. See page 7 – Travel Spreadsheet – for more details.
COMMUNICATION WITH HOME

- Let your family and friends know that you have arrived safely in your host country and where you are.
- Give your friends and family your new contact details – phone number, email address, and physical address.
- Skype/call home when you feel the need.
- Keep in touch with The University of Queensland – check your UQ email account regularly – this is our primary method of contacting you!

CULTURE SHOCK

When going overseas, you will experience differences in all aspects of life (food, manners, beliefs, customs, laws, language). Although coming into contact with new cultures is very exciting, it could also be overwhelming and could affect you physically and emotionally.

SYMPTOMS OF CULTURE SHOCK

- Feeling isolated, alone, unable to make friends
- Unable to sleep or sleeping too much
- Feeling irritable and angry, especially with the local culture and people
- Aches and pains – sore neck and shoulders, stomach ache
- Unable to concentrate on your studies

If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, please remember that these reactions are normal. You are probably not ill (although you might like to see a doctor, just in case).

More likely, you are suffering from culture shock/homesickness. This is a temporary situation for people adjusting to life in a new environment.

ONLINE COUNSELLING SERVICE

If you are still feeling isolated and unwell after trying some of the techniques listed on the following page, you should talk to a counsellor. If you do not feel comfortable discussing your problems with the counselling service at your host university, register for UQ’s online counselling service and a counsellor will be in touch with you within 48 hours:

uq.edu.au/student-services/counselling/online-counselling-registration

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT/OVERCOME CULTURE SHOCK

1. Attend the orientation program offered by the host university
   This is a great way to familiarise yourself with the university, city and country of your exchange. Often there will be lots of social events organised for the new international students and it is a great way to meet other new people like you.

2. Find an ‘informant’ (someone from the foreign-to-you culture)
   This can be the most important thing for surviving another culture, especially if this person becomes a close and trusted friend. The informant is the go-to person when something happens that you can’t make sense of, or if you have questions about what’s appropriate or not. It’s like having a “local culture walking dictionary” and can be vital for settling in.

3. Find a same culture friend (someone from your own culture)
   This helps in having someone who either is going through or has recently gone through a lot of the shocks you are currently enduring. You can vent with someone who knows where you are coming from. Just be careful not to let it slide into a “hate everything about this country” session.

4. Find something you like about the new culture every day
   Celebrating the good of the new culture can help take some of the edge off the things you see as bad. Think of it as the things you’ll miss when you go back home even though it might be hard to believe if you are in the midst of culture shock.

5. Be a tourist
   Plan time to do the cheesy touristy things. It helps to be an outsider sometimes, because you can find wonder in things the locals don’t even notice anymore.

6. Do something that takes courage every day
   Adventures (big and small) surround you in another culture. Being courageous can simply mean going to the market by yourself, but if you see it as an adventure, rather than a chore, you may actually find yourself having fun.

7. Do something familiar
   Figure out how to make your favourite food and do so often. Watch your favourite movies. Listen to music that makes you feel good in your own language. Have people over to celebrate your home culture’s holidays your way.
8 Go for walks
Spend time exploring on foot. Take time in this new culture to figure out how the minutia of life gets done and being on foot helps you to notice the little details, plus it gets you out of the house for a little exercise.

9 Keep a journal or blog
There’s no better place to get it all out than on the pages of a book that no one else will see. It will also help for you to look back on it and see how far you’ve come, the humour in situations that weren’t humorous at the time, and how you can help other newbies as they have the same problems. Consider taking this journal and sharing it in a blog form to help others as they transition, but be careful to gain some perspective before doing so.

10 Ask for packages from home
Ask someone/anyone from home to send you the bits and pieces that you can’t find in your new home. It’s amazing how great it is just to get a little care package with a few of your favourite things.

11 Do your research
Know what you’re getting into before you go, or if you didn’t before, then do it now. Research the web, buy some books, watch local movies, and learn the language. It will help you have some idea what you’re getting yourself into. Note on learning the language: it will be hard at times and you’ll feel like a two-year-old babbling incoherently, but not only will you gain a lot of insight into the culture by learning the language, you will also be able to function better. So, be prepared to look foolish and give it a try.

REFERENCE

gadling.com/2010/05/24/ten-ways-to-deal-with-culture-shock

CULTURAL TIP: USA
Tips for Tipping! – In the USA, most waitstaff and bartenders are paid well below minimum wage, so they make up the difference in tips! So how much do you tip?
A general guide:

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<th>Tip Percentage</th>
<th>Facial Expression</th>
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tripadvisor.com
3. KEEPING SAFE OVERSEAS

You need to make sure that you take every precaution to keep safe while overseas. It is important that your family, your government representative, your host university and The University of Queensland know how to contact you.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING CHECKLIST

- Register with your nearest government representative. Australian citizens can register online at smartraveller.gov.au/help/me/australia/planning/Pages/register-travel.aspx
- Update your address in mySI-net
- Complete the UQ Abroad Travel Spread sheet.
- Register your address with the Exchange Office at the host university.
- Regularly check the travel advice for your host country and travel destinations on the Smartraveller website smartraveller.gov.au

ON-CAMPUS

- Familiarise yourself with the security systems on campus.
- Does the campus have a security bus system?
- Security escorts? Security call points?
- What is the number of the security office?
- Find out what number you should call in an emergency.

OFF-CAMPUS

- Keep valuables out of sight, avoid displays of wealth and be vigilant to your personal security in public places.
- Take particular care when travelling after dark, especially if you are alone. You should avoid places known for criminal activity and avoid deserted areas.
- Take advice from locals about the unsafe areas of their city.
- Consider making a list (including model and serial numbers) and keeping photographic records of your valuable possessions. When reporting a stolen mobile phone, you may need to have your IMEI number (15-digit serial number). This can be found by dialing *#06# on most mobile phones or by looking behind the phone battery. Never leave your mobile phone or laptop unattended.

LOST OR STOLEN PASSPORTS

- If your passport is lost or stolen, you must report it to the nearest Australian consulate and/or local police as soon as possible.
- Get a copy of the police report or report number.
- To get a replacement, you must complete an application and have proof of your Australian citizenship.
- Remember, your passport is your most important legal document while you are overseas. Guard your passport carefully.

WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY

- In the event of an emergency overseas follow the instructions of the local authorities in the first instance.
- Contact your family, UQ Abroad and your host university to inform them of your wellbeing, whereabouts and plan of action.
- Telephone Chubb Assistance on +61 2 8907 5995 (reverse charge call from anywhere in the world) and advise that you are covered under The University of Queensland Student Travel Insurance Policy number 01PPS9201.
- In any emergency where an operator or message taker is involved, please be prepared to provide the following information:
  1. Your name
  2. Where you are
  3. Nature of the emergency
  4. Tel. Number and where administrator(s) may contact you
  5. Until when/for how long you will be in that location
  6. When you will call back if you have not been called.

In the event of an emergency UQ Abroad will follow the University of Queensland’s Critical Incident Management Policy (PPL 7.60.01).

Make a copy of the ID page of your passport and make sure you always have access to that copy somehow - scan it to your email account, leave a copy with your family or a friend in Australia, have it hidden somewhere in your hand luggage etc. If you lose your passport and you don’t have access to your passport number, the renewal/replacement process will take much longer.
FINDING ACCOMMODATION

If your host institution does not provide on-campus housing or if you have elected not to take advantage of the on-campus housing provided, you will have to find your own accommodation on arrival.

- Make sure you arrange some form of accommodation before you arrive in your host city, even if it is only temporary.
- Allow plenty of time (1-2 weeks before Orientation or the beginning of classes) to find suitable accommodation.
- Familiarise yourself with rental procedures and tenancy rights (the host university should be able to provide this information to you).
- If possible, take a local buddy along when you view accommodation or interview housemates.

STUDYING AT THE HOST INSTITUTION

TEACHING STYLES

The method of teaching and assessment will undoubtedly be different at your host university from that of UQ. If you experience difficulties adjusting to the differences in your classes, do not wait too long to get help. Use the academic support or counselling services provided at the host university so that you can perform well academically and gain credit for your studies overseas.

ATTENDANCE AT CLASSES

At many universities, class attendance is recorded. If you miss more than two classes, or if you come to class late and miss having your attendance recorded, you may risk failing the course (common in USA, Japan, China and France). Find out the attendance requirements for your courses at the start of your exchange semester and make sure you meet those requirements.

FULL-TIME STUDY LOAD PER SEMESTER

While studying at the host university, you are expected to be enrolled in the standard full-time load for that institution. In order to receive a full-time semester of credit (#8 units) towards your UQ degree, you must successfully complete (according to the host university standards) the full time study load as approved by your UQ faculty.

At most Canadian and American universities, the full-time load for a semester is 15 credits or 5 courses.

In the UK, the typical full-time load is 60 credits, usually three to six courses per semester.

At European universities, a full-time load is usually 30 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) which could mean as many as eight courses per semester.

If you are not sure of how many courses you should be taking while on exchange, refer to the UQ Abroad website or contact the UQ Abroad office.

WITHDRAWING FROM A COURSE

If you wish to withdraw from a course while on exchange it is your responsibility to check if there will be any academic penalty and if the withdrawal will be noted on your transcript. Please be aware of the implications of having a withdrawn course or academic penalty on your transcript.

WHAT IF MY PRE-APPROVED COURSES CHANGE?

It is quite common for students to have difficulties getting into the courses they have had approved for their exchange. In some universities, courses fill up very quickly and extra lecture hours are not added; in others, programs change and the courses you selected may no longer be offered.

If you have to get new courses approved by your UQ Faculty, make sure you take the following steps:

1. Gather information about the new course, including a description of the topics covered, contact hours, methods of assessment, texts used, the credit value of the course and the level of the course (introductory vs advanced).
2. Email the new course information to the contact at your UQ faculty (listed below), copying in your UQ Abroad advisor.
3. If the course is approved, keep all communication you have had with the faculty to ensure ease of credit transfer on return to UQ.

UQ FACULTY CONTACTS

If you have any questions or concerns about faculty-related issues (including course approvals, enrolment, credit transfer, graduation dates, enrolment in honours), please contact your faculty representative listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OFFICE</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>EMAIL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences</td>
<td>Multiple advisors</td>
<td><a href="mailto:exchange@hass.uq.edu.au">exchange@hass.uq.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Business, Economics and Law</td>
<td>Ms Helen Lee</td>
<td><a href="mailto:exchange@bel.uq.edu.au">exchange@bel.uq.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Science</td>
<td>Multiple advisors</td>
<td><a href="mailto:science.enquiries@uq.edu.au">science.enquiries@uq.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Engineering, Architecture &amp; Information Technology</td>
<td>Multiple advisors</td>
<td><a href="mailto:admin@eait.uq.edu.au">admin@eait.uq.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences</td>
<td>Multiple advisors</td>
<td><a href="mailto:habs@uq.edu.au">habs@uq.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Human Movement and Nutrition Studies</td>
<td>Ms Rachel Scott</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hmns@uq.edu.au">hmns@uq.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work</td>
<td>Ms Erica Alvarez</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nmsw@uq.edu.au">nmsw@uq.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DO MY GRADES AT THE HOST UNIVERSITY AFFECT MY UQ GPA?

The grades you receive on exchange are not transferred so your grade point average (GPA) in your current program will remain unchanged after credit transfer. However, the grades received on exchange are part of your academic record and will be considered in the determination of University Medal calculations in accordance with UQ policy and Senate Rules. Results received from a Global Experience may also be taken into consideration when applying for Medical School, honours, and post-graduate studies etc.

At the end of your exchange studies, you will receive an official transcript from your host university indicating the grades you received. If it is sent to UQ Abroad, pick it up ASAP as it will be destroyed if it is not collected after four semesters. Make sure you keep a copy of your original host university transcript for applications for future study or employment.

Students planning to do honours: If you are taking compulsory courses overseas and wish to do honours on your return from exchange, please check with your academic advisor before your exchange whether the grades you receive on exchange will be counted towards your acceptance into honours.

Students planning to apply for postgraduate study or medical school: The grades that you receive while on exchange may be taken into consideration as part of your application or by future employers.

ACCESSING UQ’S ONLINE RESOURCES

While overseas on exchange you will have access to the resources available at your host university’s library as well as access to all of UQ library’s online resources. You will still be able to use your existing UQ login to access UQ’s databases, catalogue and document delivery. As well as the library resources, you will also still have access to your UQ download quota (10GB per month) if you connect through Eduroam (see the information about Eduroam on page 16).

While libraries in the UK, USA and Europe will be very similar to what you are used to, libraries in other countries can operate differently. Some libraries have closed “stacks”, that is you are not able to browse the shelves but have to order books from the catalogue instead. Some libraries close for lunch or do not open on weekends or evenings. Other libraries charge for services such as Internet access and database searching.

Your host university library may have special orientations and information for exchange students and some in non-English speaking countries will provide information in English.

CAN I ALTER MY TIME ON EXCHANGE?

The period of your exchange is clearly stated in your acceptance letters from both UQ Abroad and your host institution.

Coming Home Early

Sometimes things don’t go as planned and you may need to come home early. If this does occur, please contact your UQ Abroad Exchange Advisor for further information.

If you need to return to UQ early, you will need to consider the following implications.

Abroad & at the Host University

- Does your host university have a withdrawal fee?
- What financial penalties are there with regard to your accommodation?
- Will you be subject to any fees to reschedule return flights?

In Australia & At UQ

- Have you passed the financial liability for withdrawal date for enrolled study?
- Will you be able to return to study at UQ in the current semester?
- Please note that if you return prior to the census date for that semester (31 March for semester one and 31 August for semester 2), you will need to remove yourself from the exchange enrolment codes on your mySI-net.
- Have you received a scholarship that you will need to pay back?
- Do you have to do anything regarding Centrelink payments?
- For those who are on a full-year exchange, if you are withdrawing a semester early you will not be eligible for your second OS-HELP payment.

Extending your exchange

You will not be able to stay on exchange longer than indicated on your acceptance letter.

CULTURAL TIP: UK

Many museums and art galleries are free in the UK. The popular ones include the British Museum, National Gallery, Natural History Museum, Science Museum, V&A Museum, York’s National Railway Museum, Liverpool’s Merseyside Maritime Museum, Leeds Art Gallery and National Museum of Scotland (where Dolly the cloned sheep is on display!)
GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR EXCHANGE

1  REPRESENTING UQ

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Please re-visit the the UQ Global Experiences: Terms and Conditions and remember that, while on exchange, you must abide by the standards, policies and rules of the host university and by the UQ Student Charter.

Going on exchange is a privilege, not a right. Please remember that, as a representative of UQ, your behaviour can have a significant effect, both positive and negative, on the image of the University and its students, and, in turn, the exchange relationship with your host university.

BEING A UQ AMBASSADOR

An important part of the success of an exchange program is the reciprocal exchange of students, so your job, as an ambassador for UQ, is to encourage more students from the host institution to come to UQ on exchange.

Participate in promotional events for the host university’s exchange program (e.g. Study Abroad fairs, pre-departure seminars, Australia nights etc.).

Give a presentation about UQ. For a copy of a promotional PowerPoint presentation, please email uqabroad@uq.edu.au.

Brisbane Marketing has an excellent website for international students thinking of coming to Brisbane to study: studybrisbane.com.au.

2  UQ EMPLOYABILITY AWARD PROGRAM

Register for the UQ Employability Award program to extend yourself beyond the classroom, gain a better understanding of the world and develop key competencies that employer’s value. All undergraduate degree students are eligible.

Your UQ Abroad experience will be counted as one of the five supplementary activities required for the award.

By participating in the UQ Employability Award program, you will also have access to a symposium series of workshops, seminars and events designed to translate your global experience into practice and help you prepare for a successful career after graduation.

CULTURAL TIP: FRANCE

When taking a train don’t forget to validate (‘composter’) your ticket at one of the machines before getting on the train. If you don’t, you will have to pay a fine to the train inspector (‘contrôleur’).

3  THE UQ EMPLOYABILITY APPROACH: LEARNING FROM YOUR EXCHANGE EXPERIENCES

The University of Queensland has adopted a strategic approach to support student employability development. This approach is based on learning from experiences, and understanding how these experiences have helped you to develop skills and attributes that employers look for.

Your UQ Abroad experience is hugely valuable for your personal and professional development but to make the most of it, take some time to reflect on what you have learned. The best learning comes from experiencing new things and facing challenges.

Below are some prompt questions to guide your reflections:

Culture shock/settling in

Have you experienced culture shock? If so, how have you adapted to your new surroundings?

Have your initial expectations been met and if not, what are the gaps between your expectations and your experience so far?

What have you done to ease yourself into a new environment?

Activities outside of the classroom

What goals have you set for yourself for your time abroad and what strategies are you implementing/go to implement that will help you achieve them?

What are you doing outside of attending class in order to make the most out of your experience?

What are you learning from these experiences?

Highs and lows

What challenges have you faced during your time away so far and how have you dealt with these?

What would you have done differently?

What have you learned from the challenges that you have faced?

What are the best moments so far and how do you think these achievements/experiences will benefit you in the future?

Personal and professional growth whilst away

Think about the person you were when you first stepped off the plane – how have you changed/grown during your time away and how has the experience added to your personal and professional growth?

What will you do differently in the future, based on the learning from your UQ Abroad experience? What can you now do, or do more effectively, as a result of your experience?

How have your experiences changed the way you view the world or enhanced your understanding of human behaviour and interactions?
THE SEAL METHOD

It doesn't matter how you reflect on your time away, as long as the learning process happens so that you make the most out of your overseas study experience. If it helps, you can use the SEAL method to structure your reflections, which you can apply to any given situation or experience.

The acronym stands for:

- **Situation:** What was the event, incident, activity, task or experience?
- **Effect:** What were the challenges you faced as part of the experience? What impact did they have on you?
- **Action:** What action did you take or strategies did you employ to deal with the challenges you faced, and why did you do this?
- **Learning:** What did you learn from the experience and how might you do things the same or differently in the future? What can you now do as a result of the experience (or do more effectively) and how has it added to your overall development?

**HERE IS AN EXAMPLE**

**Situation:**
This was the first time that I had lived away from family and friends and I was taking a little while to find my feet and get over the initial shock of being in a completely new environment.

**Effect:**
I was feeling quite out of my depth and isolated which was making me feel quite homesick and I was worried that I wouldn't settle in enough to make the most out of my experience.

**Action:**
To deal with the isolation and problems with settling in, I knew that I had to meet new people to help me feel more a part of my new environment. This was a daunting prospect for me as I don't usually initiate contact with people, especially in a new place. I joined two campus clubs and made an effort to talk to people in tutorials or after lectures and in my student accommodation.

**Learning:**
This experience made me more self-aware in terms of assessing a situation, identifying the problem or issue and taking steps to improve things. I realise it takes time to settle in but you really have to move out of your comfort zone to do it and it helps improve your confidence if you can put yourself 'out there'. I know that I need to make adjustments in the way I operate in order to connect with people in new situations. Now that I have had that experience, I feel more confident about taking initiative in the future.

**APPLICATION TO EMPLOYABILITY**

In the above example, the student has reflected on how they felt about being abroad and how it made them feel a bit out of their depth. This shows that they have developed the personal quality of self-awareness as they acknowledged this feeling and did something to address it (joining clubs).

Self-awareness is a key part of employability as it allows you to monitor your own behaviour and attitudes at work and adjust according to the context and the requirements of the task at hand. It also helps you better cope with constructive criticism and learn from your mistakes.

This student also developed confidence as they stepped out of their comfort zone and made new friends. Confidence is also a key part of employability as it allows you to tackle new things and be able to put forward your opinion in an appropriate way.

Self-reflection is a vital skill to develop for workplace success as it gives you the opportunity to think through experiences, situations and events and identify what you have learned and how this learning may guide your behaviour or approach to things in the future.

Once you have returned from your exchange, we will be offering a workshop to help you draw out the learning from your experience and relate it to your employability development.

Further information on the workshop will be given at the return home event.

If you would like any further information, please don’t hesitate to contact Anna Richards at: arichards4@uq.edu.au

If you would like to know more about how to translate your experiences into employability development you can enrol in EMPLOY101x – Unlocking your Employability. This free self-paced massive open online course (MOOC) is based on the UQ employability approach and will help you to understand how to develop your employability through engaging in, and learning from a range of experiences.

To sign up, register on edx.org using your UQ email address and then enrol in EMPLOY101x (edx.org/course/unlocking-employability-uqx-employ101x).
Treat your personal information as you would treat your money - don’t leave it lying around for others to take.

Your identity and personal information are valuable. If criminals find out your personal details, they can use them to open bank accounts and obtain important documents (e.g. credit cards, passports) in your name.

If you use mobile banking on smartphones and tablets to check balances and transfer funds, check with your bank (especially if you open a new bank account in your host country) about online security. Don’t let your phone be a potential cash point for a clever thief!

If possible, avoid using public computers or Wi-Fi hotspots to access or provide personal information.

Here are a few quick steps you can take to stay safe and smart when using social networking sites:

- Adjust your privacy settings to control the amount and type of information you want to share online.
- Be wary of strangers. Limit the number of people you accept as friends to people you know well or have met in real life and trust.
- Think before you post – expect that people other than your friends can see the information you post online. If you give away your whereabouts or holiday plans online, you may risk being burgled or being followed.
- Don’t post photos or comments that may be offensive, inappropriate, obscene or unlawful.

Remember, your online reputation is important. Any information available about you online is potentially there forever!

EDUROAM

While on exchange, you can still be connected via eduroam (education roaming). Eduroam is the secure world-wide roaming access service developed for the international research and education community. Eduroam allows students, researchers and staff to securely access the Internet from any eduroam-enabled universities and colleges around the world, including many of UQ’s exchange partners.

Find out more about setting up and connecting to UQ campus wireless via eduroam.

See where you can eduroam.

REFERENCES

Stay Smart Online
British Council’s Creating Confidence
RETURNING HOME

The semester will be over before you know it and you will leave your host country with mixed emotions – glad to be going home but sad to be leaving the new friends you have made.

1 TYING UP LOOSE ENDS

TRAVEL AND LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

❖ Pay all outstanding bills (including housing).
❖ Close your bank account.
❖ Confirm your travel arrangements home.

HOST INSTITUTION REQUIREMENTS

❖ Return library books and pay any outstanding library fines. Unpaid university fines or university accommodation fees will result in the delay of your transcript being forwarded to UQ and the whole credit transfer process.

MYSI-NET ADDRESS

❖ When you are back in Australia, please change your address in mySI-net back to your Australian address.

2 HOST UNIVERSITY TRANSCRIPT AND CREDIT TRANSFER

TRANSCRIPT

❖ At the end of your exchange, most partner institutions will automatically send UQ Abroad your academic transcript listing the courses you have taken and the grades you have received. You will be notified by email when your transcript arrives and will be able to collect it from UQ Abroad. Please collect your transcript as soon as possible as it will be destroyed if not collected within four semesters of completing your exchange.
❖ Some partner universities expect you to order your transcript yourself. Please confirm whether you need to request a copy of your transcript before you leave your host university. If you receive your transcript directly from the host university, please bring it in to UQ Abroad so a copy can be made to send to your faculty for credit transfer.

CREDIT TRANSFER

❖ UQ Abroad will send an electronic copy of the transcript to your faculty.

❖ To facilitate credit transfer (particularly for any courses that were not pre-approved), it is very important that you:
  ❖ Keep copies of any correspondence between you and your UQ school or faculty regarding approval of additional courses.
  ❖ Keep copies of the syllabus, course details, reading list and assessment (as well as any assignments and exams) for the courses you have taken.
❖ Please check mySI-net to ensure that your credit has been transferred. If you have any questions about your credit transfer, please contact your faculty.

3 GRADUATION

All credit transfer from your exchange must be completed before you can graduate. Therefore, your faculty must have the official transcript from your host university well before the graduation ceremony. Please be aware that it can take at least two months to receive host university transcripts, so plan your graduation accordingly.

Going on exchange in the final semester of your degree will most likely delay your graduation.

CULTURAL TIP: GERMANY

At some universities in Germany you will need to collect individual “Scheine” for each of your courses and present these to the international office before they can issue your transcript. Please be sure to check with the international office at your host university to find out exactly how the transcript process works and what you need to do to ensure that an official transcript is issued.
Many students experience “re-entry/reverse culture shock” in returning home after a period overseas.

**WHAT IS REVERSE CULTURE SHOCK?**

- Reverse culture shock is characterised by the unmet expectation of total familiarity (that nothing at home has changed while you have been away) and the ease, therefore, of adjusting to life at home.

**SYMPTOMS OF REVERSE CULTURE SHOCK**

- Feelings of alienation and mutual misunderstandings between you, your friends and your family.
- These feelings are brought about by the inconsistency between your expectations of home and the reality, plus the lack of interest from your family and friends in your period overseas (everyone wants to tell you about the “Neighbours” episodes you’ve missed out on in the last 6 months but no-one wants to listen to your “when I was overseas” stories!).

Please be aware that these feelings are not unusual and that, eventually, you will re-adjust to life at home. For more information about reverse culture shock, please check out the website at uq.edu.au/international-students/reverse-culture-shock.

If you are having difficulty adjusting to life back at UQ, here are some suggestions which may help:

- Get in touch with Student Services to make an appointment to discuss your concerns with a student counsellor if you need.
- Come to the UQ Abroad Welcome Home event. You will be invited to attend a Welcome Home event in the first few weeks of your first semester back from exchange. This event provides an opportunity to get together with other returned students to talk about and compare experiences.
- Join QUEST - the UQ Exchange Student Society and participate in activities to help international students acclimatise to Brisbane.
- Become a UQ Employability Ambassador. Ambassadors are selected from past exchange students to help promote UQ Abroad, by volunteering at the annual Global Experiences Expo, chatting to students on Facebook about their exchange experience and giving presentations at information sessions about their time overseas.
- Join the UQ Abroad Facebook group to stay in touch with other exchange students, past, present and future.

“Honestly, it was a bit of a shock to be back home, sure, it’s incredibly nice to have your laundry done for you occasionally, and I have a new appreciation for home cooked meals, but it’s very different to being surrounded by your friends 24/7. I’m now determined to be involved in what’s going on around campus and to apply the amazing experiences and lessons I’ve learned.”

Cerys, University of Wisconsin-Madison, United States of America
APPENDIX I: USEFUL WEBSITES

UQ
THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
uq.edu.au

UQ ABROAD
uq.edu.au/uqabroad

UQ STUDENT EMPLOYABILITY CENTRE
employability.uq.edu.au

QUEENSLAND VISIT BRISBANE
visitbrisbane.com.au

STUDY BRISBANE
(for incoming international students)
studybrisbane.com.au

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION
immig.gov.au

SMARTRAVELLER
smartraveller.gov.au

OS-HELP

AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION - VOTING OVERSEAS
aec.gov.au/enrolling_to_vote/overseas

TRAVEL

THE WEATHER CHANNEL
weather.com

CURRENCY CONVERTER BY OANDA
oanda.com/currency/converter/

LONELY PLANET
lonelyplanet.com.au

NEWS IN AUSTRALIA
abc.net.au/news/

TRAVEL TIPS
travellingwell.com.au/traveltips

HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL
hihostels.com

MAPS OF THE WORLD
maps.google.com.au

CHEAP HOTELS/FLIGHTS
expedia.com

ACCOMMODATION
airbnb.com

SMARTPHONE APPS

Trip it (travel organiser)
  ➤ TripAdvisor (helps find Hotels, Flights, Restaurants)
  ➤ Lonely Planet Guide
  ➤ iHandy Translator Pro
  ➤ TripCase (travel itinerary manager)
  ➤ Urbanspoon (restaurant guide)
  ➤ Qantas Frequent Flyer
  ➤ Kayak (flights and hotel search)
  ➤ FlightBoard (live flight arrival and departure status)
  ➤ maps.me/en/home (detailed offline maps)
  ➤ Triposo (guidebook)
  ➤ XE Currency Converter
  ➤ WhatsApp Messenger (send sms via WiFi)
  ➤ Private Wifi (protect your privacy while using free WiFi)
  ➤ Wi-Fi Finder
  ➤ ICE (In Case of Emergency)
  ➤ Allergy FT (allergy food translator)

UQ Abroad would like to Acknowledge that The University of Melbourne’s Global Mobility Pre-departure Guide (mobility.unimelb.edu.au/outbound/resources/pre-departure-guide.pdf) has been used as a reference to create this guide.

CONTACT US

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#uqabroad

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@uqsec
APPENDIX II: PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

UNIVERSITY-RELATED

☐ I am enrolled in the exchange codes (EXCH) in mySi-net at UQ before I leave to go on exchange.

DOUCMENTS

☐ I have a current passport which is valid for at least 6 months after my return date.
☐ I have a student visa for my host country or know what is necessary for residency permit/study requirements.
☐ I have two copies of the following documents (one in my hand luggage and one scanned to my email)
   - Airline ticket/e-ticket/travel bookings
   - Passport ID page
   - Student Visa
   - Credit/debit cards
   - Accommodation address
   - Letter of acceptance from the host university
   - UQ approved study plan
   - Most recent UQ academic transcript
   - Certified copies of ID-related documents such as your birth certificate, proof of citizenship
   - Any required prescriptions and a doctor’s letter for each
   - Bank details
   - Extra passport photos

TRAVEL

☐ I have booked my ticket but have not paid in full until after I have received my acceptance letter from the host university.
☐ I have adequate travel and health insurance that covers me for item loss, theft or natural disaster and that I have looked into purchasing additional travel and health insurance if I am going to be out of Australia for longer than my semester of study.
☐ I have arranged how I will get from the airport/train station upon arrival in the host city to the host university/accommodation.
☐ I have organised somewhere to stay (eg a hotel/youth hostel/university residence) for my first few days in my new city.

HEALTH

☐ I know what kind of Health insurance coverage is required by the host university. I have made sure that I am adequately covered for ALL eventualities.
☐ I have had a medical check-up.
☐ I have had a dental check-up and made sure that I will require no major dental work while overseas.
☐ I have identified any required immunisations for my destination and have had them administered.

FINANCES

☐ I have applied for Centrelink payments to continue while I am overseas (if applicable).
☐ I have authorised someone (parent, guardian, relative etc.) to act on my behalf for financial matters through a Power of Attorney.
☐ I have notified my bank to let them know I will be using my credit card overseas.
☐ I have sufficient small change in the local currency to pay for transport from the airport to my accommodation on arrival.
☐ I have returned all documents related to OS-Help and scholarships by the set deadline (if applicable).

OTHER IMPORTANT STEPS

☐ I have an appropriate adapter so I can use my Australian electronics overseas.
☐ I have checked whether global roaming can be activated on my phone and checked the associated costs.
☐ I have redirected my mail through Australia Post to a suitable alternative.
☐ I have completed and submitted the UQ Travel Spreadsheet to the UQ Student Employability Centre.
☐ I have registered my travel on DFAT’s Smart Traveller website.
☐ I will update my new postal/residential address and contact number in mySi-net once I have settled in.