

## Year 2 Exchange Programme: School of Bioscience Education 2017-18 Applications

This information sheet supplements information on the web pages of King's Global Mobility <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/abroad/discover/index.aspx>

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### Where can I apply?

#### Exchange partners

- Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden
  - University of Melbourne, Australia
  - National University of Singapore
  - University of California (e.g. Irvine, Davis, San Diego, Santa Barbara, UCLA, Berkeley). **Please note that to qualify to study at University of California you will need to demonstrate to the University of California that you have studied calculus (i.e. differentiation and integration) to first year US undergraduate level. In practice this means that your UC application will not be successful unless you have passed A2 Maths, IB Higher Level Maths or have an equivalent qualification.**
  - University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (sem A only)
  - University of Skovde, Sweden (Sem A only)
- Exchange partners may not offer the same range of modules that are available in Year 2 at King's (though they will also offer some subjects that you can't take here).
  - Students on the Biomedical Science BSc have a very open choice in year 2.
  - Students on "single honours" programmes have to take modules equivalent to their core Year 2 modules at King's (or as near as possible). These students may have a restricted choice of exchange partner institution. **Please contact the School Study Abroad Tutor for advice on choice of exchange partner before making an application.**
  - Note that the Karolinska offers a fixed programme of Year 2 modules taught in English. There is very limited choice there (which can make life easier for applicants). The programme is suitable for BSc Biomedical Science students but not for students on "single honours" programmes.

### How will the Exchange Year count towards my degree?

- You will need to take and pass the equivalent of 120 KCL credits in modules approved by your KCL programme advisor and Study Abroad Tutor.
- Provided you pass, you will receive 120 KCL credits towards your degree, but the marks you obtain on exchange year will not be "converted" into KCL marks and will not count towards your degree classification.
- Your degree classification will be calculated on the basis of your Year 1 and Year 3 marks. Sample calculations show that this is unlikely to be disadvantageous.

- For students who stay at King's for the three years of their BSc the normal weighting of their degree is approximately 12%, 35%, 53% for years 1, 2 and 3. For students who exchange the weighting will be approximately 18%, 82% for years 1 and 3.
- You will receive a transcript from the exchange partner showing the grades you obtained there, which you can quote in applications for jobs or further study.

### **What is the selection procedure?**

- Selection is carried out both by KCL and by the exchange partners.
- The selection process will look at your application for evidence of academic history (mostly from before you came to King's at this stage), your reasons for applying, how organised and prepared you are for the exchange, how well you will act as a representative and ambassador for King's at your host institution.
- **Students from the School of Bioscience Education are required to achieve at least 60% average in their January midsessional exams to obtain approval to proceed with their application.**
- If you are accepted by your host institution, the final stage of selection will be after the summer exams, when you will need to achieve at least 60% average for KCL to finally approve you going on the exchange.

### **How do I complete the application form?**

#### **See the Study Abroad web pages for full details and updates**

- <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/abroad/discover/index.aspx>
- Length of time for exchange: Full Year, except for North Carolina Chapel Hill and Skovde which are both for Sem A only.
- Transcripts: you will not have a KCL transcript showing your marks until after the summer exams. This is not needed for the initial application.
- Personal statement. There is guidance for this on the Study Abroad website.
- Module choices: For your initial application, you may have to suggest some modules of interest to show that you have been sufficiently organized to research your chosen exchange partner and make sure they offer suitable choices for your programme and interests. You do not have to produce a finished study plan at this stage – that comes later.

### **What is a study plan?**

- If you are selected to go forward to the second stage application (to the exchange institution) you will have to produce a study plan showing which modules you hope to take. However, your module choices will probably not be completely finalized until you are actually on the exchange.
- Your study plan must be discussed with, and approved by, your BSc programme advisor (see next page for names). The programme advisor WILL be able to tell you which year 2 modules you could take if you stayed at King's. The programme advisor will NOT be able to tell you which modules are offered by the exchange partners - YOU must do the research

and work out a suggested study plan for discussion and approval. Showing that you are competent to do this is part of the selection process to ensure that you will manage in an unfamiliar academic environment.

- You should check information on second and third year modules offered by King's, to see what you might need to study at the exchange partner to be prepared for your third year choices.

### **BSc programme advisors**

Seek help from these people to make sure modules you are proposing for your Year Abroad are suitable substitutes for your second year at King's. Please note that your programme advisor will NOT be able to tell you about the modules on offer at your proposed exchange partner. That aspect is for you to research and then discuss with the advisor.

Anatomy, Developmental and Human Biology: Dr Anna Battaglia

Biomedical Science: Dr Esther Bell

Biochemistry: Dr Alison Snape

Molecular Genetics: Dr Shirley Coomber

Neuroscience: Dr Clemens Kiecker

Pharmacology: Dr Stewart Paterson

Pharmacology and Molecular Genetics: Dr Stewart Paterson

Physiology: Dr Greg Knock

### **How many credits should I take at my exchange institution?**

- Different exchange partners have different systems. You must ensure that you take (and pass) the equivalent of 120 King's credits in appropriate subjects and at appropriate levels. You will need to take advice from your exchange host institution and from your King's programme advisor and Study Abroad Tutor to make sure your final choices are appropriate.
- As a guide, here is the number of credits you should take at each exchange partner. At UNC and University of California the exact number of credits taken may vary, but you should aim for the number suggested below. You MUST have the number, level and subjects of the credits approved by King's to ensure that you will fulfil our requirements for progression to third year. Please note that for some exchange partners we require you to take more than their minimum recommendation.

Karolinska Institute: 60 ECTS credits

University of Melbourne: 100 credits

National University of Singapore: 32 credits

University of California, Berkeley: 26-28 credits \*

University of California, other campuses: 32 credits\*

University of North Carolina: 12-14 credits for one semester

University of Skovde: 30 ECTS credits

\*Pass/not pass credits. At University of California some modules can be taken for grading, or on a Pass/not pass basis. Even though your grades will not "count" towards your degree classification, you should take most of your modules for grading, and check with us about any Pass/not pass credits.

## Medical and Dental applications

Students who wish to apply for graduate entry to Medicine and Dentistry should not be discouraged from applying for the Exchange Year. You will still be able to apply for medicine or dentistry through UCAS in your final year, exactly the same as students who stay at King's for year 2. We have received the following suggestions from the KCL medical admissions tutor:

1. That candidates are not discouraged from studying in year 2 at a partner institution.
2. That the referee should give us a degree prediction based on the grades the candidate obtains from their year abroad institute and that some explanation is given in the reference section in relation to the Year abroad and how it benefitted the candidate.
3. That whilst on their year abroad programme, the candidate does not forget to maintain the evidence portfolio of activities which demonstrate their commitment to medicine as a career.

You should also make sure that you stay in touch with your KCL personal tutor during your Exchange Year, as s/he will be responsible for writing your reference for UCAS.

## C score comparison for students with and without the Year Abroad

Below are sample calculations for two (hypothetical) students with identical Year 1 and Year 3 performance who have either stayed at King's for their second year (first chart) or have gone on exchange (second chart).

Year 1					Year 2					Year 3				
Mark	Credits (Cr)	Weight (Wt)	Mark x Cr x Wt	Cr x Wt	Mark	Credits (Cr)	Weight (Wt)	Mark x Cr x Wt	Cr x Wt	Mark	Credits (Cr)	Weight (Wt)	Mark x Cr x Wt	Cr x Wt
72	15	1	1080	15	72	15	3	3240	45	72	15	5	5400	75
72	15	1	1080	15	72	15	3	3240	45	72	15	5	5400	75
65	15	1	975	15	65	15	3	2925	45	65	15	5	4875	75
65	15	1	975	15	65	15	3	2925	45	65	15	5	4875	75
62	15	1	930	15	62	15	3	2790	45	62	15	5	4650	75
62	15	1	930	15	62	15	3	2790	45	62	15	5	4650	75
60	15	1	900	15	60	15	3	2700	45	60	15	3	2700	45
60	15	1	900	15	60	15	3	2700	45	60	15	3	2700	45
<b>SUMS</b>			<b>7770</b>	<b>120</b>				<b>23310</b>	<b>360</b>				<b>35250</b>	<b>540</b>
	NUMERATOR		<b>66330</b>											
	DIVISOR		1020											
	<b>C-score</b>		<b>65.03</b>											
<b>10.5.2 Weighting Scheme</b>														
The marks of the best 90 credits at Level 6 (and/or level 7 where taken) will be given a weighting of 5														
The marks for any remaining Level 6 (and/or Level 7 where taken) and any level 5 credits will be given a weighting of 3														
The marks for all level 4 credits will be given a weighting of 1														
C= [Sum of the weighted marks (mark x credit x weight)] / [sum of (credit x weight)]														



## **University of California**

- Course registration procedures are cumbersome and may not work at first (e.g. may not recognise that you have modules equivalent to the required pre-requisites and hence block your enrolment). However, course leaders are much more autonomous than at King's and personal contact (pestering) tends to work for getting places. Email the lecturer expressing interest in being in the class, prior to enrollment, as they can manually enroll you in.
- Getting involved in undergraduate research for credits (UROPS/UREPS/SRP) is recommended and funding is available.
- The Dashew center is the international office at UCLA. If you have any problems they can usually help, or at least point you in the right direction. They also organize a lot of events at discounted prices, so make sure to sign up for those.
- My major at UCLA is Neuroscience. Students could also choose Biology as a major or something along the lines of Biochem or Molecular Bio. I would highly recommend that they do NOT choose Life Science as a major because they are not very helpful as a department (they are just too big of a department to help with the individual needs we have as study abroad students). Your major doesn't really affect which classes you can take, but the department can offer you advice on planning classes etc.
- Be prepared to share a room (at UC and UNC). This is the norm in US universities. You will be matched up and put in touch with your roommate(s) before arrival.
- Do not be tempted to take extra credits. The workload is very tough.

## **UNC**

- Former students noted that UNC has no clear correlation between module code and level, making module difficulty hard to judge.
- Students found some UNC modules demanding - they recommended checking whether a module requires use of research papers as a way of judging level.
- However students from all destinations including UNC recommended seeking out some modules that required them to use primary research papers as this is useful preparation for final year.
- Be prepared to share a room (at UC and UNC). This is the norm in US universities. You will be matched up and put in touch with your roommate(s) before arrival.

## **National University of Singapore**

- Students recommend taking some core level 2 modules such as Cell Biology in the first semester and also some level 3 modules, but not to be afraid of taking level 4 modules in the second semester as these were the most interesting and rewarding. The work is not too difficult but it is hard to gain high grades because marking is norm referenced.

## **University of Melbourne**

- There is a vibrant International Student group - you are encouraged to sign up via Facebook.
- Melbourne is close to King's in terms of available modules and teaching levels. Students take a mix of Year 2 and Year 3 modules and have no difficulty gaining access to suitable modules and modules with lab practicals.
- There is no need to take (very expensive) university accommodation. If you arrive 2 weeks early and stay in a hostel you will be able to find a room in a shared house (use Gumtree and university noticeboards to find adverts).
- If there is something I wish I had done differently is my choice of accommodation. Choosing from home was a shot in the dark. Unfortunately, I ended up in a very quiet building, which definitely didn't suit my character. There are plenty of housing options in Melbourne, and it isn't a problem

to get these matters sorted out once at the destination. My personal advice is to spend the first week or so in a hotel/hostel to personally inspect the residences, and make an informed decision. I would like to suggest UniLodge Halls for students who like a vibrant, lively atmosphere. There also are plenty of flat share options, which might be quieter (here it really depends on the flat mates). Small studio flats in public residences might be the quietest option.

- Other services that might be useful at the University of Melbourne include:
  - Free airport pickups offered by the University: <http://services.unimelb.edu.au/international/life-and-study/apply-for-airport-pickup>
  - 
  - Webpage with all sorts of student services offered by the University: <http://services.unimelb.edu.au/finder>
- Taking the two terms 'in reverse' presented some challenges but was not a big problem.
- Students are allowed to select modules with timetable clashes but will be expected to manage clashes themselves: initially our students perceived being able to select clashing modules as an advantage but realised later that it could cause problems.
- Please note that we have had students fail modules at Melbourne and they do not offer a re-sit opportunity. If you fail a Melbourne module you may have to make up by taking second year modules at King's the following year, which will delay your entry to final year and turn your course into a 4 year BSc.
- Students appreciated the opportunity to explore Australia during the long Christmas vacation between the two terms.