



Potsdam
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

International Education & Programs (IEP)
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INCOMING EXCHANGE STUDENTS - REGISTERING FOR COURSES

Liberal Arts

A partial definition of “liberal arts” according to Wikipedia, “In the United States, Liberal arts colleges are schools emphasizing undergraduate study in the liberal arts. A full-time, four-year course of study earns the student either a Bachelor of Arts degree or a Bachelor of Science degree; on completing undergraduate study, students might progress to either a graduate school or a professional school (public administration, business, law, medicine, theology). The teaching is Socratic, to small classes, and at a greater teacher-to-student ratio than at universities; classes are taught by full-time teachers, rather than research professors or graduate student teaching assistants more often than at universities.”

Degree seeking students at a liberal arts college often declare a major or specific program of study. While taking classes in their specific program area, all students are also expected to take classes outside of their declared major such as math and English composition; biology or chemistry; history; art or music; philosophy or sociology for example.

There are many benefits of attending a liberal arts college: students are taught how to think, how to learn, how to communicate effectively (writing skills and orally); knowledge of other cultures, the physical and natural worlds; team work skills, personal and social responsibility are all developed. [Peter D. Hart Research Associates, Inc. “How Should Colleges Prepare Students To Succeed In Today's Global Economy? Based On Surveys Among Employers And Recent College Graduates.” *ACCU*. December 28, 2006. Web. June 26, 2009.]

Academic Advising

Work with your academic department at your home university to plan the coursework you will take while on exchange at SUNY Potsdam. Ideally you will choose coursework that will transfer and satisfy the necessary degree requirements at your home university to keep you on track to graduate when expected.

We understand some students come from a focused, concentrated, specialized degree curriculum that mandates study only within a specific program area. However, we strongly encourage all students to consider taking a course or two outside of their specified program area, if possible.

If you are coming from a highly specialized curriculum, UK’s three-year bachelor’s degree program for example, please understand classes taken outside of your program area may not satisfy any degree requirements at your home university but are to be considered value added coursework that enhances the academic component of your study abroad experience.



Getting Started

Incoming Exchange Students can explore SUNY Potsdam's major and minor offerings by accessing the following link. [Majors & Minors](#)

What classes do you need to satisfy your home institutions degree requirements? What interests you outside of your major? What are your career goals? What coursework would complement your current academic program and help you in your future career?

Please access our [Academic Calendar](#) which describes important dates including start/end of classes, student breaks, holidays and important reminders to add/drop/withdraw from classes.

Finding Classes

Use the online [Schedule of Classes](#) to search for classes that satisfy the requirements of your home institution and/or interest you. Please wait for the course listings to be posted (late March for the fall semester; mid-October for the spring semester) to ensure an accurate list of course offerings for the semester in which you are on exchange to SUNY Potsdam.

Access the [SUNY Potsdam Undergraduate Catalog](#) to see course descriptions and academic policies of the institution.

Pay attention to any special notes in the course listings such as:

- prerequisite (a course that is required prior to taking an advanced course)
- junior standing required (only third or fourth year students are allowed to take the class)
- instructor permission (prior permission from the instructor is required before registering for the course)
- Freshman Interest Group (any course with an "F" leading the section number is strictly reserved for [Freshmen or First Year Interest Group](#) students and is not available to the general student body)
- lab required (students must also take the lab concurrently with the lecture)
- online course (per U.S. immigration regulations, F-1 status students must register for a minimum 9 credits of in-classroom instruction and always maintain a total of 12 credits)
- \$40.00 studio lab fee assessed by Bursar (additional fee added to the student bill for supplies)
- course canceled
- etc.

Please ensure that there are no time conflicts with the courses you choose. Using a [Scheduling Worksheet](#) can help you organize your classes.

You must be registered for at least a total of 12 credit hours to maintain your F-1 Student Visa status in the U.S.



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Class Registration

In order for us to complete your schedule of classes and register you for courses, you must complete the [Course Registration Form](#) or provide us with the following information, preferably at least 8 weeks prior to the semester beginning:

- Course Name
- Course Number
- Course Code
- Course Section
- Number of Credits
- The time(s) and day(s) the course meets

Questions? Be sure to send an e-mail to [Bethany Parker-Goeke](#), International Education & Programs Coordinator.