



BerkeleyHaas

International Exchange Program

FAQ

2022-2023

Why should I consider going on the International Exchange Program?

There are many reasons – academic, professional and personal. Our partners are among the top business schools in the world. Taking classes at these institutions will give you a different perspective on business issues. Studying abroad will also allow you to polish your language skills, to delve into a new culture and to make friends. Many Haas students use their exchange semester to contact local firms with the goal of securing employment outside the Bay Area and outside the United States.

How many students can go on the International Exchange Program each year?

Typically, we send around 3-5 students each year. The number is a function of the size of the partner school's exchange program and the "balance of trade" between Haas and the partner school over time. Check with Justine Roades for current information on the schools you are considering.

What are the eligibility requirements?

1. You must be in good academic standing with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0.
2. You must have completed your core courses by the time of travel.
3. You cannot be working during your exchange. Because our exchange program is with full-time MBA programs, it is not feasible for you to study part-time while continuing to work. We encourage you to work closely with your employer to take a leave of absence.
4. You also must be a solid citizen at Haas. Exchange students are Haas ambassadors. Our exchange relationships depend in part on your good citizenship while on exchange. We reserve the right to deny applicants whose behavior while at Haas indicates they might endanger those relationships and prevent future Haas students from going on exchange to a particular school.

Website:

<https://haas.berkeley.edu/ew/mba/academics/international-exchange-program/>

Exchange Program Contact

Justine Roades
Associate Director
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Address:

2220 Piedmont Avenue
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When can I go on the International Exchange Program?

You can participate in either the Fall or Spring semester of your third year or Spring semester of your second year (though not all programs are available both semesters).

How and when do I apply? What are the selection criteria?

The application period is in March. All students are notified in the Bear Necessities about the dates for information sessions, the number of placements available at each school and the application deadline. This information can also be found on the [International Exchange Program website](#).

You must complete an application stating which school you want to attend, why going on exchange is relevant to your personal and professional goals, and how you would be a good Haas ambassador while abroad. If there is space available at the school you have selected, you are in good academic standing and we have no concerns about your ability to represent Haas, you will be offered a space at your chosen school. If demand for the school you selected exceeds supply, exchange students will be selected by lottery. Those who don't win the lottery are welcome to go to any other school where space is still available.

All offers for the exchange program are conditional on your maintaining a 3.0 GPA for all course work and successfully completing the MBA core before the exchange semester.

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How much will it cost?

Each exchange program is 10 units, no matter how many classes you end up taking at the partner school. You will pay your usual tuition and fees to the University of California for those 10 units, as if you were spending the semester at Haas. Some schools will require health insurance to be paid at the host school, but no additional tuition fees are paid to the exchange school, except perhaps secondary fees to use the computer center or other services, similar to the secondary fees you pay at Haas. Lodging, airfare, living expenses are not covered.

Will going on exchange affect my financial aid?

You should check with the Haas Financial Aid Office (finaid@has.Berkeley.edu) if you will need financial aid while on exchange. All paperwork should be completed and in order before your departure. Also, you must sign up for Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) via CalCentral so your financial aid proceeds can be deposited directly into a designated bank account. Budget appeals can be considered to augment the standard financial aid budget for some of the increased costs of studying on exchange.

How fluent do I need to be in the host country's language?

The degree of fluency in the local language required at each school varies. All partner schools teach many (if not all) electives in English. You should investigate the policy at the particular school you are interested in by visiting the school's website. Life outside the classroom will vary by country, as English is widely spoken in some countries, less so in others. In all cases, familiarity with the local language will be important to getting the most out of your exchange experience.

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What classes may I take?

You will only be able to take elective courses at the exchange school.

How will classes be credited toward my degree?

You must complete an equivalent of at least 10 units of coursework while on exchange. Before you depart, you will register for an assigned EWMBA Exchange Program class at Haas. Your exchange units will transfer back to your UC Berkeley transcript as a block of 10 units on a pass/no pass basis. You will receive an official transcript from your exchange institution that will show the specific courses completed and grades earned.

When will classes start?

Your classes will start at the normal date for the school you selected. Some are on the quarter system, so your summer break will be longer than usual. However, some schools offer a period of intensive language training for exchange students before regular classes start and/or a mandatory Orientation program in advance of the start of classes.

How do I get to the school I selected?

You must make and pay for your own travel arrangements.

How do I get a visa?

The partner school will provide the necessary documentation needed to get a student visa, but you are responsible for submitting the paperwork to the appropriate governmental agencies far enough in advance that you can start school on time.

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Will I be able to participate in on-campus recruiting?

Some of our partner schools have on-campus recruiting in the Fall and allow exchange students to participate. However, this may not be the case at the partner school of your choice, and/or the mix of employers recruiting there may not match your career goals. Thus, you should plan on a proactive job search.

How will going on the International Exchange Program affect my job search?

You may register for on-campus recruiting at Haas, receive all of the emails from the recruiting coordinator, and submit résumés and cover letters for interviews via fax or email attachments while on exchange. However, this is impractical unless you plan to fly back for each interview. Thus, if you are considering going on exchange, you also may have to plan a proactive job search, depending on your career goals and situation. If you are interested in industries that recruit primarily in the fall (e.g., consulting and investment banking) you should network and develop contacts in these industries before leaving Berkeley. You should stay in touch with these contacts and visit their European, Latin American, Asian or New York offices while you are on exchange. You may also consider flying back to campus for a week of interviews with firms in November, either on campus or elsewhere. In other fields, excellent career opportunities often become available during the Spring semester when you will be back at Haas. Students who are on exchange often put their résumés into the second-year résumé book, indicating in the education section of the résumé that they will be away for the Fall semester. If you do this, be sure to include the phone number and address number where you can be reached while away.

Website:

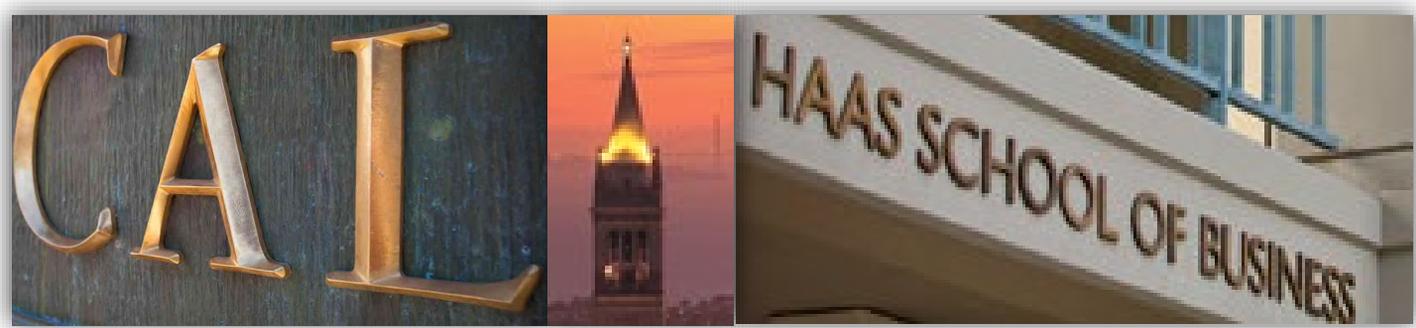
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Will I like it?

Studying abroad can be a wonderful chance to experience another culture and meet students from another part of the world. It also can be very challenging to find housing and negotiate a foreign city while keeping up with the academic demands of another top MBA program. We have a file of feedback from Haas students and alumni who participated in exchanges. You can ask them for their impressions and tips. During your first year, there are likely to be some second or third-year students on exchange from the schools you are considering. They are also a wonderful source of advice.

What happens if in-person instruction is cancelled?

Student safety is of the utmost priority to us here at Haas and to our partner schools. In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we cannot guarantee that in person exchange programs will not be cancelled. Host schools may choose to move their programs online or cancel for the semester. UC Berkeley may also choose to cancel all in person study abroad programs to ensure student safety or due to travel restrictions. If in-person instruction is cancelled and the host school offers their program remotely, students will have the option to take the program remotely. All of the regular exchange course load policies would apply.

All students who are offered and accept an exchange program will have the opportunity to participate in the regular EW Bidding process just in case their exchange program is cancelled. In the case that they do attend their exchange program, they will be able to drop the Haas classes during Add/Drop.

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