

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
JOURNALISM AND MEDIA STUDIES CENTRE

JMSC Exchange Programme 2025–2026

The JMSC Exchange Programme is an academic exchange programme organized by the Journalism and Media Studies Centre (JMSC), aimed at providing an opportunity for students to study abroad at leading journalism schools. Successful candidates will attend one of the following institutions: the **Missouri School of Journalism, University of Missouri** or the **Philip Merrill College of Journalism, University of Maryland** in USA, **Danish School of Media and Journalism** in Denmark, **Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po)** in France, **The University of North Carolina** at Chapel Hill or **University of Navarra, Spain** for one semester in the academic year 2025-2026.

Application procedures

- Interested students, regardless of whether they have applied for the HKU Worldwide Undergraduate Student Exchange or the Faculty Level Exchange Programmes 2025–2026 should submit the application form for the JMSC Exchange Programme directly to the JMSC by 12:00 noon on December 13, 2024 (Friday). Late or incomplete applications will **NOT** be accepted.
- Appropriate candidates will be invited to attend an interview in January 2025 with notification by email in due course.

Notes to application

1. Student eligibility

- All non-final year BJ students are eligible to apply. Applications that are submitted by students who have previously been or are going to be on exchange under the HKU Worldwide Undergraduate Student Exchange Programmes or any other student exchange programmes organized by other faculties or department, **will NOT** be considered.
- Students can apply for the JMSC Exchange Programme, the Faculty Level Exchange Programme and the HKU Worldwide Undergraduate Exchange Programme, but only **one offer** can be made.
- Students who are required to fulfill the Global citizenship requirement are advised to apply.

2. Host institution / Course selection

Visit the website of the host institution of your choice to find out about that particular institution. Discuss with your teacher(s) and/or family about your choice or concerns (e.g. financial, academic, etc.), if any.

Once you have decided on a host institution, you should proceed to choose the subject area/courses that you wish to study. Course details/syllabuses are usually available at the homepage of the host institution. Make sure that exchange students are not restricted from taking the courses of your choice at that host institution.

Host institutions reserve the right to accept or reject students from enrolling in certain courses. Reasons may include limited quota, pre-requisite not met, course restrictions, etc. You should be prepared to add or drop courses when you pursue your study at the host institution.

Details on the partner institutions are available at:

- [Missouri School of Journalism, University of Missouri, USA](#)
- [Philip Merrill College of Journalism, University of Maryland, USA](#)
- [Danish School of Media and Journalism, Denmark](#)
- [Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris \(Sciences Po\), France](#)
- [The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA](#)
- [University of Navarra, Spain](#)

* Students should take note of the different academic calendar below:

University of Maryland	Fall semester: Sep-Dec	Spring semester: Jan-May
University of Missouri	Fall semester: Aug-Dec	Spring semester: Jan-May
Danish School of Media and Journalism	Fall semester: Aug-Dec	Spring semester: Jan-Jun
Sciences Po	Fall semester: Aug-Dec	Spring semester: Jan-Jun
The University of North Carolina	Fall semester: Aug-Dec	Spring semester: Jan-May
University of Navarra	Fall semester: Sep-Dec	Spring semester: Jan-Jun

3. Credit transfer

Students are strongly advised to transfer credits, in full or in part, gained from the host institution back to HKU as fulfillment of their degree requirements. Students pursuing double-degrees should note the restrictions on their curriculum structure and be prepared that full credit transfer may not be possible.

4. Tuition fee

Students are required to pay full tuition fees to HKU, while exempted from paying tuition fees to the host institution, regardless of whether the students transfer credits, or the number of credits the students plan to transfer back to the University.

5. English proficiency test

All selected candidates are required to submit proof of English proficiency (e.g. TOEFL or IELTS) to the host institutions with their exchange applications. If you have not taken any English language proficiency test, you must register in one of the tests immediately once you are short-listed for interview and report the test date to the JMSC. You should have your TOEFL or IELTS result ready by the end of February 2025 for the fall 2025-26 out-going exchange, and the end of September 2025 for the spring 2025-26 out-going exchange. The offer may be withdrawn if it is reasonably believed that the test result cannot be provided with the application to the host institution. (Please refer to [Appendix A](#))

6. Financial support

There are a limited number of scholarships and sponsorship opportunities to provide financial assistance to students. The [International Affairs Office \(IAO\)](#) will assign an appropriate scholarship to students according to your financial needs and academic standing once the application to the host institution becomes successful. For details, please check [here](#).

7. Selection criteria:

- academic standing;
- participation in extra-curricular activities and community services;
- personality, outlook and perspective;
- knowledge of Hong Kong's history and culture;
- communication skills;
- performance at the interview;
- a good ambassador of The University and of Hong Kong as a whole.

8. If your application is successful, you are required to:

- submit your *online application for admission* as an exchange student to the host institution before the deadline specified (*The online application link will be provided by the host institution*);
- apply for *leave of absence and credit transfer* via the Social Sciences Outgoing Exchange Study Credit Transfer Application System [here](#); Please refer to the "[Important Notes for Outgoing Exchange Students](#)" for more details.
- proceed to secure your own *accommodation* either on-campus or off-campus (if not taken care

- of by the programme) by contacting your host institution;
- check if you need a visa for the country in which you intend to study and obtain a visa if necessary;
 - purchase air-ticket and other personal necessities for life abroad;
 - purchase travel and medical insurances (note: all the three institutions offer mandatory insurance packages);
 - prepare all other costs incurred from your exchange studies, e.g. airfares, accommodation at host institution, local transportation, medical insurance, etc.;
 - inform your teacher(s), hall warden, departmental office and Faculty Office again of your exchange activity before you leave Hong Kong.

October 2024 (amended)

University	TOEFL	IELTS	Others
University of Missouri	Paper-based: 600 (no part score below 50)	Min. score 7.0 with no band below 6.0	
	Internet-based: 100 (no part score below 15)		
Sciences Po (can only go for exchange in Year 2, sem 2) Sciences Po only offer J-courses in Spring and our students have to complete at least 3 semesters before going exchange			French If the native language and/or the language of instruction at the home university is not French, undergraduate exchange students who intend to follow classes taught in French will require a French level of : TCF 400 or DELF B2.
			English If the native language and/or the language of instruction at the home university is not English, undergraduate exchange students who intend to follow classes taught in English will require an English level of : TOEFL IBT 80 or IELTS 6.
Danish School of Media and Journalism	Paper-based: 550	Min. score 6.5	
	Computer-based: 60		
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Internet-based: 100 or above (<i>preferable</i>) Computer-based: 250 or above. TOEFL iBT scores below 90 (or the equivalent on the other standard tests) will not be considered; applications with scores between 90 and 100 (or the equivalent on the other standard tests) will be reviewed along with other supporting documents, determined on a case-by-case basis.	Min. score 7.5	APIEL: 5
University of Maryland	Internet-based: 90 or above (Sectional scores: no lower than a 22 in each section)	Min. score 6.5 (Sectional scores: no lower than a 6.5 in each section)	If students who are required to submit proof of English proficiency do not meet the requirements above, then they will be required to take the class, Advanced English as a Foreign Language (UMEI005) through the Maryland English Institute at their own expense. This course meets two hours per day, five days per week in the fall and spring semesters. It is not offered in summer. Currently, the cost of UMEI005 is posted on the Maryland English Institute website as \$3,406.
Exemptions to English proficiency requirements:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Native English speakers o Students who have received a degree from an institution of higher education in the US (official transcript from US institution is required) o Students who have completed at least 7 years at an institution in an English speaking country (documentation of enrollment in this institution must be provided) o If UMD is partnered with an institution in a non-native English speaking country where students are taking ALL of their classes in English toward their degree program, then the partner institution must send a general letter/addendum to be added to the MOU stating that nominated exchange students have completed at least one-year of course work at their home institution before studying at UMD and all classes are taught in English at the home institution. In this instance, students will be exempt from providing English proficiency documentation. o If non-native English speaking students are taking their degree program at an institution in an English speaking country where all of their classes are in English and they have studied at that institution for one year, then they are exempt from providing English proficiency documentation. 			
University of Navarra, Spain	A language evaluation will be arranged by the University of Navarra		Applicants should have successfully completed a minimum of 60 credit hours and have a minimum GPA of 3.0. In addition, students must have successfully completed (or have credit by examination) for SPN 327G (Advanced Grammar and Composition), or equivalent, by the semester of participation.