

Information for Schools regarding Study Abroad 2020/21

Students were given the options set out below in relation to the Study Abroad year for 2020/21, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

1. Invert

1.1 Course stages

Students are taking the final stage of the course in 2020/21 and are reapplying for the Study Abroad (SA) year for 2021/22.

1.2 PABs and graduation

The following will apply for 'invert' students:

- (i) the Finalist PAB in Summer 2021 will award the non-SA title; students will be given a certificate and transcript of the non-SA award;
- (ii) students can attend graduation with the main cohort in Summer 2021 (graduation tbc) or alternatively in January 2022 or Summer 2022 (if graduation is not taking place in Summer 2021, student has left to start the SA 2021/22 year overseas or if student prefers to attend graduation later);
- (iii) students go on the SA year in 2021/22;
- (iv) all students who go on the SA year in 2021/22 will be reconsidered by the Resit PAB in September 2022; students will be given a revised certificate and transcript where appropriate.

1.3 PAB processing

The following process will apply:

- (i) All 'invert' course variants for courses with an integrated study abroad year will have the weightings changed from 32:48:20 (where the SA year is weighted at 20%) to 40:60 for stage 2 and the final stage. ('Invert' courses with a voluntary SA year are already 40:60 for stage 2 and the final stage). These weightings will remain in place until after the Resit PAB 2021.
- (ii) SSRO will ensure that students are included in the Finalist arrays, the GM and predicted class are correctly calculated and the students are picked up for inclusion in graduation.
- (iii) A final list of 'invert' students will be sent to Schools before the Finalist PAB 2021 (Student Progress should be informed of any students changing from 'invert' to 'cancel').
- (iv) Schools to send SSRO a pass list including all 'invert' students offered an interim award without 'with a Study Abroad Year'.
- (v) SSRO will add the awards and will manually update the award title to the interim title without 'with a Study Abroad Year'.
- (vi) A new stage result will explain the interim award outcome to students.
- (vii) Following the Finalist PAB, the interim award will show on CMS as 'pro tem', followed by the SA year in 2021/22 (for the period between results publication and 1st August the record will show that the student is 'resitting').
- (viii) A list will be given to the Resit PAB 2021 of any changes from 'invert' to 'cancel' to note.

It is possible for the 'invert' model to be agreed retrospectively for a student currently in the final stage who wishes to do a professional placement year in 2021/20.

2. Cancel

Students did not go on the study abroad year in 2020/21 and are now in the final year of the course and will be considered for award at the Finalist PAB in summer 2021.

3. Continue

3.1 Regulatory requirements on study abroad year

- (i) Both integrated and voluntary students must take the equivalent of 120 credits at Level 5.
- (ii) This can include up to 30 credits at Level 4, as this is in line with the Academic Framework.
- (iii) The Study Plan for voluntary students must include at least 50% of the modules related to the course title which means that 50% of the modules can be unrelated.

3.2 Study on the Continue option if distance learning is not offered by the host institution

In cases where distance learning is not offered the following applies:

- (i) alternative assessments set by Sussex are not to be offered
- (ii) students can take a module/s at Sussex
- (iii) students cannot take modules at Level 6 or modules they have already taken

3.3 Exit title to replace 'with a Study Abroad Year'

'With an interdisciplinary year' has been approved as an alternative exit title to replace 'with a Study Abroad Year'. This will be given in cases where students have met the award requirements and have taken an additional year of study during 2020/21, consisting of elective modules in Semesters 1 and 2 at Sussex, as a result of Covid-19 related travel restrictions and being unable to take online distance learning modules at the host institution.

The alternative exit title will apply as follows:

- (i) 'with an interdisciplinary year' - S1 elective modules at Sussex, S2 elective modules at Sussex
- (ii) 'with an interdisciplinary year' - S1 elective modules at Sussex, mix of S2 online distance learning modules provided by the host institution and elective modules at Sussex
- (iii) 'with a study abroad year' - S1 elective modules at Sussex, S2 online distance learning modules provided by the host institution
- (iv) 'with a study abroad year' - S1 elective modules at Sussex, S2 physically at the host institution
- (v) 'with a study abroad year' – to apply only in cases where the equivalent of 60 credits or more have been studied at the host institution (either remotely or physically).

ADQE will work with Schools to identify the appropriate suffix to be given when the award is made by the Finalist PAB in summer 2022.

4. Study Abroad Year 2021/22

UEC is considering if the same 'cancel', 'continue' and 'invert' options can also be offered to students unable to engage with a study abroad year in 2021/22, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.