



Policy on Student Mobility

Approved on: 25th August 2024

Approved by: Academic Senate

Contact Person: Registrar

Effective Date: 1st September 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set out the principles for student exchange, study abroad and other student mobility program arrangements. This policy applies to all The Maldives National University (MNU) undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

2. Scope

This policy will be implemented in the event of student mobility (inbound or outbound)

3. Definitions

Exchange Mobility means overseas study completed under an exchange agreement between MNU and another educational institute.

Faculty: includes MNU Faculty/School/Centre.

Global mobility: study or other academic activity undertaken overseas consistent with this policy.

Inbound students: Students of overseas educational institutes who undertake studies at MNU

Mobility credit: graded or ungraded credit awarded to a student after successful completion of global mobility under this policy.

Outbound students: Students of MNU who undertake studies at overseas institutions.

Short-term
exchange
mobility:

exchange mobility undertaken in breaks between terms or over a period less than one term.

Term exchange
mobility:

exchange mobility undertaken for one or two terms.

4. Policy Statement

4.1. Policy Statement

- 4.1.1. The arrangements for student mobility programs shall be negotiated and documented through formal institution-to-institution student exchange agreements.
- 4.1.2. The MNU Registrar's Office will establish and maintain a register of all exchange partner institutions.
- 4.1.3. All inbound and outbound students on mobility programs must meet the admission requirements including language requirements, criteria, and standards of the host institution.
- 4.1.4. Students who enroll in a student exchange program within a formal exchange agreement must enroll in "exchange" units at MNU prior to departure overseas in order to obtain assistance in credit transfer. Students are subject to the policies, terms, and conditions at their host institution unless agreed otherwise between MNU and that host institution.
- 4.1.5. Approval for a student to undertake a student mobility program will be granted in accordance with the selection criteria and subject to the availability of places. Where there is competition for available places, selection will be merit-based.
- 4.1.6. Outbound students in all courses must have successfully completed at least one term of study at MNU.
- 4.1.7. All inbound and outbound students on mobility programs must agree to be responsible for all costs not covered through the arrangement between both institutions

4.2. Inter-institutional arrangements

- 4.2.1. Student exchange opportunities will be available at institutions with which MNU has formal student exchange agreements. The number of exchange opportunities available will be identified through such agreements.

4.2.2. Student exchange programs are designed to be cost-neutral to each of the institutions involved. For this reciprocal arrangement to be effective, MNU will take measures to ensure a balance in the number of incoming and outgoing students over the life of the agreement.

4.2.3. Inbound students will be issued with an official MNU academic transcript recording the credit points and grades they received for the subjects in which they were enrolled. It is the student's responsibility to seek credit with their home institution for studies undertaken at MNU.

4.3. Periods of Student Exchange and Study Abroad Programs

4.3.1. Student Exchange/ Study Abroad may be undertaken for one term.

4.3.2. All students undertaking student exchange and study abroad (outbound) for one term, must be enrolled for the equivalent of a full-time load (i.e. equivalent to no less than 60 credit points for one term).

4.3.3. Grades and credit points will not be assigned for short-term international programs except where the program forms part of a subject of a course.

4.4. Periods of Short-term International Programs

Short-term programs will involve a period of study less than 15 weeks. Such study programs, which may form an elective part of a subject within an accredited degree course, will be approved by the Registrar, and recorded on the student's academic transcript.

4.5. Credit for Outbound Student Mobility Programs

4.5.1. Credit for participation in student mobility programs is subject to the terms and conditions of the policy on Recognizing Prior Learning and Transfer of credit.

4.5.2. Outbound students who are approved to participate in student exchange and study abroad must negotiate their study program with the Batch coordinator and the Registrar and have the formal approval of the Registrar for their study plan prior to departure, for the purposes of credit transfer. Outbound students will be awarded credit as agreed in the approved study program.

4.5.3. Outbound student exchange and study abroad students may vary their proposed study plan while overseas but must receive approval by the Batch coordinator and Registrar to do so.

- 4.5.4. Inbound students must submit an intended study plan as part of their initial application to study at MNU. That plan must be formally approved by the Registrar prior to the student enrolling at MNU.
- 4.5.5. Credit, not grades, will be awarded to outbound students for study on student mobility programs, and only, after the receipt of an original transcript from the host institution. However, for similar subjects undertaken an equivalent grade can be given.

5. Selection Criteria and Condition

To be eligible to apply to participate in MNU's outbound student exchange program, students must:

- 5.1. Be enrolled in an award program at the University in the term of application which is full-time.
- 5.2. Have a minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 2.0 at the time of application.
- 5.3. Have completed a minimum of 60 credit points of study towards a degree at MNU by the time of application,
- 5.4. Have a study plan developed in consultation with the Batch coordinator and approved by the Registrar.
- 5.5. Meet any other requirements stipulated by an individual academic element of the University or the host institution/provider, which may include evidence of a student's language competence.
- 5.6. Should not have any record of disciplinary issues.

6. Responsibilities

- 6.1. All outbound students who are undertaking a student exchange program must complete a Student Mobility Agreement prior to departing the Maldives.
- 6.2. All outbound and inbound students participating in a student mobility program must provide evidence of having adequate and appropriate travel and health insurance.
- 6.3. All outbound and inbound students must have evidence of visa approval from the host country.