



Exchange Information Fact Sheet

Academic Year 2025-26

The University of Essex, based at Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, received its Royal Charter in 1965. It is one of the UK's leading academic institutions and has an international reputation for the quality of its research and teaching. The University has 17 departments spanning the Humanities, Social Sciences and Science & Engineering.

University of Essex

Address

University of Essex
Wivenhoe Park
Colchester
Essex
CO4 3SQ
United Kingdom

Websites

University of Essex - www.essex.ac.uk
Essex Abroad - <https://www.essex.ac.uk/study-abroad>
Essex Abroad Incoming Exchange Students
<https://www.essex.ac.uk/study-abroad/incoming-students/exchange-programme>

Contact Information

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Admissions

Nominations **October entry** for Autumn Term only and Full Year: **1 March to 30 April 2025**
January entry for Spring/Summer Term and Calendar Year: **1 July to 31 August 2025**

Applications **October Entry** open on **1 May 2025** and close on **31 May 2025**.
January Entry open on **1 September 2025** and close on **30 September 2025**.

*We may be able to accept late applicants so please contact the Incoming at Essex Abroad for more information.

Application Requirements **All applicants MUST** provide us with clear colour copies of the following documents:

- Passport
- Academic Transcript in English
- English Language Certificate (where applicable)

Please see our [website](#) for the full list of the language documents we accept. Students will not need to provide a language certificate if English is the national language of their home country or if their current course is taught in English. See 'Language Requirements' section below for more information.

Language Requirements **Full year students from EU/EEA and Non-EU/EEA countries**

Undergraduate

- IELTS: 6.0 overall with a minimum of 5.5 in each component
- TOEFL iBT: 76 overall with a minimum of 17 listening & writing, 18 reading, 20 speaking.
- A list of other accepted language certificates can be found [here](#). Please refer to the 'First Year Entry' section

Postgraduate

- IELTS: 6.5 with a minimum of 5.5 in each component, or equivalent
- TOEFL iBT: 88 overall with a minimum of 17 listening & writing, 18 reading, 20 speaking.
- A list of other accepted language certificates can be found [here](#). Please refer to the 'Group 3' section.

Term only students from EU/EEA and NON-EU/EEA countries

- We may be able to accept a letter or certificate confirming the student has reached the minimum B2 level from EU/EEA institutions.
- A list of accepted language certificates can be found [here](#). Please refer to the 'First Year Entry' section.

Visa Information **Full Year students (over 6 months)**

- Need to apply for [Student Visa](#)
- Visa fee from outside the UK can be found [here](#)
- Students may be able to work
- Student will be required to pay [Healthcare surcharge](#)
- Essex will provide student with [CAS \(Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies\)](#) in order to apply for Student Visa.

Term only students (under 6 months)

From EU/EEA

- Do not need to apply for a visa.
- Students need to apply for an [ETA \(Electronic Travel Authorisation\)](#) to travel to the UK.
- Student will be provided with a Standard Visitor Letter by Essex Abroad to show at the UK border.
- Students are NOT allowed to work.
- Students are permitted to undertake volunteering (for a registered Charity organisation / no more than 30 days in total)

- Health surcharge not required – if students are eligible under the [government healthcare rules](#). If not eligible, any NHS treatment will be payable unless it's a [free service](#)
- Students must ensure they have adequate health cover before leaving their home country.

From Non-EU

- Students **MUST** check [here](#) if they need to apply for a [Standard Visitor Visa](#). Not all Non-EU/EEA students will require a visa.
- Students need to apply for an [ETA \(Electronic Travel Authorisation\)](#) to travel to the UK.
- Student will be provided with a standard visitor letter by Essex Abroad to show at the UK border.
- Students are NOT allowed to work.
- Students are permitted to undertake volunteering (for a registered Charity organisation / no more than 30 days in total).
- Health surcharge not required but the student will need to pay for any NHS care they get at the point they use it - unless it's a [free service](#).
- Students must ensure they have adequate health cover before leaving their home country.

Please refer to our [immigration page](#) for up-to-date guidance from the University of Essex.

Semester dates: Autumn Term, 2025-26 Academic Year

Arrival Date	Saturday 27 September to Sunday 28 September 2025
Orientation Week	Monday 29 September to Friday 3 October 2025
Classes Start	Monday 6 October 2025
Classes End	Friday 12 December 2025
Exam Period (Autumn Students only)	<p>Students may have in-person exams, online exams or a combination of both.</p> <p>For modules with in-person exams, these will run from Monday 15 December to Friday 19 December 2025 and will take place on campus.</p> <p>For modules with online exams, these will run from Friday 2 January to Saturday 10 January 2026 (including Saturday 3 January) and can be taken from any location with an internet connection.</p> <p>Exam timetable will be published in November 2025. More information will be available to students in due course.</p>
Departure Date	<p>Saturday 20 December 2025 (Provisional date)</p> <p>This will depend on whether students have in-person exams after the end of the term. We strongly advise students not to book their return flight until they are sure about when their exams will be taking place.</p>

Semester dates: Spring/Summer Term, 2025-26 Academic Year

Arrival Date	Wednesday 7 January 2026 (Spring/Summer students)
Orientation Days	Thursday 8 January to Friday 9 January 2026
Classes Start	Monday 12 January 2026
Classes End	Friday 20 March 2026

Easter Break	Saturday 21 March to Sunday 19 April 2026
Summer Term Revision/Classes Start	Monday 20 April 2026 It is very important to note, there are no teaching sessions in the Summer Term. Only Spring term modules with exams will have revision classes in the Summer Term.
	Students need to be aware that accommodation contracts run until the end of June 2026 even if they do not have revision classes/exams in the Summer Term. Further information can be found in the Holiday Arrangements section below.
End of Summer Term	Friday 26 June 2026
Exam Period	Mid-May – Beginning of June 2026 (Exam timetable will be published in March 2026)
Departure Date	Saturday 27 June 2026 (This is the end of accommodation contract date)

Online Information Sessions for students

Pre-Application sessions Nominated students will be invited to attend our Pre-Application Sessions. These sessions will provide students with useful information including Applying for an exchange at Essex, Accommodation, Visas, Academic Modules, Application Timeline as well as some information about Life at Essex. This is a great opportunity to meet Essex Abroad incoming team and ask any questions students may have.

October entry for Autumn Term only and Full Year: **End of April 2025**
January entry for Spring/Summer Term and Calendar Year: **End of August 2025**

Pre-Arrival Sessions Essex Abroad will hold two Pre-Arrivals Zoom sessions before our official arrival dates. These will cover important information including travelling to UK, arriving at Essex, moving into campus accommodation, [Residence Life](#) and the Welcome Week schedule. The invitation will be sent to students with their registration information and they are required to attend one of the sessions.

October entry for Autumn Term only and Full Year: **Mid-September 2025**
January entry for Spring/Summer Term and Calendar Year: **Mid-December 2025**

Academics

Teaching methods	Lectures, Seminars, Tutorials, and Self-directed study
Language of instruction	English (other than in foreign language modules)
Restrictions for international students	The online module directory indicates which modules are available to study abroad/exchange students. Students are only permitted to take Incoming Essex Abroad modules from the Colchester or Southend campus, it is not possible to take modules from across both campuses. Students are not permitted to take non-credited modules.
Standard credit load	All students are required to take 60 Essex credits per term (Autumn or Spring/Summer) All students are required to take 120 Essex credits per year (Academic Year or Calendar Year)
Division of academic years	Academic Year: October – June Autumn Term: October – December Spring/Summer Term: January – June

Assessment

System of assessment Assignments and tests with exams at the end of the academic year. Autumn students will have exams (where required) at the end of December or beginning of January.

Academic standard Pass mark for Undergraduate modules (level 4,5 and 6) – 40/100
Pass mark for Postgraduate modules (level 7 and 8) -50/100

Exam Board At Essex, all coursework and exam marks must be ratified and further finalised at a formal Board of Examiners. Exam Board will review all Extenuating Circumstances claims submitted by students and advise the best course of action.

The Exam Board for Autumn Term students will take place in **February 2026**
The Exam Board for Spring & Summer Term students and Full Year students will take place in **July 2026**

Official Academic Transcript The Official academic transcript will be available after the Exam Board has finalised the marks. An electronic copy of academic transcript will be sent to students via email. Upon request, we can send the transcript to home university directly.

Autumn Term students' academic transcript will be issued by **end of February 2026**.
Spring & Summer Term and Full Year students' academic transcript will be issued by **end of July 2026**.

Reassessment Some students may be offered the option of **voluntary** reassessment if they have failed one / some of their modules. This will be offered at the point when the final marks are released.

A deadline to make the decision whether to take reassessment or accept the existing mark will be given. It will be presumed that students do not wish to take reassessment if no decision is made by the given deadline, and a transcript with existing marks will be issued.

Reassessment for **all incoming exchange students (including Autumn Term students)** will take place in **August 2026 for coursework and September 2026 for exams**. Please note that the exams may take place in-person or virtually.

Transcripts will not be issued until all marks have been ratified at a Resit Exam Board. This will take place in **October 2026**.

Accommodation

Types of University maintained accommodation Students staying with us for a full academic year will be accommodated on campus so long as they apply for it before the relevant deadline.

We offer single study bedrooms with shared kitchen facilities and either shared or en-suites bathroom. If students are studying at Colchester they must only select accommodation at our Colchester campus, students wishing to study at Southend must only select accommodation at our Southend campus.

Due to limited availability, we cannot guarantee on-campus accommodation for students studying for one term unless we have an accommodation agreement in place with the partner university. Term only students may need to source their own accommodation, but we will provide them with guidance on alternative options.

<https://www.essex.ac.uk/life/accommodation>

Private accommodation	<p>If students do not wish to apply for campus accommodation, the Student Union may be able to offer assistance to find private local accommodation options.</p> <p>https://www.essexstudent.com/suhomes/</p>
Holiday Arrangements	<p>Accommodation remains open during the Christmas and Easter holidays. All students are required to vacate their rooms at the end of the Summer term.</p> <p>Students may choose to leave their accommodation early if their exams finish before the end of term, however, it is not possible to shorten contracts and they will be liable to pay accommodation fees until the end of the summer term.</p>
Accommodation application deadline	<p>Accommodation is arranged via Essex Abroad and students will be notified in August/September for October entry and in December for January entry. Students are not permitted to apply for on-campus accommodation other than through Essex Abroad.</p>
Accommodation fee	<p>We offer a range of different types of accommodation, from shared facilities to ensuite rooms. The costs of each type of accommodation varies.</p> <p>Accommodation payment will be due within the first month of arrival/beginning of each term. The Accommodation team will manage this.</p> <p>https://www.essex.ac.uk/life/accommodation/search</p>

Student Services

Students' Union	<p>Students automatically become members of the Students Union when they register at the University of Essex, there are no fees for this. The SU also run the on campus shops, nightclubs and bars.</p> <p>http://www.essexstudent.com/</p> <p>There are over 120 clubs and societies, volunteering opportunities, radio station and a student newspaper.</p> <p>https://www.essexstudent.com/volunteering/ https://www.essexstudent.com/societies/</p>
Student Support	<p>We offer a range of wellbeing and inclusivity services which are open to all students. Students need to inform us in advance if they have any on-going issues that will require support so that we can make arrangements prior to their arrival.</p> <p>https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/mental-and-emotional-health</p>
Academic Support	<p>Skills for Success supports all students across the university and all levels, both undergraduate and postgraduate. Their supports include Academic English Support classes, 1:1 appointments and workshops for academic skills, maths + stats, Drop-in Maths clinics and a range of online resources.</p> <p>https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/academic-skills https://careerhub.essex.ac.uk/ (To book workshops and 1:1 appointments)</p>
Library services	<p>Our Library teams provide access to high-quality educational and research resources, a wide range of learning environments, and specialist informational and subject specific support. During the term times, our libraries are open 24/7.</p> <p>https://library.essex.ac.uk</p>
Security & Safety	<p>Our friendly Security team is centrally located on campus and they provide 24 hour, face-to-face and phone support for students.</p>

Computer Services	14 computer laboratories with over 600 computers, 100 of those are accessible 24 hours a day. There is university wide Wi-Fi included in all campus accommodation.
Sports Facilities	We have a great range of facilities, both indoors and outdoors at our Colchester Campus. Essex Sports Membership is included in student's on-campus accommodation fee. Students living off-campus can also pay for Essex Sports Membership. https://www.essex.ac.uk/sport
Arts Events	The Lakeside Theatre frequently runs professional and student productions. Art Exhibitions and Music events are held regularly. https://lakesidetheatre.org.uk/about/university-of-essex/
Airport Transfer Service (Autumn Term only)	The University operates a direct airport transfer service to the Colchester and Southend campuses from some London Airports on arrivals days in October (Autumn term and Full Year students only). Students will be provided with the details on how to book this at a later date. Ticket fees apply. https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/travel-and-transport/airport-transfer There is no direct coach service on arrivals day in January.

Finance

Tuition fees	https://www.essex.ac.uk/study-abroad/incoming-students/study-abroad-programme (Not applicable to Exchange students)
Pre-Sessional English Programs	If students have not reached the required English language level, we offer a range of Pre-Sessional English Language (PSE) courses delivered by expert teachers at the University of Essex International College (UEIC), a Kaplan International Pathways partner. https://www.essex.ac.uk/international/pre-sessional
Additional fees	There may be laboratory fees depending on modules chosen.
Insurance	All insurance should be organised by students prior to their departure. https://www.essex.ac.uk/study-abroad/incoming-students/before-you-arrive

About Colchester

Location	Colchester is ideally located close to the coast of East Anglia, on the border with Suffolk and just 50 miles (80 km, 50 minutes by train) from London.
Climate	Spring/ Summer Average Temperature: 11°C-25°C Autumn/Winter Average Temperature: 0°C-11°C One of the driest regions in the United Kingdom
Colchester City Tourism Website	Previously known as Britian's oldest recorded town, now celebrated as Britain's first city, Colchester, located in Essex, offers something for everyone. From great food, beautiful countryside and coastal destinations to rich Roman history and heritage, it is a place full of charm and character. http://www.visitcolchester.com/
Transportation	Excellent transport links around the United Kingdom and to Europe. Approximately an hour away from London by train and half an hour from London Stansted Airport by car. Regular bus service to town centre and local destinations with stops on campus.
University Location Information	https://www.essex.ac.uk/life/colchester-campus/how-to-get-here

Promotional Videos & Social Media

Videos	A short film of some previous incoming exchange students A tour of our Colchester campus from our Student Union President University of Essex Colchester Campus Virtual Tour Essex Accommodation
Facebook	Facebook Essex Abroad Facebook University of Essex
Instagram	@EssexAbroad (general) @AbroadatEssex (incoming specific)