



Getting Started!

Study Abroad Basics



Contact us: goabroad@nmu.edu

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2001 C.B. Hedgcock

What is study abroad?

- ❖ Studying abroad is the act of a student pursuing educational opportunities in a country other than one's own.

Why study abroad?

- ❖ Studying overseas is one of the most challenging, interesting, and fun experiences you can have as a college student. Talk to anyone who has studied abroad and they will share stories they have about intercultural understanding, interesting differences, unique challenges, and experiences utterly unlike anything they could have imagined in the US.
- ❖ **Through taking academic credit abroad**, a student can see the world, take in new cultures, hone language skills, expand career opportunities, develop personally, find new interests and make lifelong connections! Due to the highly immersive nature of a study abroad, it is a completely different experience than being a tourist!

Where can a student study?

- ❖ NMU has a large list of over 50 countries where students can study and have studied abroad! Some of the most popular countries our students choose to study abroad in are: Spain, Germany, South Korea, Vienna, Costa Rica, Ireland and England.

What types of programs are there?

- ❖ You can choose from all sorts of programs:
 - Short-term **faculty-led** programs run through NMU vary in location & many are offered each year
 - **3rd party** providers such as ISA, CIEE, TaLK, and Classport support students for longer-term stays
 - NMU has its own **exchanges** in South Korea, Germany, Finland, Norway, China, Sweden & Switzerland
 - You can **volunteer** and/or complete an **internship** abroad!
 - You can complete **student-teaching** abroad!
 - You could **directly enroll** at an overseas university of your choice

Who can study abroad?

- ❖ In order for us to recommend a student for studying abroad, a student must meet certain eligibility requirements. At the time of application, students must meet a minimum 2.5 GPA requirement and be in good academic and disciplinary standing with NMU in order to study abroad. Students can study abroad as soon as the summer after their freshman year or, if a transfer student, after completing at least one semester at NMU.

What can you do to get this process started?

- ❖ Do your homework before we meet by gaining ideas surrounding the following questions:
- ❖ **When** ...is it an ideal time to study abroad?
- ❖ **Where** ...are you interested in going?
- ❖ **Why** ...do you want to take your studies abroad?
- ❖ **What** ...will you be studying and what are your daily living preferences?
 - What are you hoping to gain from the experience? Are you seeking a shorter or longer-term program? A rural or urban setting? Do you have a housing preference? Are you hoping to take courses within your major, minor, or remaining general education requirements? Have you spoken with your academic advisor to assess your graduation plan and see where a study abroad may best fit?
- ❖ Attend an open event (Such as the **Study Abroad Fair** advertised on the IES website: nmu.edu/ipo)
- ❖ Complete initial **brainstorming** and **goal setting** worksheets as well as the **survey** on the back of this sheet!
- ❖ Search the web for popular options such as studiesabroad.com and ciee.org. Consider joining fellow NMU students on a faculty-led trip. Search our site for currently offered programs.
- ❖ **Call or visit** the International Education Services office to schedule a Study Abroad advising appointment



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1. Why do you want to study abroad? What do you hope to accomplish?

- Learn about another culture Improve language skills
 Prepare for graduate school Increase job opportunities
 Opportunity for travel Meet new people
 Enhance my education Other (If other, please explain)

Other goals: _____

2. Where are you interested in studying? _____

Do you prefer: Urban setting? _____ Rural setting? _____ No preference _____

3. In which subject areas do you need/want to take courses?

Major(s): _____
 Minor(s): _____
 General Education requirements: _____

4. For what length of time do you want to go abroad?

Year (8-9 months) Semester (14 weeks) Summer (6-8 weeks) Short-term (1-4 weeks)
 (i.e. faculty-led, holiday break, Superior Edge)

5. Do you have a housing preference?

Host family Residence Hall Student housing/apartment Independent

6. Do you prefer (circle preferences):

Program with other U.S. students	Combination of courses with U.S. students & host country students	Directly enrolled in a foreign university	Program where English is the primary language	Program where English is NOT the primary language
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7. How important is the cost factor in going abroad?

extremely important somewhat important not important

8. Please rank the following statements (1=most important; 6=least important) according to what you deem most important in planning for your study abroad experience:

_____ **Academic program** is the most important thing to me. I will only study abroad if I can take courses that will satisfy my degree program's graduation requirements.

_____ **Cost** is the most important thing to me. I can study abroad only if the program is affordable or if I will end up paying no more or just a bit more than what I typically spend for a semester/summer.

_____ **Location** is the most important thing to me. I am willing to consider whatever program is available as long as I can study in a particular country or city.

_____ **Timing** is the most important thing to me. I can study abroad only during the _____ term so I won't disrupt my degree progress / extracurricular commitments / internship or job offer.

_____ **Non-academic Opportunities** are the most important thing to me. I want a program that will have an internship option, volunteer activities, local projects, and other local activities.

_____ **Total Experience** is the most important thing to me. I want a study abroad experience that will meet my expectations regarding program participants, comfort-level, cultural immersion, academic and social interaction.