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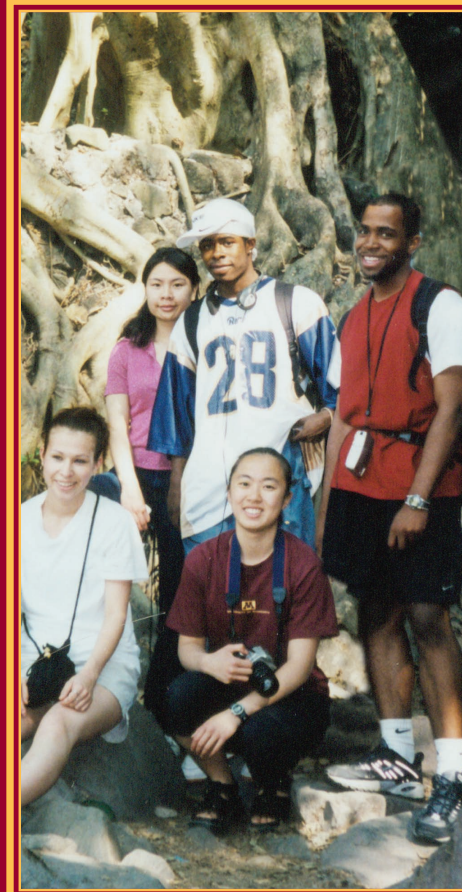
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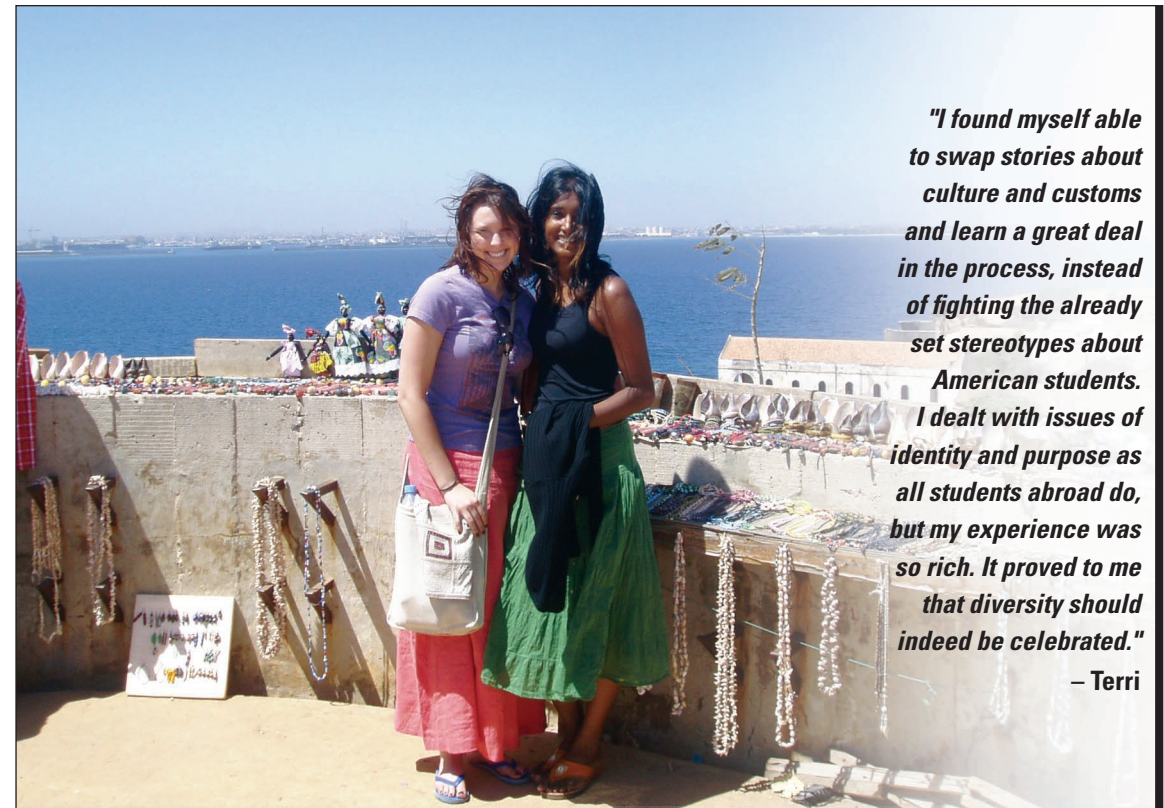
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Multicultural Students Study Abroad



Crookston
Duluth
Morris
Twin Cities

Multicultural Students



"I found myself able to swap stories about culture and customs and learn a great deal in the process, instead of fighting the already set stereotypes about American students. I dealt with issues of identity and purpose as all students abroad do, but my experience was so rich. It proved to me that diversity should indeed be celebrated."

– Terri

EXPAND YOUR WORLD EXPLORE YOUR IDENTITY

Our identities are formed by our *biology*, our *history*, and our *culture*.

Study abroad helps you examine your own identity by allowing you to view yourself through the mirror of other cultures.

Each location has unique historical circumstances that impact *interactions* between cultural groups. Many multicultural students find value in the experience of exploring their *identity* by interacting within a new historical and cultural *context*.

Now, as a student at the University of Minnesota, you have the time and *support* you need to fit this unique, *rewarding* experience into your life.

Multicultural Students Study Abroad

Multicultural Students Study Abroad

Study abroad opens a *world of opportunities* to students from diverse backgrounds. Whether you are interested in exploring your identity through your heritage, experiencing a third culture, or gaining professional and *academic experience* in your major, study abroad expands your world.

Learning About Your Heritage

Some students look for a program in their family's region of origin. This experience can be very fulfilling; it often challenges students to redefine their identity as an American and gives them the opportunity to explore their own cultural background.



"Looking at the different pyramids gave me a sense of history. I am both Native and Mexican, and I felt connected to this place. It was like I could envision the past. I thought to myself, 'my people have been here.' I have a deep appreciation for being here."

–Graciela

Experience A Third Culture

Multicultural students often bring a distinct understanding of cultural difference to study abroad. They experience the mainstream of US culture and the US educational system while living with a non-mainstream cultural identity. Students may choose to use study abroad to enter a third culture. Students who enter the third cultural context often begin to see and understand the cultural dynamics that make up their own identity in new and powerful ways. This is a tangible educational benefit that allows students to grow and mature and gain insights into all sorts of inter-ethnic relationships.



"There aren't many Asian students in Mexico, so I was excited to explain that I'm from the US and from the Hmong culture. It is great because even as I learned so much about Mexico and the Spanish language, I am much more in touch with my Hmong culture."

– Mai Xee

How Will You Be Perceived?

Will you be seen and see yourself as an American when you are abroad? Will your ethnic, religious, gender, or sexual identity be more pronounced based on this experience? The answers are different for each student and each experience. Multicultural students can face real challenges when studying abroad, and some students face uncomfortable stereotypes.

Sometimes students feel isolated as they explore their identity. There can be times when it is difficult to find someone with whom to share the feelings and experiences that are distinctly related to ethnicity. Making friends and connections within the host culture can provide cultural interpreters to help you learn about the cultural and historical context that gives rise to stereotypes. However you choose to face these challenges, each one will give you the opportunity to grow and learn.

Many students have filled out diversity issue surveys regarding study abroad. Find out how students face real challenges abroad that help them learn and grow. Ask for survey responses in the study abroad office on your campus.



"Study abroad helped me define who I am and appreciate what I have... Being able to step outside of all I've ever known was so healthy that I feel like I understand myself and my culture much better."

– Marlana

You Can Afford To Study Abroad

If you plan ahead, do your research, and take advantage of all the financial resources, study abroad can be very affordable. The following chart shows all the different components that go into a complete cost comparison. As this example illustrates, comparing your tuition to a study abroad program cost is not an accurate comparison, since room and board is usually included in the cost of a study abroad program.

Sample Yearly Cost	Resident Undergraduate*	Study Abroad Program
Tuition and Fees	\$10,202	\$10,852
Books and Supplies	\$976	\$200
Room and Board	\$7,062	\$3,480
Transportation	\$124	\$950
Personal/Misc	\$2,000	\$2,925
Total	\$20,364	\$18,407

*Estimate for 2007-08 academic year

Not every study abroad program is cheaper than studying on your home campus, but if you compare all of your costs you will find that study abroad can be very competitive.



"I approached the decision to study abroad and how to finance it in the same manner as I did college. When it comes right down to it, they are both a valuable part of who I am now and have both played an important role in attaining the career I have now."

– Suyapa

The University of Minnesota offers more than \$500,000 of study abroad scholarships annually, including scholarships geared toward increasing diversity in study abroad programs. Some study abroad programs offer full scholarships. Come talk to a study abroad adviser; we look forward to helping you.



"You think that if you go, you're putting your life on hold, but it's more of traveling a different path. Everybody there has the same fears, so once you talk with them, you build a relationship that almost substitutes for your support at home."

– Bob

Your Support Network Abroad

Leaving your friends and family in order to cross the globe for an international educational experience can be a big decision. We encourage you to carefully select the right program for you. Study abroad programs vary in the amount of support they provide. They range from programs for very independent students who study as regular undergraduates in a host-country university to programs limited to University of Minnesota students with lots of built-in activities and support. There are many options in between.

Support At Home

Some students are hesitant to pursue study abroad because of family responsibilities or commitments to friends or partners. As you talk with a study abroad adviser about this decision, talk with your family and the important people in your life. Get your support network involved and excited about the opportunity, too. The study abroad office on your campus provides information for parents, so make an appointment to bring them into the office with you.

Credit For Study Abroad

If you participate in a University of Minnesota study abroad program, you may help satisfy liberal education, language, major, or other requirements for your degree.

Check www.UMabroad.umn.edu for the latest information