

Mānoa International Exchange FAQs

1. Where can I study on International Exchange?

UH Mānoa currently has student exchange agreements with over 60 different universities in almost 20 different countries. For the complete list, click on the link to “Student Exchange Agreements” at http://manoa.hawaii.edu/international/international_exchange/student_exchange_agreements/.

2. Can I study at any UHM partner university, regardless of my major?

Some universities are restricted to certain majors, but most are open to any major.

3. When is the application deadline?

The application deadline is **March 1** for Fall semester exchanges and **September 15** for Spring semester exchanges. There are a few exceptions so be sure to see the International Exchange Coordinator well before applying. These deadlines are for turning in the required materials to the International Exchange Coordinator. Successful applicants will then be asked to complete a specific partner school application.

4. What are the qualifications for going on International Exchange?

- * An incoming freshman should complete two semesters at UH Mānoa before going on exchange. So it is possible to go on exchange during your second year at UHM. The application would be made during the second semester.
- * An incoming transfer student should complete at least one semester at UH Mānoa, but preferably two.
- * Some partner schools have a minimum 3.0 GPA requirement, but we will consider an application if the student's GPA is 2.5 or higher. If you are interested in going on International Exchange but have a GPA of less than 2.5, see the International Exchange Coordinator.

5. How much does International Exchange cost?

Even while overseas on exchange, you must be registered at UH Mānoa and pay regular UHM tuition—and you do not pay tuition overseas. You are responsible for paying for your living expenses overseas (room and meals) as well as airfare and local transportation. For an estimate of living expenses at the university at which you are interested in studying, visit that university's link at the International Exchange website (http://manoa.hawaii.edu/international/international_exchange/student_exchange_agreements/) or see the International Exchange Coordinator.

6. Can I still use my Financial Aid if I go on International Exchange?

Yes, because you are registered at UH Mānoa and are paying UHM tuition and are a UHM student while you are on exchange, you are still eligible to receive financial aid and scholarships, etc. Remember that even though you are taking classes at a UHM partner university overseas, you are still a UHM student.

7. Are there scholarships available for International Exchange study?

Yes, there are scholarships available specifically for students studying abroad. There is a list at the link to “Funding” at our website (http://www.manoa.hawaii.edu/international/international_exchange/). You will also find information online at <http://www.hawaii.edu/oie/scholarships.php>.

8. Will I get credit for the courses I take overseas?

Yes, you will receive transfer credit (not UH credit) for the courses you take overseas. In order not to delay your graduation, you should take classes that are the equivalent of courses you need to take here at UHM. To receive transfer credit for a three-credit course, be sure the course is considered a three-credit (or equivalent) course at the overseas university. (A three-credit class should meet for 45-48 class hours.) *It is important that you save all of your class syllabuses as Admissions & Records usually wants to see these before awarding transfer credit.*

9. Where will I live if I go on International Exchange?

Most exchange students live in dormitories or other types of student housing. You normally receive housing information and applications when you are accepted to the overseas university. Some universities have a homestay option.

10. What is the difference between International Exchange and the UHM Study Abroad Center?

Both International Exchange and the Study Abroad Center provide opportunities for UH Mānoa students to study abroad. You will find a list of the Study Abroad Center programs online at the link to “Programs” at <http://www.studyabroad.hawaii.edu/>. Like International Exchange, the Study Abroad Center has programs in Japan, China, Australia and Europe. There are no Study Abroad Center programs in Korea, Thailand, Singapore, Taiwan, New Zealand or Canada, but they do have programs in South America and Russia (International Exchange does not) and offer more programs in European countries.

Differences between the two programs include:

- * International Exchange both sends students abroad and receives students from abroad; the Study Abroad Center only sends UHM students abroad.

- * The Study Abroad Center usually sends larger numbers of students overseas. A group of 10-15 may travel together to the study destination; International Exchange normally sends no more than 2-3 students at one time to a partner university.
- * A professor usually accompanies the Study Abroad Center group; no professor accompanies International Exchange students.
- * Students taking classes through the Study Abroad Center receive UHM credit and the grades are calculated into your UHM GPA. International Exchange students choose classes at the overseas university and receive transfer credit. The grades you earn overseas are not calculated into your UHM GPA.
- * International Exchange students pay UHM tuition and no additional fees. You pay for your own transportation and living expenses overseas. Study Abroad Center students often pay a higher amount to the Study Abroad Center up front, but this includes a number of things, usually UHM tuition, housing, excursions, insurance, etc.