

IP Academic Bulletin for the United Kingdom: 2015-16

Introduction

The IP Academic Bulletin (also known as "IP Bulletin" or "Bulletin") is the International Programs (IP) "catalog" and provides academic information about the program in United Kingdom (UK).

The Bulletin must read in conjunction with the two publications listed below.

- [Academic Planning, Crediting and Reporting](#). This publication 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.
- [Academic Policies](#). This publication contains academic policies which will be applied to all IP participants. Topics include but are not limited to CSU Registration, Enrollment Requirements, Attendance, Examinations, Assignment of Grades, Grading Symbols, Credit/No Credit Option and Course Withdrawals.

To access the above publications, refer to the IP website under "Study Abroad", and "Academic Program Information" or click on either of the document names above which are linked to our website.

To access general information about your program and study center, refer to the IP website under "[Programs](#)" and click on the specific program to which you have been accepted.

General Information

The International Programs in the UK is affiliated with five institutions: University of Bradford, University of Bristol, University of Hull, Kingston University, and Swansea University.

Students are selected for a particular field of study and are expected to take all of their courses in that field of study during their year abroad. The fields of study in which students are placed are listed below.

Archaeology (Bradford, Bristol)	Geography (Bristol, Kingston)
Biology (Bristol, Hull, Kingston)	History (Bristol, Hull, Swansea)
Business (Bradford, Hull, Kingston)	Literature (Hull, Swansea)
Chemistry (Bradford, Kingston)	Philosophy (Bristol, Hull)
Classics (Bristol, Swansea)	Physics (Swansea)
Computer Science (Bradford, Kingston)	Political Science (Bradford, Bristol, Hull, Kingston, Swansea)
Criminal Justice (Bradford, Swansea)	Psychology (Bradford, Bristol, Swansea)
Drama (Hull)	Religious Studies (Bristol)
Economics (Bristol, Kingston, Swansea)	Sociology (Bristol, Kingston)
Engineering (Bradford, Kingston)	

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, a British student takes courses ("modules" or "units") in his or her field of study. "General education," as it is understood in the United States, is not known in the British degree structure. Thus, the British student covers a field of study in great detail, spending two to three times as long in concentrated study as does 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 in order 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 or quarter, 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 Calendar

There are some variations in the actual dates of semesters in British universities, but in most universities the first semester begins in mid to late September with a three-week break at Christmas. The second semester usually commences in early February with a three-week 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.

Academic Program

CSU students in the United Kingdom program are expected to follow a curriculum within a single academic area in which they have been selected unless they are permitted to do otherwise by the Office of International Programs and the host university. CSU students will enroll in the number of courses which constitutes a full-time study schedule, normally 120 credit points for the year, 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 18 units per semester).
- Courses (depending on the credit/unit values of courses) within the approved area of study in which they were placed, following the same general plan as their British counterparts.

If permitted by their host university, students may take one elective course outside of their area of study as part of their 15-16 units per semester.

In addition, 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.

Unit Conversion Guidelines

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

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.

Assessment and Grading

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

CSU Grade	Bradford	Bristol	Hull	Kingston	Swansea
A	65 +	65 +	65 +	70 +	65 +
A-	62-64	60-64	62-64	65-69	62-64
B+	58-61	57-59	60-61	60-64	58-61
B	55-57	54-56	56-59	55-59	55-57
B-	52-54	50-53	50-55	50-54	52-54
C+	48-51	45-49	45-49	47-49	48-51

C	45-47	40-44	40-44	43-46	45-47
C-	40-44	----	----	40-42	40-44
D	----	----	38-39	35-39	35-39
F	Below 40	Below 40	Below 38	Below 35	Below 35

Course Offerings

Students are encouraged to consult the university's websites for specific course offerings. Keep in mind that CSU students are limited to the disciplines in which they were placed and sometimes to courses for international students. Note that admission to courses is subject to availability, approval of the host university, and the particular department's prerequisites.

University of Bradford

At the University of Bradford, there are three levels of courses (known as "modules"): level 1, level 2, and level 3. Level 1 modules are considered lower division courses, depending on course content. Generally, levels 2 and 3 are more advanced and are considered upper division courses with some exceptions depending on course content. Level 3 modules will expect higher academic skills than level 2, and assume a wider range of experience on which the student can draw. The level of the module can be found on the "module descriptor". Most CSU students who have taken several lower division courses in their major will take level 2 modules as these will usually be the ones that are the most compatible with upper division coursework at the students' home campuses.

CSU students are admitted to study in the following areas:

- Archaeology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Criminal Justice
- Engineering
- Political Science
- Psychology

Below is a table containing areas of study and the corresponding departments at Bradford in which students can take courses subject to the conditions stated under "Course Offerings".

Areas of study	Relevant courses can be found in the following departments and schools:
Archaeology	Archaeological Science (AR), School of Life Sciences
Business	Business and Management. School of Management (MAN)
Chemistry	Chemical and Forensic Sciences (CT), School of Life Sciences
Computer Science	Computing (CM), School of Computing, Informatics and Media
Criminal Justice*	Criminology and Sociology (SJ), School of Social and International Studies
Engineering	Engineering (ENG), School of Engineering, Design and Technology
Political Science	Politics, International Relations and Peace Studies. (SP), School of Social and International Studies
Psychology	Psychology (SY), School of Social and International Studies

At Bradford, course (module) information can be found on the web at:

<http://modcat-cen.brad.ac.uk:7777/pls/modv/EMODCAT.MODULE_CATALOGUE>. Access descriptions by "Search by Code" and click on "NEXT". Enter the abbreviated two or three letter module code for the department (as listed above in parenthesis) in the "Module Code to search" field. For "Academic Year" select "2015/6". For "Teaching Period", select "Semester 1" for fall, and "Semester 2" for spring. Click "Search." Add the module to the basket by clicking "Add to Basket". Then click "OK". To add more modules from the same list of modules, repeat the process. If you wish to add modules from another department, click on "Change Selections" and repeat procedure. To look at descriptions, "View Basket", then click on "View Module" or "View all Modules".

*CSU students selected for the Criminal Justice Program are expected to focus on Criminal Justice by taking courses (SJ) but may take up to two elective courses outside of Criminal Justice during the year. Students may take one elective each semester or take both electives in the semester when Criminal Justice course offerings are limited.

If you have any questions regarding courses for 2015-16, please contact Ms. Claire Hunter at <c.j.hunter1@bradford.ac.uk> or Ms. Sue Baker at <S.M.Baker@bradford.ac.uk>.

University of Bristol

At the University of Bristol course 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 1 (designed as Level C) units are considered lower division courses, depending on course content. Generally, levels 2 (designed as Level I) and 3 (designed as Level H) are more advanced and are considered upper division courses with some exceptions, depending on course content. Level 3 units will expect higher academic skills than level 2, 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 2 units as these will usually be the ones that are the most compatible with upper division coursework at the students’ home campuses.

CSU students are admitted to study in the following areas:

- Archaeology
- Biology
- Classics
- Economics
- Geography
- History
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology

Below is a table containing areas of study and the corresponding departments at Bristol in which students can take courses subject to the conditions stated under “Course Offerings”. Each semester, students are expected to take all courses in the area in which they were selected except for one course each semester, which may be a course from another area.

Areas of study	Relevant courses can be found in the following faculties and departments:
Archaeology	Faculty of Arts: Department of Archaeology and Anthropology
Biology	Faculty of Science: School of Biological Sciences
Classics	Faculty of Arts: Department of Classics & Ancient History
Economics	Faculty of Social Sciences and Law: School of Economics, Finance and Management
Geography	Faculty of Science: School of Geographical Sciences
History	Faculty of Arts: Department of History (Historical Studies)
Philosophy	Faculty of Arts: Department of Philosophy
Political Science	Faculty of Social Sciences and Law: School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies
Psychology	Faculty of Science: Department of Experimental Psychology
Sociology	Faculty of Social Sciences and Law: School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies
Religious Studies	Faculty of Arts: Department of Religion and Theology

For a list of courses (or units), refer to the “Unit Catalogue” at <https://www.bris.ac.uk/esu/unitprogcatalog/AboutUnits.jsa?ayrCode=15%2F16>. On the upper left hand column, view courses for 2015-16 under “Which Academic Year” and change view if necessary. Click on the faculty of the area under which you were selected, Click on the department to obtain a list of courses offered.

Note: If course information for 2015-16 is not yet available, keep checking the university website periodically for updates. In the interim, refer to course information from the previous year.

If you have questions regarding course information, please contact Mr. David Line at David.Line@bristol.ac.uk.

University of Hull

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 courses, depending on course content. Generally, levels 5 and 6 are more advanced and are considered upper division courses 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 the students’ home campuses.

CSU students are admitted to study in the following areas:

- Biology
- Business Studies
- Drama
- History
- Literature
- Philosophy
- Political Science

Below is a table containing areas of study and the corresponding departments at Hull in which students can take modules subject to the conditions stated under “Course Offerings”. Each semester, students are

expected to take all modules in the area in which they were selected except for one module each semester, which may be a module from another area.

Areas of study	Relevant courses can be found in the following departments:
Biology	Department of Biological Sciences
Business Studies	Business School
Drama	Department of Drama and Music
History	Department of History
Literature	Department of English
Philosophy	Humanities
Political Science	Department of Politics and International Studies

Detailed module information can be found on <<http://www.courses.hull.ac.uk/>>.

- For "Session", select "15/16 Standard Session".
- For "Location", select "Hull Campus Only".
- For "Department", select the department for the area that you have been selected to study.
- Click on "Search".

If you have questions regarding module information, please contact Mr. Jay Fincham at <J.S.Fincham@hull.ac.uk>.

Kingston University

At Kingston University, course codes are made up of two letters and four digits, for example EL1148. 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 courses, 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 courses 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 the students' home campuses.

CSU students are admitted to study in the following areas:

- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Economics
- Engineering
- Geography
- Political Science
- Sociology

Below is a table containing areas of study and the corresponding departments at Kingston in which students can take courses subject to the conditions stated under "Course Offerings". Each semester, students are expected to take all courses in the area in which they were selected except for one course each semester, which may be a course from another area.

Areas of study	Relevant courses can be found in the following faculties and departments:
Biology	Science, Engineering and Computing: Life Sciences
Business Studies	Business and Law: Business Studies
Chemistry	Science: Chemistry and Pharmacy
Computer Science	Computing and Information Systems: Computing and Information Systems
Economics	Arts and Social Sciences: Economics
Engineering	Science, Engineering and Computing: Engineering
Geography	Science, Engineering and Computing: Geography, Geology and the Environment.
Political Science	Arts and Social Sciences: Politics and International Relations
Sociology	Arts and Social Sciences: Sociology

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 including Oxford, Bath, Stonehenge, Greenwich, the Globe Theatre, and Parliament. In addition to the lectures and fieldtrips, student must write essays on fieldtrips and a research essay and complete a final examination. Involves travel costs and admission fees of approximately £100.

All courses are year-long with some exceptions, e.g. British Life and Culture and language courses.

A list of courses (or modules) can be found on the web at <http://www.kingston.ac.uk/studyabroadandexchangeprogrammes/study-abroad-students/studying-at-kingston/class-listings/>. If course information for 2015-16 is not yet available, keep checking the university website periodically for updates. In the interim, refer to course information from the previous year. If you are unable to find course information, you can request a syllabus by sending an email to: [<sa-info@kingston.ac.uk>](mailto:sa-info@kingston.ac.uk).

If you have questions regarding modules, please contact Mr. Paul Wilkinson at [<p.wilkinson@kingston.ac.uk>](mailto:p.wilkinson@kingston.ac.uk) or Ms. Amanda Lunberg at [<a.lunberg@kingston.ac.uk>](mailto:a.lunberg@kingston.ac.uk).

Swansea University

At Swansea University, course codes are made up of two to three letters followed by three or four digits, for example PO1158. 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. Level 1 modules are considered lower division courses, depending on course content. Generally, levels 2 and 3 are more advanced and are considered upper division courses with some exceptions depending on course content. Level 3 modules will expect higher academic skills than level 2, and assume a wider range of experience on which the student can draw. For juniors, bear in mind that level 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 level 2 modules as these will usually be the ones that are the most compatible with upper division coursework at the students' home campus.

CSU students are admitted to study in the following areas:

- Classics
- Criminal Justice
- Economics
- History
- Literature
- Physics
- Political Science
- Psychology

Below is a table containing areas of study and the corresponding departments at Swansea in which students can take courses subject to the conditions stated under "Course Offerings". Each semester, students are expected to take all courses in the area in which they were selected except for one course each semester, which may be a course from another area.

Areas of study	Relevant courses can be found in the following departments:
Classics	History and Classics
Criminal Justice*	Criminal Justice and Criminology
Economics	Economics
History	History and Classics
English Literature	English Language and Literature
Physics	Physics
Political Science	Political and Cultural Studies
Psychology	Psychology

*CSU students selected for the Criminal Justice Program are expected to focus on Criminal Justice by taking courses from one of the lists below (depending on their placement) but may take up to two elective courses outside of Criminal Justice during the year. Students may take one elective each semester or take both electives in the semester when Criminal Justice course offerings are limited.

For all students studying at Swansea University: A list of courses (or modules) can be found on the web at <https://intranet.swan.ac.uk/catalogue/>. Please note that courses offered are subject to change and availability.

To view a list of courses, select the department for the area of study in which you were accepted (see above table). Select the academic year 2015-16 and click on "List Departmental Modules". For specific course information, click on the module code. Note that TB1 indicates that the course is scheduled to be offered in Semester 1 (fall) and TB2 indicates that the course is scheduled to be offered in Semester 2 (spring).

If you have questions regarding module information for 2015-16, please contact Ms. Amy Davies at [<Amy.I.davies@swans.ac.uk>](mailto:Amy.I.davies@swans.ac.uk).