



STUDY ABROAD FACTSHEET

2020/21

INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| University | Birmingham City University (BCU) |
| Main office | Go Abroad Team |
| Address | International Office Second Floor, University House 15 Bartholomew Row Birmingham B5 5JU United Kingdom |
| Telephone number | +44 (0) 121 331 5389 |
| Contacts | Parveen Bhatti Senior Partnerships Officer - Student Mobility and Liaison Parveen.Bhatti@bcu.ac.uk Telephone Number: +44 (0) 121 331 7709 AbouBakr Fathalla Head of Operations - International Partnerships Bakr.Fathalla@bcu.ac.uk Telephone Number: +44 (0) 121 331 7783 |
| Main email address | goabroad@bcu.ac.uk |
| Study Abroad website | www.bcu.ac.uk/international/go-abroad-at-bcu |

ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2020-21

Semester one*

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Welcome: | 14 September 2020 |
| Semester begins: | 21 September 2020 |
| Winter vacation: | 21 December 2020 - 1 January 2021 |
| Classes end: | 22 January 2021 |

Semester two*

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Welcome: | 18 January 2021 |
| Semester begins: | 25 January 2021 |
| Easter vacation: | 28 March - 9 April 2021 |
| Classes end: | 28 May 2021 |

*Dates are indicative only. Confirmed dates for each programme will be indicated on the individual offer letter.

STUDY ABROAD/EXCHANGE APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

Please visit 'How to apply' on our website to complete an application.

Documents required (in English):

- Completed application form
- Academic transcript from home university
- Passport copy (photo page only)
- English language qualification (if applicable)
- Module information from home university for Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment courses
- Portfolio for Arts, Design and Media courses. Please visit our website for specific Portfolio Guidance: Birmingham School of Architecture, Birmingham Institute of Jewellery, Fashion and Textiles, and Birmingham Institute of Creative Arts.

Please return completed application and supporting documents to goabroad@bcu.ac.uk

| Nomination deadlines | Application deadlines* | |
|----------------------|------------------------|---|
| 15 May 2020 | 29 May 2020 | One Semester (Autumn) for September 2020 entry Two Semester (Autumn and Spring) for September 2020 entry |
| 9 October 2020 | 23 October 2020 | One Semester (Spring) for January 2021 entry |

* We cannot guarantee consideration of applications submitted after the above deadlines, although we will try to consider every application where possible.

FEES

If you come to Birmingham City University on a Study Abroad programme, the fee will include tuition, examination costs and membership of the Students' Union. Please see fees below:

| Study Abroad for One Semester: | Study Abroad for Two Semesters: |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| £6,400 | £12,800 |

Students from our partner institutions who participate in an exchange programme may have their tuition fee waived. Please contact your home university for further details.

AVAILABLE PROGRAMMES

You can find a full list of our courses in our Study Abroad Brochure 2020/21. You can download this from our website.

International students are required to take a full-time study load for visa purposes as follows:

One Semester students: 60 credits required (3-4 classes per semester)

Two Semester students: 120 credits required (6-8 classes for the academic year)

We recommend that students take classes from within one School. Module options will be advised at application stage.

TRANSCRIPTS

All credit-bearing Study Abroad students will be issued with a transcript detailing their modules and final grades at the end of the academic year. This will be mailed directly to the home university.

VISA AND IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS

If you are coming to the UK as a student you may need to obtain entry clearance (a visa) before travelling to the UK, such as a Short-term Study Visa or a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa, unless you are a European Economic Area (EEA) or Swiss National. Find out if you need a visa by visiting the gov.uk website.

ACCOMMODATION

University Halls of Residence

As soon as you have accepted a course offer from us, you can apply for University accommodation. Students are advised to apply as soon as possible after accepting an offer.

2020/21 key application dates

- Applications for the academic year 2020/21 open 3 March 2020.
- Closing date for international student accommodation applications is 31 August 2020 for September 2020 entry.

Things to consider:

- Accommodation is subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed.
- Some accommodation options are not based in the city centre and may involve a journey by public transport.

Contact the Accommodation Services Team for more information:

Tel: +44 (0) 121 331 5191 Email: accommodation@bcu.ac.uk

Private accommodation

The University also supports students in finding accommodation through Birmingham City Student Homes, a student-focused letting agency, owned and operated by Birmingham City University Students' Union.

CURRENT ESTIMATED COST OF LIVING*

According to the UK's National Union of Students (NUS), the average annual cost of living in England (outside of London) for students is £12,056**. Most students will spend around £150 (~US\$180) per month on food and groceries, or £1,350 (~US\$1,660) per academic year

Living costs will vary depending on lifestyle but it is generally cheaper to live in Birmingham than other UK cities, such as London or Edinburgh. Here is a breakdown of some general expenses for you to consider when preparing your finances:

| General expenses | Approximate cost |
|--|--|
| University accommodation Please check with the Accommodation Services Team whether certain items are included e.g. bedding, kitchen utensils, etc, and whether you would be required to pay a deposit as well as made an advance payment. Fees can be found at www.bcu.ac.uk/accommodation . | From £2,800 (one semester) to £6,000 (two semesters) |
| Bedroom in a shared house Please check with the landlord whether bills are included in the price. | From £90 to £150 (per week) |
| Private shared house deposit | One month's rent in advance |
| Kitchen utensils, plates and cutlery | £35 |
| Course related costs: books/stationery/photocopying/binding | £50 (per month) |
| TV licence | £12 (per month) |
| Insurance for personal belongings (depending on the level of cover) | £10 to £30 (per month) |
| Laundry (using a laundrette) | £20 (per month) |
| Food and groceries | £300 (per month) |
| Mobile telephone (depends on usage) | £240 (annually) |
| Bus pass – 3 terms + summer pass | £390 (per year) |
| Meal in a restaurant for one person | £10 to £30 |
| Cappuccino (regular) | £3 |
| Police registration (if applicable) | £34 |
| Subscription to journals/magazines | £36 (over 9 months) |
| Gas and electricity (if required) | £2,080 (annually) |
| Social activity costs (depending on activities) | £600 - £960 (annually) |

* Please note: The above costs are estimated and subject to each student's individual personal expenses and spending habits.

** www.topuniversities.com/student-info/student-finance/how-much-does-it-cost-study-uk, July 2018

| Additional items | Approximate cost |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Coat/jacket | £55 |
| Waterproof shoes | £50 |
| Trousers | £35 |
| Jumper/sweater | £20 |
| Scarf | £5 |
| Gloves | £5 |
| Hat | £8 |
| Basic computer | £500 |
| Television | £130 |
| International phone card | From £5 |
| Prescribed medicine per item | £9 |
| TOTUM student card | £14.99 |

TRAVEL AND WELCOME INFORMATION:

Arriving in the UK by air

If you're travelling by air, it's easiest to arrive at Birmingham Airport (BHX) (11.9 miles).

Other airports

London Heathrow Airport (LHR): 114 miles

London Gatwick Airport (LGW): 150 miles

Arriving by rail

Birmingham New Street Station

Birmingham Moor Street Station

www.nationalrail.co.uk

Arriving by bus/coach

Birmingham Coach Station

Mill Lane

Digbeth, Birmingham B5 6DD

www.nationalexpress.com/destinations

www.networkwestmidlands.com/students

We offer a 'Meet and Greet' service on specific dates at Birmingham Airport and there will be activities available for you to join once you arrive. For more information please see www.bcu.ac.uk/meet-and-greet

OTHER GENERAL INFORMATION

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

You may find an answer to your question at

www.bcu.ac.uk/international/go-abroad-at-bcu/frequently-asked-questions

Extra Resources

10 reasons to choose BCU

www.bcu.ac.uk/international/why-study-here/10-reasons-to-choose-bcu

Arriving in the UK

www.bcu.ac.uk/meet-and-greet

Life in Birmingham

www.bcu.ac.uk/birmingham

Living costs

www.bcu.ac.uk/international/fees-costs-and-scholarships/planning-your-finances/living-costs

Meet our previous Study Abroad students


www.bcu.ac.uk/international/go-abroad-at-bcu/student-experiences

Study Abroad in Birmingham

goabroad@bcu.ac.uk

www.bcu.ac.uk/study-abroad

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