

# THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY



## EXCHANGE PROGRAM FACT SHEET

**WE ARE Penn State, and YOU ARE welcome here!**

**WEBSITE: [GLOBAL.PSU.EDU/EXCHANGE](https://global.psu.edu/exchange) | EMAIL: [EAEXCHANGES@PSU.EDU](mailto:eaexchanges@psu.edu)**

### WHY STUDY AT PENN STATE?

Each year more than 11,500 international students, scholars, and faculty from over 140 countries choose Penn State for the variety of opportunities it offers. With 24 campuses, 100,000+ students, and the largest active alumni association in the world, there are no limits to success at Penn State. Penn State ranks highly in many disciplines from engineering and technology to social science, computer science, business, economics, and arts and humanities. Conveniently situated in central Pennsylvania, studying in State College allows students easy access to larger cities like New York City, Washington D.C., and Philadelphia.



**PennState Global**

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## CAMPUS INFORMATION

Most exchange programs take place at Penn State's University Park campus. For partners that have specific non-University Park exchange agreements, students will follow many of the same application processes but will also work with designated staff at that campus.

## LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION - ENGLISH

### Proof of English Proficiency

International students whose native language is not English must submit proof of English language proficiency.

- TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) minimum score of 80 on the internet-based test or 550 on the paper exam
- IELTS (International English Language Testing System) minimum score of 6.5 on the academic test



## NOMINATION & APPLICATION TIMELINES

### Fall and Academic Year

- Nominations Due | **March 1**
- Student Applications Due | **April 1**
- Confirmation Letters Sent | **June 1**

### Spring and Calendar Year

- Nominations Due | **September 1**
- Student Applications Due | **October 1**
- Confirmation Letters Sent | **December 1**

## ACADEMIC CALENDARS

**Fall Semester** | August - December

**Spring Semester** | January - May

**Academic Year** | August - May

**Calendar Year** | January - December

## HOUSING

On-campus housing is available for exchange students, but it is not guaranteed. If available, the Housing Assignments Office will send an online housing contract to the student's Penn State email account for the applicant's review and acceptance. The housing contract is a legally binding agreement. Details about housing and meal plans, including cost, are available on the Housing website. Students can visit Off-Campus Living to find resources for apartments off campus in the event on-campus housing is not available, or if the student prefers to live off campus.

*\*Please note that students participating in the Calendar Year exchange program will need to find alternate accommodations during the summer.*

## HEALTH INSURANCE

Health insurance is mandatory while at Penn State. Exchange students are required by The Student Health Insurance Office to purchase the Penn State Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP). **Waivers will NOT be accepted for exchange students.**





## APPLICATION PROCESS

### After Nomination

Students will receive instructions for logging in to our application system and completing the following:

- Academic Transcript Upload
- Nondegree Enrollment Form
- Course Registration Form
- On Campus Housing Request Form

Once the application deadline has passed, the exchange coordinator will process all documents, assist students with enrolling in courses, and work with the housing office to assign housing contracts. Once all applications have been processed, students will be contacted by our International Student and Scholar Advising (ISSA) office regarding the DS-2019. They will be asked to complete the following items in our iStart system by a separate deadline:

- Passport & Biographical Information
- Academic Information
- Financial Documentation
- Submit Request for Review of Visa

Students will receive their DS-2019 visa document from ISSA via express mail service and are responsible for the mailing fee.

## FINANCIAL GUARANTEE

Students must provide an official letter from a bank, in English and in U.S. dollars, verifying possession of the money to pay for the portion of their educational and personal expenses not covered by the exchange agreement based on the intended duration of study. Parents and guardians who will financially support a student must also write a letter stating that they intend to use their finances towards the student's expenses. Verification of financial support from the home university or home government is also acceptable.

## ORIENTATION

New Student Orientation for International Students for incoming exchange students is mandatory and is offered 1-2 weeks prior to the beginning of the semester. Students should not book flights until orientation dates have been announced.

LEARN MORE ABOUT LIFE AT PENN STATE





## ACADEMIC STATUS AND CREDIT LOAD

- Participants in the Penn State Education Abroad (EA) exchange program are enrolled as non-degree undergraduate students.
- Undergraduate students are required to enroll in 12 credits per semester, with an average semester load of 15 credits.

## COURSE ENROLLMENT

Course descriptions, pre-requisites and credits can be found in [Penn State's Course Catalog](#). Courses listed in the Bulletin are not offered every semester. Penn State's LionPATH schedule of courses indicates course availability for a specific semester. We will do our best to enroll students in courses ahead of time, but exchange students will finalize their course schedule after arriving on campus and in consultation with an assigned academic adviser. Penn State cannot guarantee enrollment in requested courses.

## COURSE RESTRICTIONS

### College of Arts & Architecture

Spaces in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Graphic Design studio courses are limited. Spaces in Music, Theatre, and Dance performance courses are limited. Musical Theater courses are not available.

### College of Communications

Studio and production courses are not available.

### College of Education

Not available unless specified in the exchange agreement.

### College of Business

Students must be business majors to take business courses at Penn State. Exchange students who qualify may take up to two business courses each semester. Students will be provided with a list of approved Business courses that they may select from.

### College of Engineering

Courses fill quickly. Students should have back-up options.

### College of Health & Human Development

Kinesiology courses are very limited.

Nursing courses are not available unless specified in the exchange agreement.

### College of Information Sciences and Technology

Limit of three (3) College of Information Science and Technology courses per semester.

### College of The Liberal Arts

Courses in Political Science and History fill quickly. Students should have back-up options.

*Graduate level courses and law courses are not available to exchange students.*

## ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPTS

Official electronic academic transcripts will be sent to partners within six weeks of the program ending (from the last day of finals). Students are able to order official copies for their records through the [Registrar's Office](#) at a cost of \$5 per electronic copy.