PROGRAM CATALOG

Argentina | Ecuador | France | Ireland
Italy | Mexico | New Zealand
Senegal | Spain | Thailand

LEARNING ABROAD CENTER
University of Minnesota
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
Health & Safety
In spring 2020, we:
- Organized the safe return of 1,200 students and issued $2 million in refunds in 15 days
- Established an alternate learning format for 109 study abroad courses and trained on-site instructors in new pedagogy, allowing all students to complete their programs online
- Reinforced our rock-solid health and safety plans that have been tested in different ways over the past 35 years

Academic Quality
The 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 them 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’s knowledgeable, friendly, helpful program staff offers:
- Quick response time to students from other institutions as well as 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
- UofM official transcript to document study abroad coursework
- Visa processing

“I have worked with UMN study abroad programs throughout my career and have had nothing but positive experiences. The same goes for my students. The UMN programs with which I have worked are intentionally designed to foster community, cultural engagement, and intensive language learning. Students choose UMN programs for myriad reasons, including location, smaller program size, course variety, on-site support, and low cost. I always do a little happy dance when students choose UMN programs because I know they will have a rewarding and exciting experience abroad.”
—Jessica Fetridge
Associate Director
Northwestern 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
Language & Culture in Southern France
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.

Mental Health & Wellness

Supporting student mental health and wellness during study abroad is a priority at the LAC, evidenced by the 2020 addition to the International Health, Safety, & Compliance team of a student mental health expert to train and coach study abroad staff, program leaders, and on-site staff as they provide direct support to students. Our aim is to ensure all students have the opportunity to successfully study abroad, planning well for the supportive and professional services they might need while abroad, responding to any mental health crises, and then facilitating the transition back to campus care upon re-entry.

Contact Laura Dupont-Jarrett for more information: ldj@umn.edu.
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.
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 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
- Sophomores 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

Korka Sall is the assistant director for the MSID Senegal program. In May 2021, Dr. Sall completed a Ph.D. in English from the University of Massachusetts Amherst (UMass Amherst). She returned to Senegal after nine years in the US, teaching and taking classes at different universities including UMass Amherst, Mount Holyoke College, and Harvard University. Dr. Sall is a passionate scholar and academic, invested in creating inclusive learning environments, mentoring students, contributing to students’ understanding of themselves as part of a diverse world, and helping them apply transferable skills to their daily life.

Peggy Retka is program director for all Senegal programs.
Your students will immerse themselves in Senegal, a fascinating country seen as a bridge between Africa and the West. They will take classes and choose between an internship or research placement with a grassroots agency addressing the social and economic realities of Senegal. They will choose from Wolof or French language study and live with a host family to gain deeper insight into the language and culture.

This program combines coursework with hands-on experience in an internship or research project. Students explore the complex nature of international development and intercultural understanding through daily contact with communities and their people. The curriculum includes International Development; Historical & Political Context of Senegal; Beginning, Intermediate, or Advanced Wolof Language or Advanced French Language; and Internship in Senegal or Research in Senegal.

Homestays are an integral component of the MSID 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 and the Toubacouta region are included in the program.

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.

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

The Intensive Spanish in Ecuador program can be combined with the MSID Ecuador semester program for an extended experience abroad.

“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

José Suárez is executive director of the Fundación Cimas del Ecuador, a development-focused nonprofit organization. He received his MPH and Ph.D. degrees in public health from the University of Minnesota. A physician and epidemiologist with extensive community experience, he has authored research studies and books about health and environment in Ecuador and served as a consultant to the Pan American Health Organization and Ecuador’s Ministry of Health. In addition to his extensive experience working with North American students—including MSID since 1989—Dr. Suárez has taught at the University of Washington, Evergreen State University, and the Medical School of the Universidad Central del Ecuador.

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 or research project. 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; Historical & Political Context of Ecuador; Spanish Grammar & Writing Workshop or Introduction to Latin American Cultures; and Internship in Ecuador or Research in Ecuador.

Jessica Hartnett is program director for all Ecuador programs.

Ecuador

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

Dolores López is president of Fundación Cimas del Ecuador, a development-focused nonprofit organization. She studied anthropology at the Pontificia Universidad Católica 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 Simón Bolívar in Quito. Ms. López 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.
**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.

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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Cuernavaca</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terms</td>
<td>Winter break, May session, Summer sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language of Instruction</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Model</td>
<td>Study abroad center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>Homestay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements</td>
<td>Freshmen and above, No language prerequisite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Outcomes</td>
<td>Improve Spanish speaking, writing, listening, and reading skills, Develop strong sense of independence from being outside of comfort zone, Learn to appreciate relativity, accept complexity, and embrace ambiguity, Challenge previous assumptions about Mexico and Mexican culture</td>
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[UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/americas/mexico](http://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.
NEW ZEALAND

University Study New Zealand: University of Auckland

Direct-enroll program at a host university

Students will earn 16-17 credits per semester studying at a diverse, urban university in New Zealand. University of Auckland has a reputation for excellence in the sciences, engineering, and research.

Auckland, known as the “City of Sails,” is New Zealand’s most populated city with about a third of the country’s entire population. The city offers a multicultural flair, natural beauty, a perfect setting for water sports, and tons of cultural events.

Students will live and learn alongside other visiting study abroad students, full-time international students, and local University of Auckland students, providing an opportunity for full cultural immersion and campus community engagement. They will receive full-time on-site support from the University of Auckland’s International Office staff.

Location
• Auckland

Terms
• Academic year
• Calendar year
• Fall or spring semester

Language of Instruction
• English

Academic Model
• Host-university study

Housing
• Apartment
• Dormitory

Requirements
• Sophomores and above
• No language prerequisite

Learning Outcomes
• Augment cross-cultural understanding through interaction with New Zealand and international students and community members
• Experience New Zealand and international perspectives on academic disciplines through direct enrollment at a New Zealand host university
• Enhance intentionality through independent, though supported, living and learning opportunities

UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/asia-oceania/nz-auckland

Eric Leinen is a program director in the Learning Abroad Center and has worked in education abroad since 2004. Mr. Leinen works with the University Study in Ireland and University Study in New Zealand programs. He holds a BA in English and an MS in counseling and student affairs, both from Minnesota State University–Moorhead.
THAILAND

Minnesota Studies in International Development

Unique, nationally renowned program with an overarching focus on sustainability

Your students will investigate the complexities of development issues in Thailand, the only southeast Asian country never colonized by European powers. They will study the Thai language, use their new language skills at home with their host family, 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. Students will live in bustling, charming Chiang Mai, visit incredible Buddhist temples, and enroll in the following classes: International Development; Historical & Political Context of Thailand; Beginning Thai Language; and Internship in Thailand or Research in Thailand.

Location
- Chiang Mai and field placements in various locations

Terms
- Fall or spring semester

Language of Instruction
- English
- Thai

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

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 the Thailand program.

UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/asia-oceania/msid-thailand
Your students will enroll in business courses in English or French alongside French and international 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.

Through the core course, *Global Business & Industry: France at the Crossroads*, students learn how business is conducted in France and examine the development and current state of the European business environment from a French perspective. They deepen their understanding through business courses in a variety of disciplines offered at IAE (Montpellier University School of Management) and MOMA (Montpellier Management Institute). Students will begin or continue their French language development and can enroll in a variety of program electives at the UofM Program Center. This program, developed in conjunction with the Carlson School of Management, is based at the University of Montpellier.

Paul Rogers has worked at the UofM Program Center for more than ten years as an academic adviser. He teaches several classes for the program and is also an instructor at the University of Paul Valéry (UPV). He holds a Ph.D. in Medieval French Literature from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Peggy Retka is program director for all France programs.

**FRANCE**

**Business in France**

Program for students interested in exploring business through a cross-cultural lens

Your students will enroll in business courses in English or French alongside French and international 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.

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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.

Students can choose to study engineering in English or in French at the Polytech at the University of Montpellier. 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. Students will begin or continue their French language development and can enroll in a variety of program electives at the UofM Program Center.

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

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 Business in France, Engineering in France, Language & Culture in Southern France, Sports & Culture in France, Teaching Practicum in France, Youth Development & Psychology 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.

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

Language & Culture in Southern France

Over-30-year-old program with strong on-site staff and flexible learning formats and housing options

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: beginning, intermediate or advanced. As their French language skills advance, students have more electives in a larger array of academic disciplines available to study. An internship option allows students to gain insight into French working life, or they may choose to participate in a community engagement project and volunteer with a local organization. The UofM Program Center serves as a home base with academic counseling and program support from on-site staff.

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 Language & Culture in Southern France 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.

Location
- Montpellier

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

Language of Instruction
- French

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

Housing
- Apartment
- Homestay

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

Learning Outcomes
- Strengthen French linguistic skills
- Deepen cross-cultural understanding through interaction with local students, host families, and community members
- Gain French, European, and international perspectives on academic disciplines
- Increase independence and self-reliance by learning to navigate French society
- Develop professional skills such as problem-solving and teamwork

UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/europe/montpellier
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 Business in France, Engineering in France, Language & Culture in Southern France, Sports & Culture in France, Teaching Practicum in France, Youth Development & Psychology 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.

FRANCE

Sports & Culture in France

Program appealing to students in sports-related disciplines

Your students will study French sports culture—including tourism, psychology, coaching, leadership and politics—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 hiking in the national park of the Cévennes mountains; a training session of the Montpellier handball club and a professional handball game; and a long weekend trip to Paris, including a tour of Rolland Garros where the French Open is played.

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
• Acquire practical knowledge in sports-related professions such as coaching, sport management, and kinesiology

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

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 became the assistant to the director for the UofM program in 2006. She teaches the internship and community engagement courses and is especially interested in the experiential components of the program.

Peggy Retka is program director for all France programs.
FRANCE

Youth Development & Psychology in France

Program centered on the resilience of youth in France and general psychology courses

Developed in partnership with the Developmental Psychology department and the Institute of Child Development at the University of Minnesota, this program offers a range of upper-level psychology courses taught in English. Your students will earn credit in this cohort-based program toward their developmental psychology or psychology degree while studying in this vibrant city with a centuries-old history of intellectual advances and social tolerance.

This program provides an exceptional opportunity to study resilience in young populations through a course co-created by a University of Minnesota developmental psychology professor and a French psychologist, who will teach the core course focused on resilience. Students will participate in a cohort program based at our program center while engaging with the local community through community engagement work. By the end of the program, students will have gained a deep, intercultural perspective on trauma, immigration, and other global issues that affect children and youth.

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

Location
• Montpellier

Terms
• Fall or spring semester

Language of Instruction
• English

Academic Model
• Study abroad center

Housing
• Apartment
• Homestay

Requirements
• Sophomores and above
• No language prerequisite

Learning Outcomes
• Gain French, European, and international perspectives on youth development and psychology
• Investigate factors of resilience in French and migrant communities
• Deepen cross-cultural understanding through interaction with local students, host families, and community members
• Increase independence and self-reliance by learning to navigate French society
• Develop professional skills such as problem-solving and teamwork
• Strengthen French language skills

Peggy Retka is program director for all France programs.

Ryan McCarthy is an associate program director in the Learning Abroad Center and works with programs in Australia, China, Ecuador, France, New Zealand, South Korea, and Thailand. He has a BA in history from St. John’s University and an Ed.M. in international education policy from Harvard University.
IRELAND

University Study in Ireland: University of Limerick

Direct-enroll program at a host university

Your students will study in Ireland’s third-largest city at the University of Limerick, considered one of Ireland’s most beautiful campuses. The university offers innovative academics, state-of-the-art sports facilities, and vibrant campus life.

The University of Limerick is known as a technological powerhouse in Ireland and works closely with the nearby National Technology Park of Ireland. It is also well known for science, humanities, business, and social studies. Students may choose from the university’s wide variety of courses in almost every discipline, allowing them to create a broad and diverse curriculum, or further study in their major.

Students on the semester program live and learn alongside other visiting study abroad students, full-time international students, and local University of Limerick students, providing an opportunity for full cultural immersion and campus community engagement. Students receive full-time on-site support from the University of Limerick’s International Office staff.

UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/europe/unistudy-ireland

Eric Leinen is a program director in the Learning Abroad Center and has worked in education abroad since 2004. Mr. Leinen works with the University Study in Ireland and University Study in New Zealand programs. He holds a BA in English and an MS in counseling and student affairs, both from Minnesota State University–Moorhead.

Location
- Limerick

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

Language of Instruction
- English

Academic Model
- Host-university study
- Community engagement

Housing
- Dormitory

Requirements
- Sophomores and above
- No language prerequisite

Learning Outcomes
- Augment cross-cultural understanding through interaction with Irish and international students and community members
- Gain awareness and appreciation of Irish culture through on-campus accommodation with Irish students, as well as access to a wide range of student organizations and clubs
- Experience Irish and international perspectives on academic disciplines through direct enrollment at an Irish host university
ITALY

Study & Intern in Florence

An academically rigorous program offering hard-to-find courses

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

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

Learning Outcomes
• Understand how cultural heritage affects contemporary Italian society
• Uncover a more complex Italy through visits to various geographic regions: Lombardy, Tuscany, and Sicily
• Gain a deeper understanding of Florence and Italian culture through experiential classes and required Italian language learning
• Develop critical and analytical thinking skills that can later be leveraged in the industry and workplace
• Develop a better understanding of own values and beliefs through intercultural activities

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.
**ITALY**

**Design in Sicily**

*New program for design students*

Your students will use the coastal town of Siracusa, Sicily, as inspiration and context for their design courses. They’ll engage in the design process with local and international designers through intensive design workshops or observe the Italian workforce and delve into the Italian culture as an intern at a local company.

This program appeals to design students who want to engage with Sicily in a meaningful way. They will participate in the Italian Design Studio, using Syracuse as their classroom to work on sketches and explore the many ways design is incorporated into the city. Siracusa is a location unlike any other, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site because of its outstanding Greek, Roman, and Baroque monuments, archaeological sites, and architecture.

**Location**
- Sicily

**Term**
- Summer session

**Language of Instruction**
- English
- Italian

**Academic Model**
- Study abroad center
- Internships

**Housing**
- Apartment

**Requirements**
- Sophomores and above
- No language prerequisite

**Learning Outcomes**
- Gain a deeper understanding of Italian design through courses and workshops or internships
- Develop critical and analytical thinking skills that can later be leveraged in the industry and workplace
- Develop a better understanding of own values and beliefs through intercultural activities
- Understand how own design interests and skills align with other design fields or academic disciplines

Peter Neri is director of outreach for the Design in Sicily program. He manages local institutional partnerships to extend and monitor the academic offerings for international students in Sicily. Mr. Neri was born in Northern Ireland, attended school in Syracuse, Sicily, then received a degree in neuroscience from University College Dublin. After graduation, he traveled extensively throughout North Africa, Asia, and Oceania. He speaks Italian and English languages at a native level, Spanish language at a professional level, and Russian language at an intermediate level.

Jessica Hartnett is program director for all Italy programs.

[UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/europe/design-sicily](UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/europe/design-sicily)
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 both 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.

“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

Location

• Madrid

Terms

• Fall or spring semester
• May session
• Summer session

Language of Instruction

• English
• Spanish

Academic Model

• Study abroad center
• Internships
• Research

Housing

• Apartment
• Homestay
• Dormitory

Requirements

• Sophomores and above
• Two semesters college-level Spanish required for semester

Learning Outcomes

• Gain an international perspective on psychology
• Gain research experience within the Spanish context
• Deepen cross-cultural understanding through interaction with local community
• Increase independence and self-reliance by learning to navigate Spanish society

Estrella Nicolás de Benito serves as international programs director (Madrid) for the Fundacion Ortega-Marathon. Dr. Nicolás de Benito received a Ph.D. in linguistic theory and language acquisition at Universidad Complutense de Madrid. She was raised in Madrid and enjoys introducing students to the city she loves.

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

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

Study & Intern in Madrid

Flexible program with Fundación Ortega-Marañón, Spain’s prestigious research institution

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.

Location
• Madrid

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

Language of Instruction
• English
• Spanish

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

Housing
• Apartment
• Homestay
• Dormitory

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

Learning Outcomes
• Improve Spanish language skills
• Deepen cross-cultural understanding through interaction with local community
• Gain Spanish and international perspectives on academic disciplines
• Increase independence and self-reliance by learning to navigate Spanish society

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 Dezcallar and the Spanish government for her service to Spain. The award, first given in 1815, is the highest honor a civilian can receive.

UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/europe/madrid
SPAIN

Cross-Cultural Health in Spain

New program allows students to gain a cross-cultural view of health care

Students will head back in time in Toledo, a charming Medieval walled city. This program is geared toward pre-med, pre-nursing, public health, and health services management students with a background in Spanish.

Declared a World Heritage Site, Toledo is a living museum, a preserved part of Spanish history where people still live, work, and play. A city of approximately 80,000, Toledo offers an environment where students can be immersed in Spanish culture through coursework, internships, and daily life.

Students can choose from multiple health-related courses, such as Medical Spanish, Comparative Public Health, Diversity in Global Health, and more. They can also intern in the health field and take other topics courses taught in Spanish.

Location
• Toledo

Terms
• Fall or spring semester

Language of Instruction
• Spanish

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

Housing
• Homestay
• Dormitory

Requirements
• Freshmen and above
• Passed fourth-semester Spanish

Learning Outcomes
• Gain Spanish and international perspectives on health care
• Strengthen Spanish language skills
• Deepen cross-cultural understanding through interaction with the local community
• Learn to communicate key information about proposed treatments or procedures for which patients are asked to provide informed consent
• Learn about cultural, spiritual, and religious beliefs that may complement or conflict with standard medical care

UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/europe/health-spain

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.
Miguel Lopez is the assistant director for international programs at the Fundación Ortega-Marañón in Toledo. He started with the program in 1997 as student coordinator; he has also worked to integrate students into the community. Since 2005, he has taught Internships in Spanish in Toledo. He holds a master’s degree in historical heritage: research and management.

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

Spain
Study & Intern in Toledo

Over-30-year-old program with Fundación Ortega-Marañón, Spain’s prestigious research institution

Your students will head back in time in Toledo, a charming Medieval walled city. They will strengthen their language skills, choose from a variety of program courses, immerse themselves in an internship, and take various excursions throughout Spain.

Your students 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, art history, business, economics, history, linguistics, political science, Spanish cultural heritage, Spanish language, and Spanish and Latin American literature. The program offers opportunities to study at the University of Castilla la Mancha, conduct a community-engagement project, or intern with a Spanish company.

“My summer was amazing. I could not have dreamed of a better program to study abroad through. The professors were extremely helpful with any questions or concerns I had. The faculty and staff were amazing as well. I would encourage all students studying abroad to stay with a host family. I learned more with my 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

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
• Community engagement

Housing
• Homestay
• Dormitory

Requirements
• Freshmen and above
• Passed fourth-semester Spanish

Learning Outcomes
• Improve Spanish language skills
• Deepen cross-cultural understanding through interaction with local community
• Gain Spanish and international perspectives on academic disciplines
• Increase independence and self-reliance by learning to navigate Spanish society

UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/europe/toledo
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, psychology

**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 and psychology.

**Toledo, Spain**
Particularly good for programs focusing on: anthropology, history, political science, pre-med, public health, 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.

UMabroad.umn.edu/professionals/intleducators/customizedprograms
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Notes