Swansea, Wales
Swansea University

USC’s exchange program in Wales is designed to provide American students with first-hand knowledge of Welsh life and culture. The program is located in Swansea, approximately 35 miles west of Cardiff, the capital city. Renowned as South West Wales’ premier entertainment center, Swansea (pop. 230,000) is filled with numerous theatres, art galleries, museums, and pubs. Situated along the south central coast of Wales, Swansea enjoys direct train access to London (3 hours) and other major cities in the UK. Students will attend Swansea University which was founded in 1920. The University overlooks Swansea Bay on the edge of the Gower Peninsula, an area recognized for its outstanding natural beauty including spectacular cliffs and unspoiled beaches.

Students attending Swansea University on exchange may choose from a variety of courses in the humanities and social sciences. Students attend classes with Welsh students and other international students.

As a prerequisite, students must have attained at least sophomore standing prior to attending Swansea University. Preference is given to students with a major/minor/concentration in History, Political Science or English, however all qualified students are eligible to apply. A minimum 3.0 GPA is required to apply.

Courses and Credits
Students typically earn 15 credit hours per semester. Listed below are a few examples of subjects offered. A full list of courses can be found at [https://intranet.swan.ac.uk/catalogue/](https://intranet.swan.ac.uk/catalogue/).

Sample Subject Offerings

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<th>American Studies</th>
<th>Engineering</th>
<th>Media Studies</th>
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<td>Business Management</td>
<td>Geography</td>
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<td>Classic and Ancient History</td>
<td>International Studies</td>
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<td>Early Childhood Studies</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
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Living Arrangements
Students are guaranteed on-campus University housing if applications are received before the deadline. For students who prefer to live off campus, the Accommodation Office will send a Househunting Pack which includes a list of available accommodations. It is normally necessary to secure off-campus housing after arrival. Room and board costs are paid in Swansea and vary based on the type of accommodation chosen. More information on housing can be found at http://www.swansea.ac.uk/accommodation/#d.en.4093.

Budgeting
Students pay in-state tuition and fees directly to USC. The United Kingdom is an expensive place to study abroad due to the weak dollar against the strong pound. Due to this fact, students need to budget accordingly and be aware that prices will be much higher while in the UK. For assistance in determining living costs and other fees, please refer to this site: http://www.swansea.ac.uk/international/money/EstimatedLivingCosts/

Master Calendar
Classes begin in September and end in December for the fall semester. There are some courses that may require students to stay into January, so students wanting to go for the fall semester need to plan ahead. In the spring, classes begin in January and end in June. A detailed schedule can be found at http://www.swansea.ac.uk/international/study/TermandSemesterDates/.

Insurance
Per university policy, all USC students will be charged emergency medical, evacuation and repatriation insurance for their time abroad. Contact the Study Abroad Office for more details.

Orientation
Orientation will occur during the first few days after arrival. Students will learn about the university and Swansea as well as other important health and safety information. More information can be found at http://www.swansea.ac.uk/study/current/StudentSupportServices/ISAS/Pre-ArrivalInformation/Orientation/.

Excursions
For an additional cost, Swansea’s American Studies Exchange Office organizes social and cultural activities throughout the semester including trips to North Wales, Snowdonia National Park, Caernarfon Castle and Harlech Castle. Swansea’s Students’ Union also organizes weekend trips to Paris, Amsterdam, Dublin and Edinburgh. Students also have the opportunity for individual travel. For more information, visit http://www.swan.ac.uk/sao/ThingstoSeeDo/

Visa
Students who attend Swansea University for one semester will need to apply for a Student Visitor visa at the airport, or in advance. Students studying for the full academic year will need to apply for the PBS Tier General Student visa. Please contact the Study Abroad Office for step-by-step directions on how to obtain either visa.

Footnotes
USC students can attend Swansea University on exchange for the fall or spring semester or an academic year. For more information for the exchange program, please visit http://www.swan.ac.uk/sao/

For more information about Wales and the sites you can visit, go to the Wales Tourist Board website at http://www.visitwales.com/.

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