Politics and International Relations Exchange Year Briefing

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Wednesday 26 March 2025

and Wednesday 02 April 2025



Agenda

- Overview
- Contingency plan and risk assessment
- Learning agreements
- Course requirements:
  - Number of credits
  - Appropriate level
  - Related to Politics and International Relations
  - Research Design in Politics and International Relations
- Staying in touch
- Credits and degree classifications
- Programme-specific advice:
  - International Relation and International Law
  - Politics, Philosophy and Economics
  - Modern European Languages and Politics and International Relations

Overview: Basic information

- Contact: PIR-Int-Exchange@ed.ac.uk
- PIR International Exchange Coordinator days: Tuesdays and Thursdays
  - Replies within five working days
- What I deal with:
  - Advice on course choice (equivalence)
  - Review and approval of Learning Agreements
  - Issues with academic attainment
- What SWAY deals with:
  - Everything else relating to:
    - International exchanges: international.outgoing@ed.ac.uk
    - European exchanges: europe.outgoing@ed.ac.uk

Overview: Particularly useful sources

- PIR course choice requirements
- Degree Programme Tables
- SWAY exchanges overview
- Learning agreement overview
- Host institution course catalogue

Contingency plan and risk assessment

- You will be required to complete these via Mobility Online prior to your departure

- You are required to seek my approval:
  - Email me stating that you have considered the possibility that your exchange may not be able to proceed and that, in those circumstances, you plan to return to Edinburgh and continue your studies here
  - I will reply confirming that you can proceed

Learning agreements: Overview

- Choose courses that meet the requirements
- Produce your Learning Agreement via Mobility Online
- Submit it via the PIR learning agreement submission survey for me to review and approve
- If you are a joint honours students, send it to your other exchange coordinator(s) for review and approval
- If not approved, revise and resubmit it
- If approved, upload it to Mobility Online
- Must be completed at least one month before the start of your exchange

Course requirements: Overview

1. You must have the right number of credits
2. You must study courses at an appropriate level
3. You must study enough politics and international relations credits
4. You do not need to find an equivalent to Research Design in Politics and International Relations (RDPIR, PLIT10106)

Course requirements: Number of credits

- At EU institutions, 60 ECTS credits
- At international institutions, check the table

Course requirements: Appropriate level

- Equivalent to honours level (i.e., third or fourth year)
- Pre-honours level (i.e., first or second year) courses will not be approved
- Postgraduate level courses can sometimes be approved
- At some institutions, course codes reflect their level or year

Course requirements: PIR-related

- Single honours:
  - All your credits should be from PIR-related courses
  - Language courses may make up no more than 10% of your credits
- Joint honours:
  - Half your credits should be from PIR-related courses
- Some leeway over what constitutes PIR-related if the first two requirements are met

Course requirements: RDPIR

- Single honours:
  - RDPIR is a requirement
  - Take RDPIR when you return to Edinburgh in the first semester of your fourth year:
    - It will count towards your 120 credits in the fourth year
    - It means you will have fewer elective credits available for other courses
  - No need to find an equivalent at your host institution

- Joint honours:
  - RDPIR is strongly recommended if you plan to write a PIR dissertation:
    - If so, the above single honours advice applies
  - RDPIR may be becoming a requirement for any student wishing to write a PIR dissertation

Learning agreements: Revisions

- This is common, especially when each semester or term starts
- Courses might not:
  - Be running
  - Have space
  - Be permissible
- Follow the same process as when first producing your Learning Agreement, but highlighting that it is an amended Learning Agreement

Learning agreements: Revisions

- Choose courses that meet the requirements
- Produce your revised Learning Agreement via Mobility Online
- Submit it via the PIR learning agreement submission survey for me to review and approve
- If you are a joint honours students, send it to your other exchange coordinator(s) for review and approval
- If not approved, revise and resubmit it
- If approved, upload it to Mobility Online
- Must be completed within set amendment windows during the year

Staying in touch

- Contact us if you need support
- Throughout the year, we will be in touch with you:
  - The SPS Student Advice and Support Team (student.sps@ed.ac.uk) will check in with you to make sure you have arrived and settled in, and then that you have transitioned into your second semester at your host institution
  - SWAY (contact details on slide 4) will send reminders of tasks that you need to complete, e.g., confirmation of arrival and Learning Agreement, and may be in contact to request specific information from you
  - I (PIR-Int-Exchange@ed.ac.uk) will send information about processes to follow and events that are organised for you (e.g., dissertation briefing), as well as sending individual replies to your queries
- Please be sure to check your Edinburgh emails and respond to our emails and requests when necessary
- Apply for fourth year courses and, if applicable, submit your dissertation topic, in a timely fashion

Credits and degree classifications

- You must take marked courses, i.e., courses for which you receive a grade, and cannot take credit-only courses (except as extra credit)
- For optional exchanges, your exchange year credits will not contribute to your degree classification but you must pass the requisite number of credits
- For non-optional exchange (e.g., Modern European Languages), your exchange year credits will be translated back into Edinburgh credits and contribute to your degree classification
- See the relevant University web page

Programme-specific advice: PIR with QM

- At a minimum, try to find an equivalent for Statistical Modelling
  - If no equivalent is available, study it when you return to Edinburgh, though this will take up one of your electives
- In line with the Degree Programme Tables (Politics, International Relations), up to half of the credits studied on exchange can be from social science QM courses

Programme-specific advice: IRIL

- Check with your host institution that you are permitted to study half of your credits in PIR-related courses and half of your credits in Law-related courses:
  - This should be the case at Sciences Po, KU Leuven, and Copenhagen
- If not, contact myself, the Law International Exchange Coordinator, and SWAY

Programme-specific advice: PPE

- You should have been allocated to a host institution where you can meet the requirements of all three subjects
- The Economics requirements are the most specific
  - Topics in Macroeconomics (ECNM10069) and Topics in Microeconomics (ECNM10070)
  - Essentials of Econometrics (ECNM10052) and Topics in Microeconomics (ECNM10070)
  - Essentials of Econometrics (ECNM10052) and Applications of Econometrics (ECNM10056)
  - Essentials of Econometrics (ECNM10052) and Topics in Macroeconomics (ECNM10069)
- The courses you study should deliver an approximately equal split in credits relating to each subject
- Apply for fourth-year courses in the spring

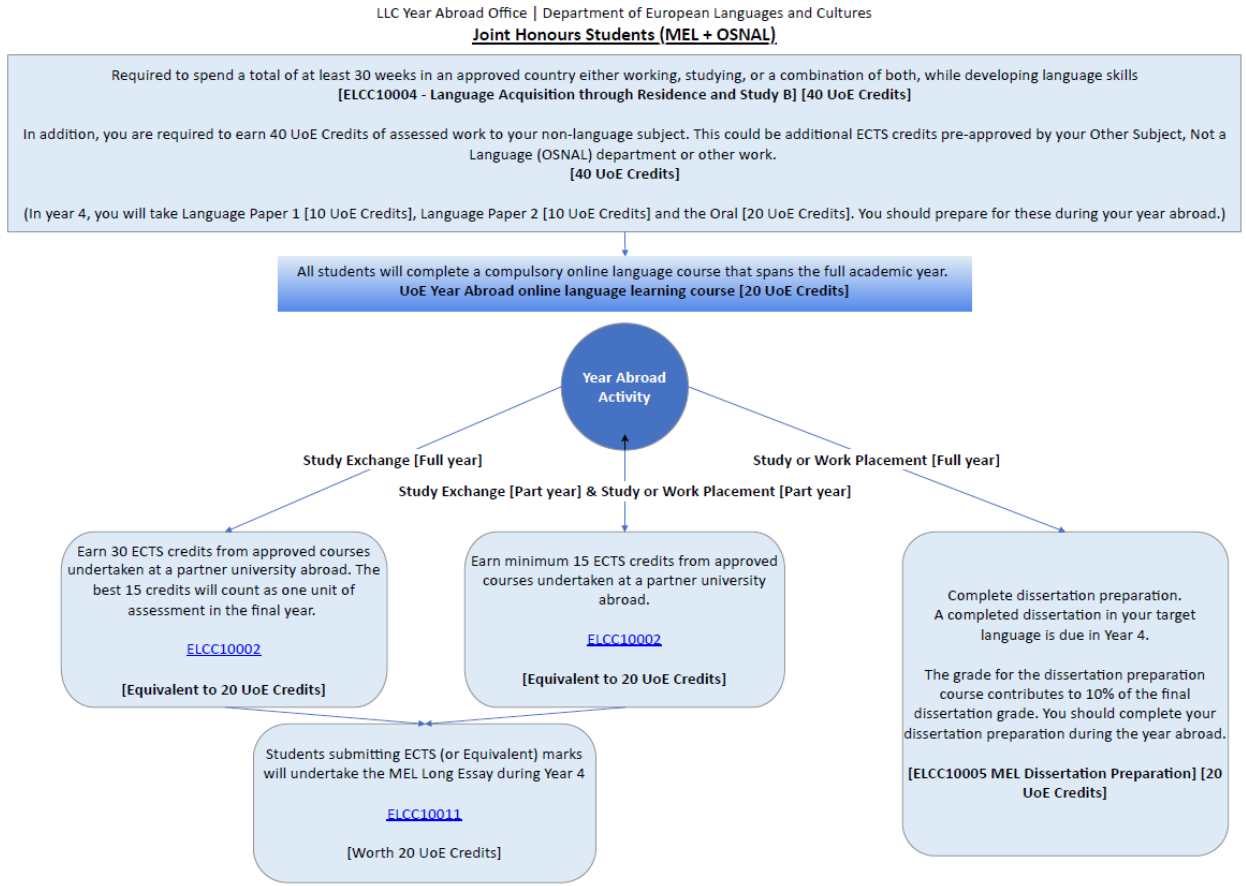
Programme-specific advice: MEL and PIR

YA Activity	University of Edinburgh Course Code & Title	Details	OSNAL ECTS Requirements
Exchange	PLIT10052: Politics Year Abroad Assessment	**Full Year:** Pre-approved Politics/PIR courses at your host university **Semester:** Pre-approved Politics/PIR courses at your host university AND 1 essay	Full year: 20 **OR** one third of total credits (whichever is higher) Semester: 10
Work Placement OR Language School	PLIT10052: Politics Year Abroad Assessment	**Semester 1**: 1 x 4,000 word essay **Semester 2**: 1 x 4,000 word essay	N/A

N.B. Some host universities (e.g. Sorbonne IV, Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, Universitat Hamburg) do not have Politics courses available to exchange students

See also, the LLC Year Abroad Hub

Programme-specific advice: MEL and PIR



NB: 'Exchange study' includes Latin American study exchanges where grade conversions are possible.
'Study placement' includes Russian study exchanges where grade conversion is not possible.

Source: LLC Year Abroad Hub, Year Abroad Assessment Scenarios

LLC YA Office (Home or Away)

Chat:

Room 1.15, 50 George Square or Teams

Email:

llc.yearabroad@ed.ac.uk

Visit:

LLC Year Abroad Hub



Questions and answers

- Any questions?
- If I can answer, I will
- If I can’t answer, I will:
  - Direct you to someone who can
  - Find out for you

