



The University of Sydney
FACULTY OF LAW
Undergraduate



Law Exchange Program 2010

The University of Sydney offers an extensive range of student exchange programs with universities throughout North America, Europe and Asia. Many students have participated in these programs and have found them to be an exciting and challenging way of broadening their academic horizons and enriching their experience in different environments and cultures.

The exchange programs offer students the opportunity to complete a full semester of study overseas and to receive credit for this study towards their degree at the University of Sydney.

Why go on exchange?

Studying overseas is an exciting opportunity to broaden your academic experience and sample a different lifestyle and culture. Every year the Faculty of Law sends approximately 30 students overseas on faculty exchanges, and many more law students also undertake university-wide exchanges or study abroad opportunities. Our students have found an exchange to be a rewarding experience: it adds an international dimension to their law degree; challenges them academically and facilitates the development of new skills; and enhances their personal growth and self-confidence.

What types of programs are available?

The University of Sydney offers two types of exchange program: University-wide and Faculty-specific.

University-wide exchange programs are available to Bachelor of Laws students but are administered by the Study Abroad and Exchange Program Unit of the International Office. For details on participating institutions, application procedures and selection criteria please visit:

http://www.usyd.edu.au/current_students/student_exchange/index.shtml

Faculty-specific exchange programs are available to students of a particular faculty only. The Faculty of Law currently has exchange agreements with law schools in North America, Europe and Asia. These exchanges are administered entirely by the Faculty.

What is the difference between the two programs?

The Faculty-specific and University-wide programs are very similar. In order to take full advantage of both programs, law students are only permitted to go on exchange in their final year and can only attend for one semester. However, some of the reasons students might consider a Faculty-specific exchange are: the reputation of the Law Schools we have agreements with and the quality of the legal education, and the range and availability of creditable law units. Students seeking to study in the U.S. should note that they can only do so under the Faculty-specific scheme – U.S. law schools will not accept law students under University-wide agreements.

How does the Faculty-specific exchange program work?

The Faculty of Law currently has agreements with sixteen overseas law schools which allow for the exchange of a certain number of students each year. Over the term of the agreement the number of incoming and outgoing students must be balanced and for this reason the Faculty may be required to alter the annual quota of students it sends overseas.

Whilst a student is on exchange, they are enrolled on a full-time basis at the University of Sydney and therefore pay the relevant tuition fees to the University of Sydney. Students from Sydney may be required to pay some minor administrative charges or health insurance to the host institution, however they are not required to pay any other fees.

Which universities participate in the Faculty-specific exchange*?

Country	Institution	Website
Belgium	Katholieke Universiteit Leuven	www.law.kuleuven.be/english
Canada	Queen's University, Ontario	http://law.queensu.ca
Canada	University of Victoria, British Columbia	www.law.uvic.ca
Denmark	University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen	http://jura.ku.dk/english/
Germany	Bucerius Law School, Hamburg	www.law-school.de
Germany	Humboldt University, Berlin	www.rewi.hu-berlin.de
Japan	Kobe University, Kobe	www.law.kobe-u.ac.jp
Netherlands	Radboud University, Nijmegen	www.ru.nl/law
Netherlands	Utrecht University, Utrecht	www.law.uu.nl
Netherlands	Vrije University, Amsterdam	www.rechten.vu.nl/english
Singapore	National University of Singapore	http://law.nus.edu.sg
U.S.	Cornell University, Ithaca, New York	www.lawschool.cornell.edu
U.S.	Emory Law School, Atlanta, Georgia	http://www.law.emory.edu/
U.S.	Harvard Law School, Boston	www.law.harvard.edu
U.S.	New York University, New York	www.law.nyu.edu
U.S.	University of Texas, Austin	www.utexas.edu/law

*Due to an imbalance between incoming and outgoing student numbers, some exchange destinations may be substantially restricted.

Am I eligible?

To be eligible for a Faculty-specific exchange you must:

1. Be undertaking your final year of the Bachelor of Laws in 2010.
2. Have a high credit average (70% or above). Many destinations require a considerably higher WAM.
3. Be enrolled full-time at the University of Sydney whilst on exchange (24 credit points per semester).
4. Produce evidence that you are proficient in the language of instruction if applying to an institution where classes are taught in a language other than English (Japanese for Kobe; German for Humboldt).

All Bachelor of Laws students are required to complete a minimum of 96 credit points at the University of Sydney. If you have already been granted more than 24 credit points of credit for studies undertaken at another institution, you will not be eligible for an exchange.

You are also expected to meet the progression rules of the LLB and should have completed most (if not all) compulsory law units (including a jurisprudence elective) *prior* to going on exchange. If you have outstanding compulsory units to complete in your final year, you must provide evidence that you are able to complete these units at Sydney. Under no circumstances are students permitted to complete compulsory units (including the jurisprudence elective) on exchange or cross-institutionally.

How do I apply for a Faculty-specific exchange?

Application forms are available from the Faculty of Law Information Desk and the Faculty website. The application consists of three parts: general application form; statement of purpose; and two academic referee reports (including at least one law referee). You are also required to submit a curriculum vitae. Students are encouraged to approach potential referees early, as late submission of these reports may compromise your application.

Applications for the Faculty-specific exchange must be submitted by **Friday 3 July 2009** for exchange in *both* Semester One and Semester Two 2010. Late applications will not be accepted. Incomplete applications, or applications submitted without relevant documentation, will not be processed.

Interviews may be conducted for students seeking a place at a particularly competitive institution, or to verify a student's foreign language skills. You will be advised of the outcome of your application in late August.

Is there competition for places and what can I do if I am not accepted?

Places in the Faculty of Law exchange are limited and highly sought after. While there is considerable competition for all exchange destinations, Harvard, NYU, Cornell, Texas, Queen's and Utrecht are in particularly high demand. You should give serious thought to all of your preferences. Although you will be assessed for your first preference, if there are not sufficient places, it is very likely that you will be assessed for your lower preferences.

Selection is not based on WAM alone, and a good academic record does not guarantee a place in the exchange program. The selection committee will consider your suitability and preparedness for an exchange, and academic performance is only one of the criteria used.

Students who are not successful in gaining a place on the Faculty exchange may apply to the University-wide program or directly to an overseas institution as a non-award student. Students considering the latter option should bear in mind that they will be responsible for making all arrangements themselves and will be liable for any tuition fees set by the overseas institution. Students will not be permitted to make independent arrangements with any of the law schools with which the Faculty currently has an agreement.

Enrolment and credit

All students, whether on a Faculty-specific or University-wide exchange program, are enrolled in the unit *Law International Exchange Electives* prior to departure. Students will normally pre-enrol in this unit for the appropriate credit point value (24 credit points).

One of the most important aspects of the exchange period is the transfer of credit to your enrolment at the University of Sydney. You are required to nominate the units of study you intend to undertake whilst on exchange and have these approved by the International Associate Dean *prior* to departure. Once you have enrolled at the overseas institution, you will need to confirm your choice of units with the International Associate Dean. It is imperative that any variation to your unit selection is also approved by the International Associate Dean.

Upon completion of your exchange period, you will receive an academic transcript from your exchange institution listing the units of study undertaken and the results achieved. Please note that for both Faculty-specific and University-wide exchanges, you will not receive a mark or grade on your University of Sydney academic record for your exchange studies. Your record will simply reflect that you have satisfied the requirements of the program. It is important to note that the results you achieve at the exchange institution do *not* contribute to your WAM.

What is the cost of going on an exchange?

The exchange programs work on the basis of reciprocal agreements with overseas universities in which students only pay fees to their home institution. By remaining enrolled at the University of Sydney, you will not be required to pay tuition fees to the host (exchange) institution, although you may be required to pay an administrative fee. You are required to pay for your return airfare, visa and living expenses whilst overseas. A general estimate is AU\$10,000 - \$15,000 for one semester to cover living expenses, airfares, travel and health insurance, etc. Costs will vary depending on the exchange rate and the cost of living in each country. Please note that exchanges to the U.S. may cost considerably more and employment opportunities whilst overseas may be limited. Exchange funds can be made up of:

- Centrelink benefits (if you are already eligible)
- Personal savings
- Parental support

- Scholarships

Faculty of Law Exchange Scholarships

The Faculty of Law will be offering a limited number of exchange scholarships for students undertaking Faculty-specific exchanges in 2010. These scholarships will be valued at AU\$2,000 each and are awarded on the basis of equity. It is intended that these scholarships will enable students to undertake an exchange who would not otherwise be in a position to do so, or to assist students who would experience serious financial hardship as a result of the exchange.

Students apply for these scholarships at the same time as they apply for the exchange. It is anticipated that students will be notified as to the success of their application shortly after they are made an offer of an exchange place.

International Office Scholarships

The International Office offers up to 200 International Exchange Scholarships each year. These are valued at AU\$1,000 and are awarded on the basis of academic merit.

Most nominated students will be automatically considered for the scholarships – there is no separate application process.

As funding is extremely limited, please do not rely on anticipated scholarship funding when planning your exchange.

OS-HELP Loans

OS-HELP is an Australian Government loan scheme that assists eligible students to undertake some of their study overseas. Students must be Australian citizens, enrolled as a Commonwealth-supported student, and required to complete at least one full semester of their course upon their return from overseas. Further information on the scheme is available at:

<http://www.usyd.edu.au/stuserv/international/oshelp.shtml>

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I take a compulsory unit overseas?

No. It is not possible to take a compulsory Sydney law unit whilst on exchange.

Can I enrol in an elective overseas to satisfy the Part 2 (Jurisprudence) requirement?

No. You must satisfy the Jurisprudence requirement at Sydney.

Can I take a part-time load while overseas or only attend for one trimester?

You must be enrolled on a full-time basis and for this reason, must attend for a minimum of two trimesters. It is not possible to complete the equivalent of 24 Sydney credit points in one trimester.

How are overseas units assessed for credit?

Courses taken overseas are assessed on the basis of contact hours, assessment regime, credit weighting of the host institution, and general workload e.g. expected weekly reading, etc.

Will I receive Austudy/Youth Allowance while overseas?

If you are currently eligible for a Centrelink benefit, you should receive it whilst on exchange as you will still be enrolled at the University of Sydney and attending the overseas institution as part of a university-sponsored program.

Which universities have foreign language requirements?

Kobe requires proficiency in Japanese and Humboldt requires proficiency in German. Courses at all other Faculty-specific exchange institutions are taught in English.

Does the program extend my degree by a semester or will it delay my graduation?

Students attending an institution with an academic year comprising two semesters should not experience any delay in the completion of their degree or the processing of their results in time for graduation. It is your responsibility to ensure that the Undergraduate Team receives an original academic transcript from your exchange institution in order for credit to be processed, and your name placed on the graduation list where appropriate. Failure to do so may delay your graduation. Students undertaking an exchange in Semester Two should note that results are not finalised in time for their name to be included in the provisional honours list published in *The Sydney Morning Herald* in early February.

Where do I live while on exchange?

Many universities provide student housing such as dormitory accommodation on campus, or off-campus private accommodation. There is usually a high demand for this accommodation and students should expect to live in shared housing with other students.

Can I work while on exchange?

Work rights for international students vary from country to country. We do not recommend that students on exchange seek more than a few hours of employment per week, and they should not rely on anticipated employment to fund their exchange. We advise students to check the conditions of their student visa carefully prior to departure.

Can I take any non-law courses while on exchange?

You must undertake a full-time law load while on exchange. Although credit will only be given for units offered by the law school, you may be permitted to enrol in other courses for non-degree purposes. Students on Faculty-specific exchanges however, may not be permitted to enrol in courses offered by other faculties and should check with the relevant exchange institution.

Can I apply to both the Faculty-specific and University-wide programs?

While you are permitted to apply for both, once you have received and accepted an exchange offer, you will be excluded from consideration for an exchange place with the other program.

Further information

Faculty-specific exchanges

Undergraduate Team

Faculty of Law

Telephone: 9351 0346

E-mail: k.crawford@usyd.edu.au

Website: www.law.usyd.edu.au/cstudent/undergrad/exchange.shtml

University-wide exchanges

Study Abroad and Student Exchange

International Office

Telephone: 8627 8322

E-mail: exchange@io.usyd.edu.au

Website: http://www.usyd.edu.au/current_students/student_exchange/index.shtml