The Learning Abroad Center (LAC) 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.

All Learning Abroad Center programs are specifically designed to ensure that you will:

- Expand your knowledge through multiple academic perspectives
- Gain awareness and appreciation of your host culture and deepen awareness of your own culture
- Identify and communicate the impact of your experience abroad personally, academically, and professionally
- Become more self-reliant and self-aware
- Navigate differences more effectively

“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

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: UMabroad.umn.edu/students/academics/global.identity.

Additional Resources

Non UoM students participating in LAC programs and enrolled as degree-seeking undergraduate students at their home institution are eligible for LAC scholarships: UMabroad.umn.edu/nonuofm/funding/scholarship.

Scholarship Database

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

Contact Information

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University of Minnesota
230 Heller Hall
271 19th Avenue S.
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0340
Phone: 612.626.9000
Toll Free: 888.700.UOFM
Fax: 612.626.8009
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

Academic Quality
The Learning Abroad Center (LAC) prides itself on high academic standards:

- Curricula carefully designed to achieve program learning goals and make use of the local setting
- Faculty and instructors hired with appropriate credentials and experience
- Coursework developed in conjunction with nationally recognized curriculum integration work and with academic departments at a world-class research university

Affordability
As a unit within a public institution, the LAC offers:

- Cost-effective, high-quality programs
- Extensive budget and financing information

Substantive Cultural Experience
The LAC opens doors to other cultures for students academically, professionally, and personally by:

- Immersing you in the host environment
- Engaging host-country faculty and staff
- Providing educational excursions
- Arranging housing with families or in dormitories, apartments, or hotels
- Facilitating internships and research, volunteer, and service-learning options

A Variety of Programs
LAC programs provide variety in structure, length, level, and language required:

- Field-based, study center, integrated university study, and short-term instructor-led options
- Academic year, semester, summer, winter break, May session, and summer session options
- Internships and service-learning for academic credit
- Beginning to advanced language study

Professional Service
The LAC has a knowledgeable, friendly, and helpful program staff. We offer:

- Quick response time to students from other institutions
- Extensive online program information

We assist with:

- Online orientation program and policy information, including academic planning, curriculum, current dates and fees, and student budgets
- Readily available agreements for financial aid
- University of Minnesota official transcript to document study abroad coursework
- Visa processing

REASONS TO GO ABROAD WITH THE LEARNING ABROAD CENTER
It literally means “sugarcane is sweetest at the joint.” In other words, 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 and foreign language skills.

KENYA

Intensive Swahili in Kenya

Immerse yourself in the Swahili language while learning about the country’s more than 40 ethnic groups, admiring intricate hand-beaded jewelry, and taking a game drive to see the wildlife in action. Enroll in 4 credits of intensive beginning or intermediate Swahili language. Learn in small classes taught by host-country instructors and practice Swahili each day with your host family to improve your skills rapidly. The program appeals to students interested in completing a full semester of Swahili language in three weeks.

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.

Location
• Nairobi

Term
• Summer session

Language of Instruction
• Swahili

Academic Model
• Study abroad center

Housing
• Homestay

Requirements
• Sophomores and above
• No language prerequisite

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

“Tamu ya mua kifundo.” It literally means “sugarcane is sweetest at the joint.” In other words, 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 and foreign language skills.
Kenya

Minneapolis Studies in International Development

Delve into firsthand learning in Kenya, a country of abundant wildlife, dramatic landscapes, and a highly diverse culture. Take classes, intern with a local NGO, and conduct research to address complex issues of Kenyan people and their communities. During this academically challenging and personally enriching experience, two host families in two settings—one urban and one rural—help you 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.

You will enroll 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 internship.

Location
• Nairobi and field placements in various locations

Terms
• Academic year
• Fall or spring semester
• Optional language pre-session

Language of Instruction
• English
• Swahili

Academic Model
• Study abroad center
• Field study
• Service-learning internships

Housing
• Homestays

Requirements
• Juniors and above
• No language prerequisite

UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/africa/msid-kenya

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

—Anthony
“My experience abroad really put me out of my comfort zone, forcing me to reflect on not only the new culture I was getting to know but also the culture I grew up within.”

—Maria

Location
• Nairobi and Nanyuki

Term
• Summer session

Language of Instruction
• English

Academic Model
• Study abroad center
• Field study
• Service-learning internships

Housing
• Homestays
• Hotels

Requirements
• Sophomores and above
• No language prerequisite

KENYA

Summer Engineering: The Power of Kenya

Explore engineering practices, successes, and challenges of the developing world both in the classroom and in remote Kenyan communities. During this five-week program, partner with engineers and community leaders to address water, energy, education, and health needs. Two homestays—one urban and one rural—will give you insight into Kenyan culture and daily life.

To delve deeper, learn about the history, politics, and economics of Kenya and how they impact local and international perspectives on work. Classes are held at a local study center and taught by local Kenyan faculty. Courses include Engineering in the Developing World, which explores aspects of community empowerment through the design and implementation of renewable energy systems, and Intercultural Perspectives on Work, which addresses intercultural concepts in general and specifically in a Kenyan work context.
MOROCCO

Arabic Language & Culture in Morocco

Learn Modern Standard Arabic in the classroom and Darija on the labyrinthine streets of Fez. Enroll in courses that provide insights into Moroccan life and culture. Live in the bustling Medieval medina or the modern Ville Nouvelle, behold the historic kasbah of imperial Meknes, and spend a weekend with the Berber people in the Sahara desert.

You will live with host families to surround yourself in Arabic. The ALIF study center, home to the program, hosts Arabic-speaking students learning English, which helps you develop cultural partnerships and find local peers.

Location
• Fez

Terms
• Academic year
• Fall or spring semester
• Summer session

Language of Instruction
• Arabic
• English

Academic Model
• Study abroad center

Housing
• Homestay

Requirements
• Sophomores and above
• No language prerequisite

"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

youtube.com/UMabroad230
Rapidly improve your French skills in less than four weeks in an advanced language course, through conversations with your host family, and by interacting daily with local Senegalese. Participate in a community action excursion and explore the cosmopolitan, multicultural city of Dakar, capital of Senegal and the westernmost point in Africa.

Homestays in Dakar are an integral component of the language learning experience: You will live and share most meals with a family to gain deeper cultural insight into life in Senegal. Excursions to locations of cultural interest in and around Dakar are included in the program.

The Intensive French in Senegal program can be combined with the MSID Senegal semester or academic-year program and with the Contemporary Culture & Entrepreneurship in Senegal program for an extended experience abroad.

“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
Immerse yourself in classes, an internship with a grassroots agency, and research addressing the social and economic realities of Senegal, a captivating country seen as the bridge between Africa and the West. Choose from beginning Wolof or advanced French language study and live with host families to gain deeper insight into the language and culture.

This program also combines coursework with hands-on experience in a service-learning internship. You will 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.

Location
• Dakar and field placements in various locations

Terms
• Academic year
• Fall or spring semester
• Optional language pre-session

Language of Instruction
• French
• Wolof

Academic Model
• Study abroad center
• Field study
• Service-learning internships

Housing
• Homestays

Requirements
• Juniors and above
• Minimum four semesters college-level French

“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
Study Spanish, read literature, and learn about Argentine culture in the urban landscape of Buenos Aires, a city of nearly 14 million. Wander the busy avenues and beautiful neighborhoods, visit a parrilla for a juicy rib-eye steak, and dance to pulsing electronica in one of many trendy nightclubs.

You will study in the bustling cultural center of downtown Buenos Aires at the prestigious Fundación José Ortega y Gasset. Enjoy many extracurricular opportunities and program excursions, including Uruguay.

Founded by immigrants along the shores of the Rio de la Plata, Buenos Aires built its identity on Spanish, Italian, and French influences, which appear in the grand boulevards, expansive parks, and magnificent architecture.

“"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
ECUADOR

Intensive Spanish in Ecuador

Strengthen your Spanish language skills and explore Quito, a large city high in the Andes surrounded by volcanic peaks. Sample dry-roasted corn from street vendors while marveling at Old Town’s colonial architecture, narrow streets, and lively plazas. You will enroll in 4 credits of intermediate or advanced Spanish language, learn in small classes taught by host-country instructors, and practice Spanish each day with a host family to improve your skills rapidly. The program appeals to students interested in completing a full semester of Spanish language in three weeks.

Ecuador’s geographic and biological diversity ranges from coastal deserts to temperate mountain valleys to Amazon forests. Its population includes a mix of indigenous, Spanish, and African elements.

Location
• Quito

Terms
• Winter break
• Summer session

Language of Instruction
• Spanish

Academic Model
• Study abroad center

Housing
• Homestay

Requirements
• Sophomores and above
• Minimum three semesters college-level Spanish

“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
Ecuador

Minnesota Studies in International Development

Examine Ecuador’s social and economic realities both in the classroom and through an internship or research project with a grassroots agency. Experience contemporary Ecuadorian culture—a blend of indigenous and Spanish colonial—while living with host families and honing your Spanish language skills.

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.

Location
• Quito and field placements in various locations

Terms
• Academic year
• Fall or spring semester
• Optional language pre-session

Language of Instruction
• Spanish

Academic Model
• Study abroad center
• Field study
• Service-learning internships

Housing
• Homestays

Requirements
• Juniors and above
• Minimum four semesters college-level Spanish

UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/americas/msid-ecuador

"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 to learn about international development and also learn about the culture."

—Alek

pinterest.com/UMNiac
MEXICO

Study Abroad in Mexico

Improve your Spanish by living with a host family and taking classes taught by attentive instructors. Language classes are limited to five students and are taught by Mexican teachers who are specialists in their field. Medical Spanish is offered as an advanced course. You will also explore the Palacio de Cortes and the murals of Diego Rivera, climb the enormous pyramids of Teotihuacan, and bask in the ever-temperate climate of the “City of Eternal Spring.”

Cuernavaca’s approachable size, gorgeous climate, ancient ruins, and colonial architecture make it the perfect location to discover the language, culture, and warmth of Mexico. Cemanahuac Educational Community, the international language institute that hosts program, is centrally located in a villa in the elegant Las Palmas section of the city.

Location
• Cuernavaca

Terms
• Winter break
• May session
• Summer session

Language of Instruction
• Spanish

Academic Model
• Study abroad center

Housing
• Homestay

Requirements
• Freshmen and above
• No language prerequisite

“"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

UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/americas/mexico
THAILAND

Intensive Thai in Thailand

Over a three-week period, enroll in 4 credits of intensive beginning, intermediate, or advanced Thai language. Practice Thai in small classroom settings, by living with a local family, and by interacting daily with Thai people.

With its fascinating cultural sites and wide array of environmental diversity, Thailand has long been a popular destination for travelers and serves as a major hub of industry, agriculture, and tourism. You will experience the city of Chiang Mai—one of southeast Asia’s premier cities known for its friendly people, large open air markets, and incredible food—and will take several cultural excursions in and around the city.

The program appeals to students interested in completing a full semester of Thai language in three weeks. It can also be combined with the MSID Thailand fall or academic-year program for an extended experience abroad.

Location
- Chiang Mai

Term
- Summer session

Language of Instruction
- Thai

Academic Model
- Study abroad center

Housing
- Homestay

Requirements
- Sophomores and above
- No language prerequisite

“\[quote\]
The language study was definitely intense, but so worth it. I surprised myself by how quickly I advanced in such a short time.\[quote]

– Jane

UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/asia-oceania/thai-thailand
Investigate the complexities of development issues in Thailand, the only southeast Asian country never colonized by European powers. Study the Thai language, use your new language skills at home with your host families, and learn from the local community through an internship or research project with a grassroots NGO.

This program combines seven weeks of coursework in the city with six weeks of an internship or research project in a rural area. You will live in bustling, charming Chiang Mai, visit incredible Buddhist temples, and enroll in the following classes: International Development, Country Analysis of Thailand, Language & Identity, and Community Engagement in the Global South. Academic-year students continue with directed research and an extended service-learning internship.
Enroll in business courses in English alongside French students at the University of Montpellier near the Mediterranean coast. Live in Montpellier, a student-centered city home to a variety of businesses—from local agriculture to tech startups to international corporations—and enjoy the city’s arts, culture, recreation, and intellectual pursuits. Participate in excursions to nearby historical and cultural sites, as well as social activities that help you meet French people and make lasting connections in France.

You can begin or continue your French language development through the Business French course, and learn how business is conducted in France through a course on French and European business practices taught exclusively for program participants. This program, developed in conjunction with the Carlson School of Management, is based at the University of Montpellier.

FRANCE

Business in France

Enroll in business courses in English alongside French students at the University of Montpellier near the Mediterranean coast. Live in Montpellier, a student-centered city home to a variety of businesses—from local agriculture to tech startups to international corporations—and enjoy the city’s arts, culture, recreation, and intellectual pursuits. Participate in excursions to nearby historical and cultural sites, as well as social activities that help you meet French people and make lasting connections in France.

You can begin or continue your French language development through the Business French course, and learn how business is conducted in France through a course on French and European business practices taught exclusively for program participants. This program, developed in conjunction with the Carlson School of Management, is based at the University of Montpellier.

“The program was well organized and provided me with opportunities to go on excursions and participate in activities in the city. Studying abroad awoken an appreciation of multiculturalism and broadened my mind.”

–Kieran
FRANCE

Study Abroad in Montpellier

Integrate into French culture in Montpellier, a vibrant city located just miles from the Mediterranean. Hone your French language skills and take classes in a variety of subjects alongside French students at Paul Valéry University, one of Europe’s oldest universities. It’s easy to enjoy the city’s college-town atmosphere, Medieval and contemporary architecture, and sunny climate.

Enroll in a track of study depending on your linguistic ability and academic objectives: language and culture, integrated studies, and several summer sessions. An internship option allows you to gain insight into French working life. The on-site director and staff provide academic counseling and program support.

Apartment, homestay, and dormitory options provide different ways of integrating into everyday French culture. Excursions and social and cultural activities help you become more familiar with the flavor of southern France.

Location
• Montpellier

Terms
• Academic year
• Fall or spring semester
• Summer session

Language of Instruction
• English
• French

Academic Model
• Study abroad center
• Host-university study
• Internships

Housing
• Apartment
• Homestay
• Dormitory

Requirements
• Freshmen and above
• Language requirements vary — see website

“On-site 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

UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/europe/montpellier
pinterest.com/UMNlac

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Location
• Montpellier

Terms
• May session

Language of Instruction
• English

Academic Model
• Study abroad center

Housing
• Apartment

Requirements
• Freshmen and above
• No language prerequisite

FRANCE

Sports & Culture in France: *La vie sportive*

Study French sports culture—including tourism, psychology, and pedagogy—in Montpellier, one of France’s sportiest cities. You will visit local sports and recreational facilities, sail in picturesque Port Camargue, and soak up all southern France has to offer.

You will also learn about several European sports, such as pétanque and handball, and enjoy a wide variety of athletic activities including hiking, swimming, soccer, and cycling. The program includes excursions to the national park of Cévennes, a training session of the Montpellier handball club, and a professional handball game.

“Thank you for [this] immersive experience. Not only did I learn about cultural practices different than my own, but I also adopted these traditions; some are temporary, some permanent.”

—Elisabeth

UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/europe/montpellier-sports
FRANCE

Teaching Practicum in France

Study in this cultured university city with a centuries-old history of intellectual advances and social tolerance. You will complete teaching licensure requirements, examine French education practices, and complete your teaching practicum in a French school while living with a host family or in a charming apartment.

Based at the University of Montpellier, this program has been developed in conjunction with the University of Minnesota’s College of Education & Human Development and is designed to meet major requirements for students in elementary education, early childhood education, and special education.

Housing options provide multiple ways of integrating into everyday French culture. The program includes several excursions to nearby sites and employs French students to plan social and cultural activities.

Location
• Montpellier

Terms
• Fall or spring semester

Language of Instruction
• English
• French

Academic Model
• Study abroad center

Housing
• Apartment
• Homestay
• Dormitory

Requirements
• Sophomores and above
• No language prerequisite

“So far my entire experience has been wonderful, and I hope to continue making everlasting memories throughout my journey.”

–Georgina
IRELAND

Study Abroad in Dublin

On this semester program, enroll in classes at Dublin City University or take study center classes focused on literature and theatre at the Gaiety School of Acting.

You will take the core course, which has three main components: gain knowledge and perspective of Ireland past and present through modules focused on economics, religion, sport, language, and education; engage with the host country through an internship, research project, performance, volunteer placement, sports team, or teaching practicum; and explore Ireland through study tours to western Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Dublin is a flavorful feast of Medieval castles and cathedrals, cultural events, rich theatre and arts scenes, lively nightlife, bustling shopping areas, and a booming tech community. With more than 40% of its population under the age of 30, it is now one of Europe’s most youthful cities.

UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/europe/study-abroad-in-dublin

“There is a quiet confidence to this city, a strong assurance it has in itself. It is a wonderful jigsaw of people, architecture, and culture that fits together because of its ability to accept basically anything. It goes with the flow. Dublin doesn’t push, it doesn’t expect, it doesn’t impose, it just is.”

—Erin
ITALY

Study & Intern in Florence

Learn or improve your Italian in romantic Florence, center of the Italian Renaissance. Enjoy fresh, hearty Tuscan cuisine, admire masterpieces in world-famous art museums, and immerse yourself in Italian culture through courses, excursions, and an internship.

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.

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.

Location
• Florence
Terms
• Fall or spring semester
Language of Instruction
• English
• Italian
Academic Model
• Study abroad center
• Internships
Housing
• Apartment
• Homestay
Requirements
• Sophomores and above
• No language prerequisite

“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
Live and study in the heart of Rome, a thrilling city renowned for its fashion, architecture, cuisine, and rich history. You will admire well-known ancient landmarks, savor a scoop of creamy fior di latte at a nearby gelateria, intern at a local company, and take study tours to gain an understanding of the city’s past and present. Take one of four beginning to intermediate Italian language courses and other courses taught in English. Topics include design, leadership, media, and sustainability.

The program offers frequent excursions around Rome that may include the Colosseum, the Forum of Julius Caesar, design studios such as Miss Sixty, the Vatican museums, and the Italian Trade Commission. You will live in furnished apartments or a homestay in neighborhoods around Rome.
Spain

Psychology & Research in Madrid

During this six-week summer program, gain an international perspective on psychology as well as hands-on research experience. The program is intended for psychology majors and minors working toward their bachelor of arts or bachelor of science.

You will take Introduction to Biological Psychology and Research Laboratory in Psychology, both of which fulfill psychology BA/BS requirements, for a total of 6 credits.

This program is offered in partnership with the Department of Psychology and the Fundación Ortega-Marañón in central Madrid.

Location
• Madrid

Term
• Summer session

Language of Instruction
• English
• Spanish

Academic Model
• Study abroad center
• Research

Housing
• Homestay
• Dormitory

Requirements
• Sophomores and above
• Minimum one semester college-level Spanish

UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/europe/research-madrid

“We took in all of the incredibly beautiful sights in the city—I can’t believe that I’ll be calling it home for the summer. It truly is an amazing place. One minute you’re in a bustling shopping center, the next you’re on top of a cathedral.”

—Taylor
Improve your Spanish language skills and participate in an internship in Madrid, Spain’s lively capital. You can enroll in English-taught courses in business, communications, finance, marketing, religion, and more. While in Spain, you can take excursions to historic Segovia and El Escorial, purchase a pair of colorful espadrilles, and enjoy all that this captivating city has to offer.

This program is geared toward students who would like to improve their beginning or intermediate Spanish language skills and take English-taught courses. English-speaking internships are available. You can also take English-taught courses at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid.

Our program partner, the prestigious Fundación Ortega-Marañón 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.

“\nMy 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
Head back in time in Toledo, a charming Medieval walled city, to strengthen your language skills, choose from a variety of program courses, immerse yourself in an internship, and take various excursions throughout Spain. You can wander cobblestone streets to discover historical attractions and sit atop the highest hill for commanding views of the city.

You will receive individual attention from faculty who are specialists in their fields at the prestigious Fundación Ortega-Marañón, earning 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 theatre, and business. The program offers opportunities to study at the University of Castilla la Mancha, conduct a service-learning project, or intern with a Spanish company.

Location
• Toledo

Terms
• Academic year
• Fall or spring semester
• May session
• Summer session

Language of Instruction
• Spanish

Academic Model
• Study abroad center
• Host-university study
• Internships
• Service-learning

Housing
• Homestay
• Dormitory

Requirements
• Freshmen and above
• Minimum four semesters college-level Spanish

“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
Learning Abroad Center Website

Visit UMabroad.umn.edu and click on the “Non UofM Students” menu for:
• Up-to-date information on study abroad program courses, fees, and dates
• Study abroad applications
• Searchable database of work, intern, and volunteer opportunities
• Scholarship information and database

Your Academic Advisers

Throughout the process, talk with your major/minor and other academic advisers to discuss:
• Requirements you have left to fulfill
• Timing for study abroad, taking into account sequence courses and courses you must take on campus
• Your degree progress, especially if you choose a work, intern, or volunteer program
• Other aspects of integrating your on-campus academic work with your study abroad experiences. More for you and your adviser at UMabroad.umn.edu/professionals/curriculumintegration.

Financial Aid Resources

Visit UMabroad.umn.edu and click on the “Non UofM Students” menu, then on the “Funding” tab for more information on how to finance your experience abroad. Remember to consult with your own institution’s study abroad office and financial aid office to explore all possibilities for receiving funding.

Career Integration

Learning abroad can lead to intercultural competencies that are appealing to potential employers and graduate schools alike in our increasingly interdependent society. Start thinking about your academic and career goals before, during, and after your experience abroad.

Before You Go Abroad

Think about how an international experience will impact your career and professional development. Identify professional development goals early in your advising appointments by engaging in self-assessment and reflection. Create a clear relationship between your academic and career goals and your international experience. Discuss the following with your academic adviser, career counselor, or a learning abroad staff member:
• The skills or proficiencies you hope to acquire or enhance while abroad
• Learning abroad program start and end dates and whether they conflict with internship dates and opportunities or graduate and professional applications
• How to research positions in your field and industry
• What you hope to gain from your international experience
• Whether to focus on academics or to also build in volunteer, work, or internship experience
• How an international experience can make you stand out
• How international experience fits with who you are professionally and personally

During Your Experience Abroad

Take responsibility for your own learning and engage in 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 via the Learning Abroad Center’s and UofM’s alumni networks
• Request and document references or letters of recommendation
• Document and share with others; practice talking about your experiences
• Develop your personal brand and build an online identity (LinkedIn, blog and video blog, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Snapchat)

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 LAC and the Disability Resource Center are collaborating to enhance access to study abroad for students with disabilities. Learn more at 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 LAC partners with departments and colleges across all five campuses to provided support to multicultural students before, during, and after their learning abroad experience. For more information, visit 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 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 (LAC) 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.

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 LAC 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.

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"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

Student-Centered Office

Parents are very important supporters of students’ international experiences. The LAC is dedicated to being student-centered. We purposefully strive to communicate with and send all correspondence to students, who are the individuals who will be abroad and who 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.
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