THINKING ABOUT APPLYING TO UQ ABROAD

a. How does the exchange program work?
When you go on exchange you ‘swap’ your place at UQ with a student at your host university. You will still be enrolled at UQ, paying your fees/HECS to UQ, but studying overseas. Therefore the subjects that you study while overseas must be approved by your faculty to transfer the credit to your UQ degree.

b. Does my degree program allow me to go on exchange through UQ Abroad?
Most undergraduate programs at UQ allow students to spend at least one semester studying overseas. However, not all degree programs have the flexibility to allow students to participate in an exchange program. Programs that do not allow exchange through UQ Abroad are:
- MBBS (please see your school or other international opportunities during your studies)
- B. Pharmacy
- B. Occupational Therapy
- B. Physiotherapy
- B. Education – (your practical component)
- B. Music (first and second year, and performance or composition majors)
- B. Speech Therapy
- B. Dentistry
- B. Veterinary Science

c. Which host university is the best place for me to go on exchange to?
There are a number of reasons people choose their exchange destination. When selecting your preferred host university, you should consider:
- Language
- Culture
- Location
- Climate
- Reputation of the institution in your field of study
- Living costs
• Family/friends nearby
• Travel opportunities

To research your host institution and country, the following resources might help you:
• UQ Abroad website - www.uq.edu.au/uqabroad
• UQ Abroad Student Exchange Advisers
• UQ Abroad Resource room (Room 220, Level 2, Student Union Complex (#21C), near the Red Room)
• Academic advisers
• Academic staff in your department/field of study
• Past and present exchange students
• Foreign institution websites (accessible through the UQ Abroad website)
• Advising sheets – lists of recommended universities by study area, available from the UQ Abroad Resource Room

Be adventurous! Check out places like Turkey, Russia, South Africa or Peru. Explore your world!

d. How early should I start planning for my exchange?
Application deadlines are between 9 - 12 months prior to the start of the overseas semester. To make sure that your application is ready to submit by the deadline, we recommend starting your research 3 months prior to that date.

Also, if you have only just started your studies here at UQ, we recommend you start thinking now about what courses you can do on exchange and plan your studies accordingly. Remember, it’s best to save your electives, or most flexible courses, for your exchange overseas.

e. How long can I go on exchange for?
UQ Abroad offers exchanges for either one or two semesters, depending on which university you wish to study at. Most students go on exchange for a single semester, but for a list of our partner universities with year-long exchange options please go to our homepage and click on ‘Restrictions’ under ‘What’s New’.

Also if you do wish to go on exchange for a year, please consult your faculty to ensure that you have enough subjects to take on a year-long exchange.

f. Can I go on exchange for longer than a year?
One year is the maximum period of exchange at a single partner university. Depending on faculty approval, it may be possible for you to complete more than one exchange at multiple exchange partners.

g. Do I have to speak a foreign language to study in a non-English speaking country?
Not necessarily. Many exchange partners in non-English speaking countries offer courses taught in both English and the native language of that country. Please check the web page of each partner university to see whether courses in English are offered (from the UQ Abroad website).

When selecting courses to study at a partner university in Europe or Asia, make sure that the courses you wish to study are taught in English.

If you plan to study in a foreign language while overseas you will need to submit an Assessment of Language Proficiency form (available on the UQ Abroad website forms page). Your foreign language skills must be at the B2 level or above in order to be able to study in a foreign language. This form
should be completed by a lecturer from the School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies at UQ and must be submitted with your UQ Abroad application.

**h. Can I still apply for the exchange if I have failed a course?**
You may still be eligible for exchange if you have failed a subject, depending on your overall GPA and academic progression status. Please consult with a UQ Abroad Adviser for more information.

**i. Can I go on exchange to a university not on the partner list?**
No. If you wish to study at a university that is not listed as one of UQ’s exchange partners you would need to organise your own studies there and pay tuition to that university rather than UQ. Under these conditions, you would be studying at the overseas university as a fee paying study abroad or ‘free mover’ student, rather than an exchange student.

As a fee paying ‘free mover’ student, you would not be enrolled at UQ and therefore would not be eligible to receive Centrelink payments. You may be able to receive credit for the courses you plan to study at the host university, but you would need to discuss course approvals directly with your faculty.

**j. How many exchange places are available?**
The exchange program is reciprocal which means that the number of places at any partner institution is determined by the number of students sent to study at UQ. When there are limited places at a partner, those places are allocated according to two criteria: (1) by GPA in current program and (2) whether the student has participated in UQ Abroad previously. Those students who have been on exchange before through UQ Abroad are considered after students who have never been on exchange through UQ Abroad.

There are also limitations to which universities you can go on exchange to, depending on your degree program. For more information on restrictions, please see the ‘additional information’ section on each university’s page on the UQ Abroad website.

Due to these restrictions and popularity of some partners it is best to be flexible with your preferences, this way you will also be more likely to have an enjoyable exchange experience.

**k. Can I go on exchange in the last semester of my program?**
Yes, you can as long as your Faculty approves the timing of your exchange. You also need to remember that:

- You must have a minimum of 6 units left in your degree to be able to study overseas in your last semester.
- Studying overseas in your last semester will most likely delay your graduation by a semester.
- If you fail any courses while you are overseas in your last semester, you will almost certainly have to return to UQ to finish your degree.
- Flexibility with courses is necessary when going on exchange. If you only have core courses remaining in your degree it is not recommended that you go on exchange in your last semester.
- You will not be eligible for an OS-Help loan.
- If you are an international student, you must complete your UQ degree program within the timeframe of your Australian student visa.
I. Can I go on exchange during the summer?
A limited number of UQ exchange partners offer short term programs during the summer. It may be possible for you to participate in one of these programs if you are able to receive credit for the courses. Contact UQ Abroad for more information about summer exchange programs.

m. If I am in my first year now can I apply for an exchange next year?
To be eligible for exchange through UQ Abroad you must have completed at least one year of study (#16 units) by the end of the semester in which you apply for exchange.

Therefore, if you are in your 2nd semester of your 1st year, you can apply by the October 31 deadline (for exchange in semester 2, of the following year). However, please be aware you will only be conditionally considered for exchange until it can be confirmed that you have successfully passed your 2nd semester and therefore completed 16 credits.

Keep the application deadlines in mind, and consult with your Faculty Academic Advisor to plan your program structure from your first year at university, to allow for an exchange later in your degree.

n. When is my UQ Abroad application due?
There are two application deadlines per year:
31 May (or the last working day in May) for an exchange in semester 1 of the following year.
31 October (or the last working day in October) for an exchange in semester 2 of the following year.

o. Where do I submit my UQ Abroad application?
Submit your completed application form (and all required supporting documents) to UQ Abroad. Your original study plan needs to go to your faculty by the appropriate application due date.

Tip! Keep a photocopy of your application for your own records and make sure that you give UQ Abroad a photocopy of your draft study plan as well.