



“For the first time in their lives, students of color are able to step outside the confines of racial barriers long enough to see themselves – and those they meet – from a perspective other than race. They are able to perceive their personal skills and strengths accurately. Studying abroad serves as a catalyst, inspiring them to embark on the learning and careers that they never would have dreamed possible, had they not spent an extended time outside their own country.”

-Patrick Troup

*Director,
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Study Abroad with a Focus on Multicultural Issues

This advising sheet highlights programs in which students can focus on the richness of multiculturalism within a country or community. These programs have different program designs and offer perspectives on multiculturalism vastly different than those developed in the context of the United States. Be sure to fully research any program before applying. In addition to the programs listed here, there are creative ways to study multiculturalism on almost any study abroad program. Many programs offer the opportunity to do an independent study or research project that allows you to focus on an area that interests you. These program options can be utilized to study multicultural dimensions within a culture or country.

Study abroad can help you...

- Increase your understanding of the world and our society
- Understand different perspectives on multiculturalism
- Expand your cross-cultural communication and problem-solving skills
- Learn about your identity in a different historical and cultural context
- Expand employment opportunities and increase your earning potential by giving you a competitive edge
- Forge international friendships, understand cultural differences, and get rid of stereotypes
- Explore new interests and find out what you want to do in life

There is much to be gained from understanding multicultural issues outside the United States. Study abroad is one very exciting way to begin discovering new perspectives and social realities that are at play in the world.

Can I afford to study abroad?

YES! Early planning for study abroad helps you make cost-effective program decisions, and it also helps you prepare your finances through savings, scholarships, and financial aid. Financial aid applies to study abroad and, in some cases, your eligibility will increase to cover additional expenses.

The University of Minnesota offers more than \$300,000 in scholarships for study abroad. One of these scholarships, the Bush/Diversity Scholarship, is intended to fund students who can add to the diversity of study abroad program participants. Existing scholarships you already receive can likely be used for study abroad. For scholarships from outside the University, be sure to check with your scholarship administrator to confirm. Check the University website at www.umn.edu or the Office for Multicultural and Academic Affairs website at www.oma.umn.edu for more information.

In addition to University of Minnesota study abroad scholarships, the Learning Abroad Center provides resources on a variety of other scholarships available to undergraduate students. Stop by the Learning Abroad Center or visit our web site to research all your options.

What are my next steps?

Attend a First-Step Meeting

Learn about study abroad resources and advising by attending a First Step Meeting at the Learning Abroad Center. See www.UMabroad.umn.edu or call 612.626.9000 for the latest schedule.

First Step Meetings are also held in Klaeber Court and in Appleby Hall. Be sure to check with the Multicultural Centers for Academic Excellence or General College for meeting times.

Investigate Programs

Use the Learning Abroad Center catalog, resource center, website, and advisers to find a program that fits your goals.

Talk to your adviser

Use an Academic Planning for Study Abroad (APSA) form to get approval from your academic adviser for major-specific courses.

Academic Considerations

Fulfilling requirements abroad

Major/Minor requirements: With planning, it is possible to complete core and/or elective credits for your major or minor while abroad. The Learning Abroad Center works with academic departments across campus to identify programs that are suitable for each major and minor. The Learning Abroad Center has advising sheets for many majors, developed to give students a sampling of programs identified by their department as being ideal for that particular major.

Be sure to find the Study Abroad Major Advising sheet for your major in your advising office, the Learning Abroad Center, or on-line at: www.UMabroad.umn.edu

Liberal Education requirements: Regardless of which college you are enrolled in, all students must complete liberal education requirements. The coursework of many University of Minnesota study abroad programs has been evaluated for liberal education credit. Over 1,800 courses have been pre-approved, and the Learning Abroad Center facilitates the evaluation of additional courses. The database of approved courses is easily accessible on the web at www.UMabroad.umn.edu/lerequirements.html.

College requirements: In addition to major, minor, and liberal education requirements, there are other college requirements, such as a field experience, internship, or electives outside your major that can be fulfilled with study abroad.

Language requirements: Many programs have been developed to help fulfill second language requirements while improving language proficiency and intercultural skills.

Internships: Some majors and minors have internship requirements or accept internship experiences to be used toward major or minor requirements. You will need to get internships approved by your department prior to the study abroad program to use them to meet requirements.

Academic planning for study abroad

All students are required to follow a set process to get study abroad courses approved prior to departure. You will receive the Academic Planning for Study Abroad (APSA) form at a First Step Meeting or in the Learning Abroad Center.

Learning Abroad Minor

The Learning Abroad minor (formerly Foreign Studies minor) is an individualized, interdisciplinary College of Liberal Arts (CLA) minor that integrates a study abroad experience with related University of Minnesota coursework. The minor is an excellent way to highlight your study abroad experience, as all of the coursework is directly relevant to your international experience. You can get more information in the Learning Abroad Center.

Set goals and plan for results

Every student can study abroad during their four years. The process of selecting a study abroad program is similar to selecting your major or minor.

- Begin planning for study abroad as early as possible. It is never too early!
- Set some goals. There are many programs available to University of Minnesota students. All of them offer different things: a range of costs, a range of living situations and a variety of courses offered, to name a few. Think about what you want to experience when abroad.
- Prioritize your goals. Consider your long-term academic and professional goals, as well as your on-campus degree requirements.
- Consider short-term and long-term programs.
- Prepare academically. You may need to take language or other prerequisite courses for your chosen program.
- Give yourself time to research and talk to advisers and students who have studied abroad.

Study Abroad Programs

The following programs focus on multicultural, indigenous, or diversity issues. They may offer you the ability to look at those issues in the context of another topic, such as development or history, by doing research or an independent study, or these issues may be the academic focus of the program. This list is not exhaustive, but is meant to help you begin choosing a program. Some study abroad programs listed are not sponsored by the University of Minnesota. You can still work with us for financial aid and transfer credit help, but you will need to contact the institution listed for all other information. Sponsor websites are listed at the end of this sheet.

Study at a Host-Country University

Australia

University of Melbourne

The Australian Indigenous Studies Program at the University of Melbourne offers students an opportunity to acquire and develop research skills in Indigenous studies through an exciting interdisciplinary program. Subjects offered reflect the rich diversity of the field of Indigenous studies. Students will address theoretical and political issues relating to the key problems in Indigenous studies in their particular disciplines: cultural change, the nature and meaning of Aboriginal cultural endeavors, identity, representation and commodification, the colonial project and social justice issues. (Sponsor: UMTC Learning Abroad Center)

Brazil

CIEE Brazil

Brazil is probably the most diverse country in Latin America. It has been an aim for people emigrating from Europe, Japan, Lebanon, and was a key country in the African diaspora. Students can take courses at the university in Salvador da Bahia or the center of Afro Brazilian culture. A wide range of courses are available including history, culture, literature, folklore, as well as contemporary Brazilian life. (Sponsor: CIEE)

Canada

University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC)

The First Nations Studies Program at UNBC focuses on various issues: contemporary issues; research methods (including oral history); First Nations languages and cultures; land and resource use and environmental philosophy; art and material culture; religion and spirituality; the state, gender, and legal issues. The UNBC region includes the territories of 16 Tribal Councils and 77 bands, and includes 4 Metis organizations and 10 Friendship Centres. UNBC is developing a prominent presence in First Nations Studies to work in partnership with these groups. This Program is available through the National Student Exchange program. For more information please contact the Career & Community Learning Center at 135 Johnston Hall. (Sponsor: CCLC)

Dominican Republic

CIEE Santiago

This program allows students to take courses in Hispanic and Afro-Caribbean cultures as well as look at historical and current issues of migration. This program is run at the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra and a study center that offers specially designed courses. Students have the opportunity to work in the community and live with a host family. (Sponsor: CIEE)

Mauritius

Study in Mauritius

Students can take a variety of courses at the University of Mauritius. This island nation in the Indian Ocean is a multicultural society in which cultures mix and blend harmoniously. The population is made up of people of Indian, African, Chinese, and French origin. Most people speak English, French and Creole, but university courses are all taught in English. (Sponsor: University of Minnesota-Duluth)

New Zealand

University of Auckland

The university is host to a variety of organizations and research units that focus on Maori and Pacific Islander issues, such as: Maori and Pacific Economic Development; Mira Szászy Research Centre; International Research Institute for Maori and Indigenous Education (IRI); James Henare Māori Research Centre; Division of Maori and Pacific Health, and; Research Unit for Pacific Education. They also offer a variety of classes in Maori Studies. (Sponsor: UMTC Learning Abroad Center)

South Africa

University Study in South Africa

Many courses at all of the universities look at the various cultures, languages and history of the different ethnic and dialectic groups in this nation dubbed the "Rainbow Nation." Students can choose from varying university experiences by deciding to go to a historically black university, a traditionally Afrikaans speaking university (both have adopted English as the main language since the fall of apartheid) or a university that has always been English speaking. (Sponsor: InterStudy)

Field Study and Research Programs

Country Varies

Scandinavian Studies Term in Norway

Democracy & Social Change in Northern Ireland

This program offers students an interdisciplinary foundation for specific research into an area of their interest. The programs maintain unique identities in each location. Norway emphasizes urban studies, and Northern Ireland focuses on democracy and social change with an educational perspective. The characteristics they share include a strong emphasis on immersion, addressing the diversity of each location, encouraging learning from the community, and the ability for the student to bring areas of interest into academic study. (Sponsor: HECUA)

Minnesota Studies in International Development (MSID) in Ecuador, Ghana, India, Kenya, or Senegal

This interdisciplinary program is based on grassroots internships and experiential learning. There are a set group of required courses that focus on intercultural communication, language, development theory and practice, and country analysis. With these courses as a strong foundation, students participate in a field placement or internship (depending on their length of study) of their choice. The internships are in a variety of areas including human rights, health, cultural revitalization, environment, and education. Within these areas students can focus on populations of interest or address issues of diversity. (Sponsor: Learning Abroad Center)

Student Project for Amity Among Nations (SPAN)

This research-based program allows students to study any topic of their choosing, focusing on a country that SPAN chooses each year. Students work with a country faculty mentor during the academic year, then in the summer, students do their research abroad. Upon return, students write a significant paper during the following fall semester to culminate the experience. Past topics include: Factors Influencing Health Care Utilization in Australian Indigenous Women, Islamic Anthropology in Pakistan, An Anthology of Orthodox Churches in Italy, Intercultural Communication in the Fight Against AIDS in Berlin, and Kadinlar Vardir: A Study of the Turkish Feminist Movement. (Sponsor: SPAN)

Short-Term Programs

Australia

IES Summer in Melbourne

Students take the required course, Politics, Society, and Identity in Australia, that gives students a broad understanding of Australian society and culture. This course is complemented with Cross-Cultural Currents: Indigenous and Multicultural issues in Australia, and an internship within a business, the community, or the arts in an area of interest to the student. (Sponsor: IES)

Denmark

DIS Child Development & Diversity in Denmark

During the fall and summer terms this program focuses on the social, political, and educational challenges and complexities of integrating Denmark's growing ethnic minorities at an early age through the school system. Topics covered include: teaching practices, intercultural communication, and the influence of ethnic/racial prejudices and stereotypes on child development. (Sponsor: DIS)

Short-Term Programs Continued

Canada

Arctic Journey: The Inuit and their Land

This novel program introduces students to the Inuit of Nunavut, Canada, as well as their land, traditions, recent political history, contemporary governance, and the Arctic environment. Students will first receive an orientation to Inuit culture and the international experience of Indigenous Peoples from members of the Onondaga Nation in Syracuse, New York. From there, they will travel to Ottawa, Canada for a briefing on history, organizations and government, and then on to Iqaluit, Nunavut, where they will spend three and one-half weeks in the Arctic, learning directly from the Inuit who helped reshape the map of Canada. For more information, please contact Syracuse University. Students choosing non-University of Minnesota programs must work with the Learning Abroad Center on registration, credit transfer, and financial aid. (Sponsor: Syracuse University)

France

Paris Metisse, Cultural Mix in Paris

This program is designed for students with little or no French language background, who seek a broad study of Parisian and French society, through an interdisciplinary course focusing on multicultural issues. (Sponsor: CIEE)

Paris Noir: Literature, Art, and Contemporary Life in Diaspora

Students will learn about the African-American influences on life in Paris in this seminar that teaches students to experience, rather than observe, Paris. Like a jazz composition, the seminar is arranged to convey variations and diverse interpretations of the Paris Noir theme. This program is not affiliated with the University of Minnesota. For more information, please contact Syracuse University. Students choosing non-University of Minnesota programs must work with the Learning Abroad Center on registration, credit transfer, and financial aid. (Sponsor: Syracuse University)

Netherlands

Ethical Tolerance in the Netherlands

This course examines the arguments both for and against tolerance with respect to a set of ethical issues including euthanasia, same sex marriage, prostitution, drugs, and immigration. Are individuals free to decide what they want to do, or does society have the right to regulate these actions? Explore the Dutch experience and policy with respect to these issues and try to understand the cultural, historical, and geographical factors that have produced these policies. Integral to this program is a study of the Amsterdam urban environment and the ways in which the environment shapes human behavior, including the development of tolerant attitudes. (Sponsor: UMTC Learning Abroad Center)

Thailand

Ethnic Minorities: The Environment & Sustainability in Chiang Mai

Both the academic courses and the field excursions are planned to introduce you to the major tribal groups of Thailand, as well as the ethnic minorities who call Thailand home. Estimates vary, but there are between 700,000 to one million tribal people living in Thailand. There are six major groups (Karen, Hmong, Mien, Akha, Lahu, and Lisu) as well as several other groups. The focus of the field excursions, in particular, will be more in-depth interaction with some of the major Hmong groups in Thailand. This program is not affiliated with the University of Minnesota. For more information please contact UW Eau Claire. Students choosing non-University of Minnesota programs must work with the Learning Abroad Center on registration, credit transfer, and financial aid. (Sponsor: UW–Eau Claire)

United Kingdom

Multicultural London

Students can take AFA 3930r People of Color in Western Europe (3cr) and/or AFA 3930r African Women in World Culture (3cr). The courses survey the black experience in Western Europe with emphasis on Britain. Events from pre-World War II to the present are examined and discussion includes the unique contributions blacks have made to European culture. Participants enjoy “500 Years of Black London,” a pair of walking tours in central London that explore some of the places and personalities of London’s Black History. This program is not affiliated with the University of Minnesota. Individuals interested in this program should contact the Florida State University Study Abroad Office. Students choosing non-University of Minnesota programs must work with the Learning Abroad Center on registration, credit transfer, and financial aid. (Sponsor: Florida State University)

Programs with a Focus on Religion

Some programs offer a thematic study of a certain religion. You can identify these by their names, such as:

Buddhist Studies in Thailand (ISEP)

Buddhist Studies (Antioch)

School of Oriental and Asian Studies, London, England (Butler)

Vienna and the Jews (Learning Abroad Center)

There are also many programs that, in addition to a broad set of course offerings, have one or two course offerings on religious issues of the host country. To find these programs you will have to first locate the country you want to study in and then check the course offerings listed in the program information. Below is a sampling of programs that offer some courses on religious issues. For more information on all these programs go to the Learning Abroad Center web site: www.UMabroad.umn.edu.

IRSEP Malaysia – Islamic Studies

Exchange in Tokyo – Buddhist Studies

IES Beijing (1 course) – Various Chinese Religions

IES Rome (4 courses) – Christian Studies

CIEE Poland – Jewish Studies

CIEE Czech Republic – Jewish Studies

International Program in Toledo, Spain (Learning Abroad Center) – Catholic, Jewish, and Islamic Studies

Program Websites

To learn more about these programs you can visit the website that corresponds with the program sponsor in parentheses.

Antioch College

www.antioch-college.edu/Edu_Abroad/

Butler (Institute for Study Abroad-Butler University)

www.ifsa-butler.org

CIEE (Council on International Educational Exchange)

www.ciee.org/study/index.html

DIS (Denmark's International Study)

www.disp.dk

Florida State University

www.international.fsu.edu

HECUA (Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs)

www.hecua.org

IES (Institute for International Education of Students)

www.iesabroad.org

InterStudy

www.interstudy.org

CCLC (Career & Community Learning Center)

www.offcampusstudy.umn.edu

Syracuse University

suabroad.syr.edu/programs/summer

UW–Eau Claire

www.uwec.edu/CIE/sac/program/chiangmai.htm

Learning Abroad Center, SPAN, UM Duluth, MSID

www.UMabroad.umn.edu