

Contact

The Learning Abroad Center is the comprehensive resource at the University of Minnesota for study, work, intern, volunteer, service learning, and travel abroad.

For further information, call 612.626.9000 or 888.700.UOFM, email UMabroad@umn.edu, or visit the Learning Abroad Center web site at www.UMabroad.umn.edu.

Learning Abroad Center

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The Learning Abroad Center is a unit of the Office of International Programs (OIP). OIP seeks to promote, coordinate, and support high-quality international educational programs, services, and outreach that enhance the University of Minnesota's goals. In keeping with this mission, OIP's motto is "Preparing Global Citizens."



www.UMabroad.umn.edu

The University of Minnesota is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status or sexual orientation. This brochure is available in alternative formats upon request, and subject to change without notice.

Faculty / Staff Brochure • 09/05 • 1500

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Preparing Global Citizens

A guide for faculty & staff



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"The University of Minnesota supports students seeking international experiences. I encourage students to take advantage of the opportunities available to fit study abroad into their academic program. A quality study abroad experience is an integral part of a student's development."

University of Minnesota President
Robert Bruininks

Curriculum Integration

Advising

Programs



Learning Abroad Center
Office of International Programs

LEARNING ABROAD CENTER

Learning Abroad Center

The Learning Abroad Center prepares global citizens by promoting global engagement, internationalizing the campus, and providing educational experiences that lead to learning and reflection in an international context.

Mission Statement

The Learning Abroad Center is a leader in providing innovative international learning experiences that expand and redefine the world for a diverse population of students, faculty, and staff. Through collaboration with colleges, departments, and faculty, both at the University of Minnesota and abroad, and attention to the needs of individual students, the Learning Abroad Center will continue to promote their empowerment, development, understanding, and responsibility in the global community.

An Institutional Priority

The University of Minnesota, a historic leader in international education, has made a broad effort to use education abroad to internationalize the undergraduate experience. Rather than internationalizing a single course, department, or unit, the University of Minnesota's goal is to incorporate international experience, perspective, and content into the fabric of the institution.

An Invitation to Participate

The University community plays a vital role in the process of internationalizing the student experience. Faculty motivate students to seek international experiences. Advisers help students fit international experiences into degree and career planning. Administrators support seamless student services. The Learning Abroad Center wants to support faculty, adviser, and administrative efforts and learn from their experiences. We welcome your ideas and look forward to working with you. The following opportunities facilitate cooperation and communication in preparing global citizens:

- Brown bag discussions regularly cover current topics
- Training sessions designed for both beginning and continuing professionals
- Curriculum integration workshops bring together colleagues from all four campuses to brainstorm, collaborate, and innovate
- Site visits to study abroad destinations are offered annually. Information and applications are available online at www.UMabroad.umn.edu/ci/sitevisit
- Short-term and customized study abroad programs are led by campus faculty (see Faculty-Led Programs)
- Faculty and advisers in academic units act as point persons for integrating learning abroad opportunities into the curriculum
- Partnerships with academic units lead to increased scholarship applications and new scholarship development



Internship in Quito, Ecuador



Faculty and advisers visit
Field Botany of the Andes in Venezuela.

Learning Abroad Center, Preparing Global Citizens: A Guide for University of Minnesota Faculty & Staff

Curriculum Integration

The University of Minnesota is committed to a University-wide approach to internationalizing the undergraduate curriculum by building relationships between faculty, advisers, and the Learning Abroad Center. Over the past several years, with funding from the Archibald Bush Foundation and the Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education (FIPSE), this curriculum integration work has developed into a model for the field of education abroad.

Assess, Match, & Motivate

At the heart of curriculum integration is the assessment of major curricula, identification curricular matches abroad, and development of advising materials that assist faculty and advisers in motivating students to study abroad.

Study Abroad in Your Major

Advising tools developed collaboratively consist of:

- Curricular-specific motivations for studying abroad
- Academic considerations for students in each major
- Program recommendations

By developing these tools and working together, learning abroad professionals gain insight into the University and its curriculum, while faculty and advisers become knowledgeable advocates for study abroad.

Resources for Colleges, Departments, & Colleagues

The Learning Abroad Center maintains an extensive web site. Look for advising resources, communications strategies, and liaison contact information.

Advising

Advising is a cornerstone of the Learning Abroad Center. Professional advisers possess a strong foundation in student development theory, knowledge of University policy and culture, and an abiding professional interest in education abroad. Advisers assist students in selecting programs, help with academic planning, and administer the Learning Abroad minor.

Advisers work with students from every college and major at the University. Clear definition of roles and good lines of communication to academic units help increase effectiveness. Learning Abroad Center advisers:

- Know specifics of international opportunities
- Match student goals, priorities, and developmental readiness to existing programs
- Are familiar with University curricula
- Help students locate academic resources
- Advise students on scholarship opportunities and financing their experience abroad
- Assist with international travel planning

Student Service Features

- A comprehensive advising handbook is provided to each student who attends a First Step meeting
- Access Abroad is a nationally recognized initiative that provides resources for students with disabilities
- Specific resources have been developed to address multicultural students and GLBT students
- Faculty and advisers campus-wide work to integrate experiences abroad into academic and career plans
- Pre-departure and on-site orientations prepare students to make the most of their learning abroad experience
- University release and waivers, required for all students learning abroad, are tracked and retained
- Required international health insurance is provided
- Workshops and materials for returned students help them reflect on their experience and articulate new skills

Programs

The Learning Abroad Center engages students in multiple modes of education abroad.

- **Study**—Over 220 opportunities exist in over 60 countries; approximately 1600 students participate annually
- **Service Learning**—Coursework helps students gain cultural integration and develop an ethic of global citizenship
- **Intern**—Both credit and non-credit internships provide access to professional skill-building placements
- **Volunteer**—A unique variety of career and life-enhancing opportunities contribute to the world
- **Work**—Intercultural work experiences improve job and life skills while enhancing student resumes
- **Travel**—Advising, rail passes, passport photos, ID cards, travel insurance, and travel guides and products are for the entire University community, including faculty and staff

Study Abroad

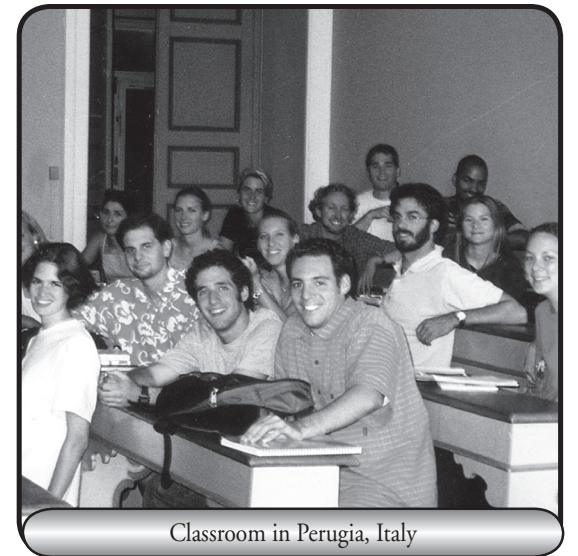
Study abroad is a primary focus of the Learning Abroad Center. In addition to sponsoring and administering programs, the Learning Abroad Center offers students access to a large number of programs cosponsored with leading national program providers. Program options have been developed to address the diverse needs of students, and vary in length, level, academic focus, teaching format, language requirements, cost, and the degree of independence demanded of the participant.

Host-University Study

Especially good for students looking for specific curricular options, these programs allow students to integrate into the classroom with host-country students at top-notch universities around the world.

Study Abroad Centers

Featuring customized courses for US students, these programs are generally designed to fit US academic expectations and calendars. Center-based programs often include coursework with opportunities for service learning, internships, and/or host-university study.



Classroom in Perugia, Italy

Field Study

A structured academic opportunity in the community, culture, or environment, field study places field research, service learning, or experiential assignments at the very core of the educational approach.

Faculty-Le67 bold condensed Programs

Global Seminars are three week faculty-led May-term or winter break programs that take advantage of existing University resources and contacts around the globe. Courses have no prerequisites, must be open to freshmen, and are designed to fulfill Liberal Education requirements.

Custom programs are faculty-led programs normally sponsored by a department or college. Faculty wishing to teach courses abroad, especially advanced and graduate-level courses, use Learning Abroad Center resources to assure they conform to proper University procedures and to help plan and market their programs.

If you are interested in learning more about options to teach University of Minnesota students abroad, please contact the Learning Abroad Center.

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International development class in Jaipur, India

Check www.UMabroad.umn.edu for more information