



Program Information

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Name of host institution: University of Birmingham **Website:** www.bham.ac.uk

Location: Edgbaston, Birmingham, UK The city lies in the middle of England, 1 hour and 40 minutes by fast train from London

Accreditation/Recognition by: UK Parliament www.dfes.gov.uk/recognisedukdegrees/

Number of international students: 4000 (80-100 US) **total students:** 28,000
To be successful in this program, students should possess independence and initiative.

Emergency contact number: 44 121 414 4444 Security would contact other members of staff at home if necessary, or would find a student in residences or whatever was needed.

Most convenient way to reach host country from Atlanta: Major airlines have flights from Atlanta, via a major European city, to Birmingham; Delta Airlines fly via Paris and Amsterdam, for example. There is a direct flight on United Airlines via Newark. It is best to avoid flying via London.

How students reach host institution from airport: Students attending the fall *International Welcome Week* can be met at Birmingham International Airport and Digbeth Coach station by student assistants. Spring students will arrange their own transport. Take the train to campus, stop "University Station." For all timetable information visit www.nationalrail.co.uk. As the station is on the other side of campus from the residence halls it is easiest to take a taxi to your hall.

Visa information: US citizens studying in the UK less than 6 months do not need a visa (with the exception of a few nationalities—if students are not US citizens check with UB); students planning to work part time or do volunteer service will need an entry clearance prior to leaving the US. See <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/studying/adult-students/apply-outside-uk/>

Residence permit:

Terms of study:
 fall spring summer other (explain)

Students attending spring term stay throughout summer/exam term

Approximate dates of terms:

Autumn Term	Mid-September – mid December
Spring Term	early January - mid March
Summer/Exam Term	Late April – mid June (required of students studying during spring)

Application Process

Application form (online, paper, how to obtain): After students are approved by IP Committee to study abroad, access the UB on-line application:

Requirements for participation (gpa, references):

Should have completed at least one academic year, with experience in major field; 3.0 GPA, 1 reference, recent official transcript; the Berry College adviser recommendation can serve as the UB reference

Application fee: N/A

Deadlines: 30 April for fall, 1 November for spring/summer Fall nominations are submitted from 1 March

Academics

Credit system (e.g. ECTS) & **US equivalent:** Classes are worth 10 or 20 credits; students must take 60 UB credits per term, which is approx. 5 or 6 courses (units) per semester; 10 UB credits equal 3 Berry credit hours

Academic advising (how do students register for classes): Students will take most of their classes in their major so are matched with an academic tutor from their major department. The tutor helps them select their classes and may be contacted prior to arrival. Students include a list of desired modules with the application and will be pre-enrolled as far as possible.

Module choices cannot always be guaranteed. Exchange students are not registered on a specific degree programme at Birmingham and can take classes from a number of departments besides their home department. There may be timetable issues, however, so students must be flexible. Students can add/drop modules on arrival in Birmingham.

Course articulation (relationship to Berry curriculum: gen ed fulfillments, major courses;):

The University of Birmingham is divided up into Colleges. Colleges are divided into Schools, and Schools also contain a number of departments.

The College of Arts and Law consists of the following Schools:

- [Birmingham Law School](#) [English, Drama and American and Canadian Studies](#)
- [History and Cultures](#) [Languages, Cultures, Art History and Music](#)
- [Philosophy, Theology and Religion](#)

The College of Engineering and Physical Sciences consists of the following nine Schools –

- [Chemistry](#) [Chemical Engineering](#)
- [Civil Engineering](#) [Computer Science](#)
- [Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering](#)
- [Mathematics](#) [Mechanical Engineering](#)
- [Metallurgy and Materials](#) [Physics and Astronomy](#)

The College of Life and Environmental Sciences consists of the following four schools –

- [Biosciences](#) [Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences](#)
- [Psychology](#) [Sport and Exercise Sciences](#)

The College of Social Sciences consists of the following four schools –

- [Birmingham Business School](#) [Education](#)
- [Politics and Society](#) [Social Policy](#)

Are there any course/departmental restrictions for study abroad students?

Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students cannot take Entrepreneurial & Small Business Studies •
Geography	Students will need permission to take the following modules: Field Studies, Dissertation or Restoration of Freshwater Ecosystems.
Medieval and Modern History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students cannot take special subjects •
Psychology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modules normally available include: Cognitive Psychology A/B/C/D; Biological Bases A/B/C/D; Learning & Abnormal Psychology A/B; Introduction to Psychology, Applied Psychology, Developmental Psychology A/B; Abnormal Psychology and Individual Differences A/B. • Third year courses (level 3 modules) by pre-requisites.

Average course load (# of courses & credits): Exchange students must take a full course load of 60 credits per semester. Students studying one semester usually take 10 credit classes, for a total of 6 classes.

Grading scale

UB	BC equivalent to UB grade
70+	A
68-69	A-
63-67	B+
60-62	B
58-59	B
53-57	B-
50-52	C+
45-49	C
40-44	C-
0-39	F

Instruction (lecture, seminar, tutoring, online): Humanities and Social Sciences have lectures with smaller classes and tutorials; science classes include laboratory work and special projects.

Internship opportunities: N/A

Form of course assessment:

There is only 1 examination period per year (May/June). Fall term students are assessed on the basis of work done during that period and may have special exams during December.

Note that in some modules the final exam or paper could be worth 75% or more of the final grade.

Support (“learning center,” etc.):

Tutors and academic staff are available to assist students. There is also a disabilities services office. Students should have background in their major subject.

Student mentors are available in each hall of residence. There is a Learning Centre.

Resources (library, IT):

Most departmental buildings now have computer rooms with free internet access. Students can also access computers in the library computer clusters and in the Learning Centre which is open 7am-1pm Mon to Fri, Sat 9am-7pm, Sun 10am-6pm

The University has many libraries, with the main one situated in the centre of campus.

Should student bring a computer? Students may bring a laptop or tablet if they wish. Most of campus has wi-fi; internet is also available in the residence halls for no fee

Major differences in educational system: Students will have less in-class time and more out of class work than they're probably accustomed to. It is important to keep up with studies, as participation in the tutorials is expected.

Average size of classes: Tutorials have 20-30 students

Transcript & grading system (explain US equivalents, avg. length of time between end of term and issuing of transcript)

Transcripts are sent 4 weeks after the end of summer term. Students studying in the fall will receive the official transcript in February.

Student Support & Life

On-site orientation (length, items covered): The International Welcome Week coincides with the University's main Freshers Week, which runs throughout the week before fall term. This is a practical five day programme designed to help students get to know the campus, meet other students from around the world and deal with essential matters such as opening a bank account.

Orientation is free and compulsory. There is no charge for the International Welcome Week, but students should have their own accommodation arranged by this time.

Orientation during spring semester occurs the Friday before classes begin on Monday. There is a city tour on Saturday. Students are expected to arrive the day before orientation, on Thursday.

Does institution have crisis management plan? The details of the emergency plan are not in the public domain for security reasons, but the emergency contacts are here:

http://www.emergencyplanning.bham.ac.uk/has_page.asp?section=000100010001002000130007

Excursions/activities:

The International Student Advisory Service (ISAS) is active in organising visits to British families (the HOST scheme), annual trips and weekend excursions. There is a fee associated with these excursions, but it is nominal. Students are encouraged to participate because some destinations are difficult to access by public transport.

Museums, concerts, sports facilities available on campus. A new sport facility is planned for the near future.

Birmingham has an international airport with many discount airlines flying from there.

Health/counseling facilities:

UB has its own medical and dental practices. If the course is longer than six months, the student and dependants are entitled to free National Health Service treatment.

A team of professional counsellors is on hand to offer support throughout the student's time at UB. The Student Support and Counselling Service is free and confidential.

Our campus chaplaincy represents a range of world religions and is a calm, supportive space for students to meet for prayer and other activities

The Guild's Advice and Representation Centre is run by students for students. It offers free, impartial and confidential information, advice and representation on a wide range of issues. Niteline is a confidential telephone support service.

Accommodation for students with disabilities:

- Support for our students with dyslexia, dyspraxia and other specific learning difficulties. Specialist individual tuition, a note-taking scheme, extended library loans, effective learning workshops and regular liaison with departments and tutors all help to make the learning process that much easier
- Comprehensive support before, during and after admission. You can set up an individual Learning Support Agreement, and take advantage of ongoing assistance from a Learning Support or Disability Co-ordinator
- Equipment loan including laptops and wheelchairs
- Strong links with external organisations, including Autism West Midlands and the local authority mobility training unit
- A book-fetching service and some braille facilities
- The latest assistive technology facilities
- An accessible sports centre and swimming pool

The main campus covers 250 acres and can be hilly in places. All new buildings are designed for easy access, but some older buildings vary in accessibility.

Student societies:

There are over 160 student groups based in the Guild of Students. During Freshers week students can attend the Societies Fair to learn about these societies. Alternatively they can just visit the Basement Counter in the Guild of Students.

Sport/Recreation:

The University has its own Leisure Centre – The Munrow Centre. Here students can join a variety of fitness classes, go swimming, use the gym, hire courts and join University Sports teams. There are also running tracks, Astro turf and rugby/football fields.

May students work? yes If so, what restrictions are there and what is the process (special visa, work permit, etc.)?

Students planning to work part time will need a Tier 4 visa prior to leaving the US. Students are legally able to work a maximum of 20 hours per week during term (working hours are unlimited outside of term).

Opportunities for volunteer service:

There are over 40 student-led or partnership projects; students could work with homeless youngsters or help refugee children develop their reading skills. UB's Community Action scheme was the first of its kind, and it has since spread to every other UK university. Training is given for all volunteering projects. A Tier 4 visa is required to perform volunteer service.

Housing – see accommodation guide at

Application process:

Once exchange applications have been accepted, students are given an ID number which is used for an on-line housing application.

Exchange students are guaranteed accommodation if they apply on time. Therefore, students should apply for accommodation early.

Students desiring private sector housing may do their search during Welcome Week. There is a house hunting event prior to Welcome Week, and students are sent this information in their admission packet.

Deposit toward fees: £550

Deadline: late July for fall term, mid-October for spring/summer

Options:

Halls of residence with meal plan (swipe card for use in catering outlets), self-catering halls; all rooms are single with shared kitchen and living space; some rooms have a shared bath and others have private facilities. Meal plan has a different sense from what Berry students know. Options are quite limited and quality may vary. A self-catering hall where students do their own cooking is recommended.

If on a meal plan, note that options will be fewer during the month of April. Budget accordingly. No food venues will be open over the week of Christmas, although the residence halls are open.

Private sector accommodation is available but not recommended. It is difficult to secure private housing for one semester. Students attending in fall will be required to pay 6 months' rent.

If residence hall, are intl. & host country students mixed? yes

Are genders mixed? usually

Is there a curfew? no

Furnishings (linens, pillow, etc.): Students may purchase bedding set.

Avg. distance between institution and student housing: between a 10-20 minutes' walk

How do students reach campus from housing: walking or public transport

Atmosphere of neighborhood where students live: the residence halls are in a nice "leafy" area

Financials – subject to change

Tuition: students pay Berry College tuition

Room (on campus):

- includes all bills, e.g. electricity

- includes food if meal plan chosen

Rent ranges from £81 (single room, no meal plan, no bathroom) per week to £300 per week (2 BR apt.). The average cost of a single room with meal plan and no bath is £150.

Non-university accommodation ranges from £60 - £100+ per week

Food: £30 or more per week for private sector or University self-catering accommodation students.

Note that Autumn term is 12 weeks; the combined spring and summer terms are 22-24 weeks.

Other (lab, materials computing fees):

Academic expenses (including books): £232 per year

Personal expenses (books, spending money, etc. – approximate):

Dependent on student's social life

£74 for a TV; £121 per year TV license per household (compulsory by law)

Laundry: £4 per load to wash and dry

Membership of a Student Society: £3-£5 per year

Membership of University Sports Centre From £35 (basic membership)

International telephone Card: From £5

Bedding: From £27 (complete set)

Kitchen Utensils: From £35 (complete set)

Student railcard £30 (allows 1/3 off railfares around the UK)

Regional bus pass (unlimited travel) £138

Berry students recommend bringing about \$2000 for the semester to allow for personal expenses and travel.