Aston University Fact Sheet
Incoming Undergraduate Exchange Students
2017/2018
**Aston University**

Founded in 1895 and a University since 1966, Aston is a long established research-led University known for its world-class teaching quality and strong links to industry, government and commerce.

Aston’s four Schools offer a range of undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes. Aston promotes and supports academic excellence in everything that we do. You will be taught by academic staff with international reputations in their fields. Access to quality library, learning resources and information technology is an essential part of any university experience and at Aston this is given a high priority. Our learning and teaching facilities are modern, easy to access and user-friendly.

Aston University is located on a well-equipped and friendly campus in the heart of the vibrant city of Birmingham. All of our social, support and academic facilities are based on campus, so you will never have to go far.

Each year Aston welcomes students from over 120 countries, providing a fantastic opportunity for exchange students to study abroad, whilst also having the chance to experience new cultures, meet new people and improve their language skills.

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**Birmingham**

Birmingham is Britain’s second city and is internationally recognised as a leader in leisure, entertainment, shopping and sport. Birmingham is an international centre for business, commerce and industry and attracts over 25 million visitors each year and the global Mercer Quality of Living Report 2017 recently placed Birmingham the second best city in England for quality of life. Aston’s location in the centre of the UK means that Birmingham is easily accessible by road, rail or air. Birmingham Airport is located ten minutes from Birmingham City Centre by train, and London is less than ninety minutes. The central location of the campus means that shopping, restaurants and nightlife are all within a safe and easy walking distance.
What can you study?

Aston University is divided into 4 Academic Schools. You will only be able to study within the School your University has an agreement with, therefore when choosing modules please pick modules from one School and not across each one.

Below are the 4 Academic Schools and the subject areas which are available for exchange students:

**Aston Business School (ABS)**
- All undergraduate programmes in the Aston Business School

**Languages & Social Sciences (LSS)**
- English Language
- French
- German
- International Relations
- Politics
- Sociology / Social Policy
- Spanish
- Translation Studies

**Engineering & Applied Science (EAS)**
- Chemistry
- Computing
- Engineering disciplines (Chemical, Mechanical, Electrical and Electronic)
- Logistics
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Product Design
- Transport Management

**Life & Health Sciences (LHS)**
- Biology*
- Biomedical Sciences*
- Psychology*

*Please see the next page (Page 5) for further details about applying to LHS.

**Module Choices**

To see which modules are available in each subject group, please click on the link below and select ‘What can I Study?’

For LHS modules please refer to page 5.

www.aston.ac.uk/international-students/student-exchanges/incoming-exchange-students/guide-to-applying/
Applications to Aston Business School, Engineering & Applied Science, Languages & Social Sciences (Undergraduate)

Entry Requirements

The exchange programme allows students to study at Aston for either a full year or one teaching period. Before applying there a few requirements that you must meet:

- be nominated by one of our European partner institutions, as part of the ERASMUS Scheme,

OR

- be nominated by one of our International partner institutions. In the initial nomination email, partners must specify which school of study the student wishes to join, their level of English language and attach a copy of their transcript.

You must also:

- have completed a minimum of one or two years’ study in Higher Education.
- Fulfil our English Language requirements - www.aston.ac.uk/international-students/admissions-advice/english-language-requirements/

Applications

Once we receive the nomination details from your home institution the relevant School will send you a link to the online application form which you must complete and upload the following documents to:

- Scanned copy of your passport (if you require a visa)
- Official nomination letter
- Your academic transcript submitted in English or officially translated
- English language certificate

It is important that you write your personal details as they appear in your passport and also provide us with an accurate email address, as we will need to contact you on a regular basis.

You will also receive information about accommodation, module selections and welcome/induction events taking place once we have received your completed application form.
Applications to the School of Life and Health Sciences (Undergraduate)

The application process and module selection differs slightly for the School of Life & Health Sciences due to the structure of the programmes on offer.

Entry Requirements

The exchange programme allows students to study at Aston for a full year only, as one semester study exchanges are not available for this school. There is also the possibility of a research/internship for one teaching period under agreed partnership arrangements. Before applying there are a few requirements that you must meet:

► be nominated by one of our European partner institutions, as part of the ERASMUS Scheme,

OR

► be nominated by one of our International partner institutions. In the initial nomination email, partners must specify which school of study the student wishes to join, their level of English language and attach a copy of their transcript.
► have completed a minimum of one or two years’ study in Higher Education.
► Fulfil our English Language requirements - www.aston.ac.uk/international-students/admissions-advice/english-language-requirements/

Application

Once Aston has received the student nominations LHS will be in touch directly with you and your advisor. The International Partnership Coordinator for the School will send a list of module choices available for the subject you wish to study, along with an LHS information sheet and our application form.

You are then required to select your choice of modules and return the completed application form along with the following documents:

► Academic transcripts in English or officially translated.
► English Language Certificate
► Scanned copy of passport

Module Choices

There are a number of restrictions in place for selecting LHS modules. Unfortunately, it will not be possible to study any lab-based modules due to the strict constraints surrounding lab spaces, so therefore only class based modules will be on offer.

Additionally, students will be required to undertake modules from Years 1 and 2 only. There might be the option of some final year modules, but this will be indicated on the list provided by LHS at the time of your application. Entry to these final year modules will be assessed on an individual basis following a review of the academic transcripts submitted, as most final year modules have set pre-requisites.

Aston will not be able to process your application without receiving your modules choices and a confirmed learning agreement.

Please note that we are unable to offer any undergraduate exchange opportunities in audiology, pharmacy or optometry.
Workload

Your workload will normally consist of 60 credits (30 ECTS) per teaching period. For students attending the whole year this is a total of 120 Aston (60 ECTS) credits.

Examinations & Assessments

Modules assessed by examinations are held at the end of each teaching period, e.g. in January for Teaching Period 1 and in May/June for Teaching Period 2. These are compulsory and you must remain at Aston for the examinations.

Transcripts will be sent directly in the post to students after their marks have been confirmed by the relevant exam board.

Application Deadlines

- Students coming in September (Full academic Year or Teaching Period 1) - 20th June 2017
- Students coming in January (Teaching Period 2) - 20th October 2017
Term Dates

The academic year is divided into two teaching periods. Students can either attend for the whole year (September to June) or for one teaching period (either September to January or January to June).

**Teaching Period 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fresher’s Week</td>
<td>16 September 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Period One</td>
<td>25 September 2017 - 15 December 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Period 1 ends/ Christmas break</td>
<td>16 December 2017 - 7 January 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Period 1 exam period</td>
<td>8 January 2018 - 20 January 2018</td>
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**Teaching Period 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome Week for January Starters</td>
<td>16 January 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Period Two</td>
<td>22 January 2018 - 23 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Period Two ends - (Easter Break)</td>
<td>24 March 2018 - 15 April 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Period Two continues</td>
<td>16 April 2018 - 4 May 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Period Two exam period</td>
<td>7 May 2018 - 9 June 2018</td>
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Fresher’s Week

Aston Welcome Week

Prior to the start of your studies Aston University runs activities to help you settle into your new environment, this is referred to as ‘Aston Welcome’ – it is essential that you attend! The orientation is planned with you in mind and provides valuable information and guidance in preparation for your studies and life in the UK.

The University runs a week of welcome activities for all new students, including those who live in the UK, before teaching starts. This week is called Freshers’ Week. It includes School, academic and social activities and is a brilliant opportunity to meet UK students.

For those students only attending Teaching Period 2 there is also an Aston Welcome Week in January. Although on a smaller scale it is aimed at helping you settle into life at Aston and providing you with important information and guidance. It is also, of course, your chance to meet other students already on campus and make friends!

Cost of Living

It is recommended that you budget £1015 per month, which includes accommodation, food, books, clothes, local travel and spending money. Aston, however, is a self-contained University based in the City Centre of Birmingham, therefore students living close to the campus will not require any transportation and any other travel is entirely the student’s own choice.
Accommodation

The accommodation available to you as an exchange student will depend on the duration of your exchange at Aston University. Please read the information below carefully.

Our exchange students are split into two categories:

- Full year students (September - June)
- Teaching Period 1 (September - Jan) or Teaching Period 2 (Jan - June) ONLY students

Full Year Exchange Students

We guarantee Aston University campus accommodation to the first 30 full year (September – June) Erasmus and Exchange student applicants, on a first-come first-served basis, fulfilling the criteria set out below:

- You apply to Aston University as a full time exchange student for the full academic year by 20th June 2017
- Aston University have confirmed your application by 1st July 2017
- You have applied for accommodation through the online portal by 10th July 2017.

Undergraduate applicants can choose from a 42 week accommodation only or a 42 week catered accommodation contract. Further details can be found on our website.

We will inform you whether you have been successful by 31st July 2017. Please note all accommodation dates are subject to change.

Please note: Aston Student Village are unable to confirm any remaining on-campus availability to exchange students until the beginning of October 2017.

One Teaching Period Only Exchange Students

Exchange students registering for either Teaching Period 1 (September - January) or Teaching Period 2 (January - June) will not have on campus accommodation guaranteed. There is however a higher likelihood of on campus accommodation for Teaching Period 2 students.

We also provide support for those seeking alternative accommodation in Birmingham. Students can find out about accommodation options available at www.astonstudenthomes.org/accommodation. We also recommend that students contact the Advice & Representation Centre (ARC) by email at advice@aston.ac.uk for advice and guidance about seeking off-campus accommodation through their service ‘Aston Student Homes’.

General Advice

Birmingham is fortunate in that it boasts a wide variety of alternative accommodation for students that are well connected by bus and rail links. However, there are still a number of things to take into consideration when seeking off-campus accommodation. Short term lets are not as easy to find as long term lets. Please seek advice and start your search early.

Alternative off-campus accommodation types:

- Private student halls
- Shared house
- Flats/Studios
- Homestay Landlords

We recommend that you search for your accommodation in advance, in particular if you are looking for shared/private housing. We recommend that you arrive in the UK early so that you can view properties and make arrangements in person.

If you look outside AstonStudentHomes for accommodation, please be careful which accommodation agencies you use in your search. It is against the Law in the UK for an accommodation agency to take fees in advance from prospective tenants in return for details of properties. For tips on how to avoid rental scams please check out Action Fraud: Rental Scams.

Please remember that the University cannot recommend off-campus accommodation properties, but provides a list to help guide your search with the information available from staff at ARC. It is your responsibility to secure accommodation and find out what options may be available to you.
Sport Aston

Aston University students have excellent sports facilities right on their doorstep. Whether you want to train, compete, keep fit or just have fun with friends, Aston can provide you with a great range of opportunities. Our facilities are staffed by trained first-aiders and lifeguards.

For further information, please visit Sport Aston website: www.aston.ac.uk/sport

Support Facilities

Aston University offers a range of services to support students with both academic and personal issues. These include personal tutors for each student and many other services provided by the Aston Schools, central University departments and the Students’ Union.

Further information can be found at: www1.aston.ac.uk/current-students/.

The Hub, Student Support Services offer disability support, counselling, funding advice and international student support. Further information can be found online at: www.aston.ac.uk/current-students/hub/

Peer Mentoring

Further to the support facilities Aston is delighted to be able to offer all our exchange students a mentor during their time at Aston. This is a support scheme run by students for students and provides a great source of support from someone who has experience of being an Aston student. For more information please visit:

www1.aston.ac.uk/current-students/get-involved/mentoring-at-aston-university/peer-mentoring/

Employment and Careers Services

Aston University’s Careers Service is available to all students offering careers guidance, careers information and advice. www1.aston.ac.uk/careers/

The Students’ Union provides advice and guidance on gaining part-time work in the UK. For further information please see the Job Shop website: www.astonunion.com/jobshop/

Visas and Health Insurance

Students from outside the EU will need to make sure that they have the necessary visa to enable them to study in the UK. We will issue a ‘short term study visa letter’ for those studying less than 6 months however please note that without these documents we cannot produce your acceptance letter/CAS. Students studying for a full year will need a Tier 4 visa.

For visa advice, please visit www.aston.ac.uk/current-students/hub/iss/advice-for-international-students/visas

EU students should obtain a European Health Insurance card. International students should click on the link below for detailed information relating to healthcare: www.ukcisa.org.uk/International-Students/Study-work--more/Health-and-healthcare/National-Health-Service-NHS-who-is-entitled/
Contact Us

If you have any questions about Incoming Exchanges, please contact:

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If you have specific questions relating to the Schools, please contact:

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Useful links

- www1.aston.ac.uk/international-students/
- www.facebook.com/astonuniversity
- www.facebook.com/auinternational?ref=hl
- www.twitter.com/astonuniversity
- http://instagram.com/astonuniversity

Aston Exchange Webpages

- www.aston.ac.uk/international/international-students/student-exchanges/incoming-exchange-students/

This information updated on 21/11/2016