

Cardiff University

Fact Sheet for School Exchange Students and Partners



ABOUT CARDIFF

- Capital of Wales.
- Located 2 hours (by train) from London.
- Voted 2nd best Students' Union in the UK.*
- Cardiff has been named the most affordable of all the UK's university cities.**
- Is among the top 25 universities in the UK.***



THE CITY

Cardiff is the capital and largest city in Wales and the tenth largest city in the UK. Its rich culture has a diverse range of influences from the Romans and Normans of antiquity to the industrial revolution and the coal industry –which transformed Cardiff from a small town into a thriving, international city.

Cardiff combines all the advantages of a compact, friendly and cost-effective location with the cultural and recreational facilities of a modern capital city. Cardiff University's campus sits within the city centre, with wide tree-lined avenues and elegant Portland stone buildings, it's an inspiring place to study.



THE UNIVERSITY

We are an ambitious and innovative university with a bold and strategic vision located in a beautiful and thriving capital city. Cardiff is a research-intensive university providing an educationally outstanding experience for our students. With 33,000 students and over 7,500 international students we are the 15th largest university in the UK in terms of student numbers.

Every student enrolled at Cardiff University is automatically a member of Cardiff Students' Union. Run by students for students, it offers an exciting programme of entertainment, diverse clubs and societies and a comprehensive range of welfare, advice and information services – all aspects of student life within a purpose-built complex. Students can take a look at our campus through our [Virtual Interactive Tour](#).

*Whatuni Student Choice Award 2023, 2024, 2025

**2025 NatWest Student Living Index

***The Complete University Guide 2026



UNIVERSITY FACTS AND FIGURES

- Cardiff University has a student population of 33,000.
- There are 8,080 international students from more than 150 countries at Cardiff University.
- Cardiff's Students' Union has over 200 sports clubs & societies to choose from.



CLIMATE

Cardiff's climate is characterised by mild weather. Temperatures in the winter months (December to February) are an average high of 8°C and low of 2°C. During the summer months, (June to August) temperatures can vary with an average high of 22°C and low of 11°C.



TRAVEL

Cardiff is easily accessible and conveniently located. The Central railway station is Wales' largest and most popular station within 2 hours reach from the heart of London and Birmingham.



ACADEMIC CALENDAR

	Autumn semester	Spring semester
Induction period	28 September - 2 October 2026	25 - 29 January 2027
Classes begin	5 October 2026	1 February 2027
Class (exam) ends	29 January 2027	18 June 2027



ADMISSION

	Autumn semester	Spring semester
Nomination deadline	15 April 2026	1 October 2026
Application deadline	30 April 2026	15 October 2026

Nomination Process (for coordinator at sending institution):

The sending partner institution is required to send the following information via email:

- Name and email address of the student
- Departmental Coordinator (Name and email)
- Planned Exchange -
Autumn semester, Spring Semester or Full Year.
- Host academic school at Cardiff University

Minimum Language Requirement:

View online at www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/international/european-exchange/how-to-apply.

How to apply (instructions for students):

Once nominated, the academic school will send the student a link to the online application form.

Application documents required to be submitted:

Academic transcript, and a passport copy.

Duration of study at host university:

One semester or one academic year.



COURSES AND REGISTRATION

Level of study:

Varies by Inter-Institutional Agreement.

Duration of study:

One semester or one academic year - dependent on Inter-Institutional Agreement.

Semester course load:

60 credits per semester. This is equivalent to 30 ECTS.

Online catalogue:

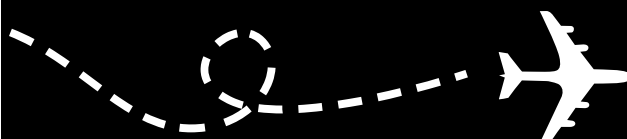
Module (course) catalogue will be provided by academic school after application.

Transcripts:

Transcripts are released to partner Universities once available.

Restrictions:

Students are required to take the majority of their modules (courses) within the same academic school. It may be possible to take up to 20 credits per semester from the exchange catalogue within another academic school, but this cannot be guaranteed or confirmed until after arrival.





ACCOMMODATION

Is on campus housing guaranteed?

Full-year students

Our Residences Office can guarantee an offer of a single occupancy place in university residences if you are studying with us for a full academic year providing you apply by the specified deadline.

One-semester

Our Residences Office cannot guarantee School Exchange students a place in university residences if they are completing a placement in the Autumn or Spring semester only. Students may apply for university accommodation but there are not sufficient rooms to house all applicants. Therefore, early application is advised. Students will be given housing support for their programme. Please note, there are challenges in accommodating students in the Autumn term and finding private rooms in the city. We encourage students to consider the Spring or Full Year programme where university and private accommodation are much more readily available. We do not recommend students arrive in Cardiff without having secured accommodation.

Types and Fees: On-campus single occupancy bedroom. Fees currently range from approximately £5,800 - £8,000 per year. For single semester contracts, a pro-rata rate will be applied.

Housing Application Deadline: Application deadlines can vary - late July (Autumn/Full year), November (Spring).

Application Form: Available online via students login to Cardiff University student portal system (SIMS). Students must have received (and accepted) a formal offer before applying for accommodation.

Further information: [Visit our Cardiff University Residences web page](#)



VISA AND IMMIGRATION

Visa Requirements:

Full year students - Student Visa

Semester only students - Standard Visitor Route or Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA)

Visa Procedure: Depends on visa and nationality. Some students must apply in advance. Full guidance will be provided after acceptance.

Eligibility to Work: Student Route visa - Yes (restrictions apply) / Visitor Visa - No

Medical Insurance: If coming to the UK for more than six months (Student Route visa holders): will pay health surcharge to access UK's National Health Service. If staying less than six months: insurance is not required but is strongly recommended. [Click here for further information about Insurance.](#)



We've put together a list of important websites that may be useful for you to learn more about Cardiff University and the city.

CARDIFF UNIVERSITY EUROPEAN EXCHANGE WEBPAGE:

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/international/european-exchange>

HOW TO APPLY:

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/international/european-exchange/how-to-apply>

WHY STUDY AT CARDIFF - STUDENT BROCHURE:

[This is Cardiff \(student brochure\).pdf](#)

CARDIFF UNIVERSITY MAIN WEBPAGE:

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/>

CARDIFF UNIVERSITY STUDENT LIFE:

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/student-life>

CARDIFF STUDENTS' UNION:

<https://www.cardiffstudents.com/>

ACCOMMODATION:

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/international/european-exchange/accommodation>

VIDEOS ABOUT CARDIFF:

Click on the image to view the video.



[Reasons to love Cardiff - 1.05 mins](#)



[Student campus tour - 1.38 mins](#)



[Cardiff - Capital of Wales - 1.35 mins](#)



[This is Cardiff - 1.46 mins](#)

“

My English improved quickly, I met a lot of international students. Cardiff is a very safe and welcoming city for students!

- Adele, France

“

I had a wonderful time on my exchange at Cardiff. My favourite part was the Students' Union and the enormous variety of societies and activities they offer. It helped me meet wonderful people from all around the globe.

- Beatriz, Portugal

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Global Opportunities
Centre for Student Life,
Park Place,
Cardiff, UK
CF10 3BB

+44 (0)29 22 518 888 (ask for Global Opportunities)



<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/international/european-exchange>



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