

STUDY ABROAD: FAQS

Accommodation at Reading

There are a number of choices for your accommodation if you go away for half a year. We do not want you paying for two rents (at your host and in Reading). Therefore, you have the option to go into halls accommodation and potentially only pay for time you need your room.

If you are looking at or already have private accommodation in Reading, then you can ask if you can sublet or change the name on the contracts (this usually has a small fee attached). If you can do either of these, you can then find someone to pay your rent. We can advertise for you on our Facebook page however we are unable to guarantee finding someone and suggest you also look for someone on other groups and sites. Please note we do not guarantee that we will be able to find someone to cover your rent, the onus is on you to find someone.

Accommodation at your Host

Generally speaking, students go into halls associated with their university, the accommodation is different to that at Reading and you may be in a shared room or a studio. It all depends on the university.

However sometimes university halls accommodation isn't an option, you will need to then find private rented accommodation, the host university should point you in the direction of where you can find this information.

Some students go abroad without accommodation, this is rare however is becoming more popular. Most students find accommodation quickly whilst abroad and are able to move in within a week of arriving. You may need to be proactive.

Accommodation is one of the biggest worries about studying abroad however it can be easily solved.

Academics

What you study abroad will be related to your degree. You will study similar but not the same modules. Please ensure you are speaking with your Study Abroad Coordinator to confirm any compulsory modules you will need to study whilst abroad. With studying abroad you usually have the choice of all modules across the university therefore as long as the module relates to your degree you should be able to study it.

If you are going in either autumn or in spring and summer terms, you need to make sure all your modules are ok in Reading. Therefore you will work with your Study Abroad Coordinator to make sure you have the right modules and when.

Assessments and Exams

If you go abroad in autumn term you will complete assessments and exams at your host institution. When you return to Reading for the spring and summer terms you will complete modules and assessments as normal.

If you go abroad in spring and summer terms, you will miss the exam period therefore you will most likely be set alternative assessments to be completed over the Christmas period. When abroad you will complete assessments and exams at your host institution.

For full year students you will complete assessments and exams as per your host university for the full year.

Term Times

You will go abroad following the University of Reading term pattern, either Autumn term, Spring and Summer terms or a full year. However you will attend your host university by their term/semester dates. Most other universities work on a semester base, so split the year in half. This is why if you go in spring you go for spring and summer terms.

For example if you are due to go to Australia in UoR's autumn term then you would go into their 2nd semester so July to November, returning to Reading in January.

Another example is if you are due to go to Germany in spring and summer terms, you would go into their 2nd semester which runs from March to July, returning to Reading in September.

If you go for a full year you will follow the host universities timings starting anywhere from July to October and finishing April to July, all depending on where you go. This can be very confusing, however essentially it doesn't matter what semester you are going in you do not need to be in Reading for anytime of that semester.

Joint Degrees

There is often a myth surrounding joint degrees, however you can study abroad. The mix of what you study depends on where and when you go. Therefore it is even more important that you speak with your study Abroad Coordinators. Your first subject is your lead subject, typically the department of your academic tutor.

Finance

Although studying abroad might be more expensive than if you stayed at Reading, it is the cheapest way to live and travel abroad. We have loads of information available about costs and budgets so please take a look at our website for more info.

Keeping in Touch

Keeping in touch whilst you are abroad is really easy with social media and messaging over wifi chat system. However sometimes it is hard as you will watch friends and family do things you wish to do.

But the opportunities you will have whilst abroad outweigh the social events you may be missing. You will make friends with students from the host university and international students. In the past students have travelled around the country and area they are in. They have learnt new hobbies and sports that are not available so easily in Reading (eg. Skiing or Surfing).

Anxiety about Studying Abroad

There are many different reasons to cause anxiety around study abroad and it is ok to be nervous. However you have support before, during and after your time abroad. The main tip is to apply. If you do not apply you will miss out and not have this opportunity again!