Exchange Scheme with Union College, USA

Where is Union College?
Union College is a private, nondenominational liberal arts college located in Schenectady, New York State. It has around 2,200 undergraduates across 21 academic departments.

Who can go?
- Two places 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 are 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 3 courses per term, 9 courses for the full academic year. All 9 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 term and some may be restricted.
- The course catalogue from 2018-19 can be accessed here as a guide: https://catalog.union.edu/index.php?catoid=17

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.
- Tuitions Fees: Students will pay no tuition fees to Union 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 $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. You will be advised which visa you have been given by your host university.
- Medical insurance: This is mandatory. The College will order the relevant insurance for the students. It will be valid from August 1 through November 30 for the year of the exchange. An electronic copy will be made
available to students prior to arrival and they will then be given a hard copy of the card at orientation. The insurance provides global coverage, and the cost is approximately USD 550 per term (x3).

- **Additional costs to consider:** flights, accommodation, travel insurance, living costs (food, books, money for additional travel/activities)
- **Example of costs (there are three terms):** Health Insurance $1500 for a full year Food (meal plan) $2125 per term, Accommodation $2600 per term. (all approx.)

### 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](https://www.union.edu/international-advising/incoming-students/visa-and-immigration).
- **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/](https://www.union.edu/international-advising/incoming-students/visa-and-immigration)

### 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.*

- Union College, International Advising Office, will issue you with a **DS-2019** that, together with your passport and other supporting documentation, will enable you to obtain a **J-1 Visa** from the [United States Embassy](https://www.union.edu/international-advising/incoming-students/visa-and-immigration) 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.
- Union College provide further information on their web pages: [https://www.union.edu/international-advising/incoming-students/visa-and-immigration](https://www.union.edu/international-advising/incoming-students/visa-and-immigration)

### What's it like to study there?
- This is a new exchange for 2020/21; please contact us if you would like more information about what it is like to study there. You can also read the information on the other USA partners in the Scheme Guidelines.

### Where will I live?
- Accommodation at Union is guaranteed to exchange students.
- Students will be assigned to one of the on-campus residences for the period of time you are an exchange student.
- You may live in a residence, Minerva House, Theme House or College Park Hall, a student residence close to campus. Meal Plan $2100 per term, Accommodation $2500 per term x 3 terms.
- You can view the housing available [here](https://www.union.edu/international-advising/incoming-students/visa-and-immigration)

### Is it the right choice for me?
- When thinking about choosing your destination for studying abroad please look through the [Considerations Checklist](https://www.union.edu/international-advising/incoming-students/visa-and-immigration) on our web pages.
- This will help you find the best opportunity for your degree and personal circumstances.
Contact details at Union

- Your principal source of general advice at Union College will be Donna Sichak, Administrative Assistant
  Email: intlprograms@union.edu
- Address: Union College Old Chapel, Third Floor, Schenectady, NY 12308 USA

Useful web links

- Main Union College Site
- Union College Information for Exchange students
- American J-1 Visa Application
- Global Graduates
- Foreign Commonwealth Office Advice
- Discover Schenectady
- 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.