

Credit and Grade Policies

Partnership and Exchange Programs

As a Partnership or Exchange program participant, you will be a guest student at an institution that has a formal agreement with ASU. You are subject to and must comply with all the rules, regulations, procedures and policies in effect at both ASU and at your host institution or program provider. This means that you must follow enrollment requirements of your host institution or program provider, as well as those of ASU. You are also subject to and must comply with all the laws, rules and regulations governing your host city, county, state and country (or their cultural equivalent).

Your Status at ASU

You will maintain your academic status at ASU during your term(s) abroad through enrollment in a Global Education Office (GEO) placeholder course (SAO 196 for undergraduates or SAO 596 for graduate students). Students participating in semester or full-year study abroad programs must enroll in at least 12 ASU undergraduate credits (SAO 196), or 9 ASU graduate credits (SAO 596), per semester. Participants in summer programs will register for the appropriate number of credits of SAO 196/596, depending on the length and requirements of the program (usually between 3 and 12 credits).

ASU Online students must verify that their final enrollment abroad matches their placeholder course enrollment exactly. If you require help adjusting your placeholder units to accurately reflect your final onsite enrollment, please notify your GEO International Coordinator.

You will receive additional information from your GEO International Coordinator, but it is your responsibility to ensure you are enrolled in the appropriate number of SAO 196/596 placeholder course credits.

Academic Credit Policies

Students on ASU Partnership and Exchange programs can expect to earn ASU credit for all undergraduate courses that appear on the host institution's (or program provider's) transcript, including failed courses. However, ASU credit **will not** be awarded for the following:

- Internships that are not pre-approved by the appropriate departmental Internship Coordinator
- Courses that do not appear on your official transcript from the host institution
- Courses that you have already completed at ASU with a grade of "C" or better
- Courses that would not normally be provided through any ASU Academic Unit (e.g. Knitting).

ASU Partnership and Exchange program participants must maintain full-time enrollment at all times during the program (except during the summer when enrollment will depend on the number of credits offered on the program). You should be aware of the following guidelines regarding academic credit:

- All students participating in semester- or full-year Partnership or Exchange programs must complete the equivalent of at least 12 ASU undergraduate credits, or 9 ASU graduate credits, per semester. If you register for and/or complete fewer than 12 ASU semester undergraduate credits or 9 credits for graduate students, you will be in violation of the terms of participation in your ASU global education program and you may be removed from the program. Keep in mind that some scholarships may require you to earn more than 12 credits per semester while you are abroad.
- Participants in summer programs will enroll in anywhere from 3 to 12 credits depending on the length and requirements of the program. As programs vary greatly, so can fee structures and enrollment requirements. Contact your GEO International Coordinator early for guidance or if you have any questions on this.
- Following the instructions provided by your host institution or program provider, you are expected to register for the number of courses required by your program or by ASU, whichever is higher. You will enroll in classes AND register for your final exams following the procedures in effect at your program location. Please note that at some institutions, enrollment in a class does not include enrollment for the final exams, which may require separate registration. More information on course registration is available in the [Classes & Registration](#) section of the Global Education Office website.
- Please note that credit earned for pre-semester intensive language courses offered as part of your program will count toward the minimum ASU course-load requirements, as long as the credits are included on your official transcript from the host institution or program provider.

Grades/Grading Policies

All participants are required to complete their Partnership or Exchange program courses for credit and a grade. All such grades will be converted to ASU letter grades, which will ultimately be reflected on your ASU transcript and will be factored into your cumulative GPA, regardless of performance in a particular course. It is your responsibility to be aware of the following guidelines:

Pass/Fail Grades

You are only permitted to enroll in a course that offers pass/fail grading abroad if you are already enrolled in the minimum full-time credit requirement on the program. For example, if the requirement for the program is 12 ASU credits, you must be enrolled in at least 12 credits for a grade on-site before you can add a course with pass/fail grading. Courses completed abroad as pass/fail may be accepted as part of your regular course-load only if the ASU equivalent is offered as pass/fail. Speak with your GEO International Coordinator to clarify this process further.

Auditing Courses Abroad

You may only audit courses if you are already enrolled in the minimum full-time credit requirement. For example, if the requirement for the program is 12 ASU credits, you must be enrolled in at least 12 credits for a grade on-site before you can audit a course. Audited classes will not appear on your ASU record.

Incompletes

“Incompletes” will automatically transfer to ASU as a failing grade (E) unless it is verified that missed work can still be completed. Any changes to Incomplete grades must be made by the host university and a new transcript must be issued and sent to the GEO in order for a grade change to take place.

Credit and Grade Conversion Scales

ASU has approved credit and grade conversion scales for all Partnership and Exchange programs, which should be used as a guideline for determining how a particular credit amount or grade at your host institution will be reflected on your ASU transcript. These scales are published in the *View Pre-Approved Courses* and *Academics* sections of your program’s page on the GEO website. If you do not see a conversion scale published for your program there, please contact the appropriate GEO [International Coordinator](#) for additional information. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are familiar with the credit and grade requirements for your program and that you take an adequate number of credits while abroad, according to both ASU and the host institution.

When selecting courses to complete on your Partnership or Exchange program, you are expected to consider the following:

- GEO does not offer plus/minus grading on most Partnership and Exchange programs. Grades earned abroad are translated from the scale used by the host university to ASU’s standard grading scale of A, B, C, D, and E.
- As a guideline, please note that one unit of credit at ASU is based on 45 hours of work per semester (15 classroom contact hours plus 30 hours outside the classroom). However, different institutions around the world have varying requirements for the number of hours required per credit. For example, one course at your host institution may be divided in three parts: lecture, seminar and tutorial. So, a course on world geography may include a 1-hour lecture per week (you sit and listen to a professor), a 1-hour seminar (presentations and/or discussion on previously prepared material) and a 1-hour tutorial (questions/answers, guidance on preparation of assignments, post-assignment by the professor or a TA).

Course Equivalency Requests

By awarding ASU credits and grades for your global education program courses, GEO is helping you to (1) maintain full-time status, (2) utilize your financial aid to help pay for your program abroad, and (3) maintain progress toward completion of your ASU degree. In order for all of this to happen, an ASU course number and title (course equivalency) must be assigned to every course taken on your program through the Course Equivalency Request process. The Course Equivalency Request process is initiated by the participant, and is facilitated by the Academic Transfer Credit Solutions office in cooperation with GEO and all ASU academic units.

Many programs offer courses with pre-approved ASU course equivalencies; check the specific program page on the GEO website for a list of course equivalencies. If you cannot find evidence of a pre-established ASU course equivalency for any of the courses you intend to take while abroad, you are responsible for submitting an online [Course Equivalency Request Form](#), along with a detailed course syllabus, for each course. You may begin the Course Equivalency Request process at any time, but we strongly recommend that you submit your requests prior to the third week of your semester abroad to ensure timely approval. Please refer to [Earning ASU Credit & Grades: A Guide for Partnership & Exchange Program Participants](#) for a step-by-step guide to successfully establishing a new ASU course equivalency.

The goal of this process is to match your global education program courses with existing ASU courses. If the courses offered on your program have no specific ASU equivalencies, the credit will be established as ASU "Department Elective" credit. Department elective credit is used for courses that are not traditionally offered at ASU, but are deemed to be credit-bearing. The ASU equivalency will have an ASU academic prefix (e.g. "HST", "MGT"); followed by SA (to signify that the course was taken on a study abroad program) and the appropriate course level designation (e.g. 1DE, 2DE, 3DE, 4DE), and the title of the course as listed in English on your official transcript from the host institution or program provider. General Studies will be awarded where/when applicable.