

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Faculty of Science, Engineering & Technology



UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA



Nick Winter (front right) BSc-BE, Switzerland 2006.

Why go on exchange?

- Live in another country and experience another culture
- Make new friends
- Earn credit towards your degree at UTAS
- Only pay UTAS tuition fees and continue to receive Youth Allowance
- Improve communication skills, self-confidence and global awareness as an 'ambassador' for UTAS, Tasmania and Australia

- Demonstrate independence and initiative to potential employers
- Increase career opportunities
- Learn a second language
- Experience the opportunity of a lifetime!

Check out the Student Exchange Program at www.international.utas.edu.au or phone the Faculty of Science, Engineering & Technology on **(03) 6226 2845** for information.

Frequently asked questions

Am I eligible to go on exchange?

You must have completed at least one year (100% weighting) of your course and be enrolled full-time at UTAS the semester before you go on exchange. You will also need to have acceptable grades and obtain School, Faculty and University approval to go.

How do I apply?

Applications for exchange are accepted each semester. The deadline for fall/September applications is **15 March** and for spring/January is **15 August** (for applicants wanting to study at the University of California in spring the deadline is **15 July**). You can download an application form from www.international.utas.edu.au or pick one up from the International Office.

When should I go and for how long?

Most students go on exchange for one semester during the second year of their course. The maximum time for exchange is two semesters.

Where will I go and what will I study?

The choice is up to you! UTAS has exchange agreements with 60+ universities in 28 countries. Check out the International Students website for links to our partners and their courses and speak to your

Course Coordinator or Faculty Officer about course requirements and credit. If you don't speak the language of the country where you intend to study you will need to find out if their courses are in English. Some institutions also have a complimentary language program (to help you with basic language skills) that runs along with an orientation program.

Where will I live?

Accommodation is normally organised as part of your exchange. Most students will opt for residential accommodation on the host university campus.

How much does it cost?

Exchange students do not pay tuition fees at the exchange institution. You are still a Commonwealth Supported Student and will continue to pay your student contribution and UTAS fees (which are normally cheaper than overseas fees!). If you are eligible for Youth Allowance here you will normally continue to receive the allowance at the living-away-from-home rate. You are responsible for airfare, health insurance and living expense costs.

Are scholarships available?

Yes! Exchange students from the Faculty of Science, Engineering & Technology are eligible to receive \$1500 to assist with airfares and living expenses. The Faculty also has a number of industry-supported \$3000 scholarships that are awarded to some students studying at strategic universities in Semester 1.

EXCHANGE STUDENT PROFILES



Amanda Geard
University of Iceland

Did that just happen? I only had to look at John's face to see that it did. Our tent had just blown off a 60 m cliff into the Atlantic. I was in my down jacket and stripey Aussie thermals and we were standing on the edge of a volcanic island, with no gear, no food and no money. John and I walked into the small town of Heimaey looking miserable. 'You two look cold.' A motherly looking lady smiled at us from her doorway and before we knew it this stranger called Helga had taken us in for the week without obligation or expectation, and I knew I had gained another friend through a unique experience.

I came to the University of Iceland with the intention of studying the incredible geology of an island rising above the Mid-Atlantic Ridge with an intriguing combination of volcanoes and glaciers. Officially I studied geophysics, tectonics and petrology. However, I also feel like I picked up majors in anthropology, linguistics and sociology as I navigated my way through studying abroad.

Exchange is about adaptation and challenges and it's OK if things don't go to plan!

I (eventually) learned to take everything in my stride. Red tape and procedure abound; Icelandic immigration is particularly apt at this and if you feel like Iceland does not want you, you are not alone. Start your applications as soon as possible and things will work out when you arrive. Trust me!

During my first week I took a university field trip around southern Iceland where I saw lava flows and volcanoes, walked on glaciers, swam in both hot springs and iceberg lagoons and made a solid network of friends from all over the world. Independently I had many adventures travelling the island while the weather was good and exploring Reykjavik and Icelandic culture when the winter came (and it came with a vengeance!).

Take every opportunity to get out and experience as much as possible; get off the beaten track and really live in the country you chose to take on. It is inevitable that everybody will question their decision to study abroad at sometime for some reason, but it takes just one unique moment, just one incredible experience or even just one new friend to make everything worthwhile.



James Cornwell
Cornell University, USA

I'm studying a BNatEnvWildSt, specialising in Geography and Environmental Studies and Plant Science, and have been fortunate to study my final semester at Cornell University, in Ithaca, upstate New York.

I arrived at the end of July, a few weeks before the fall semester. Giving myself this extra time was a good move – I could become familiar with the town and the campus, and organise things like finding out which courses I would like and a place to live. Most students here live in dorms on campus, so the share house scene was a little different compared to Hobart. I was also overwhelmed by the amount of courses available in Cornell's handbook. Adjusting to certain cultural shifts takes a little while (and there are definitely many subtle differences between the Australian and American way of life), but that has been part of the fun. I have family living and farming near Ithaca, so I was able to spend time with them before semester got too busy. Getting to know them and help at the Ithaca Farmers' Market (very similar to Salamanca Market) has been a real highlight.

The semester itself has been a truly engaging experience. I continually meet friendly staff and students interested in Tasmania and Australia and there are always activities and events happening, all making it hard at times to knuckle down with the homework. The educational facilities at Cornell are amazing. There are something like 20 libraries on campus and academic opportunities abound. I'm about to travel to the Dominican Republic for three months as a research assistant; it's a job that has arisen after volunteering in a lab for the semester.

I stayed close to 'home' during semester break and enjoyed the scenery of upstate NY, but there's plenty of potential for exchange students to explore further. Many of the mid-Atlantic cities (NY, Philly, Boston, DC) are within a six to seven-hour drive. For the outdoor type, the Catskill and Adirondack Mountains, famous for rock-climbing and bushwalking, are only a stone's throw away.

I'd encourage any student with an interest in studying abroad to get on with it. as UTAS offers one of the best and most flexible exchange programs of any university in Australia and it's a great way to broaden your perspective and ideas. If Cornell is a place that you are interested in I'd be more than happy to share my experience with you.



Kathryn Yost
University of Bologna, Italy

In true 'girl power' spirit, I 'spiced' up my Bachelor of Environmental Design by taking the opportunity of a lifetime to go on exchange. I'm now studying in Italy at one of the world's oldest universities in one of the world's most influential cultures, both politically and, well, gastronomically!

I guess if I really had to think about why I came on exchange, it could have well been for the history. Lectures on how and why the Egyptians and the Romans built their incredible monuments and then to see some of the gravity-defying architecture of today is inspirational. It makes you want to touch it to believe it. I also wanted to explore the world, live in a country that has inspired thousands of architects and, as a bonus, to learn the language of love – Italian. What more could you ask for? Gelato and pizza! I've eaten a lifetime of the world's best gelato.

I have travelled around and seen strange wonders of the world before, but **nothing can prepare you for, or even come close to describing, the experiences you have while on exchange.** You can't even prepare for what might happen tomorrow. One moment you're studying and the next you're on a train to see the wonders of Venice or exploring the history of Parma and Bologna.

Exchange has also made me learn to appreciate the things I never thought mattered to me, such as speaking a second language. But when you live in Italy, and Spain is only \$40 away, why should language be a barrier? You learn to use your hands when trying to convey something. Your body is your only language tool at times!

Like everything in life, exchange has its good, bad and 'mamma mia' moments, but as they say, 'When the going gets tough the tough get going'. And you always have to remember that's it's not a holiday, you're here to study! But I guess walking through the historical cities of Italy is, for me, a way of studying architecture. Now that's what I call doing a degree!

