



Funded Short-term Summer Exchange with Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia – USA

In collaboration with [Spelman College](#) and [London \(UK\) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated](#) (hereafter referred to as “the London Links”), Queen Mary is offering one funded short-term mobility opportunity for an undergraduate Queen Mary female-identifying student who self-identifies as part of the African Diaspora. Among other requirements, you must hold or be entitled to apply for a UK passport in order to be eligible to participate.

The selected Queen Mary student will meet and buddy-up with a visiting student from Spelman College while the Spelman student attends the Queen Mary Summer School 2024 during session 1, **30 June – 21 July 2024**. Then, the Queen Mary student will attend Spelman College in Atlanta (Georgia) in the USA during the period **10 August – 01 September 2024**. Tuition fees will be waived for participants in both programmes.

For the Spelman student: The London Links will cover the cost of travel and accommodation for the Spelman student for session 1 of the Queen Mary Summer School 2024. The selected student would need to cover subsistence, local transportation in London and other related costs (e.g. passport, any UK immigration-related fees).

For the Queen Mary student: The London Links will cover the cost of return travel between the UK and Atlanta as well as accommodation for the selected Queen Mary student during the 10 August – 01 September 2024 visit to Spelman. The selected student would need to cover subsistence, local transportation in Atlanta and other related costs (e.g. passport, ESTA fee).

Please read full details below about the opportunity, the timeline, eligibility requirements, and how to apply.

Application Deadline: 08 March 2024, 12 noon (local UK time)

About Spelman College

[Spelman College](#), a historically Black college and a global leader in the education of women of African descent, is dedicated to academic excellence in the liberal arts and sciences and the intellectual, creative, ethical, and leadership development of its students. Through diverse learning modalities, Spelman empowers the whole person to engage the many cultures of the world and inspires a commitment to positive social change. Today Spelman’s student body comprises more than 2,100 students from 43 states and 10 foreign countries. [For the past 15 years](#), Spelman College has been ranked #1 on the list of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

About the London Links

[The Links, Incorporated](#) is a charitable organisation founded in 1946 by Sarah Strickland Scott and Margaret Roselle Hawkins, in Philadelphia, PA USA. Members come from variety of industries and are committed to espousing the ideals of friendship and service through delivering comprehensive philanthropic programs. Today the organisation serves international communities through its membership with chapters across the United States, United Kingdom and the Bahamas.

After serving the London community in partnership with other charitable groups for several years, the [London \(UK\) Chapter](#) was chartered in 2018 as the 288th chapter of The Links, Incorporated and was later separately

registered as a charity and non-profit company by limited guarantee operating in England. The London (UK) Chapter supports women and youth providing mentoring, career skills workshops and other support to enable them to progress into higher education and working society.

2024 timeline – How does it work?

Please note that all applicants must be available for the entirety of the two summer periods, **including** the ‘buddy-up’ period in London (Queen Mary Summer School 2024, session 1). There is no flexibility as to the programme start and end dates.

08 March (12 noon) – Application must be received and complete by this deadline, no exceptions/extensions will be considered (instructions below). Global Opportunities will be unable to review draft applications or provide content guidance.

Mid-March – Applications processed by Global Opportunities before sent to the London Links for review and selection. Selection will be based on the personal statement in the application form, overall motivation, and academic standing.

Late March – Selection finalised by the London Links including a minimum of one reserve candidate. Successful student informed by 01 April, as well as reserve/waitlisted candidate(s) and rejected candidates.

April until 10 August (departure) – If selected, you would prepare for your departure with Global Opportunities, the London Links and Spelman College. In addition to pre-departure support, the Global Opportunities Team would be available to provide support in the coordination of travel logistics/reservations, if required.

In London, UK:

- **30 June – 21 July** – You must be available to act as a ‘buddy’ to welcome and support the visiting Spelman student on Mile End Campus/in London during the Queen Mary Summer School session 1. Therefore, you must be physically present in the London area during all (or most of) this period to travel onto campus and spend time in the local and central London areas

What is a buddy? Being a buddy could involve meeting the Spelman student when they arrive, assisting them with knowing how to get around London and the local community, participating in occasional social events with the Spelman student (both those organised by the Queen Mary Summer School, the London Links and/or individually organised social meetups, gatherings and/or outings), helping them to navigate life abroad and have the best possible London experience during their short time in the UK

In Atlanta (GA), USA:

- **10 August** – Outbound flight to Atlanta, move into your local housing near the Spelman College campus. You would be housed for a pre-arranged, short-term stay for the entire duration of the programme in a private residential unit for single occupancy near Spelman’s campus. You would not pay any rent or fees to stay in this property but would need to cover your own subsistence and local transportation costs
- **11 August – 01 September** – Short-term ‘exchange immersion’ programme at Spelman College takes place. The beginning of your exchange would involve participating in a mandatory international student orientation programme delivered by Spelman College. You would be able to select and attend classes during this three-week period like a full-degree undergraduate student at Spelman College. You

would also re-connect with the Spelman student hosted in London earlier in the summer (during the Queen Mary Summer School session 1), who will be starting their 2024/25 academic year at Spelman.

- **01 September** – Return flight to the UK

Eligibility requirements for Queen Mary students

You must meet the below criteria to be considered eligible to participate:

- Be a UK national who holds or is entitled to apply for a UK passport, female-identifying and considers themselves part of the African Diaspora
- Be a fully enrolled, undergraduate Queen Mary student in developmental year 2, having completed developmental year 1 (i.e. not in the final year of studies)
- Be performing at a minimum academic level equivalent to a Queen Mary letter grade B / 2:1 average
- Ensure that any previous travel, heritage or multiple nationality status would not render you ineligible for travel to the USA under the United States of America [Visa Waiver Program](#) (VWP) to carry out this short-term programme
- Have had limited access to travel/study abroad opportunities during your previous and current studies. This equates to: not already holding a Conditional offer of exchange, nor being enrolled on a 'with a year abroad' degree programme
- Have a demonstrable interest in the African Diaspora, international affairs, and/or cross-cultural understanding (please reference this in your personal statement/essay in the application)
- Genuine interest in and availability to serve as an on-campus 'buddy' for the Spelman student on the Mile End Campus and in London 30 June – 21 July 2024
- Be available to travel to Atlanta and participate in the programme at Spelman College for the entire period 10 August – 01 September 2024

Note: Any candidate who is a family/friend/relation of a Queen Mary, London Links or Spelman College staff member is asked to disclose this in their application for transparency purposes.

Participation requirements for the selected Queen Mary student

The successful participant visiting Spelman for this short-term programme will be required to:

- Attend all meetings of their selected courses
- Write a 500-1000 word reflection on their experiences (academic, extracurricular, and social) at Spelman and key learnings, to be submitted within one month of the conclusion of the visitation. The reflection essay will be submitted to the London Links and subsequently shared with Spelman and Queen Mary.

The successful participant must also take part in **promotional activities** that will be used to advertise the opportunity in subsequent years. If selected, you must:

- Take a minimum of 10 good quality photographs while abroad at Spelman College/in the Atlanta area (with you featuring in at least 5, with explanatory text) that Queen Mary, the London Links and/or Spelman College will use in publications, web content, social media and/or promotional materials (both digital and printed). If you are selected to participate and should you not wish for photographs featuring yourself to appear in any publications, you would need to indicate this when submitting your final photographs.

- Partake in a **minimum of two** of the following activities:
 - Complete an Instagram Stories day-long Takeover on the Global Opportunities' [@qmulgo Instagram](#) account to be pinned on that page, and where applicable shared with the Instagram accounts for Spelman College ([@spelman_college](#)), the London Links ([@londonlinksinc](#)), and the local Magnolia (GA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated in Atlanta ([@magnolialinksinc](#))
 - Offer your services at forthcoming Queen Mary Open/Offer Holder Day or Global Opportunities events, or deliver a presentation to other Queen Mary students on the benefits of participation in your chosen project
 - Create three reels (each with a 45-second minimum length) to be published to the @qmulgo Instagram account and where applicable shared with the Instagram accounts for Spelman College ([@spelman_college](#)), the London Links ([@londonlinksinc](#)), and the local Magnolia (GA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated in Atlanta ([@magnolialinksinc](#))
 - Create a 3-5 minute vlog of your experience to be published on our [YouTube channel](#)
 - Produce a written blog post of your experience for publication on [Queen Mary Global Bloggers](#), to be publicised across various QM social channels (including the QM website) and promoted via any relevant Spelman College and the London Links appropriate media channels

The successful participant is also welcome to suggest their own promotional ideas relating to the programme, although the above criteria must still be met.

How to apply and deadline

Before the deadline, you must: 1) **Complete the [application form here](#)**, and 2) **Attach your most recent official grade transcript** (your [HEAR](#)) proving you meet the eligibility requirements.

In the application form, you will need to prepare and submit answers (each approximately 200-250 words in length) to both of the following **two essay questions** (among other general questions regarding your personal details, etc.):

1. *Spelman College is America's foremost institution of learning for women of African descent. What do you hope to gain from the opportunity to engage with your Spelman classmates and share in your experiences as women of African descent in different countries?*
2. *Spelman College is located in Atlanta, Georgia: a city that is internationally known for its contributions to culture, cuisine, and Civil Rights history. Though the primary focus of your exchange program is educational, what other experiences would you seek out during your visit and why?*

Important: Neither late nor incomplete applications will be considered, therefore, ensure that you complete both steps carefully by the **deadline of 08 March 2024 at 12 noon** (local UK time).

Once all applications have been processed and verified for eligibility by the Global Opportunities team, they will be sent to the London Links for review and selection. The selection will be based on the personal statement/essay question answer in the application form as well as overall academic standing as evidenced by the transcript of records.

Questions? Get in touch!

Queen Mary students with questions should contact Queen Mary's Global Opportunities team at summerschool@qmul.ac.uk **before Thursday 07 March 2024 midday** (questions received fewer than 24 hours before the deadline may not receive a response before the deadline).