Exchange Scheme with the University of Rochester

Where is Rochester?

Founded in 1850—the University of Rochester is one of the country’s top-tier research universities. The university has a student population of just over 11,000 and ranks 58 in the US college rankings. Rochester is located in the state of New York, not too far from the Canadian border with Toronto.

Who can go?

- **One place** will be made available to York undergraduate students in 2020/21.
- This will replace your 2nd year of study at York for credit-replacing 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 Subject webpage to see if your department is eligible for exchange.

Courses

- Students will be expected to take at least **32 credits** during their year at Rochester (i.e. **16 credits per semester, to a maximum of 19**). All 32 credits should be taken in the student’s degree subject in order to achieve the equivalent of 120 York credits.
- The course catalogue serves as a general guide to the courses available. However, not all courses may be available in each semester and some may be restricted.
- The course catalogues from 2010-2018 can be accessed here as a guide: [cdcs.ur.rochester.edu/](http://cdcs.ur.rochester.edu/).
- Please note that there is a compulsory module, **US Life: Customs and Practices** for all international students.

How will my marks be assessed/converted?

- Grade Conversion Tables for each institution will be made available to successful applicants. Grades will only be converted for credit replacement students.
- University of York staff can access Grade Conversion Tables here: [york.ac.uk/students/study-abroad/accepted/#tab-5](http://york.ac.uk/students/study-abroad/accepted/#tab-5)
- 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 credit-replacing exchange.

Costs

*Please note that the costs below are based on previous years and are provided for guidance only. Exact costs may vary due to exchange rates, inflation, personal circumstance and/or other reasons.*

- **Tuition Fees**: Students will pay no tuition fees to Rochester and in 2018/19 their University of York fees were reduced to 15% of the full academic fee.
Visas: There are two fees associated with the visa application. The application fee itself is approximately $160. There will also be a $350 (F-1 students) and $220 (J-1 students) SEVIS Fee payable in advance of the visa application. SEVIS is the US immigration system that tracks foreign and exchange students.

Medical insurance and waiver: All exchange students are required to be covered under the Student Health Plan, which includes the mandatory health fee and health insurance. Students can enrol in the University-sponsored insurance plan or waive the insurance if their plan meets the University insurance criteria. All students must also complete the Health History Form. The university-sponsored Aetna Student Health insurance for 2016/17 for an individual student is $2460.

Mandatory Health Fee – This fee, which is paid by all full-time students, covers visits to the University Health Service and the University Counselling Center. The mandatory health fee for 2016/17 is $464.

Find out more about Rochester’s University Health Service and University Counseling Center here.

Additional costs to consider: flights, accommodation, travel insurance, living costs (food, books, money for additional travel/activities)

Financial Assistance

There is funding available for some students on North America exchanges through the US Alumni Connection Award Bursary. More information on this and other funding can be found on our Exchange Finances and Funding webpage.

York Futures Scholarship new for 2019/20. Support for personal and professional development. Funding of up to £6000 available to students applying to study abroad in 2020/21. There are two rounds of applications for this funding, Autumn Term and Easter Vacation/start of Summer Term. We recommend that you apply for the first round of funding to secure this before you have received confirmation of your study abroad place. For more information please see the following web pages: york.ac.uk/students/work-volunteering-careers/skills/work-experience/yfs/

Visa

Please be aware that Centre for Global Programmes staff are not qualified to offer consultations or in-depth advice regarding visa applications. Immigration laws are complex and subject to frequent changes. Therefore if you do have any further questions about the process of applying for your visa you will need to contact the appropriate Embassy directly. The information below is intended as guidance only and unless otherwise stated applies only to UK citizens without exceptional circumstances.

Rochester 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 Rochester offering you a place and a photocopy of your completed financial resources form, will enable you to obtain a J-1 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.

What’s it like to study there?

“First impressions of the country was the friendliness of the people I interacted with, especially at the University, a very welcoming bunch of people!”

“One of the first things I did was hunt out a cup of tea. Despite the lack of good options it did make me feel slightly more at home. One thing that has struck me about University here is the amount of things that go on. There always seems to be something interesting happening on campus which is great if you are feeling some culture shock.”
“In terms of my courses, I have been really enjoying them as two are very much practical hands on real-life work, in Court and with a non-for-profit organisation which I much prefer to textbook learning. I have also had some great times outside of campus, going to Canada with exchange friends and also Niagara Falls with the ISO office.”

Henry, Politics Student, Year Abroad 2016/17

“The first thing that struck me about the University of Rochester was how beautiful the campus is. The quad in front of the main library definitely more than met my expectations of what a university campus in the US would look like. The recent good weather in Rochester has enhanced this to fulfil the stereotype as students regularly study outside on warm days, I’m sure this will change when the notoriously snowy winter hits. Despite being picturesque, the campus does feel quite small. This can be great, especially at the beginning of term as it is easy to see people you know around campus often, which helped me feel settled into life here very quickly.”

Katie, Politics, Economics and Philosophy, Year Abroad 2019-20

Where will I live?
- Most Rochester students live in on-campus accommodation, however a place cannot be guaranteed.
- For more information on student residence halls on campus visit: rochester.edu/studentlife/housing/
- If you would prefer to live off campus, the Office for Off-Campus Living can assist you. To contact the Coordinator for Off Campus Living email: offcampus@reslife.rochester.edu or visit the Rochester website for more information here.

Is it the right choice for me?
- When thinking about choosing your destination for studying abroad please look through the Considerations Checklist on our web pages.
- This will help you find the best opportunity for your degree and personal circumstances.

Contact details at Rochester
- Your principal source of general advice at Rochester will be Carla Gottschalk Email: Carla.gottschalk@rochester.edu
- Address: Center for Education Abroad, Dewey 2-147A P O Box 270376, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York 14627-0376

Useful web links
- Main University of Rochester Site
- Rochester International Services Office
- Rochester Exchange Student Brochure 2018/19
- Rochester Incoming International Students
- American J-1 Visa Application
- Global Graduates
- Foreign Commonwealth Office Advice
- Rochester Tourist Information
- Cost of living Comparison Site
- Alternative cost of living comparison site

Please note: The websites listed here are not intended to represent a comprehensive list. The Centre for Global Programmes cannot be held responsible for the content of external websites.
All information included in these guidelines correct at time of printing, September 2018.

Students are responsible for researching their own exchanges and making sure that they have considered all costs and the compatibility of the overseas programme to their own degree, in discussion with their departments and supervisors. The Centre for Global Programmes are here to offer support.