

La Trobe Abroad FAQs- Semester Exchange (from La Trobe University)

Query	Response
Before Program (General Queries & Application Process)	
<i>What is a Semester Exchange Program?</i>	<p>The Semester Exchange Program allows you to travel and study at the same time for a semester or a year at one of our international exchange partner universities without paying any additional tuition fees to the partner university.</p> <p>Your subjects will be pre-approved as part of the application process, which will allow you to receive credits back into your degree after completing the program so it will not extend the duration of your studies.</p> <p>You will also have access to grants, scholarships, loans, continued Centrelink payments and complimentary La Trobe University health and travel insurance.</p> <p>Check out the semester exchange webpage or get in touch with the La Trobe Abroad Office.</p>
<i>Can international students apply for the Semester Exchange Program?</i>	<p>This program is open to both domestic and international students.</p> <p>For further information, please refer to the semester exchange webpage or get in touch with the La Trobe Abroad Office.</p>
<i>How long can I go on a Semester Exchange Program?</i>	<p>The Semester Exchange Program are usually one or two semesters in duration. How long you can spend on exchange will depend on the number of available subjects you can use to study overseas.</p> <p>To determine which subjects are suitable for an Exchange Program, please see under the 'Start planning early! - Important' section of the Semester Exchange webpage or get in touch with the La Trobe Abroad Office if you need further assistance.</p>
<i>What's the difference between a Semester Exchange and an Overseas Short Program?</i>	<p>Both programs allow you to study overseas and get credits back into your degree.</p> <p>The difference is that an Overseas Short Program is less than 6 months (usually 2-4 weeks) in duration and has less scholarships available whereas the Semester Exchange Program can be one or two semesters in duration, has more scholarships available and is only limited to institutions partnered with La Trobe University.</p>

<p><i>When can I go on a Semester Exchange Program?</i></p>	<p>You can commence your exchange program after completing one year of studies at La Trobe University. You must achieve at least 120 credit points in your La Trobe University degree.</p> <p>Further information regarding eligibility criteria can be found in the 'Eligibility' section of the semester exchange webpage or get in touch with the La Trobe Abroad Office if you need further assistance.</p>
<p><i>When can I apply for a Semester Exchange Program?</i></p>	<p>The application process starts a year in advance from the program commencement. All application deadlines can be found on the semester exchange webpage.</p> <p>If you have any questions regarding any of the steps, feel free to get in touch with the La Trobe Abroad Office for assistance.</p>
<p><i>What do I need to be eligible for a Semester Exchange Program?</i></p>	<p>To be eligible for the exchange program, you must meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be an enrolled La Trobe University student • Have at least 65% overall grade average • Must have or will have achieved 120 credit points (8 subjects) in your current degree before starting the program • Have your subjects approved for credit as the first part of the application process <p>Further information and instructions of how to apply can be found on the semester exchange webpage or get in touch with the La Trobe Abroad Office if you need further assistance.</p>
<p><i>How many Universities can I apply to for my Semester Exchange application?</i></p>	<p>If you are applying for exchange partners who have a direct exchange agreement with La Trobe University, you may select up to a maximum of three universities for your application. Please refer to the exchange partner webpage for a full list of available options.</p> <p>If you prefer to undertake your exchange through ISEP (a not-for-profit organisation based in the United States, to provide you access to more than 330 universities across 54 countries) you may be able to select more preferences. Please speak to the Exchange Program Coordinator in the Global Lounge for further details or email studyabroad@latrobe.edu.au</p>
<p><i>Can I do a Semester Exchange Program at a University that is not partnered with La Trobe University?</i></p>	<p>You can only undertake the Semester Exchange Program with an overseas institution that has an exchange agreement with La Trobe University.</p> <p>If you prefer to undertake your exchange through ISEP (a not-for-profit organisation based in the United States, to provide you access to more than 330 universities across 54 countries) you may be able to select more preferences. Please speak to the Exchange Program Coordinator in the Global Lounge for further details or email studyabroad@latrobe.edu.au</p>

<i>How far ahead of time do I need to apply to go on a Semester Exchange Program?</i>	The application dates are set a year in advance from when you will commence your exchange program. These dates can be found on found on the semester exchange webpage .
<i>How do I apply for a Semester Exchange Program?</i>	All application instructions and forms can be access from the semester exchange webpage or you could get in touch with the La Trobe Abroad Office if you need further assistance.
<i>I am currently overseas and want to apply for a Semester Exchange Program. Can my application be processed directly from overseas or do I need to come back to Australia?</i>	<p>You do not need to be physically present in Australia to apply for the exchange program. Most of the application process is either online or can be email to the La Trobe Abroad Office.</p> <p>However, there will be a few compulsory sessions held after being accepted into the program and you will be expected to attend. The details of these sessions will be provided together with your program acceptance.</p>
<i>Which Semester Exchange Program countries or universities will be good for my course?</i>	<p>You can check the course listings available for each partner by looking under the 'study area' column of our exchange partner website. For exchange partners that do not have this information listed, you will need to refer to their website for the most up-to-date information.</p> <p>You can also contact the exchange partner directly for further specific information or get in touch with the La Trobe Abroad Office if you need further assistance.</p>
<i>How many subjects do I have to do in a semester of Exchange Program?</i>	<p>You will need to do an equivalent full-time study load of 3-4 La Trobe University subjects or 45-60 LTU credit points. The number of subjects you will complete at your exchange university may vary depending on the amount of credit points they award each of their subjects. The total number of exchange university subjects must be equivalent to the full-time study load at La Trobe University.</p> <p>The study load comparison information can be found in the 'Estimated 60 La Trobe credit points equivalency' column of the exchange partner webpage.</p>
<i>How do I get my subjects or credits approved for a Semester Exchange Program?</i>	<p>It is highly recommended that you pre-plan your subjects before commencing your Semester Exchange Program application.</p> <p>Information about pre-planning your subjects and seeking credit approval can be found in the semester exchange webpage (See under 'Step 5 'Global Experience Credit Approval (GECA)').</p>
<i>I can't find the subject or course descriptions for the university I want to apply to for my Semester Exchange Program application.</i>	You need to first contact the exchange institution for assistance with sourcing the information for your application. Please note that some institutions are not able to provide detailed information for some or all their subjects.

	If this situation, please get in touch with the La Trobe Abroad Office for advice or further help if needed.
<i>My friend and I want to go on a Semester Exchange Program together. Can we be placed at the same university?</i>	<p>If you wish to be placed with the same exchange institution as your friend, you will need to make note this note on your application and ensure that you have applied to at least one university that is the same. (You may also wish to look into the 'Apply with a friend' scholarship to ensure that you apply for Partner universities that can take you both.)</p> <p>Please note that nominations are based on a number of factors and we cannot guarantee that your placement together with your friend will be possible.</p>
<i>Can I defer my Semester Exchange Program and still keep my place at the university I've been nominated to?</i>	Due to nominations being dependent on a number of factors, if you choose to defer your program for any reason, you will need to redo your application from scratch and we will not be able to guarantee that you will be placed at the same institution again.
<i>Can I be put in contact with someone who has been to the same country/university on an Exchange Program before?</i>	Please get in touch with the La Trobe Abroad Office so that you could be put in contact with the Global Peer Advisers. They organise with a group of returned exchange students to help provide additional guidance and share their story regarding what they have experienced with the program.
<i>Do I need to speak another language if I'm going to a non-English-language speaking country for my Semester Exchange Program? Do I need a certificate to demonstrate my proficiency?</i>	<p>The majority of the exchange partners teach in English and you will not be required to provide evidence to demonstrate your language proficiency. Also, given that English is becoming a universal language, many of the locals will also be able to speak some English either fluently or to a certain degree.</p> <p>The details for the type of language proficiency qualification you will need for the few exchange partners who ask of this can be found under the names of the partners on the exchange partner webpage.</p>
<i>I have found an overseas programme organised by a university that isn't necessarily a set of subjects. Can I get credit for it for my Semester Exchange Program?</i>	<p>You may include this in your credit approval application for consideration, however it must meet the credit, year level and learning outcome criteria of your LTU subjects.</p> <p>The final decision will made by the College and approval for such programs cannot be guaranteed.</p>
<i>What happens if I am not successful with my Semester Exchange Program application?</i>	If you are not successful with your Semester Exchange Application La Trobe Abroad Office will contact you with alternative options for you to consider.
Costs, Grants & Scholarships	
<i>How much does it cost to go on a Semester Exchange Program?</i>	<p>The costs for the Semester Exchange Program can vary depending on your exchange destination, the currency exchange rate and your own spending habits and needs. On average, it can cost between \$10,000 - \$20,000 for one semester of exchange. This includes the following at your own arrangement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flights

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodation • Transport • Food and living expenses • Visa • Additional travel and activities <p>To help support you with some of these expenses, you have access to many financial aid options. See the grants, scholarships and costs webpage for further information or speak the La Trobe Abroad Office to discuss.</p>
<p><i>What grants or scholarships are available for students interested in a Semester Exchange Program?</i></p>	<p>For the semester exchange program, you will have access to a number of financial aid to help support you on your program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobility Grant (\$2000 for first exchange semester or \$500 for second exchange semester and available for both domestic and international students). This grant is paid automatically if you are not successful in receiving a La Trobe Abroad scholarship. • Student Mobility Scholarship(SMS) (\$5,000 and available for both domestic and international students) – need to have 70% overall grade average, include a priority institution as one of your preferences, include your resume with your application and tick the relevant box on the first page of the exchange application form. • Academic Mobility Scholarship (AMS) (\$7,000 and available for both domestic and international students) – Need to have 85% overall grade average, include your resume with your application and tick the relevant box on the first page of the exchange application form. You can apply to any institution for this scholarship. • New Colombo Plan (NCP) Scholarship (\$7,000 and only available for domestic students applying for Asia as a destination) – A very prestigious scholarship that involves getting interviewed by the Australian Government. Need to have 80% overall grade average, submit an expression of interest and younger than 28 years of age. • OS Help Loan (\$6,665 for outside of Asia or \$7,998 for Asia and only available for domestic students). Can only apply for the loan after your subjects have been approved and you have received your offer from your exchange university. See the OS Help Loan website for further information including application process and eligibility. • Centrelink (for domestic students only). Continued Centrelink payments are usually possible. This is arranged after you have received your offer from your exchange university. • Complimentary La Trobe University health and travel insurance (available for both domestic and international students). This insurance will cover you from 10 days before your program starts until 10 days after it ends.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working while overseas Depending on the conditional of your visa, you may be able to work part-time. Please check with the relevant embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date and accurate information. <p>To see other scholarships available or for further information, check out the Program funding and costs or with the La Trobe Abroad Office.</p>
<i>My marks aren't high enough for a Semester Exchange Program scholarship. Should I apply for it anyway?</i>	You should email studyabroad@latrobe.edu.au to book an appointment to speak with the relevant exchange coordinator before applying.
<i>How do I apply for scholarships for the Semester Exchange Program?</i>	<p>For the semester exchange program, you will have access to a number of financial aid to help support you on your program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobility Grant (\$2000 for first exchange semester or \$500 for second exchange semester and available for both domestic and international students). This grant is paid automatically if you are not successful in receiving a La Trobe Abroad scholarship. • Student Mobility Scholarship(SMS) (\$5,000 and available for both domestic and international students) – need to have 70% overall grade average, include a priority institution as one of your preferences, include your resume with your application and tick the relevant box on the first page of the exchange application form. • Academic Mobility Scholarship (AMS) (\$7,000 and available for both domestic and international students) – Need to have 85% overall grade average, include your resume with your application and tick the relevant box on the first page of the exchange application form. You can apply to any institution for this scholarship. • New Colombo Plan (NCP) Scholarship (\$7,000 and only available for domestic students applying for Asia as a destination) – A very prestigious scholarship that involves getting interviewed by the Australian Government. Need to have 80% overall grade average, submit an expression of interest and younger than 28 years of age. • OS Help Loan (\$6,665 for outside of Asia or \$7,998 for Asia and only available for domestic students). Can only apply for the loan after your subjects have been approved and you have received your offer from your exchange university. See the OS Help loan for further information including application process and eligibility. • Centrelink (for domestic students only). Continued Centrelink payments are usually possible. This is arranged after you have received your offer from your exchange university.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complimentary La Trobe University health and travel insurance (available for both domestic and international students). This insurance will cover you from 10 days before your program starts until 10 days after it ends. • Working while overseas Depending on the conditional of your visa, you may be able to work part-time. Please check with the relevant embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date and accurate information. <p>To see other scholarships available or for further information, check out the Program funding and costs or get in touch with the La Trobe Abroad Office.</p>
<i>Can I work while I'm on a Semester Exchange Program?</i>	Depending on the conditional of your visa, you may be able to work part-time. Please check with the relevant embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date and accurate information.
<i>Do I have to arrange my own accommodation while on a Semester Exchange Program?</i>	<p>Your exchange university will provide you with accommodation information after they have accepted your exchange application. You will then need to make your own accommodation arrangements based on their advice.</p> <p>Please note that some exchange partners require mandatory on-campus accommodation. For these universities, this information is included under the university names on our exchange partner webpage).</p>
Travel, Insurance & Visa	
<i>Do I have to make my own travel and visa arrangements for my Semester Exchange Program?</i>	Organising your visa and travel will be at your own arrangement and cost. Please get in touch with the relevant embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date information regarding visa information and consult smartraveller.com.au to research your overseas destination prior to booking any travel arrangements.
<i>How do I apply for a visa for my Semester Exchange Program?</i>	<p>You will need to wait until you have successfully received your offer you're your nominated exchange university before making any visa or travel arrangements.</p> <p>It is recommended that you research the visa application details with the relevant embassy or consulate ahead of time so that you are well prepared for when your offer has been received and you could apply.</p> <p>Please note that some country visas require travelling interstate as part of the application process, so it is important that you are aware of this before you commence your application.</p>
<i>Do I need travel or health insurance for my Semester Exchange Program?</i>	You will be automatically covered by La Trobe University's complimentary health and travel insurance from 10 days before your program starts until 10 days after your program ends.

	<p>If you are travelling overseas longer than this period, it is highly recommended that you purchase additional cover for the extra travel period. You will need to include a copy of the certificate for the additional insurance with your application if this is the case.</p>
<p><i>If I choose to use La Trobe travel insurance for my Semester Exchange Program, but am travelling before and/or after the beginning and end of the program, do I have to purchase extra cover?</i></p>	<p>La Trobe University's insurance will automatically cover you from 10 days before your program starts until 10 days after your program ends.</p> <p>If you are travelling overseas longer than this period, it is highly recommended that you purchase additional cover for the extra travel period. You will need to include a copy of the certificate for the additional insurance with your application if this is the case.</p>
<h2>During Program</h2>	
<p><i>I want to change my subjects for my Semester Exchange Program. Is this still possible?</i></p>	<p>If your subjects have not yet been assessed and you are waiting for the outcome, please contact ASK La Trobe to assist with making changes to your subjects.</p> <p>If the changes need to be made after your application has been approved, you will need to submit another variation on your GECA application. Please submit another GECA form for the new assessment (please quote the previous Reference number in your new application).</p> <p>If you need further assistance please get in touch with the La Trobe Abroad Office.</p>
<p><i>I am overseas on a Semester Exchange Program and require urgent help. Who do I contact?</i></p>	<p>You are advised to contact the international office at your exchange university in the first instance for assistance and then inform La Trobe Abroad via studyabroad@latrobe.edu.au with as much detail as soon as possible.</p>
<p><i>I only got approved for one semester of Exchange, but I want to stay here longer. Can I extend my Exchange Program?</i></p>	<p>You may be able to extend your exchange program depending on the number of subject space you have left in your degree. You will need to first get in touch with the La Trobe Abroad Office by emailing studyabroad@latrobe.edu.au and have your subjects approved for the extra semester before this can be confirmed.</p>
<p><i>There have been complications during my Overseas Short Program and I will not be able to arrive in Australia in time for start of semester. What do I do?</i></p>	<p>Please contact your subject coordinators and inform them of your situation, along with an approximate return date.</p> <p>If you need any additional assistance, you may also get in touch with La Trobe Abroad via studyabroad@latrobe.edu.au</p>
<p><i>I was awarded a scholarship/grant but I haven't received the payment yet.</i></p>	<p>It can take 3-4 weeks for the payment to come through from the time you have received a confirmation email from La Trobe Abroad. If it has exceeded this period, please email studyabroad@latrobe.edu.au</p>

After Program	
<i>I just came back from my overseas exchange. How/when do I receive my academic transcript from the overseas university?</i>	<p>Your official academic transcript will be posted directly to the La Trobe Abroad Office and you will be contacted to collect it once it has been received.</p> <p>Some institutions may send the transcript to you directly either via email or post.</p>
<i>How do I apply for credit transfer after finishing my Semester Exchange Program?</i>	<p>When you have finished your overseas short program, the exchange institution will usually send an official academic transcript or completion certificate to you or La Trobe Abroad. You will be contacted by La Trobe Abroad if the official academic transcript has been received by them with details for collection. If you have received an unofficial copy of your transcript, you will need it signed and stamped by La Trobe Abroad staff as genuine.</p> <p>To apply for credit transfer, you will need to upload either your original official transcript copy or your unofficial transcript (must be signed and stamped as genuine by La Trobe Abroad) through ASK La Trobe (please quote your previous Reference number when the GECA form was approved). This form will then go through to the College for credit transfer.</p>
<i>Why haven't I received my results/academic transcript yet from my exchange university?</i>	<p>The timeframes depend on your exchange university. It may be withheld by the university if you owe any outstanding fees or assignments.</p> <p>Please contact the international office at your exchange university directly to clear up any issues or to follow-up for the status.</p>
<i>Do I get graded or marked for my exchange program?</i>	<p>Your grades will only appear on your exchange university transcript. Once you apply for credit transfer after completing your program, you will only receive a pass or fail grade for your relevant La Trobe University subjects.</p>