



GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

BSI Study Abroad Guide for Students

BSI students are encouraged to pursue international experiences, including study abroad opportunities. Global competency, adaptability, experience with diverse cultures, and organizational skills all rank highly among the attributes that today's employers seek in candidates. UMSI encourages BSI students to make an impact by engaging in a global opportunity.

Use the links below or the pop-out document outline to navigate the contents of this guide.

Finding a Program & Submitting an Application

- [Getting Started: Study Abroad 101 for BSI Students](#) ★
- [UMSI Global Engagement Advising](#)
- [Study Abroad Program Options](#)
- [Academics & Getting Credit](#)
- [Application Steps & Timeline](#)

Post-Acceptance: What You Need to Know

- [Pre-Program Steps](#)
- [While You are Abroad/Returning Home](#)

Additional Information & Resources

- [Scholarships & Funding](#)
- [Links & Resources](#)
- [FAQ](#)

Getting Started: Study Abroad 101 for BSI Students

Because of the academic schedule for the BSI program, it is recommended that students plan to study abroad during the winter term of their first year as a BSI. In order to be best prepared, you should start planning during the summer before your first term at UMSI.

During this time, you can:

- [Browse program options below.](#)
- Explore the [UMSI Study Abroad Course Repository](#) to identify pre-approved courses
- Meet with UMSI Academic Advising and UMSI Global Engagement staff

General Rules/Tips for UMSI Study Abroad:

1. If you want to graduate/complete the program in two years, you **MUST** go abroad in the Winter of your first year in the BSI program. There are two required courses in the second year of the BSI program that cannot be taken out of sequence: SI 405/407 in the fall term and SI 485/487 in the winter term. These two required courses must be taken in residence (no equivalencies available) and in the same year.
2. You should plan on taking only courses to count for SI Electives while studying abroad, though you may be able to find some equivalencies (this is not necessarily recommended).
3. You must complete all BSI Core courses prior to studying abroad.
4. Timeline
 - a. During the first UMSI Fall term:
 - i. Complete BSI Core courses (SI 206, SI 302, SI 300) if you have not already
 - ii. Complete your Introduction to Pathway Course (SI 305 for IA or SI 307 for UX)
 - iii. It is highly recommended that you register for one course in your pathway (see guidance below)
 1. Information Analysis Pathway
 - a. IF YOU HAVE TAKEN 206: SI 330
 - b. IF YOU HAVE NOT TAKEN 206: SI 301
 2. User Experience Design Pathway
 - a. IF YOU HAVE TAKEN 206: SI 388
 - b. IF YOU HAVE NOT TAKEN 206: SI 388
 - b. During Abroad term:
 - i. Plan on taking only electives during your semester abroad
 1. On a UMSI Exchange, you can earn all of your BSI Electives (depending on your class selections)
 2. If you are going abroad on another U-M program or a third party program, you are not guaranteed to transfer in BSI credits. You may be eligible for general U-M electives, but they may not count towards 60 upper-level (300-level) credit degree requirement.

UMSI Global Engagement Advising

Navigating the complexities of studying abroad can seem like a big challenge, and it can be overwhelming. UMSI global engagement staff is here to help! After you review this guide and find yourself with a ton of specific questions, schedule an appointment, and help will be provided to guide your way.

Getting Started

- 1) Review this guide and [this BSI Study Abroad presentation](#)
- 2) Submit the [BSI study abroad declaration form](#) to indicate your interest in going abroad
- 3) Discuss how study abroad fits into your overall degree plans with UMSI Academic Advising (umsi.advising.bsi@umich.edu)

UMSI Study Abroad Info Sessions

Study Abroad Information Sessions will provide an overview of the study abroad process for BSI students, including where it is possible to go, the application process and timeline, how to get courses approved, and basic funding information. These will be held at the beginning of fall and winter semesters. Students should attend in the semester prior to going abroad.

UMSI Drop-in Advising

UMSI offers drop-in advising sessions for study abroad in the beginning of the Fall and Winter semesters.

UMSI Individual Advising

Current BSI students and BSI admits can meet with the UMSI Global Engagement Program Manager by [scheduling an appointment in CareerLink](#). *Please note that BSI students gain access to CareerLink during the first week of classes of their junior year. Before then, please email umsi.bsi.abroad@umich.edu.*

Study Abroad Program Options

As a BSI student, you have a wide range of options to choose from when it comes to studying abroad. Learn more about these options below and get more information on specific programs by exploring the links included. Use the links below to jump to the specific section, or scroll down to browse.

- **UMSI Semester Exchange Programs**
 - [American College of Thessaloniki \(Thessaloniki, Greece\)](#)
 - [Dublin City University \(Dublin, Ireland\)](#)
 - [ESADE \(Barcelona, Spain\)](#)
 - [IE University \(Madrid, Spain\)](#)
 - [Prague University of Economics and Business \(Prague, Czech Republic\)](#)
 - [Queen Mary University of London \(London, England, UK\)](#)
 - [Uppsala University \(Uppsala, Sweden\)](#)
 - [University of New South Wales \(Sydney, Australia\)](#)
- **UMSI Short-Term Programs**
 - [Web Accessibility in Dublin, Ireland](#)
 - [Design Thinking in Barcelona, Spain](#)
 - [Summer in Shanghai \(UM-SJTU Joint Institute\)](#)
- **Other U-M Programs**
- **Non-UM/Vendor Programs**



UMSI Exchange Programs

American College of Thessaloniki (ACT) - Greece



Thessaloniki is Greece's second-largest city and is known as the "cultural capital of Greece." The city sits on the Mediterranean Sea, and nearly twenty percent of its one million inhabitants are university students. The American College of Thessaloniki (ACT) is a historic institution in Greece that hosts hundreds of international students every year. With a wide academic focus, including data science, ACT is a great location for UMSI students.

There is a ton of history in Thessaloniki (a city named for Alexander the Great's half-sister), but you will also find all the modern conveniences that you would expect from a major European city. Thessaloniki is often compared to Barcelona in terms of location and vibe, but it is smaller, cheaper, and you can explore many of the Greek islands by ferry.

[Learn more about UMSI's exchange program at ACT on Canvas](#)

Ready to apply? [View the MCompass listing for ACT](#)

Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences (AUAS) - Netherlands



The slogan of the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences (AUAS) is 'Creating Tomorrow'. The university inspires students to work on the future by producing creative solutions and sustainable innovations, connecting today with tomorrow.

With the city as their classroom, students and lecturers work closely with countless industries, companies and organisations to come up with smart solutions to challenges facing our city. The wide range of research and education offered by the AUAS contributes to solving metropolitan problems.

[Learn more about UMSI's exchange program at AUAS on Canvas](#)

Ready to apply? [View the MCompass listing for AUAS](#)

Dublin City University (DCU) - Dublin, Ireland



Dublin City University (DCU) is located in Dublin, Ireland's capital city. Dublin has become the Silicon Valley of Europe, and competes with many of the major cities in Europe as the best place to build a career in tech. DCU is a top-rated global university with excellent opportunities for the thousand of international students who study there each year. Focused on being one the cutting edge of technology and innovation, DCU offers incredible possibilities for visiting students.

Of course, Dublin is a wonderful place to live and study, but Ireland is a small country, and it is not hard to visit its other cities and stunningly-beautiful countryside. From Dublin, you will have a perfect home base for exploring the rest of the country and beyond!

[Learn more about UMSI's exchange program at DCU on Canvas](#)

Ready to apply? [View the MCompass listing for DCU](#)

Escola Superior d'Administració i Direcció d'Empreses (ESADE) - Spain



Escola Superior d'Administració i Direcció d'Empreses (ESADE) is in the amazing city of Barcelona, one of the world's great international cities. Offering an exciting combination of business, entrepreneurship, and data analytics courses, students will find an energizing curriculum and atmosphere. ESADE is a highly-ranked institution where students can take advantage of dozens of courses taught in English.

And obviously, there are few better places to spend the winter months than in Barcelona, where the weather is almost always warm and sunny. Take a surfing class, go hiking in the mountains, or simply enjoy the incredible mix of cultures that you will find across the city.

[Learn more about UMSI's exchange program at ESADE on Canvas](#)

Ready to apply? [View the MCompass listing for ESADE](#)

IE University (IEU) - Spain



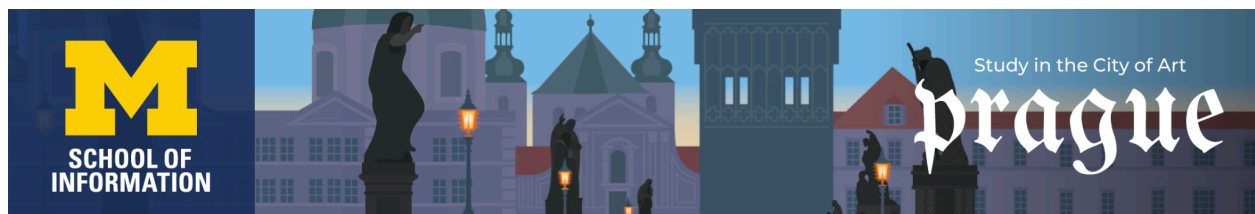
IE University (IEU) is located in beautiful Madrid, Spain, a leading European capital city known for its expansive parks, elegant boulevards, and rich collections of European art. Students studying abroad at IE University in Madrid benefit from a global learning environment, top-tier networking opportunities, and buildings equipped with state-of-the-art facilities.

IE University is built around four key pillars: innovation, entrepreneurship, academic rigor, and the humanities. The University is home to an incredibly diverse population, with over 70% of students coming from outside of Spain and representing over 100 countries. There are 30+ student organizations and recreational sports teams.

[Learn more about UMSI's exchange program at IEU on Canvas](#)

Ready to apply? [View the MCompass listing for IEU.](#)

Prague University of Economics and Business (VSE) - Czech Republic



The Prague University of Economics and Business (VŠE) was founded in 1953 and is the largest public university of economics in the Czech Republic. VŠE is nestled in the heart of Prague, the capital city of the Czech Republic, home to roughly one million people. The city is bisected by a river and is nicknamed the “City of a Hundred Spirals” because of its world-renowned historic architecture. Currently, there are more than 15,000 students at VŠE. The university has a buddy program that assigns each international student to a Czech student, assisting in all aspects of studying abroad. VŠE is home to numerous student organizations and has its own modern sports facilities, including a new multipurpose sports arena that is open for student recreation.

[Learn more about UMSI's exchange program at VSE on Canvas](#)

Ready to apply? [View the MCompass listing for VSE](#)

Queen Mary University London (QMUL) - England, UK



Queen Mary University of London is one of the world's top research universities located in one of Europe's most exciting and diverse capital cities. Students studying abroad at QMUL can choose from over 950 courses offered by any of Queen Mary's 14 academic schools and colleges. Students will have access to all the amenities of a welcoming college campus, including student organizations, clubs, and support services, with the dynamic and historic cultural center of London right outside their door.

[Learn more about UMSI's exchange program at QMUL on Canvas](#)

Ready to apply? [View the MCompass listing for QMUL](#)

Uppsala University (UU) - Sweden



Uppsala University (UU) is home to over 40,000 students across 11 campuses and was founded as Sweden's first university in 1477. The University has several museums housing large collections of art, science history, and cultural history dating back to the Middle Ages. Uppsala has a rich musical scene and the campus Botanical Garden is home to thousands of plants from the Scandinavian mountains to dry deserts and drenched rainforests. Additionally, UU is home to many student organizations, recreation and fitness clubs, sporting events, and rich academic traditions.

Uppsala is Sweden's fourth largest city and one of its oldest. Uppsala is a rapidly growing city and is increasingly integrated with the wider Stockholm region, Sweden's most dynamic growth region. At the same time, Uppsala has kept many of its small-town characteristics. The compact city center with the Cathedral, the River Fyris, and several small squares, parks, cafés, restaurants, and historic buildings lend the city its character.

[Learn more about UMSI's exchange program at Uppsala on Canvas](#)

Ready to apply? [View the MCompass listing for Uppsala](#)

University of New South Wales (UNSW) - Australia



The University of New South Wales (UNSW) is Australia's most comprehensive research university. The university is home to 59,000+ students representing 137 countries. There are 300+ student organizations, including sports, hobbies, educational, and volunteer groups. Located in the capital city of Sydney, UNSW students are surrounded by pristine beaches, public gardens, a picturesque harbor, and thriving restaurants and markets.

[Learn more about UMSI's exchange program at UNSW on Canvas](#)

Ready to apply? [View the MCompass listing for UNSW](#)

UMSI Short-Term Programs

Web Accessibility in Dublin, Ireland



The Web Accessibility in Dublin program is a 3-week study abroad experience that combines the SI 339 course on responsive, accessible front-end programming and cultural activities that enable students to learn about the unique culture of Ireland. This course will provide students with the necessary skills for building and deploying web sites as well as utilizing existing software tools. This program is administered by the U-M School of Information (UMSI) and Cultural Experiences Abroad (CEA).

The program features exciting guest speakers and site visits - past groups have visited Microsoft, Google, and several amazing local cultural landmarks.

The learning objectives for SI 339 are to help students develop solid competency in:

- Understanding the interactions between web browsers and web servers using
- Hypertext Transport Protocol (HTTP)
- Understanding the importance of standards-based practices in web development
- Understanding the importance of separating structure and semantics from presentation, as well as how this is accomplished in professional web development
- Creating web pages using Hypertext Markup Language (HTML5)

Learn more about Design Thinking in Barcelona on Canvas (coming soon)

Ready to apply? [View the MCompass listing for Web Accessibility in Dublin](#)

Design Thinking in Barcelona, Spain



The Design Thinking in Barcelona program is a three-week study abroad experience that combines a three-credit course on the principles of Design Thinking at the University of Vic and cultural activities that enable students to learn about the unique culture of Catalan Spain. Students will learn about the user-centered, prototype-driven methodology of design thinking while immersing themselves in one of Spain's most historic cities. This program is administered by the U-M School of Information (UMSI) and CEA-CAPA Education.

Students will gain an understanding of Design Thinking principles and gain awareness of information problems in a global context. Students will also:

- Practice and apply skills and tools learned through coursework on a hands-on project experience
- Develop and enhance skills such as adaptability, flexibility, and the ability to navigate ambiguity
- Develop the ability to conduct work in a cross-cultural and diverse international setting

[Learn more about Design Thinking in Barcelona on Canvas](#)

Ready to apply? [View the MCompass listing for Design Thinking in Barcelona](#)

Summer in Shanghai (UM-SJTU Joint Institute)

Take a journey of a lifetime and study abroad in Shanghai, China! Shanghai is China's largest city and is a global center for technology, innovation, and business. The city combines tradition and modernity seamlessly, making it an exciting and unique place to visit. Studying at the UM-SJTU Joint Institute is a fantastic opportunity to grow academically, professionally, and personally while exploring one of the most exciting cities in the world!

Note: This program is operated through a partnership between UMSI, the U-M College of Engineering International Programs in Engineering office (IPE), and the UM-SJTU Joint Institute (JI). Students who choose to apply via this page will be redirected to the IPE application page in MCompass to submit their application.

Ready to apply? [View the MCompass listing for Summer in Shanghai](#)

Other U-M Programs

There are hundreds of other study abroad programs available to you as a U-M student. UMSI places no restrictions on what programs you can participate in. However, it will be important for you to ensure that you can get the academic credits that you need on any particular program.

[To browse Other U-M programs, visit MCompass.](#)

Non U-M/Vendor Programs

BSI students can also participate in vendor-based programs and/or direct enroll in programs at foreign universities. View the International Center's Education Abroad [listing of preferred study abroad vendors](#), and review the [Suggested Non-U-M Programs for BSI Abroad](#) list for more information on specific vendors and any applicable arrangements (such as program grants or discounts) may be available for U-M students. **Students may NOT enroll directly at a university where UMSI has an active exchange partnership.**

Academics & Getting Academic Credit

Choosing which classes to take while abroad and knowing how those credits will transfer back are critical steps in your study abroad journey. This section will give you all of the basic information that you will need in order to make the right decisions.

Selecting Courses

You can view study abroad courses that UMSI has previously evaluated in the [BSI Study Abroad Course Repository - Approved](#) and [BSI Study Abroad Course Repository - Denied](#). These are not exhaustive lists; they are based on what previous BSI students have submitted.

You should first discuss your plans to study abroad with UMSI Academic Advising (umsi.bsi.advising@umich.edu) to map out your course planning and to determine that studying abroad is a good choice for your academic plan.

After you have met with UMSI Academic Advising, you then need to submit your courses for approval. [Read more about that process on the Global Engagement Canvas page for course approvals.](#)

Regardless of the type of program you go on, you are encouraged to have alternative courses approved before departure. Be aware that most programs do not have students register until their arrival in the country. The remaining course load should be filled with upper-level credit (200-level or above) transferable to U-M. UMSI requires that you take a full course load (12+ credits) while abroad.

Note these additional course policies as well:

- All SI-related courses need to be pre-approved by UMSI prior to departure.
- Courses cannot be at an introductory level (100-level, i.e. Introduction to Programming).
- You cannot repeat a course abroad for which you have already earned credit. Therefore, courses taken abroad should *not* be similar to courses you have previously completed at U-M.
- Students can take a maximum of two (2) direct equivalents to BSI Pathway courses while abroad. Note that these are very rare and you are unlikely to find two (if any).
- Non-SI courses at the **200-level** or above can be counted toward the non-SI upper-level elective requirement. This is in the spirit of the precedent set by LSA/CGIS that courses taken abroad will reflect a higher level of learning due to the comparative and cultural knowledge gained. **In no case will introductory (100-level) courses (example: Italian 101) be counted for upper-level credit.**

Credit Transfer

How your courses transfer back to U-M will vary based on what type of program you participated in.

This depends on the type of program you go on:

- **UMSI Exchange Programs**
 - For UMSI Exchange Programs, UMSI will approve **upper-level BSI elective credit for up to four (4) courses, and/or 12-18 credits** (even if that is more than four courses).
 - Students will be provided with an override and need to enroll in the appropriate section of **SIABRD 300X (the UMSI study abroad placeholder course)** before going abroad. Students will then pay U-M tuition through their student account.
 - **All courses taken on a UMSI Exchange Program will be transferred back as Pass/Fail.**
 - Per the BSI Handbook, a Pass is considered any grade of C- (70%) or better. If your host institution uses an alternative grading scale where a passing grade is below 70%, UMSI will defer to that grade.
 - For courses denied for SI credit, students should review the [Transfer Credit Equivalency Database](#) to see courses that have previously transferred into the University of Michigan.
 - First, try searching for the program through which you will be studying abroad and then find the class you want to take. If the class is there, you can see whether or not it was accepted as transfer credit by U-M in the past.
 - If you are unable to find a course in the database, do not be discouraged. This just means that a U-M student has never tried to transfer in that

course before. You can submit these courses for pre-evaluation through the [Office of Undergraduate Admissions' Transfer Credit Equivalency Request Form](#). This form is quick to complete, but it takes time to receive the results. It is recommended to not wait until the last minute, as this cannot be completed while abroad.

- **Note that this MUST be done prior to studying abroad. You will be unable to request courses for approval after you start or complete your semester abroad.**

Note: Students who go abroad for more than one term on a UMSI exchange program (for example, fall and winter semesters) are limited to using four (4) classes total for BSI course elective or equivalency.

- **Other U-M Programs (Center for Global and Intercultural Studies (CGIS), Ross, Engineering, etc.)**
 - UMSI will approve **credit for up to two (2) courses, and/or six to eight (6-8) credits maximum** (in no case will more than two courses count toward SI credits).
 - You should check with the office that administers your program (CGIS, Ross Global Initiatives, International Programs in Engineering, etc.) to **ask how the credits will post (will they be transfer credit, or in-residence credit?)** and whether or not grades will be posted to your U-M transcript and/or calculate into your U-M GPA. UMSI defers to other U-M program's policies for grade posting.
 - You must earn a grade of C- (70%) or better for a course to transfer in successfully. If your host institution uses an alternative grading scale where a passing grade is below 70%, UMSI will defer to that grade.
- **Non-U-M (vendor-based or direct enroll) programs**
 - UMSI will approve **credit for up to two (2) courses, and/or six to eight (6-8) credits maximum** (in no case will more than two courses count toward SI credits).
 - After successful completion of the courses with a grade of C- or better, the **courses will post to your U-M transcript as transfer credit**. For transfer credit, grades will not appear on your U-M transcript and will not calculate into your U-M GPA (they will post as "T" for Transfer).
 - For courses denied for SI credit, students should review the [Transfer Credit Equivalency Database](#) to see courses that have previously transferred into the University of Michigan.
 - First try searching for the program through which you will be studying abroad and then find the class you want to take. If the class is there, you can see whether or not it was accepted as transfer credit by U-M in the past.
 - If you are unable to find a course in the database, do not be discouraged. This just means that a U-M student has never tried to transfer over that

course before. You can submit these courses for pre-evaluation through the [Office of Undergraduate Admissions' Transfer Credit Equivalency Request Form](#). This form is quick to complete, but it takes time to receive the results. It is recommended to not wait until the last minute, as this cannot be completed while abroad.

- **Note that this MUST be done prior to studying abroad. You will be unable to request courses for approval after you start or complete your semester abroad.**
- You must earn a grade of C- (70%) or better for a course to transfer in successfully. If your host institution uses an alternative grading scale where a passing grade is below 70%, UMSI will defer to that grade.

Please note - you should be aware of the credit conversion from your host institution to U-M. Please discuss this with Adam Freed (avfreed@umich.edu) or your BSI Academic Advisor in advance of registering for classes abroad.

- **UMSI Short-term Study Abroad Programs (Design Thinking in Barcelona)**
 - You will take the class associated with the program for a letter grade, which will then be transferred back to UMSI as Pass/Fail. Credit earned on UMSI Short-term programs is in-residence, upper-level BSI elective credit.
- **UMSI Short-term Study Abroad Programs (Design Thinking in Barcelona, Web Accessibility in Dublin)**
 - You will take the class associated with the program for a letter grade, which will then be posted as a letter grade to your transcript. Credit earned on UMSI Short-term programs is in-residence, upper-level BSI elective credit.

Application Timeline & Steps

****ALL DATES LISTED ARE FOR GENERAL REFERENCE ONLY. Exact dates are flexible based on when these dates fall in the week, staff capacity, and other factors. For specific dates and other information, refer to MCompass.***

Winter Term Programs

- Applications open on or around mid August*
- Applications are due on or around the third week of September*
 - Applications are reviewed after the deadline - no rolling acceptance
- Acceptance emails go out on or around one week after the deadline.

Spring/Summer Term Programs

- Applications open on or around early November*

- Applications are due on or around mid January*
 - Applications are reviewed after the deadline - no rolling acceptance
- Acceptance emails go out on or around mid January*

Fall Term Programs

- There are no UMSI-sponsored programs during fall term, and so there are no associated dates.
- If you want to participate in a fall term program, follow the guidelines laid out by that particular program.

Pre-Departure Steps

Once you have committed to going abroad, please complete all of the following steps prior to departure. These activities are recommended to be completed **six weeks** prior to departure.

1. **Complete all application requirements for study abroad.** If you are applying to a program through an external vendor and need to have UMSI verify your enrollment or sign a form, please contact umsi.bsi.abroad@umich.edu to confirm who you should list as the UMSI contact person.
2. **Confirm with [UMSI that you plan to study abroad](#)** (different from declaration)
3. **[Register your travel in M-Compass](#)** if you are doing a non-U-M program. (U-M program participants are automatically registered.)
4. **Submit all Study Abroad Courses for Approval:**
 - i. **UMSI Course Evaluation (SI courses):**
You are required to have all courses you intend to take for SI credit evaluated by the School of Information by completing the [BSI Study Abroad Course Approval Request form](#). You will receive notification of course evaluations by UMSI staff within three weeks of submission. You may submit any number of courses, but be aware that a large number of courses may cause a delay in response. You can view what classes BSI students have taken and been approved for study abroad here: [BSI Study Abroad Course Repository](#). *Note that courses are evaluated in order of receipt and requests for expediting will not be honored.*
 - ii. **UM Pre-Approval (non-SI courses):**
For any 200-level or above course that you take abroad which was not approved for SI upper-level elective credit:
 - The UMSI Registrar will review those courses and any credits earned (pending a passing grade) will be posted to your transcript as general upper-level elective credit.

- These credits **DO NOT** count toward your BSI degree requirements, but do count towards your overall undergraduate requirements.

5. Authorized Study Abroad Signatures

For non-UMSI or UM programs that require approval or authorization by a UMSI study abroad advisor, please submit forms to umsi.bsi.abroad@umich.edu. Please complete the form as much as possible and also include your UMID in the email. Forms will be returned within one week at most, but most likely within one to two business days.

Pre-Program Steps

Once you have been accepted into a program, there are additional steps you need to take to confirm your participation, ensure that you can get the credits you want/need, legally enter and study in another country, and more. This section will lay out those steps for you with links to additional resources.

Apply for a Visa (if required)

Student Visas

Depending on your program destination, you may need a student visa, and depending on the program you participate in, assistance may or may not be available for obtaining your visa. For all UMSI Exchange programs, visa assistance is not provided. Staff are not experts on any visa process as each country is unique, and the processes change from year to year. Staff is happy to assist with any questions you may have as much as possible, but guidance may be limited.

Some countries' consulates require letters of support that are translated into the local language. You can view the UM Language Resource Center's page on [Translation Services](#) for assistance in obtaining translation.

Register Your Travel

Other U-M Programs (CGIS, Ross, Engineering, etc.)

Your travel is already registered in M-Compass from your program application (please do not register it again). Follow instructions sent by the office/advisor coordinating your program regarding course registration. In some cases, you will enroll in a study abroad placeholder course ahead of time.

Non-U-M (vendor-based/direct enroll) Programs

You must register your travel in the [U-M International Travel Registry \(M-Compass\)](#) before you depart for your program, preferably as soon as possible. This ensures that the University will be able to find you and provide you with support in the case of emergency, and it keeps you in compliance with University regulations. Do not enroll in courses at U-M for the term you will be abroad. If you have enrolled in courses, drop them before the [deadlines posted by the U-M Registrar's Office](#). You do not need to do anything else to declare that you are on a leave of

absence. Your account will not get charged U-M tuition if you are not registered for classes at University of Michigan.

Purchase Health Insurance

Students may purchase travel abroad health insurance individually, but they can also check with their advisor to see whether their program or department is purchasing the insurance on their behalf if participating in a U-M sponsored program. **All students traveling abroad for any University-related purpose are required to have travel abroad health insurance coverage from the University's authorized vendor.** The University's authorized travel abroad health insurance must be obtained for/by students traveling internationally, regardless of whether the student traveler has other related coverage. You can purchase the very reasonably-priced [Travel Abroad Health Insurance](#).

Health & Safety

Students are encouraged to learn all they can about the health and safety issues of all the countries where they plan to study and travel. This includes learning about the cultural and political climate of those countries, as well as learning about how others view people from your country, race, ethnic group, religion, gender and sexual orientation. You can also review a wealth of other travel resources hosted by the University of Michigan at the [Global Michigan Portal](#).

You may want to set-up an appointment with your physician prior to departure and consider visiting a travel health clinic (such as the one [here](#) at the U-M) to check on medications available in country and immunizations you may need.

Before leaving, you should have considered and be aware of the following:

- Are any immunizations required/recommended for entry to the countries you will visit?
- Know an emergency contact that will be in the U.S. and in the host country?
- Know whether or not the drinking water is safe to drink in the host country?
- Know any precautions to take when eating local food?
- Researched where to buy food that suits any dietary needs/restrictions (i.e. for vegetarians, diabetics, etc...)?
- Understand the safety and reliability of the public transportation system in the host country?
- Be aware of any laws and codes of conduct that are likely to affect you?

Register with the State Department

Enrolling in [STEP](#) is a way to receive updates about the area you are traveling in. This helps the U.S. embassy track you in the event of an emergency and offer you assistance in the event your passport is lost or stolen.

While You are Abroad / Returning Home

Upcoming Term Pre-Registration Academic Advising

You will want to make an appointment with UMSI Academic Advising (umsi.advising.bsi@umich.edu) to discuss your upcoming academic year planning for courses at U-M. All BSI students will receive an email mid-semester about the pre-registration academic advising period and scheduling an academic advising appointment ahead of course registration for the following term.

Obtaining a Registration Appointment

Students on UMSI and other U-M programs (CGIS, Ross, Engineering) with a study abroad placeholder course listed on your UM transcript are enrolled at U-M during your term abroad. You will automatically be assigned a registration appointment. Keep in mind your placeholder course is usually for 12 credits, so if you are enrolled in more than 12 credits while abroad, you can follow the steps below to have your additional credit hours accounted for in determining your registration appointment).

Students on Non-U-M (vendor/provider/direct enroll) Programs are not currently enrolled at U-M while on study abroad, so you need to request a registration appointment. Your registration appointment is based on your credit completed at U-M plus your current elected credit hours. So that U-M may use your abroad program credits toward your registration appointment, you will need to:

Obtain a letter from the study abroad university with either the study abroad program or study abroad university letterhead which certifies the following information once the term abroad has begun:

1. Student name and U-M ID number;
2. Courses and credits enrolled;
3. Begin/end date of term abroad;
4. Signature of the program registrar or comparable program head.

For Spring, Spring/Summer, Summer and Fall appointments, please have the information sent (email, fax, or U.S. mail) to the following address by mid March:

Wolverine Services
Office of the Registrar
University of Michigan
2200 Student Activities Building
515 E. Jefferson Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1316

Email a copy of the document to wolverineservices@umich.edu
Fax the request to: (734) 763-9053

You can view your registration appointment on Wolverine Access in March. You may contact the University of Michigan via email at wolverineservices@umich.edu or phone (734) 647-3507 should you wish to confirm receipt of this documentation. You may also include your current email address with your program documentation; you will be notified via email once your appointment time has been assigned.

Submitting Study Abroad Transcripts

Before your program is over, you must confirm that your study abroad program will send an official transcript to U-M. The U-M office where your host institution should send your transcript depends on the type of study abroad program you are on:

UMSI Bilateral Exchange Programs

Transcripts should be sent directly to the UMSI Registrar Team (digital or hard copy is fine)

Email:

umsi.bsi.abroad@umich.edu &
umsi.transcripts@umich.edu

Mailing Address:

University of Michigan School of Information
Office of Academic and Student Affairs
ATTN: Study Abroad Transcript
333 Maynard, Suite 500
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Other U-M Programs (Ross, CGIS, Engineering, etc.)

Check with the U-M unit sponsoring your program, **and** a copy of your transcript (unofficial is fine) must be sent stuto UMSI at umsi.bsi.abroad@umich.edu.

Non-U-M Programs (vendor-based, direct enroll)

Transcripts should be sent directly to the UMSI Registrar Team (digital or hard copy is fine)

Email:

umsi.bsi.abroad@umich.edu &
umsi.transcripts@umich.edu

Mailing Address:

University of Michigan School of Information
Office of Academic and Student Affairs
ATTN: Study Abroad Transcript
333 Maynard, Suite 500
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Scholarships & Funding

For students seeking funding for their study abroad experience, there are many resources available. First and foremost, make an appointment with the [Office of Financial Aid](mailto:finaid.abroad@umich.edu) (finaid.abroad@umich.edu) to learn about what options you have, and other funding opportunities available to you.

The following resources are scholarships and funding opportunities you may be eligible for:

- [UMSI Study Abroad Scholarship](#)
- [U-M Office of Financial Aid Studying Abroad Scholarships](#)
- [M-Compass Funding](#)
- [Study Abroad Funding Resources](#)

Links & Resources

Getting Started Links:

- [BSI Study Abroad Presentation](#)
- [BSI Study Abroad Declaration Form](#)
- [M-Compass](#)

Advising Appointment Links:

- [CareerLink - Schedule an advising appointment](#)

Study Abroad Vendor Links:

- [U-M Preferred Study Abroad Vendors](#) (U-M International Center)
- [Suggested Non-U-M Programs for BSI Abroad](#) (UMSI)

Finding and Getting Courses Approved Links:

- [BSI Study Abroad Course Repository](#)
- [U-M Office of Undergraduate Admissions \(OUA\) Transfer Database](#)
- [BSI Study Abroad Course Approval Request Form](#)
- [U-M Transfer Credit Equivalency Request form](#)
- [UM Office of Undergraduate Admissions Transfer Credit Database](#)

Scholarship Resource Links:

- [U-M Office of Financial Aid](#)
- [UMSI Study Abroad Scholarship](#) (MCompass)
- [U-M Office of Financial Aid Studying Abroad Scholarships](#)
- [M-Compass Funding](#)
- [Study Abroad Funding Resources](#)

Internship Links:

- [BSI Internship Course Handbook](#)
- [CDO Canvas site](#)
- [How to Submit an Internship Proposal in CareerLink](#)
- [U-M Registrar's tuition estimates](#)

Travel Registration Links:

- [State Department Travel Registration](#)
- [Confirm that your travel is registered with U-M](#)
- [U-M International Travel Registry \(M-Compass\)](#)

Health Abroad Links:

- [UHS Travel Abroad Health Insurance](#)
- [Global Michigan Portal](#)
- [UM Health Center](#)

Returning Home Links:

- [Email For Requesting Course Registration Date](#)
- [Highlighting Your International Experience to Employers](#) (presentation)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1) Are the UMSI Exchange Programs highly competitive? What should I do if I am not selected for my first choice?

- a) UMSI is always working hard to expand our capacity on exchange programs, but they all have limited enrollment. UMSI strives to administer an application review process that is equitable and which allows for the widest participation available, but once the placements are filled, they are filled.
- b) You are welcome to apply to multiple programs. You are encouraged to identify your top two to three programs in the event that your first choice is filled. This makes it easier to find a placement for you.
- c) If you do not get into the program that you want, you can also consider applying to [Other U-M Programs](#) or [Non-U-M/Vendor programs](#). However, be aware that the application process, payment structure, and timeline for those programs vary.

2) How many academic credits can I take abroad? How many of them can count for SI requirements?

- a) On UMSI Exchange Programs, you can earn **upper-level SI elective credit for up to four (4) courses, and/or 12-18 credits** (even if that is more than four courses).
 - i) Courses not approved for SI credit can still be taken, but must be transferred in via UMSI Admissions as general transfer credits.
- b) On all other programs, UMSI will approve **credit for up to two (2) courses, and/or 6-8 credits maximum** (in no case will more than two courses count toward SI credits).
 - i) Courses not approved for SI credit can still be taken, but must be transferred in via UMSI Admissions as general transfer credits.
- c) In all cases, you need to take enough credits so that you meet the minimum for both UMSI and your host institution to qualify as a full-time student.

3) Can I choose to take my classes for a letter grade or Pass/Fail while I am abroad?

- a) On UMSI Exchange Programs, all of your credits will come back to U-M as Pass/Fail regardless of the grading scheme of your host organization.
- b) For all other programs, you *may* have the ability to choose your grading, depending on the program. In these cases, contact the relevant office for your program. [See the Credit Transfer section.](#)

4) How many credits will I earn while abroad?

- a) You **must** take enough credits while abroad to be considered a full-time student both by your host institution and by UMSI, which means that you need to take an equivalent to 12-18 U-M credits.
- b) The exact number of credits each class is worth will depend on your host institution or program that you attend. Our partner universities use different

scales, so if you're not sure how many credits you are taking, speak with their staff or email umsi.bsi.abroad@umich.edu for more information.