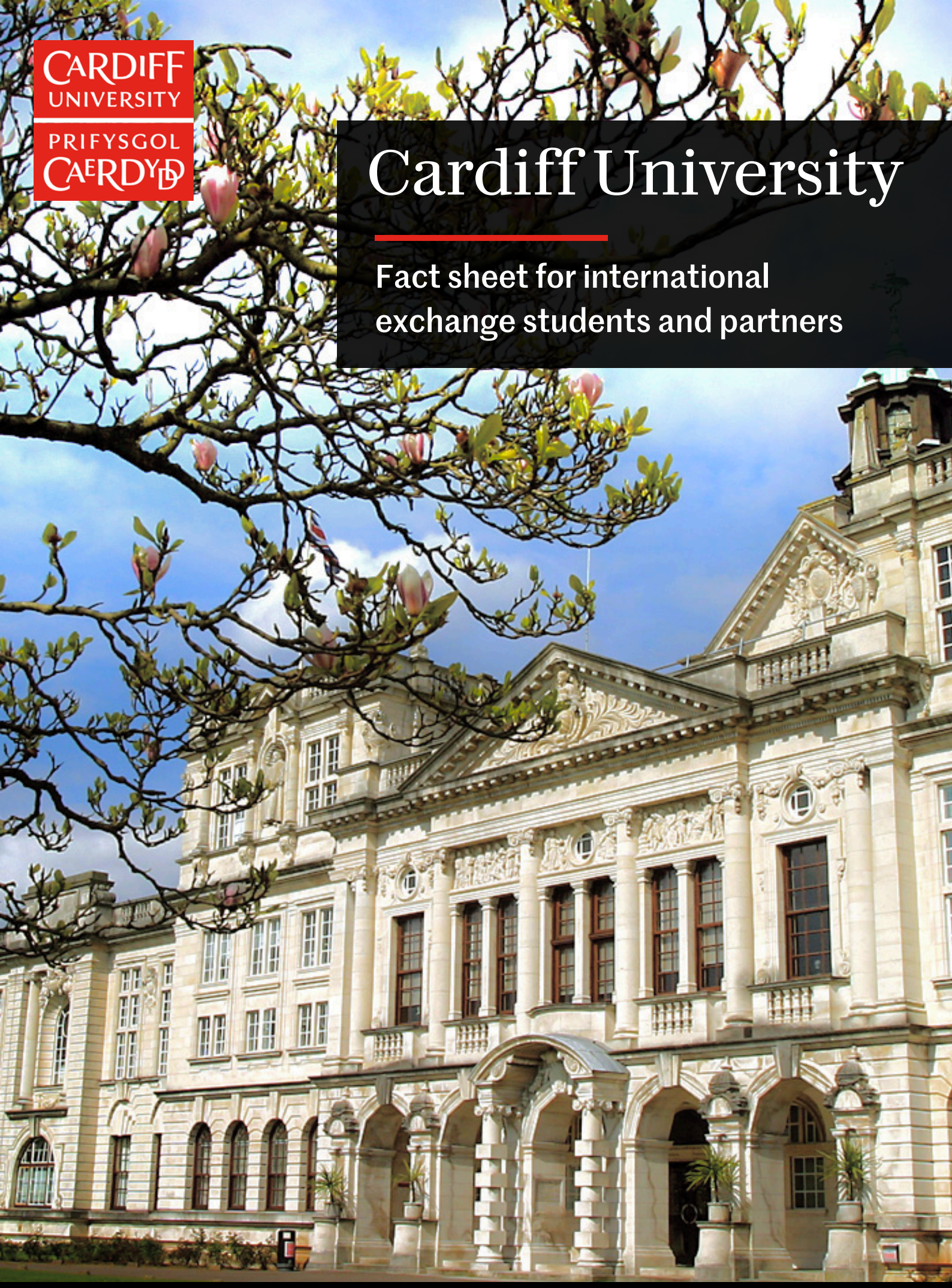
CARDIFF UNIVERSITY
PRIFYSGOL CAERDYDD

Cardiff University

Fact sheet for international exchange students and partners



Cardiff University International Exchange Programme 2026/27

ABOUT CARDIFF

- Capital of Wales.
- Located 2 hours (by train) from London.
- Voted 2nd best Students' Union in the UK.*
- Cardiff has been named the most affordable of all the UK's university cities.**
- Is among the top 25 universities in the UK.***



THE CITY

Cardiff is the capital and largest city in Wales and the tenth largest city in the UK. Its rich culture has a diverse range of influences from the Romans and Normans of antiquity to the industrial revolution and the coal industry –which transformed Cardiff from a small town into a thriving, international city.

Cardiff combines all the advantages of a compact, friendly and cost-effective location with the cultural and recreational facilities of a modern capital city. Cardiff University's campus sits within the city centre, with wide tree-lined avenues and elegant Portland stone buildings, it's an inspiring place to study.

THE UNIVERSITY

We are an ambitious and innovative university with a bold and strategic vision located in a beautiful and thriving capital city. Cardiff is a research-intensive university providing an educationally outstanding experience for our students. With 33,000 students and over 7,500 international students we are the 15th largest university in the UK in terms of student numbers.

Every student enrolled at Cardiff University is automatically a member of Cardiff Students' Union. Run by students for students, it offers an exciting programme of entertainment, diverse clubs and societies and a comprehensive range of welfare, advice and information services – all aspects of student life within a purpose-built complex. Students can take a look at our campus through our Virtual Interactive Tour.

*What Uni's Student Choice Award 2023, 2024, 2025
**2025 NatWest Student Living Index
***QS World University Rankings 2026

UNIVERSITY FACTS AND FIGURES

- Cardiff University has a student population of 33,000.
- There are 8,080 international students from more than 150 countries at Cardiff University.
- Cardiff's Students' Union has over 200 sports clubs & societies to choose from.

CLIMATE

Cardiff's climate is characterised by mild weather. Temperatures in the winter months (December to February) are an average high of 8°C and low of 2°C. During the summer months, (June to August) temperatures can vary with an average high of 22°C and low of 11°C.

TRAVEL

Cardiff is easily accessible and conveniently located. The Central railway station is Wales' largest and most popular station within 2 hours reach from the heart of London and Birmingham.



ACADEMIC CALENDAR

	Autumn semester	Spring semester
Induction period	28 September - 2 October 2026	25 - 29 January 2027
Classes begin	5 October 2026	1 February 2027
Class (exam) ends	29 January 2027*	18 June 2027

*There is the possibility of alternative assessments for some courses in the autumn semester only, meaning students can return home before the December break. At the enrolment stage, the Global Opportunities team can provide guidance on which modules this applies to.

ADMISSION

	Autumn semester	Spring semester
Nomination deadline	15 April 2026	1 October 2026
Application deadline	30 April 2026	15 October 2026

Academic Requirements:

Students must be of good academic standing (2.8/4.0 US GPA or equivalent) and have completed 1 year of continuous study at their home institution.

Minimum Language Requirement:

Visit our webpages for IELTS information.
Please note, there are also requirements for first language English speakers depending on type of visa required for your programme.

How to apply:

Students will apply online, instructions can be found on our How to Apply pages.

Application documents required to be submitted:

Academic transcript, academic reference,
personal statement, online provisional module selection form and passport copy.

Duration of study at host university:

One semester or one academic year.

COURSES AND REGISTRATION

Level of study:
Undergraduate

Semester course load:
60 credits per semester

Online catalogue: discover our online module catalogue here

Transcripts:
Transcripts are released to partner Universities once available.

Restrictions:

- Exclusions: Dentistry, Healthcare Sciences, Medicine, Optometry, Pharmacy, Architecture, and Law.
- Very limited spaces in Psychology and are reserved for applicants majoring in Psychology. We strongly recommend that students have completed at least one-year full-time study (or equivalent) in Psychology before applying for Psychology.
- Due to demand, priority for modules in some Academic Schools will be given to incoming students majoring in this discipline, especially with the Schools of Politics, History, Archaeology and Religion, English, Communication and Philosophy, and Biosciences.







ACCOMMODATION

Is on campus housing guaranteed?

Full-year students

Our Residences Office can guarantee an offer of a single occupancy place in university residences if you are studying with us for a full academic year providing you apply by the specified deadline.

One-semester

We endeavour to house students in university accommodation and will provide housing support to all incoming students.

Types and Fees: On-campus single occupancy bedroom. Fees currently range from approximately £5,800 - £8,000 per year. For single semester contracts, a pro-rata rate will be applied.

Housing Application Deadline: Application deadlines can vary - late July (Autumn/Full year), November (Spring).

Application Form: Available online via students login to Cardiff University student portal system (SIMS). Students must have received (and accepted) a formal offer before applying for accommodation.

Further information: Visit our Cardiff University Residences web page

VISA AND IMMIGRATION

Visa Requirements:

Full year students - Student Visa
Semester only students - Standard Visitor Route or Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA)

Visa Procedure: Depends on visa and nationality. Some students must apply in advance. Full guidance will be provided after acceptance.

Eligibility to Work: Student Route visa - Yes (restrictions apply) / Visitor Visa - No

Medical Insurance: If coming to the UK for more than six months (Student Route visa holders): will pay health surcharge to access UK's National Health Service. If staying less than six months: insurance is not required but is strongly recommended. Click here for further information about Insurance.



We've put together a list of important websites that may be useful for you to learn more about Cardiff University and the city.

CARDIFF UNIVERSITY STUDY ABROAD AND EXCHANGE WEBPAGE:
https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/international/study-abroad-in-cardiff

COURSE INFORMATION - MODULE CATALOGUE:
https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/international/study-abroad-in-cardiff/modules

STUDY ABROAD FEES AND LIVING COSTS:
https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/international/study-abroad-in-cardiff/fees-and-living-costs

WHY STUDY AT CARDIFF - STUDENT BROCHURE:
This is Cardiff (student brochure).pdf

CARDIFF UNIVERSITY MAIN WEBPAGE:
https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/

CARDIFF UNIVERSITY STUDENT LIFE:
https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/student-life

CARDIFF STUDENTS' UNION:
https://www.cardiffstudents.com/

ACCOMMODATION:
https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/international/study-abroad-in-cardiff/your-time-in-cardiff

> If you're considering studying in the UK, I highly recommend Cardiff. You'll have the chance to explore Wales, which is like a hidden gem filled with culture, beauty, and kindness.
> - Meghan, USA

> Making friends and finding a community of students is very easy due to how friendly all the students are and how many social opportunities there are in the form of events and unique clubs.
> - Aniko, Canada

VIDEOS ABOUT CARDIFF:

Click on the image to view the video:



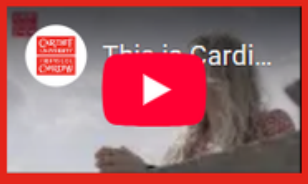
Reasons to love Cardiff - 1.05 mins



Student campus tour - 1.38 mins



Cardiff - Capital of Wales - 1.35 mins



This is Cardiff - 1.46 mins

CARDIFF UNIVERSITY
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Global Opportunities
Centre for Student Life,
Park Place,
Cardiff, UK
CF10 3BB

+44 (0)29 22 518 888 (ask for Global Opportunities)

https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/international/european-exchange

GO@cardiff.ac.uk

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