Information for Science Exchange Students

FAQ

COURSE PLANNING

1) What should I take on exchange?

- Review your degree requirements and determine what you still need to complete for your program and your faculty
- If you need to complete your Arts or Breadth requirements, consider taking upper-level Arts or Science courses (outside the field of your major)
- If you need to fulfill a specific course requirement, see if you can find a similar course at your exchange institution and then check with the course department advisor
- Refer to the course equivalency database to see if a previous student has taken the course and if the course was articulated for UBC credit

2) Do I always take upper-level credit?

Generally students take upper-level courses (3rd and 4th year) while on exchange, however depending on your interest and/or pre-requisite courses completed, you may need or want to take lower-level (1st and 2nd year) courses.

3) Will I receive credit for everything that I take on exchange?

Academic courses will transfer back to UBC as UBC credit; however, non-academic coursework will not receive credit on exchange i.e. activity based courses (volleyball, sailing, tea ceremonies) and design courses (web design and graphic design). If you ever want to ensure that the class will receive credit, you can submit a course through the Transfer Credit Portal (you must be accepted as a Go Global student to use this portal). Please only submit courses that you are fairly sure you wish to take. You also can speak or write to department advisors directly, but you then would need to forward any evaluation to the Science Information Centre. Please seek course pre-approvals as soon as possible (ideally, before you go on exchange).

TRANSFER CREDIT
4) **How do I transfer credit?**

First, check to see if coursework has already been articulated on the Go Global Transfer Credit Equivalency Database. If the course you want to take does not appear in the database, then enter it for evaluation. You may also speak to the relevant department for guidelines about how they will transfer a course that you are interested in taking. If you have any questions about department contacts, then please contact the Science Information Centre at 604–822–3820.

5) **How is credit assigned (i.e. course name, year level, and the number of credits)?**

When a professor or department advisor is evaluating the specific course for articulation, they will determine four things:

- The department and faculty in which the course would come under (i.e. EOSC, BIOL, or MATH)
- The year level of the course (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th)
- If the credit should be considered one of the following:
  - Faculty credit (i.e. SCIE 3rd)
  - General department credit (i.e MATH 3rd)
  - Specific course credit (i.e. MATH 317)
  - Elective credit (ELEV 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th)
    - Elective credit is assigned if the academic subject is not taught at UBC
- The number of credits assigned for each course (i.e. 3 credits of MATH 3rd or 5 credits of BIOL 3rd)
  - Go Global assigns credit equivalency guidelines that are listed on each partner universities’ profile. Professors may adjust the assigned number of credits at their own discretion.

6) **Where can I learn more about the transfer credit process?**
RESTRICTIONS AND REGULATIONS

7) Can I take coursework outside the Faculty of Science?

Courses taken on exchange that are considered an academic subject taught under the Faculty of Science at UBC will be evaluated for Science credit. Please note that some institutions teach coursework in their Faculty of Science that would not be taught in the UBC Faculty of Science i.e. Medical or Pharmacy courses. Science students can take courses in any area on exchange; however, please see the list below for guidelines about how courses will be evaluated:

**Arts**: Arts courses taken on exchange can be used to fulfill Arts or Breadth requirements for your Science degree. These courses can be at any year level to meet the requirements. It is advised that you take upper-year level Arts credits on exchange as the upper year credit will be counted both towards your ‘upper-level credit requirement’ and your ‘Arts or Breadth requirements.’

- Please note: breadth requirements can only be fulfilled by Arts or Science courses

**Pharmacy or Medicine**: you will not receive science credit for taking medical or pharmacy courses on exchange as they are separate faculties at UBC. You will either receive elective credit or medical or pharmacy credit if you take medical or pharmacy courses on exchange. Please be aware that Anatomy and Physiology courses are from the Faculty of Medicine, but depending on your program, may fulfill requirements of your degree. Please check with your Department Advisor.

**Applied Science** (Engineering): Applied Science courses will not be granted Science credit since this is a distinct faculty at UBC. Coursework such as “Biological Engineering” or “Chemical Engineering” are considered Applied Science courses. Architectural and Environmental Design courses are also under this faculty.

8) Can I go on exchange in my second year?
No. You will need to complete a year in your Science specialization before you can go on exchange. It is extremely important that you have some of your foundation courses completed so that you can move forward to higher-level courses while on exchange or when you return to UBC.

9) Can I go on exchange in my last year?

This may be possible with good course planning and approval from the International Student Coordinator in Science. You will need to explain your goals and reasons for going on exchange in your 4th Year and why you have waited this long to apply. If you go on exchange in Year 4, you need to be prepared for a delayed graduation due to the time it can take to articulate exchange courses, as well as for UBC to receive your official transcript from the exchange partner. Getting pre-approvals or evaluations before going on exchange will help speed up the articulation process. However, you need to realize that if you return from exchange in May, you most likely will not officially graduate until the November of that year or possibly the following May.

10) Will I be promoted to the next year level when I am either on exchange or return to UBC?

This will depend on the total course credit completed, along with specific courses from your required program and faculty lists that you completed before going on exchange (ie. ENVR 300 or BIOL 300). Promotion is done in the Faculty of Science during May and June, and your exchange courses need to be officially articulated and posted to your UBC transcript before those months to count towards your promotion totals.