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 south western 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 2020/21.
- This will replace your 2nd year of study at York (or the 2nd/3rd year of study if you are 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

- For a full year York students will be expected to take a minimum of 4 Western credits up to a maximum of 5 Western credits. Some courses are worth **0.5 credits** (those run for **1 term**) and others are **1.0** (those run for the **full year**) – **Note this is different to the information given by Western to exchange students.**
- 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. 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 Western and in 2019/20 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. [https://www.uwo.ca/international/iesc/current/health_care_in_canada/uhip/index.html](https://www.uwo.ca/international/iesc/current/health_care_in_canada/uhip/index.html)

• **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.

• **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.*

• 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](https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visa-s.asp).

• 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](https://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](https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/security-securite/biometrics-biometrique-eng.html).

• Additional information can be found on the UWO website [here](https://www.uwo.ca/international/iesc/current/health_care_in_canada/uhip/index.html).

**What’s it like to study there?**

*One of the things that has surprised me about Canada is how much is exactly the same as home and how much is totally different. Of course, being a western country, most of my daily life is very similar. However, things like the stereotypes of Canadians being really nice is absolutely true! People actually talk to you on the bus, cashiers have asked me genuine questions about if I’m settling in okay and whether I’m enjoying myself here. (This is more of a North American stereotype but Customer Service here is also phenomenal). However, tipping is something I’m definitely still not used to. Plus tax being added only when you’re checking out in a store is endlessly frustrating; there’s no point trying to figure out what change you’re gonna need to pay because there’s 3 different tax % based on what you’re buying (clothes, food, children’s goods etc) and even when I think I know which one will be applied and try to work it out I’ve always been wrong. Talking of money, Canada got rid of 1 and 2 cent coins years ago. This means that if I make a purchase and it comes to $9.97, I only pay $9.95 and if it’s $9.98 I pay $10, which takes some getting used*
to!
Academically, lectures are much longer here; most of my lectures are 3 hours (and we have breaks in the middle? Never experienced that before!) but my lectures are also with far fewer people (I think my biggest class is 50). Seminars are also pretty rare here, I only have a couple a week. So although I’m taking a similar amount of modules as I am at home, my contact hours have pretty much tripled - not necessarily a bad thing, just different.

In terms of settling in, I just tried to keep myself as busy as possible. I went to everything I was invited to and tried to be as social as possible to distract myself from feeling homesick! It worked really well and I feel very settled here. It sounds silly but as soon as people hear my accent they always have a flurry of questions too so it’s a really easy conversation starter! I’ve been very glad for it since getting here.

Niamh, Politics, 2019/20

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/)
- **https://www.student.com/**

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 goabroad@uwo.ca – Fan Lui

Useful web links

- Main UWO Site
- UWO Exchange Students
- UWO Student Life
- Western International Program
- Canadian Government Study Information
- Global Graduates
- Foreign Commonwealth Office Advice
- Alternative accommodation site
- Cost of living Comparison Site
- Alternative 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.