The Learning Abroad Center (LAC) at the University of Minnesota has gained a national reputation for innovation and quality in the field of education abroad. Initiatives such as Curriculum Integration and Career Integration seek to connect students’ experience abroad to their overall undergraduate experience. This same spirit of innovation and quality infuses our sites and programs. Our knowledge and expertise in experiential education, culture learning, and serving diverse student populations set us apart. We look forward to continuing to serve students from partner institutions and providing all students on LAC programs with an experience of unparalleled quality.

Martha Johnson, Assistant Dean
Learning Abroad Center

Contact Information
Learning Abroad Center
University of Minnesota
230 Heller Hall
271 19th Avenue S.
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0340
Phone: 612.626.9000
Toll Free: 888.700.UOFM

All Learning Abroad Center programs are specifically designed to ensure that participants will:
• Expand their knowledge through multiple academic perspectives
• Gain awareness and appreciation of their host cultures and deepen their awareness of their own culture
• Identify and communicate the impact of their experience abroad personally, academically, and professionally
• Become more self-reliant and self-aware
• Navigate differences more effectively
REASONS TO WORK WITH THE LEARNING ABROAD CENTER

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 students 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 community-engagement 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 community engagement 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

“As a study abroad adviser, I recommend UoFM programs to students because I know they will have an enriching, rewarding, enjoyable experience, and their time abroad will be worth every penny of their investment. In addition, I always breathe a sigh of relief when students choose these programs over our other Spain or Middle East summer programs or France semester programs because I know my life will be easier.”

—April Robillos
Study Abroad Adviser
Purdue University

“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
Curriculum Integration & Career Integration

The University of Minnesota is acknowledged internationally as an innovator of a successful model of study abroad curriculum integration in which study abroad professionals, faculty, and academic advisers collaborate to internationalize the undergraduate experience. The “Minnesota Model” of study abroad curriculum integration is based on partnering with academic units to effectively meet institutional goals to internationalize the curriculum. This model spreads ownership for international education throughout the institution. Curriculum Integration situates learning abroad centrally within the undergraduate experience at the University of Minnesota. Career Integration builds upon our proven methodology to integrate experience abroad into career and life planning.

Contact Kim Hindbjorgen for more information: khindbjo@umn.edu.

Academic & Enrollment Services

The Academic Services team at the Learning Abroad Center (LAC) processes all study abroad courses, credits, and grades and ensures all abroad programs are consistent with University of Minnesota academic policies. The LAC awards University of Minnesota resident credit for the vast majority of our own and affiliate programs. Affiliate institutions receive official University of Minnesota transcripts with study abroad coursework and assistance with all credit transfer queries. The Enrollment Services team advises and supports students from the moment they submit an application until they depart for a program, ensuring that program and application process details are clear to each and every student. Our teams of experts quickly respond to student queries about major/minor, liberal education, and grade requirements, as well as maintaining active student status and financial aid access.

Contact Emily Mraz for more information: mrazx003@umn.edu.

Health, Safety, & Compliance

While no organization or institution can guarantee the safety of participants, the risks can be significantly reduced if program staff, students, parents, and advisers at the host and home institutions work together. In response to the concern for the well-being of students, the University of Minnesota’s educational abroad policies and procedures require all students participating in an education abroad experience to complete a release and waiver form from the General Counsel’s office. Students must also have international insurance coverage provided by the university. To facilitate and improve these procedures and to manage all other issues of health, safety, and compliance, the LAC works with three dedicated staff members who are experts in study abroad-related health, safety, emergency response, and legal compliance.

Contact Kevin Dostal Dauer for more information: dauer001@umn.edu.
STRENGTHS OF LEARNING ABROAD CENTER PROGRAMS

1) Diversity & Inclusion
The Learning Abroad Center (LAC) at the University of Minnesota is committed to inclusion of all students on our programs abroad. The goal of the office is to create a welcoming environment for all students on campus as well as at our centers abroad. LAC staff receive trainings from experts in diversity and inclusion on the University of Minnesota campus. The LAC on-site staff also receive training throughout the year on the UofM campus as well as specific trainings for their particular countries.

2) Culture Learning
At the LAC, we define intercultural learning as recognizing how one’s own and others’ values and behaviors impact a situation and developing the skills for respectful and effective cross-cultural experiences. We understand that this process does not happen organically by bringing students abroad. In order to guide students toward intercultural learning we apply a holistic approach through pedagogical techniques, support systems, and unique programming. We remain interested in the intersection of intercultural learning and career skill development as exemplified in our online culture-learning course Global Identity: Connecting Your International Experience with Your Future. We use the expertise at the University of Minnesota to train our on-site faculty and staff in intercultural learning theory and practice, as well as how to guide students in their career skill enhancement. Our commitment to student development does not end when students leave their host countries. Our belief is that when students expand their worldviews and increase their cultural sensitivity, it translates to future professional and personal successes.

3) Career Information & Workforce Readiness
The LAC has gained an international reputation as an innovator in education abroad. Our widely recognized and emulated Curriculum Integration initiative has situated the preparation for and facilitation of education abroad more centrally within the undergraduate curriculum. As students become graduates, we see an increasing need to shift the focus on the relationship between experience abroad and career-related outcomes by maximizing career reflections and opportunities on our programs. Helping our students gain the most from a learning abroad experience includes giving them the tools to position themselves as competitively and marketably as possible with future employers.

4) Surrounded by American Peers
While learning abroad, your students will be surrounded by a dynamic group of students from private liberal arts colleges and large public universities. This combination of peers provides them with unique educational experiences.

“... a nice blend of students from the UofM, combined with a variety of other sending schools, where it was very clear everyone in the student group was supportive of the other, cultural differences were embraced, and there was a genuine spirit of making the most of their time in southern France.”

—J. Scott Van Der Meid
Associate Dean of Study Abroad
Brandeis University
KENYA

Intensive Swahili in Kenya

An efficient way to earn language credits in small classes taught by devoted instructors

Your students will immerse themselves 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. Students 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 a host family to improve skills rapidly. This 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 multi-ethnic, 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

Learning Outcomes
• Improve Swahili speaking, writing, listening, and reading skills
• Foster an understanding of the global context through classroom and experiential learning
• Cultivate awareness and appreciation for diverse communities
• Strengthen communication skills through acquisition of local languages and cultural awareness

Mohamud Khalif Maalim has served as the MSID Kenya administrative coordinator since 2001. He is an experienced manager and administrator who holds a bachelor’s degree in commerce from the University of Nairobi in human resource management. Mr. Maalim’s career, spanning more than three decades, is closely linked to development in Kenya. He has served as a civil servant and a humanitarian worker, and for the last 18 years has helped study abroad students learn about development in Kenya. He is also a graduate student pursuing a Master of Arts in development studies at the University of Nairobi.

Jessica Hartnett is program director for all Kenya programs.

UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/africa/swahili-kenya
Jessica Hartnett is program director for all Kenya programs.

Your students will delve into firsthand learning in Kenya, a country of abundant wildlife, dramatic landscapes, and a highly diverse culture. They will take classes, intern with a local NGO, and conduct research to address complex issues of Kenyan people and their communities. A host family will help students explore a wide variety of perspectives with Kenya as a case study.

This program combines coursework with hands-on experience in an internship. A hallmark of the MSID family of programs is how students engage and understand the complex nature of international development and intercultural understanding through daily contact with communities and their people.

Students 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.

Mohamud A. Jama, the MSID Kenya director, is a well-known personality in academic, environment, development, and research circles in Kenya. Dr. Jama received his Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Washington State University in 1987. He has served as consultant for the World Bank, the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, and the United Nations Development Program’s Africa 2000 Network project. He also served on the board of directors of the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). The MSID Kenya program provides a high-quality academic experience for students, and its success is due in part to a deeply committed, high-caliber staff.

Jessica Hartnett is program director for all Kenya programs.

Location
- Nairobi and field placements in various locations

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

Language of Instruction
- English
- Swahili

Academic Model
- Study abroad center
- Field study
- Internships
- Research

Housing
- Homestay

Requirements
- Juniors and above
- No language prerequisite

Learning Outcomes
- Foster an understanding of the global context through classroom and experiential learning
- Cultivate awareness and appreciation for development issues through engagement with diverse communities
- Translate insights gained into thoughtful and respectful long-term perspectives on concepts of social justice and sustainable development
- Strengthen communication skills through acquisition of local languages and cultural awareness
- Gain cross-cultural competencies through extended engagement at a local grassroots organization

UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/africa/msid-kenya
Your students will learn Modern Standard Arabic in the classroom and Darija on the labyrinthine streets of Fez. They will 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.

Students will live with hospitable, qualified host families to surround themselves in Arabic. For a variety of reasons, Arabic is a critical language with which Western students should engage. With this program, students build skills while living in a politically stable North African nation. The ALIF study center, home to the program, hosts Arabic-speaking students learning English, which helps your students develop cultural partnerships and find local peers.

MOROCCO

Arabic Language & Culture in Morocco

Intensive Arabic study for dedicated students at a prestigious language institute

Your students will learn Modern Standard Arabic in the classroom and Darija on the labyrinthine streets of Fez. They will 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.

Students will live with hospitable, qualified host families to surround themselves in Arabic. For a variety of reasons, Arabic is a critical language with which Western students should engage. With this program, students build skills while living in a politically stable North African nation. The ALIF study center, home to the program, hosts Arabic-speaking students learning English, which helps your students develop cultural partnerships and find local peers.
Waly Faye is the MSID Senegal program coordinator and has worked with the Learning Abroad Center for more than ten years. He holds two master’s degrees, one in international development and one in public finance. He manages the academic schedule and student support for the MSID program. Mr. Faye is a native of Senegal and works closely with the MSID support staff daily to help meet all student needs, including internship and research placements and other aspects of administration.

Peggy Retka is program director for all Senegal programs.

SENEGAL

Intensive French in Senegal

An efficient way to earn language credits in small classes taught by devoted instructors

Your students will rapidly improve their French skills in less than four weeks in an intermediate or advanced language course, through conversations with their host family, and by interacting daily with local Senegalese. They will participate in a community action excursion and explore the cosmopolitan, multicultural city of Dakar, capital of Senegal and the westernmost point in Africa.

A homestay in Dakar is an integral component of the language learning experience. Students 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 for an extended experience abroad.

Location
• Dakar

Terms
• Winter break
• Summer session

Language of Instruction
• French

Academic Model
• Study abroad center

Housing
• Homestay

Requirements
• Freshmen and above
• Minimum three semesters college-level French

Learning Outcomes
• Improve French speaking, writing, listening, and reading skills
• Foster an understanding of the global context through classroom and experiential learning
• Cultivate awareness and appreciation for diverse communities
• Strengthen communication skills through acquisition of local languages and cultural awareness
Your students will immerse themselves 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. They will choose from beginning Wolof or advanced French language study and live with a host family to gain deeper insight into the language and culture.

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

The curriculum includes 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 internship experience.

"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."

—John

Ousmane Sene is director of the West African Research Center (WARC) in Dakar, supervising daily activities at WARC and serving as the resident director of MSID—Senegal. Professor Sene earned his BA and MA in English at University Cheikh Anta Diop and pursued his Ph.D. research and studies both at the Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris III, and the Ecole Normale Superieure de Saint Cloud. He is a frequent visiting professor and scholar on various US campuses, teaching and giving lectures on African literature and other social science-related issues.

Peggy Retka is program director for all Senegal programs.
Beatriz Comte has been the resident director of the Study Abroad in Buenos Aires program since 2004. Ms. Comte holds a master’s degree in literature from the University of Buenos Aires as well as a degree in teaching Spanish as a second language from the University of Antonio de Nebrija in Spain. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in language science and teaches on the program. Ms. Comte believes Buenos Aires is an exciting place for foreigners to learn, immersed in its culture and its vibrant life. She thinks one of the most important things about this program is that the staff gets to know and care for each and every student and participants are not mere numbers.

Holly Zimmerman-LeVoir is program director for the Argentina program.

"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

UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/americas/buenosaires

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Jessica Hartnett is program director for all Ecuador programs.

Your students will strengthen their Spanish language skills and explore Quito, a large city high in the Andes surrounded by volcanic peaks. They will sample dry-roasted corn from street vendors while marveling at Old Town's colonial architecture, narrow streets, and lively plazas. Students 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 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.

“\[I\] chose the program because I wanted to learn Spanish, and I had the most amazing Spanish professor. We had a class of six, and we had Spanish four hours every day. Now I want to study Spanish forever."

—Patty

ECUADOR

Intensive Spanish in Ecuador

An efficient way to earn language credits in small classes taught by devoted instructors

Your students will strengthen their Spanish language skills and explore Quito, a large city high in the Andes surrounded by volcanic peaks. They will sample dry-roasted corn from street vendors while marveling at Old Town's colonial architecture, narrow streets, and lively plazas. Students 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 skills rapidly. The program appeals to students interested in completing a full semester of Spanish language in three weeks.

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Dolores Lopez is president of Fundacion Cimas del Ecuador, a development-focused nonprofit organization. She studied anthropology at the Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Ecuador and earned a bachelor’s degree from Evergreen State College and a master’s degree in social science and Ecuadorian studies from the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales in Quito. She holds a Ph.D. in Latin American Cultural Studies from the Universidad Andina Simon Bolivar in Quito. Ms. Lopez is deeply involved in intercultural research projects and actively participates in community-based processes to identify alternatives for development. She has worked with US students and study abroad programs, including MSID, since 1989.

Jessica Hartnett is program director for all Ecuador programs.

ECUADOR

Minnesota Studies in International Development

Unique, nationally renowned program initiated in 1989 through faculty leadership

Your students will examine Ecuador’s social and economic realities both in the classroom and through an internship or research project with a grassroots agency. They will experience contemporary Ecuadorian culture—a blend of indigenous and Spanish colonial—while living with a host family and honing their Spanish language skills.

The program combines coursework with hands-on experience in an internship. Students explore the complex nature of international development and intercultural understanding through daily contact with local communities.

They engage deeply with Ecuadorian culture while enrolled 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 community-engagement internship.

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
- Internships
- Research

Housing
- Homestay

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

Learning Outcomes
- Foster an understanding of the global context through classroom and experiential learning
- Cultivate awareness and appreciation for development issues through engagement with diverse communities
- Translate insights gained into thoughtful and respectful long-term perspectives on concepts of social justice and sustainable development

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

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Jessica Hartnett is program director for all Ecuador programs.
Bocas del Toro
Panama

One of the University of Minnesota’s longest running programs, Study Abroad in Mexico consists of five different three-week options, one during winter break and the other four back to back from mid-May through early August. Your students will improve their 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.

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 the program, is centrally located in a villa in the elegant Las Palmas section of the city.

“Many young people come to Mexico thinking they are going to a poor and backward country. It is gratifying to watch students grow to appreciate this vibrant nation with the additional sophistication of accessible ancient cultural sites. Students are amazed by the warmth of the Mexican people who, despite frequent mistreatment by their northern neighbors, still welcome them into their homes with open arms and hearts.”

–Charlie Goff

MEXICO
Study Abroad in Mexico
Faculty-supported, low-cost, highly efficient language program initiated in 1980

One of the University of Minnesota’s longest running programs, Study Abroad in Mexico consists of five different three-week options, one during winter break and the other four back to back from mid-May through early August.

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–Charlie Goff

UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/americas/mexico

Charlie Pollard Goff is one of the cofounders of Cemanahuac Educational Community and enjoys playing the role of historian and tour guide—taking students around Mexico City and Cuernavaca and to the ancient pyramids of Teotihuacan. Mr. Goff writes a weekly column for The News, a leading English-language newspaper in Mexico, and leads a weekly discussion of Mexican current events for Cemanahuac students and members of Cuernavaca’s English-speaking community.

Vanessa Walton is program director for the Mexico program.
PANAMA

Summer Internships in Panama

Program focusing on professional experience and language acquisition

Students will earn credits toward their degree and gain career experience while exploring the beautiful islands in the Bocas del Toro province of Panama.

This program combines coursework with hands-on experience in an internship. Students will live on Isla Bastimentos, an island located in a national marine park, Parque Nacional Marinas Isla Bastimentos, and home to several indigenous communities. Internship placements will be a short boat ride away on surrounding islands.

They will participate in a six-credit internship or a three-credit internship with a four-credit Spanish language course. They will also enjoy small classes and individualized internship opportunities in a variety of fields including teaching, wildlife conservation, sustainability, ecotourism, business, and more.

Lindsey Lahr is a program director who works with all Learning Abroad Center instructor-led seminar programs, as well as the Summer Internships in Panama program. Ms. Lahr received her MA in Comparative International Development Education at the University of Minnesota in 2010. She has been with the UofM for 12 years and at the Learning Abroad Center for nine years, and she is part of Culture Corps focusing on intercultural development and leadership. She is a lifelong Minnesotan who has also lived in London and rural Japan.
THAILAND

Intensive Thai in Thailand

An efficient way to earn language credits in small classes taught by devoted instructors

Over a three-week period, students will enroll in 4 credits of intensive beginning, intermediate, or advanced Thai language. They will practice Thai in small classroom settings, by living with a local family, and by interacting daily with Thai people. Learning the language will help foster understanding of key cultural and sociological characteristics of Thai society.

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. Students 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 Intensive Thai in Thailand 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.

UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/asia-oceania/thai-thailand

Vanessa Walton is a program director in the Learning Abroad Center, where she began as an associate program director in 2012. Ms. Walton works with the MSID Thailand, Intensive Thai in Thailand, Study Abroad in Mexico, and University Study in Copenhagen programs. She holds a split position working with the College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Sciences. She earned a masters of science in Heritage Conservation and Preservation from the School of Architecture at the University of Minnesota.
Mark A. Ritchie, Ph.D., is executive director of the International Sustainable Development Studies Institute (ISDSI). He has lived in Thailand for more than 20 years, working with local communities on international development work and international education. Originally from the United States, Dr. Ritchie studied the transition of agrarian rural communities in northern Thailand and has been involved in project evaluation and assessment, participatory development research, and training of local communities in Asia. He founded ISDSI more than 15 years ago with his wife, Dana E. C. Ritchie, and is currently working on empowering local communities through international education.

Vanessa Walton is program director for all Thailand programs.
Your students will enroll in business courses in English alongside French students at the University of Montpellier near the Mediterranean coast. They will 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. Students will participate in excursions to nearby historical and cultural sites, as well as social activities that help them meet French people and make lasting connections in France.

They can begin or continue their 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.

Program well suited to students interested in business

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UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/europe/france-business

Paul Rogers has worked for the University Student Services Association for the last eight years as an academic adviser. He is also an instructor at the Université de Montpellier. He holds a Ph.D. in Medieval French Literature from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, teaches classes in his field for the program, and is in charge of the advanced program in the summer.

Peggy Retka is program director for all France programs.
FRANCE

Engineering in France

Program for students in engineering fields in English or French

Your students will live and study engineering in Montpellier, France’s fastest-growing city and home to thousands of students from around the world. They will experience the exciting hub of modern technological industries alongside historic traditions. They can also explore Montpellier’s historic city—the Place de la Comédie—and take excursions to the striking Provence region, nearby Medieval towns, and the famous historic cities of Avignon and Arles. It is an ideal place to take classes for their major, from computer science to mechanical engineering.

Depending on the language track students choose, they may select from a range of classes in computer science and management; electrical engineering; energetics; biological and food engineering; materials science and engineering; mechanical engineering and interactive design; and water science and engineering.

Location
- Montpellier

Terms
- Academic year
- Fall or spring semester

Language of Instruction
- English
- French

Academic Model
- Host-university study
- Study abroad center

Housing
- Apartment
- Homestay

Requirements
- Sophomores and above
- No language prerequisite

Learning Outcomes
- Gain new perspectives on science and industry through dedicated coursework in engineering
- Develop or strengthen French linguistic skills
- Increase independence and self-reliance through integration into French society
- Develop networking skills and contacts through interaction with faculty and peers
- Deepen cross-cultural understanding through interaction with faculty, local students, host families and community members

UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/europe/engineering-in-france

Peggy Retka is a program director who joined the Learning Abroad Center in 2018. Before joining the LAC, she spent three years living and working in France. Ms. Retka works with the Arabic Language & Culture in Morocco, Study Abroad in Montpellier, Business in France, Engineering in France, Sports & Culture in France: La vie sportive, Teaching Practicum in France, MSID Senegal, and Intensive French in Senegal programs.
She holds a BA from Wartburg College and an MS in College Counseling and Student Development from St. Cloud State University.
Your students will study French sports culture—including tourism, psychology, and pedagogy—in Montpellier, one of France’s sportiest cities. They will visit local sports and recreational facilities, sail in picturesque Port Camargue, and soak up all southern France has to offer.

Students 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.

FRANCE
Sports & Culture in France: La vie sportive
Program appealing to students in sports-related disciplines

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

Students 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.

Location
• Montpellier

Term
• May session

Language of Instruction
• English

Academic Model
• Study abroad center

Housing
• Apartment

Requirements
• Freshmen and above
• No language prerequisite

Learning Outcomes
• Deepen cross-cultural understanding through interaction with community members
• Gain French, European, and international perspectives on academic disciplines
• Increase independence and self-reliance by learning to navigate French society

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

Cedric Carpanedo, a native of Avignon, has a master’s degree in English from the University of Montpellier. After spending two years as an assistant at the French House at Macalester College, he returned to Montpellier and has held several positions for the program: social assistant, activities coordinator, and logistics coordinator. He has worked for the University Student Services Association for the last 11 years, with a special interest in the short programs.

Peggy Retka is program director for all France programs.
Your students will integrate into French culture in Montpellier, a vibrant city located just miles from the Mediterranean. They will hone their French language skills and take classes in a variety of subjects at University Paul Valéry or the University of Montpellier, among Europe’s oldest universities. It’s easy to enjoy the city’s college-town atmosphere, Medieval and contemporary architecture, and sunny climate.

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

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

Françoise Chaton has served as the Learning Abroad Center’s on-site director for the Study Abroad in Montpellier program since 1990. She is a native of Belgium and is on the faculty at the University of Montpellier. As a former instructor at the University of Minnesota and Carleton College, Ms. Chaton understands US academic requirements and the needs of US students and is able to help students navigate the process both at home and in France.

UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/europe/montpellier

Françoise Chaton has served as the Learning Abroad Center’s on-site director for the Study Abroad in Montpellier program since 1990. She is a native of Belgium and is on the faculty at the University of Montpellier. As a former instructor at the University of Minnesota and Carleton College, Ms. Chaton understands US academic requirements and the needs of US students and is able to help students navigate the process both at home and in France.

Peggy Retka is program director for all France programs.
FRANCE
Teaching Practicum in France

Program allows students to complete their teaching practicum in a French school

Your students will study in this cultured university city with a centuries-old history of intellectual advances and social tolerance. They will complete teaching licensure requirements, examine French education practices, and complete their 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.

UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/europe/france-teaching

Corinne Dumas is a native of Vendome, France, in the Loire Valley. She has both a French and US master’s degree in French and ESL. After teaching for several years at US universities, she accepted a job as assistant director for the program in 2006. She is especially interested in the teaching and internship programs.

Peggy Retka is program director for all France programs.
Offered in partnership with the Carlson School of Management, this program gives students the chance to explore business through an Irish lens and take classes from local experts. They will travel to different parts of Ireland to learn about the culture and history of the Irish people.

Students will choose from one of two tracks: Foundational Business or Advanced Business. In Foundational Business, the courses introduce business concepts to students who have not yet declared a major. In Advanced Business, juniors and seniors can enroll in courses at the Quinn School of Business at University College Dublin, a highly ranked business school.

Jessica Hartnett is a program director at the Learning Abroad Center, where she began as an enrollment specialist in 2010. Ms. Hartnett works with the MSID–Kenya, Intensive Swahili in Kenya, MSID–Ecuador, Study Abroad in Dublin, Business in Dublin, Study & Intern in Florence, and Study & Intern in Rome programs. She is currently pursuing a master of public affairs at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.
Seona Mac Réamoinn has worked in the field of international education and study abroad in Ireland for many years. She is a former Director for Incoming Programmes at USIT in Dublin, where she managed, curated, and designed a portfolio of short-term programs in Ireland, North and South, for US universities including the University of Minnesota.

She is a graduate of University College Dublin, is a board member of Independent Artists Studio Dublin, and writes and broadcasts on dance and theatre in Ireland for local and internal media.

Jessica Hartnett is program director for the Ireland program.
Your students will learn or improve their Italian in romantic Florence, center of the Italian Renaissance. They will enjoy fresh, hearty Tuscan cuisine, admire masterpieces in world-famous art museums, and immerse themselves in Italian culture through courses, excursions, and an internship.

The Oltrarno neighborhood in the Piazza Santo Spirito is home to one of Florence’s best-known basilicas—Santa Maria del Santo Spirito—and our study center, within easy walking distance of major monuments and museums, 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. The region’s mild climate and world-famous cuisine help Florence maintain its reputation as one of the most beautiful cities in Europe.

“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

Mariarosa Mettifogo is the academic coordinator for the Study & Intern in Florence program. A native of Verona, she has been with the program since fall 2011. Upon completion of her graduate studies in comparative literature at the University of California, Davis, Ms. Mettifogo returned to Italy and started teaching Italian language, culture, and literature for the University of California and Boston University in Padua. Once in Florence, she began working closely with the Learning Abroad Center to create an innovative program that takes students beyond the cliché image of the city. She particularly enjoys taking students on their week-long study tour in Taormina, Sicily.

Jessica Hartnett is program director for all Italy programs.
Location
• Rome

Term
• Summer session

Language of Instruction
• English
• Italian

Academic Model
• Study abroad center
• Internships

Housing
• Apartment
• Homestay

Requirements
• Sophomores and above
• No language prerequisite

Learning Outcomes
• Think critically about adaptive leadership within the context of academic disciplines
• Gain awareness of the complexity of modern Italy
• Formulate a deeper understanding of global issues through engagement with Italian and EU communities
• Increase independence and self-reliance by learning to navigate Italian society

ITALY

Study & Intern in Rome

An affordable summer program offering internships

Your students will live and study in the heart of Rome, a thrilling city renowned for its fashion, architecture, cuisine, and rich history. They 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. Students will take one of four beginning to intermediate Italian language courses and other courses taught in English. Topics include design, leadership, media, and sustainability. Those with foundational skills in visual arts or design can enroll in the interdisciplinary design track.

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

“Curricular collaborations with US and international faculty open the doors for students to delve into the intricacies of communication Italian style—from the Pope on Twitter to Berlusconi on trial to the enduring cachet of the ‘made in Italy’ brand. Ranging from TV journalists to marketers, the faculty in our Rome program bring alive the practical, ethical, and intellectual debates surrounding modern communications, in the context of a 2,000-year-old global capital.”

—Giovanna Dell’Orto
School of Journalism and Mass Communication, UofM

As programs coordinator for the Study & Intern in Rome program, Francesco Gagliardi manages various academic programs to ensure that students have a well-rounded cultural experience. A native Italian, Mr. Gagliardi completed his bachelor’s degree in cultural and linguistic mediation at Sapienza University of Rome, through which he first began collaborating with ACCENT as an intern. He is currently pursuing an executive master’s degree in marketing and sales at Bocconi University.

Jessica Hartnett is program director for all Italy programs.

UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/europe/rome
Students will study psychology, gain an international perspective on psychology, and improve their beginning or intermediate Spanish language skills. The program is intended for psychology majors and minors working toward their bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree.

During the semester and summer programs, students will take courses that fulfill psychology BA/BS requirements. Spanish- and English-speaking research experiences are available in neuroscience and addiction therapy.

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

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

—Taylor

Saúl Oliveros holds an MBA with specialization in international marketing from Tec de Monterrey in Mexico and a master’s degree in government and public administration from Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo in Spain. In Mexico he worked for Grupo Televisa before joining the academic sector, and he is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in political communication from Universidad Complutense in Spain. Mr. Oliveros has teaching experience from a number of universities in Mexico, the Netherlands, and Spain. He believes that Madrid is a vibrant, cultural city that is the gateway to Europe.

Holly Zimmerman-LeVoir is program director for all Spain programs.

SPAIN
Psychology & Research in Madrid

A program for psychology majors and minors

Students will study psychology, gain an international perspective on psychology, and improve their beginning or intermediate Spanish language skills. The program is intended for psychology majors and minors working toward their bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree.

During the semester and summer programs, students will take courses that fulfill psychology BA/BS requirements. Spanish- and English-speaking research experiences are available in neuroscience and addiction therapy.

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

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Holly Zimmerman-LeVoir is program director for all Spain programs.
Students will improve their Spanish language skills and participate in an internship in Madrid, Spain’s lively capital. They can enroll in English-taught courses in business, communications, finance, marketing, religion, and more. While in Spain, they will take excursions to historic Segovia and El Escorial 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 courses in English and Spanish. English-speaking internships are available. Students also can 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.

Holly Zimmerman-LeVoir is the program director for the Learning Abroad Center’s programs in Buenos Aires, Madrid, and Toledo. She has worked in the field of international education since 1983 and holds a master’s degree in Hispanic linguistics from the University of Minnesota. She has worked for more than 25 years with the Spanish Ministry of Culture funding research on Spain. Ms. Zimmerman-LeVoir was knighted in 2008 by Ambassador Jorge Dezzcallar and the Spanish government for her service to Spain. The award, first given in 1815, is the highest honor a civilian can receive.
Yukiko Okazaki is the director for international programs at the Fundación Ortega-Marañón in Toledo. In 1994, she started work as a student coordinator for the program and also worked on special programming during the summer contributing to the needs of students and offering opportunities for volunteering in the community. She has also taught Community Engagement on Immigration in Spain since 2009. She is originally from Japan and holds a master’s degree in Contemporary Spain and International Immigration.

Holly Zimmerman-LeVoir is program director for all Spain programs.
Customized Programs

Customized Programs provide education abroad professionals and faculty from other US institutions an opportunity to utilize Learning Abroad Center (LAC) study centers for short-term, faculty-led programming. All centers are staffed by local professionals who have experience working with US students and are well connected with the local community. Program leaders work closely with LAC staff who are experienced in working with faculty and assist from early stages of program development and design to evaluation and re-entry.

SITES

Buenos Aires, Argentina
Particularly good for programs focusing on: economics, global studies, political science, psychology

Montpellier, France
Particularly good for programs focusing on: business, French language, immigration, literature

Dublin, Ireland
Particularly good for programs focusing on: education, engineering, kinesiology, playwriting, theatre

Nairobi, Kenya
Particularly good for programs focusing on: agriculture, development, environment, health sciences

Bocas del Toro, Panama
Particularly good for programs focusing on: business, ecotourism, Spanish language, sustainability, teaching

Dakar, Senegal
Particularly good for programs focusing on: African studies, development, literature, social justice

Madrid, Spain
Particularly good for programs focusing on: business, communications, finance, marketing, religion

Toledo, Spain
Particularly good for programs focusing on: anthropology, history, political science, Spanish language

Chiang Mai, Thailand
Particularly good for programs focusing on: development, education, public health, sustainability

The Learning Abroad Center has sent tens of thousands of students on study abroad experiences and has provided quality learning abroad experiences since the 1960s.

• Build and strengthen your own study abroad and university brand by going with a leader in the field.
• Give your students an academically challenging, enjoyable, safe, and life-changing experience that earns resident credit with the University of Minnesota, a leading institution in innovative higher education.
• LAC staff present regularly at conferences and serve on professional boards and committees around the world.
## Program Overview

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