Exchange Scheme with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Where is UIUC?

Founded in 1867, the University of Illinois is a world-class leader in research, teaching, and public engagement. Located in the twin cities of Champaign and Urbana, about 140 miles south of Chicago, it is home to 40,000 students.

Who can go?

- One place will be made available to York undergraduate students in 2019/20 with priority to History 3+1 students.
- This will replace your 2nd year of study at York (or the 2nd/3rd year of study if you’re on a 4 year programme) for credit-replacing programmes. Please speak to your department about the availability of extended degrees that allow you to take an additional year to study abroad.
- Students studying Economics modules are not eligible to apply for this exchange.
- Please consult the Opportunities by Subject webpage to see if your department is eligible for exchange.

Courses

- Students will be expected to take 24 credits during their year at Illinois (i.e. 12-18 credits per semester). All 24 credits should be taken in the student’s degree subject in order to achieve the equivalent of 120 York credits.
- If a student wishes to take extra courses in other non-degree related subjects, they should limit this to an additional 3 credits per semester.
- Places at the College of Engineering are limited and demand is very high. There are also severe enrolment capacity restrictions within the departments of Sociology and Political Science.
- Please note that students who require Economics modules (including PEP) cannot take part in this exchange due to the incompatibility of modules.
- Here is an archive of course catalogues from previous years to be used as a guide: illinois.edu/archivedacademiccatalogs/

How will my marks be assessed/converted?

- Grade Conversion Tables for each institution will be made available to successful applicants.
- University of York staff can access Grade Conversion Tables here: 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 Illinois 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 $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)

• **Medical insurance and waiver:** Students are required to complete the **Medical and Immunization History form** prior to arriving on campus. For more information, visit: [illinois.edu/incoming-students/accepted-students/]

• Students are automatically enrolled in and expected to pay for **University of Illinois Student Health Insurance**, but if proof of other adequate health insurance coverage can be provided, the insurance can be **waived**. For more information, visit: [illinois.edu/incoming-students/incoming-student-finances/]

• **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](#).

**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.*

• UIUC 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 Illinois 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.

**What’s it like to study there?**

“I had a very fruitful experience studying at the university. I have significantly improved as a Software Engineer. I thoroughly enjoyed the high standard of teaching, where the teaching was focused around more practical based approach. This was very useful for me as it prepared me for industry.”

“I gained a lot of industry contacts and managed to successful gain an internship in San Francisco. I would highly recommend making the most of industrial contacts and opportunities or make sure you make the most of the research happening at the University.”

_Asth, Computer Science, Year Abroad 2016/17_

“I feel really at home here. I organised and ran a super bowl party a few days ago that was a massive success and I am planning a trip to Chicago on St Patrick’s Day to watch the river dyed green. I am really enjoying the courses and the history modules I have available to me.”

_James, History, Year Abroad 2017/18_

**Where will I live?**

• York students are strongly encouraged to live in the University Residence Halls. To ensure that place is reserved for you, your housing application must be received by the deadline specified by Illinois together with a deposit.
On-Campus Housing: Most students admitted will be placed in either Graduate Upper-Division Halls, Sherman or Daniels Halls. Both of which house students in their second year and above. Both halls offer single and shared double rooms and do not require a meal plan. However, if you are placed in an Undergraduate Halls, you must pay for a compulsory meal plan scheme, through which your meals will be provided.

You can learn more about on-campus accommodation by going to this website: housing.illinois.edu/

Off-Campus Housing: Options are available to live off-campus. For more information, visit: illinois.edu/students/incoming/pre_arrival/housing.html

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 Illinois

Your principal source of general advice at Illinois will be Brooke Baslee, Coordinator for Exchange and Student Initiatives

Email: bbaslee@illinois.edu
Tel: (217) 333-6322
Address: 112 International Studies Building, 910 South Fifth Street, Champaign, IL 61820

Alternative Email: sao-inquiries@illinois.edu

Useful web links

Main Illinois Site
International Students at Illinois
American J-1 Visa Application
Global Graduates
Foreign Commonwealth Office Advice

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.