

National Student Exchange

OUTGOING STUDENT DETAILED INFORMATION 2017-2018
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

SPECIAL ENROLLMENT REQUEST FORM

You have already received a copy of the Special Enrollment Request Form (SERF) or AS30 Form. If you haven't already done so, you need to complete this form before you leave campus and return a copy to the Student Success Center, Financial Aid Office, and the Office of the Registrar, at 1244 Blossom St. Please work with your academic advisor to review the course catalogue at your host school and select more than enough classes to be approved. On the form, select "E: Transient study through the National Student Exchange Program." Your academic advisor and the dean of your college need to sign the form approving the courses you plan to take at your host campus and the courses they will be credited for at USC. The form can also be found online at, <http://registrar.sc.edu/pdf/AS-30e.pdf>.

Your SERF needs to be updated any time you change your schedule at your host campus.

ACADEMICS AND OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

You are expected to maintain a 2.75 GPA prior to exchange and while on exchange. If you fall below the 2.75 GPA requirement, your exchange may be terminated. You are also expected to regularly attend classes at your host institution. Please keep in mind that you are **not allowed to enroll in any USC classes (including online) while you are on exchange**. You may only take courses from your host institution.

Before you leave your host campus you need to submit a request for your official transcript to be sent to the Office of the Registrar at USC. Each host campus will have a unique procedure for requesting an official transcript, so follow their procedure and pay any associated fees. We suggest checking on this process when you first arrive so that you do not forget. Many campuses also offer the option to pre-request a transcript, meaning they will hold the request until the current semester's grades are posted. Your official transcript should be mailed to:

University of South Carolina Registrar
1244 Blossom St.
Columbia, SC 29208

DIRECT DEPOSIT FOR OVERAGE CHECKS, FINANCIAL AID, AND COSTS

If you typically receive financial aid, you **SHOULD** continue to receive that aid. **YOU** should confirm this with Financial Aid. If your aid balance exceeds the balance of your tuition bill, you will receive an overage check and be able to use that money to pay a bill at your host school. To make this process easier and faster we recommend setting up direct deposit to a bank account you can access. You can do so by taking a voided check from the account you wish to use to the Bursar's Office at 516 S. Main Street. They will have a form for you to complete as well. If you have questions about your financial aid, please contact the Financial Aid Office at 803-777-8134. You can ask for our contact, Tara Gibbs.

Any extra costs (host campus room and board, other student fees, NSE activity fees, transportation costs, etc.) are your responsibility and should be arranged either with your host institution or on your own.

ASSESSMENT

As an outgoing NSE student, you are required to participate in several different assessment measures before, during, and after your exchange. You will keep a blog during your exchange, complete a online post-survey at the end of your exchange, and will participate in a return interview or focus group once you are back on campus here at USC. These may be recorded and used in promotional materials. NSE staff will send e-mail instructions regarding access to the online surveys and notify you of each assessment deadline. This is a required part of your exchange and will not only help us evaluate the effectiveness of the program and its benefits, but also provide you with an opportunity to actively reflect on your experience. Please note that blogs will be posted on our office website and will also be shared with prospective NSE students.

COMMUNICATION

You will receive a new e-mail account at your host institution. It is important that you also check your USC e-mail account while on exchange, as professors/advisors/others will still send e-mails to that address. You should forward your e-mails from one address to the other or merge the accounts in order to keep track of both accounts (this can usually be done in the “options” section). Please let us know which e-mail you will use primarily so we know where to contact you. You are also expected to respond to e-mails or other communication from the USC NSE staff in a timely manner (typically 24-48 hours). We will not e-mail you a lot, but we will have important reminders to pass along every once in a while regarding transcripts, surveys, etc.

CAROLINA COMMUNITY

The Carolina Community is designed to provide you with information concerning the many policies, procedures, activities, and opportunities that exist here at Carolina. The code of conduct applies to all USC students whether they are on or off campus, in SC or outside of SC. As a USC student you will be held to these standards regardless of your NSE enrollment at another institution. While attending another institution as a USC student remember that you are serving as an ambassador of all administrators, faculty, staff, alumni, and students at USC. Also, if you are found in violation of any policies at your host institution you will also be held to the standards they have for their community.

The Carolina Community can be found at, <http://www.sa.sc.edu/carolinacommunity/>.

USC DATES TO REMEMBER

Aug 24: Classes begin

Sept 4: Labor Day, USC offices closed

October 16 & March 16: Postcard due to the Student Success Center (address below)

October 19-20: Fall Break

Mid-October & Mid-March: Advising for the next semester – Contact your USC advisor to set up a time and way to be advised remotely. If you are staying at your NSE host campus or coming back to USC, **you still need to talk to your USC advisor**. You are responsible for registering yourself for your next semester of classes at USC.

Nov 22-26: Thanksgiving Break, offices closed

Dec 8: USC last day of classes

Jan 15: MLK Day, USC offices closed

Jan 16: Classes Begin

March 11-18: USC Spring Break

April 30: Last day of classes

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Should you need anything during your exchange, please contact us immediately.

Student Success Center
1322 Greene Street – Thomas Cooper Library
Columbia, SC 29208

Phone: 803-777-2142

Fax: 803-777-8922

Email: nse@sc.edu

Lanie Kendrick: Graduate Assistant

Kimberly Dressler: Coordinator

THE FOUR H'S OF CROSS-CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT

Stage 1- Honeymoon

When you first arrive in a city, everything will seem new and exciting. You are in a new environment with places to explore, people to meet and a new academic system to adjust to. Everything seems great!

Stage 2- Hostility

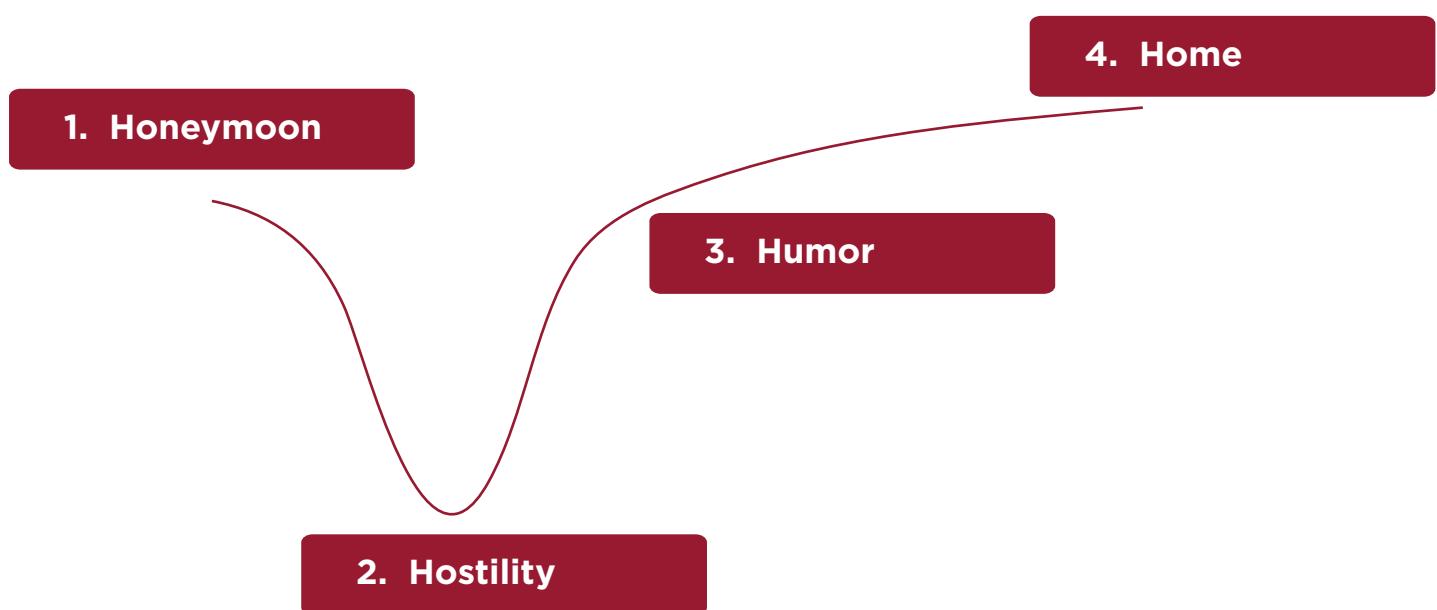
After you have been at your new university for a short period, everyday things that were simple in your home institution may seem more difficult. You may be having difficulty making friends or getting involved on campus while at the same time adjusting to different cultural norms. You may begin to feel self-conscious and frustrated while trying to adjust to cultural and academic differences. You may be feeling really homesick at this point.

Stage 3- Humor

Once you have lived in the new university for some time, you begin to understand local culture and customs. You begin to feel more confident in your new friendships and involvement on campus. Things that once seemed strange now seem commonplace to you as you have adapted to living in a new environment. You are now able to deal with new and challenging situations with humor rather than frustration.

Stage 4- Home

At this point, you have “settled in” to your new institution and community. It feels like home to you now that you can navigate the city and the university on your own. You may have adopted some of the cultural norms of the new area. Culture shock has worn off. You have new perspectives on the U.S. and being an American and you may not want to return home!



BLOGGING FOR NATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE

*We are so excited about the new adventure you will soon be starting and are looking forward to hearing what it is like and how it is going! Share with family and friends too! **Note: This is a REQUIRED part of your exchange.*

What is a Blog?

A blog is short for web log. It is a series of entries to a site in chronological order. It's similar to an online journal. Almost all blogs have a place where comments can be made.

Current NSE Student blogs can be found at:

sc.edu/success

Past Examples:

- Brianna at Westfield: <http://adventuresofbrianna.blogspot.com/>
- Kathleen in New York City: <http://fromusctonyc.wordpress.com/>
- Shelby from Monterey Bay: <http://merakiaquaphile.blogspot.com/>

Reasons to Start a Blog

- Your family, friends, and USC's NSE staff want to know about your experience.
- Great way to keep memories and remember your time.
- Will encourage you to reflect on what you have been experiencing.
- Improve your writing and technology skills.
- Can use in a portfolio
- Place to post pictures and videos
- It's Free!!!

Blog Sites

- Blogger** -www.blogger.com – provided by Google, creating an account will be your log-in to other Google services if you do not already have a Gmail account.
- Word Press** – <http://wordpress.com> – choose a blog address and the same or different username
- Tumblr** - www.tumblr.com – enter your email, a password, and your URL
- Xanga** - www.xanga.com – only need to create a username
- Wixsite** - www.wixsite.com
- Weebly**- www.weebly.com

Think of a Catchy Title

- Gamecock in Guam
- South Meets North
- My Time in the Big Easy

BLOGGING FOR NATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE

What to blog about?

- Who you are?
- Where you are going?
- Why are you doing NSE?
- Preparations
- Expectations/Fears/Excitements
- First Impressions
- Funny stories
- People you have met
- Classes
- Involvement/Activities
- Sporting Events
- Local culture/Culture shock
- Regional food or slang
- Ways you see yourself growing
- Local attractions/sites/cities you've visited
- Things you miss from home or home campus

Make it your own!

- Find a template design that expresses you and/or the theme of your blog
- Most blog sites have a wide variety of templates or you can Google “blog templates” to find sites that have unique templates to download
- Add pictures and videos
- Add music
- Have “theme days” – i.e. “Tasty Tuesdays”, “What I’ve Learned Wednesdays”, “Translation Thursday”, “Flashbulb Friday”, Week in Review

Once you have a created your blog, email us the link (nse@sc.edu). We look forward to keeping up with you! You might also want to consider continuing the blog up once you return to share about your transition back to USC and to stay in touch with all those new friends from your NSE host campus!

GENERAL REMINDERS

1. Five complete and signed copies of the SERF/ AS30 form must be turned in.

- 1 to Student Success Center
- 1 to Financial Aid
- 1 to Registrar
- 1 to Advisor
- 1 to Keep for self

It is your responsibility to turn these in. New copies must be turned in each time a class is changed.

2. It is your responsibility to have final official copies of transcripts sent back to the USC Registrar's Office.

3. It is up to you to manage your USC email account and communication.

4. You must keep and update a regular blog about your experience and participate in other assessment activities.

5. NO enrollment in any USC classes while away, this includes online courses.

6. You must take a minimum of 12 credit hours while on exchange to maintain full-time student status at USC. For those at Quarter schools, you may need to take an additional course to do this and should talk to your advisor. Failure to take the 12 hour minimum may impact financial aid.

Keep up with us on social media:

- sc.edu/success
- Facebook: University of South Carolina-National Student Exchange
- Twitter: @UofSC_NSE
- Instagram: UofSC_NationalStudentExchange
- Pinterest: UofSC_NationalStudentExchange
- YouTube: UofSC_NationalStudentExchange

**All dates, fees and requirements subject to change. Monitor your email and the outgoing Facebook page for updates from the USC NSE coordinators. **

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND YOUR EXCHANGE, PLEASE CALL US AT 803-777-2142, EMAIL US AT NSE@SC.EDU, OR VISIT SC.EDU/SUCCESS.