

Informations for exchange students coming to Birmingham

As from September 2013 entry, all students MUST take a full credit load. This means that students who are at Birmingham for the full year must take 120 Birmingham credits. Students at Birmingham for part of the year must take 60 Birmingham credits.

The academic year at Birmingham

The academic year is divided into three terms as follows:

- Autumn Term: September to December (11 weeks of teaching plus a welcome week)
- Spring Term: January to March (11 weeks)
- Summer Term: April to June (8 weeks)

Full details of dates of terms can be found by looking at the University calendar www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/termdates.aspx. There is no teaching in the Summer Term; it is used for revision and examinations. The exam period begins in early May and ends in the first week of June.

Although term extends until the middle of June, students are permitted to leave as soon as their exams are completed. This means that some students may be finished by the middle of May. It is understood that some students must return home for summer jobs or summer sessions at their home universities, but other students prefer to remain until the end of term as there are many social events on campus such as the Summer Ball. Students also use the campus as a convenient base for travelling around the UK or Europe. Please note that students electing to leave early will remain responsible for accommodation charges till the end of the term.

The permitted periods of study; for full time students this would include the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms. For students attending for the winter semester this would include the Autumn term only and for students attending the summer semester this would include the Spring and the Autumn terms.

NB students who are registered for the Spring/Summer Terms or for the full year do not have the option of absenting themselves from exams for fewer credits.

Students are NOT permitted to attend for Autumn and Spring terms or the Summer term only e.g. it would not be possible for students to leave in March.

Credits and Grades

The number of modules required to obtain that number of credits varies, because different modules carry a different number of credits. Remember that if a module is worth, for example, 20 credits and it is a full-year module, a part-year student taking only half of the module will receive only 10 credits.

In terms of ECTS credits, a full year at Birmingham is worth 60 ECTS. Part of a year will be worth 30 ECTS In January (for December leavers) and July, marks are ratified by an Examination Board. After the Board, a transcript of results will automatically be sent to each student and also to each student's home university.

Of course, policy on the transfer of credits and grades is a matter for each student's home institution.