

Three Steps to Select Classes at the University of Birmingham

1. Look at the University of Birmingham's list of classes at:

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/International/study-abroad/study-abroad-incoming/study.aspx>

Each College at Birmingham will have its own separate course catalog. At least half of your credits should be from one college, except for KU Honors Program students.

College of Arts and Law (Birmingham Law School; English, Drama and Creative Studies; History and Cultures; Languages, Cultures, Art History and Music; Philosophy, Theology and Religion)

College of Engineering and Physical Sciences (Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Metallurgy and Materials, Physics and Astronomy)

College of Social Sciences (Business, Education and Social Justice, Government and Society, Social Policy)

College of Life and Environmental Sciences (Biosciences; Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences; Psychology; Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences)

Liberal Arts and Natural Sciences (Honors Program)

Each College can have a different format for their catalog, so what you see may vary slightly from these instructions. Most Birmingham undergraduate degrees are three years. First year courses are "Certificate Level". These will usually show up in the "module level" of a class as either "C" or "LC". Second year courses are "Intermediate Level", and these will usually listed as "I" or "LI" in Birmingham's catalogs. Third year courses are "Honours Level", and are usually listed as "H" or "LH". Some subjects will have "Foundation Level" courses, labelled "F" or "LF". These are taught for students who need some additional academic work to satisfy pre-requisites for first-year courses, and are not generally suitable for KU credit, though occasionally there are exceptions. Some colleges will neatly arrange their courses by year, and split them into fall and spring lists, while others seem to have a very random approach to catalog organization.

British universities use the term "Module" to describe an individual class. Each module will list the number of credits the module is worth, as well as the academic period the module is taught. "Semester 1" modules are taught in the fall and "Semester 2" modules are taught in the spring. "Full Term" and "Semester 1&2" are full academic year courses, and cannot be taken by a student studying in Birmingham for one semester.

It is the opinion of KU Study Abroad & Global Engagement that first-year Birmingham modules (Certificate Level) are the equivalent of 100- and 200-level KU credit; second-year Birmingham (Intermediate Level) modules are the equivalent of 300-level KU credit; third/final-year Birmingham modules (Honours Level) are the equivalent of 500-level KU credit. *EACH KU ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT* makes its own determination of appropriate KU credit, and is within its rights to approve credit differently than per these suggestions.

Here is how Birmingham credits convert to Kansas credits:

Birmingham	Kansas
60	15
20	5
15	4
10	~2.5-3

Many Birmingham classes are worth 5 KU credits. You may find that the relevant KU department will need to approve the five credits as one three-credit KU class with an additional two-credit class. You can find examples of this on the Birmingham/Kansas course equivalency list in the second section of this document.

In addition to the information listed in the example above, individual module descriptions will also list required pre-requisites (if applicable), incompatibility with other indicated modules, module objectives, syllabus, teaching methods, study expectations, reading lists, methods of assessment and exam structure.

2. Learn how Birmingham course equivalencies at:

<http://studyabroad.ku.edu/course-equivalencies>

Type “Birmingham” in the search box to get a complete list of courses at the University of Birmingham that are currently pre-approved for KU credit and courses that were approved for KU students in the past. Clicking on the “Download to Excel” button after executing your search will provide additional details on the courses, such as which semester the course has been offered in the past.

Bear in mind that this list has “possible equivalency” and “approved equivalency” courses listed. “Possible equivalency” does not grant automatic approval for you. You will need to get this type of Birmingham course approved for yourself, just as you will for Birmingham courses that do not appear in the course database. Modules are only offered once each academic year, so be sure to check the Birmingham module catalogs on-line (Step 1 of this document) to make sure a module you like on the list is available during the semester you are studying abroad. The course database is NOT A COMPLETE LIST of what you could take at Birmingham. It is only a list of what KU students have gotten approved in the past.

If a module you found in the course database is not on the Birmingham module catalog website, that module is either not being offered now, or is unavailable to study abroad students.

3. Bring course descriptions and/or syllabi for the Birmingham modules you are interested in taking to the relevant KU faculty study abroad advisor. A list of these advisors can be found at:

<https://ku.studioabroad.com/?go=FacultyDeptAdvisorList>

Some advisors may require that you schedule an appointment. Some may need a few days to review your materials. Please start making arrangements to get modules approved as soon as you can, as the process can take some time. Be sure to bring along a copy of your KU Advising Report to assist the advisor. Be familiar with your degree’s requirements. The more prepared you are for meeting with an advisor, the easier it will be for the advisor to assist you.

The form that needs to be completed by the advisor is part of the KU on-line study abroad application. Copies can also be obtained from the OSA front desk. Ask for the Academic Plan and Approval Form.

It is always a good idea to get two or three alternate Birmingham modules approved. Birmingham’s semester timetables are not usually released until just before the start of a semester, so you may encounter timetable clashes upon your arrival in Birmingham. Having some alternate modules already approved will make your Birmingham module registration process much less stressful for you.