

# STUDENT EXCHANGE STUDY ABROAD Information for UniSey Students



The University of Seychelles student exchange program, allows its students to study at an overseas partner institution for a couple of months or one or two semesters. Through this program, UniSey students will gain credits towards their degree and will continue to pay their tuition fees to the University of Seychelles. In some instances, UniSey students may wish to study a couple of months or one or two semesters at a non-partner institution. These students will be considered as Study abroad students, whereby they will need to consult UniSey for approval and discuss whether the units at the host institution meets the requirements of their degree at their home institution. The students will then be required to apply directly with the non-partner institution and pay any applicable fees.

The University of Seychelles strongly recommend its students to participate in exchange programmes. This will give them the opportunity to develop academically, gain practical skills and experience a different culture.

## My student experience-Umea University, Sweden

In September 2018, I landed on the airport of Umeå in Sweden for a 3-month exchange at the Umeå University. I had been chosen in my cohort and I felt very honored to represent my university as well as my country. The first thing that shocked me was the extreme cold upon my arrival but with time I manage to deal with it even though it got colder day by day.

During my exchange, I got the opportunity to follow two courses being offered at the Umeå University in my specialized field which is Education, namely, Teaching and learning in an International context and Teaching and learning within the Swedish context. I passed both courses with a distinction respectively.

Besides, the classes, I participated in cultural activities such as the Umeå Jazz Festival and the Umeå Film festival. I also got the chance to experience snow for the first time as well as view the Northern lights. I left Umeå in December 2018.It was a truly memorable experience and I will be forever grateful to the University of Seychelles for having given me such an amazing opportunity.





#### Eligibility

- Students must be enrolled and have completed one year on a full time program at UniSey.
- Students must have passed all year one modules or not be subject to "unsatisfactory academic progress".
- Students must satisfy any faculty requirements for exchange.
- Students must have at least 80% attendance for all modules.

## How to apply

**Step 1: -** Begin by researching your options on which partner/non partner university you wish to do your exchange with and the modules you wish to study.

- Consider the host institution's deadlines for application of exchange.
- Note that students will be required to meet the host institution's application requirements.
- Students must consider the host institution fees if applicable.

**Step 2: -** Consult your faculty to explain which modules you can take that would best suit your degree and whether it will meet any faculty requirements. It is important to know the period that is most appropriate for the exchange.

**Step 3:** - Complete the UniSey Student Exchange Application form and submit it and other requested documents to Global@unisey.ac.sc at least 3 months before the exchange. All applications for exchange will be assessed by the Global Engagement Committee and students will be notified of the outcome.

**Step 4: -** The UniSey Global Office will communicate with applicants to apply with their host institution. Instructions will be given on how to apply with partner universities. If students are applying with a non-partner University, they will need to apply directly to the university themselves.

**Step 5:** - Once students have received a confirmation from the host institution, these must be submitted to the UniSey Global Office.

#### Step 6: - Students will be required to apply for visa,

as necessary, book their flights and accommodation. All students must ensure that they have the required funds to cover all expenses while they are on the exchange.

#### **Application requirements**

- Completed Student Exchange Application form
- Latest UniSey academic results
- Proof of sufficient funding such as bank statement or signed letter from a bank
- Proof of Travel and Health Insurance to cover students during the exchange in host country
- Letter of approval from host institution confirming exchange

## My student experience-Hello Sweden!

"During my last year of my BA English, through the Linnaeus-Palme exchange between the UniSey and Umea University I was given a once in a life time opportunity; attend the Umea University in Sweden for 3 months!

Excitement kicked in months before the travel! I had already met Ylva and Maja who had done their 3 months exchange with the UniSey the previous year, 2017, so friendship in Sweden had already been forged!

It was towards the end of August 2018 when I landed in Umeå; a small city in eastern Sweden. My first thought at getting off the plane was "Gosh!! And they said it wasn't cold!!!" Coming from the tropics, it was COLD!! ⊠ The warm welcome from Dr. Steinvall, Ms. Sisack, and of course my dear friend Ylva quickly rubbed off on me.

WOW and BREATHTAKING soon became my constant used expressions; everything did truly amaze me. It was like being a child again. Till today, Ylva will tease me about it every chance she gets.

Since we, as in Kelly and I (Kelly was my exchange buddy from Seychelles) had gotten pretty close with Ylva and Maja, we took up their offer to lodge in the apartment Ylva's friend had instead of the dorms. Later after having made other friends, we realised that it was the best decision we made!! Situated in Nydalasjön or simply Nydala, we were 5 minutes' walk to the Nydala Lake, hence the area name, and about 20 minutes' walk to the University. I of course rode the bicycle to Uni. I even rode into town which was took about 20 minutes. It was great and also safe to do so because unlike Seychelles, Sweden has specific lanes for bicycle!! Cool eh? 🛛 Yes, until I suffered my back and had to stay in bed for days – according to the Doctor, I got muscle inflammation from sudden excessive cycling. Hmm!!! who would have thought!





The campus is huge. A Faculty has its own block which is pretty much the size of UniSey! Yes, my WOW got bigger when I first saw it. I had registered for the buddy programme, this made it easier to meet other students from other countries as a lot of group activities are organised by the different groups within the programme. Lectures were very interesting, but full of class presentations which although I know had its advantages, really elevated my public speaking fear to its highest. One thing which I truly treasure is that no matter how nervous one got, or the mistakes one made, no one laughed at any one. There is a sense of belonging that you are made to feel. The opened from 7 am to 10pm is a whole other experience. There are areas for reading only, research, and group study – some areas you can even have bring in your snack. The 'Mirror-Digital Clock' in the library ceiling is a must see if you are ever there.

Since I am also a staff of the UniSey, although being an exchange student, allowed me to some extent to learn more about the running of Assessments at the Umea University. I was attached to their invigilation department for about 2 weeks prior to the start of my lectures. I was in awe of the set-up of the examinations room and the amount of students registered for any given exam. Their examination schedules were even displayed on several screens!! Just like the airports!

The exchange also gave me the opportunity to participate as a volunteer in the Jazz Festival where I got to meet some great artists. I was even a zombie in a small project by the students studying cinema!!

My experience of Umea goes beyond the words written above, one that I will always truly be grateful for and treasure forever."

## **Important Information**

Host Institution's application requirements and deadlines It is the student's responsibility to make note of the host institution's requirements and deadlines. The host institution will conduct their internal selection process and confirm if the student is eligible for the exchange at their institution.

#### Visas

As soon as the Student Exchange Program has been approved, students must ensure to contact the nearest embassy of the host country for visa application procedure (as necessary). The host institution must provide an official acceptance letter to confirm the exchange for visa purposes. Students must ensure to check the length of time it will take for their visa to be processed as processed time in some countries can take several months.

#### Insurance

Students are responsible for obtaining the correct travel and health insurance prior to their departure on the student exchange program. The insurance should cover the entire duration of the exchange.

#### Accommodation

It is advisable for students to make all arrangements pertaining to accommodation prior to their departure. Information about where and how to apply for housing can be provided by the partner institutions. It is important to consider accommodation prices in the budget.

#### Budgeting

Students must estimate their budget for food, transportation, rent and any other personal expenses while on the exchange. Consider the following while calculating the budget: cost of living, visa, accommodation, air fares, travel and health insurance, exchange rates and the country's economy.

#### Apply

Visit UniSey Global Office page on www.unisey.ac.sc to download the student exchange application form.

## **Questions?**

Global@unisey.ac.sc





