

## Information for Students

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| <b>A. University</b>                            | <b>Pennsylvania State University</b><br><br><a href="http://www.psu.edu">http://www.psu.edu</a>  <br><a href="https://global.psu.edu/category/incoming-exchange-students">https://global.psu.edu/category/incoming-exchange-students</a>   |
| <b>B. Location</b>                              | State College, Pennsylvania, USA   |
| <b>C. Academics</b>                             |  |
| <b>i) Module Mapping &amp; Credits Transfer</b> | <p>Please ensure your Study Plan is approved by the academics at your home School or Faculty before the exchange.</p> <p>Modules approved in the past may not be offered by the host university or approved by your Faculty when it is time for your SEP. Please check the latest course offerings at the host university while you develop your Study Plan.</p>   |
| <b>ii) Academic Calendar</b>                    | <p><b>Semester 1 (Fall):</b> August to December<br/> <b>Semester 2 (Spring):</b> January to May</p> <p><a href="https://www.registrar.psu.edu/academic-calendars/">https://www.registrar.psu.edu/academic-calendars/</a></p>   |
| <b>iii) Exchange Duration</b>                   | One semester   |
| <b>iv) Examination</b>                          | Students should check the exam timetable at their host university, and ensure they can stay at their host university until after the end of the official exam period.  |
| <b>v) Curriculum Structure</b>                  | In general, PSU considers a student full-time if he/she schedules a total of 12 or more credits, excluding course audits. Exact requirements could vary by programme.  |
| <b>vi) Entry Requirements</b>                   | CAP of 3.5 out of 5.0 with no grade below C  |
| <b>vii) Language Proficiency Requirements</b>   | <p>English</p> <p>For exchange students who are enrolled at an institution where English is the primary language of instruction, PSU will accept a document that they have created called the "EA Exchange Proof of English Proficiency" form. PSU ask that an academic adviser, dean, or other official university representative please fill out the form, sign it, and put the NUS institutional seal or stamp on the form.</p> <p>PSU will make sure that the students who they are working with from NUS receive a copy of this form so that they can get it filled out by the appropriate individual and upload it to PSU's Exchange Application e-form.</p> |

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| <p><b>viii) Modules Compatibility</b></p>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will be enrolled in courses based on the requests that you submit in your Advance Course Registration Form in the EA application.</li> <li>PSU cannot guarantee enrollment in any course. Academic departments do their best to accommodate your choices, however all of your course selections may not be available. Please be as flexible as possible in selecting courses!</li> <li>Course descriptions, pre-requisites and credits can be found in <a href="#">Penn State's Course Catalog</a>.</li> <li>Refer to <a href="#">Penn State's Class Search</a> for course availability for a specific semester.</li> <li>Exchange students will finalize their schedule of courses after arriving on campus and in consultation with an assigned academic adviser.</li> </ul> <p>In general, PSU is a good fit for <b>FASS, FoS, FoE, SDE, SoC</b> and <b>USP</b> students.</p>   |
| <p><b>ix) Module restrictions and pre-requisites</b></p> | <p>Most faculties accept undergraduate students. Students of law, education, and medicine are not able to study on exchange at Penn State.</p> <p>Some colleges and academic departments at Penn State restrict enrollment in specific courses. The departments/colleges listed below may not be able to accommodate students' requests. In many cases, level of ability in the area of study needs to be determined in person. Whether you can add these courses may not be known until students arrive and talk to the instructor/adviser.</p> <p><a href="#">College of Engineering</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mechanical Engineering courses can be difficult to schedule. Students need to have back-up options.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Department of Economics</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students must be economics majors to take economics courses at Penn State.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">College of Health and Human Development</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kinesiology courses are very limited.</li> <li>Nursing courses are not available unless specified in the exchange agreement.</li> </ul> <p>Website for course restriction (for exchange students):<br/><a href="https://global.psu.edu/article/academics-penn-state">https://global.psu.edu/article/academics-penn-state</a></p> |
| <p><b>D. Application</b></p>                             |   |
| <p><b>i) Procedures</b></p>                              | <p>All NUS students have to be nominated by NUS before they can apply for a fee-waiver exchange at the host university. The application procedures and list of supporting documents needed by the host university can be found in</p>   |

the SharePoint. Please look for the SEP coordinator at your Dean's Office for the link to the SharePoint.

Once you have been nominated by your home institution, you will receive instructions for logging in and completing the Penn State application.

At Penn State, the international student exchange process is managed by two offices within Global Programs, the [Directorate of Education Abroad](#) (EA) and the [Directorate of International Student and Scholar Advising](#) (DISSA). The student can expect to be in communication with staff from both offices throughout the application process.

EA is responsible for processing non-degree enrollment, academic matters such as course scheduling and setting academic advising, coordinating housing, and providing general information about the exchange program. EA can be reached at [eaexchanges@psu.edu](mailto:eaexchanges@psu.edu).

**Once you are granted access to the application system, you will need to complete the following:**

Application Questionnaires:

1. Upload an academic Transcript
2. Complete the Advance Course Registration Form
3. Complete the Non-Degree Enrollment Form
4. Complete the On Campus Housing request Form

DISSA is responsible for items pertaining to the students' immigration documents, including the DS-2019, visa related questions, and pre-arrival information. After the EA application is completed by the student, a DISSA adviser will contact the student and make available the materials to be completed for the DS-2019 visa document. DISSA will indicate separate due dates for these materials.

**Items to be completed once the student has been contacted by their DISSA adviser:**

1. EA Exchange: Passport & Biographical Information
2. EA Exchange: Financial Documentation
3. EA Exchange: Academic Information
4. EA Exchange: Submit Request for Review of Visa

You will receive your DS-2019 from DISSA via express mail service. You are responsible for the mailing fee and will receive instructions about this.

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| <p><b>ii) Deadlines</b></p>               | <p>All NUS students must abide by the internal application deadline set by their home Faculty for exchange participation in the following academic year. After clearing the internal application and selection process, students have to take note of the application deadline set by the host university.</p> <p>Failure to submit a formal application to the host university by the stipulated deadline, may result in your exchange being forfeited even if you have been selected by NUS for the exchange.</p>   |
| <p><b>E. Accommodation</b></p>            |   |
| <p><b>i) University Accommodation</b></p> | <p>On-campus housing and meal plans are available for exchange students but are not guaranteed.</p> <p><b>ACCOMODATION</b></p> <p>Exchange application materials include an On Campus Housing Request Form. Requests are reviewed by the Housing Assignments Office in the order received and are not guaranteed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicants planning to apply for University housing will create a <a href="#">Friends of Penn State Account</a> (FPS) and include the FPS on their Campus Housing Intent form.</li> <li>• If granted, the Housing Assignments Office will send an on-line housing contract to the FPS account for the applicant’s review and acceptance. The housing contract is a legally binding agreement.</li> <li>• Details about housing and meal plans, including cost, are available on the <a href="#">Housing website</a>.</li> <li>• Students can visit <a href="#">Off-Campus Living</a> to find resources for accommodation off campus. You may choose this option rather than living on campus. It is also possible that on campus housing will not be available – students and partners will be notified as soon as possible if that is the case. It may be beneficial to look at this site ahead of time to decide where you wish to live.</li> </ul> <p><b>CAMPUS MEAL PLANS</b></p> <p><b>Designed for Students Living on Campus</b></p> <p>For details on plans and pricing visit the <a href="#">Penn State Food Services website</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three levels to choose from</li> <li>• Cash free purchases with your <a href="#">Penn State id+ Card</a></li> <li>• Great value at a la carte operations and all-you-care-to-eat locations</li> </ul> <p><b>How the Campus Meal Plans Work</b></p> <p>Meal plans, loaded onto a student's id+card, can be used to purchase items at dining commons, campus restaurants, and on-campus convenience stores. Discounts vary by location.</p> <p>Source: <a href="https://global.psu.edu/article/accommodation-and-meals">https://global.psu.edu/article/accommodation-and-meals</a></p> |

| <b>F. Visa</b>  |   |
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| <p><b>Consular/Visa Regulation</b></p>                | <p>Students must apply for the J-1 visa. The Certificate of Non-Immigrant Eligibility for J status is the DS-2019. This is also a non-immigrant visa status. The rules for the J-1 are similar to the F-1. However, there are two important differences. Those in J-1 status may be subject to what is referred to as the "two-year home residency requirement" or subject to 212(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. The other difference is that dependents may apply for work permission. The two-year home residency requirement means that those individuals must return home for two years before applying for the H, L, or permanent residency visas. In addition, those subject to the two-year home residency requirement cannot change status to another within the U.S. A J-1 becomes subject to 212(e) by coming from a country and studying a field on the skills list, being sponsored by the U.S. government or the home country government, or studying in a program for graduate medical education.</p> <p>For more information please refer to:<br/> <a href="https://global.psu.edu/category/immigration">https://global.psu.edu/category/immigration</a></p> |
| <b>G. Safety, Health &amp; Medical Insurance</b>      |   |
| <p><b>i) Health/Medical Insurance</b></p>             | <p>All registered NUS students are covered under the university health insurance and the blanket travel insurance. For more information on the blanket travel insurance, please refer to the following link:<br/> <a href="https://myportal.nus.edu.sg/studentportal/student-insurance/all/">https://myportal.nus.edu.sg/studentportal/student-insurance/all/</a></p> <p>Students are strongly encouraged to purchase a supplemental travel insurance to ensure they are adequately covered during their exchange semester.</p> <p>In addition, students will be required to enrol in the compulsory health insurance policy or scheme at their SEP host university.</p> <p><b><i>Exchange students are required to purchase the Penn State Student Health Insurance Plan, offered by <a href="#">University Health Services</a>.</i></b></p>   |
| <p><b>ii) Emergency Number at host university</b></p> | <p>For emergency contact information, please refer to the following link:<br/> <a href="https://police.psu.edu/">https://police.psu.edu/</a></p>  |
| <b>H. Cost of Living</b>                              |   |
| <p><b>i) Estimated Monthly Living Expenses</b></p>    | <p>Please refer to the following link <a href="https://cce.ais.psu.edu/tuition-calculator-ui/#/">https://cce.ais.psu.edu/tuition-calculator-ui/#/</a> to estimate the cost of attending PSU. Kindly disregard tuition fees as these will be waived under the exchange agreement between NUS and PSU.</p>  |