Exchange Scheme with York University

Where is York University?

Established in 1959 - York University is the third largest university in Canada and is situated in the city of Toronto, Ontario in Canada. The university has 11 faculties and 26 research centres, supporting approximately 50,000 students.

Who can go?

- Four places will be made available to York undergraduate students in 2019/20. Priority will be given to History, Politics and Sociology 3+1 students.
- This will replace your 2nd year of study at York for credit-replacing programmes (or the 2nd/3rd year of study if you’re 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 note that students from Computer Science cannot take part in this exchange.
- Other departmental restrictions include Social Work Program, and those offered by the Schulich School of Business, School of the Arts Media, Performance and Design.
- Please consult the Opportunities by Subject webpage to see if your department is eligible for exchange.

Courses

- Students will be required to take a full course load of 24 credits (e.g. four 6 credit modules/eight 3 credit modules or a mix of both to total 24). A maximum of 15 credits per term.
- Every course has a 4 digit code, in order for students to get the equivalent of 120 York credits; they must take 3000-4000 level courses. These level courses normally require pre-requisites which will need to be taken into account when choosing courses.
- Courses available for 2018-19 Fall semester can found in the course catalogue here and can be used as a guide to what courses could be like: yorku.ca/Apps/WebObjects/cdm
- More information on courses and their restrictions can be found on the York University website here.

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 York University in Canada and in 2018/19 their University of York fees were reduced to 15% of the full academic fee.
- **Visas**: Study permits for Canada $150 (approx. £87)
- **Additional costs to consider**: flights, accommodation, travel insurance and visas (see below), living costs (food, books, money for additional travel/activities).

**Medical insurance**:

- All international students will be covered by the University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP), which is mandatory, more information can be found at: yorku.ca/current-international-students/health-insurance/.
- Coverage in 2018/19 it cost a student $52 per month.

**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.

- Students will need to apply for a Canadian Study Permit to allow them to study in Canada. The application consists mainly of providing documents; passport, two passport photos, letter of acceptance from York University and proof of financial support (bank statement, student finance, and letter from parent/guardian). For more information and for where to apply visit the Canadian Government website here.
- When going through your application, make use of the instruction guidelines and in particular, the document checklist. These can be found here: gc.ca/english/information/applications/guides/5269ETOC.asp
- Once the application is approved, you will receive your visa at immigration in the first Canadian airport you travel through. To receive your visa, you will need all the documents you used to apply for the visa and the email confirming your application approval. They will most likely only ask for the acceptance letter from YorkU, however carry everything with you just in case.
- 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 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 York University website here.

**What’s it like to Study there?**

“The regular assessments in all courses throughout the semester are definitely an adjustment but it encourages you to consistently stay on top of the workload. I feel that I have gained so many more transferable skills in the last year by travelling here, fulfilling documents for both my sending and receiving institutions, and arranging accommodation than I would have if I had not pursued this exchange. The academic content may differ but the variety of assessment styles and module format seem to have been good tests of my adaptability and I am sure I will put that into practise in the future. I
have become a lot more independent in my studies too as I lived away from campus and did not share my timetable with a cohort unlike my program at home so I think I will be more prepared for returning into third year studies and beyond in work.”

“As I am away on a replacement year I am aware that I am missing my cohort’s careers and 3rd year discussions so I have been more proactive about research myself and taking up opportunities like work experience in one of the labs on campus here. That placement also made it necessary to juggle my commitments each week with a full course load and commuting. That was particularly challenging at times during the winter but I will have more confidence that I can manage different priorities without compromising in the future. One takeaway from the year abroad is that it has made me aware that I could take up further study or work opportunities and not be limited by their location which is exciting.”

“I have not come across anyone who has not found their study abroad experience to be worthwhile - whether it is because they have found a country that they want to return to, friends for life, or even just explored other aspects of their subject. For me ‘missing’ whatever was happening at home and some of the logistical hurdles are completely worth it in return for the adventure and learning curve that it has provided me.”

Zoe, Biomedical Sciences Student, 2016/17

“I am thoroughly enjoying all of my classes and learning about so many new things and experiencing different perspectives. I have made many amazing friends who I will stay in contact with for a long time following this exchange. I have become so much more confident and independent in just the three months I’ve been here, from scheduling my course modules to organising road trips across Canada.”

“I’ve already visited Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec, Niagara Falls, New York City and will be visiting Chicago, Calgary, Vancouver, Seattle, San Francisco and LA in the coming months. I definitely feel at home here in Toronto and can’t imagine leaving after this semester.”

Christina, History, 2017/18

Where will I live?

- Students may apply for on-campus accommodation, in one of ten residences on York campus, by filling out the housing application as soon as possible. Students will be informed whether their application was successful or not. If students are not successful then it is advised that they arrive in Toronto before orientation in order to find permanent accommodation.
- Campus rooms without kitchen facilities require students to buy a meal plan, the plan can vary in cost from $2,500-$4,000 for the academic year depending on the type of plan chosen.
- For more information on housing visit the university website here: studenthousing.info.yorku.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 York

- Exchange Team: Beth Alaksa, International Mobility Coordinator. Email: balaksa@yorku.ca
- Address: York International, 200 York Lanes, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, ON, Canada, M3J 1P3
- General Email: exchange@yorku.ca

Useful web links

- Main York Website
- York Study Abroad and Exchange
- York University Housing
- York University Immigration 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.