



University of Essex

Year Abroad... ...How it counts

Grade Conversion Pass/Fail

Essex Students Guidance

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**1st year of degree
from 2020-2021**

How your year counts (Full Year Abroad) Grade Conversion for Pass/Fail Essex Students Guidance

The required credit load and the grading scales on your Study Abroad Year abroad are always different from here at the University of Essex. At Essex you must take 120 Essex credits per academic year, whilst in Europe you would usually take 60 ECTS and in USA you would usually take 30 credits (for example). To pass the Year Abroad you must obtain an overall pass from the host University.

Your Study Abroad Year will be assessed on a pass/fail basis with a pass outcome worth 120 Essex credits. A fail on your Study Abroad Year would result in you being transferred to the 3 year variant of your course. Your degree classification will be based on a weighted average of year 2 and the final year using a 40/60 split.

To calculate the outcome of your Study Abroad Year we:

1. Take the grade achieved from your host University as per the transcript and pass requirements there.
2. Calculate what the weighted year mark would be.
3. Divide the best 75% of those marks from the successful modules to determine if you have passed or failed.

For example:

Module Name	Credit	Credit Awarded	Module Grade	Module Grade Letter	PASS/FAIL	
Chinese Culture and Society	3	3	57.0	C+	PASS	
China's Cultural Heritage	3	3	63.0	B	PASS	
Politics and Governance in Contemporary China	3	3	50.0	C-	PASS	
History of Western Philosophy I	3	0	0.0	F	FAIL	
Bioethics	3	3	60.0	B-	PASS	
Culture and Mind	3	3	50.0	C-	PASS	
Peoples and Cultures of Southeast Asia	3	3	0.0	F	FAIL	
Buddhism and Contemporary Life	3	0	0.0	F	FAIL	
Topics in Medieval Western Philosophy	3	0	0.0	F	FAIL	
Mainstream Chinese Philosophical Thought	3	0	0.0	F	FAIL	
Magic, Myth and the Supernatural	3	3	50.0	C-	PASS	
Total	33	21	330.0	0.0	41.3	
GPA (USA only)		GPA				
Best 75% rule applied, modules highlighted in yellow discounted		24			PASS	
Extenuating Circumstances						No

University	The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Country	Hong Kong
Academic Year	2018/19

75% Rule

This rule is applied to the year abroad to recognise the challenges which students encounter on a year abroad (YA) including academic differences.

Up to 25% of the lowest YA marks (based on correct credit load enrolment) will be 0 weighted and discounted from the calculations.

N.B. over enrolled credits will not be included due to students requiring to take the correct credit load.

Total Year Mark

Total Year Mark divided by number of modules in best 75%

Outcome of year abroad e.g. Honk Kong, China PASS = mark of 40.

Host PASS = Essex PASS
Host FAIL = Essex FAIL

Please note that the grade conversion process is unique to University of Essex and other UK universities may use a different conversion process. It is important that you ONLY take advice from the Essex Abroad team about the conversion of your grades from your Study Abroad Year.

Below is guidance on how the grades from abroad will be converted to Essex grades, by country. Some institutions in the same country may have some variations and this is not reflected in the guidance below. The grading at your host institution will be different to Essex. While at Essex a pass mark would be 40, this may be a D or 50 at some other institutions abroad.

Country	Country PASS = Essex PASS
Argentina	4-10
Australia	50-100 or P/P1/SP-HD
Austria	4-1
Belgium	10-20
Botswana	D-A
Brazil	5-10
Canada	50-100
Canada (UVIC)	1-9
Chile	4-7
China (Hong Kong and Macau)	1.0-4.0 (D to A)
China (mainland)	60-100
Colombia	3-5
Czech Republic	3-1 (E to A)
Denmark	6-13
Finland	1-5 (E to A)
France (10) or France (20)	5-10 or 10-20
Germany	4-1
Ireland	40-100
Israel	56-100 (D- to A)
Italy	18-30
Japan	1.0-4.0 (D+ to A)
Malta	50-100
Mexico	70-100 or 6-10
Morocco	GPA 1.0-4.0 (D- to A)
Netherlands (varies - please check with host university)	5-10 or 5.5-10 or 6-10
New Zealand	C- to A+
Norway	E to A
Peru	11-20
Poland	3-5!
Portugal	10-20
Romania	E to A (5-10)
Singapore	1 - 5 (D to A+)
South Korea	D0 to A+ (60-100)
Spain	5-10
Sweden	E to A
Switzerland	4-6
Turkey	1-4 (D to A+)
Uruguay	6-12 (C to A)
USA (and ISEP for GPA)	GPA 1.0-4.0 (D- to A+)
Grading system from host institution – usually available on transcript from abroad	

Additional Examples

FAIL Example

Module Name	Credit	Credit Awarded	Module Grade	PASS/FAIL		
Game Theory	6	0	NP	FAIL		
Principles of Economics	6	0	NP	FAIL		
Political Representation and Electoral Analysis	6	0	NP	FAIL		
Public Marketing	6	0	NP	FAIL		
Political Advising	6	6	5.1	PASS		
Intergovernmental Relationships	6	0	NP	FAIL		
Structure and Social Change	6	6	5	PASS		
Statistics I	6	0	2.7	FAIL		
Security, Peace and Conflicts Resolution	6	6	7	PASS		
Multidisciplinary Research Design in Social Sciences	6	6	7.5	PASS		
Total	60	24	24.6	3.075		
GPA (USA only)		GPA				
Best 75% rule applied, modules highlighted in yellow discounted		48		FAIL		
Extenuating Circumstances						

University	Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
Country	Spain
Academic Year	2019/20
Credit load per semester	30 ECTS credits

Up to 25% discounted.
Modules cannot be split.

Outcome of year abroad
Host PASS = Essex PASS
Host FAIL = Essex FAIL

PASS Example – LETTER GRADES (where no numerical grade – GPA used)

Module Name	Credit	Credit Awarded	Module Grade Letter	GPA Grade	PASS/FAIL	
Marine Ecology	5	5	A	4.0	PASS	
Animal Behaviour Lecture	5	5	B+	3.3	PASS	
Introduction to Naval Science	2	0	F	0.0	FAIL	
Introductory Oceanography	4	4	A-	3.7	PASS	
Understanding Global Climate Change	4	0	F	0.0	FAIL	
Weight Training	1	1	D-	0.7	FAIL	
Introduction to Psychology	3	3	D-	0.7	PASS	
Total	24	18	0.0	12.4	2.48	
Best 75% rule applied, modules highlighted in yellow discounted		18			PASS	
Extenuating Circumstances						NO
University	Florida Dominion University					
Country	USA					
Academic Year	2019/20					
Credit load per semester	12 credits					
Essex Credit requirement for grid	60 credits					

Up to 25% discounted.
Modules cannot be split.

Total GPA Year Mark

Outcome of year abroad
Host PASS = Essex PASS
Host FAIL = Essex FAIL

Total GPA Year Mark
divided by number of
modules in best 75%