

UK and Ireland Study Abroad FAQ Duke-Approved Semester Programs

What is the deadline for me to apply? It looks like everything for fall semester is due March 1, is that true?

No, that is not true. The March 1 deadline is for our Duke-In programs, only. Yes, I know that in MyGlobalEd, the deadline listed is March 1 – sorry to confuse you. (This is a limitation of the software system that we use.)

Every school that Duke approves for a study abroad semester has their own, unique deadline; please verify via the schools’ websites. Deadlines for some of the most visited schools, for the fall semester of 2017, were:

- | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|------------------------------|--------|
| ▪ UCL: | March 31* | ▪ University of Edinburgh: | May 31 |
| ▪ Queen Mary: | July 7 | ▪ University of Glasgow: | May 1 |
| ▪ King’s: | March 31 | ▪ University College Dublin: | May 1 |

*NOTE: UCL frequently takes a very long time to respond to study abroad students with admissions decisions. You may not hear back until May, even if you apply in February. Really.

Regardless of published deadlines, *you want to get your application in as soon as you can - spaces fill up fast.* Late applications can lead to housing issues as well as diminished chances of getting into the classes that you want.

You must also complete an application in MyGlobalEd so that we can run (internal to Duke) checks on you – without those, you are not approved to do study abroad. Based on the deadlines above, plan to have your MyGlobalEd application completed well in advance.

Detailed information about the application process for a Duke Approved program can be found in the [Application Guide for Duke-Approved Semester Programs](#)

How do I know what classes I can take when I am there?

In a very general way, the sky is the limit. That said, every class that you take abroad MUST be approved to transfer back to a specific department here at Duke. We have a database of the courses that are already approved to transfer back, listed school-by-school: [Approved Courses Database](#)

A few very important points about this database:

- This is a starting point only: a database is only as good as the info that we have fed it so far. **YOU CAN ADD TO WHAT YOU SEE HERE** – do not assume that this list is exhaustive.
- Even if you do see a class listed here, remember you still do not know a few things, such as: Which semester is the class offered? OR, What is the likelihood of you getting a seat in the class? For some subjects, especially in London (ECON!), the demand for seats is often greater than the number of available spaces.

Lots of fabulous and relevant information can be found on page two (R hand column) of this handout: [Semester Study Away: Course Credit Basics](#)

Related tips:

- Most schools limit which departments allow visiting international students, and this can vary by semester
- Always have at least 2-3 back up plans/ schedules
- **Do not count on getting a seat in every single class that you want.**
- You will most likely not know, nor solidify, your schedule until the first week of class

I want to get a new class approved - one that I don't see on the Approved Courses Database – how do I do that?

Thank you for asking! We want to see this database grow. The process is not very hard and a GEO person is even here to help you with it!

More about the Course Approval process can be found at the very top of the second page of the [Application Guide for Duke-Approved Semester Programs](#)

Study Abroad credits are pass/ fail, right?

NO, they are not.

Wait! I was told that study abroad classes don't affect my GPA – do they?

No, Study Abroad Transfer Credits do not affect your Duke GPA. But, they are NOT pass/ fail because:

- You must take every class abroad for a grade
- You must get the equivalent of a U.S. C- or higher in your classes abroad, for them to transfer back to Duke
- If you take a class P/F abroad, you may not transfer it back to Duke
- Your Duke transcript will list "TR" (for Transfer) as the grade on classes taken on Duke-Approved Programs

Do I take the same number of classes abroad that I do at Duke?

This really depends on where you go, but please be prepared for the course load to be different. The general rules are:

- You must be enrolled full time at whatever school you are attending
- You must also be full time per Duke policy, which means the equivalent of 15-16 U.S. credit hours (not 12)
- So long as you are full time abroad, Duke will award you 4 Transfer Credits upon completion of the program
- You may not underload and you may not overload while on study abroad
- You are not allowed to take an online class, *nor any class that is taught partially online*
- You must take all of your classes at the same, approved school (you may not be at UCL and also take a class at Queen Mary, for example)
- Regardless of your course load (which may be 3, 4, 5 or 6 classes), every single course you take abroad must be approved for transfer back to Duke (please refer back to the second question on page 1 of this FAQ)

[psst... Lots of fabulous and relevant information can be found on both pages of this handout: [Semester Study Away: Course Credit Basics](#)]

Course loads at some of the most visited schools in the UK and Ireland are:

**vocab note: module = class ... welcome to English that is not from the U.S.A!)*

UCL	4 modules for 2 UCL credits	0.5 UCL credits = 4 U.S. credits = 1 Duke credit
SOAS	4 modules for 2 SOAS credits	0.5 SOAS credits = 4 U.S. credits = 1 Duke credit
Queen Mary	4 modules for 60 QMUL credits	15 QMUL credits = 4 U.S. credits = 1 Duke credit
King's College	4 modules for 60 KCL credits	15 KCL credits = 4 U.S. credits = 1 Duke credit
University of Edinburgh	3-4 modules, for a total of 60-70 credits (50 is not full time)	Course weight varies at Edinburgh; a FT load is at least 60 credits
University of Glasgow	3-4 modules, for a total of 60-70 credits (50 is not full time)	Course weight varies at Glasgow; a FT load is at least 60 credits
University College Dublin	6 modules for a total of 30 UCD credits	1 UCD class = 2.5 U.S. credits; 6 classes = 15 U.S. credit hours

How do I know which classes I can count towards my major, minor, certificate or Trinity Requirements?

Good question! Please refer to the top of page one of this handout: [Semester Study Away: Course Credit Basics](#)

How do I know which schools, in which cities, are approved by Duke?

They are listed in on our [Approved Programs List](#) in MyGlobalEd

Woa - that list is huge and crazy long... how do I look for just a specific city or country?

Yep, the list sure is long! Here's some help for you:

- click the button at the top of the page for the [Simple Search](#) OR
- for even more detail, the button for the [Advanced Search](#)

When you click on the name of a school as it is listed in the search pages, this will open a "Brochure Page." From there you can:

- begin your MyGlobalEd Application (click the blue "Apply Now" button on the right) or
- jump out to the school's website by clicking on the link labeled "click to visit," just to the Right of where it says "homepage" near the top

Okay, I did the search... But, what does it mean when I see "Arcadia" or "IFSA-Butler" listed in front of a school's name in MyGlobalEd?

Arcadia and IFSA-Butler are what we call a "Third-Party Provider." Basically, they provide students who spend a semester at a foreign institution with what are called "Support Services." If you apply via Arcadia or IFSA-Butler, you will apply via their website and you will pay more than if you go via "Direct Enroll."

I strongly suggest that you talk with each provider to learn more about how going through them can be beneficial, as well as how what each of them offers you is different, but a short list of what you will get from either of them includes:

- Someone in their U.S. offices to consult with during the application process
- A very detailed and thorough orientation upon landing in-country (covering cultural differences, health & safety concerns, academic differences, etc.)
- You get put on private health insurance (this means that it may be easier for you to see a health care provider in the UK or Ireland, and that Arcadia or IFSA-Butler can help you to locate the type of provider you need to see)
- You have guaranteed housing with them (if you cannot get housing via the school)
- An office in London, Edinburgh or Dublin that you can drop by anytime for help or just for a hello
- Fun cultural outings and excursions to help you to get to know the country better
- A staff that can help you to pursue a particular hobby or activity while there (i.e. where do I go to learn Highland Dancing?)
- Someone you call 24/7 in-country in case of emergency; also, a number here in the U.S. that your family can call, should they need to

Again, the providers are similar, yet each offers their own, unique version of "support services." It is well worth your time to investigate each fully, to determine which is a better fit for *you* and your goals. More information on each here:

→ [Arcadia](#)

→ [IFSA-Butler](#)

For more information about going "Direct Enroll" vs. going via a "Third Party Provider," please read about them on our website: [Duke-Approved Programs](#)

I heard that UCL has specific admissions requirements and departmental restrictions – what does that mean?

You are correct. Most of this information is on their website, but it can be hard to find. Key information includes:

- At UCL you must apply to what they call a “**Subject Area**” (think “Department”) Read about this here: [UCL Study Options](#)
 - You must take 50% of your courses in the Subject Area that you are admitted to. You can choose the remainder from modules offered across the university, though be aware that prerequisites may apply, and spaces in certain modules may be limited.
 - Some subject areas will not allow you to take their classes unless you have been admitted to their area. They are listed on the website that outlines [UCL Study Options](#)
 - You can also apply for joint admission to two subject areas, e.g. Economics and History – for joint admission you would be expected to take at least **50%** of your modules in the first named subject area and **25%** in the second, with the remainder chosen, again, from across UCL.
 - Some subject areas have their own requirements for admission which are stricter than the general UCL ones*
 - Most of UCL’s Engineering departments will not accept visiting International students for only fall semester; some will consider you for spring, but most prefer you to be there for a full year;
 - Two UCL departments do not accept visiting International Students for the fall semester: Math & Statistics

- ***Departments with specific admissions criteria** that I am aware of are:
 - Economics: you must have an overall GPA of 3.5 (UCL in general requires a 3.3). They want you to have already completed (and done well in): a statistics class, Microeconomics and Macroeconomics. If you meet all other criteria but have taken only either Micro or Macro, you are still very likely to be admitted.
 - Computer Science: you must have taken (and done well in) AT LEAST 3 Computer Science classes here at Duke before going to UCL (spring semester of sophomore year inclusive). They are not looking for specific classes or content but:
 - EGR classes from Pratt are NOT considered Computer Science classes at UCL
 - ECE classes that are cross-listed with Computer Science at Duke usually are fine/ considered Comp Sci by UCL
 - You may not take Computer Science classes as a secondary subject area as a visiting student;
 - Computer Science does not look at or process any Affiliate student applications until AFTER the deadline of March 31, when all are processed in a single batch.

- **Subject Areas that are open for visiting International students** can be found on this page of the UCL website: [UCL subjects](#)
- The classes (modules!) listed here are the only ones that are available for visiting international students – be careful not to just jump to the department’s website to look for modules (though you may well go there in search of a syllabus)
- At the bottom of every Subject Area page you will see **Contact Details**: this person/ persons is what is called the Affiliate Tutor (Affiliate: type of student you will be while there; Tutor: professor in the UK) and their job is to help visiting international students. If you have specific questions (such as verifying pre-requisites for a module) you should email them.
- Clicking on a module title will open a new page with more info. Please be sure to look at the top of that page to see what semester a module is offered. (Note: “Full Year” does not mean both semesters, it means the module lasts all year and you must be there for the full year to take it)

What about other schools? Do other schools have this many restrictions?

Some do, but none are as specified as UCL.

Please make an appointment to see me to discuss other schools: [Make an Appointment with Carolyn Covalt](#)