Study Abroad Information Evening
14 November 2018
Windsor Auditorium
• Why study abroad?
• Where can I go?
• What will a year abroad cost?
• How do I apply?
• What happens once I’ve submitted my application?
• Frequently asked questions
As one of our students who studied abroad said, ‘The best year you spend at university could actually be the one you spend away from it…’

By spending time overseas you can:

- Enhance your overall knowledge and understanding of your subject.
- Develop your intercultural skills - valuable in a globalised employment market.
- Have the opportunity to widen your network of friends and future contacts.
- Increase your independence and self-confidence as you tackle challenges in a new environment.
‘I would say that my year abroad made me mature faster than I would have done if I had never left. I learnt so much about myself through meeting people that opened up my eyes, and showed me new experiences that I would definitely recommend to anyone.’

‘Going away for the 9 months has had a profound effect on me; I feel so much more confident in my abilities and as a person.’

‘To sum everything up, this was one of the best experiences I have had. And if you have a chance to do it, do it …. You learn so much that will make you grow as a person and one thing is for sure: you will not regret it!’

‘In summary, I couldn’t recommend a year abroad enough. It was a definitive milestone in both my educational and personal development while still being an incredibly fun and rewarding year.’

‘Being alone on the other side of the world was at times of course a terrifying prospect. However, I now have the hindsight to know that it was also the greatest opportunity to learn how to overcome unfamiliar situations, make lifelong friendships and establish a new attitude.’

Quotes from RHUL students
Royal Holloway has two exchanges schemes:

- **Erasmus+** (for study abroad within the European Union)
- **International Exchange** (for study abroad outside the European Union)

You can only participate in one exchange. In addition, you must study abroad for the full academic year (unless you choose to take part in a Summer School).
Royal Holloway has a number of partner universities under the Erasmus+ scheme. If your department has an Erasmus+ agreement, then you have the possibility of studying at an overseas partner with which it is linked.

If you take part in the Erasmus+ scheme and complete the necessary documentary requirements, you are entitled to a small grant, the amount of which will change from year to year.

An Erasmus+ exchange can only be done for credit transfer, you cannot go on an additional year as an Erasmus+ student.

Please go to
http://www.rhul.ac.uk/international/studyabroadandexchanges/erasmusexchange/partnerinstitutions.aspx to find out if your department has any Erasmus+ links.
The UK Government has made it clear that it values international exchanges and collaboration in education and training. To this end the government has agreed to underwrite the funding and, in the case of a ‘no deal’ scenario, ‘... the Government has indicated that it will engage with Member States and key institutions to seek to ensure UK participants can continue with their planned activity. The underwrite guarantee would also cover the grant payments to all UK universities that are able to reach an institution to institution agreement with their EU partners for their projects to continue’ (British Council, 2018).

For up to date information about Brexit and Erasmus+, please see [https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/brexit-update](https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/brexit-update)
Royal Holloway currently has exchange agreements with universities in Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand and the USA.

For these exchanges you can choose, with the approval of your department(s), to go on either an integral or an additional year.

Please note: if you are a student from the departments of Law, Mathematics, Media Arts*, Music or Psychology, you can only go on an International Exchange for an additional year. If you are studying Liberal Arts, you can apply only if you are registered on the BA Liberal Arts with an International Year degree.

An additional year means you interrupt your studies and the courses you take abroad do not count towards your degree. As a result of this, you will not receive any funding from Student Finance for such a year. If you are studying Electronic Engineering, you must ask the department about any options which may be available to you.

* If you are studying the BA Film and Television Studies you can apply for an integral year. Also, you can only go to China, Japan and Korea for an additional year.
RHUL students have the opportunity to either go to China, Korea or Mexico for the summer to attend a summer school as part of an exchange.

This could be for you if you want to go abroad but the idea of going for a full academic year does not appeal to you.

You have to apply for a place at one of the summer schools mentioned and you pay no tuition fees the partner university. However, you cannot transfer credit from summer school courses back to RHUL.

Please see the International Exchange brochure for further information.

You can apply to other summer schools but you will be liable for all costs, including tuition fees and we are unable to provide support during the application process.
No tuition fees paid to the host university.

Normally reduced or no fees paid to Royal Holloway.

However, students are liable for all living, travel and insurance costs during their time overseas.

If you are interested in studying abroad in Canada, the US or Japan, please be aware that, if you require a student visa, you will be required to show that you have funds of, on average, $10,000, $19,000 or 960,000 JPY respectively at your disposal when you apply to the partner university. Check the Embassy website of the countries you are interested in studying in for information about visa requirements.

If you are a Tier 4 visa holder, there may be costs. Further details will be available in the International Exchange brochure.
Living costs
These costs will vary from country to country - research, research, research!
Do consider:
- accommodation
- travel both to and from the partner university
- any leisure travel that you wish to do
- settling in costs, phone calls, books and leisure activities
- insurance
- fluctuating exchange rates

Funding
Integral year
Student Finance normally continue funding. However, this may not be at the same level. You are also able to apply for a Travel Grant.
Additional year
Student Finance will not continue funding as you will have formally interrupted your studies. DO NOT rely on receiving funding from them.

What will a year abroad cost?
Scholarships

If you are in receipt of an RHUL scholarship, unless you are going overseas as a compulsory part of your degree, you may not receive this funding whilst abroad as a student must be liable for full variable tuition fees throughout their degree programme. If you are in receipt of any scholarship, it will be your responsibility to check with the fund’s administrator regarding whether payments will continue during a year abroad.

What will a year abroad cost?
### Erasmus+ and International Exchange fees for students going abroad in 2019-20

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<th>Compulsory</th>
<th>Optional</th>
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<td><strong>H/EU</strong></td>
<td>15% of tuition fees</td>
<td>15% of tuition fees</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>International</strong></td>
<td>20% of tuition fees</td>
<td>100% of tuition fees</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>H/EU and International</strong></td>
<td>100% of tuition fees</td>
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<td><strong>PGR students</strong></td>
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**What will a year abroad cost?**
Student taking an additional year interrupt their studies at Royal Holloway and the courses they take overseas do not count towards their degree.

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<td>H/EU</td>
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<td>Overseas</td>
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If your department has an Erasmus+ agreement, talk to the advisor in your department. Go to http://www.rhul.ac.uk/international/studyabroadandexchanges/erasmusexchange/partnerinstitutions.aspx for further details.

The deadlines for applying for 2019/20 will vary but you should be prepared to apply in late spring/early summer for admission in Autumn 2019.

If you are a student from the School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures, you will be given details about your Period of Residence Abroad by the School.
Please make sure you read the International Exchange brochure 2019/20. Visit our website https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/studying-abroad/royal-holloway-students-studying-abroad/international-exchange/ to find the brochure and the application form. These documents will be available from Friday 16 November 2018.

Supporting documents
- Personal statement
- Two academic references from RHUL staff. At least one must be from a permanent member of staff e.g your personal tutor.
- A level certificates (first year students) / Interim transcript (second year students)
- Copy of the personal details page of your passport.

Entrance requirements
Mainly average of 60% in your end of year exams with no individual course unit/ half course unit mark below 40%.

The deadline for applications is 5pm, 14 December 2018.

How do I apply? (International Exchange)
Following submission, CeDAS assesses applications. Shortlisted candidates are invited to interview in January – week of term. Decision normally made by within one week of interviews. Successful students are nominated to one of our partner universities. Students attend 1st pre-departure briefing. Students submit their application to the partner university (February – May depending on application deadline). Please note for some universities, especially in Canada, the US and Japan, you will need to provide proof at the time of application that you have sufficient funds to support yourself during your time abroad. This is an immigration requirement.

Student receives offer documents from partner university.

Student attends 2nd pre-departure briefing.

Student passes RHUL exams at required level, successfully obtains visa and leaves for the partner university.

What happens once I’ve submitted my application?
If you are successful and obtain a place at one of our partner universities you will register with them. At the same time, you will still be an RHUL student.

Keep in touch with RHUL – essential if your year is integral as you must have all courses taken approved by your academic department.

Keep in touch with CeDAS - department carrying out some research on how far a year abroad helps students to develop intercultural skills.

What happens whilst I am abroad?
What makes a good application? Detailed personal statement with a range of reasons for wanting to apply to study abroad, strong academic background, evidence of research, suitable study plan.

What courses will I study? Integral year students study a course approved by their RHUL department. Additional year students study courses of their choice.

Which partners can I apply for? See the International Exchange brochure.

How many Universities can I choose? A maximum of five.

How many places at each partner? Usually a maximum of 2 places. However at the University of California we have 6 places.

How will my grades be converted? RHUL approved grade conversion grids are used.

Frequently asked questions (International Exchange)
Contact us at studyabroadstudents@rhul.ac.uk

The brochure and application forms will be available from 5pm on Friday 16 November 2018 at https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/international/studyabroadandexchanges/outgoing/internationalexchangeoutsideeurope.aspx.

NB These forms are only for International Exchange applications. The Erasmus+ process takes place in the Spring Term

Further questions?