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University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific

**UMAP  
CREDIT  
TRANSFER  
SCHEME**

**INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS**

**ASSISTING UNIVERSITY STUDENT  
EXCHANGES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

# What is Student Mobility?

The term student mobility refers to the growing practice of students, particularly university undergraduates, spending part of their course of study at a university in another country.

## Why do students study at foreign universities?

Sometimes spending time at a foreign university is a requirement for completion of the student's degree. This is quite common when the course is specialising in the language or another aspect of another country.

On other occasions students choose to spend time at a foreign university to broaden their understanding of a different country, its culture, language economy and people.

## How can students arrange to study at a foreign university?

Arrangements for students to enrol at a foreign university are either made by the student, or the home university. In many cases the enrolment will be arranged as part of a formal exchange agreement between two universities. In other cases students act independently.

## How long do students enrol for?

Generally when students study at foreign universities, whether to fulfil their course requirement or for personal reasons, they will enrol for a minimum of one term or one semester. In some cases they may stay longer.

## Is credit given for study undertaken at a foreign university?

No, credit is not automatically given by universities for time spent or courses taken by their students at a foreign university. Indeed this lack of recognition of study undertaken at a foreign university is one of the major impediments to student mobility.

# What is UMAP?

UMAP is the acronym for an organisation called *University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific*. UMAP was founded in 1994. It is a voluntary association of government and non-government representatives of the higher education [university] sector in the region.

## Who are the members of UMAP?

UMAP membership is open to countries, territories and administrative regions in the Asia-Pacific region. Members can be represented by government higher education departments or ministries, individual universities, university umbrella organisations, or a combination of these. Individual persons are not eligible to be members.

## What is the general aim of UMAP?

UMAP aims to achieve enhanced international understanding through increased co-operation between higher education institutions, and especially through increased mobility of higher education students and staff.

## How does UMAP assist student mobility?

The UMAP Student Exchange Program is the main means used by UMAP members to assist student mobility. Under the Program universities are encouraged to negotiate bilateral agreements which detail the conditions under which student exchanges take place.

The exchange agreements cover matters such as selection of participating students and staff, approval of study programs, provision of any necessary language training and practical support through assistance with accommodation and other student services.

## Does UMAP provide funds for student or staff exchanges?

No, the UMAP organisation does not have funds to assist individual exchanges. In several UMAP countries governments fund national UMAP programs. Under UMAP student fees are waived.

Funding arrangements for exchanges are agreed between the sending and receiving institutions. The institution-to-institution agreements deal with questions such as maintenance of scholarship benefits, eligibility for government funding assistance and health care costs.

## How do students apply for a UMAP exchange?

In the first instance students should contact the office responsible for international student exchanges at their university.

# What is the UMAP Credit Transfer Scheme?

The *UMAP Credit Transfer Scheme* [UCTS] is a trial program established under UMAP to promote university student mobility in the Asia Pacific region. University participation in the trial is voluntary and not all universities in the region will participate in it.

## What is the objective of the UCTS?

The objective of the UCTS is to increase student mobility by ensuring that credit is received by students for study undertaken when on exchange with other universities.

## How does the UCTS work?

UMAP member countries, territories and administrative regions, and their universities, are working towards standard arrangements for recognition of study undertaken by exchange students.

To participate in the UCTS, the exchange student, the home institution and host institution need to complete a credit transfer agreement in advance of the exchange.

The standard arrangements take into account the student workload and grades achieved at both the home and host institution. Agreed scales are then used to convert both the workload and grades from the host institution to that of the home institution.

## Who does a student contact to make credit arrangements?

To ensure that credit can be received all arrangements should be completed well before a student enrolls at a foreign university. To do this the student should contact the office at their university responsible for international student exchange matters. Information on who to contact can also be obtained from the UCTS National Contacts shown on the last page of this pamphlet.