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INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES BY 'OUTBOUND' ANU LAW STUDENTS FAQ ABOUT LAW EXCHANGES



10 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT LAW EXCHANGES

Exchanges are for one-semester periods of full-time study at approved partner universities around the world. ANU exchanges are administered centrally by the Global Programs team, not by colleges. ANU Global Programs (not the ANU College of Law) approves partner institutions, and also decides on students' applications. However, you must seek College approval to study any law courses on exchange, and it is College advisors who are best placed to offer academic advice.

The ANU Global Programs website:

> anu.edu.au/students/global-opportunities

Note from the Associate Dean (International), ANU College of Law

- > Students enrolled in a law degree go on exchange as ANU students, not as law students (even if they only study law courses on exchange): the Exchange Program is not an ANU College of Law scheme. As the law website and this FAQs document make clear, ANU exchanges are centrally administered by Global Programs. The ANU College of Law only has a small advisory and approval role. **In almost all circumstances, your first port of call for inquiries should be the Global Programs office.**
- > Students seeking an appointment with the Associate Dean (International) must first read this document and visit the Global Programs site. Appointments will not be given where the only issues are basic informational ones for which this document suffices. Appointments are made through the Law Reception desk at the law foyer: enquiries.law@anu.edu.au
- > This document relates to ANU exchanges, not to the law-specific overseas courses (e.g. Geneva, Alabama and Kyoto). For information on those courses see the [International opportunities section](#) on our website. It relates only to 'outbound' (ANU) students. Foreign students interested in studying law courses on exchange at ANU should contact Global Programs.
- > This information relates to both LLBHons and JD students, unless special mention is made of differing considerations for either; some receiving / partner universities do distinguish between undergraduate and graduate students for exchange purposes.
- > Many myths and misconceptions have grown up around exchanges involving law students – as this is a 'living' document we welcome your feedback, input, comments and experiences: exchange.law@anu.edu.au

This information sheet is valid as of October 2017 but may be periodically updated.

1. Where can law students go on exchange?

ANU enjoys exchange partnership relationships with over [170 high-quality universities](#) around the world. However, not all of these offer law courses, and not all of them offer law courses in English. Some only accept law students who have completed a certain portion of their studies (e.g. more than 18 months of equivalent full-time law study). Your College advisor will not necessarily know these individual conditions. Students should research potential exchange partners, as each university partner may have different conditions on law student exchanges:

- > Global programs now maintains [a list of ANU partners](#) which might accept law exchanges.
- > Law students enrolled in a double degree can also do non-law exchanges (see 7 below). That is, they may be able to study at institutions that do not accept law exchanges.
- > Some exchange partners are on a ['restricted list'](#) in that normally students are only eligible to apply for them if they have a GPA over 6.0.
- > In theory a student can study abroad *outside* the ANU exchange system. However, the onus is on the student to secure all necessary approvals to ensure accreditation of any courses studied abroad; the student would need to ensure they are not enrolled in any ANU courses for that period; the student would not necessarily be able to claim HECS for such study abroad. Students should contact the Sub-Dean (LLB and JD Students) on such study abroad.

The College is moving to increase the law exchange options for students.



2. When can law students go on exchange?

- > LLB students are not eligible to apply for exchange until they have completed at least six law courses (36 units).
- > JD students are eligible to go on exchange once they have completed a year of full-time study (48 units).

Traditionally, law students would be approved to go on exchange in their third or fourth years of a double degree, once they had settled into their studies and are clearer about their preferences, strengths and goals. Much will depend on your degree plan, especially around compulsory courses.

3. Which law students cannot apply for or go on exchange?

- > Students who have not yet completed six law courses (LLB) or a year of full-time law (JD).
- > Students with a GPA in law below 5.0.
- > Transition LLB students who transferred into the new LLBHons model and having at the time of transfer less than 12 courses left to complete are not eligible to go on exchange.
- > Note that some host / partner universities may restrict exchange to later-year students.

4. What law courses can I study on exchange?

In principle you may study any law subject offered by your host institution. However:

- > Students will normally not be approved to study compulsory law courses on exchange.
- > The law courses you propose to study must be offered (at the host institution) as part of a degree that normally leads to eligibility for admission to practice law in that jurisdiction. The Associate Dean (International) will discuss this during the course approvals process (below).
- > The host / receiving institution may place limits on exchange students undertaking some courses, or impose pre-requisites. The student must research these issues themselves.
- > The ANU College of Law's Associate Dean (International) must approve your proposed courses before you commence your exchange (see 'Process' below).

5. Can I study law courses on exchange offered in a language other than English?

Yes, provided you meet the language requirements of the host / receiving university.

6. Are there any GPA requirements or restrictions?

Yes. Any student who seeks to do one or more law courses on exchange must have a GPA above 5.0 (credit average) across their law courses at the time at which they seek approval and apply. Those enrolled in a law degree who intend to do a non-law exchange need only hold a 4.0 GPA.

7. Can I choose to study only non-law courses towards my double degree?

Yes. For example, a student enrolled in a double Arts/Law degree may apply to go on exchange solely to study towards credits for their Arts degree. In this case, the student does not need to seek ANU College of Law approval for their exchange application. However, students are strongly advised to consider how the exchange period might impact on the sequencing of their law courses upon return, especially compulsory courses.

8. When are exchange applications due?

Applications for Semester 1 of the following year usually open in March and close at the end of May the year before. Applications for Semester 2 of the following year open in September and close at the end of November the year before. Visit the [Global Programs website](#) for exact open and closing dates each year. You should seek to have your College [approval form](#) signed well in advance of the deadline.



9. Who decides on exchange applications and how?

ANU Global Programs decides on applications. The higher a student's GPA, the more likely it is that s/he will succeed in securing an exchange to their preferred institution. The ANU College of Law has no role in the selection and allocation process. All questions about the criteria and process of selection should be directed to Global Programs.

10. Can I apply again if unsuccessful?

Yes. There is no reason why you cannot make repeated applications for exchange.

Myths and misconceptions

Myth A: Overseas results are reflected on your ANU GPA

Not true. Your marks on exchange are not included in your ANU cumulative total. Instead your transcript will include a special code indicating that a certain number of credits were obtained overseas.

Employers or others in future may wish to see a transcript from your exchange institution.

Myth B: You cannot go on exchange in your final year or semester

Not true. Your College advisor will discuss this with you if you have concerns. Since the idea of exchanges is partly to enrich the life of the university upon return, final semester exchanges are not encouraged. Global Programs may take this into account in selecting exchange students. However, some students may wish to go on exchange in their final semester if they wish to remain overseas temporarily after their exchange for internships, travel etc.

Importantly, you are not eligible for the 'OS-Help' loan for exchanges (about \$6,000 in 2016) if you have less than six credits remaining before graduation.

If you do choose to apply to go on exchange in your final semester, please be aware that this could impact your ability to graduate as it can take six months or more for ANU to receive the transcript from the host institution. You will not be able to graduate until status has been processed.

Myth C: You must find courses that match ANU elective courses

Not true. A major benefit of exchange abroad is being able to study a different legal system or study law in a different context, and to tap into courses that you would not be able to study at ANU. You certainly do not need to find a partner university that offers a set of courses that 'match' the topic of electives offered at the ANU College of Law.

Myth D: The College only sends students to certain approved partners

Not true. Prior to 2016 the ANU College of Law maintained a separate, limited list of partner institutions to which law students could apply. As of mid-2016, that limitation has now been removed. Thus if an ANU partner university accepts students to study law courses, it is in principle open for exchange applicants from ANU College of Law. Global Programs maintains a [list of ANU partners](#) who are known to accept law exchange students. Remember, not every ANU partner institution accepts law students on exchange or offers law courses in English, and some only accept law students who are some way into their studies. You should consult the Global Programs website.

Myth E: Law must approve my application even for pure non-law exchange

Not true. This was a 'rule' but is now no longer a requirement as of June 2016. If you are enrolled in a Flexible Double Degree program and are not studying any law credits on exchange, you do not need an ANU College of Law approval signature on your application. However, those going on non-law exchange abroad are strongly advised to devote attention to any possible impact the exchange semester might have on their degree plan, especially in relation to completing compulsory law courses. These may not be offered every semester, and some may be pre-requisites for others.



Note on the exchange process

A **timeline and flow-chart** for the exchange process is set out on the Global Programs website.

As noted, that process begins with a visit to Global Programs, not to your College advisor.

Special limitations may apply to law exchanges, such as the requirement to have completed six law courses before you can apply for exchange under this process.

Note that **AFTER** you are notified that your exchange application has been successful, but **BEFORE** you commence your exchange placement, you must contact the ANU College of Law's Associate Dean (International). This is towards gaining formal approval of the actual law courses you propose to study in the host institution:

- > You should research the courses offered, ensuring that you address issues such as any pre-requisites, language restrictions, restrictions on exchange students, and so on. You may wish to put forward one to two 'reserve' courses in case your chosen ones do not go ahead for some reason. This saves you applying for an amended approval.
- > You should send an email to the Associate Dean (International) exchange.law@anu.edu.au setting out the proposed courses, their credit status, and with links to each course so that the Associate Dean (International) can check them for approval. You can also meet with the Associate Dean (International), but there is no need to do so necessarily and the email process works well. If you need to make an appointment, please contact reception.
- > The Associate Dean (International) may decline to approve certain courses based on internal College policy (for example, the course duplicates one already studied by that student at ANU, or the course is not a 'law' course, or is not credit bearing, etc.)
- > The College formal approval letter is what you use upon return with your transcript from your exchange university, in order to seek to have ANU status credits placed on your transcript.
- > Note that this College approval is separate from any process your host institution may have for you to be approved to take a course over there.

It is *your* exchange: the onus is on students to do the necessary research into course offerings abroad, their credit status, eligibility as 'law' courses, etc. The approval process is partly there to guard your interests, so that you can go on exchange reassured that the courses you study will be credited to your ANU transcript upon return for the purposes of degree completion (and any eventual admission to legal practice).

Good luck and make the most of your exchange opportunities and experiences!

Associate Dean (International)
ANU College of Law

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Contact

E exchange.law@anu.edu.au
W law.anu.edu.au/current-students/international-opportunities