The University of Pretoria
South Africa

The University
The University of Pretoria’s beginnings were humble. The school opened in 1908 as the Transvaal University College with four professors and thirty students in an unfurnished house. Since then the University of Pretoria (UP) has grown into the largest residential university in South Africa. Today more than 26,000 students (including 7,000 post-graduates) from Africa and the world are trained in 11 faculties with 139 departments, and 43 research institutes. The university’s campus covers seventy-five acres with more than sixty buildings and extensive gardens, trees, and landscaping. The campus also has its own student health facilities and university hospital.

www.up.ac.za

The City
Pretoria was founded in 1855, although it received its city status almost one hundred years later. Pretoria was made the administrative capital of the Republic of South Africa in 1961. Following the election of Nelson Mandela in 1994, the city retained this position and today is home to the country’s government buildings, including the office of the President. Located in the Guateng province, approximately 40 miles away from Johannesburg, Pretoria covers an area of some 350 square miles and is home to 1.5 million people, speaking Afrikaans, English, Sotho, Zulu, Xhosa and other indigenous languages.

www.tshwane.gov.za

About the Program
Students can participate on the exchange program with the University of Pretoria for one semester or a full academic year. South Africa’s location means that the seasons are reversed from the Northern Hemisphere. Consequently, Pretoria's fall semester begins in February; the spring semester at the end of July. Today, the university offers numerous classes in English within the following faculties: arts, sciences, economics and management, and engineering.

Academic Calendar
Fall semester: July –November
Spring semester: March –June
Semester dates vary depending on the College (Faculty)

Am I eligible for this program?
You must have a 2.5 Combined Retained GPA. GPA may be one factor used in ranking students for placement. As logistics prevent often usage of this exchange, a participating student must be very independent and proactive.
What about credit?
Grades received on reciprocal exchange study abroad programs through the University of Oklahoma are posted by the Office of Admissions as Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U) on the OU permanent record. These grades are not factored into the participant’s Grade Point Average. Because each student is enrolled in 12 credits per semester while abroad, participants are expected to enroll in an equivalent number of credits at the host university. Academic systems around the world vary in what equals 12 OU credits. The decision about awarding credits is made in the Office of Admissions at OU.

Where would I live?
UP has a limited number of student apartments. The international office at UP will attempt to place all exchange participants in campus housing. University housing is typically a shared apartment with a private bedroom and communal kitchen, living area, etc. If the university is unable to provide a permanent residence they will house students on campus temporarily while other, private accommodations are found.

How much does it cost?
Costs at OU: All students participating on semester or academic year reciprocal exchange programs are enrolled at OU for 12 credits each semester abroad. Tuition and fees are billed through and paid directly to OU at the appropriate resident or non-resident rate. Fees are charged at the Arts and Sciences College rate, even if the student’s major is in a different college. All participants pay a $10/credit hour study abroad fee.

Costs on site: All students participating on semester or academic year reciprocal exchange programs will be responsible for international airfare and cost of living in country. This can vary dramatically from country to country and should be discussed with your respective study abroad advisor. A South African national insurance policy is strongly suggested for this program and can only be purchased on site.

How do I Apply?
Instructions for applying to any semester or academic year exchange program may be found in the “how to apply” section of our website.

For more information, please contact:
ea@ou.edu