Exchange Scheme with the University of Minnesota

Where is the University of Minnesota? - Founded in 1851 - The University of Minnesota is a public research university in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. The Minneapolis and St. Paul campuses are approximately 3 miles (4.8 km) apart, and the Saint Paul campus is actually in neighbouring Falcon Heights. It is the oldest and largest campus within the University of Minnesota system and has the sixth-largest main campus student body in the United States, with 51,147 students in 2013–14.

Who can go?

● Two places will be made available to York History undergraduate students in 2017/18.
● This will replace your 2nd year of study at York for integrated programmes (or the 2nd/3rd year of study if you’re on a 4 year programme). Please speak to your department about the availability of extended degrees that allow you to take an additional year to study abroad.
● Please consult the opportunities by department webpage to see if your subject is eligible for exchange. 
  [https://www.york.ac.uk/students/study-abroad/opportunities/](https://www.york.ac.uk/students/study-abroad/opportunities/)

Courses

● Students will be expected to take 16 credits per semester for a normal full-time course load during their year at Mount Holyoke. All credits should be taken in the student’s degree subject in order to achieve the equivalent of 120 York credits.
● Students will be asked to indicate course preferences at the time of application, but will not be able to formally pre-register until later. Students will meet with an academic advisor during orientation, who will help them finalise their schedule.

How will my marks be assessed/converted?

● Grade Conversion Tables for each institution will be made available to successful applicants.
● Please ensure that you are fully aware of how your grades will be converted on your return to York. Students on additional years will have different arrangements to those on integrated study.

Costs

1) Tuition Fees: Students will pay no tuition fees to Mount Holyoke and in 2016/17 their University of York fees were reduced to 15% of the full academic fee.

2) Visas: There are two fees associated with the visa application. The application fee itself is approximately $160. There will also be a $180 (J-1 and F-1 student’s) SEVIS fee payable in advance of the visa application. SEVIS is the US immigration system that tracks foreign and exchange students. (Further information below)
3) **Health and Counselling fee:** Students are required to purchase student health insurance through the university. There is a comprehensive university health centre for students. Students **SHOULD NOT** purchase other health insurance plans from government or private insurance providers; otherwise THEY will pay for two insurance policies. The cost for the academic year 2016*17 was $999.00 per semester. More information can be found at [https://shb.umn.edu/students-and-scholars/shbp-eligibility](https://shb.umn.edu/students-and-scholars/shbp-eligibility)

4) **Additional costs to consider:** flights, accommodation (2016/17 $6,500 - $8,800 per academic year), travel insurance and visas (see below), living costs (food, books, money for additional travel/activities)

**Visa**

- Mount Holyoke will ask you to complete an application form for the Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20 or DS-2019) which, together with your passport and other supporting documentation including the letter from Mount Holyoke offering you a place and a photocopy of your completed financial resources form, will enable you to obtain a visa from the United States Embassy in London (or the United States Consulate General in Belfast).
- You will be required to go to the US embassy in London (or your home country) in order to process your visa application, which you are responsible for organising.
- International students going on exchange are advised to apply for a US visa in their home country and not in the UK.
- In order to receive a visa you must show that you have sufficient funds available in your bank account, or are able to supply details of a third person who will support you.

**Where will I live?**

**On-Campus Housing:** Minnesota provide two options for exchange students

- **Option 1:** Living in a Residence Hall. Residence halls are dormitory-style buildings located on campus. Most residence hall rooms are doubles, meaning that you will have a roommate. Purchasing a meal plan in the student cafeteria is required with a residence hall contract. The average cost for a double room and meals in a residence hall is $4,400 per semester (2016/17).
- **Option 2:** Living in University Village, a University-managed apartment. Students may choose to live in furnished apartments in University Village, a complex located on the edge of the East Bank campus. The “U Village” apartments have a kitchen, so purchasing the cafeteria meal plan is optional. U Village apartments are most economical when students choose a shared-bedroom arrangement, such as a 4-student, 2-bedroom arrangement, which costs about $3,200 for the semester, excluding meals (2016/17).

More information can be found at [https://isss.umn.edu/exchange/exchforms/Housinginfo.pdf](https://isss.umn.edu/exchange/exchforms/Housinginfo.pdf)

**Contact details at Minnesota**

- Your principal source of general advice at the University of Minnesota will be for History students; Richard Kott kottx001@umn.edu. For other students Deanne D Silvera silve025@umn.edu
- Address: International Student and Scholar Services, 190Hubert H Humphrey School, 301 19th Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55455

**Useful web links:**

- Main Univeristy of Minnesota site - [http://twin-cities.umn.edu/](http://twin-cities.umn.edu/)
- Incoming Exchange Students - [http://www.isss.umn.edu/exchange/](http://www.isss.umn.edu/exchange/)
- Minnesota accessibility services - [https://diversity.umn.edu/disability/home](https://diversity.umn.edu/disability/home)
- Visa application - [http://j1visa.state.gov/participants/how-to-apply/](http://j1visa.state.gov/participants/how-to-apply/)
- Third Year Abroad - [http://www.thirdyearabroad.com/](http://www.thirdyearabroad.com/)
- Foreign Commonwealth Office advice - [https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/usa](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/usa)
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