



Exchange Information Fact Sheet

Academic Year 2026-27

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 18 departments spanning the Arts and 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

Essex Abroad /Exchange Programmes

Outgoing:

Claudia Fogg de Castellino
Email: essexabroad@essex.ac.uk

Incoming:

Chorong Vrticka
Email: incomingexchange@essex.ac.uk

YUFE Programme

(Young Universities for the Future of Europe Programme)

Hannah Parsons

Email: yufestudentmobility@essex.ac.uk

Short-Term International Programmes

Email: stpabroad@essex.ac.uk

Agreements

Email: eaagreements@essex.ac.uk

Grants

Email: eagrants@essex.ac.uk

Admissions

Nominations

October entry for Autumn Term only and Full Year: **1 March 2026 to 30 April 2026**
January entry for Spring/Summer Term **1 July 2026 to 31 August 2026**

Applications

October Entry open on **1 May 2026** and close on **31 May 2026**
January Entry open on **1 September 2026** and close on **30 September 2026**

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 'English Language Requirements' section below for more information).

English Language Requirements

Full year students (over 6 months)

Undergraduate

- IELTS: 6.0 overall with a minimum of 5.5 in each component
- TOEFL iBT:
 - 82 overall with a minimum of 17 listening & writing, 18 reading, 20 speaking. (TOEFL taken before 21 Jan 2026)
 - 4 overall with a minimum of 4 in Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking (TOEFL taken after 21 Jan 2026)
- 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:
 - 91 overall with a minimum of 17 listening & writing, 18 reading, 20 speaking. (TOEFL taken before 21 Jan 2026)
 - 4 overall with a minimum of 4 in Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking (TOEFL taken after 21 Jan 2026)
- A list of other accepted language certificates can be found [here](#).

Term only students (under 6 months)

- IELTS: 6.0 overall
- TOEFL iBT: 82 overall (if taken before 21 Jan 2026) or 4 overall (if taken after 21 Jan 2026)
- 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.

We advise all students to check the University of Essex website (using the links provided above), before applying to ensure there haven't been any changes to English Language requirements.

Visa Information

Full Year students (over 6 months)

- Need to apply for [Student Visa](#)
- [Visa fee](#) from outside the UK
- 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.

Visa Information (continued)

Term only students (under 6 months)

- **EU/EEA nationals** - Do not need to apply for a visa.(EU/EEA)
- **Non-EU nationals** - 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 who do not need to apply for a Standard Visitor visa must obtain an [Electronic Travel Authorisation \(ETA\)](#) before traveling to the UK.
- Students 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 insurance cover before leaving their home country.

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

Term/Semester Dates: Autumn Term, 2026-27 Academic Year

Autumn Term	Thursday 8 October 2026 - Friday 18 December 2026
Arrival Date	Saturday 3 October to Sunday 4 October 2026
Orientation Week	Monday 5 October to Friday 9 October 2026
Classes Start	Monday 12 October 2026
Classes End	Friday 18 December 2026
Exam Period (Autumn Students only)	Students may have in-person exams, online exams or a combination of both. For modules with in-person exams, these will take place on campus and will normally run from: Monday 14 December to Friday 18 December 2026 For modules with online exams, these will normally run from Monday 4 January to Saturday 9 January 2027 and can be taken from any location with an internet connection. <i>Please note the examination dates are subject to change and more information will be available to students closer to the time of completing their application. The exam timetable will be published in November 2026.</i>
Departure Date	Saturday 19 December 2026 (Provisional date) 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.

Term/Semester Dates: Spring/Summer Terms, 2026-27 Academic Year

Spring Term	Monday 11 January 2027 - Friday 19 March 2027
Summer Term	Monday 19 April 2027 - Friday 25 June 2027
Arrival Date	Wednesday 6 January 2027 (Spring/Summer students)
Orientation Days	Thursday 7 January and Friday 9 January 2027
Classes Start	Monday 11 January 2027

Classes End	Friday 19 March 2027
Easter Break	Saturday 20 March to Sunday 18 April 2027
Summer Term Revision/Classes Start	Monday 19 April 2027
	It is very important to note, there are <u>no teaching sessions in the Summer Term</u>. 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 2027 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 25 June 2027
Exam Period	Mid-May – Beginning of June 2027 <i>The Exam timetable will be published in March 2027.</i>
Departure Date	Saturday 26 June 2027 (This is the end of accommodation contract date)

Online Information Webinars for Students

Pre-Application Webinar	Nominated students will be invited to attend our Pre-Application Webinar on Zoom. This webinar will provide students with useful information, including: • Applying for an exchange at the University of Essex • Application Timeline • Accommodation • Visas • Academic Modules Additionally, we provide at the webinar some information about Life at Essex. This is a great opportunity to meet the Essex Abroad team and to ask any questions students may have. The Pre-Application webinars take place as follows: October entry for Autumn Term only and Full Year: End of April 2026 January entry for Spring/Summer Term: End of August 2026
Pre-Arrival Webinar	Essex Abroad will hold a Pre-Arrival Webinar on Zoom, before our official arrival dates. These sessions will cover important information including: • Travelling to UK • Arriving at the University of Essex • Moving into campus accommodation • Residence Life • Welcome Week schedule. The invitation will be sent to students with their registration information, and they are required to attend the webinar. October entry for Autumn Term only and Full Year: Mid-September 2026 January entry for Spring/Summer Term: Mid-December 2026

Academic Arrangements

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 and exchange students.	
	Students are only permitted to take Incoming Essex Abroad modules from the Colchester . 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 terms)	
	All students are required to take 120 Essex credits per year (Academic Year)	
Division of academic years	Academic Year: October – June	Thursday 8 October 2026 - Friday 25 June 2027
	Autumn Term: October – December	Thursday 8 October 2026 - Friday 18 December 2026
	Spring/Summer Term: January – June	Monday 11 January 2027 - Friday 25 June 2027
Module Directory	http://www.essex.ac.uk/modules/	

Assessment

Types of Assessment	Assignments and tests with exams at the end of the academic year. Autumn Term students will have exams (where required) at the end of December 2026 or beginning of January 2027. Spring/Summer Term students and full year students will have exams (where required) during the summer term (May/June 2027).	
Academic standards	Pass mark for Undergraduate modules (levels 4, 5 and 6) = 40 out of 100 Pass mark for Postgraduate modules (levels 7 and 8) = 50 out of 100	
Board of Examiners (Exam Board)	At Essex, all coursework and exam marks must be ratified at a formal Board of Examiners meeting. The Board will review and confirm the marks. The Board of Examiners will also consider all Extenuating Circumstances claims submitted by students and if accepted determine the best course of action, based on what is permissible under the Rules of Assessment. The Board of Examiners meeting for students only completing Autumn Term modules will take place in February 2027. The Board of Examiners meeting for students only completing Spring/Summer Term modules or Full Academic Year modules will take place in July 2027.	
Official Academic Transcript	The official academic transcript will be available after the Board of Examiners Meeting has ratified the marks. An electronic copy of the academic transcript will be sent both to the student and home university by email. The academic transcript for Autumn Term only students will normally be issued by end of February 2027. The academic transcript for Spring/Summer Term only students and Full Academic Year students will normally be issued by end of July 2027.	
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 or not 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 an academic transcript with existing marks will be issued.

Reassessment for **all incoming exchange students (including Autumn Term students)** will take place in **August 2027 for coursework and September 2027 for exams**. Please note that the exams may take place in-person or virtually.

Academic transcripts will not be issued until all marks have been ratified at a Resit Board of Examiners meeting. This will take place in **October 2027**.

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. I

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

If students do not wish to apply for campus on- campus accommodation, the Student Union may be able to offer assistance to find private local accommodation options.

<https://www.essexstudent.com/suhomes/>

Holiday Arrangements

Accommodation remains open during the Christmas and Easter holidays. All students are required to vacate their rooms at the end of the Summer term (June 2027).

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 students will be liable to pay accommodation fees until the end of the summer term or until their contract end date.**

Accommodation application deadline

Accommodation is arranged via Essex Abroad and students will be notified in:

- August/September 2026 for **October entry**
- December 2026 for **January entry**.

Students are not permitted to apply for on-campus accommodation other than through Essex Abroad.

Accommodation fee

We offer a range of different types of accommodation, from shared facilities to ensuite rooms. The costs of each type of accommodation varies.

Accommodation payments will be due within the first month of arrival/beginning of each term. The Accommodation team will manage this.

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

Student Services

Students' Union

Students automatically become members of the **Students Union (SU)** 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.

<http://www.essexstudent.com/>

There are over 120 clubs and societies, volunteering opportunities, a radio station and a student newspaper.

<https://www.essexstudent.com/societies/>
<https://www.essexstudent.com/volunteering/>

Student Support

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.

<https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/mental-and-emotional-health>

Academic Support

The **Skills for Success team** support all students across the university and all levels, both undergraduate and postgraduate. Their support includes:

- Academic English Support classes
- 1:1 appointments and workshops, covering for example: academic skills, Maths and Statistics
- Drop-in Maths clinics
- A range of online resources.

<https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/academic-skills>

Library Services

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.

<https://library.essex.ac.uk>

Security & Safety

Our friendly **Security team** is centrally located on campus, and they provide 24 hour, face-to-face and phone support for students.

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**, at the Colchester Campus, frequently runs professional and student productions. Art Exhibitions and Music events are also 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 Campus from some London Airports on arrivals days in October (**Autumn term and Full Year students only**). Students will be provided with the details of how to book this service closer to the time. Ticket fees will apply.

<https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/travel-and-transport/airport-transfer>

There is no direct coach service on arrivals day in January 2027.

Finance

Tuition fees

Further information for fee paying study abroad students, is available at:

<https://www.essex.ac.uk/study-abroad/incoming-students/study-abroad-programme>

Fees are not applicable to Exchange students.

Pre-Sessional English Language Programmes

If students have not reached the required English language level, we offer a range of Pre-Sessional English Language (PSE) courses, delivered on the Colchester Campus by expert teachers at the **University of Essex International College (UEIC)**, a Kaplan International Pathways partner of the University.
<https://www.essex.ac.uk/international/pre-sessional>

Additional fees

Depending on the modules chosen, there may be additional fees, such as Laboratory fees for some science modules. Please check with the Essex Abroad team if you think this may apply to the modules you want to study.

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

The county of Essex is one of the driest regions in the United Kingdom.

- Spring/ Summer Average Temperature: 11°C-25°C
- Autumn/Winter Average Temperature: 0°C-11°C

Colchester City Tourism Website

Previously known as Britian's oldest recorded town, now celebrated as Britain's first city, Colchester, located in the county of 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. Just under an hour away from London by train and half an hour from London Stansted Airport by car. A regular bus service operates to the centre of Colchester and to local destinations with bus stops on campus.

University of Essex Location Information

[How to get to our Colchester Campus | University of Essex](#)

Promotional Videos and 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](#)
[University of Essex Accommodation](#)

Facebook

[Facebook Essex Abroad](#)
[Facebook University of Essex](#)

Instagram

[@EssexAbroad](#) (general)
[@AbroadatEssex](#) (incoming specific)