

How to Begin your Study Abroad Search

You CAN study abroad! There are choices available all over the world, in all budget ranges, and for students in every major. However, no one else can choose a program for you. Selecting a program is the end result of a PROCESS that you go through. Studying abroad is a choice that will enhance your life, and help you to stand out as you move into graduate education and your future employment. Here are some prompts to get you started.

1. Decide where you want to go.

You may want to study a language, try new foods, find out about your heritage, or just experience something completely new and different. If you aren't yet sure where you want to go, check out several options and narrow down your choices by doing research.

2. Decide how long you want to be gone, and whether you prefer a group or individual experience.

Programs range in length from spring break, to a few weeks in the summer, to a full semester, to a full school year. How comfortable will you be away from home in an entirely different setting? How well do you adjust to new situations? If you have little travel experience, or you have not yet had a chance to venture out on your own a great deal, you may want to start with a short-term study program (such as a spring break study tour) or go on a group experience such as Eurospring.

3. Determine what kinds of financial resources you have available.

Studying abroad always costs more than studying at MSUM, because you must pay for travel expenses, in some cases you pay your tuition and fees abroad, and you may need to make some payments in foreign currencies where the exchange rate goes against the US dollar. This is why early planning is very important- save every penny that you can in order to make this dream a reality. Financial Aid does apply to study abroad. Once you've decided on a program we'll create an estimated budget for you so you can visit Financial Aid. There are some scholarships available for study abroad.

4. Think about what kind of housing options will best meet your needs.

Some programs feature homestays, which are useful when you are going abroad to improve your language skills (these are most common in

Spanish-speaking programs). Other programs might feature campus housing in dormitories, or place you into student housing in apartments.

5. Look over the course offerings for the programs you're interested in and visit with your advisor about how study abroad fits into your plan for graduation.

Some programs, such as Eurospring, feature courses that meet LASC areas. Some programs offer courses that meet major requirements (pending departmental approval). All courses will transfer back to MSUM as elective credits toward graduation (as long as they are from an accredited university). Planning course selections is an important step and must be done before you depart.

OK, so I've worked through all of those prompts. What next?

Start checking out specific programs.

Once you've narrowed down your selection to a certain program, take a check sheet from our office and follow the steps. You should contact the Office of Study Abroad at any time during this process when you have questions.

MSUM exchanges tied to majors: available for School of Media Arts & Design, Mass Communication, School of Entertainment Industries & Technology, East Asian Studies, and International Studies.

MSUM exchanges open to all majors: Australia, England, Korea.

MSUM programs with LASC and elective credits: Eurospring, short-term faculty led programs, Norway.

External programs open to all majors (go to the following link, search each site by your destinations):

www.mnstate.edu/studyabroad/externalprograms

External programs with an internship available:

ISA, USAC, KEI, BUNAC (see Office of Study Abroad for details).

haak@mnstate.edu

"The big question is whether you are going to be able to say a hearty Yes to your adventure."
Joseph Campbell