

Studying abroad

Getting the opportunity to study in another country appeals to many students for a variety of reasons, the main ones being learning a new language, gaining more independence and meeting different people. Another good reason is knowing it can also make their CV stand out to prospective employers.

Students of all subject areas can take part in these schemes, not just language students. Subjects offered range from engineering to the history of art. However, you will need to check with your academic department which universities abroad are participating.

According to the Prospects graduate careers website, the top five places to study abroad are Germany, Australia, Canada, France and the USA.

Read on to find out about your options.

The Turing Scheme

From September 2021, students will now be able to apply to work and study across the world through the Turing Scheme, named after the mathematician Alan Turing. The scheme is replacing the Erasmus+ programme, which the UK is no longer participating in since leaving the European Union in 2020.

The scheme provides funding for those undertaking education and training in the UK to go on study or work placements across the world. You can choose from over 150 destination countries and territories from around the world.

Here are some of the main points regarding the new scheme for HE students.

- Since work is ongoing in this new scheme, you should check if your university is participating.
- You should apply through your university. They will be able to tell you what funding is available, which can vary depending on the type of placement you take part in and the country you visit.
- You will not need to pay additional tuition fees, as it is expected that the partner university abroad will waive fees for the placement.
- Placements may last between four weeks and twelve months.
- You would receive a grant to contribute towards the cost of living. Higher Education students on 4-8 week placements will receive either £545 per month (high cost of living country) or £480 per month (medium cost of living country). Higher Education students on 9 week - 12 month placements will receive either £380 per month (high cost of living country) or £335 per month (medium cost of living country).
- Students from disadvantaged backgrounds can receive an additional supplement of up to £445 a month to cover costs.
- Students with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) can also apply for additional funding to cover up to 100% of costs directly related to their special requirements.

Since this is a newly launched scheme, it is best to contact your university regarding eligibility, details of grant allocation, and how your learning credits will be accumulated as part of your course.

For further details, visit the [Turing Scheme](#) website.

The Turing Scheme - FE and VET (Further Education and Vocational Education and Training)

You can also take part in short or long term traineeships abroad, or learn at a partner further education or vocational education and training provider.

If you are a recent FE or VET graduate, you can carry out a traineeship abroad within 12 months of graduating.

Studies and traineeship mobility with education providers or companies abroad can last between 2 weeks and 21 months.

Funding varies according to the project location and its duration, so you would need to speak to your FE or VET provider for details on living costs.

Further details can be found on the [Turing Scheme](#) website.

Independently arranged study placements

You don't need to go through an official exchange programme if you want to study abroad. For example, you might like the idea of a longer stay, and studying the whole degree abroad. This has its advantage in that you have more control over choosing the place you study at, course content and your length of stay.

However independent study abroad means lots of discipline and basically funding your own studies and expenses – including medical insurance. You will have to either take out a loan or secure a scholarship from your chosen institution or from home. You may well also have to find a part time job when you are there, however some countries may not allow students to work off campus, even part time.

It's worth noting that it's cheaper to study in Europe compared to international destinations such as America and Australia. Some universities within the European Union may not charge you tuition fees, but you will still have to fund your living and travel expenses.

Sources

- StudyAbroad.com - www.studyabroad.com
- Global Graduates - globalgraduates.com
- British Council - www.britishcouncil.org
- The Turing Scheme - www.turing-scheme.org.uk
- Prospects - www.prospects.ac.uk/studying_abroad.htm
- The Complete University Guide - www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk
- The Fulbright Commission website gives a wide range of information about the various opportunities for studying in the USA – www.fulbright.org.uk