

# STUDYING ABROAD AS PART OF AN ACCREDITED PROGRAMME



The British  
Psychological Society  
Partnership & Accreditation

This guidance aims to help both university staff and students considering opportunities for undertaking study abroad as part of an accredited programme.

## How much study abroad can students undertake as part of an accredited programme?

Up to one third of the total credits of an existing accredited UK programme may be undertaken outside of the UK. Where a greater proportion is undertaken abroad, we consider this to be a separate programme requiring separate accreditation. Information regarding the Society's international accreditation process can be found at [www.bps.org.uk/internationalaccreditation](http://www.bps.org.uk/internationalaccreditation).

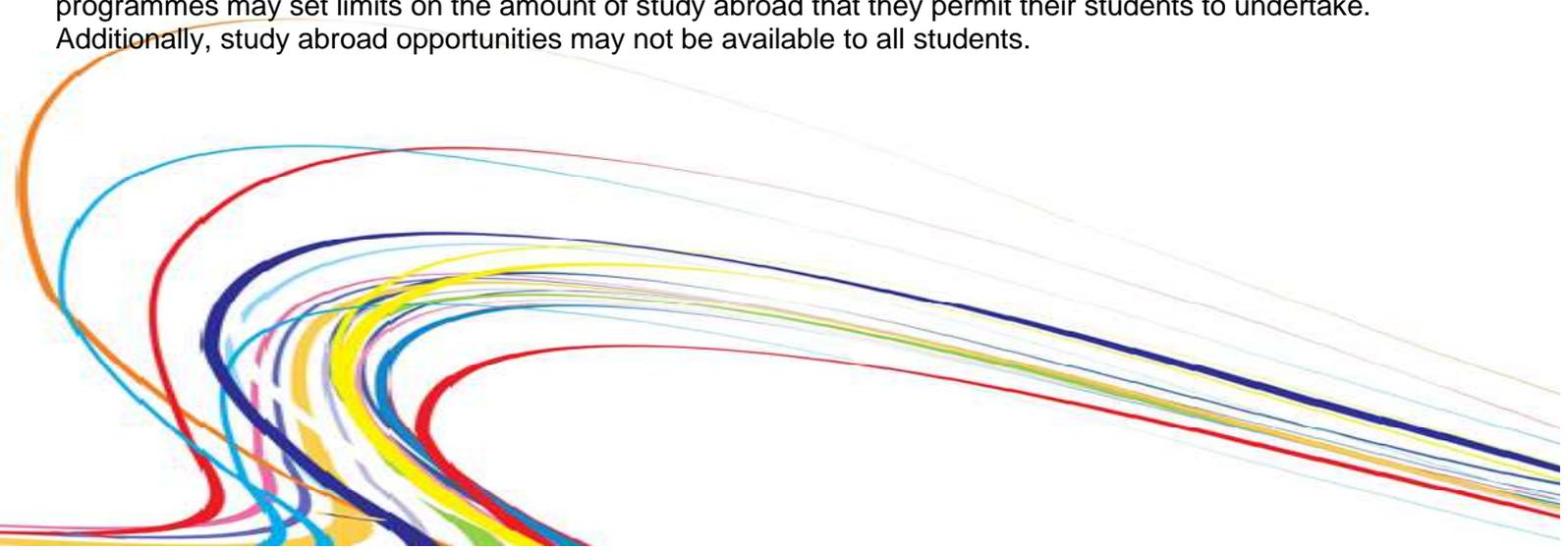
## What factors do providers need to take into account when negotiating study abroad opportunities for and with their students?

Where students undertake study abroad, up to a maximum of one third of the total credits available for the programme, the UK university must ensure that they have covered all of the required curriculum appropriately by the time they have completed their programme (though not necessarily in the same way as others on their cohort), and that they have undertaken learning that will effectively support their progression.

For **undergraduate** and **conversion** programmes, this means that the university must ensure coverage of all of the GBC curriculum areas by the time the student completes the programme. Additionally, the provider will need to bear the students' progression requirements in mind. For example, if a student is studying abroad at level 5 (level 9 in Scotland), the provider will need to be satisfied that they will be at a level commensurate with that required to commence work on a level 6 (level 10) empirical project on their return to their final year of study in the UK.

If the accredited programme includes a pathway (i.e. where there are specific modules that students need to choose in order to be eligible for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership), the education provider should provide students with a letter indicating the modules in the pathway for which international study has been deemed to be equivalent. The letter should confirm successful completion of study abroad and should be provided as part of the student's application for membership of the Society.

The same principle applies to **postgraduate** programmes, although those that incorporate an evaluation of fitness to practise (Doctoral programmes) will need to satisfy themselves that their evaluation is commensurate with ensuring fitness to practise *in the UK context*. In practice, this means that individual programmes may set limits on the amount of study abroad that they permit their students to undertake. Additionally, study abroad opportunities may not be available to all students.



## **Can students undertake their empirical project or dissertation abroad?**

Yes. Where students undertake research abroad, the UK university is responsible for ensuring the appropriateness of the supervisory arrangements in place, and for ensuring that the project reflects appropriate ethical requirements. Undergraduate students will still need to pass the project and achieve at least the equivalent of a 2(ii) overall in order to be eligible for the GBC.

## **Can students admitted to an accredited programme with advanced standing undertake study abroad?**

Yes. The Society's accreditation standards permit providers to operate procedures for the accreditation of prior learning (APL) against the learning outcomes of the accredited award. Students may transfer into an accredited programme at any time, subject to the APL regulations and selection and entry criteria operated by the receiving university. However, APL procedures must ensure that all graduates have covered the required curriculum at the appropriate level by the time they complete their studies.

Where students are admitted to a UK programme via APL having undertaken previous study abroad, the total proportion of their programme of study undertaken outside of the UK should not normally exceed one third of the credits available. This will impact on the amount of any further study abroad that the student might be able to undertake.

## **I have a query about study abroad. Who should I contact?**

Students should contact the Partnership and Accreditation Team on [pact@bps.org.uk](mailto:pact@bps.org.uk).

University staff should contact the team on the email address above, or contact their designated Partnership and Accreditation Officer directly.

