

Are you interested in studying psychology abroad?

You should know that it will probably take a lot of time till you figure out which programme will suit you the most and to go through the application process. That is why we suggest you to take one year to make the needed search before you apply. If you really want it and put effort in it, you will surely succeed. We prepared some steps which will guide you by your first planning. Be prepared that most of the work still lies on your shoulders, but it is worth to do it, because studying abroad is an awesome experience!

Before taking the big step you should examine the pros and the cons of studying in a foreign country. On the basis of that you will see if it's worthy of trying.

First you have to decide if you want to apply for the full degree programme (undergraduate or postgraduate) or just a short term programme (exchange). Once you make this decision "research" comes along.

Plan it in advance! If you're lucky or very well organized it can take less time, but you should take one-year minimum for planning and making your arrangements.

Search for information:

Look up at your home university's web pages, visit an international office or educational advising centre for suggestions. If you are still not sure about the country and the programme, you can first look what different countries are offering: Country Information. Be creative and search on internet, where you can find more information than you think, write e-mails to universities and don't hesitate asking questions.

Stick to the deadlines:

Deadline on the university you're applying to study at.

Deadlines of funding resources – scholarships.

Check the deadline for applications for "becoming" an exchange student at your home faculty (it is necessary to get the approval of your home institution before your application is forwarded to foreign university, if you do a short term exchange like Erasmus).

Evaluate your language skills:

Make sure what the exchange university's expectations are. Usually a language skill measurement test is required. The most common test for proving your English skills is TOEFL. If you feel that your language skills are not enough, think of the possible ways to improve them. For example, you can take a language course before you go to study abroad or while you are already studying.

Qualification equivalence:

The courses you have to take are different at different universities. The important question if you are attending a short term exchange is: Does my university accept the lectures I'm about to take during my time studying abroad? For a full degree programme you should ask yourself: Does the education I get have the same worth in my home country or the country I want to live in the future? For all the questions you have, you should just ask the universities via e-mail. The departments have the information you need. If you get no answer, this tells you something about the way it might be at this particular university.

A place to live:

Ask for the accommodation properties of your host university (ex. dormitories). If you got no luck with it one way to find a place to live is to consult a real estate agency. That will save time but cost you money. The other way is to take long walk around the city looking for the desirable sign "for rent". Also try newspapers which deal with renting and look at the university's students' announcements if anyone wants a roommate. To avoid being cheated, try finding a living-place through the university and personal contacts. If you want to visit the country (for finding a place to live or meeting the university personnel) you might find help in [EFPSA Travel Network](#). We also have a [map](#) including partner hostels in case you need to move and you are still struggling to find a place.

Do not forget to:

- Verify medical insurance just in case.
- Arrange the financial details with your bank account.
- Book your flight in advance and think ahead about coming home. Round trip tickets are usually cheaper.
- Prepare yourself for living in a foreign country.
- When it comes to the costs you should think not only on the possible fee that you might pay for the programme but also the living cost of the host county. The potential financial sources are various unless you have time and determination to run after them. Financial assistance from the school, the governmental institution or the foundation is largely targeted for postgraduate studies. It is difficult to get financial assistance for undergraduate studies.

Potential Financial Aid:

1. Governmental scholarships and awards (ex. Ministry of Education, Education Department)
2. Inter-university mobility exchange programmes, European Union's TEMPUS or SOCRATES/ERASMUS or CEEPUS
3. Foreign colleges' and universities' scholarships and grants (sometimes are constrained to students studying particular subjects or from certain countries)
4. International agencies ex. UNESCO, WHO
5. other awards of different grant-making bodies (private foundations, voluntary organizations)
6. Business companies
7. Prospective employers