

## Academic Course and Credit Information

Swansea University

Updated September 2011

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### Choosing the Right Subjects

- Swansea University abroad course catalog is accessed through the EuroLearn website via <http://www.eurolearn.org/Subject/ProgramID470/>
- Select an area of study or department from the first drop down menu. By clicking on a discipline you will see a list of modules available in that academic area. Select the subject area most similar to your current major or minor.
- Select an academic year for the time you will be abroad. Click on “b) List Departmental Modules”. This will provide a list of classes, called “modules,” offered through the specified Department during that academic year.
- Modules will be listed by level. Level 1 courses are usually equivalent to lower division courses in North America (sophomore level). Level 2 and 3 courses are usually equivalent to upper division courses in North America (junior and senior level).
- To see a course description click on the Module Code. A brief description of the module is given. Study Abroad Students requiring further module information should contact their EuroLearn Coordinator.
- The academic year at Swansea consists of two terms: Teaching Block 1 (TB1) from September to January and Teaching Block 2 (TB2) from January to June. Select courses available during the Teaching Block that you will be attending. TB1&2 means it is a full year course and not available to students studying for one semester. Check the Teaching Block a module is offered in before putting it on your Intended Subject Plan. Don't apply for a TB1 module when you're going to Swansea during the spring semester!
- Please note the following restrictions for Study Abroad students at Swansea:
  - Chemistry modules are not available at Swansea
  - Biology modules are not available to Study Abroad students
  - Creative Writing has very limited availability- writing samples must be submitted in order to receive special permission.
  - Courses from the DACE (Swansea's Adult Continuing Education department) are not available to Study Abroad students – these classes are intended for working adults, are taught at alternate locations around the city, and are commonly cancelled without notice.
  - Students studying Engineering, Computer Science and Mathematics courses during the Fall (TB1) semester MUST stay through January to take course exams. If you must return to your home university in January for your spring semester, you will NOT be permitted to take Fall courses in these three subjects.
- Swansea University has developed a 2-week upper-level module on “British Culture and Politics Since 1945” for Study Abroad students. EuroLearn students will all participate in this intensive module which takes place during the first two weeks of the program before Swansea U. modules

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begin. This module (AMX315 for Fall and AMX316 for Spring), includes several field trips and is worth 10 Swansea credit points.

- All EuroLearn students are required to take 50 Swansea credit points per semester. Once the term begins, students will only take 40 Swansea credit points since they will already have completed 10 from British Culture and Politics. Most modules are worth 10 or 20 points, so students can expect to take 2-4 modules per term in addition to the British Politics and Culture course offered during the first two weeks of the semester.
- Students who have been accepted to the Study Internship Combo during the Fall (TB1) semester may take a total of 60 Swansea credit points (10 for the Internship, 10 for British Life and Culture and 2-4 additional Swansea modules). The Internship Code is AMX317 for the Fall semester and AMX318 for the Spring semester.

### **Prerequisites and Course Approval**

- Where a prerequisite is listed, you are not expected to have taken exactly the same course at your own institution, but you are expected to have studied the same subject area at the same level as the Swansea prerequisite.
- Be sure that you have submitted updated transcripts to EuroLearn so that your prerequisites can be properly evaluated. If your current course registration is not listed on the transcript you will need to provide a list of courses underway as one may represent the prerequisite.
- When you have been accepted to the EuroLearn program you will be asked to submit an Intended Subject Plan listing 8-10 modules that you would be interested in taking at Swansea in order of priority
- If one of your first three choices is not available the fourth choice will be considered your next priority. In other words, your eighth option would only be considered if one of the first 7 options was unavailable.

### **Course Scheduling and Enrollment**

- Timetables at most universities are not published until just before the semester begins. Therefore, you will not actually enroll in your subjects until after you arrive. This process is all explained during your orientation in Wales and you are guided through the registration process. The majority of classes do not have quotas, so you shouldn't have to worry about space filling up.
- Exams for the Fall (TB1) semester typically occur during January, after Study Abroad students usually depart. In order to allow TB1 Study Abroad students to depart before the December holidays, one to two additional essays will be required as their assessment in place of exams. There are some courses where this alternative assessment is not possible as noted above in the academic disciplines with restrictions. Students attending for the academic year or spring semester **MUST** complete all coursework and take final examinations (held in May/June). Specific exam schedules are not available until mid Spring. Students should arrange their travel plans accordingly as exams cannot be rescheduled.

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- There is no guarantee that all courses will be available every year and timetable conflicts can also arise, so list your selection in order of preference. Please make it clear if you have specific alternatives should your first choice not be available.
- It is important that students (and Study Abroad advisors) understand that there is no guarantee on the availability of modules. This is why it is crucial that students submit multiple choices in order of priority.

### **Academic Differences between Wales and the U.S./Canada**

Students in Wales typically attend university for three years, beginning courses in their major during their first semester since there is not a "general studies" requirement like most U.S. and Canadian four-year institutions. First level classes are at least equivalent to sophomore level classes in the U.S. as British students often begin specializing in their subject area one to two years prior to university.

The academic year at Swansea consists of two terms: Teaching Block 1 (TB1) from September to January and Teaching Block 2 (TB2) from January to June. Assessment and Exams take place during the final months of each term (January and June). Students attending Swansea for the Fall semester only are provided with alternative assessment which allows them to return home in December, except for in the subjects of Engineering, Computer Science and Mathematics.

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## GRADING CONVERSION GUIDE

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### Swansea University

UK % mark	US Grade
65+	A
62-64	A-
58-61	B+
55-57	B
52-54	B-
48-51	C+
45-47	C
40-44	C-
39 or less	F

Recommended credit: Most courses at Swansea are worth 10, 15 or 20 Swansea credits. Swansea recommends the following credit conversion between Swansea credits and US semester credits, but please note that conversion rates are at the discretion of each US institution. Please check with your home university to verify their policies on credit conversion.

SWANSEA CREDIT POINTS	US SEMESTER HOURS
5	1.5
10	3.0
15	4.0
20	5.0/6.0
30	8.0

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