

**Navigating Study Abroad:**

# **Student Exchange Information Session**

**Exploring non-traditional locations &  
the Journey application**

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**Fall 2025**

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# Reconcili- Action

- Choose to do something that brings indigenous and non-indigenous people together. Create awareness, learn and share in the spirit of reconciliation.
- Change begins with each of us, and we can individually and collectively make a positive impact.

Adapted from: <http://www.lspirg.org/knowtheland/>





# Let's Explore

- Why study abroad?
- How does exchange work?
- Who is eligible?
- Where can you go?
- Is it safe?
- What courses can you take?
- What does it cost?
- How do you apply?



# Why Students Choose To Study Abroad?

- Personal development
- Intercultural competency
- Enriched academics
- Language skills
- Career preparation and professional development
- Gain new perspectives and life-long connections



# How Does Exchange Work?

- You pay tuition to Laurier
- Student in host country pays tuition to their institution
- “switch places”





# How Does Exchange Work?

- Choose your school (top 4)
- Do research and select courses abroad
- Credits transfer back to your Laurier degree





# The Exchange Process



## PRE-APPLICATION RESEARCH

- Mandatory information session
- Choose top 4 schools



## LAURIER'S EXCHANGE APPLICATION

- Initial application
- Information Session Quiz
- MyDegree Assessment
- Exchange Course Planning Tool
- Pay \$30 applicaiton fee



## MATCHED & NOMINATED

- Accept placement
- Pay \$110 placement fee
- Nominated by Laurier to partner institution
- SHERM Safety Plan



## PARTNER INSTITUTION APPLICATION

- Second application
- Receive acceptance letter
- Start visa application



## POST-EXCHANGE APPLICATION

- Complete course registration at host institution
- Complete Course Credit Transfer Agreement (CCTA)
- Post-exchange survey



# Who is Eligible For Exchange?

- **Students need:**
  - To be in **3rd, 4th or 5th year**
  - **10.0 credits** on your Laurier transcript
  - GPA 7.0 or higher
    - 6.0 – 6.9 possible with a GPA Waiver  
(*excluding Kinesiology and LSBE students*)
- **Language assessment**
  - If studying abroad full-time in another language
  - Assessed by Languages department









# How Long Can Students Go?

\*Typically one term

Depends on the following:

-  Your current program
-  The number of spaces at exchange partner
-  Your finances
-  Term dates at host institution



# When Can Students Go?

- **Semester abroad:**
  - Apply the year before (8-12 months before)
    - Fall 2026
    - Winter 2027
    - Fall 2026 and Winter 2027 (some locations)
- **Summer abroad**
  - Spring / Summer terms (condensed 1-8 weeks)
  - Apply for ONE program in Winter 2026 for Spring / Summer 2026



# ■ ■ ■ IMPORTANT! Term Dates Abroad vs. Laurier's Term Dates

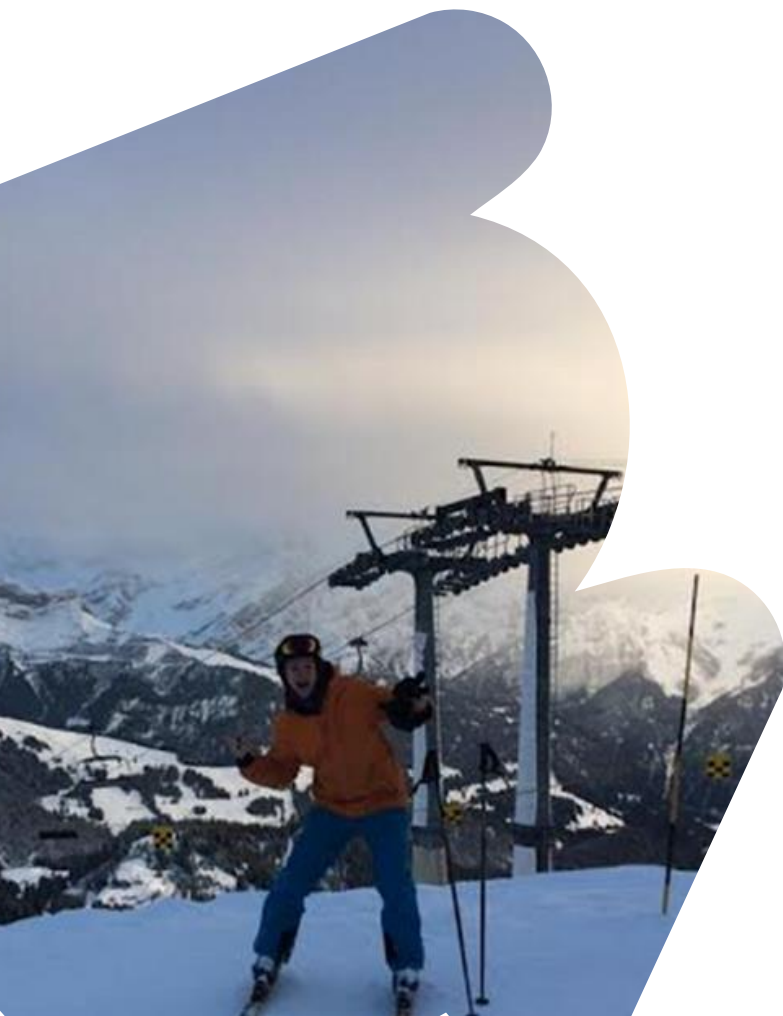
- **Germany: Technical University of Munich (TUM)**
  - Laurier Fall: TUM Winter semester – October–late March
  - Laurier Winter: TUM Summer semester – April–late September
- **Australia: University of Western Sydney**
  - Laurier Fall: UWS Spring session (July–November)
  - Laurier Winter: UWS Autumn session (Late February–late June)





# Where Can I Go?

- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- China
- Denmark
- France
- Germany
- Ghana
- Hong Kong
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Mexico
- Norway
- Portugal
- Slovenia
- South Korea
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom
- United States



# Where Can I Go?



wlu-horizons.symplicity.com/index.php?s=programs

Calendar - Sinthu Vi... Mail - Exchange - O... Journey Homepage Global Engagement... Connect - Home XM Projects | Qualtrics...

**LAURIER** Inspiring Lives.

Home Search Programs My Application My Coursework My Invoices My Profile Events Side Trips Incident Reports Appointments Document Library Surveys

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**TRAVEL ADVISORIES:** [Updated travel report for France](#) January 11th, 2024 8:51 AM Travel Report updated in the last 24hrs for Fra...

## Search Programs

Any program that requires a Waiver/Consent Form will be marked with the icon

**Search Filters**

Keywords	<input type="text"/>	Destination	<input type="text"/>
Institution	<input type="text"/>	Indigenous Supports	<input type="text"/>
Language of Instruction	<input type="text"/>	Disability and Accessibility Supports	<input type="text"/>
Program Name	<input type="text"/>	Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Supports	<input type="text"/>
Term(s)	<input type="text" value="[select]"/> <input type="button" value="clear"/>	<b>Field of Study</b>	<input type="text"/>

*Areas of study at partner universities are subject to change.*

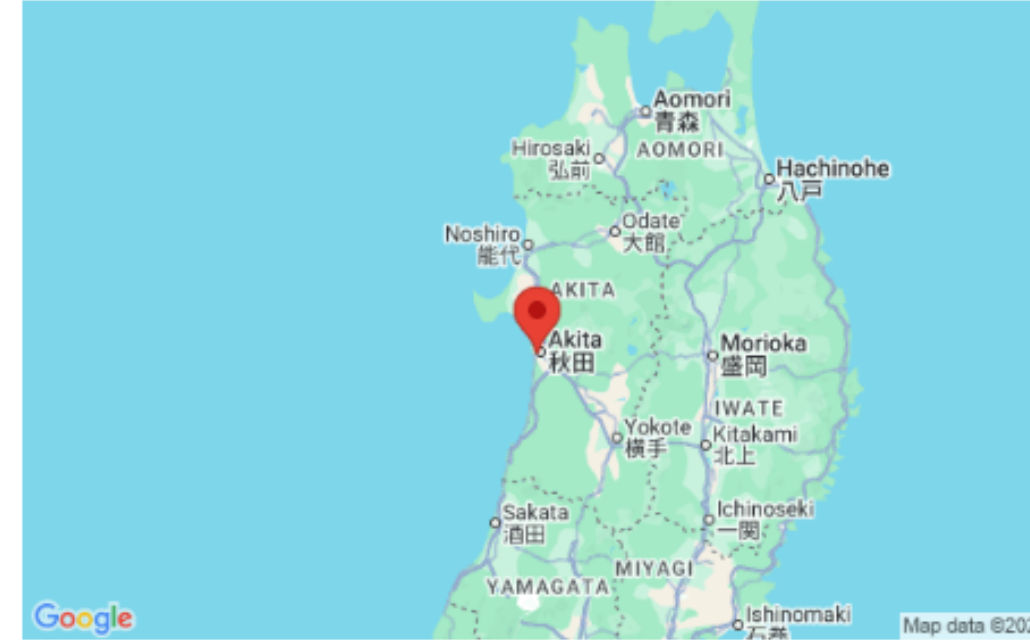


# Host Institution Page (via Journey)

[← Back](#) [Apply](#)

## Exchange Program, Akita International University, Japan

Akita International University  
Student Exchange, Wilfrid Laurier University  
Akita, Japan ([Map](#))



Type:  
Exchange

Duration:  
Semester/Quarter Long

### Program Provider

Name  
Student Exchange, Wilfrid Laurier University

### Host Institution

Akita International University

Open to students in:

Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Lazaridis  
School of Business and Economics

Term Dates:

Laurier Term Name	Host Institution Term Name	Term Dates
Laurier Fall	Akita Fall semester	September - December
Laurier Winter	Akita Winter semester	January - March

Term Information:

Winter semester students do not attend unless they attended Fall as well. Spring term is a full term.

*\*Ensure the host institution's term dates fit your post-exchange plans (e.g., co-op, graduation, Laurier term). Credit transfers can take up to 3 months after the term ends and may impact your anticipated graduation timeline.*

Partner Popularity Guide:

 **High to Moderate Popularity** → Moderate Match Probability ([View Partner Popularity Guide here](#))

Maximum duration of exchange:

Maximum of 1 semester. Two-term / full-year exchanges are not an option.

GPA Information:

Cumulative GPA of 7.0 required. Note: No GPA Waivers permitted.

Host Institution Fact Sheet:

[Fact Sheet 2025-2026](#)

Courses taken by Laurier

[Courses taken by Laurier Exchange Alumni](#)






# Partner Popularity Guide

The Partner Popularity Guide is based on:

- 1) How many **spots are available** at each host institution for Laurier students
- 2) How many students **ranked the partner institution as their first choice** and were successfully matched.

## Understanding the Guide

Colour	Partner Popularity & Match Probability	What it Means
 Red	High Popularity → Low Probability  (High GPA and only as first choice)	These institutions are in very high demand and often have competitive cumulative GPA requirements - both at the host institution and during Laurier's selection process. Fewer than half of the students who ranked these institutions as their first choice were matched. It's best to list them <i>only</i> as your first choice and avoid including them as your 2 <sup>nd</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> choices
 Yellow	High to Moderate Popularity → Moderate Probability  (Moderate GPA & first to third choice)	These institutions are popular. Students who listed them as a first choice had a reasonable chance of being matched. Generally good for your top choices, but availability may vary.
 Green	Lower Popularity → Higher Probability  (All GPAs and all choices)	These institutions usually have more availability due to a higher number of spots for Laurier students. Students who ranked these institutions as their first choice had the highest match rates, and some were successfully matched even when listed as their 2 <sup>nd</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> choices. They are excellent strategic options to balance your application.



# Is It Safe?

- Laurier monitors safety situations at host institutions – so should you!

[travel.gc.ca](https://travel.gc.ca)

- Can likely travel:

- Exercise normal security precautions

- Exercise a high degree of caution

- Cannot travel:

- Avoid non-essential travel

- Avoid all travel

The screenshot shows the Government of Canada website's travel advice page for Japan. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Canadian flag, the text "Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada", a search bar for "Search Travel.gc.ca", and a "Français" link. Below the navigation bar is a "MENU" dropdown and a breadcrumb trail: "Canada.ca > Travel > Destinations". The main heading is "Japan travel advice" with a Japanese flag icon. A prominent green banner with a checkmark icon contains the text "Take normal security precautions". Below this banner, it states "Latest updates: The Need help? section was updated." and "Last updated: September 25, 2024 07:54 ET". A section titled "On this page" lists several links: "Risk level", "Safety and security", "Entry and exit requirements", "Health", "Laws and culture", and "Natural disasters and climate". To the right, a "Need help?" section includes "Local services" (Emergency services) and "Consular assistance" (Tokyo - Embassy of Canada, Fukuoka - Honorary consul of Canada, Hiroshima - Honorary consul of Canada, Nagoya - Consulate of Canada, Osaka - Honorary consul of Canada, Sapporo - Honorary consul of Canada). Below the "On this page" list, there is a "Risk level" section with a sun icon and a "Safety and security" section with a shield icon. The "Risk level" section shows a green checkmark icon and the text "Japan - Take normal security precautions" with a sub-link "Take normal security precautions in Japan." and a "Back to top" button. The "Safety and security" section has a sub-heading "Fukushima nuclear power plant and surrounding area" and the text "Following the 2011 incident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant".



# Is It Safe?

- After Laurier determines if it is safe to travel:
  - You decide what is comfortable based on your personal risk level
- Once in-country, Laurier monitors travel advisories and local situation
- You may be asked to return home, even if the travel advisory has not escalated to “Avoid Non-essential travel”

The screenshot shows the Government of Canada website with the following content:

- Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada
- Search bar: Search Travel.gc.ca
- Language: Français
- MENU
- Canada.ca > Travel > Destinations
- Mexico travel advice
- Exercise a high degree of caution (with regional advisories)
- Latest updates: Risk levels; Natural disasters and climate – updated information on Hurricane Helene
- Last updated: September 25, 2024 13:38 ET
- On this page
  - Risk levels
  - Safety and security
  - Entry and exit requirements
  - Health
  - Laws and culture
  - Natural disasters and climate
- Risk levels
  - Mexico - Exercise a high degree of caution
    - Exercise a high degree of caution in Mexico due to high levels of criminal activity and kidnapping.
- Regional risks
  - Yucatan peninsula - Avoid non-essential travel
    - Avoid non-essential travel to the Yucatan Peninsula from Cabo Catoche to Tulum, including Cozumel, due to Hurricane Helene.
- Need help?
- Local services
  - Emergency services
- Consular assistance
  - Mexico City - Embassy of Canada
  - Acapulco - Consular Agency of Canada
  - Cabo San Lucas - Consular Agency of Canada
  - Cancún - Consular Agency of Canada
  - Guadalajara - Consulate of



# What Courses Can You Take?

**Course approval has 2 steps:**

## **1. Exchange Course Planning Tool form**

- Initial application
- “Wish list” or draft of courses
- Does NOT require signature from Academic Advisor / Program Coordinator

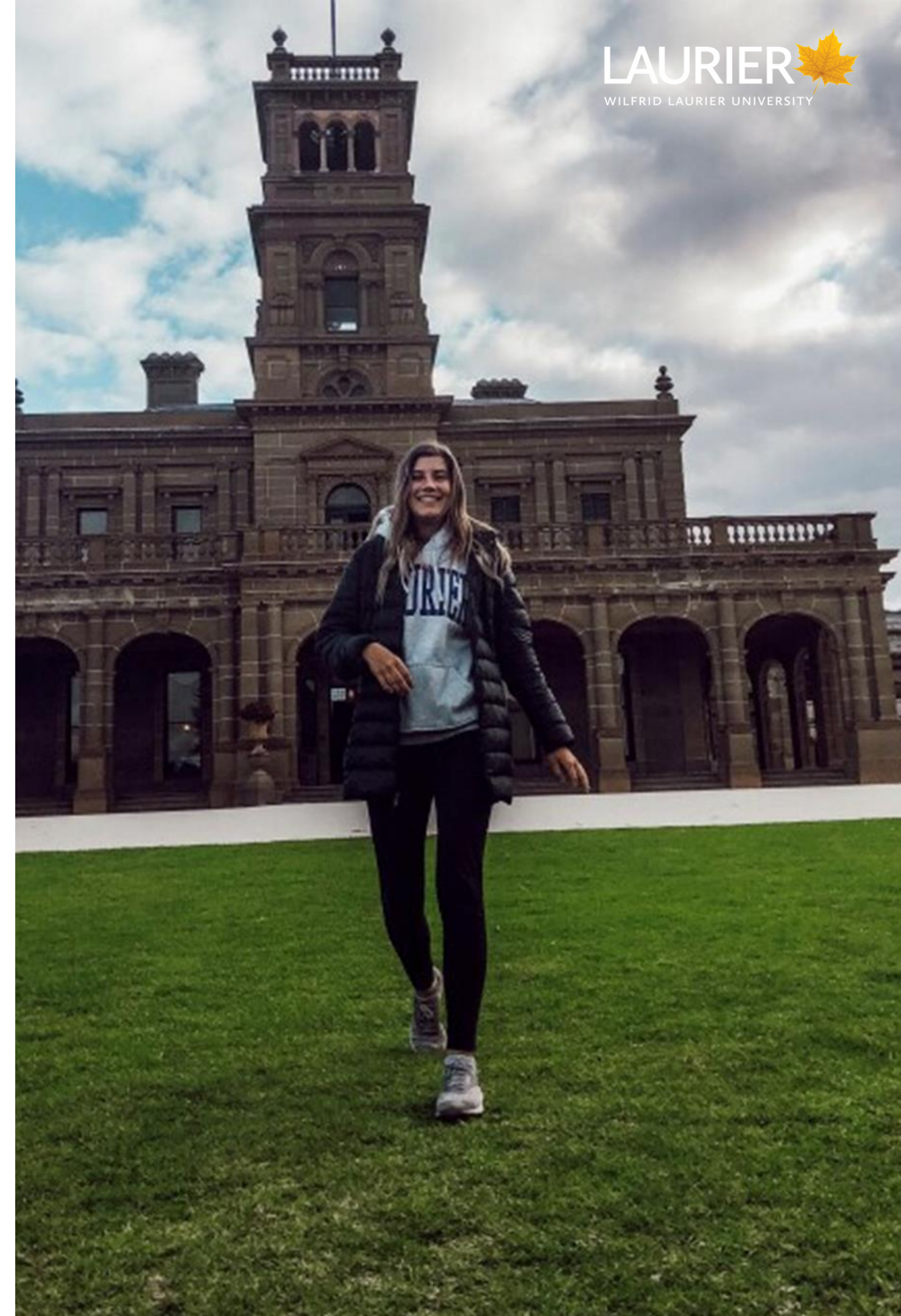
## **2. Course Credit Transfer Agreement (CCTA)**

- Post-exchange application
- Complete after placement in your host institution
- “Guarantee” of how credits transfer
- Requires Academic Advisor / Program Coordinator approval



# What Courses Can You Take?

- Take **elective** courses that are **unique to the institution and location**
- If you take a redundant course, it will not be counted towards your degree





# Step 1: Exchange Course Planning Tool (Form)

- Two versions of form (non-LSBE and LSBE only)
- Your “wish list” showing the whole academic year
- Includes terms at both Laurier and host institution
- Submit the form as an attachment to your online application
- **DOES NOT REQUIRE ACADEMIC ADVISOR / PROGRAM  
COORDINATOR SIGN OFF**



# Exchange Course Planning Tool (Form)

## Your courses can be:

- Elective
- Major
- Program Requirement
- Minor Concentration
- Option

### Part (i)

Name and country of host university:	University of Birmingham, England
Faculty/department of study at host university:	School of Government
Semester dates at host university: Month/Year to Month/Year (e.g. Aug. 2025 to Jan. 2026)	September 2025 – December 2025

### Part (ii)

Term	Course Code and Title	Course Type (Elective, Major, Program Requirement, Minor, Concentration or Option)	Course Credit (e.g., 0.5 WLU credit, 6 ECTS, etc.) <i>*see last page for correct number of credits to take at host institution</i>
<b>FALL 2025</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Study at Laurier <input type="checkbox"/> Coop <input type="checkbox"/> Absent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On Exchange	20900 - International Relations Theory	Major	20 CATS
	27732 - Global Governance	Major/Program Requirement	20 CATS
	30171 - Poverty, class and inequality	Elective	20 CATS
<b>WINTER 2026</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Study at Laurier <input type="checkbox"/> Coop <input type="checkbox"/> On Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	PO220 - Poverty and Inequality in the Global South	Major/Program Requirement	0.5 Laurier credit
	PO210 - Introduction to Law	Major/Program Requirement	0.5 Laurier credit
	PO320 - Women, Gender, and Politics	Major/Program Requirement	0.5 Laurier credit
	PO383 - Law, Gender and Sexuality	Major/Program Requirement	0.5 Laurier credit
	PO315 - Politics and Society in Contemporary Quebec	Major/Program Requirement	0.5 Laurier credit
<b>SPRING 2026</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Study at Laurier <input type="checkbox"/> Coop <input type="checkbox"/> On Exchange <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent	Absent from school (not taking courses; graduation)		

# “Document Library” In Journey

**LAURIER**  
*Inspiring Lives.*

Home Search Programs My Application My Coursework My Invoices My Profile Events Side Trips Incident Reports Appointments **Document Library** Surveys

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## Document Library

**Documents** My Documents

**Search Filters**

Keywords  Document Type

**RESULTS** Items 1-4 of 4 Showing 20

Title	Type	File Name	File Type	Size
<a href="#">Exchange Course Planning Tool (LSBE only) 2026-2027</a>	Exchange, Outgoing, Application and Admin documents	<a href="#">Exchange_Course_Planning_Tool_(LSBE_only)_2026-2027_Aug2025_(1).docx</a>	application/octet-stream	252315
<a href="#">Exchange Course Planning Tool (non-LSBE) 2026-2027</a>	Exchange, Outgoing, Application and Admin documents	<a href="#">Exchange_Course_Planning_Tool_(non-LSBE)_2026-27_Aug2025.docx</a>	application/octet-stream	266446
<a href="#">Exchange GPA Waiver 2026-2027</a>	Exchange, Outgoing, Application and Admin documents	<a href="#">Exchange_GPA_Waiver_2026-2027.docx</a>	application/octet-stream	246598
<a href="#">Hong Kong, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, HKUST, Fact Sheet 2026-2027</a>	Exchange, Outgoing, Application and Admin documents	<a href="#">HKUST_factsheet_2026-27.pdf</a>	application/pdf	557683

Items 1-4 of 4 Showing 20

# ■ ■ ■ How Many Credits Do You Take?

- Course transfer is done by credit weight
- **Count the number of CREDITS you take abroad, not how many courses**
- Credit weighting is different at each host institution

**Table 1. Amount of credits required to earn 2.5 Laurier credits while on exchange**

<i>Country</i>	<i>Credits needed to earn 2.5 Laurier Credits</i>
Australia	<u>University of Canberra</u> : 12 UC credit points, or 30 UCTS <u>Western Sydney University</u> : 40 UWS credit points, or 30 UCTS <u>Australian Catholic University</u> : 40 ACU credit points
Europe	30 (ECTS) European Credit Transfer System
United Kingdom	60 CATS or 30 ECTS
Ireland	30 ECTS
United States of America	12 credits (typically 4 courses as each course is worth 3 credits)
Mexico	ITAM: 4 courses Tec de Monterrey: 40 credits
Hong Kong	<u>HKUST</u> : 15 credits (typically 4 courses) <u>HKU</u> : 30 credits
Macau	18 credits (typically 6 courses)
Japan	<u>Akita</u> : 18 credits <u>Nagoya</u> : Each course is worth 2 NUCB credits, which equals 3 ECTS (see Europe) <u>Saga</u> : 15 credits
South Korea	12 credits (typically 4 courses)
China	15 credits (typically 4-5 courses) *Please confirm with Student Abroad Advisor Shanghai: 30 ECTS Nanjing: 2.0 = 0.5 Laurier

\*\*When neither the ECTS nor UCTS credit systems are available, credits are awarded on the basis of Laurier course hours. Each Laurier 0.5 credit course is 36 hours over a period of 12 weeks. Multiplied by 5 courses per term, the normal course load at Laurier is 180 contact/ lecture hours per term.

# ■ ■ ■ Step 2: Course Credit Transfer (CCTA) Form (Once Registered Abroad)

This form is used with your transcript from your host institution to transfer your credits to your Laurier student record:

1

Record all courses taken abroad or your FINAL course selection (no further changes).

2

Receive sign off from your academic or faculty advisor. For courses outside your concentration, you will need approval from the respective Advisor (e.g., meet with the Languages Advisor for a Language credit).

- Alternatively, if you agree to have them counted as miscellaneous credits, you can sign off under the Interdisciplinary Credit section of the CCTA.

3

**Please upload the CCTA form to Journey in your post-exchange application:**

- LSBE students: Upload WITHOUT your Academic Advisor's signature.
- Non-LSBE students: Upload WITH your Academic Advisor's signature.

**This upload may occur before travel or shortly after arrival. Please ensure you do not delay this step!**

4

After your exchange, transcript is received (3-4 months post-exchange), the credit transfer will be processed, and you will see the updated courses on LORIS.

# ■ ■ ■ Step 2: CCTA Form (Once Registered Abroad)

- Credits transfer back to your Laurier degree as pass or fail credits (CR)

And your GPA stays the same!



Exchange Institution			Laurier		
Course Code and Title <i>(Student completes)</i>	Course Credit <i>(ECTS, etc.) (Student complete)</i>	Pass Fail	Course Code and Title <i>(specify if a credit is to be used for an Concentration/Option/Minor) (Academic Advisor or Program Coord. completes)</i>	Laurier Credit Weight e.g. 0.5	Advisor or Coordinator Initials
Corporate Strategy	5 ECTS	P	BU4XX	0.5	AN
Cross-Cultural Management	5 ECTS	P	UU1XX	0.5	AN
French as Foreign Language	5 ECTS	P	FR251	0.5	MR
Consumer Culture	5 ECTS	P	BU4XX	1.0	AN
Online Marketing	5 ECTS	P			
Business CSR	5 ECTS	P			
<b>Total Credits Received Abroad:</b>		<b>30 ECTS</b>	<b>Total Laurier Credits Received:</b>		<b>2.5</b>
Please note: <u>30</u> credits at this Exchange Institution is equal to 2.5 WLU credits					



# How Much Does It Cost?

## Application fees:

- **\$30** application fee (part of your initial application)
  - **\$110** placement fee (when you are accepting/declining your offer)
- 

## Tuition costs:

- 2.5 credits paid to Laurier (full-time studies)
  - Exception: ALC reduced course load
- 

## Incidental fees at host school and cost of travel:

- Airfare, visa
- Study permits (\$20-\$500), review embassy/consulate website of host country
- Accommodations, activity fees, bus pass or other ground transportation, health insurance, etc.



Ljubljana University,  
Slovenia



Akita International  
University, Japan



NEOMA Business School  
Residence, France



# Housing

- Housing “leads” provided by international office at host institution
- On-campus or off-campus
- Some universities offer international residences



This was the hardest part of my exchange prep and required a lot of research!

# Sample Costs From Exchange Alumni: One Term Abroad



- **Does not include tuition**
- **Includes:** flight, rent, utilities, food, travelling, visa, health insurance, bus pass, phone, etc
- Students traveling to same destination can have varied budgets based on how much they travel, cost of accommodations, preferences etc.

France	Neoma Business School, Rouen Campus	\$ 9,208
France	Neoma Business School, Rouen Campus	\$ 13,620
France	Kedge Business School, Marseille Campus	\$ 9,093
Spain	Universidad de Deusto, Bilbao Campus	\$ 8,279
Spain	Universidad de Deusto, Bilbao Campus	\$ 13,368
Spain	Universidad de Navarra	\$ 9,716
United Kingdom	Keele University	\$ 6,948
China	Beijing Jiaotong University	\$ 5,071
Japan	Akita International University	\$ 5,300
Australia	University of Canberra	\$ 9,278
Australia	Western Sydney University	\$ 8,208
Australia	Western Sydney University	\$ 15,547



# Financial Assistance

- Still eligible for OSAP
- Apply for awards after accepted to program
- Student Awards through LORIS (listed on exchange website)
- Research external sources
  - MyWorldAbroad

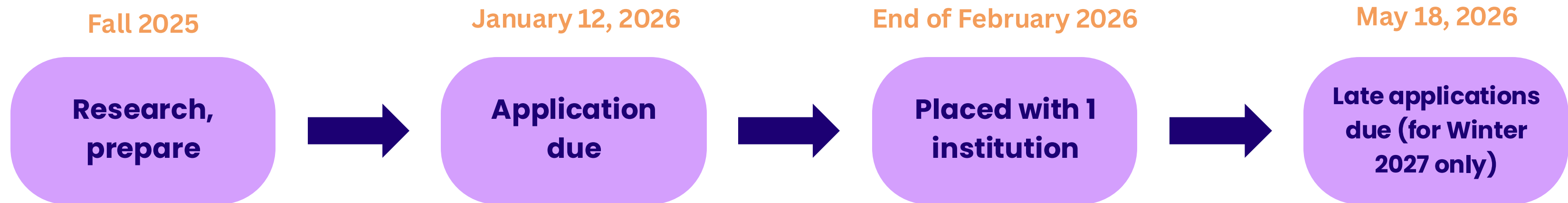




# Next Steps: Timelines & Deadlines



## FALL & WINTER EXCHANGES



## SUMMER PROGRAMS

Late Fall 2025 to Winter 2026





# Next Steps: How To Apply?



**Search programs  
using Journey**



**Apply to 4 choices**



**Select "Apply" to your first  
choice to initiate application**

- Can rearrange program selection in Journey application portal



**Submit required documents:**

- Passport
- MyDegree Assessment
- Exchange Course Planning Tool
- Motivation letter

# Apply Using Journey



wlu-horizons.symplicity.com/index.php?s=programs

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Program Name	<input type="text"/>	Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Supports	<input type="text"/>
Term(s)	<input type="text"/> [select] <input type="button" value="clear"/>	Field of Study	<input type="text"/>

*Areas of study at partner universities are subject to change.*



# Application Requirements

- Complete **Information Session Quiz**
- **Exchange Course Planning Tool** (course “wish list”)
- **MyDegree Assessment** (download PDF copy, no extra work required)
- **Copy of passport** (or approved alternative)





# Application Requirements

- **Acknowledgement of Risks (allow 60+ minutes to read)**
- **“Letter of Motivation” questions (500 words max.)**
  - Why do you want to study abroad?
  - Why did you choose the destinations you chose?
  - Relate this experience to your academics
- **Budget: Estimated cost of 1 host institution (most expensive)**





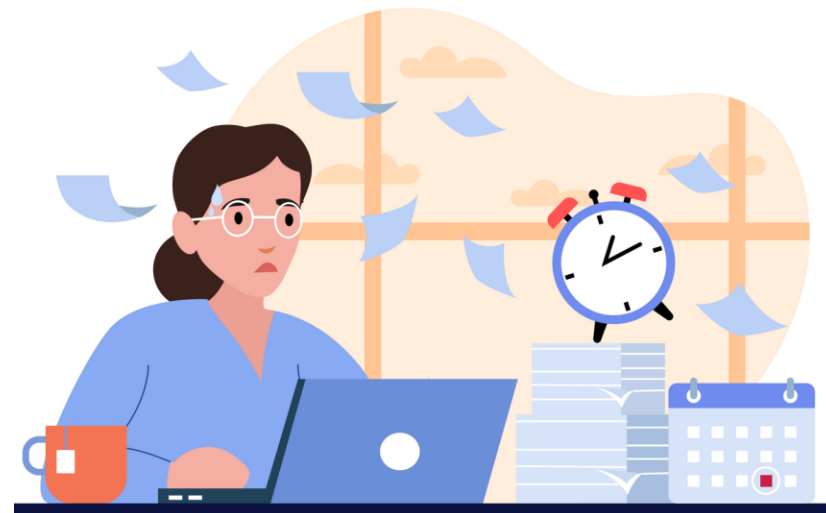
# Application Requirements

- **Additional Comments section:**
  - If you and a friend want to be placed at the same institution, make sure each of you list each other's names in this section of the application. This confirms that both of you agree and wish to travel together
  - Not always possible
  - Groups of three or more students will NOT be placed at the same location





**Fall 2026 / Winter 2027**  
**Application Deadline:**  
**JANUARY 12, 2026, 4 P.M.**





# Other Global Engagement Opportunities at Laurier!





# Non-exchange Programs

- **Internship**
  - Ghana Internship
- **Faculty-led field courses**
  - Laurier course with Laurier instructor abroad for 2-4 weeks
- **Volunteer opportunities**
  - Exchange alumni





# International @ Home

- Intercultural Certificate
- International Education Week
- Tandem Language Program
- World University Service of Canada (WUSC)
- Volunteer opportunities





# Find Us Online!



**Global Engagement Website**



**Instagram:  
@laurierinternational**

# BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS



**BUILD** intercultural knowledge with the Intercultural Certificate



**LEARN** another language with the Tandem Language Program



**STUDY ABROAD** on exchange or on a faculty led field course



**EMAIL & FOLLOW** us on Instagram  
[exchange@wlu.ca](mailto:exchange@wlu.ca)  
@LaurierInternational

**More questions about Exchange?**

**BOOK** a follow up appointment with **Anne-marie Henry (Brantford)** or **Sinthu Vimaladasan (Waterloo)** using the QR code below





**A comfort zone is a beautiful place, but nothing ever grows there.**

**Questions?**

