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?

- **Two places** will be made available to York undergraduate students in 2020/21 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 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 for replacement years** 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. 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
- 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 2019/20 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.

- **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.*

- UIUC will ask you to complete an application form for the Certificate of Eligibility (DS-2019). This 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).

- The SEVIS fee can be paid on the Department of Homeland Security website once you receive your DS 2019.

- Schedule an appointment as early as possible for your non-immigrant entry visa with a U.S. Embassy. Please bring the required documents to your visa interview as listed on the embassy website.

- 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 you will need to show at the United States Port of Entry:
  - Passport
  - Entry visa
  - Original DS-2019 (no copies)

- You must complete the Immunization History Form and TB Screening Form prior to your arrival on campus. You will need to submit the completed TB Screening Form to the McKinley Health Center when you arrive on campus.

### 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.”

Astha, 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?
- IAGE (Illinois Abroad and Global Exchange) does not reserve housing for students. They are responsible for arranging their own housing.
- There are options for housing which can be viewed here
- University Housing - An application and a contract form for a space in one of the University Residence Halls was enclosed with your notice of admission. You may also choose to submit a contract online after you are admitted. Please visit the University Housing website for more information.
- Private certified housing - the University of Illinois certifies all of the Private Certified Housing facilities for all students, including freshmen. These facilities are part of the University’s housing program. Within any given year about 25% of the entering freshmen class chooses to live in one of these facilities.

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
- Accepted Students
- American J-1 Visa Application
- Global Graduates
- Foreign Commonwealth Office Advice
- Alternative accommodation site
- 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, October 2019.

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.