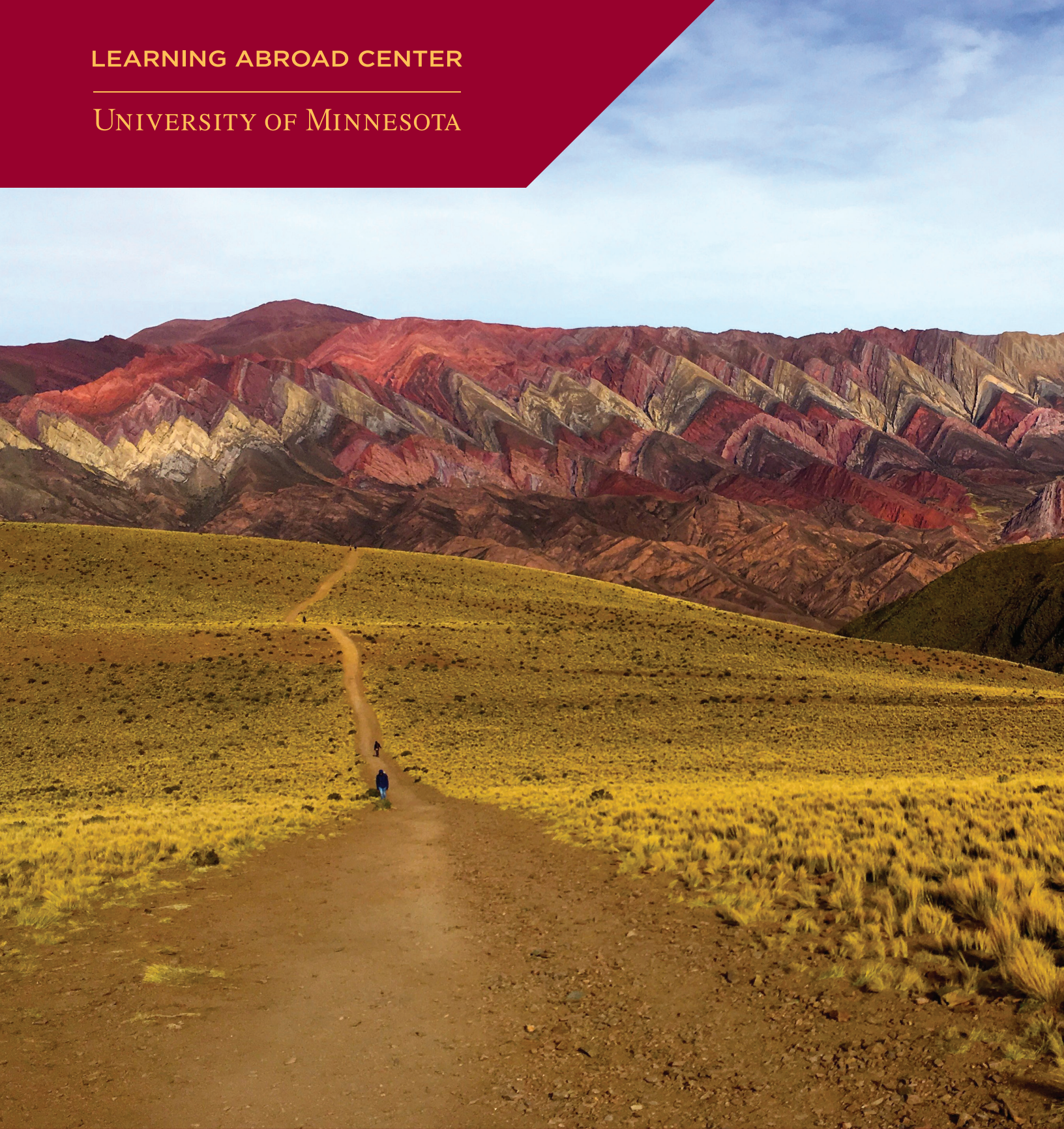


LEARNING ABROAD CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



Annual Report

Academic Year 2018–19



Message from Martha

Dear Friends,

In an era of divisions and polarization, the imperative for intercultural connection has never been greater. We, at the Learning Abroad Center, are proud to act as a catalyst for internationalization at the University of Minnesota. The following annual report summarizes our efforts over the last year. We strive to hold ourselves accountable to both quantitative and qualitative metrics. Hopefully this report helps tell the story of the continued successes in learning abroad efforts at the UofM, as well as the many campus collaborations that deserve recognition.

Sincerely,
Martha Johnson
Assistant Dean of Learning Abroad



About the Learning Abroad Center

The Learning Abroad Center (LAC) in the Global Programs and Strategy Alliance is the University of Minnesota's comprehensive resource for study, intern, community engagement, research, and volunteer experiences worldwide.

The LAC is a leader in providing innovative international learning experiences that expand and redefine the world for a diverse population of students, colleagues, and staff. LAC staff and University of Minnesota faculty and staff participate in numerous leadership opportunities and serve on the advisory boards of organizations that provide and/or support education abroad programs. Through collaboration and individual attention, the LAC continues to promote empowerment, development, understanding, and responsibility in the global community.

The LAC creates a learning climate that respects and celebrates diversity. We are committed to and accountable for strategically addressing barriers affecting marginalized groups by providing inclusive advising, program and curriculum design, global faculty and staff recruitment and training, and campus stakeholder engagement.

Student Participation

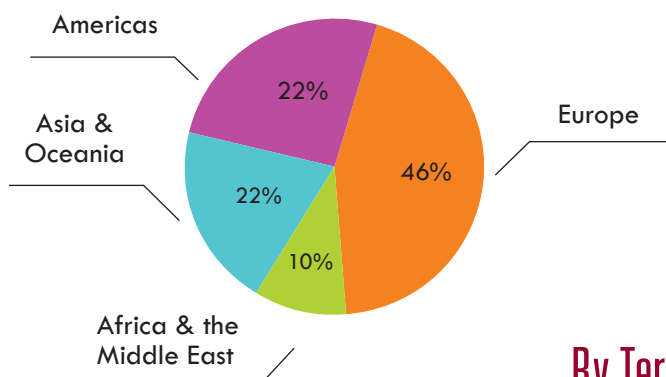
Open Doors is an annual report that provides statistics on study abroad participation by US students and international student enrollment at US institutions. The report is published by the Institute of International Education (IIE) in New York, with support from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the US Department of State.

Twin Cities campus ranking (in number of students sent abroad on credit-bearing programs):

1. **8th among research institutions** with **2,479**.
2. **4th in the Big Ten**.

We're thrilled to be **ranked #21** the inaugural year of the US News and World Report's **Best Study Abroad** category. As a large, land-grant public institution and national program provider, it's an honor to be surrounded by these schools and be nominated and positively perceived by the public in this qualitative study. We're collectively committed to constantly improving our work and offering high-quality programs. Only one public institution, Michigan State University, is ranked above us.

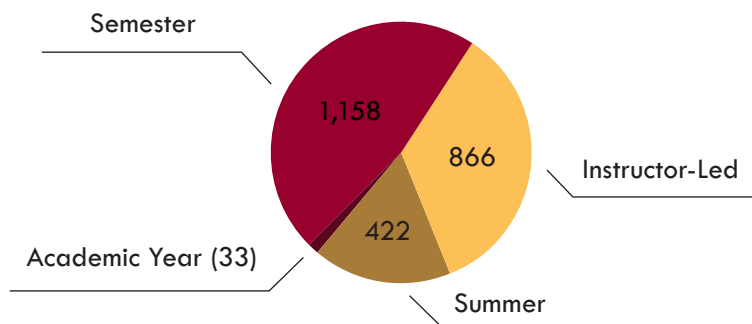
Where Do Gophers Go?



Top 10 Destinations

- | | | | |
|---|----------------|----|-----------|
| 1 | Italy | 6 | France |
| 2 | Spain | 7 | Germany |
| 3 | China | 8 | Argentina |
| 4 | United Kingdom | 9 | Ireland |
| 5 | Australia | 10 | Kenya |

By Term



Student Advising & Support Services

The LAC offers a full range of advising and support services to students, including program selection, academic planning, financial planning, registration, credit, cultural adjustment, and re-entry.

Advising is a critical part of supporting students through the program selection process and helping them prepare to go abroad once they have applied for a program. Twenty-five full-time advisers in the LAC meet individually with students to answer their questions about study abroad and guide them through the application and enrollment process.

2018—19 Highlights

- **50+** students received their first passport through the Passport to the World event.
- **120+** students attended a You Can Afford to Study Abroad information session to learn about how financial aid can be applied to study abroad, available scholarship opportunities, and how to write a strong scholarship application essay.
- **1,500+** students met one-on-one with an adviser in the LAC for a Program Selection Advising meeting to discuss program options that fit their academic, career, personal, and financial goals and needs.
- **3,000+** students completed a First Step session online or in person to learn the basics about choosing a study abroad program, academic planning, and financial aid and scholarship opportunities.
- **236,414** unique users visited **UMabroad.umn.edu**.

Resources & Events for Returned Students

The Learning Abroad Center provides opportunities for students to reflect on their time abroad, connect with peers, and share their experience with prospective study abroad students.

- In fall 2018, more than **150 students** attended the Welcome Back event for an evening of socializing with other returnees, sharing their stories, and learning about additional opportunities and resources to help them build on the skills and experiences they gained abroad.
- In 2018—19, more than **60 students** participated in the Global Leaders Internship, a paid internship program. Through weekly discussions, classroom visits, and participation in an outreach and research team project, Global Leader Interns gain market research experience, exposure to the field of international education, and stronger public speaking and cross-cultural skills.

Program Offerings

We have developed a variety of program options—**more than 250 programs in 70 countries**—to address the diverse needs of students. Programs vary in length, level, academic focus, teaching format, language requirements, cost, and degree of independence required.

New Program Offerings

Business in Dublin

Business in Dublin launched in fall 2018 with two different tracks for two target audiences. The Foundational Business track allows first-semester sophomores to complete required lower-division courses in a study center environment, and the Advanced Business track allows juniors and seniors to take classes at the Quinn School of Business at University College Dublin.

Youth Development & Psychology in France

Youth Development & Psychology in France was developed in collaboration with the Developmental Psychology Department for students studying developmental psychology and psychology. Centered around Ann Masten's (Regents professor) research and teaching, the *Resilience in Children & Youth: Global Perspectives* course anchors this experiential program and focuses on the development and resilience of youth in France and beyond. Spring semester 2020 will be the inaugural academic term.

Study & Intern in Barcelona

Study & Intern in Barcelona, developed in 2018–19, met with great success in 2019–2020, with a record number of students expected to participate spring semester 2020.

Instructor-Led Programs

In 2018–19, the LAC offered 29 Global Seminars and supported an additional 34 programs run by colleges and departments. These instructor-led programs are short-term, cohort-based programs that allow students to interact closely with a UofM program leader. Global Seminars are experiential, interdisciplinary programs that use the host country as a classroom.

Global Identity

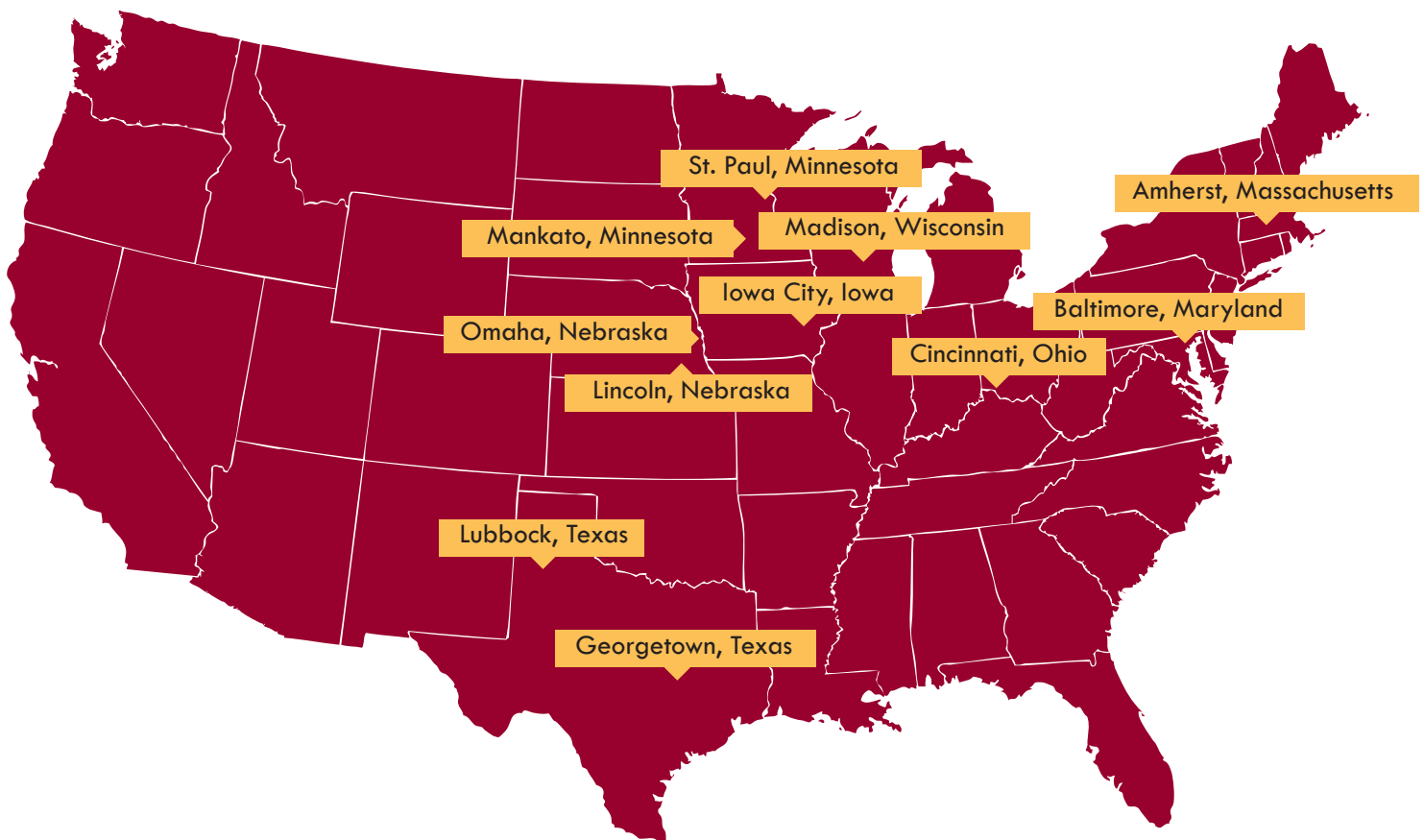
In 2005, the LAC, in collaboration with the College of Education and Human Development, launched Maximizing Study Abroad, one of the first online, culture learning courses mentoring and teaching students who are studying abroad. Today it has evolved into *Global Identity: Connecting Your International Experience to Your Future* and includes career skill building as well as culture learning. In addition to the regular course, there are four slightly modified versions designed for these student populations: College of Liberal Arts, University Honors Program, Carlson School of Management, and the Leadership Minor.

Institutional Relations

The Learning Abroad Center recruits undergraduate students from around the US for 20+ learning abroad programs. The addition of students from other institutions creates a more diverse and better learning environment for UofM students. With the addition of these non-UofM students, we run more programs and add more courses to our existing programs, thereby creating more opportunities for UofM students. To date, we have more than **125 affiliate partnerships**.

US Locations Targeted in Social Media Advertisements

In fall 2018, we targeted students from other institutions (see below map) in social media advertisements for our Study Abroad in Montpellier and Arabic Language & Culture in Morocco programs, timed to coincide with visits from our Institutional Relations team.



Scholarships & Funding

- **1,585** applications were submitted by 1,052 students, of which 182 (17%) were awarded a scholarship.
- **35** students participated in the Bridging Loan program and were able to defer the cost of their program deposit and international airfare until their financial aid was disbursed.
- **14** students' semester abroad was supported by the President's Emerging Scholarships Program Fund the Gap scholarship in 2018–19, and **42** PES students were awarded the scholarship to study abroad during the 2019–20 academic year.
- **More than 110** advisers, faculty, and staff from across the UMTC campus helped review study abroad scholarship applications and select award recipients.
- Our students benefited from the additional support of **more than \$420,000** in pre-negotiated fee reductions with our affiliate partners.



International Educator Outreach Events & Training

UMTC Education Abroad Network

The UofM Twin Cities Education Abroad Network (EAN) includes and serves professional advisers, faculty members, administrators, and others involved with education abroad. The EAN offered two meeting sessions focusing on:

- Re-Examining Diversity in Learning Abroad
- Student Mental Health Concerns & Study Abroad

Excellence in Leading Learning Abroad Series

The LAC hosted sessions with discussion topics relevant to current and past learning abroad program leaders as well as those interested in leading a program in the future. All highly interactive sessions were facilitated by current or past program leaders, or campus experts.

Career Integration Conference

The LAC and CET co-hosted a conference on August 8–10, 2018, in Washington, DC. International educators, career service and employer relations professionals, faculty, student service professionals, recruiters, and industry leaders shared best practices and innovations within the fields of education abroad and career services.



Awards & Publications

Awards

Go Abroad Innovation Award

We were chosen for the national GoAbroad Innovation Award in Marketing and Digital Media for our Alex & Friends avatar campaign. The videos, sidewalk clings, and innovative design grabbed the attention of the award committee.

Al Balkcum Award

2018-19 recipient: Claire Kibblewhite, London Resident Director

The Balkcum award is given out each year to recognize excellence in, and commitment to, serving University of Minnesota students. It is named for Al Balkcum, former director of the Learning Abroad Center. Nominees are resident directors or other staff on LAC programs.

2018 Women in International Education Mentor of the Year

2018-19 recipient: Martha Johnson, Assistant Dean of Learning Abroad

Sponsored by LEAD 50/50 and the Global Leadership League

Publications

NAFSA Guide: Incorporating Education Abroad into Your Career Plan: Before, During, & After Your Experience Abroad

Authors/Editors: Kim Hindbjorgen and Becky Hall

NAFSA: Association of International Educators is an association of individuals worldwide advancing international education and exchange and global workforce development.

The LAC would like to thank the University of Minnesota Career Integration Partnership Group and its associated centers for their contributions to the materials and resources referenced in this publication.



Alex, Leo, and Hana discuss programs fitting their majors and training schedules, YouTube.



LAC street decal.

Curriculum & Program Oversight

Learning Abroad Center Advisory Committee (LACAC)

LACAC was established with the specific responsibility of assisting the Learning Abroad Center with program and curriculum oversight and review, as well as assisting with program development and school of record mechanisms with a focus on undergraduate education. This committee meets 2–4 times annually and comprises 6–9 faculty and/or administrative staff. The committee membership is designed to provide a breadth of guidance from across the University.

Responsibilities

- Assist with program and curriculum oversight
- Assist with academic policy
- Assist with program development
- Assist with school of record mechanisms
- Participate on program reviews
- Participate on occasional task forces
- Assist with Global Seminar proposals
- Engage with affiliate and university partners

2018–19 Members

Chair: **Christine Anderson**—Learning Abroad Center, Academic Director

Pamela Baker—University Honors Program, Associate Director

Anne D'Angelo —Carlson Global Institute, Assistant Dean, Global Initiatives

Nanette Hanks—College of Liberal Arts, Assistant Dean

Kim Hindbjorgen—Learning Abroad Center, Assistant Director

Martha Johnson—Learning Abroad Center, Assistant Dean

Susan Kubitschek—College of Science and Engineering, Assistant Dean, Collegiate Life

Nikki Letawsky Shultz—College of Biological Sciences, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and International Programs

Zach Mohs—Learning Abroad Center, Associate Director

Michael White—College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, Associate Dean

LEARNING ABROAD CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



[UMabroad.umn.edu](https://umabroad.umn.edu)