University of Pennsylvania, USA

Facts

- Language of instruction: English
- Number of students currently enrolled: 3000+
- Semester 1: August-December
- Semester 2: January-May
- Important information: Please note that you will need to provide proof of access to sufficient funds for your stay at Richmond in order to obtain your visa.

About the University

Founded by Benjamin Franklin in the middle of the 18th century, the University of Pennsylvania claims to be the oldest University in the United States. Like Edinburgh, Penn is a large multi-faculty University; more than 20,000 students are housed within 6 undergraduate schools, 4 graduate schools and 6 professional schools. Penn's situation at the heart of a historical city furthers the similarity with Edinburgh. Penn is a member of the ‘Ivy League’ group of elite private East Coast Universities.

Website: [https://global.upenn.edu/pennabroad/students/prospective-exchange-students](https://global.upenn.edu/pennabroad/students/prospective-exchange-students)

What to expect

Application process

If you are allocated for an exchange at UPenn, you will be officially nominated by the Go Abroad Office and will then be provided with your detailed application instructions. **You can ONLY apply if officially nominated.**

Academics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course/ credit load</th>
<th>For information on credits please consult our credit guidance sheet: <a href="http://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/international_exchange_credit_loads.pdf">http://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/international_exchange_credit_loads.pdf</a></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Courses available</td>
<td><a href="http://undergraduatetcatalog.richmond.edu/">http://undergraduatetcatalog.richmond.edu/</a></td>
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</tbody>
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## Notes of Guidance for Exchange students
### University of Pennsylvania

### Course enrolment
- Course descriptions can be reviewed in the Penn Course Register: [http://www.upenn.edu/registrar/register/](http://www.upenn.edu/registrar/register/)
- Students will register for all courses online before the beginning of their semester. Courses vary each semester and inbound exchange students are not guaranteed enrolment in any particular course.
- Some students may receive material on course registration from their admitting school or department before their departure, while others may not.
  - Not receiving these materials before arrival in the US is no cause for concern as Penn's computerized registration system, Penn InTouch, will be available to all students once they are on campus.
  - In addition, registration forms will be available from the student’s school or graduate department.
  - It is recommended that students consult academic advisors in their departments or schools before choosing courses for the semester.
  - After registration, there is a period of a few weeks called "drop/add period" during which students can use Penn InTouch to alter their class schedules if necessary.
  - Please see the University Calendar for more information.

### Academic restrictions
- Exchange students not permitted to enrol in Graduate courses (typically level 500+). Exchange students are eligible to take courses up to the 499-level. They are expected to take the majority of their courses within their Penn undergraduate school of exchange.
- Exchange students may NOT take courses at Wharton Business School and business courses offered through other departments may not satisfy the honours requirements at the University of Edinburgh.

Your final course selection must be agreed and approved with your Exchange Coordinator and any course changes made whilst you are away must have their approval.

### Accommodation

#### University accommodation
All exchange students are required to live on campus in Penn housing with Penn students. Students must complete the online application for housing after being accepted into their exchange program. More information about Penn housing, the application process, and deadline dates can be found on the Penn housing website for exchange students.
All exchange students are also required to purchase a meal plan. Further details are available after students are accepted.

**Application process**
Dependent on accommodation choice.

**Private accommodation**
Exchange students are not permitted to live off-campus.

### Costs

**Estimated cost of living**
Estimated Living Expenses for 2018-2019 will be updated in March 2018. The following rates are from Academic Year 2017-2018.
- Room: $9,820
- Board: $5,246
- Books & Supplies: $1,280
- Insurance: $3,348
- Miscellaneous Expenses: $2,060
- New Student Orientation fee (Fall/Year students only): ~$295
- Student Health Service Clinical Fee: ~$270

Costs are for the entire academic year unless otherwise noted and are subject to change. For most up to date information, visit [http://global.upenn.edu/pennabroad/students/prospective-exchange-students](http://global.upenn.edu/pennabroad/students/prospective-exchange-students)

**Insurance**
Penn requires that all full-time students obtain comprehensive health insurance coverage that meets certain standards. Penn do allow you to submit a waiver. Please visit the Student Health Services [Office of Student Insurance](http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/shs/pipinsurance.php) for details and review the list of considerations in choosing a health care policy.

Students have the option to enroll in the Penn Student Insurance Plan (http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/shs/pipinsurance.php) or to enroll in another insurance plan of their choosing, provided it meets certain minimum criteria set forth by Penn Student Health Services. Please review insurance requirements at this link: [http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/shs/inreq.php](http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/shs/inreq.php).

All exchange students must also submit a complete Immunization Record worksheet following acceptance.
Other

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment</th>
<th><a href="https://global.upenn.edu/iss/oncampus">https://global.upenn.edu/iss/oncampus</a></th>
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<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>In the fall semester, new exchange students participate in New Student Orientation in conjunction with new Penn students. New Student Orientation (NSO) is a five day-long orientation designed to acquaint new students with each other and with Penn. It advising on course registration, academic tips to help you succeed in the classroom, an exploration of the campus resources as well as fun opportunities to socialize with other new students. This orientation is run by Penn NSO. Each student is charged approximately $285 to their bursar account for participation in this mandatory orientation. Built into orientation week is a compulsory immigration check meeting for each student. More information on this and the general NSO can be found at the following: <a href="https://secure.www.upenn.edu/nso/">https://secure.www.upenn.edu/nso/</a> <a href="http://global.upenn.edu/iss/orientation">http://global.upenn.edu/iss/orientation</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Visas</td>
<td><a href="https://global.upenn.edu/iss/new">https://global.upenn.edu/iss/new</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>All exchange students who are not US citizens are required to have a student visa to study in the United States. Penn’s International Students and Scholarship Services will provide information and assistance for J-1 and F-1 student visa applications to all accepted exchange students. Students who have US citizenship or US permanent residency should notify Penn Abroad and provide a copy of their US passport or permanent residence card when applying.</td>
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<td>Disability Statement</td>
<td>Some destinations may be more accessible than others for disabled students. If you require any adjustments due to disability or specific learning difficulty and you wish to study abroad please contact Thomas Ozers in the Go Abroad team (<a href="mailto:Thomas.ozers@ed.ac.uk">Thomas.ozers@ed.ac.uk</a>). We will work together with you to explore the help available at your host institution. It may also be helpful if you discuss this with your Personal Tutor and the Disability Office as well.</td>
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What other students had to say about the University

The best part?

“Meeting new people and going to all the different events that were specific to the university.”
Advice for future exchange students

Accommodation

“Apply as soon as you can.”

“Try and get private accommodation if you can as the university accommodation is expensive.”

General advice

“Meet personally with people who have been there the year before.

“There is a lot of intense work!”

“Keep on top of the workload, and be prepared to make a concerted effort to meet non-exchange students.”