

Study Abroad

Starting the Conversation



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Study Abroad

Why Study Abroad?

In alignment with the mission of Western Michigan University, WMU Study Abroad supports and promotes the University's mission to distinguish itself as learner centered, discovery driven, and globally engaged. Studying abroad provides the opportunity for students to excel in all three pillars of the WMU vision.

We encourage students to utilize study abroad to break out of comfort zones, take on adventures with confidence in their abilities, and embrace challenges that may reveal unimagined skills.



Surveys by the University of California, International Education of Students IES, and Inside Higher Education show that study-abroad alumni **achieve higher GPAs, graduate at higher rates, receive more job offers, and make higher starting salaries** compared to students who do not study abroad.

Recent studies by the University of Florida, Singapore Management University, and the European Institute for Business Administration (INSEAD) have shown that students who study abroad **perform better in flexibility, creativity, and complex thinking.**



Answering Your Questions:

- Is it safe?
- Is it affordable?
- How long are programs?
- How does it fit into degree programs?
- Is a foreign language required?
- When should students go?
- What are the first steps?

Study abroad alumni from the University of California reported 25 percent higher starting salaries - an average of \$7,000 more per year!



Is it safe?

WMU Study Abroad is dedicated to identifying, creating, and facilitating safe study abroad opportunities. Health and safety issues are assessed throughout every stage of the program to ensure that conditions are secure. Students are required to attend pre-departure safety training to learn effective methods for promoting personal safety while abroad and steps to access assistance, including a 24/7 emergency protocol through WMU.

Is it affordable?

YES! Financial aid is applicable to study abroad and there are many study abroad-specific scholarships! In some cases, studying abroad can cost less than a semester at WMU.

How long are programs?

WMU Study Abroad offers programs that range in duration from as short as one week to as long as a full academic year. Students can choose between programs led by WMU faculty members or programs that are hosted by partner universities.

How does it fit into degree programs?

In agreement with university departments and colleges, classes taken abroad can count at WMU for credits that students need for their major, minor, and/or general education. Planning ahead is key and there are course options for every major!

Is a foreign language required?

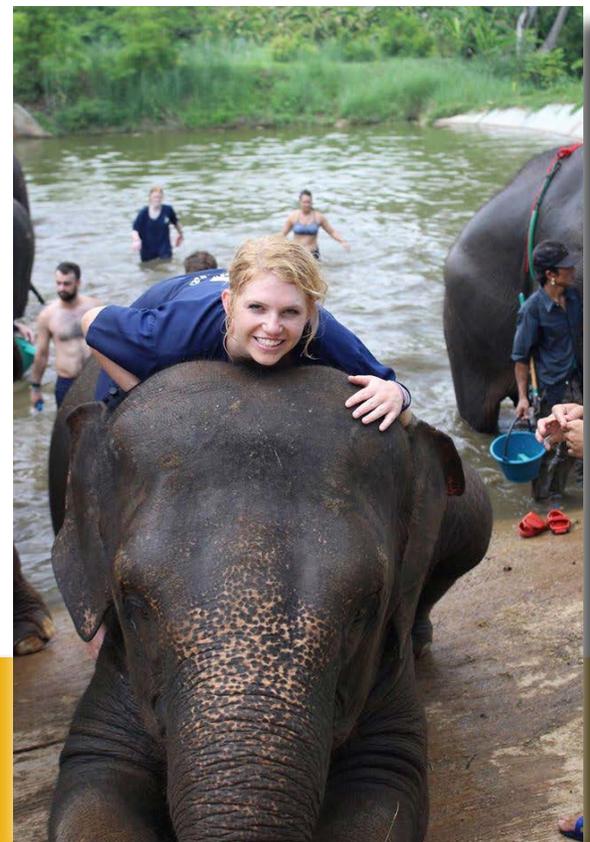
NO! Foreign language is not required for most programs. Many programs offer non-language courses, taught in English, that may be taken to earn academic credit.

When should students go?

WMU offers a wide variety of programs and opportunities at various stages of a student's career. We encourage students to visit our office as soon as possible after entering the university to explore how study abroad can fit into their degree timeline.

What are the first steps?

Students can browse study abroad programs at wmich.edu/studyabroad. We also encourage all students (and parents) to attend an information session to meet with a representative from Study Abroad who can assist in identifying potential programs.



In 2014-2015, students studying abroad through WMU received more than \$400,000 in scholarships!

**Contact WMU Study Abroad if you have more questions!
(269) 387-5890 - study-abroad@wmich.edu - 2425 Ellsworth Hall**