

Considerations checklist 2027/28

Global Opportunities at York



What's this checklist for?

To help you consider next steps for your abroad journey and fully prepare for the experience, should you decide it's for you!

Quick checklist

- I've checked my visa requirements
- I've looked into accommodation options
- I've contacted my home and host university for any questions
- I've checked external sources of information, such as UK government [Foreign Travel Advice webpages](#)

Global Opportunities

- We can help you with any questions!
- Our main email is global-opportunities@york.ac.uk
- Our Global Assistants are students that have just returned from their year abroad. You can ask them any questions at global-assistants@york.ac.uk
- We can also put you in touch with other students that have studied abroad in similar destinations

If you're offered a placement abroad, you'll then be invited to workshops and events by your Departmental International Officer/Placement Coordinator, Global Opportunities and Careers. You should attend the live events wherever possible and listen to presentation recordings if you can't.

1. Personal considerations

Going abroad is entirely your decision. Before applying, consider these main points:

- Visit the UK government's [Foreign Travel Advice webpages](#) as a starting point. These pages provide information regarding local laws and customs which may highlight differences compared to the UK
- Consider finance options, such as Student Finance England
- You may also wish to refer to the University's [Equality and Diversity](#) and Inclusion web pages and [guidance for LGBT+ staff and students travelling abroad](#)

Length of opportunity

You can either study for the full year or choose a shorter-term summer school, internship or volunteering opportunity.

- See [our webpage](#) for all abroad opportunities

Disability

If you have a disability or long-term health condition we encourage you to disclose this in your internal and external applications. If you are applying to work abroad then you may be asked to disclose your disability or any health conditions to the host organisation.

Consider the following:

- What support services are on offer at the host institution/organisation. ([Disability Services](#) at York can make contact with the relevant office if required).
- Accessible accommodation (see relevant section)
- A support plan organised with [Disability Services](#). If this is needed contact disabilityservices@york.ac.uk as soon as possible.

Medicine

The following sources of information may be of use if you need to take medicine abroad

- [Travelling with medicine](#) (Travel Health Pro)
- [Travelling with a medicine containing a controlled drug](#) (gov.uk)

Health information

Some partner institutions will ask you to complete health forms before you are permitted to take up your place. Information requested may vary but can include blood type, vaccination details and health history. For some visas you may need to provide additional health information (e.g. negative tuberculosis test/x-ray for South Korea).

- Please check the requirements on the UK government [Foreign Travel Advice webpages](#).

Diet and allergies

Research what the local cuisine is like and consider how compatible it is with any dietary requirements you have (e.g. vegan, vegetarian, gluten free). For example, this might mean getting an allergy card that translates what you can't eat into the local language, or selecting accommodation with cooking facilities so that you can cook for yourself.

- Check your destination if you have any specific dietary requirements, as different cultures may not provide for specific needs.

Programme dates

Some Study Exchange partners can start as early as July (e.g. all Australian partners) or August (e.g. Singapore Management University, some universities in Scandinavia, many US institutions).

Orientation can often happen in the week prior to the start of your programme - these are very important to help you settle into your new environment. There may also be opportunities for you to arrange banking, ID cards etc at these centralised events.

- Check the start and end dates of your selected opportunity. Do they clash with any other events?

2. Academic considerations

Academic standing

In order to go abroad you'll usually need to achieve an average of at least 55% in your studies at York in the year prior to going abroad. Host universities may require a higher level of performance than the

Global Opportunities

University of York, and that meeting the minimum York threshold is no guarantee of being able to undertake study abroad at a chosen partner university.

If you do not meet the academic requirements set by my Department, you may be withdrawn from the abroad programme.

References

We will request a reference from the academic that you list in your abroad application. This is usually your Departmental International Officer or Personal Academic Supervisor

- Speak with them about this requirement for your application
- Refer to the [how to apply](#) webpage for more information about the reference.

Qualifications

Academic transcripts are required for proof of grades

- Apply for one [here](#)

If you are a first-year student without any academic results from York you may need to submit A-level certificates or equivalent

- Check you have your certificates to hand

Languages

Many of our partner universities teach in English, but some destinations require a language

- Check the language requirements for your desired destinations
- If another language is needed, do you have proof of your knowledge level?
- Take the relevant tests if needed to prove your knowledge
- Look into our free [Languages for International Mobility](#) courses to help you prepare

Study Exchange - Credit Replacement or Additional Year?

It may be possible to go abroad for replacement credit or an additional year. The options available to you will depend on your academic department

- Check the [Global Opportunities by subject](#) to see your options

Replacement credit means that your grades for modules abroad count towards your degree, and will be converted to the York grade conversion

An additional year abroad, also sometimes referred to as 3+1, means a four-year degree programme where your degree title specifically references the year abroad

- These typically do not go towards your degree at York, but you need to pass
- Extra assessments may be provided by York to ensure you are on track

Methods of teaching and assessment

The way you will be taught and assessed by partner universities will be different to how this happens at York.

- Look into the methods of teaching and how you will be assessed

3. Passport and visas

Passports

In order to obtain a visa for some destinations your passport should be valid for a set amount of time after you return to the UK from your placement, often at least 6 months.

- See [the Foreign Travel Advice webpages](#) for more information about passport validity requirements (in the 'entry requirements' section for each country)
- Check your current passport expiry date, and order a new one if needed

International York students

Students at York who currently hold a visa to study in the UK may apply for opportunities abroad, but this may affect your visa:

- Contact the International Student Support Team in the Student Hub at the University of York first
- (The link to complete the [International Student Support Self-Referral Form](#) is on the [Contact us webpage for International Student Support](#))
- Speak to the Immigration Advice Service if needed

Dual citizenship

If you have dual citizenship, you may be asked to renounce/abandon your non-UK citizenship if you are studying/working in a non-UK country.

Visa to study abroad

Many host countries require students to obtain a visa in order to study or work for a summer, semester/term or year.

- Visa requirements can vary depending on your nationality and/or country of residence
- You are responsible for applying for any visas
- These can take some time so applying early is ideal
- The visa requirements may vary from destination to destination; you may need to provide medical certificates or proof of finances (certified bank statements)
- You may need to pay for certificates and for return travel/accommodation in order to go to an embassy appointment.

You may also need to consider whether any other overseas trips you have planned may affect your visa application processing time. If you are taking more than one placement abroad it's particularly important that you understand the requirements for both of your placements. If a visa is required for your second

Global Opportunities

placement, you must check now when you can complete that application process and whether the visa application must be made in your home country or if it can be made from your first placement destination.

If you are a UK passport-holder, you should check the UK government's [Foreign Travel Advice webpages](#) (entry requirements section for your destination) for any visa requirements for your destination.

In summary

- If you need a visa, what medical evidence will you need to provide (or not) for the visa?
- What financial evidence will you need to provide (or not) for the visa?
- What is the earliest date that you could apply for your visa?
- What is the latest date that you could apply for your visa?

4. Finances and funding

Finances

You'll need to do some research about your financial position and the cost of your destination of choice to work out if you can afford to do the programme you're interested in. As a budget starting point:

- Research the cost of tuition fees
- Look into required insurance
- Visa costs
- Travel costs
- Deposits for housing etc

Student Finance

You may be eligible to receive funding from your student finance provider towards expenses including travel to your overseas institution, visas and insurance. There may be extra funding available for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Please check your student finance provider's web pages for full information:

- [Student Finance England](#)
- [Student Finance Wales](#)
- [Student Finance Scotland](#)
- [Student Finance Northern Ireland](#)

Please note that once accepted on a programme, you are responsible for informing Student Finance that you are studying and/or working abroad as part of your degree. You can also contact Student Advisers in the [Student Hub](#) at the University of York for more information about Student Finance.

Funding

There may be additional funding available you can apply for which can help towards the cost of your time abroad.

- Visit the Global Opportunities [finances and funding webpage](#) for further information
- Check funding application deadlines
- If funding is unsuccessful, how else will you finance your experience abroad?

5. Accommodation

Once you are offered a place on a programme, it is your responsibility to apply for your accommodation

- If you apply for campus accommodation at the host university, you must meet their deadlines and be aware that accommodation may not be guaranteed
- Some students may need to arrive early to find accommodation in the private sector
- If you are applying to study or work abroad, do not get into a situation where you're renting accommodation in York and abroad
- (You can still book a room through the University of York's Accommodation Services, as long as you let them know as soon as possible that you'll be abroad or you may be charged a cancellation fee, see [accommodation on campus](#) webpages for further information)

Accommodation for a [Summer School](#) may be applied for directly with the partner universities and students must pay these costs individually.

6. Travel considerations

You should start researching local travel information about where you will be studying or working abroad at an early stage.

- For travel safety information you can visit the UK government [Foreign Travel Advice webpages](#)
- (This link will take you to the main web page where you can select the country you are going to and further information on a range of issues including safety and security, terrorism, health and natural disasters)

It's your responsibility to make travel and accommodation bookings and your choice when to make them. We advise that you do not make any travel arrangements or bookings until you have been accepted/offered a place by your host institution and received your visa (if needed).

All students on placements abroad are required to complete a formal, written travel risk assessment as part of the travel authorisation process

- The travel risk assessment should essentially be a written record of things you may have already considered, when planning and preparing to travel, but also may alert you to situations that you may not have considered
- Research the area you intend to apply to, understand it as much as you can

7. Insurance

You will need to have valid insurance whilst you are abroad and must make sure that the requirements of your programme are met by the policy you take out.

- Information about the [University of York's Travel Insurance](#) will be provided to successful applicants as part of the pre-departure workshops and information

You may need to take out mandatory health insurance provided by the partner university at an additional cost.

- Health insurance in Australia is part of the visa application process and is compulsory

Global Opportunities

- Students going to the US or to an ISEP partner are also required to purchase health insurance from a specific insurance company
- Please check the information your host institution provides for more information

As well as travel insurance, if you are on a work placement you will need to ensure that you are covered for accident and liability insurance in the workplace.

- Information about this is online in the Insurance information for Traineeships document on the [Things to consider](#) webpage

8. Workplace safety culture

Safety cultures are likely to broadly differ internationally and you should start researching your host country and organisation as soon as possible.

- For information on how to find a job abroad, visit the Careers [International Work](#) webpage.
- Is the host organisation a reputable company with a registered VAT number or equivalent?
- Does the host organisation have a Health and Safety Policy?

If you have answered 'no' to either of these questions you should speak to your Placement Coordinator as soon as possible as the host organisation may not be a suitable placement provider.

9. Volunteering or research provider safety

If you are considering using a third-party provider to organise a volunteering opportunity abroad, have you researched the following:

- Does the organisation provide 24/7 support in the event of problems or emergencies?
- Is all written material, including any 'offer' letter, in a language that you understand fully?
- Check the website and social media pages for the organisation - if you find any reputational or organisational issues mentioned in the reviews or on social media, check online and with the organisation to see whether the issues were resolved. This may also include searching the Google 'news' tab for the organisation and the director of that organisation over the past five years. You may want to search using the organisation name and words like 'accident', 'court case', 'extremist', 'harassment', 'prosecution' and 'safety'.
- Have you done an internet search of the organisation to check out former participant reviews and any potential issues with the organisation or their placements?
- Can the organisation provide a written policy on health, safety and welfare provision?
- Is the volunteering opportunity in a country where the Foreign and Commonwealth Office advises against travel? This can be checked on the UK government [Foreign Travel Advice webpages](#).

10. Further questions?

The following people can be contacted with questions before, during or after your time abroad:

- **Academic:** contact your Personal Academic Supervisor or Departmental International Officer at York (contact details on the [Opportunities by subject webpage](#))
- **Year and summer abroad programmes:** global-opportunities@york.ac.uk
- **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion:** equality@york.ac.uk
- **Disability:** disabilityservices@york.ac.uk
- **Careers and Placements:** careers-placements@york.ac.uk