

Academic Bulletin for the United Kingdom 2024-25

Introduction

The Academic Bulletin is the CSU International Programs (IP) “catalog” and provides academic information about the programs in the UK. This bulletin supersedes any previous bulletin(s) published.

CSU IP participants must read this publication in conjunction with the *Academic Guide for CSU IP Participants* (also known as the “*Academic Guide*”). The *Academic Guide* contains academic policies which will be applied to all IP participants while abroad. Topics include but are not limited to CSU Registration, Enrollment Requirements, Minimum/Maximum Unit Load in a Semester, Attendance, Examinations, Assignment of Grades, Grading Symbols, Credit/No Credit Option, Course Withdrawals, and other policies. The *Academic Guide* also contains information on academic planning, how courses get credited to your degree, and the academic reporting process including when to expect your academic report at the end of your year abroad.

To access the *Academic Guide*, go to our [website](#) and click the year which pertains to your study abroad period. For general information about the UK Program, refer to the CSU IP website under “[Programs](#)”.

Academic Program Information

CSU IP in the UK is affiliated with six institutions: Kingston University, Swansea University, University of Birmingham, University of Bradford, University of Bristol, and University of Hull.

Each semester, students are expected to take most courses in their major area of study but may take courses from other disciplines subject to permission by the department and course availability. Students must check course descriptions carefully to ensure that they have met prerequisites. The fields of study in which students are placed are listed below and subject to change.

In planning a course of study in the UK, it is useful to have a basic understanding of the structure and practices of the British higher education system. English and Welsh universities offer three- or four-year undergraduate degree programs. The three-year program (“course” in British terms) is usually referred to simply as a bachelor’s degree course. Four-year degree courses, “honors” degrees, are designed to prepare the student for graduate study.

During the three or four years of study for the undergraduate degree, British students take courses (“modules” or “units”) in their field of study. “General education,” as it is understood in the U.S., is not known in the British degree structure. Thus, British students study a discipline in detail, spending two to three times longer in concentrated study than the typical American undergraduate. It is not surprising, therefore, to find American seniors taking second year subjects in the UK, or to find American graduate students pursuing third and fourth year British undergraduate subjects.

Instruction takes place in varying formats, from large-scale lectures to small seminars to individual tutorials. CSU students will find that they spend fewer hours in class than in California, but that they will be expected to do substantial amounts of background reading to follow lectures. They may also find more of an emphasis on writing, and that British universities have high standards for student writing skills.

In the traditional British system, courses run for the entire year rather than by semester, although there are exceptions. British higher education has undergone a process of change and institutions have converted to “modular” curricula, as well as “semesterization” of the courses. In addition, courses have been assigned credit values to meet the needs of European and American universities.

Academic Program Structure

CSU IP students studying at UK universities usually follow a curriculum within a single academic area but are permitted to take courses in other academic areas with approval of the host university. CSU IP students will enroll in the number of courses which constitutes a full-time study schedule, normally 120 credit points for the year (or 60 credit points for one semester) and will conform to the academic guidance of their host institution advisors.

All students, regardless of the university they are attending, are required to take:

- The equivalent of 15-16 CSU units each semester (but no more than 19 units per semester). This is equivalent to 60 credits at the UK university.

Students should be aware that there is a distinction between first-, second- and third-year courses. First-year courses are usually introductory courses and taken by students in their first year of university study. Depending on course content, these are generally considered lower division courses. Second- and third-year courses are more advanced and considered equivalent to upper division courses, again, with some exceptions depending on course content.

Terminology

In order to search for courses to take at any of the UK universities using their websites, it is important to understand the academic terminology used by the UK universities. Understanding the terminology will allow students to navigate through the UK university websites.

CSU Terminology	UK Terminology
bulletin or catalog	prospectus or handbook
course	module or unit
degree	qualification
academic division	faculty
major or program of study	course
schedule of classes	timetable

When searching for departments or academic disciplines, UK departments may refer to study areas differently, for instance, some UK universities may refer to Kinesiology as ‘Sports Science’. Therefore, students are advised to search for their intended area of study by searching for various terms associated with that study area.

Academic Calendar

There are some variations in the actual dates of semesters in UK universities, but at most universities the first semester begins in mid to late September with a break at Christmas. The second semester usually commences in mid to late January with a break at Easter. The traditional UK academic calendar of three terms has largely been replaced by two fifteen-week semesters. Most courses are now “semesterized” although some still run for an academic year.

Grading and Units

Below is the grade conversion table that is used to convert grades earned at the UK institutions to the CSU.

CSU Grade	Birmingham	Bradford	Bristol	Hull	Kingston	Swansea
A	65 +	65 +	65 +	65 +	A	65 +
A-	60-64	62-64	60-64	62-64	A-	62-64
B+	58-59	58-61	57-59	60-61	B+	58-61
B	55-57	55-57	54-56	56-59	B	55-57
B-	53-54	52-54	50-53	50-55	B-	52-54
C+	49-52	48-51	45-49	45-49	C+	48-51
C	45-48	45-47	40-44	40-44	C	45-47
C-	41-44	40-44	----	----	C-	40-44
D	40	----	----	38-39	D	35-39
F	Below 40	Below 40	Below 40	Below 38	F	Below 35

The CSU grade of WU (Withdrawal Unauthorized) may be given in some circumstances, e.g., for uncompleted courses and CSU IP unauthorized course withdrawals. Courses which are not completed by the end of the study abroad period will be issued a WU. Refer to the *Academic Guide* for additional grade information.

Unit Conversion Guidelines

The following is a table which provides the CSU unit value equivalencies for courses taken in the UK:

Birmingham, Bradford, Bristol, Hull, Swansea	CSU semester units	Kingston	CSU semester units
10 credits	3 units	1 credit	1 unit
15 credits	4 units	4 credits	4 units
20 credits	5 units	8 credits	8 units

For CSU students attending a quarter-based campus: To convert the value of CSU semester units into CSU quarter units, multiply the CSU semester units by 1.5.

Note that the above table applies to academic courses taken at the host university (e.g., Humanities, Sciences, Social or Applied Sciences) and may not apply to some subject areas, e.g., recreation, sports and exercise classes, music instruction, film production, or studio art courses.

Course Offerings

Students are encouraged to consult the university’s websites for specific course offerings. Note that admission to courses is subject to availability, approval of the host university and department, and the particular department’s prerequisites. If course information for your year of study is not yet available at the time this publication was published, keep checking the university website periodically for updates.

Kingston University

Students attending Kingston University can take courses subject to the conditions stated under “Course Offerings.” Students may take courses at any of the four Kingston campuses in theory, subject to necessary course prerequisites and availability.

A four-unit course on British Life and Culture is available to all visiting students at Kingston. Lectures are given on various aspects of British life, culture and history followed by visits to places of special interest

such as Brighton, Bath, Stonehenge, Hampton Court Palace, the National Theatre and the Gurdwara. In addition to the lectures and field trips, students must write essays on field trips and a research essay and complete a final examination. This course involves additional travel costs and admission fees of approximately £100. Most courses are year-long except a few are semester courses, e.g., British Life and Culture and language courses.

A list of courses (known as “modules” at Kingston University) can be found on their [website](#). To find courses, click on the corresponding faculty (academic division), then click on the academic degree that best fits your study area. Scroll down to the list of modules and click on the module codes for course descriptions. Modules are categorized by course level (see below for course level information). Full year students will participate in Study Option 1 and are required to take both halves of the module. Exceptions to the full-year modules are British Life and Culture and the KLS language modules. Some modules in business and social sciences (e.g., criminology, political science, and sociology) may be available for one semester options. All CSU IP participants are required to enroll in 16 credits each semester which for most students, equates to taking four 8-credit full-year modules. Students taking a semester course in the fall will be required to enroll in another semester course in the spring semester to meet the enrollment requirement of 16 credits per semester. If course information for your year of study is not yet available at the time this publication was published, keep checking the university website periodically for updates.

Course Codes and Levels

At Kingston University, course codes are made up of two letters and four digits, for example EN4002. The letters indicate the subject area. The first digit indicates whether the course (or “module” as it is referred to at Kingston) is first, second, or third year module for regular Kingston University students. Year 1 modules (also referred to as Level 4) are considered lower division, depending on course content. Generally, year 2 and 3 modules (referred to as Level 5 and 6, respectively) are more advanced and are considered upper division with some exceptions depending on course content. Year 3 modules will expect higher academic skills than year 2 modules and assume a wider range of experience on which the student can draw. If you are a junior or a senior, bear in mind that year 3 modules are taken by Kingston students in their final year of study. Most CSU students who have taken several lower division courses in their major will take year 2 (Level 5) modules (those with course codes AB2xxx, such as MD2138) as these will usually be the ones that are the most compatible with upper division coursework at CSU campuses.

Registration

Registration is conducted both online and in-person. Kingston University will provide registration information following acceptance to their university.

For questions regarding courses, registration or the university, email sa-info@kingston.ac.uk. For questions about CSU IP academic policies or academic program requirements, email IPacademics@calstate.edu.

Swansea University

Students attending Swansea University can take courses subject to the conditions stated under “Course Offerings.”

To find all subject areas offered, click on this [link](#) and select a department from the drop down list titled, “Any Department”. The academic year should reflect the year you will be attending and if not, change the year to the appropriate year of study. Then click on “List of Departmental Modules” to view the modules offered. Click on the module code for a hyperlink to the course description. If course information for your year of study is not yet available at the time this publication was published keep checking the university website periodically for updates.

Course Codes and Levels

At Swansea University, course codes are made up of two to three letters followed by three or four digits, for example CLL201. The letters indicate the subject area. The first digit indicates whether the course (or “module” as it is referred to at Swansea) is first, second or third level course for regular Swansea students.

Year 1 (or Level 4) modules are considered lower division, depending on course content. Generally, Year 2 and Year 3 (Levels 5 and 6) are more advanced and are considered upper division with some exceptions depending on course content. Year 3 (or Level 6) modules will expect higher academic skills than Year 2 (or Level 5) and assume a wider range of experience on which the student can draw. For juniors, bear in mind that Year 3 modules are taken by Swansea students in their final year of study. Most CSU students who have taken several lower division courses in their major will take Year 2 modules as these will usually be the ones that are the most compatible with upper division coursework at CSU campuses.

Registration

Swansea University will provide registration information after acceptance to their university.

For questions regarding courses, registration or the university, email studyabroad@swansea.ac.uk. For questions about CSU IP academic Policies or academic requirements, email csuip@calstate.edu or ipacademics@calstate.edu.

University of Birmingham

Students attending the University of Birmingham can take courses (known as “modules”) subject to the conditions stated under “Course Offerings.”

To find courses, click on their [website](#). Scroll down and select the college of the area that you wish to study. Then click on the specific school or study area to search for modules to obtain a list of modules and their description as a Word document. If course information for your year of study is not yet available at the time this publication was published, keep checking the university website periodically for updates.

Course Codes and Levels

At the University of Birmingham, there are three levels of courses (modules):

- First year modules (also referred to as Level C, certificate modules, or LC – Year 1).
- Second year modules (also referred to as Level I, intermediate, or LI – Year 2).
- Third or final year modules (also referred to as Level H, Honours, or LH - Year 3).

First year modules are considered lower division, depending on course content. Second year modules are considered upper division with some exceptions depending on course content. Third year modules will expect higher academic skills and assume a wider range of experience on which the student can draw. Third year modules are extremely advanced; therefore, students should review prerequisites carefully. Most CSU students who have taken several lower division courses in their major will take Intermediate modules as these will usually be the ones that are the most compatible with upper division coursework at CSU campuses.

Registration

The University of Birmingham will provide registration information after acceptance to their university.

For questions regarding courses, registration or the university, email incominginternationalexchange@contacts.bham.ac.uk. For questions about CSU IP academic policies or academic program requirements, email csuip@calstate.edu or IPacademics@calstate.edu.

University of Bradford

Students attending the University of Bradford can take courses subject to the conditions stated under “Course Offerings.”

Courses (known as modules) available to exchange students can be found on their [website](#). Scroll down the page and click on the link of the area that you wish to study. Modules for your area of study are listed in the hyperlink provided above. To find course descriptions, copy the module code and paste it in the [module](#)

[search engine](#). If course information for your year of study is not yet available at the time this publication was published, keep checking the university website periodically for updates.

At the beginning of the semester, you might face the challenge of having to change your modules due to clashes or modules being withdrawn. You will have 1-2 weeks to make any changes due to either of these reasons.

To minimize the impact in your exchange, **students are strongly recommended to choose modules from the same program and same year of study**. Choosing modules outside of this recommendation strongly increases the likelihood of timetable clashes.

Course Codes and Levels

At the University of Bradford, there are three levels of courses (known as “modules”): Level 4, Level 5, and Level 6. Level 4 modules are considered lower division, depending on course content. Generally, Levels 5 and 6 are more advanced and are considered upper division with some exceptions depending on course content. Level 5 modules will expect higher academic skills than Level 4 and assume a wider range of experience on which the student can draw.

Module codes are three letters that represent the subject area) followed by four numbers as follows:

XXX4####: 1st year undergraduate module – Level 4 (lower division with some exceptions)

XXX5####: 2nd year undergraduate module – Level 5 (upper division)

XXX6####: 3rd year undergraduate module – Level 6 (upper division)

Most CSU students who have taken several lower division courses in their major will take first and second year modules as these will usually be the ones that are the most compatible with upper division coursework at CSU campuses.

Registration

Registration is facilitated by the International Office at the University of Bradford who will issue students a student ID number. After acceptance to the fall semester, students register online in May and in-person in September. For the spring semester, students register online in October and in-person in January. In both cases, guidance and reminders will be provided.

Students can take any units offered in the fall or spring. Restrictions are bound to academic requirements (prerequisites) for the unit. Prerequisites are stated in the syllabus. Distance learning and in-company modules are not open to study abroad and exchange students. This information is provided to students in the application package.

For questions regarding courses, registration or the university, email studyabroad@bradford.ac.uk. For questions about CSU IP academic policies or academic program requirements, email csuip@calstate.edu or IPacademics@calstate.edu.

University of Bristol

Students attending the University of Bristol can take courses (known as “units” subject to the conditions stated under “Course Offerings.”



For a list of units, refer to the “[Unit Catalogue](#)”. Under the heading, “Browse units by faculty” (see left image), click on the faculty (academic division) of the area that you were selected to study and then click on the department to obtain a list of courses offered.

Select the tabs labeled “Level C/4”, “Level I/5” and “Level H/6” from which students will select courses. Carefully read the information below which pertains to these levels. Click on the hyperlink “Unit name” for a unit description.

Course Codes and Levels

At the University of Bristol unit codes are made up of four letters and five digits, for example GEOG 25040. The letters indicate the subject area. The first digit indicates whether the course (or “unit” as it is referred to at Bristol) is first, second or third level for regular Bristol students. Level C/4 units are considered lower division, depending on course content. Generally, Level I/5 and Level H/6 are more advanced and are considered upper division with some exceptions, depending on course content. Level H/6 units will expect higher academic skills than Level I/5 and assume a wider range of experience on which the student can draw. Most CSU students who have taken several lower division courses in their major will take Level I/5 units as these will usually be the ones that are the most compatible with upper division coursework at CSU campuses.

Restrictions

Units offered through the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science are not available to exchange and study abroad students.

Third and fourth year units in Computer Sciences are suitable for students who have already completed two or three years of a Computer Science degree.

Psychology is taught as an experimental science rather than a social science at Bristol. Students taking Psychology units are expected to have a strong background in Chemistry, Biology, and Neuroscience. The School of Psychological Science recommends that students enrol in only one third-year unit per semester.

Registration

The University of Bristol will provide registration information after acceptance to their university.

For questions regarding courses, registration or the university, email global-opportunities@bristol.ac.uk. For questions about CSU IP academic policies or academic program requirements, email csuip@calstate.edu or IPacademics@calstate.edu.

University of Hull

Students attending the University of Hull can take courses subject to the conditions stated under “Course Offerings.”

A link to the courses with short descriptions for each of their degrees can be found on their [website](#). Click on the area that you wish to study then scroll down to view the modules offered. Click on the “First year” tab to view level 4 modules. Click on “Second year” tab to view level 5 modules and click on “Final year” to view level 6 modules.

To view syllabi for full year and semester 1 (trimester 1) modules, click on this [link](#). More specific module information will be available at the application stage.

Course Codes and Levels

At the University of Hull, there are three levels of undergraduate courses (called “modules”): Level 4, Level 5, and Level 6. Level 4 modules are introductory courses and considered lower division, depending on

course content. Generally, Levels 5 and 6 are more advanced and are considered upper division with some exceptions depending on course content. Level 6 modules will expect higher academic skills than Level 5 and assume a wider range of experience on which the student can draw. The level of the modules is included in the module description. (See below for instructions on how to obtain module descriptions.) If you are a junior or a senior, bear in mind that Level 6 modules are by Hull students in their final year of study. Most CSU students who have taken several lower division courses in their major will take Level 5 modules as these will usually be the ones that are the most compatible with upper division coursework at CSU campuses.

Registration

The University of Bristol will provide registration information after acceptance to their university.

For questions regarding courses, registration or the university, email studyabroad@hull.ac.uk. For questions about CSU IP academic policies or academic program requirements, email csuip@calstate.edu or IPacademics@calstate.edu.