Exchange / Study Abroad Students – Academic Basics at SFU

Academic Course Loads and Course Units
All undergraduate exchange / study abroad students must be enrolled in a minimum of 9 units per term. All graduate exchange / study abroad students must be enrolled in a minimum of 6 units per term. This satisfies the requirements of our formal agreement with your institution, which requires that you maintain full-time status at SFU. It also satisfies the full-time status requirement for students residing in on-campus housing.

Requirements of your Home University
While SFU requires that you enrol in a minimum number of units per term, your home university may require that you take more units than SFU requires. You must satisfy the requirements, either the number of courses or number of units, as outlined by your home university. In most cases, our partner universities require students to complete 9 to 15 units per term at SFU.

If you have questions regarding the number of units you must take or the credits you will receive when you return to your university, contact your home university directly.

"W" & "Q" Requirements
Writing "W" and Quantitative "Q" designated courses at SFU have additional pre-requisites. For exchange and study abroad students this means that in addition to the departmental course pre-requisites, students must also meet the "W" and/or "Q" requirements. Please speak to International Services for Students (ISS) if you are not sure if you meet these requirements.

Course Pre-requisites
As a visiting, non-degree student our registration system has no record of previous course work you have taken outside of SFU. The system, therefore, does not recognize if you have taken course pre-requisites outside of SFU. In order to add new courses that have pre-requisites (or to enrol for classes for your second/third term at SFU) you must first seek permission from the academic departments or faculties involved. If you are staying for a 2nd or 3rd term, you will receive an email from ISS in your second month here with further instructions.

Course Changes: Adding/Dropping Courses
You must pay attention to administrative procedures and deadlines for course changes and withdrawals. If you do not complete the required procedures, miss a deadline, or if you wait too long to try to drop a course your transcript will show that you were enrolled in the course and a grade of F or N, both equal to zero (fail), will be listed on your transcript from SFU. Failing to attend classes does not constitute withdrawal from a course.

Please note: Other than dropping a course, which you can do yourself, all course changes must be completed by ISS staff or by the appropriate academic advisor. A list of all academic advisors can be found at sfu.ca/students/academicaovising/contact_us/sfu_advisors

Beedie School of Business
Access to courses in the Beedie School of Business (BUS) at SFU is restricted to Business majors from SFU’s approved Business partner institutions. If you wish to add a BUS course to your timetable, you must be from an approved partner institution. Students from other institutions will normally not be eligible to enrol in BUS courses at SFU.

Course approvals and enrolment for all undergraduate BUS courses is completed by the Beedie School of Business.

Transcripts
International Services for Students will automatically send one transcript to your home institution on your behalf for free. If you need any additional official transcripts they can be ordered via the following link. There is a fee for ordering additional transcripts: sfu.ca/students/records/transcript

Questions?
Email: exchange@sfu.ca
International Services for Students
MBC 1200