Exchange Scheme with the University of Pennsylvania

Where is UPenn?

Located in Philadelphia and founded in 1740 by Benjamin Franklin—the private, Ivy League university ranks fourth in the US league tables and with a campus which spans a huge 1,094 acres, it is home to 25,000 students.

Who can go?

- One place will be made available to York undergraduate students in 2019/20.
- 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.
- Please consult the Opportunities by Subject webpage to see if your department is eligible for exchange.

Courses

- Students will be expected to take 8 courses during their year at UPenn (i.e. 4 courses per semester). All 8 courses should be taken in the student’s degree subject in order to achieve the equivalent of 120 York credits.
- Exchange students are not eligible to take graduate classes (level 500+).
- The course catalogue below serves as a general guide to the courses available. However, not all courses may be available in each semester and some may be restricted. You should check the UPenn scheduling for a directory of courses available in the following academic year.
- The course catalogue for 2018-19 can be accessed here: catalog.upenn.edu/undergraduate/
- Please note that this exchange is with the College of Arts & Sciences, please check the list of subjects available here. York students are not eligible for the Wharton Business School.

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 UPenn 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 J1-Visa application. The application fee itself is approximately $160. There will also be a $180 (J-1 and F-1 students) **SEVIS Fee** payable in advance of the visa application. SEVIS is the US immigration system that tracks foreign and exchange students. For more information visit: global.upenn.edu/isss/new (Further information below)
• **Medical insurance**: All students must fill in the immunisation and health record before they arrive. Students are advised to take out a comprehensive policy before leaving the UK that must meet UPenn criteria. If you fail to do this, you will automatically be billed for Penn Student Insurance Plan. For more information visit: [vpul.upenn.edu/shs/psipinsurance.php](http://vpul.upenn.edu/shs/psipinsurance.php). Fees for a student for 2018/19 was $3,446.

• **Additional costs to consider**: flights, accommodation, travel insurance and visas (see below), living costs (food, books, money for additional travel/activities)

• Fall/Year students are required to pay the mandatory New Student Orientation fee ($340) which includes orientation activities and most meals over the orientation period.

• Student Health Service Clinical Fee is charged to all students for use of SHS ($75/semester). More information on the UPenn website [here](http://vpul.upenn.edu/shs/psipinsurance.php).

• The following estimates are from Academic Year 2018-2019 (as quoted by UPenn):
  - Housing: $10,200
  - Meals: $5,430
  - Books & Supplies: $1,318
  - Insurance: $3,348
  - Local Transportation: $600
  - Miscellaneous and Personal Expenses: $2,600
  - Clinical Fee: $586
  - New Student Orientation fee (Fall/Year students only): ~$340

**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](http://vpul.upenn.edu/shs/psipinsurance.php).

**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.

• UPenn 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 UPenn 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.

• To obtain a student visa, students must produce financial documentation showing that they have at least $26,082 (for two semesters) in assets. These numbers are accurate for 2018-19, but will change for 2019-20. Penn’s International Student and Scholar Services office’s website ([https://global.upenn.edu/iss/iss/new-app#finances](https://global.upenn.edu/iss/iss/new-app#finances)) for more information.

What's it like to study there?

“Reflecting on my year at the University of Pennsylvania, I believe I am a now more confident, well rounded individual. The year has allowed me a chance to be fully independent in a country alone, presenting me with a number of challenges I overcome, improving myself along the way.”

“The natural challenge of distance and time difference was initially difficult however it soon became second nature to speak to my family at earlier times in the day or catch up with friends back home in the morning. The intensity and of the courses at this university at the beginning was hard to adjust to being faced with a number of midterm exams and graded homework continuously throughout the semester without any periods easing off. However persevering and some long nights, I believe my attitude towards study has changed so that when I return to my final year in York I will be in a great position to excel.”
“Playing rugby for the University truly allowed me to integrate myself in the community early on, allowing me to understand the challenges that students athletes face over here in terms of time management, level of training and competition in the Ivy League. I am extremely grateful for the experience the team allowed me to enjoy over the year, which truly helped shape my exchange. This not only allowed me to compete in the Ivy league but international tournaments such as Bermuda 7’s and playing fixtures not only across America but in Canada.”

“Forming a close bond with a group of other exchange students did not only allow me to learn about other cultures but provided a chance to speak to and confide in friends who were experiences the same difficulties or issues. My advice regarding the next students wishing to study abroad would be to be open minded and take advantage of all the opportunities offered while abroad. The experiences I gained abroad were ones that I could never expect and ones that I will always remember.”

Harrison, Economics, Year Abroad 2016/17

Where will I live?
- All exchange students at UPenn must live in campus accommodation and take out a meal plan. For more information on housing and meal plans please refer to the following website: upenn.edu/isss/housing

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 UPenn
- Your principal source of general advice at UPenn will be Josh Pontrelli.
- Address: International Student and Scholar Services, University of Pennsylvania, 3701 Chestnut St., Suite 1W, Philadelphia, PA 19104 USA
- Email exchangestudents@upenn.edu

Useful web links
- Main UPenn Site
- UPenn International Applicants
- Getting Started at UPenn
- Cost to Consider
- UPenn Housing
- Visa Information
- 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, November 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 support.