

# Welcome to our Exchanges talk

**The session will start at  
14:03. Please mute mics and  
write questions in the chat  
bar.**



**Himeji Castle blue skies**

Welcome to our  
exchanges presentation

The session will start at  
14:03. Please mute mics  
and write questions in the  
chat bar.



Nikko warriors



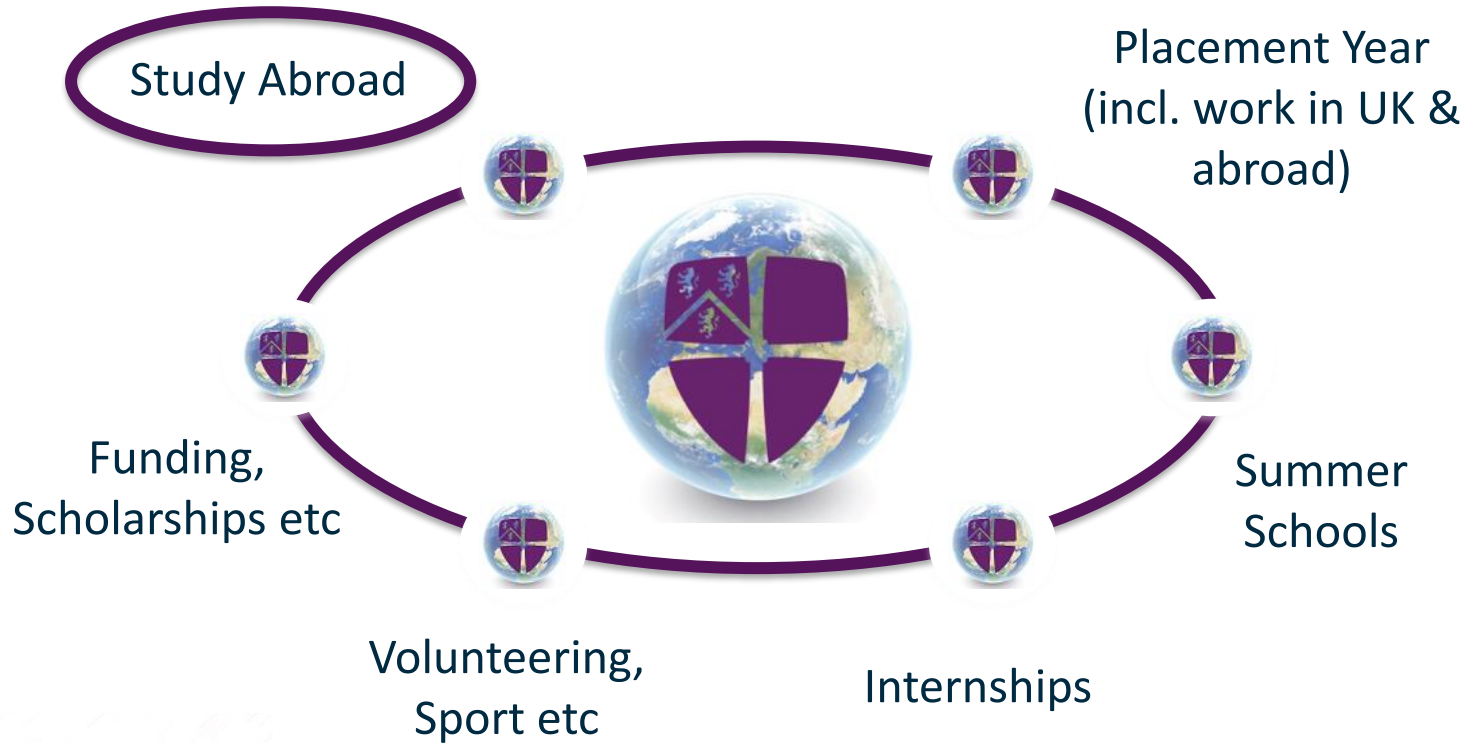


**Durham**  
University

# **Non-European Exchange Application Q&A Welcome**

Global Opportunities Team  
November 2025

# What are Global Opportunities?







**Durham**  
University

# **Non-European Exchange Applications**

**Deadline 21 Nov 2025 12:00 (noon)**

# Open to all degrees – incl. combined / joint honours

## Additional Year

- Increase from 3 to 4 years;
- Pass/fail year and the grades do not affect the final degree classification;
- The final degree programme will be Your Degree (BA, MA etc) XXXX with Year Abroad and will receive a transcript from your host university to prove what you did whilst abroad;
- **95% of exchanges are additional year.**

## Replacement Year

- Abroad in year 3;
- Grades count towards final Durham degree;
- Offered by some 4 year Masters courses in the Science Faculty - please check with your [Departmental Coordinator](#) for details;
- Not an option for students on a 3 year course.

### MLAC:

- Compulsory 3<sup>rd</sup> year abroad;
- Up to 3 placements for a max 12 months



# Non European Exchange

- For exchanges with universities outside the EU.  
Including: Australia, Canada, Chile, China & Hong Kong, Colombia, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, USA.
- Institution-wide links (with some Dept. links) as long as you can find modules in your subject.
- Limited opportunities = more competition (40% - 50% chance of being placed).
  - Anglophone countries are the most competitive
  - Plenty of choice in Asia
- Majority will teach in English, with the exception of Latin America where Spanish is a requirement.





# FAQs - Where can I go?

***I do degree X, where can I go?***

Visit: [www.durham.ac.uk/global-durham/global-opportunities/go-study-abroad/where/](http://www.durham.ac.uk/global-durham/global-opportunities/go-study-abroad/where/) and see whether the partners that you are interested in offer modules in your degree subject.

***What are my chances of getting into X university?***

It depends on how many students apply for X and how many places are available at X. Partners with few places in an Anglophone country tend to be most competitive.

***On the Durham website it says “DUBS only” or “MLaC priority”?***

For a small number of partners we have a number of places reserved in their restricted departments (e.g. “DUBS only”). At some partners (e.g. “MLaC priority”) we need to allocate places to students on a compulsory language degree first and then allocate the remaining places to other students.

Increase your chances going abroad: if unsuccessful for non-European Exchange you may apply for a European place.



# Preparation and application

Year 2 (Michaelmas Term)

- Visit the How to Apply page:  
[www.durham.ac.uk/global-durham/global-opportunities/go-study-abroad/apply/](http://www.durham.ac.uk/global-durham/global-opportunities/go-study-abroad/apply/)
- Look at the where page: <https://www.durham.ac.uk/global-durham/global-opportunities/go-study-abroad/where/>
  - Identify a partner.
  - Check that they have modules appropriate to your degree programme.
  - Check whether the partner entry requirement that you need to meet (e.g. GPA).
- Speak to your [Dept Exchange Coordinator](#).
- Non-European Exchange – read the [full application guide](#);
- Complete all steps in the application process including submission via the online portal, and later, peer review.



# FAQs – Preparing to Apply

***The link to webpage Y at partner X on Durham's webpage is broken.***

The International Office will try to keep Durham's pages up to date but we have approx. 300 worldwide exchange partners, who won't notify us each time they update a webpage. Use Google - key search term: university X incoming exchange

***The partner says I must have a 60% average, but I only have an 58% average, can I apply?***

*No, you will need to apply elsewhere. If 60% is the partner's entry requirement, we must respect that.*





# FAQs – Preparing to Apply

***Will the International Office or my Exchange Coordinator provide me with a list of modules that I can do at partner university X.***

Students are expected to do independent research as part of the application process. There isn't a giant catalogue of all modules at every partner across the world.

***Must I study my degree subject?***

*Students have to study their degree subject while on YA. 65% : 35% flexibility, as long as:*

- a) your Departmental Exchange Coordinator approves your module choices and;*
- b) the partner permits.*

*Often students will take a language module, if studying in a non-anglophone country*





# FAQs – Preparing to Apply

## ***What if there are insufficient modules?***

If there are not enough modules for a full credit workload for the whole year, you will need to apply elsewhere. It is your responsibility to ensure there are sufficient modules available at the host university in the appropriate subject. E.g. NUS have very limited access to business modules.

## ***What level modules should I choose***

Typically, level 2, however, the partner university typically provides a list of what modules are available to incoming exchange students on their incoming exchange webpage.

## ***What is a full-year / full credit workload?***

This is the sum workload (e.g. sum number of modules) that a student must undertake per year at a university. At Durham you do 120 credits p.a. and the typical module size is 20 credits, though some modules are bigger (and worth more credits) than others. Different universities will have different systems for calculating what constitutes a full year – you must ensure your module choices meet the full year full credit requirement of your chosen university.



# Application and Allocation

## Non-European Exchange

### Application

- 1) Students apply online (deadline 21 Nov).
- 2) After deadline students receive 5 anonymous personal statements for peer-to-peer scoring. Students submit peer scores (deadline 8 Dec).

### Moderation / Allocation

- 3) Scores heavily moderated by International / Academic Staff.
- 4) Allocation of places based on a score:
  - 25% academic marks
  - 75% mean moderated average scores you receive from your peers for your personal statement.

## European

Students apply after Christmas



# FAQs – Application Step 1

## ***Where can I access the online portal***

It is at the bottom of this page: <https://www.durham.ac.uk/global-durham/global-opportunities/go-study-abroad/apply/non-european-exchange-application/>

## ***Can I just email the practice application form?***

No, please submit through the portal.

## ***Accessing the University website?***

You need to use the computer that is linked to your Durham account. You may have to open a browser and enter via the Student Gateway (<https://durhamuniversity.sharepoint.com/teams/Hub>) which may ask you for your Durham login. Then go onto the internet to access the GO Pages



# FAQs – Application Step 2

## ***Must I peer review applications?***

Yes. If you fail to mark all five of your allocated anonymous personal statements by 12:00 (noon) on Monday 8 December 2025, your own exchange application will be considered incomplete and will be withdrawn.

## ***Will there be guidance?***

Yes. A document, similar in length to the application guide, will be issued with the anonymous applications. This will guide you through the peer-to-peer scoring process.

## ***What do we mean ‘scores will be moderated’?***

A group of academics and International Office staff will also score a certain number of applications. This ensures we can check that students have submitted scores in good faith. We follow up with students to justify their marks if anomalous are found.



# Non-European Exchange Personal Statement

Section A: Please describe in no more than 500 words how the proposed study placement(s) will benefit you academically personally and professionally, how you will maximise the benefits of your placement, and how it will enhance your long term career goals (75% weighting)

Section B: Please outline in no more than 200 words what qualities, skills and experience you can bring to the proposed placement(s) and how you would act as an ambassador for Durham University (25% weighting)

Supporting documents available:

1) [Full Application Guide](#) 2) [Practice Application Proforma](#)

<https://www.durham.ac.uk/global-durham/global-opportunities/go-study-abroad/apply/non-european-exchange-application/>



# Tips for application (also applies to ...jobs, exams, career, life etc)

There is no magic one-size-fits-all trick, but there are things you can do to help:

- Read the [Non European Exchange Application Guide](#);
- Pass your exams! Minimum required is 55% pass (60% in Law);
- Answer the questions asked in the application;
- Show you have done your research;
- **Run a narrative thread through your personal statement.** We already know that you want to go, but what we want to know is:
  - why you want to go; what the experience will give to you; what you can give to the experience; what have you done to prepare.
- Think about activities that set you apart (e.g. keen to go to Japan? Have you been active in the Anglo-Japanese Society?).
- Keep to the word limit and be concise.





**Durham**  
University

## **Web Hub**

[www.durham.ac.uk/global-durham/global-opportunities/go-study-abroad/hub/](http://www.durham.ac.uk/global-durham/global-opportunities/go-study-abroad/hub/)

## **Questions?**

Please write any questions  
in the Q&A