



Study Abroad

Application Handbook



University of
Chester

Study Abroad Team

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Contact Details

Study Abroad Team

The Study Abroad Team is your first point of contact while on an exchange abroad for all issues relating to the successful completion of your exchange programme.

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If you are interested in Erasmus or abroad options with other departments, please contact the Erasmus Team at erasmus@chester.ac.uk, or the individual department for more information about these options.

Why Study Abroad?

◇ Personal growth.

Students who study abroad describe it as a life changing experience with noticeable differences in their confidence, self-reliance and all-round abilities as an individual. A study abroad experience allows students to escape temporarily from the humdrum existence of a third-year undergraduate student, while 'staying in the game' of becoming credentialed at home. This experience also allows students to experience something new, exciting and fun. Students who spent some time abroad profit in their personal growth and development, for example by a growing openness and emotional stability.

◇ Employability.

Studying abroad can make you more prepared for the global job market than 98.7% of UK students, which means that there is a potential for added earnings and an advantage in the job market. Because many people now have higher academic credentials, differentiating oneself when applying for post-graduate programmes or jobs becomes increasingly a competition based on non-credential abilities. Students who have studied abroad have more frequently had jobs with international work assignments. While students graduate with technical skills, research shows that soft skills or employability skills that ensure effective working are being developed through study or work periods abroad.

◇ Cultural competence.

Studying for a year abroad requires a level of comfort with travel and experience of other cultures, and studying abroad is a great learning experience with many assets, such as linguistic improvement and the cultural experience of living in another country. This helps students broaden horizons and helps to better understand the world. A study abroad experience supports an increased awareness of and tolerance to other cultures as well as providing training in interacting with individuals of different countries and cultures.

◇ Networking.

You will meet new friends from all over the world. Socialization into various cultural genres in an early age equips individuals with the cultural knowledge, attitude, and disposition to network skilfully. Networking starts with people you know, but you don't necessarily network with everyone you know, but it is good to have friends across the world, should you ever work in a field that may require contacts. Networking is not simply an information exchange between you and another person, this is because it involves establishing relationships with people who will often become your friends and community of colleagues as you go through your career. Networking skills refer to individuals' ability of making connections and contacts for instrumental or expressive returns. Thus defined, the act of networking has become central to college students as it shapes and reinforces their interpersonal relationships as well as educational and career outcomes

◇ Language.

Students can expect exposure to foreign languages and cultures while studying abroad, and might even have the opportunity to learn the language and thus further immerse themselves in cultural experiences. Learning and communicating in the language of a foreign country while living there is good way to learn the language as you never stop learning. Everywhere you turn you're faced with opportunities to hear, read, and use the language.

Requirements

◇ Overall average grade of 50%.

You are required to attain an overall grade average of 50% for first year in order to be considered for the Study Abroad programme. The reason for this is that you will be going to another country where the coursework will be different in many aspects, and thus you will also be dealing with different procedures for how the work is expected to be done.

There is a small room for exceptions to this, so contact studyabroad@chester.ac.uk as soon as possible, if you are interested in studying abroad but know or are worried that you will not have the grades for it.

◇ Above average attendance or support from your PAT.

You are required to attain an above average attendance during your first year in order to be considered for the Study Abroad programme.

If you are at all worried that your attendance is below average, please email studyabroad@chester.ac.uk with your attendance and the reason for this.

◇ Do the Work YOURSELF

During the entire process of your application to study abroad, you are required to do every task yourself, we at the Study Abroad Team will support and guide you whilst you are doing this, but we will at no point whatsoever do it for you! This is so that you can show us that you are able to handle the work required to be able to go on an exchange year or short-term placement. Though should any issues arise, we will help you sort it out, do remember to read all the information that you are given, as many of the questions that you are more likely going to ask us as you progress through the application process will most likely have an answer readily available to you there.

Should you be unable to do any of the work within the deadlines, you may become ineligible to participate, so do keep the Study Abroad Team updated on your process, and make sure to communicate any issues to them so that they can be dealt with as soon as possible.

Module Options

The Study Abroad Team offer three options for going abroad, where you will be able to study at a foreign university, take part in an internship or participate in a volunteering experience. We also offer a new module that will enable you to learn the skills necessary to globalize yourself focusing on cross cultural awareness, intercultural competence and employability.

The options are:

1. [Year Abroad Study Exchange \(ML5008\)](#)
2. [Overseas Experiential Learning \(ML5004\)](#)
3. Summer school
 - See [ML5004 section](#) for opportunities available and email studyabroad@chester.ac.uk for further information
4. [Developing Intercultural Literacy and Cross Cultural-skills \(ML5104\)](#)

Study Abroad Application Process

- 1. Read Study Abroad Handbook**
- 2. Complete an application form [here](#)**

You will need to log into your University account to access the form. Applications will be reviewed after the priority deadline (15th November). Your grades and attendance will be evaluated and your referees will be contacted for references. You will also be invited to attend the Welcome to Study Abroad compulsory session. At this stage you do not need to be sure of your destination, we are looking at your suitability to travel and will help you choose where to go at the meeting with the Study Abroad Team.
- 3. One-to-One Meeting with the Study Abroad Team**

After you have submitted your application and this has been reviewed and you have attended the Welcome to Study Abroad Session, you will be invited to a one-to-one meeting with the Study Abroad Team to discuss the merit of your application and your choices. There will be opportunities available for all students.
- 4. Apply to placement provider**

The process for this will vary depending on the placement you are applying for. Guidance for your specific placement will be provided by the Study Abroad Team.
- 5. Complete all required paperwork/administrative tasks**

The Study Abroad Team will provide information on all paperwork and administrative tasks to be completed to secure your placement. Please ensure you complete these in a timely manner and meet all deadlines.
- 6. Attend lectures**

These will be added to your timetable and attendance is compulsory.
- 7. One-to-One Getting Reading to Go Session**

Appointment with the Study Abroad Programme Leader to discuss your placement and be provided personalised destination specific advice
- 8. Go Abroad!**
- 9. Share your experience once you have returned from your placement – write a blog, case study or attend Open Days and other events.**

Study Abroad Deadlines and Important Dates

Deadlines and Important Dates for short placements in 2023/24 and year abroad exchanges taking place in 2024/25.

Applications Open	15 th August 2023
Application Deadlines	
Priority:	15 th November 2023
Final:	30 th January 2024
Study Abroad Information and Application Q&A Session This is an optional group session and is good a chance to ask questions about studying abroad and the process involved.	October 2023
Welcome to Study Abroad Session – mandatory All applicants will be invited to this session for further information on studying abroad, funding and the next steps. One-to-one meetings will be arranged following this.	November 2023
ISEP Application Q&A Session *For students applying for a Year Abroad only. This is an optional group session and is good a chance to ask questions and check your application is ready to go.	January 2024
Final Document submission to UoC Coordinator *For students applying for a Year Abroad only. You submit ISEP/bilateral applications to the UoC Coordinator for review in order to meet ISEP/Host application deadlines.	15 th February 2024
Attend lectures for ML5004 – mandatory *For students undertaking ML5004 only. Teaching takes places during the WBL Induction week in March. There will also be two session in February focusing on assessment which you are encouraged to attend.	February & March 2024
Attend lectures for XXX016: Study Abroad Preparation – mandatory *For students undertaking ML5008 only. You will have one session in March and then sessions in June. They are designed to focus on topics relevant to your year abroad and will be on your timetable as XXX016 – Study Abroad Preparation and must be attended!	March & June 2024
One-to-One Getting Reading to Go Session – mandatory Appointment with the Study Abroad Programme Leader to discuss your placement and be provided personalised destination specific advice.	ML5004 – From April 2024 ML5008 – From June 2024

***Please note if you miss any of the above deadlines, your chances of studying abroad can become limited.**

Year Abroad Study Exchange (ML5008)

The Year Abroad Study Exchange (ML5008) programme allows students of University of Chester to study abroad during a full academic year at our bilateral exchange partners or through [ISEP](#), for at least a semester*. This exchange will provide you with the opportunity for personal, academic and professional development, gaining experience of other cultures and academic systems. This study abroad year will fall between your second and third year, which means that your course at the University of Chester will be extended for one year.

*You may choose up to two study destinations, one of which may be volunteering in the second semester.

◇ *ISEP Exchange Programme*

The International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) is a non-profit educational community made up of more than 300 colleges and universities in over 50 countries. Since 1979 they have sent over 60,000 students on transformative, life-changing study abroad programs around the world.

In an ISEP Exchange, you swap spots with a student from an ISEP Exchange university overseas. You get to choose up to 10 schools on your application and ISEP will place you at the best option depending on ISEP Exchange space and your academic needs. Spaces through ISEP are limited, so while you will get a spot at one of your chosen destinations, the chance of placement at your top choice(s) depends on the pool of other Exchange applicants.

Your host institution will provide housing and meals, which is usually in the form of a stipend, but all major costs during this programme are to be paid to the University of Chester such as tuition fees, and room and board. While getting your top choice is not guaranteed in the ISEP Exchange program, you do have clarity about the cost of the program - it is nearly the same as studying for a semester at University of Chester (not including additional costs, of course, such as airfare and additional miscellaneous expenses).

Costs:

- When you apply for an ISEP exchange a non-refundable application fee of \$100 is due with your application
- When you accept your ISEP exchange placement a non-refundable fee of \$395 is due
- For general information on ISEP and to see which universities you can travel to, please take a look at the [ISEP Website](#).
- For any questions about ISEP contact Gretchen McCarthy: gmccarthy@isep.org
- There are lots of interesting stories hints and tips here so be sure to follow this YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfYOD5X2j4239lpBF-hnn3A>

◇ *Bilateral Exchange Programme*

Through Bilateral Agreements, the University of Chester has made exchange agreements directly with other institutions across the world. The Bilateral Exchange Partners that you can travel to are:

Australia:

- [Charles Sturt University in New South Wales](#): This is the regional university of New South Wales and provides courses in five areas: Health Sciences, Science and Agriculture, Education, Commerce, Art. They also have a campus in [Charles Sturt University in Port Macquarie](#), which is located on the mid-north coast of New South Wales. There are extremely limited places at CSU and so students are advised to include other destinations on their application.
- [Federation University Australia](#) : Mt. Helen campus: Located 10 kilometres from the Ballarat city centre, and 90 minutes by car or train from Victoria's capital city Melbourne; FedUni Mt. Helen is surrounded by park and natural bushland and is attended by more than 4,500 students. Study is available in courses from the Faculty of Business, Faculty of Education and Arts, the Faculty of Science; and the Faculty of Health.

USA:

- [Alverno](#): A female-only college described by The New York Times as one of the best higher education institutions serving the needs of students. Milwaukee is only one-hour north of the city of Chicago and is situated on the shores of beautiful Lake Michigan.
- [SUNY Plattsburgh](#): Offers a variety of undergraduate programmes and is located in the beautiful Adirondack region of New York State, half an hour's drive from Canada's Quebec border.
- [Wichita State](#): Teaches similar subjects to those taught at Chester and is a co-educational university that is situated in the heart of the Midwest.

Year Abroad Study Exchange (ML5008) - Fees and Funding

During your year abroad your tuition fees will be greatly reduced but before you apply to any of the Study Abroad options offered by the University of Chester, you need to consider other costs that will occur while applying as well as when you are abroad.

The tuition fees for your international exchange year is 15% of your normal tuition fee, so as a UK student you will be paying £1388 for the year, which will be paid directly to the University of Chester.

Some additional costs you should be aware of prior to your application are seen below. These costs may vary significantly by destination and year, so please research these thoroughly, and speak to the Study Abroad Team if you need any further clarification. You will find some information about them below.

◇ *Bilateral vs. ISEP Cost Comparison*

Exchange Type	Application	Tuition	Accommodation & Food	Travel	Other Living costs
Bilateral	No cost	- ML5008 (3 rd Year) 15% of normal fee - Paid to University of Chester	- Host Site Dependent - Refundable housing deposit likely required by HOST institution - Able to apply for different options - Paid to HOST institution	- With SF Travel Grant: £303 - Without SF Travel Grant: Host Site Dependent	Host Site Dependent
ISEP	Application Fee: \$100 Acceptance Fee: \$395	- ML5008 (3 rd Year) 15% of normal fee - Paid to University of Chester	- £6000 - Refundable housing deposit likely required by HOST institution - Accommodation type fixed (each site differs) - Paid to University of Chester	- With SF Travel Grant: £303 - Without SF Travel Grant: Host Site Dependent	Host Site Dependent

Other Costs to be Conscious of:

◇ *Accommodation*

Our exchange partners provide accommodation; however accommodation costs can vary depending on where in the world you are studying. If you go via ISEP then there is a fixed rate of £6000 for your accommodation and meal plans for the whole academic year, paid to the University of Chester.

Many of our Bilateral partners offer bursaries and other cost saving measures to our students. The University of Chester Study Abroad team is able to advice on which cities would fit your accommodation budget. It is worth taking into consideration that many locations, especially those in the US, offer shared accommodation for those on a lower budget. In most cases, accommodation can be easily found and provide an excellent taste of local life as well as independence for you.

◇ **Food**

All ISEP students will be on a meal plan for three meals a day five days per week. Bilateral fees vary so research your destination university and perhaps check out this link to get a good idea of what it will cost you: calculate the costs in your city of study: <https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/>.

It is also worth noting that the price of living can vary throughout the world so do not be put off if your first choice is expensive, keep looking.

◇ **Books and supplies**

The cost of these can go up to £400, so research to find the cheapest books, and look around for places to find cheap books online and amongst current students at your university.

◇ **Medical Insurance**

It is of paramount importance that you take out adequate medical insurance for your trip. In countries such as the USA, there is no state health insurance so you must have your own. Again, Student Finance may be able to reimburse your medical insurance costs. We can also advise on what type of cover package you will need. If you apply through ISEP, you are required to buy their insurance.

◇ **Travel (including flights home during holidays)**

These can quickly add up and you will obviously need to pay for your flights and domestic travel costs in advance. Flight prices can vary depending on your destination, although, it is possible to save money by being cunning and planning in advance. Students travelling abroad can also benefit from free travel insurance to cover the duration of their stay.

◇ **Visa**

If you require a Visa to study abroad, you should add the cost of this to your budget.

◇ **Immunisations**

When you go travel to certain places, you will be required/recommended to get specific vaccinations. Talk to your parents or your family doctor to find out which vaccines you have already taken, and which ones you should take. Your host university might also be able to advise you on which vaccinations to take.

◇ *Student Finance Travel Grant*

You are eligible for a reimbursement for money you spend over £303 (you send your receipts and Student Finance England (SFE) refund the money). This is for travel related costs these include:

- Flights, immunisations, insurance, costs related to visas including fares to attend visa meetings and postage paid.

The amount you get for a travel grant depends on your total household income.

You are automatically eligible for the travel grant if you are:

- Living with parents and in receipt of a maintenance loan of £ 4,576 or above.
- Not living with parents and studying outside London and in receipt of a maintenance loan of £ 5,845 or above.

If your household income is over £39,796 then there is a reduction to the amount of travel grant you can claim. SFE work it out like this: For every £8.73 your means tested person earns over £39,796 they deduct £1

- E.G if parents earn £49,000: $£49000 - £39796 = £9204$
- $£9204$ divided by $£8.73 = £1054.29$
- $1054.29 + £303 = £1296$

So you will be refunded anything you pay for travel related costs over £1,357.29

- For example, insurance £1000, travel 3x return tickets £1700, visa £300 = £4,000.
- $£4000 - £1357.29 = £2,642.71$

So as you can see it is well worth it; you will probably never have this much financial support towards travel again.

*Please check with your funding body, Wales and Scotland offer more money. These figures are based on England.

Unfortunately, due to data protection, Student Finance bodies will not talk to us about your student finance. You will need to be very proactive regarding this, it may become frustrating, and we still will not be able to help you other than to tell you your general entitlement. We will provide them with the information that they require and then you will need to keep calling your finance provider yourself, until you are allocated the correct funds.

ML5008 Module information

You can access the module descriptor via the Portal [here](#).

◇ Lecture outlines

You are required to attend as many of these lectures as possible, as these will provide information on the following topics:

1. Culture and Identity.

- What is culture and how can we navigate a new culture? What does cultural identity mean to you? What elements contribute to a person's cultural identity? How would you identify your culture? What elements could be considered when comparing and contrasting cultures?

2. Intercultural competence (ICC) and culture shock.

- Intercultural competence is deemed as 'behaving and communicating effectively and appropriately', based on one's intercultural knowledge, skills, and attitudes (Deardoff; 2009) and at the core of ICC are these values, beliefs and assumptions.
- As different groups create rules to reinforce what is considered good or bad, polite or rude, admirable or contemptible; it is important to explore how to find these rules out and how to put these ideas into action. Revealing the invisible side of a new culture provides tools for living and working more effectively, as well as illuminating one's own cultural preferences.

3. How to get the best out of your experience and critical reflection and studying for success.

- Structured reflection can ameliorate culture shock, which is why there are set PLDs, so that you can reflect on what is going on, how you are feeling, and how you might act to deal with what is going on.

4. Getting ready to go and how to study abroad

- During this session you will learn, what we expect from you and understand what the learning agreements are; how to identify the purpose of the Risk assessment and how to complete it; how to create a personal learning diary/Learning journal and recognise what goes in it. Finally, you will learn how to distinguish the standards of reflective writing.

◇ Assessments

To pass the year, you must spend **at least two whole terms abroad**. If you are unhappy or unsure or unsettled, get in touch with study abroad immediately. We are here to help you; we will do our very best to make your experience the best it possibly can be. We are experienced in making this work for you and helping you make the best decisions for your success and happiness.

- When choosing your Modules for your year abroad, know that **YOU MUST** study the equivalent of 100 University of Chester credits.
 - This is 50 ECTS or around 24 USA credit hours – all Universities have different systems, so please send your list back to Study Abroad as detailed in your learning agreement ASAP!
- Help!! What should I study??
 - The most important thing to remember is that to pass the year you must pass all of your classes. We advise you to create a balance between refreshing your understanding of basic level courses you have taken in the past; as well stretching yourself with some new and interesting ones too!!
- **REMEMBER you will return directly into your final year here at Chester so make sure you take at least two- ideally three classes in your degree subject to help you settle back in.**

Experiential Overseas Learning (ML5004)

Experiential Overseas Learning (ML5004) is a module that allows you a unique opportunity to gain credits towards your degree while participating in projects around the globe. This opportunity allows you to engage with issues of social, justice, poverty, development and the environment. The module offers a short-term placement abroad and is an alternative option to WB5101: Enhancing your Employability through Work Based Learning.

Teaching commences in January and you will go abroad after the Easter vacation during your second year (level 5).

◇ Destinations (**Destinations change every year and these will be finalised in January 2023**)

The current destinations offered through this module are:

Duration	Destination	Provider	Type of Placement
4 weeks to 16 weeks	Costa Rica	Languages and Cultures	Volunteering
4 weeks to 16 weeks	South Africa	Edge of Africa	Volunteering
4 weeks to 16 weeks	Finland	University of Jyväskylä	Summer School
4 weeks to 8 weeks	France	IDRAC	Summer School
4 weeks to 16 weeks	Spain	Cuenca	Summer School
4 weeks to 16 weeks	Various	ISEP Summer schools	Summer School
9 weeks to 4 months	USA	American Summers	Internship (Paid)
4 weeks to 12 weeks	Sri Lanka	Travelteer	Volunteering

Experiential Overseas Learning (ML5004) – Fees and Funding

Fees

All of our experiential learning projects cost start at £500 up to £3,500 depending on placement type and duration. This price covers the whole cost of your experience; *however, the prices change from year to year due a variety of aspects beyond our control.*

You still receive your Student Finance and you may be able to apply for a travel grant, and if you decide to participate in one of our philanthropic volunteering projects you are permitted to raise funds to pay for your trip via charity fund raising. You are allowed to raise up to £4000 in this manner with all proceeds beyond your trip fees, to go to the organisation you are volunteering at.

A recommended website to raise money on is: [Gofundme](https://www.gofundme.com/).

Funding

If you receive funding from the British Government, Student Finance will provide you with the same level of funding overseas as if you were studying at Chester. You apply for your maintenance loan / tuition fee loan / maintenance grants / any other Student Finance support you usually receive in exactly the same way you have previously done so.

If you receive funding from you own government (if you are an international student), or from another organisation, you will have to contact them to find out how much funding you are eligible for.

◇ The Futures Employability Fund

- This fund is an opportunity for eligible students to apply for up to £500 towards their future career. Funds cannot be claimed retrospectively for previous purchase(s) and decisions made by the funding panel are final.
- Eligibility:
 - To be eligible to apply you must meet one of the following criteria:
 - Be in receipt of the University of Chester Bursary or Care Leaver Bursary
 - Be in receipt of the National Scholarship Programme or Sanctuary Scholarship
 - Be a young carer
 - Be a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic student (BAME)
 - Have a disability
 - Be a mature student - be 21 or over at the start of your studies
- Students who are eligible will receive an email advising them how to apply. If you think you are eligible, and have not heard from Careers and Employability please email Inspiringfutures@chester.ac.uk. You can also find further information on the [Portal](#).

ML5004 Module Information

You can access the module descriptor via the Portal [here](#)

◇ Course outline

You are required to attend all lectures during the Work-Based Learning period (WBL), as these will provide information on the following topics:

The course is designed to assist you in working towards global citizenship and support your experiential learning. Global citizenship is proven to increase your employability and open up the world of international work. This course is delivered over 35 hours of group teaching, field trips and individual one to one tutorials of half an hour, plus email, Teams and WhatsApp support.

An introductory overview of some theories explored include: globalization, critical theory, development, culture, intercultural learning; reflective and experiential learning and personality.

◇ Course Synopsis

During the application process, you have been guided through how to explore your skills and abilities in depth: concentrating first on who you are and who you aspire to be, helping you discover the life skills required for living and learning abroad. These skills are transferable and considered vital in the world of work. Focusing on personal and social and development, we examine how you behave in a team, as a volunteer, an employee and as a learner.

The course then moves on to look at Globalisation and how to be a global citizen, living and working in a new environment. We then scrutinise living together and sustainable choices. We will consider how to travel abroad safely, how to behave and handle an emergency; the responsibility to be a positive ambassador for the university, your country and yourself. Throughout we discuss elements of culture and culture shock, barriers to success abroad and how to combat these. We discuss the impact of culture, pursuing intercultural competence and evaluate experiential learning. We conclude this section by looking into the ethics of experiential learning in the developing world.

The third part of the course moves on to present a brief introduction on how to choose your report topic and how to write a report. Your penultimate session will cover reflective writing and what skills are necessary for reflection at an academic level. The final session is your vital pre-departure brief, giving you emergency contact details whilst you are abroad, final checks and instructions.

◇ Assessments

You will submit a portfolio of work designed to support your placement and your development:

- **April:** Skills Matrix – you will update this after your placement and submit it again with your final assignment. So keep a copy for yourself – **Pass/fail element must be submitted to pass.**
- **April:** A report related to your overseas destination, focusing on an area related to Global citizenship – **High stakes graded piece.**
- **7 days after arrival on placement:** An analysis of the report in light of experiential knowledge acquired overseas – Pass/fail element must be submitted to pass
- **No more than one week after placement end:** Reflective essay – **High stakes graded piece.**
- **No more than one week after placement end:** Updated skills matrix; submit as an appendix to the Reflective essay – **Pass/fail element must be submitted to pass.**

Other Funding (available for all opportunities)

There may be some scholarships that you as a student going to study abroad can apply to; if money is an issue for you, it is recommended that you look into this as an extra funding option for your studies abroad.

Government Funding

◇ Student Finance

- You will be entitled to receive Tuition Fee and Maintenance Loans for Study Abroad opportunities, just as you would do if studying here at Chester.

- ◇ The **Turing Scheme** is the UK government's programme to provide funding for international opportunities in education and training across the world. It supports Global Britain by providing an opportunity for UK organisations within Higher Education to offer their students life-changing experiences to study or work abroad. The Turing Scheme is a truly global programme with no restrictions on which countries or territories students may visit as long as any prevailing Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) travel advice is adhered to. Additional support is available for pupils from defined disadvantaged backgrounds and the Turing Scheme hopes to enable all learners to study abroad.

- **The Turing Scheme is highly competitive and is assessed based on your engagement with your studies (attendance, in-class, PAT, and other lecturers). They are very few grants available.**
- We will provide further information on the Turing Scheme and how to apply as soon as it becomes available from the Government for the relevant placement year.

If you have chosen to study outside Europe, it is also worth taking a look at the following links:

- ◇ Look at host universities' website.
- ◇ <http://www.butex.ac.uk/?q=node/12> for students studying in the US or Canada.
- ◇ <https://www.isepstudyabroad.org/planning/finances/study-abroad-scholarships> _You are eligible to apply for these scholarships if you are from an ISEP member university (we are).

Developing Intercultural Literacy and Cross-Cultural Skills (ML5104)

Module Information

You can access the module descriptor via the Portal [here](#).

◇ Course outline

This module promotes a reflective and critical approach to interculturality and aims to enhance students' prospects of gaining overseas graduate employment. By preparing students for working in an international environment with an immersive group experience over four-weeks, on five days a week during the work-based learning period. Overseas, employers, providers and other stakeholders will be invited to talk to students and as explained above you will be supported in finding an overseas experience later on in the year, allowing you more flexibility and mitigating much of the risks above.

Focusing on cross cultural awareness, intercultural competence and employability, you will learn the skills necessary to globalize yourself and have the opportunity to meet new friends from all over the world in the UK.

*Please note, in order for the experience to be a suitable alternative to an overseas placement or Work Based Learning, students must be able to participate and engage in the entire experience-the module is an immersive group experience must be treated as such. All Students are expected to take part in trips and social events. Attendance is compulsory and a component of assessment.

When do I travel?

It is entirely up to you-you might not want to travel until after graduation, or you may wish to pick up a new language at a summer school or brush up on the one you have studied before. You might be inspired to explore topics that are of interest to you in a new, refreshing and stimulating international context by volunteering or interning. You may even sign up for a student exchange.

Either way this module will give you an advantage whenever you travel.

◇ Assessments

- Formative assessments: There will be a number of small formative tasks to complete throughout the course.
- Assignment 1: Report on a case study (3000 words equivalent – 75%). An in-depth analysis of your career suitability for the market and country of your choice.
- Assignment 2: Reflective diary and video presentation (10 minutes- 25%) a reflective case study- In the form of a You Tube presentation.

This module is an alternative option to WB5101: Enhancing your Employability through Work-Based Learning. Teaching commences after the Easter vacation during your second year (level 5) and is taught in the format of a summer school. There is a lot of group work and immersive teaching and you are required to be available for all sessions and activities.

If you are interested in taking this module, please complete a change of module form. Please note spaces are extremely limited.

To consider before making your final decision

◇ **Location**

- Where is the university located? How will you get around?
- Location of places of entertainment like movies, restaurants, clubs? Are shops for groceries, clothes and other accessible from the university?
- Will there be taxi ranks available after a night out?
- What is the out of hours' transport like?

◇ **Language**

- What language is spoken in the country? Do you speak it? Do they have an accent?
- Is the course in your language or a local one? Are you prepared to attend a university where the course is taught in English but the local language is not English?
- Will you be able to develop your language skills? Are you able to learn the language?

◇ **Money**

- What is the currency used?
- What is the cost of living in the country? Is the cost of living cheaper or more expensive overall to your home country? Will you be able to afford all the things you can afford now?
- Will you be able to work?

◇ **Culture and history**

- What is the culture like? Do they have a similar culture to yours? Are you prepared for Culture Shock?
- What religions do they have? Are there any other strong beliefs?
- What do locals wear? Listen to? Talk about? Will you be comfortable in wearing local clothes for AN ENTIRE YEAR?
- Consider, what your day to day life there is going to be like. Do you want that for AN ENTIRE YEAR?
- Research some of the history of the country. What local histories are there? Is there anything of a sensitive nature happening? Has it ever happened? Would you feel comfortable being yourself there?
- How will this experience benefit you? Will you grow as a person from living here? Will it push your boundaries? Will you enjoy the challenge?

◇ **Politics**

- Research the political climate in the country.
- Look up the news to see what is happening in the country.

◇ **Climate**

- What is the climate like?
- How is the weather?
- Does the country have four distinct seasons?
- How does the temperature change throughout the year?

◇ **Size**

- How big is the country compared to your own? Will this affect you in any way?
- What is the size of the town/city you are going to? Is it larger or smaller than your home place? Will this affect you in any way?

◇ **Food**

- Are you picky? Will they have food that you can actually eat? Will you eat like normal? Are you happy to change what you eat?
- Do you want to explore different foods around the world?
- What is the possibility of you gaining weight? What is the possibility of you losing weight? Will you be able to remain as fit as you are now?
- How does that fit with the way you live now/the way you want to live?
- Is it normal to work out and eat healthily?

◇ **Things you take for granted**

- What do you use on a day-to-day basis? Will you be able to continue doing this?
- What is the water consumption like in that location?
- Are the toilets the same?

- Is it safe to be out at night?
- What do the locals do?
- What are the Sunday opening times? Or the opening times of shops and facilities in general?
- Is it too hot to be outside for most of the day? Or too cold? Will you be able to cope with that?
- Will you have substantial WIFI available to you?
- What about mobile network coverage?
- Will you be able to Skype?
- Is it a developed country?

Useful Contacts and Information

- ◇ **Contact you host institution (contact information will be on the individual university's website), if you have any questions about the following topics:**
 - Accommodation
 - Catering
 - Travel costs to and from airport
- ◇ **Contact the British government (or your own) regarding the following:**
 - Fees (British government)
 - Funding (Your funding agent)
 - Health and insurance
 - Vaccinations.
- ◇ **Contact the University of Chester regarding the following:**
 - Tuition
- ◇ **Application/acceptance fees Contact ISEP regarding the following (for ISEP exchanges only):**
 - Application queries
 - Acceptance queries and fees

You can also research many of the topics mentioned above online, and you are recommended to do so. Should you be unable to find an answer to your question regarding these, do contact studyabroad@chester.ac.uk.

◇ **Visa and Visa application.**

In order to Study Abroad in another country, you need to apply for a Visa. Due to every country having different Visa requirements, we are unable to provide all the information ourselves but the following links can be of a good place to start to find out what you need to do.

- All visa applications, provides links to where one can find information about visas for specific countries:
 - o <https://www.visahq.co.uk/citizens/>
- Travel information in Europe:
 - o https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/travel/index_en.htm
- Canadian student visa information:
 - o <https://canadianvisa.org/student-visas/>
- New Zealand Visa information:
 - o <http://www.visabureau.com/newzealand/online-assessments.aspx>
- Australian Visas:
 - o http://www.nationalvisas.com.au/uk/index.htm?gclid=CjwKEAjwhbCrBRCO7-e7vuXqiT4SjAB2B5u7cMEz9EDUH9LYC3TI0TqRS7SjfuLmPyK6ESi2CGFfsBoCsGHw_wcB
- American visa information sites:
 - o <https://j1visa.state.gov/>
 - o <https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/index.html>
 - o <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/>

The Visa requirements that apply to you depends on your citizenship, so do make sure to research online or by either contacting your own government, by contacting the embassy or consulate of the country you wish to enter.

Study Abroad Checklist

When you have completed all of the activities you are set to go!

Application Stage:

- Read Study Abroad Handbook
- Review/research opportunities & destinations online
- Submit application
- Meet with Study Abroad Team

Placement Preparation:

- Create a study abroad folder in your email account and add studyabroad@chester.ac.uk to your contacts
- Apply to placement provider and complete all required paperwork
- Apply for UoC funding opportunities (Information will be provided)
- Ensure that passport is up to date and that the Study Abroad Team has a photocopy of it
- Apply for Visa if needed
- Complete Travel Abroad form
- Book flights and confirm insurance (Travel Abroad form)
- Check out with your family doctor and then [Travel Health](#) to get immunisations that you might need
- Unlock mobile phone

ML5004 Specific:

- From January: Attend lectures and check Moodle
- Complete all required tasks for placement provider
- Complete the learning agreement

ML5008 Specific:

- Complete ISEP / host institution application
- January: Complete change of programme form
- March: Apply for Student Finance as a four-year student
- March and June: Attend XXX016 lectures and check Moodle
- June: Organise payments to UoC (ISEP exchanges only - Information will be provided)
- Complete the learning agreement
- August: Complete online enrolment for UoC

On Placement

- Study hard and enjoy! Make new friends and keep in touch!
- Complete required assessment for UoC
- Check UoC emails regularly
- Tag @studyabroadchester in your IG posts

After Placement

- Share your experience – write a blog, case study or attend Open Days and other events.