

Meteorology Exchange Program

*School of Meteorology,
University of Oklahoma,
Norman, USA*



*Department of
Meteorology, University
of Reading, UK*

About the Exchange Program

It is important for meteorologists to have an understanding not only of their regional weather and climatic conditions, but also of these conditions around the world. This increased knowledge results in further understanding of meteorological principles and the ability to apply them in different conditions. To help achieve this goal, the exchange program between the University of Oklahoma, USA and University of Reading, UK was developed in an effort to give students first-hand experience of meteorology in another country. Both the University of Oklahoma and University of Reading are leading institutions in the field of meteorology in their respective regions. A semester long exchange typically takes place in the junior year for OU students and a full academic year in the 3rd year for Reading students. Over 100 students have participated in the meteorology exchange program.

About the University of Reading

The **University of Reading** is situated in an attractive campus close to Reading town center. It features a small lake, areas of woodland and historic buildings. Facilities for students are excellent with a wide range of extra curricular activities including many different sports (<http://www.reading.ac.uk/>). Like OU, Reading has one of the World's leading meteorology departments. In a recent UK government assessment, it was the highest rated department for weather and climate research, and in terms of teaching quality, it was rated 'Excellent' in government evaluations (<http://www.met.reading.ac.uk/>). Like SoM, the Reading Meteorology Department has also strong links with the national weather centre (the UK Met Office, <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/>). The National Centre for Atmospheric Science, the National Centre for Earth Observation and part of the Hadley Centre for climate research are located within the Department. The Department is housed in a modern building with excellent facilities. The number of UG students is small, typically 20 within each year's class. This encourages a "family" atmosphere in which staff and students get to know each other well.

Approved Course Equivalencies

The following course equivalency tables show typical course loads for students participating in the academic exchange program. Changes can be made, but the list of course taken abroad must be approved by the faculty liaisons and scientific advisers to guarantee that students remain on track with their degrees.

<i>Oklahoma Course</i>	<i>Equivalent Reading Modules</i>
METR 3123: Atmospheric Dynamics II	MT24A: Atmosphere and Ocean Dynamics and MT25F: Atmospheric Analogues
METR 3223: Physical Meteorology II	MT24B Atmospheric Physics
METR 3334: Principles of Research and Communication in Meteorology	MT39Z Undergraduate Short Project
METR 4970 Meteorology Electives [1 Reading course will count for 1 Oklahoma elective]	MT38B: Climate Change MT26E: Surface Energy Exchange MT38C: Numerical Weather Prediction MT38E: Atmospheric Electricity MT37J: Boundary Layer Meteorology MT4YD: Tropical Weather Systems Any other courses offered with approval

Application Process for OU-Students

Applications and selections for the Meteorology study abroad programs are handled by the School of Meteorology (SoM) and OU's Education Abroad Office. General information about the study abroad programs can be found at http://www.ou.edu/cis/education_abroad.html. SoM applicants must have a 3.0 GPA and must have passed the SoM courses METR 1003, 2004, 2213, 2613 with grades of B or better. They should also perform well in METR 3113 and 3513 in the fall semester of their junior year (we review midterm grades of these two classes before a final decision about admission to the exchange program is made). A general information session about all SoM exchange programs and the application process is held every year held at the beginning of the Fall semester. Applications are submitted online at the OU Education Abroad website and detailed application instructions can be found at https://www.ou.edu/cis/education_abroad/get-started. The faculty liaison (Dr. Elinor Martin) should be listed as a reference on the Education Abroad application.

The application deadline for Spring 2024 is October 1, 2023 . However, it is recommended that interested students speak to the Education Abroad advisor 6-7 months before the start of their intended semester abroad.

SoM students must also contact the SoM faculty liaison (Dr. Elinor Martin) and send them an email with a short statement why they want to study abroad (can be the same statement as the Education Abroad application). The SoM faculty liaison will then schedule a meeting with the student. After the meeting the faculty liaison will send the formal recommendation to the Education Abroad Office, which will review all materials and make decisions about the acceptance of the applicants. It is important to note that applications without the SoM recommendation letter are not processed by the Education Abroad Office. A decision by Education Abroad is made in October, and a final decision is made by the SoM by November 1. Students performing poorly in their fall courses may cause a reversal of an initial favorable decision.

Costs and Housing

Participants enroll in at least 12 INTL hours, paying OU tuition at the same rate as they would on campus. This total includes all standard fees, including college technology and program fees. Additionally, students pay a \$50 application fee once they submit their application with OU's Education Abroad Office. Students are also responsible for pre-departure (e.g. passports and housing deposits) and transportation costs, as well as living expenses while abroad. Financial aid, loans, grants and scholarships can all be applied to cover these costs of studying abroad. Information about possible scholarships to fund your study abroad can be found at https://www.ou.edu/cis/education_abroad/resources/money-matters. SoM students can also apply for a John T. Snow Study Abroad Scholarship and other scholarships with details in the SoM [undergraduate handbook](#).

OU Education Abroad also requires that all students participating in credit-bearing OU study abroad programs pay the international health and safety fee, which covers enrollment in OU's international health insurance plan, 24/7 risk management monitoring, and all other health and safety assistance provided. The cost of the international health and safety fee for a semester-long program is \$350.

The easiest option for housing is to get a room in a university hall of residence - equivalent to a dorm. Most halls of residence are located on or within walking distance of the campus. There is a choice of accommodation ranging from full board (all meals provided) to self catering (provide for yourself). Costs vary depending on the nature of accommodation but the average is about £140-230 per week for housing (<https://studyabroad.reading.ac.uk/incoming/accommodation/>).

Contacts at the University of Oklahoma

Dr. Elinor Martin

School of Meteorology, University of Oklahoma

E-mail: elinor.martin@ou.edu

Aaron Britton

Education Abroad, University of Oklahoma

Phone: +1 405 325 1693. E-mail: abritton@ou.edu

Contacts at the University of Reading

Dr. Claire Ryder

Department of Meteorology, The University of Reading

Phone: 44-118-378-6023, E-mail: c.l.ryder@reading.ac.uk

Chris Bonham

Study Abroad, The University of Reading

Phone: 44-118-378-7220 E-mail: studyabroad@reading.ac.uk