 Semester Exchange

USC Thornton School of Music
Contemporary Division
TOPICS COVERED

• Overseas Partners for Contemporary Music Majors
• Tools to Plan Semester Abroad
• Action Steps
• Application Deadlines
• Audition Requirements
Overseas Institutions for Contemporary Division

- Amsterdam Conservatory
- CODARTS Rotterdam
- Paris Conservatory
- Norwegian Academy of Music
- Royal Northern College of Music
- Sibelius Academy
My Goal at Thornton: assist students envision the possibility to practice, perform and network overseas.

Nurture your ongoing creative process by experiencing a new environment. Flourish as musicians. Thrive as creatives.

Studied, Research & Volunteer Abroad: Berlin, Prague, Oaxaca, Punta Gorda & San Ignacio

Appointment: calendly.com/nevarezj

Email: nevarezj@usc.edu

Virtual Drop-In Hours for Winter Break:
• 9:45a-10:45 Tuesday
• 11:45a-12:45p Wednesday
• 2:45p-3:45p Thursday
• 4:45p-5:45p Friday
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<th>Exchange</th>
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<td>GPA</td>
<td>3.0 and above</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic Status</td>
<td>Fulltime status, currently enrolled</td>
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<td>Language Requirement</td>
<td>Depends</td>
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### How Do I Choose an Overseas Institution?

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<tr>
<th>Best Academic Fit</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Costs</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Interest in faculty</td>
<td>• Genuine interest in culture, performance opportunities, music scene, etc.</td>
<td>• More/less than a semester on-campus</td>
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<td>• Maximize major credit (stay on track)</td>
<td>• Cultural immersion</td>
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<td>• Complement your studies on campus</td>
<td>• Opportunity to explore local cities</td>
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Starting Point: Exploring & Applying

**EXPLORE**
Research Your Options
- 10-14 months prior to departure
  - Attend Thornton International Programs Information Session
  - Research Program Options for your major
  - Confirm if there is a language requirement needed to study at Host Institution (i.e., French, Norwegian, Swedish, or Finnish).
  - For questions on how to find courses abroad, contact International Programs Coordinator, music.intl@usc.edu.

**APPLY**
Gather & Upload Forms
- 9-12 months prior to deadline
  - Speak with Thornton International Programs Coordinator
  - Complete Study Abroad Planning Tool
  - Apply, or renew, your passport
  - **When to Apply:**
    - Apply spring of sophomore year to Thornton’s Exchange Application:
      - Opens: November 15
      - Deadline: January 22
    - Submit your Exchange Application on EASY by host institution’s unique deadline
## Student Responsibility To Select Courses

**STEP 1:** Complete Course Planning Tool with Academic Advisor

**STEP 2:** Submit Academic Learning Agreement with Tentative Courses *(before departure)*

**STEP 3:** Revise Academic Learning Agreement after attending courses at overseas institution

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**PREPARE & REGISTER**

**Finalize Plans Abroad**

6-9 months prior to departure

- Complete Pre-Departure requirements
- Plan a budget
- Apply for study abroad scholarships

*Complete the following the semester before your departure:*

- Get your Academic Learning Agreement approved
- Register to appropriate section of USC 300 Overseas Block Enrollment
- Confirm USC Financial Aid Package for semester abroad

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### Course Planning Tool

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number/Title at Host Institution</th>
<th>Type of Degree Requirement Anticipated</th>
<th>Credits Abroad</th>
<th>USC Credits</th>
<th>Thornton Course Number / Equivalency</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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**Important Notes:**

- Final courses approved by Thornton Academic Advisor should appear on Academic Learning Agreement when applying for Exchange Program
- All General Education requirements must be completed at USC
Curated Study Abroad Timelines

Available on Thornton International Programs website > "How To Apply"

If you have taken a Leave of Absence due to COVID19, your academic timeline may have shifted.

Or course sequences may have changed.

Please consult with your Academic Advisor.

Rule to thumb: The semester which you are eligible for an exchange—varies from student to student.
Thornton Pre-Selection Application

Platform: SlideRoom

Start: 11/15/2020  Deadline: 01/22/2021  Grace Period: 2 days

Application Fee (USD): $25.00
Semester Exchange Application Timeline

Thornton Pre-Selection
- Open: Nov. 15th
- Closes: Jan. 22nd

Thornton Decision
- Rolling Basis
- Final Notification: Jan. 29th

European Application
- EASY Platform
- Instructions will be provided by Jessica Nevarez
Amsterdam Conservatory
Programs of Interest

Languages: predominantly English & Dutch

JAZZ

POP
Application Details

Application: February 1 to March 15

Students must submit their completed application through EASY platform

• EASY access will be provided by Jessica Nevarez after students complete Thornton Pre-Selection Application

Audition Guidelines: 20 minutes of audition recordings

• 3 recordings of songs (at least one of the songs should be an original composition) max upload mp3 is 10 Mb
CvA Housing

No on-campus housing

Students are responsible for finding their own housing.

Finding living space in Amsterdam is difficult. It is advisable to search for a room as quickly as possible. To this end, you can register with Room, even if you are not a student yet, but planning to study in Amsterdam.

Recommended area to stay: North Amsterdam or outskirts of city

- Campus is 5 minutes away from Central Station
- Ferry connecting North Amsterdam is scheduled to depart/arrive every 5 minutes
## Amsterdam Conservatory Budgeting

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CODARTS Rotterdam
Programs of Interest

- Languages Spoken: predominantly English & Dutch

- Production

- Pop & Songwriting
CODARTS Application Details

Application Deadline: March 31

Students must submit their completed application via email

- Form will be provided by Jessica Nevarez once CODARTS is listed on Thornton Pre-Selection Application

Audition Guidelines: 20 minutes of audition recordings

- 3 recordings of songs (at least one of the songs should be an original composition) max upload mp3 is 10 Mb)
CODARTS Housing

Finding accommodation in Rotterdam can be a challenge.

CODARTS has partnered with HousingAnywhere.com to make sure you can book your room with priority and in complete safety. Only if you successfully find a room, a small booking fee will be charged.
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Paris Conservatory
Programs of Interest

The recommended level of French language proficiency is B1, according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

The B2 level is required for sound engineering students. *mostly taught in English

Weekly French classes are offered to the incoming exchange students.

Educational Philosophy Leans Towards A Mid-century European & Avante Garde Focus

JAZZ & IMPROVISED MUSIC

PRODUCTION (Sound Engineering)
CNSMD Paris: Application Details

Application: February 1 to March 15

Students must submit their completed application through EASY platform.

Audition Guidelines:

For jazz students: the duration of the recording should be 15 to 30 minutes and should include:

1. a jazz standard in which the candidate plays solos and intervenes with the rhythm section or group
2. A composition by the candidate or, in the event that s/he does not compose, the arrangement of a piece of their choice (with the rhythm section) which highlights his aesthetic preferences
3. a free solo improvisation

For sound engineers: three personal audio or audio-video productions
CNSMD Paris:
Housing

TBD

Meeting with Paris Coordinator Nov. 18th
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Norwegian Academy of Music
Programs of Interest

Languages spoken: Norwegian & English

CONTEMPORARY INSTRUMENTAL DISCIPLINES (Pop)
*fusion with Scandinavian folk music

JAZZ & IMPROVISED MUSIC
*fusion with Scandinavian folk music
NMH Application Details

Application: Dec 1 to March 5
Students must submit their completed application through EASY platform
  • **EASY access will be provided by Jessica Nevarez after students complete Thornton Pre-Selection Application**

Audition Guidelines:
  • Recording(s), preferably video, totaling 15 to 20 minutes.
  • Submit 15 to 20 minutes of audition recording. Videos can be uploaded in most file formats. They can also be attached as a link to Vimeo, SoundCloud, YouTube or Dropbox.
NMH Housing

No campus residences and student housing in Oslo is in short supply

The cheapest and most secure way to find a suitable flat in Oslo as a student is to apply for student housing through the student welfare association, SiO. You should plan and apply for a SiO residence well in advance to your arrival.
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Royal Northern College of Music
Programs of Interest

Languages spoken: English

Pop & Songwriting
RNCM
Application Details

Application Deadline: mid-March

Students must submit their completed application by email
• More details will be available after November 19th

Audition Guidelines:
• All applicants are required to play two (2) pieces that contrast in style. The recording should last approximately fifteen (15) minutes.
• Please submit high quality, authenticated VIDEO recordings – we are happy to accept e-mailed web links (e.g. YouTube, DropBox) or a hard-copy DVD. Please note we cannot accept audio recordings.
RNCM: Housing

TBD

Meeting with Manchester Coordinator Nov. 19th
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Sibelius Academy
Programs of Interest

Languages spoken: Finnish, Swedish, and English

Jazz
Sibelius Application Details

Application: January 10 to February 28

Students must submit their completed application through EASY platform

- *EASY access will be provided by Jessica Nevarez after students complete Thornton Pre-Selection Application*

Audition Guidelines:

- A video recording of your playing or singing is required.
- The video or the link to the video needs to be uploaded to the application system. You may choose the works freely; 2-3 pieces in contrasting styles.
- Total length of the recording should not be longer than 20 minutes. Videos can be attached as a link to Vimeo, SoundCloud, YouTube or DropBox. You can also upload videos in most file formats. The size of the uploaded files should not exceed 100MiB.
Sibelius: Housing

Students have two options:

- **Off-campus Housing**: use online platforms
  - *Recommended to live in the outskirts of Helsinki*

- **On-Campus Housing**: submit application on Klavis
  - *very expensive*
# Sibelius Academy Budgeting

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