

HOW YOUR DEGREE AWARD IS CALCULATED IF YOU ARE STUDYING ABROAD ON EXCHANGE FOR ONE TRIMESTER OR A FULL ACADEMIC YEAR

The Rule:

Final and penultimate stages (weighted) - The degree GPA is calculated based on all modules, including elective modules, which the student completed and passed to satisfy the credit requirements of the final and penultimate stages of the programme where the credit values and grade points of final-stage modules are weighted by a factor of 7 and those of penultimate-stage modules are weighted by a factor of 3.

“How does this apply to me?”

The modules that you pass while on study abroad will not be included in the GPA calculation. The weighting factors of the individual UCD modules will remain the same, but as there will be fewer UCD modules, each one will contribute a larger fraction of the degree GPA. One of the following calculations will apply:

EXAMPLE:

STUDY ABROAD FOR STAGE 3		
4 Year Bachelor of Engineering	3 Year BSc (Engineering Science)	
If you are going on study abroad for all of stage 3, and return with the equivalent of 60 credits, and choose to continue with the 4-year BE degree, your degree GPA will be based entirely on your grades in stage 4.	If you choose the 3-year BSc degree, your degree GPA will be based entirely on your grades in stage 2.	Degree GPA for progression to ME: 2.80
STUDY ABROAD FOR ONE TRIMESTER OF STAGE 3		
4 Year Bachelor of Engineering	3 Year BSc (Engineering Science)	
If you are going on study abroad for one trimester of stage 3, and return with the equivalent of 30 credits, and choose to continue with the 4-year BE degree, your degree GPA will be based on 30 credits from stage 3 and 60 credits from stage 4. The stage-3 modules will have weight 3, so will contribute 90 weighted credits to the total. The stage-4 modules will have weight 7, and contribute 420 weighted credits to the total.	If you are going on study abroad for one trimester of stage 3 and choose the 3-year BSc degree, your degree GPA will be based on 60 credits for Stage 2 and 30 credits for Stage 3. The stage-2 modules will have a weight 3, so will contribute 180 weighted credits in total. The stage-3 modules will have a weight 7, and contribute 210 weighted credits to the total.	Degree GPA for progression to ME: 2.80
<p>The mathematical formula is as follows: If a student takes N modules in a stage, with various credit values, and achieves grades that map to grade points, then the Degree GPA is calculated as;</p> $GPA_{\text{degree}} = \frac{3 \sum_{ip=1}^{N_p} C_{ip} \cdot P_{ip} + 7 \sum_{if=1}^{N_f} C_{if} \cdot P_{if}}{3 \sum_{ip=1}^{N_p} C_{ip} + 7 \sum_{if=1}^{N_f} C_{if}}$ <p>where the additional subscripts denote penultimate or final stage.</p>		

“What if I fail a module as part of my study abroad exchange, or am unable to take a module at the host institution?”

If you fail module(s), you may attempt to remediate the failure, or substitute the module at the host institution, provided the host institution can accommodate such a request.¹ If it is not possible to remediate or substitute the failed modules at the host institution, you must take the equivalent UCD version of the core module upon your return from study abroad. If the UCD equivalent module is a core module, the attempt at the UCD module will be treated as a repeat attempt, in accordance with the repeat grades and repeat grade points and assigned to the relevant Stage.² If the UCD equivalent module is an elective module, the full grade point may be awarded (formal substitution).³ In both cases, core and elective UCD modules taken upon return from study abroad will be included in your degree calculation, as above. Similarly, if you are unable to take a required module, because it was no longer on offer, or because of a timetable clash or pre-requisite restriction at the host institution, the attempt at the equivalent UCD module upon return from study abroad will be included in your degree calculation. However, in these cases, the full grade point will be allowed. It is important to note in all cases of undertaking study abroad that if you fail more than 10 credits (or equivalent), you will not progress to the following Stage upon your return from study abroad, and this has consequences (e.g., for students planning on continuing to Stage 4 of the BE, this would block access to the degree project, and delay graduation).

¹ [Academic Regulations 2024/25 V 2.1 section 5.3](#)

² [Academic Regulations 2024/25 V 6 section 5.5 c\)](#)

³ Refer to UCD Current Students - [Checking your Credits](https://www.ucd.ie/students/registration/checkingyourcredits/) (https://www.ucd.ie/students/registration/checkingyourcredits/)