

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

Choosing the Right Subjects

- The University of Strathclyde study abroad course catalog is accessed through the EuroLearn website via <http://www.eurolearn.org/Subject/ProgramID547/>.
- You may then browse the course selections by Faculty which is equivalent to Colleges in the U.S. system (i.e. Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Science, etc.). You may then search courses by Department or subject area (i.e. accounting, history, etc.).
- Each listing shows the course number code, title, Strathclyde credit value, Class Level, the Semester/s the class is expected to run, whether undergraduate or post-graduate and whether offered (for Strathclyde degree seeking students) as an Elective.
- Semester 1 is Fall, Semester 2 is Spring and Both Semesters means it is a full year course and not available for semester only registration.
- Study Abroad students may take Class Level 1, 2 or 3 at the undergraduate level. The level is indicated by the third character in the module code.
- If you are spending your junior year at Strathclyde, the second year courses (level 2) will usually be the ones that are the most compatible with your current program. If you are a junior or a senior, bear in mind that third level courses are often courses taken only by students majoring in the subject. Sophomores, or students not majoring in that subject, will not normally be approved to take second or third level classes.
- It is important to apply for modules for which you have the appropriate academic background. For example, don't plan to take a Third Year Business course if you have only taken one business course prior to study abroad at Strathclyde.
- The following restrictions apply to study abroad students at the University of Strathclyde:
 - EuroLearn students interested in taking English Studies classes must pre-book these classes in advance via the English Studies department.
 - The Department of Psychology will only consider study abroad applications from students majoring in psychology. Consequently, non-majors may not take psychology courses.
 - Study Abroad students are welcome to take elective classes in entrepreneurship. Please go to <http://www.entrepreneur.strath.ac.uk/undergrad/> for information.
 - Classes in Journalism & Creative Writing and Primary Education are not available to study abroad students.
 - SIPBS (Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences). This department is only able to consider a limited number of study abroad applications from students majoring in this field.
 - Students taking classes in the Business department must take at least two of their three classes from within this department.

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- If you are planning to take modules from more than one faculty (i.e. both Business courses and English courses), you should look for modules that are classified as “Possible Elective” or “Elective Only.” If you are taking modules in one particular department, you may also consider “Non-Elective” courses.
- It is **highly recommended**, though not required, that you try to take classes in only one or two different departments as this makes scheduling easier upon arrival.
- All EuroLearn students are required to take 60 University of Strathclyde credit points per semester equivalent to 15 U.S. semester credits. The Strathclyde credit system is very different from that of the U.S. or Canada. The majority of course units at the University of Strathclyde are worth 5, 10, 15 or 20 credits. As a general rule, four Strathclyde credits equates to 1 U.S. semester credit. Please verify your Home University policies on the equivalencies for transfer credit at your institution.

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. Do not select a class if you have not already taken courses at the same level and in the same subject area as the prerequisites listed.
- 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 Strathclyde **in order of priority**.
- Please put an asterisk next to any specific courses that you feel are the most vital for you to take while you study abroad. This still does not guarantee you will get the courses, but it will let the Strathclyde academic departments know which are the most important to you.

Course Scheduling and Enrollment

- Final Course Registration is completed during orientation upon arrival.
- Upon arrival at Strathclyde, there will be an add/drop period for final registration based on the class schedule and any timetable conflicts. Students will ultimately be enrolled in 3-6 modules (though the *majority* of students end up with 3 modules). At that point, you should submit a verification of enrollment to your home university.
- 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 alternate choices.
- Exams for the Fall semester typically occur during January, after Study Abroad students usually depart. Many of the faculty have adjusted timetables for Fall Study Abroad students so they may be assessed prior to their departure in December through papers, presentations or other methods in lieu of sitting the exams. If alternative assessment is not a possibility for a particular class, you will be advised of this before you register for the class, and will have a chance to make changes to your classes as necessary.

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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.

Students should note that the number of credits associated with a course does not relate to the number of contact hours (lectures, tutorials etc) per week as is the case in some education systems. The number of formal contact hours varies considerably between subjects. Course units within engineering and the sciences will normally have many more contact hours than course units in humanities, but the latter usually require the student to invest more time in library study.

The academic year at Strathclyde is divided into two terms: Autumn (September – January), Spring (January – June).

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GRADING CONVERSION GUIDE

University of Strathclyde

Consistency of marking is an important issue for students and staff. The following minimal guidance is the basis of the University's marking structure for individual undergraduate assignments and classes, for essays, coursework, projects and examinations as well as for overall awards.

%	Descriptor
90 -100 A*	<u>Truly Exceptional/Outstanding</u> demonstration of learning outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wide, appropriate knowledge and understanding (and where appropriate effective project work) including insight and/or originality
80 - 89 A	
70 - 79 B	<u>Excellent</u> demonstration of learning outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wide, appropriate knowledge and understanding (and where appropriate effective project work) including insight and/or originality • evidence of reading and thought beyond course/assignment materials • appropriate use of references and exemplars • a high standard of writing and communication
60 - 69 C	<u>Comprehensively Good</u> demonstration of learning outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wide appropriate knowledge and understanding (and where appropriate effective project work) with only occasional lapses in detail • evidence of reading and thought beyond course/assignment materials • a high standard of writing and communication
50 - 59 D	<u>Generally Good</u> demonstration of learning outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sound knowledge and understanding of essential material (and where appropriate essential project skills) • general accuracy with occasional mistakes and/or uncoordinated use of information
40 - 49 E	<u>Satisfactory</u> demonstration of learning outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basic knowledge and understanding (and where appropriate basic project skills) • omissions and/or weaknesses of presentation and/or logic and/or evidence
30 - 39 F	<u>Poor</u> performance in learning outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some relevant information and limited understanding (and where appropriate some project work completed under supervision) • omissions and/or weaknesses of presentation and/or logic and/or evidence • lack of familiarity with the subject of assessment and/or assessment vehicle
20 - 29 G	<u>Weak</u> performance in learning outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a few key words or phrases • serious errors
1 - 19 H	
0	No relevant work submitted for assessment

Students studying full time at the University of Strathclyde take three to six modules each semester depending on the credit value of individual modules/courses. Most semester only courses will be worth 5, 10, 15 or 20 SCOTCAT (Scottish Credit Accumulation and Transfer) credit system. A full-time credit load for a semester is

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60 Strathclyde credits, typically equivalent to 15 U.S. semester credits. As a general rule, four Strathclyde credits equates to 1 U.S. semester credit.

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