PROGRAM CATALOG

KENYA
MOROCCO
SENEGAL
Tanzania
Argentina
ECUADOR
Mexico
VENEZUELA
INDIA
France
ITALY
Spain
TURKEY
The Learning Abroad Center has earned an international reputation as a leader in international education, student engagement, and intercultural learning. The philosophy and ethics that inform our work also inform the design of our program offerings abroad. We have a long history of integrating students from a wide array of institutions into our programs. We work to foster the achievement of your academic, personal, intercultural, and professional goals while abroad. We welcome you and appreciate the unique perspective and experience you will bring to the program.

Martha Johnson, Assistant Dean
Learning Abroad Center

GLOBAL IDENTITY
Global Identity: Connecting Your International Experience with Your Future is an optional, one-credit, online course that offers a framework for processing your international experience. The course helps you reflect on multiple layers of cross-cultural experience and market your time abroad to future careers: www.UMabroad.umn.edu/students/academics/globalidentity.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
Non UofM Scholarships
Students participating in Learning Abroad Center programs and enrolled as degree-seeking undergraduate students at their home institution are eligible for Learning Abroad Center scholarships: www.UMabroad.umn.edu/students/nonuofm/funding/scholarship.

Scholarship Database
Use our scholarship database as a resource while researching funding options: www.UMabroad.umn.edu/students/finances/scholarships.

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“During my year with MSID I learned a lot about Senegal, development, public health, French and Wolof—but even more importantly, I learned a lot about myself. Through the challenges and successes of fitting in with my host families and new communities, I discovered a lot about my own strengths and weaknesses and grew a lot as a person. A huge strength of the MSID program is how all of the curriculum and activities, inside and outside the classroom, worked together to help me learn a lot about myself, the world, and my place in it.”
—John
Academic Quality
The Learning Abroad Center prides itself on high academic standards:
- Curricula carefully designed to achieve program learning goals and make use of the local setting
- Coursework developed in conjunction with nationally recognized curriculum integration work and with academic departments at a world-class research university
- Faculty and instructors hired with appropriate credentials and experience

Variety of Programs
Learning Abroad Center programs provide variety in structure, length, level, and language required:
- Field-based, study center, integrated university study, and short-term faculty-led options
- Academic year, semester, summer, winter break, May session, and August session
- Internships and service-learning for academic credit
- Beginning to advanced language study

Affordability
As a unit within a public institution, the Learning Abroad Center offers:
- Cost effective programs with a high level of quality
- Extensive budget and financing information

Substantive Cultural Experience
The Learning Abroad Center opens doors to other cultures for students academically, professionally, and personally:
- Immerses you in the host environment
- Engages host-country faculty and staff
- Provides educational excursions
- Arranges housing with families, in dormitories, apartments, or hotels
- Facilitates internships, research, volunteer, and service-learning options

Professional Service
The Learning Abroad Center has a friendly staff with quick response time for students from other institutions:
- Knowledgeable and helpful program staff
- Extensive program information available on the web
- Online orientation program and policy information including academic planning, curriculum, current dates and fees, and student budgets
- Agreements readily available for financial aid
- University of Minnesota official transcript to document study abroad coursework
- Assistance with visa processing

“One of the nice sides of working with students here in France is that I see them evolve from being so centered on their own culture to opening up to the world. While it is true that we go through their growing pains, and that is sometimes a challenge, it is wonderful to see the students mature and realize that there are other ways to see life.”

—Françoise Chaton
Resident Director
Study Abroad in Montpellier
Join approximately 50 million people who speak Swahili as a first or second language. Learn in small classes taught by devoted instructors. Take one intensive Swahili language course, with beginning through intermediate levels available. Speaking Swahili with your host family will enhance your skills.

Kenya’s geographic and cultural diversity make it a microcosm of the African continent. Home to more than 45 tribes, significant European and South Asian minorities, and a population of 28 million speaking dozens of languages, Kenya shares with its neighbors the challenges of forging a multiethnic, postcolonial nation. Most Kenyans are farmers or herders, yet the capital of Nairobi is one of the most cosmopolitan cities in East Africa and the base for many international and Kenyan organizations promoting development and social change.

“Tamu ya mua kifundo”

It literally means “sugarcane is sweetest at the joint.” The point being that often the harder you’re forced to work for something, the greater the reward. Students of the Swahili language understand this well and are rewarded on this program with a strong connection to the culture, in addition to foreign language skills.

www.UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/africa/swahili-kenya

LOCATION
- Nairobi

TERMS
- Winter Break
- August Session

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION
- Swahili

ACADEMIC MODEL
- Study abroad center

HOUSING
- Homestay

REQUIREMENTS
- Sophomores and above
- No language prerequisite
Study where the rural and cosmopolitan collide in Nairobi. Learn from experience in a country rich in cultural, geographic, and biological diversity. Live with two host families in two settings—one urban and one rural—during this academically challenging and personally enriching experience. Explore a wide variety of perspectives with Kenya as a case study.

This program combines coursework with hands-on experience in a service-learning internship. Explore the complex nature of international development and intercultural understanding through daily contact with communities and their people.

Engage with the fascinating culture of Kenya while enrolling in the following classes: International Development, Country Analysis of Kenya, Swahili Language, and Community Engagement in the Global South. Academic year students continue with directed research and an extended service-learning internship.

“'I see the greater need for Americans to become civically engaged and also to learn more about the world.'”

—Anthony
Explore madrasas, fondouks, palaces, and 13th century ruins in Fez, home to one of the largest and most enduring Medieval Islamic settlements in the world. Stroll through Fez's medina, which was declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 1981.

Take intensive Modern Standard Arabic and fascinating cultural courses. Live with warm and welcoming host families and surround yourself in Arabic. Travel to Casablanca, the capital city of Rabat, and the hypnotizing markets of Marrakesh. Excursions include the imperial city of Meknes and a trip to the Sahara desert.

Experience the complexity of modern and ancient Morocco in the cultural and spiritual city of Fez. All classes are held in a large villa, surrounded by a lush garden and patio, in the Ville Nouvelle neighborhood.

“We grow up learning about the differences. That’s all we think about. It’s not until you’re there that you notice the similarities actually outweigh the differences, and in that sense, it really makes the global community smaller.”

—Phuoc
Gain insight into contemporary Senegalese culture through both language and thematic courses during this six-week program. Enroll in either a thematic course (taught in English) and one language course (first–fourth semester French) or two thematic courses (taught in English). One thematic course focuses on entrepreneurship and marketplace economics while the other is a survey of Senegalese culture. Live with homestay families and participate in local excursions to increase your culture learning during your time in Senegal. If you complete third- or fourth-semester French on this program, you can combine Contemporary Culture & French Language with the Intensive French in Senegal program held in August—and even with the MSID Senegal semester or academic year program—for an extended experience abroad.

“Opening your eyes to an entirely new world changes you drastically. There is no doubt that I have grown significantly as a person. I would do it all over again in a heartbeat. Having had this experience, I know I have become a better person and a better citizen of the world.”

—Thomas
Improve your French language skills in the bustling West African city of Dakar, Senegal’s cosmopolitan capital. Enjoy small class sizes and individualized attention. This program appeals to students interested in completing an advanced French language course during a short-term summer program.

Senegal has long been seen as a crossroads where black African, Islamic, and European civilizations have met, clashed, and blended. Today it is still seen as a bridge between Africa and the West, yet it is also a place where Senegalese people remain deeply attached to traditional values and cultures. Heated by the African sun while surrounded on three sides by cool Atlantic waters, Dakar has a climate often described as “eternal spring.”

“I know I was there, but somehow it feels like it was all a remarkable dream. Nonetheless, the pictures, the stories, the new friends that I’ve made—these are the precious gems that serve as proof that it was indeed very, very real.”

—Tiana

www.UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/africa/french-senegal

Follow us on Pinterest for more information on our programs and for general study abroad inspiration.
pinterest.com/umnlac
Engage with the fascinating culture of Senegal while enrolling in a program focused on international development. Live with two host families in two settings—one urban and one rural—during this academically challenging and personally enriching experience. Explore a variety of perspectives with Senegal as a case study. A large part of the program takes place in Dakar, a fascinating capital city that sits at a crossroads where African, Islamic, and Western civilizations have met and interacted throughout history.

This program also combines coursework with hands-on experience in a service-learning internship. Students explore the complex nature of international development and intercultural understanding through daily contact with communities and their people.

The curriculum includes the following courses: *International Development*, *Country Analysis of Senegal*, *Wolof Language*, and *Community Engagement in the Global South*. Academic year students continue with directed research and an extended service-learning internship experience.

“If you are looking for a well-rounded education, then this should be an integral part of your study. I think you’ll be better off in your life, especially in the workplace.”

—Erika
Learn about Tanzania through coursework and community engagement. Begin your Swahili language studies or expand on your current skills. Gain a better understanding of the social, cultural, political, and economic context in Tanzania. Explore public health challenges in a developing country context.

Arusha is the center of Tanzania’s tourism industry and the gateway to its famous game reserves and mountains. It is located in the heart of Maasai land and offers a glimpse of old and new with semi-nomadic Maasai sporting their signature red kanga passing through the streets of a town with modern infrastructure and conveniences.

The University of Minnesota partners with an education center with over thirty years experience teaching students, development workers, civil society organizations, and government agencies across Eastern and Southern Africa.

“Living in the US and not seeing what other cultures are like, you’re not going to be exposed to different cultures, and that’s important because different cultures have different values and ideals than the US. Plus, it’s an experience that you’re never going to forget, and you’ll probably never have another opportunity later in life. Take advantage of it while you can.”

—Heidi
Learn the Spanish language and experience Argentine culture while surrounded by the beautiful city of Buenos Aires, the “Paris of the Americas.” Complete two semesters of beginning or intermediate Spanish in one semester. Take area-studies courses taught in English in subjects including history, literature, cinema, art, history, business, and economics. Receive academic credit through service-learning projects as well.

Study in downtown Buenos Aires at the Fundación José Ortega y Gasset, surrounded by global perspectives in the classrooms and tango in the streets. Live in apartments located in the center of the city or with an Argentine family. Extracurricular activities—sampling food, reading literature, and experiencing music—increase your understanding of Argentine culture. Enjoy several program excursions as well, including one to Uruguay, and experience the rich culture of South America.

“I was definitely challenged academically, and I was able to push myself beyond my self-imposed limitations, thus learning and experiencing much more. Argentina was the highlight of my undergraduate career.”

– Nicole
Gain real experience and an understanding of the social determinants of health in a foreign setting during this seven-week course. The Health & Society in Ecuador program will give you an up-close look at the complex relationship between social contexts and health disparities. Spend your summer in the capital city of Quito gaining incomparable insight into these realities while also improving your Spanish language skills.

Poverty appears to be one of the most influential determinants of health, but it is the interrelationship of the many social determinants that create poor health status. This program exposes, explores, and examines inequalities and patterns of inequity in health and healthcare in Ecuador. Topics and activities include: measuring and comparing health status, social determinants of health, health in Ecuadorian society, Ecuador’s healthcare system, and health policy.

Quito

LOCATION
• Quito

TERMS
• Summer Session

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION
• English
• Spanish

ACADEMIC MODEL
• Study abroad center

HOUSING
• Homestay

REQUIREMENTS
• Sophomores and above
• Three semesters college-level Spanish

www.UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/americas/ecuador-health

“I knew I wanted to do work in international development as an engineer, and the MSID program was a unique opportunity where I could go to a developing country learn about international development and also learn about the culture.”

—Alek
Improve your Spanish language skills. Ecuadorian Spanish is considered easy to understand and a clearly pronounced version of Spanish. Enjoy small class sizes and individualized attention. Take one intensive Spanish course (fourth or fifth semester) and rapidly improve your Spanish skills through conversations with your host family. This program appeals to students interested in advancing their Spanish knowledge through an intensive learning experience.

Few countries as small as Ecuador contain such remarkable geographic and biological diversity. It ranges from coastal deserts to temperate mountain valleys to Amazon forests. Culturally and racially, its population includes every mix of indigenous, Spanish, and African elements. The program is based in Quito, an Andean city within sight of snowcapped volcanoes housing a remarkable mix of colonial and modern, rich and poor.

“I had a really wonderful experience abroad. I am most proud of my language improvement and my academic work. I will miss saying ‘buen provecho’ and ‘que te vaya bien.’ I will be practicing my Spanish every chance that I get, and I will hopefully stay in contact with the wonderful friends that I made.”

—Hilary
Learn from experience in a country rich in cultural, geographic, and biological diversity. Based in Quito, you’ll be surrounded by snow-capped volcanoes and a remarkable mix of colonial and modern. Live with two host families in two settings—one urban and one rural—during this academically challenging and personally enriching experience. Explore a wide variety of perspectives with Ecuador as a case study.

This program combines coursework with hands-on experience in a service-learning internship. Explore the complex nature of international development and intercultural understanding through daily contact with local communities.

Engage with the fascinating culture of Ecuador while enrolling in International Development, Country Analysis of Ecuador, Spanish Language, and Community Engagement in the Global South. Academic year students continue with directed research and an extended service-learning internship experience.

“Study abroad is hugely important. I think it adds depth and texture to a liberal education and also allows you to understand your culture more.”

—Erika
I was amazed at how much fun I had with my host family. My family was awesome, and I am surprised how much I studied. And it was a beautiful place.

–David

Choose from several short-term options to begin or advance your Spanish language skills. Language classes are limited to five students, and you will be taught by Mexican teachers who are specialists in their field. You may also refine your skills by studying medical or business Spanish. This is an excellent program to fulfill your language requirement.

Known as the “City of Eternal Spring,” Cuernavaca’s gorgeous climate, ancient ruins, and colonial architecture make it the perfect location to discover the language, culture, and warmth of Mexico. The international language institute is centrally located in a villa in the elegant Las Palmas section of the city. You will live with a host family, providing a vital connection to the culture and social life of Cuernavaca. An excursion to the pyramids of Teotihuacan is included.

www.UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/americas/mexico
Whether you want to improve your Spanish, study ecology, fulfill course requirements, or immerse yourself in culture and history, this program can accommodate you. Courses are offered in Spanish and English with Venezuelan faculty and include a variety of topics: ecology, history, literature, anthropology, business, and more. Small class sizes allow for better interaction with instructors and fellow students. Develop your language proficiency through a homestay and by interacting with Venezuelan students.

Venezuela is a country of astonishing variety, from Caribbean beaches to steamy jungles to snow-capped mountains. Begin your Spanish language studies or improve your skills in Mérida, nestled in the Andean valley with an ideal climate. Excursions and weekly activities such as lectures, films, and other social events are designed to enhance your perspective on Venezuelan life. Volunteer opportunities are also available.

“Study abroad is not like a one time thing. It’s life changing. You study abroad and then you just want to go more places and learn more.”

—Jon
India opened my eyes. The country showed me the depth and diversity to a culture much older than my own. It taught me the value in cultural tradition and family.”

—Joslyn

Learn Hindi—the language that 370 million people claim as their native language—in small classes taught by focused instructors. Students report that, once the basics are mastered, Hindi is easy to learn and read. Courses are offered at beginning through advanced levels (first through fourth semester), and the program appeals to students interested in completing a full semester of Hindi language during a short-term summer program.

India, the world’s largest democracy, is home to more than one out of every six human beings alive today. Cradle of one of the oldest and most influential civilizations on earth, it is an astoundingly complex nation. Although Hinduism is the dominant religion, India also has a large Muslim population, as well as significant Christian, Sikh, Jain, and Buddhist minorities. Dozens of different languages are spoken. The program is based in Bangalore, the “Silicon Valley of India,” where the moderate climate and cosmopolitan environment provide a welcoming and culturally rich context for your time in India.

LOCATION
• Bangalore

TERMS
• Winter Break
• August Session

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION
• Hindi

ACADEMIC MODEL
• Study abroad center

HOUSING
• Homestay

REQUIREMENTS
• Sophomores and above
• No language prerequisite

www.UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/asia-oceania/hindi-india
Learn from experience in one of the oldest civilizations on earth with this program focused on international development. You’ll live with a host family in Bangalore and work with a nonprofit agency in a rural area during this academically challenging and personally enriching experience. You will combine coursework with hands-on experience in a service-learning internship. Explore the complex nature of international development and intercultural understanding through daily contact with local communities.

India is the world’s largest democracy and a multi-faceted nation full of religious, cultural, and linguistic diversity. The program is based in Bangalore, the “Silicon Valley of India,” where you can immerse yourself in the fascinating cultures of India while enrolling in the following classes: International Development, Country Analysis of India, Language & Identity, and Community Engagement in the Global South. Academic year students continue with directed research and an extended service-learning internship.

“My majors are nutrition and pre-med, and I was able to work with a doctor within a community health program. My internship gave me a lot of firsthand experience that I would not have been able to receive here as an undergraduate.”

—Shalini

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“My majors are nutrition and pre-med, and I was able to work with a doctor within a community health program. My internship gave me a lot of firsthand experience that I would not have been able to receive here as an undergraduate.”

—Shalini
Live and study in Montpellier, one of the most dynamic and beautiful cities in southern France. Montpellier, home to 100,000 university students, is a vibrant city with a history of intellectual advances and social tolerance. Take classes with French students, international students, and other program participants.

Enroll in a track of study depending on your linguistic ability and academic objectives: Language and Culture, Integrated Studies, May Session, or Summer Session. The internship option is a unique opportunity to gain insight into French working life. The on-site director and staff provide academic counseling and program support.

Homestay, apartment, and dorm options provide different ways of integrating into everyday French culture. Excursions as well as social and cultural activities help familiarize you with the flavor of southern France.

“The onsite staff is incredible. They were super helpful in pointing me in the direction of classes that meet our requirements. The staff is also helpful in helping with living arrangements and getting to know the city in general. The program has social assistants that make sure we are doing the activities we want to do and also come up with other activities that could be fun for us. They have been terrific help for me.”

—Janet
Experience Italian life and culture, past and present, in the beautiful and lively city of Florence. Take classes in art, art history, business, Italian language, graphic design, political science, psychology, design, and culture.

You will attend class in the Oltrarno neighborhood in the Piazza Santo Spirito, home to one of Florence’s best-known basilicas: Santa Maria del Santo Spirito. You’ll be within easy walking distance of major monuments and museums, while studying in an area that is still very much inhabited by Florentines and full of artisans, artists, galleries, and restaurants.

Famous for its Renaissance legacy, Florence is a thriving city with a fascinating mix of historic and contemporary culture. The Duomo, Florence’s magnificent cathedral, is in the middle of it all; chic shops and elegant restaurants line the charming avenues; historic piazzas, ringed with outdoor cafes, host performance artists and flea markets. Enjoy the region’s mild climate and world-famous cuisine in one of the most beautiful cities in Europe.

“Being in Italy, I studied a lot of Renaissance work, which was wonderful and completely different from what I have access to here. But it made me realize, in the US, things are a lot fresher. I feel like here people look more towards the future for art, new ideas, more modern. In Italy, it’s about looking to the past more, conserving, restoring. I never had thought about this difference.”

—Jessica
Immerse yourself in Roman culture while taking one of four beginning or intermediate Italian courses and other courses taught in English. Course topics include design, leadership, sustainability, media, and more. Each content course comes alive with a study tour to locations such as Pompeii, Tuscany, or Orvieto.

You will also enjoy frequent excursions around Rome. Visits may include the Colosseum, Forum of Julius Caesar, design studios such as Miss Sixty, the Vatican museums, and the Italian Trade Commission. You will live in a furnished apartment or a homestay in neighborhoods around Rome.

With a history spanning more than 2,500 years, Rome is home to beautiful architecture, contemporary fashion, Renaissance artwork, and metropolitan culture. Spend your free time visiting the city's many museums, sampling authentic Italian cuisine, and wandering the piazzes of this dynamic capital city.

“I noticed a huge change in myself from the day I arrived in Rome and the day I left. The program opened doors for me and gave me hands-on experience. I realized that Italian culture couldn’t be explained, written, or taught. It needs to be experienced.”

—Jenna
Live and study in Madrid, Spain's alluring and lively capital city known for its history and art and also for its turbulent politics and vibrant social offerings.

This program helps you improve your beginning or intermediate Spanish language skills while also taking courses taught in English. Areas of study include business, finance, marketing, communication and media, religion, and more. English-speaking internships are available.

Our program partner, the prestigious Fundación José Ortega-Marañon in Madrid, is located in a central part of the city, near Paseo de la Castellana, where it is easy to catch public transportation to any other part of the city. Courses in English are also available at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid.

“My summer was amazing. I could not have dreamed of a better program to study abroad through. The professors were extremely helpful with any questions or concerns I had. The faculty and staff were amazing as well. I learned more with my host family than I did in my classes—although I learned a lot in class too. Overall, I would give this program 10 out of 10. I can’t think of anything I would change.”

–Britney
Study in the walled city of Toledo, home for more than 2,000 years to a succession of Roman, Jewish, Visigoth, Moorish, and Christian civilizations. Toledo offers an intimate setting to immerse yourself in Spanish culture. Choose between living in a converted 16th century convent or with a Spanish host family.

Take classes at the Fundación Ortega-Marañón while benefitting from individual attention from faculty who are specialists in their fields. Earn major or minor credit in many areas, including anthropology, archaeology, art history, economics, history, linguistics, political science, Spanish cultural heritage, Spanish language, Spanish and Latin American literature, Spanish theater, and business. The program also offers opportunities to study at the University of Castilla la Mancha, to conduct a service-learning project, or to intern with a Spanish company. Several excursions, such as trips to Madrid and Segovia, are included in the program.

“It was good that I was able to get out into the community, and it was definitely a better way to see how life in Spain actually is, what the workplace is like, how people interact. It definitely helped me to get into the Spanish culture.”

– John
For centuries, Istanbul has been an object of desire by nations and travelers alike. Strategically nestled between Europe and Asia, the city bridges two continents. Today, with its rich historical and religious significance, Europe’s second-largest city is a perfect place to study political science, sociology, religious studies, or Turkish language and culture. Explore Istanbul’s exotic Spice Market and Grand Bazaar. Investigate its many mosques and monuments. Discover a city the rest of the world has desired for centuries.

All courses are held at the University of Minnesota ACCENT Istanbul Center, located in the Galata neighborhood, one of Istanbul’s oldest and most historic districts. Instructors and staff are local Turkish faculty and student-service professionals.

Excursions are included in the academic structure of each course to guide your learning on the complexity of modern Turkey. The program also includes a two-week academic excursion to Rome, Italy, offering a unique opportunity to compare two of the most influential cities in ancient and modern Europe.

“Studying abroad will cause you to grow, which you need to be successful. If you stay in a place you’re familiar with, you’re not going to learn as much about yourself, about the world in general, about maybe what you want to do. So you definitely need to get out there.”

– Talitha

www.UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/europe/istanbul

Study in Turkey

Follow us on Pinterest for more information on our programs and for general study abroad inspiration.

pinterest.com/umnlac
GLOBAL SEMINARS

LOCATION
- Various destinations worldwide

TERMS
- Winter Break
- May Session

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION
- English

ACADEMIC MODEL
- Study abroad center

HOUSING
- Hotel
- Hostel

REQUIREMENTS
- Freshmen and above

Global Seminars are three-week programs led by University of Minnesota faculty featuring:
- Intensive learning on specialized topics
- Small groups of 15–25 students
- No prerequisites or language requirements
- Included excursions and cultural activities

Past Global Seminars include:
- Environmental Issues in New Zealand
- Italian Neighborhoods: Exploring Community, Complexities & Change
- Global Health in Kenya
- Hiking through History: A Spanish Pilgrimage
- History through the Silver Screen in Prague
- Leadership & Social Change in Istanbul
- Philosophies of Wellness: Holistic Healing in Japan
- Sustainable Food Systems of Italy
- Sustainability in Scandinavia

“Study abroad will give you a broader understanding of how to communicate, even with people in your own neighborhood, and of how to understand that we’re all human. You understand that even though we don’t speak the same language, and we don’t have the same customs, we’re similar. Everybody needs to know that.”

–Claribél
During Your Experience Abroad
Take responsibility for your own learning and engage your experience fully by making connections and documenting your experience.

Make Connections
- Build your network; collect and document contact information
- Develop friendships and professional relationships
- Conduct informational interviews
- Connect with alumni, use the Learning Abroad Center and UofM’s alumni networks
- Request and document references or letters of recommendation

Document Your Experience
- Document and share with others, practice talking about your experiences
- Develop your personal brand and build an online identity (LinkedIn, blog & video blog, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest)

Upon Return
Market Your International Experience
- Work with a career counselor to market your international experience for employers and graduate schools by identifying skills learned abroad and articulating your experience on resumes and in interviews.

Get Involved
- Internships for returned students in your school’s study abroad or international student office
- Share your experience by serving as a contact for future participants. Volunteer at pre-departure orientations and get involved in your community.

Additional Resources
- Learning Abroad Center Re-Entry Handbook
- Define Your Experience for Employers Handout

STUDENT IDENTITIES

Students with Disabilities
We encourage students with disabilities, physical or hidden, to explore opportunities abroad. The Learning Abroad Center and Disability Services are collaborating to enhance access to study abroad for students with disabilities. Learn more at www.UMabroad.umn.edu/professionals/accessabroad.

Multicultural Students
As part of a greater initiative to provide all students equal access to the benefits of an internationalized degree, the Learning Abroad Center partners with departments and colleges across all five campuses to provided support to multicultural students before, during, and after learning abroad experience. For more information visit www.UMabroad.umn.edu/students/identity/multicultural.

GLBT Students
GLBT individuals can find resources and support for selecting a learning abroad experience that fits within academic, career, and personal plans. For more information visit www.UMabroad.umn.edu/students/identity/glbt.
FERPA

The same laws that give parents and students access to and control over a student’s educational records during elementary and high school transfer ownership of the records to the student at the college level. According to FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, also known as the Buckley Amendment), college students are considered responsible adults and are allowed to determine who will receive personal information. Under this law, parents who want to receive a copy of their student’s academic or financial records can do so if their student signs a release form. FERPA, along with the State of Minnesota Data Privacy Act, forms the backdrop for the Regents Policy on Access to Student Records.

While federal law (FERPA) prevents the Learning Abroad Center from sharing information about a particular student, you are encouraged to browse the resources available online and in our office, and to talk to your student.

STUDENT-CENTERED OFFICE

Parents are very important supporters of students’ international experiences. The Learning Abroad Center is dedicated to being student-centered. We purposefully strive to communicate with and send all correspondence to students. Students are the individuals who will be abroad and are responsible for themselves in a foreign country. In our experience, independent student preparation helps them make the transition to being abroad a successful one.

While we are pleased to meet with parents to answer questions, in many cases we are not at liberty to share information out of compliance with FERPA. We encourage you to funnel your questions through your student, having him/her serve as the family representative. When sharing your questions with your student, you may wish to discuss why you have questions about a particular topic and what impact different answers could have. This process is a wonderful exercise to help your student reach the next stage of maturity and become an independent adult.

SEQUENCE OF SUPPORT

1. Exploration
Talk to your student about their goals and needs for their experiences abroad. Study with a new professor? Career development? Travel? Heritage exploration? Scholarship options?

2. Selection
Ask your students about their choice. Why did they choose this program? What are their expectations? What do they hope to gain from the experience?

3. Departure
Students can often feel overwhelmed and less confident than when they originally began the steps to go abroad. Reiterate that you feel they will succeed and that both the Learning Abroad Center and you will be there when challenges arise.

4. In Country
Remember, just like when your student went to a week-long summer camp, they don’t call you when they are surrounded by friends and feeling wonderful about the experience. You are their support system and they will rely on you when they are confused, lonely, or vulnerable. Talk to your students and ask them to check in the day following the pep-talk. The emotional cloud often passes and things improve dramatically. Encourage them to contact local staff with concerns.

5. Re-Entry
Ask your students specific questions about their experience. What did they see on the way to classes or an internship? What was the food like? Language? Host-national friends? American friends? Some students may take more time to reflect independently. Other students may be showing you photos and sharing stories with you from their time abroad.

“There is nothing like this experience. It truly lasts a lifetime. It seems especially important for American students to go abroad as we sometimes get caught in our ‘bubble.’ This helps to foster windows, not mirrors, for us.”

— Abby Carpenter
Parent of UofM student