



The ABC's of Study Abroad

at the University of Michigan

Study abroad should be a part of every undergraduate's educational experience at the University of Michigan (U-M). The international exposure gained through study abroad adds an enhanced dimension to an undergraduate program. Students acquire important skills and experiences that can increase employment opportunities and augment further training in graduate and professional schools. Students frequently look back on their time spent abroad as the best part of their undergraduate career.

Planning early for study abroad is important and the Center for Global and Intercultural Study's Office of International Programs (CGIS-OIP) is committed to working with students to help them find the study abroad program that is right for them. This flier is intended to outline some of the possibilities in addition to identify general requirements. It is meant primarily for College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LS&A) undergraduates, but is also applicable for undergraduates in other U-M schools and colleges. It will help students start to think about studying abroad, a process that the CGIS-OIP staff will be glad to guide you through.

RESOURCES FROM THE CGIS-OIP

The CGIS-OIP welcomes students to visit the office to meet with study abroad advisors and research CGIS-OIP program opportunities. We also offer the following resources:

- ♦ **Office Hours**
Monday through Friday
10am - 5pm
- ♦ **Walk-In Advising**
Monday-Thursday
2-4pm
- ♦ Program evaluations and pictures from former CGIS-OIP participants
- ♦ Information on international study scholarships such as the NSEP Boren and Gilman awards
- ♦ Talk with CGIS-OIP E-Advisors (former CGIS-OIP program participants)
- ♦ Study abroad guides, including the IIE Passport Academic Year Abroad and Summer Abroad catalogs

ADDITIONAL U-M RESOURCES

For additional information on study, work, internships, volunteering, and travel abroad, try:

- ♦ CGIS-Global Intercultural Experience for Undergraduates Program (GIEU)
734-615-1634
www.gieu.umich.edu
- ♦ International Center's Education Abroad Program
734-647-2299
www.internationalcenter.umich.edu/swt/
- ♦ International Programs in Engineering (IPE)
734-647-7129
www.engin.umich.edu/ipe/

TIMING

Choosing when to go abroad should be based on the student's purpose for studying abroad and the overall fit with their undergraduate concentration plan. Students usually go abroad during their junior or senior year; however, there are a number of programs available for sophomores. If the student's goal is to achieve fluency in foreign language and to immerse themselves in that culture, then an academic year program may be preferable. Spring and Summer term programs are designed to provide shorter exposure to another culture and, where appropriate, further language instruction.

IN-RESIDENCE VS. TRANSFER CREDITS

Students on CGIS-OIP-sponsored study abroad programs will receive Michigan in-residence credit (and thus are eligible for financial aid through U-M), while those on non-U-M programs and some U-M programs receive transfer credit. The number of transfer credits that may be applied toward a U-M degree is limited to 60. Those considering non-U-M programs are encouraged to review LS&A's "Residence Policy" and non-LS&A course work guidelines, available in the LS&A Bulletin and online at:
www.lsa.umich.edu/bulletin

CONCENTRATION AND DISTRIBUTION CREDIT

Both in-residence and transfer credits may be used to satisfy distribution and concentration requirements. In either case, students should discuss their study abroad courses with academic and concentration advisors before going abroad. Typically, advisors cannot guarantee that a course will satisfy a specific requirement until after the course has been completed and credit has been granted but it may be possible to get tentative preapproval. Students should be aware that they cannot fulfill the LS&A language requirement with transfer credit once enrolled in the College.



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OPTIONS FOR STUDYING ABROAD

1) **CGIS-OIP Programs**

Students electing to participate in a program administered through U-M LS&A's Center for Global and Intercultural Study's Office of International Programs (CGIS-OIP) earn in-residence credits and may use financial aid awarded through U-M. Cost and academic fee arrangements vary among programs.

2) **U-M-Sponsored Programs**

Students electing to participate in a U-M-sponsored (non-OIP) program may use financial aid awarded through U-M. Cost and academic fee arrangements vary depending on program arrangements.

3) **Program Administered by Another American University or College**

Students participating in programs sponsored by other American universities are not registered at U-M and receive transfer credit for their study abroad work. Transfer credit is awarded by the U-M Office of Undergraduate Admissions upon receipt of an official transcript from the sponsoring university. Contact U-M's Office of Financial Aid to review financial aid options for non-U-M study abroad programs since it will usually differ from the typical financial aid package.

4) **Direct Enrollment at a Foreign Educational Institution**

Students may elect to apply and enroll directly at a foreign university or study center. While this may be the least expensive option, the drawback is that students must exercise a great deal of independence. Students considering this option should check with the U-M Office of Undergraduate Admissions in advance to be sure that they can be awarded transfer credit. Contact U-M's Office of Financial Aid to review financial aid options for non-U-M study abroad programs since it will most usually from the typical financial aid package.

STUDY ABROAD CALENDAR

It is never too early to start looking into your study abroad options and the CGIS-OIP is here for you. We especially encourage first-year students to begin considering options as soon as they begin studying at U-M. By attending CGIS-OIP's Study Abroad Fairs and talking with CGIS-OIP Study Abroad Advisors and Academic Advisors, students can plan their schedules to accommodate study abroad prerequisites. It is also a great time to plan to complete concentration and LS&A requirements which might be difficult to fulfill abroad.

The following calendar is meant as a general guideline for students interested in going abroad the following fall, winter, academic year, spring, or summer.

September and October

- ◆ Talk to a CGIS-OIP study abroad advisor about your study abroad options
- ◆ Talk to your academic and concentration advisors about how study abroad fits into your plan of study
- ◆ Browse the CGIS-OIP website (www.lsa.umich.edu/oip) to find available U-M programs
- ◆ Email a CGIS-OIP E-Advisor for programs you are considering
- ◆ Review program information, requirements, and the CGIS-OIP's online application
- ◆ Attend CGIS-OIP's Study Abroad Fair (mid-September)
- ◆ Consider which U-M faculty members or graduate student instructors (GSI) you will ask to write recommendations
- ◆ Review cost estimates and consider finances; look into scholarships and financial aid

November and December

- ◆ Talk to an CGIS-OIP study abroad advisor about your study abroad options
- ◆ Talk to your academic and concentration advisors about how study abroad fits into your plan of study
- ◆ Review the necessary program prerequisites
- ◆ Narrow down list of preferred programs and destinations
- ◆ Review cost estimates and consider finances; look into scholarships and financial aid
- ◆ If considering a non-U-M program, obtain information on out-of-residence study and procedures for transferring credit from the Office of Undergraduate Admissions
- ◆ Talk to family members about plans for study abroad
- ◆ Start reviewing and filling out CGIS-OIP online application

January and February

- ◆ Attend CGIS-OIP's Summer Study Abroad Fair (mid-January)
- ◆ Submit CGIS-OIP application before the deadlines (Be aware that some winter term programs have deadlines as early as a full year in advance)
- ◆ Turn in Financial Aid applications to the Office of Financial Aid (apply as early as possible)
- ◆ Talk to LS&A and concentration advisors, determine requirements that need to be fulfilled while abroad (don't forget to ask about what to take the semester you return to U-M)
- ◆ Register on the International Travel Oversight Committee (ITOC) website: www.umich.edu/~itoc/