

Academics: Course and Credit Information
University of Stirling
Updated July 2011

Choosing the Right Subjects

- The University of Stirling study abroad course catalog is accessed through the EuroLearn website via <http://www.eurolearn.org/Subject/ProgramID471/>.
- By clicking on a discipline you will see a list of classes (also known as modules) available in that academic area. Select the subject area most similar to your current major or minor.
- Each module is assigned a Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) level ranging from 8-10. Level 8 courses are generally first year courses, level 9 are normally second year courses which require some background knowledge, and level 10 courses are usually third and fourth year courses which are at an advanced level and require considerable background in this subject area. It is important to apply for modules for which you have the appropriate academic background. Don't apply for a level 10 Scottish History module when you've only studied one semester of history!
- Students who are not in their first year of study can only take **one level 8 class per semester**.
- Check the semester a module is offered in before putting it on your Intended Subject Plan. Don't apply for an autumn module when you're going to Stirling during the spring semester! Please also note that some modules are offered on alternate years and this will be indicated in the catalogue.
- A brief description of each module is given. Further details for modules including the syllabus, reading lists etc. are usually available upon request. Study Abroad Students requiring further module information should contact their EuroLearn Coordinator.
- This course catalogue aims to provide a guide to the different courses offered at the University during both autumn and spring semesters. However, as many departments have not yet finalized their course offerings for the next academic year, there will be changes to what is published in this catalogue. As soon as any new information becomes available this will be updated on the online module information.

Prerequisites and Course Approval

- Some subjects may indicate prerequisites. Be sure to read through the full module description to determine if you have the appropriate academic background as documented by your transcript. If your current semester courses are not listed on the transcript you submitted with your EuroLearn application you will need to provide a list of courses underway as one may represent the prerequisite. Academic departments will review your transcripts to ensure that you have met these prerequisites with equivalent classes. They will not, in most cases, require that you have taken their exact class but one with similar content and at the same level as the prerequisite. Departments are very strict about this at Stirling, so do not apply for a class if you do not meet the prerequisites.
- The more technical a subject is (e.g. sciences, Economics etc.), the more important it is to have the correct background from previous study. Some departments (e.g. Economics) may require you to

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provide additional information on what you have studied. This is largely determined by your transcript – a transcript simply listing Business 1, for example, does not give much indication of what has been covered. Your EuroLearn Coordinator will inform you if further information is required from you.

- When you have been accepted to the EuroLearn program you will be asked to submit an Intended Subject Plan (ISP) listing 8-10 modules that you would be interested in taking at Stirling **in order of priority**. A normal load at the University of Stirling is 3 modules.
- Based on availability and prerequisites, the University of Stirling academic departments will approve your course choices based on your listed order of priority on your Intended Subject Plan. 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.
- A formal Offer of Admission will be sent to you outlining the modules which have been approved. You will then have the opportunity to confirm the modules offered.

Course Scheduling and Enrollment

- The University timetable is available online a few weeks prior to the start of each semester at www.ifs.stir.ac.uk. Once you have confirmed the three courses as offered you will be registered in those three courses.
- It is important that students (and Study Abroad advisors) understand that there is no guarantee on the availability of modules and timetable conflicts can also arise. This is why it is crucial that students submit multiple choices in order of priority.

Academic Differences between the U.K. and the U.S./Canada

Students in Scotland typically attend university for four 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 Stirling is divided into two terms similar to the U.S. semester system. The Autumn semester runs from mid-September through December; the Spring semester runs from mid-February through May.

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GRADING CONVERSION GUIDE

University of Stirling

| UK % mark | US Grade | Canadian Grade |
|-----------|----------|----------------|
| 1A | A | A+ |
| 1B | A | A+ |
| 1C | A | A |
| 2A | A- | A |
| 2B | B+ | B+ |
| 2C | B | B+ |
| 2D | B | B |
| 2E | B- | B |
| 2F | B- | B- |
| 3A | C+ | C+ |
| 3B | C | C |
| 3C | C- | C- |
| 4 | D | D |
| 5 | F | F |

Students studying full time at the University of Stirling take three modules each semester. A full-time credit load for an Academic Year is 132 SCQF credits or 66 SCQF Stirling credits for one semester of study. One Stirling class, known as a “course module,” is equivalent to 22 Stirling SCQF credits. This is equivalent to 5 US credits (in systems with a 30 credit academic year) and 10 ECTS credits (in systems with a 60 ECTS credit academic year) and involve approximately the same amount of work. Please verify your Home University policies on the equivalencies for transfer credit at your institution.

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12050 N. Pecos Street, Suite 320 • Westminster, CO 80234 | tel: +1.303.446.2214 • 1.800.980.0033 • fax: +1.303.446.5955
studyabroad@globalinksabroad.org | www.globalinksabroad.org