**International Exchange FAQS**

**What do I need to bring to Psychology international exchange advising?**

- Complete the form entitled PSYCHOLOGY EXCHANGE ADVISING that you can download from the website


  This will help you work out what units you need to complete to get a Psych major or to be eligible for Psychology Honours. Please check and bring with you to the meeting the STANDARD full-time load for local students at your exchange university *not* the minimum load for local students, and not the minimum load allowed under the exchange agreement. For example, the standard full-time load per semester at the University of Sydney is 24 Credit points. Although 18 credit points is permissible as a full-time load at the University of Sydney, it is not the STANDARD full-time load.

- Syllabuses* for any units that you will study on exchange IF you need them credited as direct equivalents to core University of Sydney units *(i.e. units that will substitute for PSYC2011, PSYC2012, PSYC2013, PSYC2014, or PSYC3010)*

- Syllabuses* for any units that you will study on exchange IF they overlap with units you have already had credited here. You will not get credit for units that are too similar to units you have already completed here.

- Syllabuses* for any units that you will study on exchange IF they overlap with units you plan to do at the University of Sydney when you return. You will not get credit for both units if there is too much overlap, so you will have to choose between the overseas unit and the unit you were planning to do here.

- If you are ready to have Psychology Exchange units allocated to get University of Sydney credit for units studied on exchange, bring the form entitled, “Academic Approval Form for Nominated Exchange Applicant” that you can get from the International Office

*Where do I get a syllabus for a unit I want to study overseas?*

- You can look on the website of the overseas university. If you can’t find the syllabuses for courses, you will need to contact the Psychology Administration Office at that university. If this year’s syllabus is not available, but they have last year’s syllabus, that will be sufficient.

**Can you recommend a University that I should go to overseas that will be good for my Psychology degree?**
• We don’t advise you about which university you should choose for exchange, and we don’t know in detail about the psychology programmes offered at specific universities from year to year. Our requirements about how many psychology units you must do at the University of Sydney - if you are doing some of your psychology on exchange - ensure that your final major will be consistent with the APAC-approved majors in psychology that are awarded by the University of Sydney, and that you will be eligible to apply for honours entry (if applicable). As long as you meet your degree, major and honours eligibility requirements, you can go to any of the universities that have an exchange agreement with the University of Sydney.

• You should first choose a university that offers courses that allow you to meet requirements for your degree (including requirements for other majors apart from psychology), your psychology major (if applicable), and for Psychology Honours eligibility (if applicable).

• Beyond this, different students consider a range of different factors, and we encourage you to make the most of the wide range of potential experiences offered by your exchange. So you might like to consider:
  
  o whether you can study any other subjects apart from psychology that are of interest
  
  o whether there are psychology units or electives that are different to courses offered at the University of Sydney that are of interest
  
  o the location of the university. E.g. if you want to travel before/after your exchange, whether you speak the local language even if the language of instruction is English, whether you want to be in a city/university town etc.
  
  o the style of university. E.g will there be a strong emphasis on academics/sport/multidisciplinary study/single discipline study etc.?
  
  o whether the university or the town/city offers specific extra-curricular activities or programmes of interest to you (sports, music, cultural activities etc.).

How can I find a university that will allow me to do an equivalent to one of the second year units at the University of Sydney?

You will need to download the syllabus for our courses offered in the semester you will be away, then look at the websites of the Psychology departments at the universities you are considering for exchange and see if they offer a course/combination of courses that are equivalent to the course you will miss here in the semester you will be there. For example, if you will miss PSYC2013 Cognitive, Developmental and Social Psychology, you will need to find a 2nd-year-level course or combination of courses at the overseas university that covers at least
two of these areas well. You will need to gain written approval from the relevant Course Co-ordinator at the University of Sydney that your intended course(s) overseas is/are equivalent to our course, so make sure you have enough information about the syllabus of your intended overseas course for them to determine whether it is equivalent to ours.

**How can I find a university that will allow me to do an equivalent to PSYC3010 if I haven’t already done this at the University of Sydney and need it for Honours eligibility?**

You will need to download the syllabus for our course PSYC3010, then look at the websites of the Psychology departments at the universities you are considering for exchange and compare their advanced psychology statistics syllabus with ours to see if they offer a close equivalent to PSYC3010 in the semester you will be there. If it looks like they do, you’ll need to check with the current co-ordinator of PSYC3010 to see if it will be approved as an equivalent to PSYC3010. If this is your final semester before entering Psychology Honours, you will also need to ensure that your grades are available from the overseas university in time for you to be offered a place in honours. Please discuss this with the Psychology Exchange advisor.

**How can I find a university that will allow me to do a unit in abnormal psychology if I haven’t already done PSYC3018 at the University of Sydney, since I need this for my psychology major?**

You will need to download the syllabus for our course PSYC3018, then look at the websites of the Psychology departments at the universities you are considering for exchange and find their abnormal psychology course syllabuses: choose the advanced level (not introductory) unit at the exchange university that is most similar to PSYC3018. *If you will not complete PSYC3018 at the University of Sydney, you must do a unit in abnormal psychology while on exchange to meet the current APAC requirements for your psychology major.* This means you should not go on exchange to university that does not offer a unit in abnormal psychology. If you do not/cannot do a unit in abnormal psychology unit on exchange, you will need to complete PSYC3018 at the University of Sydney after you return.

**If I am only planning to do 12 Senior CPs at the University of Sydney towards my Psychology Major because I do not want Honours eligibility, and I need to do a unit in a specific area of psychology that is taught at the University of Sydney when I am on exchange, what should I be looking for in the overseas course?**

The course needs to be clearly in the same sub-discipline of psychology as one of our senior units (e.g. a social psychology course, a cognitive course, a developmental psychology course etc. – check the list of Senior courses we offer on the School of Psychology Webpage). Topics covered, types of assessment and teaching format don’t have to match one our units closely, but do consider at the following:
1. Is it *about the same level* as the level of credit you need (i.e., if you want senior credit, it needs to be an advanced course not an introductory psychology course, etc.)

2. Is it *about the same size* as our units (i.e., not obviously small compared with our teaching hours, assessments, and how many credit points we give). For example, many of our Senior units have a practical component and a lecture component, and assess both with a major report, a minor assessment, and an exam, so if the overseas course offers 6 weeks of private study of a textbook followed by a multiple choice exam, or if it offers 1 hour of research participation for 10 weeks – you’ll need to choose a different course or an additional course. (You might be able to do a “small” course as part of your overall programme on exchange, but it won’t count as equivalent to a senior course taught in the same area as one of our courses.)

Another way you can compare the size of the course: 6 CPs at USyd is approx 1/4 of a standard full-time load, so if you want 6 USyd CPs, don’t choose a course that is worth 6 units at your exchange uni if a standard fulltime load for a semester there is 60 units.

3. Does your proposed course *not overlap too much with content you’ve already covered at USyd in another course*– or will cover before you go or when you get back? E.g., If the course is a Senior course at the overseas university, but when you look at the list of topics, there is considerable overlap with topics you already covered in one of the Intermediate courses here, you should find a different course in the same or a different area that doesn’t overlap.

The above doesn’t apply to exchange courses if you want them approved as equivalent to PSYC3010 (Advanced Stats), which needs to be a close match on content to ensure you’re adequately prepared and not disadvantaged when you get to Honours.

**If I need to find an overseas equivalent to one of the core University of Sydney units (all the Intermediate units, as well as PSYC3010), do I need to see the Course co-ordinator or the Psychology exchange advisor for approval?**

The psychology exchange advisor can allocate exchange course codes. S/he will advise whether you will need to see the course co-ordinator beforehand (this will depend on the material offered in the overseas course). You will need to see the PSYC3010 course co-ordinator for approvals of units equivalent to PSYC3010.