Exchange Scheme with the University of Western Ontario

Where is Western?

Western is situated on nearly 1,200 acres of land along the banks of the Thames River - a Canadian Heritage River - in London. Located in the centre of southwestern Ontario, London is approximately two hours driving distance from Toronto and Detroit. With almost 1,400 faculty members and more than 30,000 students.

Who can go?

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

Courses

- Students will be expected to take between 4 (min) and 5 (max) half courses for each term at Western. Some courses are worth 0.5 credits (those run for 1 term) and others are 1.0 (those run for the full year)
- All credits should be taken in the student’s degree subject in order to achieve the equivalent of 120 York credits.
- You will normally be taking second or third year courses at Western.
- If a student wishes to take extra courses in other non-degree related subjects, they should limit this to an additional 0.5 credits per semester.
- Here is Western’s Course timetable for the Fall semester of 2018/19 which can be used as a general guide: uwo.ca/secure/Timetables/mastertt/ttindex.cfm
- Exchange students are not eligible to take courses in professional programmes such as Law, Medicine, Business (Ivey), Education and Health Sciences.

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 Western and in 2018/19 the University of York fees for students on exchange were reduced to 15% of the full academic fee.
Visas: Study permits for Canada $150 (approx. £87)

Medical insurance and waiver: You must obtain medical insurance cover for the length of your stay in Canada. You will have to enrol in the University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP) upon arrival at Western. Details will be given in materials from Western before arrival and during the orientation. As a guide, the 8 month premium for the academic year in 2017/18 was CDN $408. Please note: it is not possible to opt out of UHIP. Western also recommend that students have supplementary health insurance in addition to UHIP to cover prescription medications and para-health services including massage therapy, chiropractors etc.

Additional costs to consider: flights, accommodation, travel insurance and visas (see below), living costs (food, books, money for additional travel/activities) The sum needed to cover living costs at Western for one academic year is estimated at a minimum of Can. $14,420.

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.

- Exchange students studying in Canada are required to have a valid Study Permit. Steps on how to apply for a Study Permit can be found on the Canadian Government website here.
- Before applying for a study permit you must wait for a letter of acceptance from UWO. Once you have this letter you can complete and submit an application for a study permit.
- A Temporary Resident Visa (TRV, “entry visa” or “visitor visa”) is required for students with certain citizenships to enter Canada. Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) is required for foreign nationals from some visa-exempt countries. To find out if an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) or an entry visa is required, please check cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp or contact the nearest Canadian visa office.
- From 31st July 2018, students applying for Canadian Visas will have to register for Biometric checks. More information can be found on the official Canadian government webpages here: https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/security-securite/biometrics-biometrique-eng.html.
- Additional information can be found on the UWO website here.

What’s it like to study there?

“My initial reaction within the first couple of days, was just how accommodating all the staff, students and locals were on and off campus. Within an hour of arriving at the university 3 different groups had already offered to help us with our bags – although this may have been partly down to the drained looks on our faces after a 20hr journey. In terms of the culture shock, there hasn’t been a great amount of change, as being in Canada means a lot of the food and customs are quiet similar to back home. That’s been nice in many ways though, as it stops us from missing home too much, whilst staying with international students from around the world ensures you still get a feel for different cultures.”

“The biggest change I’ve felt since returning home, is how much more independent I feel now. Whilst the move to York and beginning to live away from home helped prepare me for moving away, my experience in Canada has certainly meant I feel a lot more self-reliant. In terms of advice to students considering a study abroad experience, I would just say, that you should take every opportunity you get to travel when you’re away because the year goes by so fast. Furthermore, by planning ahead as much as possible, you’ll take all the stress out of travelling and get to enjoy what is a once in a lifetime opportunity.”

Matthew, Politics, Year Abroad 2016/17
Where will I live?

- **On-campus**: Eligible exchange students who receive academic acceptance by mid-May and who will be attending Western for the full academic year will receive a guaranteed offer of residence. Late acceptances will receive residence waiting list information with their academic offer. Building assignments are often available online in late July.

- **Accommodation**: [uwo.ca/resources/international_exchange_student_guide/index.html](http://uwo.ca/resources/international_exchange_student_guide/index.html)

- **Accommodation fees for 2018/19**: [uwo.ca/applying/fees_and_payment_plans/index.html](http://uwo.ca/applying/fees_and_payment_plans/index.html)

- **Off-campus**: Exchange students may choose to live off campus during their exchange. Western offers assistance through the Off-Campus Housing Service. Their website offers listings for both apartments and houses, in a variety of price ranges. A map is available so you can view the general location of the listings: [offcampus.uwo.ca/](http://offcampus.uwo.ca/)

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 Western

- Your principal general source of advice at Western will be Western International (Western University, 2nd floor, International and Graduate Affairs Building, London, Ontario, N6A 3K7) and in particular Dr. Ana Chiarelli (International Learning Coordinator – achiare@uwo.ca)

Useful web links

- Main UWO Site
- UWO Exchange Students
- UWO Student Life
- UWO Accommodation
- Canadian Government Study 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, 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.