

Summer **Spotlight** Series

Learning Abroad Information Sessions



Minnesota Studies in International Development (MSID) July 25, 2022

LEARNING ABROAD CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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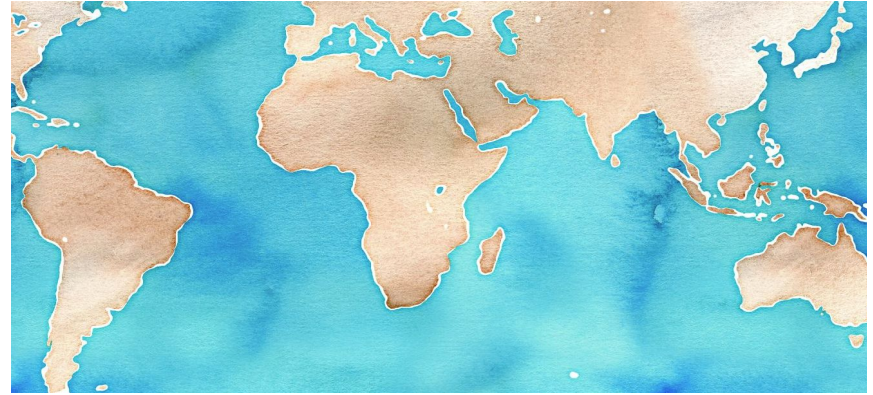
History, Mission, & Learning Outcomes

- Started in 1982 by UofM faculty
- Mission (in part): "...the preparation of culturally sensitive individuals who are committed to the concepts of justice and sustainable development for all societies in our interdependent world."
- Learning Outcomes
 - Foster an understanding of the global context through classroom and experiential learning
 - Cultivate awareness of development issues in diverse communities
 - Translate insights on social justice and sustainable development into long-term perspectives
 - Strengthen communication skills
 - Gain cross-cultural competencies



Where is MSID (Minnesota Studies in International Development)?

- Ecuador—based in Quito
 - 4 semesters of Spanish required
- Senegal—based in Dakar
 - 4 semesters of French required
 - Wolof language offered
- Thailand—based in Chiang Mai
 - English curriculum
 - Thai language offered



Program & Academic Overview



Classroom Phase:

- Language
- *Historical & Political Context*
- *International Development*

Internship/Research Phase:

- Internship course
- Research course

Intensive Language Pre-Session

- Offered only in Ecuador and Senegal
- Can be a standalone option or a pre-session
- Approximately three weeks prior to the start of the semester
- Ecuador: 4th- and 5th-semester Spanish
- Senegal: 4th-, 5th-, 6th-, or 7th-semester French



Language Courses



- 4-credit course
- Ecuador: advanced Spanish
- Senegal: advanced French or beginning Wolof
- Thailand: beginning to intermediate Thai

Historical & Political Context

- 4-credit course
- Critical examination of the country's history, society, and politics, to give context to the location
- Field visits, lectures, and guest speakers help illuminate different facets of society



International Development



- 4-credit course
- All students learn key aspects of development theory
- Students choose one development theme to focus on:
 - Entrepreneurship
 - Health
 - Human Rights
 - Sustainability

Ecuador

Entrepreneurship

- Social Entrepreneurship & Microfinance

Health

- Public Health & Traditional Andean Medicine

Human Rights

- Human Rights: Policy & Practice



Sustainability

- Environmental Challenges from the Amazon to the Andes

Senegal

Entrepreneurship

- Entrepreneurship & Inclusive Finance

Health

- Public & Community Health

Human Rights

- Human Rights: Policy & Practice



Sustainability

- Sustainable Development & Climate Change

Thailand

Entrepreneurship

- Entrepreneurship & Sustainable Food Systems

Health

- OneHealth: Humans, Animals, & Environment

Human Rights

- Human Rights & Marginalized Communities



Sustainability

- Sustainable Architecture & Design

Internship & Research

- 4 credits
- Students choose internship or research
- In-depth, grassroots experience with a local development agency
- Graded on field notes, presentation, final report, and performance assessment



Internship Examples

Ecuador

- Shadow a rural hospital that provides medical services to indigenous communities
- Conduct nutrition outreach within a rural, indigenous community
- Learn about ancestral and alternative medicine by shadowing practitioners as therapies and treatments are being delivered

Senegal

- Work in a women's maternal health clinic
- Assist a public health organization with disease tracking, reporting and mapping
- Work in a traditional medicine institution



Thailand

- Assist in the preparation of medical supplies for relief organizations that serve refugees
- Assist in building mobile health clinics that will be used to improve the health of populations of internally displaced people
- Collect information regarding traditional medical plant remedies that are used among indigenous people

COVID-19 & Health Placements

- We were limiting patient-facing placements, but are starting to phase them back in
- If we feel confident in the level of PPE our students would be provided, we can move forward
- However, these placements should not take away resources from the local staff and communities (PPE, time, etc.)
- Placements may need to change based on current COVID levels and local resources



Housing

- Homestays with local middle-class families in Senegal and Ecuador
- Apartments in Thailand
- Students often have two homestay experiences—one in the classroom phase and one during their internship or research
- Offers a chance to develop language and provides a cultural connection
- All families are vetted, go through a training, and are often found via recommendations



MSID Student Feedback

- “It was a life-changing experience!”
- “I was more integrated into the MSID country than I could have imagined possible through study abroad.”
- “I felt that I had a second family away from home.”
- “I could finally see in action the concepts that I learned in the USA.”





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