

Communication Studies

STUDY ABROAD INFORMATION FOR COMMUNICATION STUDIES STUDENTS

Study abroad is more important than ever to those studying communications and the mass media. With the rise of the Internet, satellite news, the 24-hour news cycle, and the global flows of entertainment and information, appreciating the similarities and differences in media systems, media content, and media policy around the world is crucial now to so many careers in the media industry. Studying in another country places us in a different culture and different media environment and compels us to expand our global horizons. And we can also see the extent to which U.S. media circulates beyond our borders and is embraced, copied, and contested in other cultures. Thus we gain an essential perspective on other societies, but also new insights into our own.



The opportunity to study abroad is an excellent way to expand your Communication Studies curriculum at the U-M. It allows you to complete some of the 300/400 level course requirements or some cognate requirements while gaining greater insight into the effect of media in a foreign culture.

GETTING STARTED

1.) Plan early: Talk to your general and concentration advisors about your interest in going abroad.	To meet with your Communication Studies advisor go on line at: http://www.lsa.umich.edu/comm/ .
2.) Visit the OIP: Learn about program offerings and attend the OIP study abroad fair and information sessions.	OIP's Study Abroad Fairs: Fall Fair – Mid September Summer Fair – Mid January
3.) Narrow down your program options: Review course offerings and how they can satisfy concentration and distribution requirements.	See OIP's website: http://www.lsa.umich.edu/oip/oip-study-abroad.htm
4.) Research program costs: Review OIP information on program costs; learn about scholarship options and financial aid for which you may be eligible.	http://www.lsa.umich.edu/oip/financial.htm
5.) Apply for your program.	Online application: http://www.lsa.umich.edu/oip/applying.htm

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

Timing: Study abroad is not just for juniors! Rather, the timing (and program choice) varies by your academic goals in studying abroad. There are programs for which sophomores are well prepared, and seniors who have most of the concentration completed can benefit from seeing the field of Communication Studies from the broader perspective of a different culture. Summers offer a more focused opportunity while the semester or yearlong programs offer the possibility of gaining greater insight from having more time in a different culture. Communication Studies only allows 6 credits of course work for the concentration to be completed outside of Ann Arbor. The credit will normally be part of the 300- and 400-level credit requirement of the concentration. In planning for study abroad, you should discuss with a concentration advisor how your proposed elections might best fit the department's requirements.

*"I had an amazing and unforgettable study abroad experience. I met some of the greatest people which I will remain friends with forever, learned about different cultures, and became a more confident and independent person."
~ Marilyn Maa*

Satisfying distribution and general LSA requirements with courses taken abroad:

- ◆ **Distribution credit** – To use a course or courses taken abroad to satisfy Humanities, Social Science, Natural Science, or another distribution category, you should meet with your LSA advisor before going abroad. Take detailed course descriptions or as much information as you can gather to the advising appointment. If you are unable to get this information ahead of time, or if your course elections change while abroad, bring back as much course information as you can, so that your advisor can effectively evaluate the course upon return.
- ◆ **Race and ethnicity** – It is generally advisable to take R & E class on campus. However, if you want to use a course taken abroad to satisfy this requirement, you need to petition the LSA Academic Standards Board upon return. As part of your petition, you need to provide a syllabus for the course and write an argument explaining how you felt the course met the spirit of the requirement. Petition forms with the R & E criteria are available on the web or at the Newnan LSA Advising Center. Keep in mind that you may not be able to get a syllabus for the course, so you should bring back as much course information as you can—e.g. reading lists, coursepacks, papers, etc. If the syllabus and/or course materials are not in English, contact the Academic Standards Board to see if you need

to have them translated. Board members can translate Spanish, French, and German.

- ◆ **Quantitative Reasoning**— To use a class taken abroad to satisfy the Quantitative Reasoning requirement, you need to petition the LSA Academic Standards Board upon return. (Honors and RC students should contact their respective advising offices.) You need to present a course syllabus as well as materials showing the type of work done in the course (homework, quizzes, exams, and textbooks are helpful.)
- ◆ **Upper level writing requirement** – It's extremely rare for a study abroad course to be approved for Upper-Level Writing. Generally these courses must be taught on campus by U-M faculty. If you want to request an exception, contact the Sweetland Writing Center, but keep in mind that such approvals are not likely granted.

Counting courses taken abroad towards Communication Studies Concentration requirements

- Plan to meet the Department's Faculty Foreign Credit Advisor to discuss this possibility before going abroad; bring a copy of the course description(s). You must meet with the Faculty Foreign Credit Advisor upon return to provide further information about course(s) taken. You should bring copies of exams, papers and course syllabus for each course(s) for review. The department allows only 6 credit hours of course work taken away from Ann Arbor to count as part of the concentration.

Funding study abroad – Students who have financial aid through the University of Michigan can apply their financial aid to any U-M programs sponsored by OIP or other units in the University.



ACADEMIC YEAR, TERM-LONG (FALL OR WINTER), SPRING AND SUMMER PROGRAMS

The Center for Global and Intercultural Study's Office of International Programs offers over 75 global education options for students to choose from. Credit from these programs appear on your U-M transcript as in-residence credit and can be used to meet any College requirements. It is wise to discuss your possible programs with your concentration advisor before you select the program right for you. The following OIP programs offer courses in Communication or Media Studies that may apply toward the concentration.

AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

EGYPT, CAIRO

Single semester or full year. The American University of Cairo (AUC) has a department of Journalism and Communication along with a full range of courses in liberal arts disciplines. Teaching is in English (except for language courses). www.aucegypt.edu

SOUTH AFRICA, DURBAN

One or two semesters. Students enroll in the University of KwaZulu Natal in Durban, which has a well-established research center in Cultural/Communication Studies. Classes are taught in English with a variety of liberal arts classes available. www.nu.ac.za/

TURKEY, ANKARA

One or two semesters. Bilkent University in Ankara has a department of Communication and design in its faculty of Art, Design and Architecture that emphasizes communication studies and mass media. The instruction is in English except for language classes. www.bilkent.edu.tr

"I had the best time in my life in Australia. Studying abroad was a wonderful opportunity that students should take advantage of if they get the chance."

~ Ann C. '07

ASIA

KOREA, SEOUL

Academic Year or Winter Term. Through exchange agreements with Yonsei University and Ewha Women's University students may elect communication classes taught in English. Yonsei has a department of Communication in their Division of Social Sciences. Ewha has a Division of Media Studies among its social sciences. The classes are offered by the international divisions of these two leading universities in Korea. www.yonsei.ac.kr and www.ewha.ac.kr

SINGAPORE

Single semester or full year. The National University of Singapore (NUS) has a department of Communications and New Media in its Division of Social Sciences. Classes are taught in English except for Asian languages. www.nus.edu.sg/

AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIA, MELBOURNE

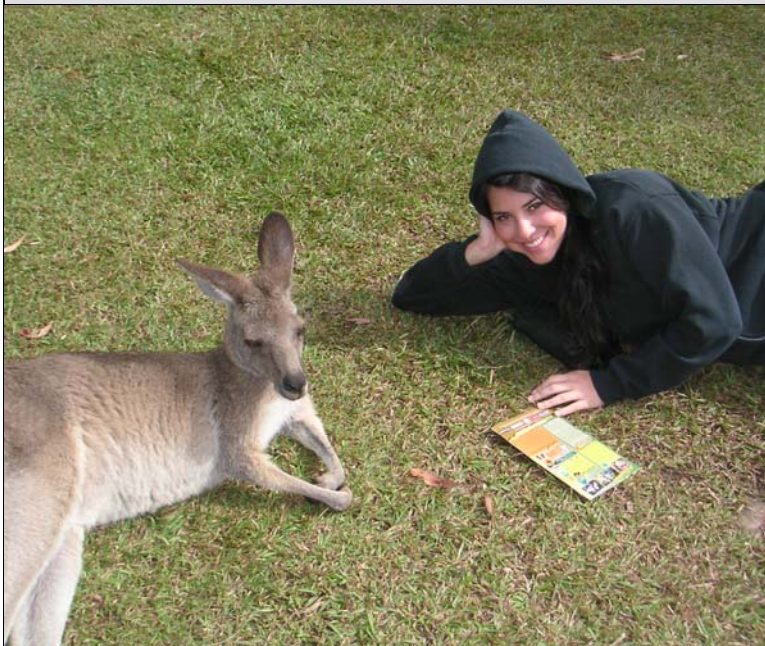
Single term or full year. The University of Melbourne has a program in Media and Communications as part of its Faculty of Arts. There is also a broad selection of liberal arts classes available. www.unimelb.edu.au/

AUSTRALIA, PERTH

Single term or full year. The University of Western Australia in Perth offer a wide selection of liberal arts classes including Communication Studies in its Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. www.uwa.edu.au

AUSTRALIA, SYDNEY

Single term of full year. The University of New South Wales in Sydney has a separate School of Media and Communications. Students take courses from that school and from the other schools that offer liberal arts classes. www.media.arts.unsw.edu.au/



EUROPE

FRANCE, AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Winter Term or full year. The Université d'Aix-Marseille in Aix-en-Provence provides an opportunity for students to study sociology and other liberal arts courses. Requires 5 semesters or more of French language. www.up.univ-mrs.fr/

FINLAND, TURKU

Single term or full year. The University of Turku in Turku, Finland, offers courses in its Media Studies department as well as a full array of liberal arts classes. The courses are taught in English. www.utu.fi/en/

GREAT BRITAIN, LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

Full year only. The London School of Economics has a highly respected program in Media and Communications. While the program is primarily a graduate program there are related classes for undergraduates. www.lse.ac.uk/

GREAT BRITAIN, UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

Winter Term or full year. The University of Sussex has a Media Studies program that combines research with hands on experience. www.sussex.ac.uk/

SPAIN, SEVILLE

Winter Term or full year. The Universidad de Sevilla provides students who have 5 semesters or more of Spanish the opportunity to take courses from its facultad de Comunicación and from other liberal arts departments. www.us.es

"What I saw, and experienced, can't be explained in one or two quotes, nor can it be summed up in a page, essay or book. But as a communication studies concentrator, I will say that I learned about different people, I learned a language, and I learned a new lifestyle, but best of all I learned more about myself to the point where I feel I can now relate to anyone on any walk of life."

~Jamie C.



NON-OIP PROGRAMS

University of Michigan students may also attend foreign institutions through programs offered at other American universities or they may enroll directly at foreign universities. If considering this option, it is important to verify how the credit will transfer ahead of time. Communication Studies concentrators might want to consider other programs that are well respected worldwide for your field.

Goldsmiths College, London
University of Westminster, London
University of Warwick, Warwick
Cardiff University, Cardiff, Wales

These schools, in particular, are known for their strong programs in Communication or Media Studies.