

PENN ABROAD Contacts

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ABOUT PENN

Penn has a long and proud tradition of intellectual rigor and pursuit of innovative knowledge, begun by Benjamin Franklin in 1740. That tradition lives today through the creativity, entrepreneurship, and engagement of our faculty, students, and staff. Penn has a diverse student body of approximately 24,000 full-time undergraduate and graduate students. Penn is one of the world's most powerful research and teaching institutions, with a research budget topping \$1.37 billion and over 5,000 active faculty members.

IMPORTANT WEBSITES

Penn Abroad	global.upenn.edu/pennabroad
Exchange at Penn Website	https://global.upenn.edu/pennabroad/eap/
College of Arts and Sciences	www.college.upenn.edu/
School of Engineering and Applied Science	www.seas.upenn.edu/
School of Nursing	www.nursing.upenn.edu/
Wharton School of Business	www.wharton.upenn.edu/

IMPORTANT DATES AND GENERAL DEADLINES

Partner Nomination Deadline	Fall Semester & Academic Year	March 1, 2026
	Spring Semester	September 1, 2026
Application Deadline	Fall Semester & Academic Year	March 20, 2026
	Spring Semester	September 20, 2026
Student Commitment Deadline	Fall Semester & Academic Year	May 15, 2026
	Spring Semester	November 1, 2026
Exchange Program Acceptance Materials Submission Deadline	Fall Semester & Academic Year	June 30, 2026
	Spring Semester	November 10, 2026
Academic Calendar	https://almanac.upenn.edu/penn-academic-calendar	

STUDENT APPLICATIONS

Eligibility

- Minimum 3.0 GPA equivalency
- Evidence of solid academic preparation.
- English Language Test taken within two years of application deadline (unless waived).
 - ◇ Minimum DuoLingo English Test score of 130, sent via DuoLingo filtering institution type to “Other” and selecting University of Pennsylvania - Exchange at Penn (Penn Abroad), or
 - ◇ Minimum IELTS Overall Band score of 7.0, sent to Penn Abroad via the IELTS website, or
 - ◇ Minimum TOEFL-IBT (Internet-Based Test) score of 100. The Penn Abroad TOEFL Destination (DI) Code is 3221.
- **All results should be sent directly to Penn Abroad through the relevant portals or students can send unofficial results with their test taker ID for Penn Abroad to verify.**

Partner Nomination Procedures

Late nominations will not be accepted unless discussed prior to the deadline!

Please email the following information to exchangestudents@upenn.edu:

- Student’s Last Name
 - Student’s First Name
 - Legal Sex
 - Email address
 - Birthdate (day month year format preferred; i.e. 10 October 2000)
 - Student’s specific major/area of study
 - Exchange term (fall/spring/year)
 - Exchange Program (College of Arts and Sciences/Nursing/Wharton/Engineering)
- Note:** A nominated student’s major as listed on their transcript must be within the list of majors in the receiving school. See here for a list of majors: <https://admissions.upenn.edu/learning-at-penn/majors-minors>. Nominations will be refused if major does not match with the nominating school. Students cannot be nominated for “minor” or “second major only” fields of study.

Application Procedures

- Nominated students will receive an e-mail from Penn Abroad with further instructions on how to access our online application system and submit materials. For further information, please review the Eligibility and Application Process section of our website: <https://global.upenn.edu/pennabroad/eap/application/>.
- Students who require accommodations at Penn due to health conditions should inform both the Penn Abroad Exchange Students Team and the Weingarten Center (<https://weingartencenter.universitylife.upenn.edu/academic-accommodations/>).

Visa Application

- All exchange students who are not US citizens or permanent residents are required to have a student visa to study in the United States. Penn’s International Student and Scholar Services will provide information and assistance for J-1 and F-1 student visa applications to accepted exchange students. For more information, visit <https://global.upenn.edu/iss/new>.
- US citizens or permanent residents should notify Penn Abroad and provide a copy of their US passport or permanent residence card when applying.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Load Requirements

- Exchange students are required to maintain full-time enrollment status while studying in the United States. Students must enroll in a minimum of four course units (usually four courses) per semester to maintain full-time enrollment status.
- Exchange students are eligible to take undergraduate courses up to the 4999-level.
- Students are permitted to enroll in up to two courses outside of their admitting school per semester.
- Students are not permitted to take graduate-level courses OR courses in Penn’s Law, Medical, Dental, or Veterinary Schools.
- Exchange students to the Wharton School will not be permitted to enroll in more than two finance courses per semester.

Grading Scale and Transcripts

- Letter grades ranging from A to F (with no D- or E) are used to report the standing of a student upon the completion of each course.
- Exchange students are eligible to receive ONE free transcript from the Penn at the conclusion of their program. Students will be given instructions for ordering their transcript and should request this copy sent to their home university coordinator. Transcripts are sent to the home university coordinator via secure email; paper copies of the transcript will not be mailed. Students must request and pay for additional copies of the transcript.

Course Registration

- Course descriptions and course offerings for specific semesters can be found on the Course Search website: <https://catalog.upenn.edu/course-search/>
- A comprehensive listing of courses at Penn can be found in the university catalog: <https://catalog.upenn.edu/courses/>. These courses are not term-specific and may not be offered during the period of exchange.
- Exchange students are assigned an academic advisor from their admitting school/college.
- Course registration occurs online before the semester begins. Course offerings vary each semester and exchange students cannot be guaranteed enrollment in particular courses.
- Some courses require successful completion of pre-requisites or instructor permission to register. Students should consult with their advisor for registration information.
- It is common for students to not receive replies on permits until after the start of the term. Students should ensure that they are fully enrolled in alternative course options ahead of the program start to ensure immigration and academic compliance.

POST-ACCEPTANCE INFORMATION

Housing and Meals

- All exchange students are required to live on campus in Penn housing unless meeting [conditions of a qualified exemption](#). Students must complete an online application for housing after being accepted into their exchange program. NOTE: Due to high demand and low supply, exchange students often share a room with a roommate and rarely are placed in single bedroom units.
- More information about Penn housing, the application process, and deadlines can be found on the Penn housing website for exchange students: <https://residential-services.business-services.upenn.edu/room-selection#Exchange>
- All exchange students are required to purchase an on-campus meal plan. See here for more information: <https://dining.business-services.upenn.edu/dining-plans/transfer-exchange-upperclass>. Further details are provided after students are accepted.

Health Insurance and Immunizations

- All exchange students are required to enroll in a comprehensive health insurance as a condition of enrollment at the University of Pennsylvania, and as a requirement set forth by the United States for all F-1 and J-1 students. Students have the option to enroll in the [Penn Student Insurance Plan](#) 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 here.](#)
- All exchange students must also submit proof of compliance with [Penn's immunization requirements](#) following acceptance.

Orientation and Events

- Students admitted for the fall semester or academic year are required to attend a mandatory New Student Orientation program. Students will be charged a fee to cover event participation and meals. More information: www.nso.upenn.edu
- Students admitted for the spring semester are required to attend the mandatory Exchange Student Orientation program in January. A fee to cover events and meals will be assessed to students.
- Throughout the semester, Penn Abroad organizes events and excursions to introduce students to the culture of Penn, Philadelphia, and the United States. These trips and opportunities allow exchange students to meet and mingle with their Penn peers and make lasting connections.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Estimated Costs

- Tuition and academic fees are waived for exchange students. Exchange students are responsible for all other expenses incurred during their time at Penn.
- The following estimates are for the 2024-2025 Academic Year:
 - ◇ Housing: \$12,640
 - ◇ Meals: \$6,534
 - ◇ Books & Supplies: \$1,358
 - ◇ Health Insurance: \$4,210
 - ◇ Local Transportation: \$1,062
 - ◇ Miscellaneous and Personal Expenses: \$2,368
 - ◇ Round trip flight to Philadelphia (varies): \$1,700
 - ◇ Clinical Fee*: \$688
 - ◇ Incoming Exchange Orientation & Student Activities Fee:
 - ⇒ Fall/Academic Year Admitted Students: Approximately \$450; covers housing, orientation programming, most meals during [New Student Orientation](#); subsidizes social and cultural programming during term
 - ⇒ Spring Admitted Students: Approximately \$160; covers orientation programming; subsidizes social and cultural programming during term
- To obtain a student visa, students must produce financial documentation showing that they have at least \$31,368 (for two semesters) or \$15,684 (for one semester) in assets. These numbers are accurate for 2024-25, but will change for 2025-26. See Penn's International Student and Scholar Services office's website (<https://global.upenn.edu/iss/new-app#finances>) for more information.
- * The [Student Health Service Clinical Fee](#), which includes unlimited nursing and doctor visits, is charged to all Penn students, including exchange students each semester.
- These figures are estimates for the entire academic year and may vary greatly depending on individual spending habits. All estimates are subject to change without notice.
- Instructions on how to pay student bills are distributed to students after acceptance.



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