

First-generation Students Abroad

The Office of Study Abroad is committed to MSU's values of diversity and inclusion. A broad range of perspectives, experiences and backgrounds inherent in diverse communities creates a rich learning environment from which all students can benefit.



As a first generation student, you have the opportunity to be the first in your family to participate on a credit-bearing education abroad program. There are many benefits to taking part in international education. First, you can fulfill academic requirements, which can include integrative studies (ISS, IAH, ISB) credit, coursework in your major or electives. Also, your education abroad program can influence your job search when you interview and discuss what you've learned about yourself, the host culture or your subject area.

Deciding on an education abroad program can be challenging. First generation students should be informed about the complexities of education abroad before making a final decision on a program.

Remember that other cultures may provide challenges different than your own. Be flexible and open to considering different ways of life. Discuss your plans early on with your family as well as advisers at the MSU Office of Study Abroad.

Start by attending an Education Abroad 101 session in the OSA Advising Center (427 N. Shaw Lane, Room 108, International Center). These sessions are held daily and will help guide you through the first steps. You can also talk to a Peer Adviser at any time in our Advising Center, open 8 am to 5pm Monday through Friday.

EDUCATION ABROAD

FUNDING

Education abroad is an investment in your future. Like any other type of investment, it requires planning, careful management, creativity, perseverance and commitment. How can you pay for it? Start by planning far in advance (a year is suggested) and researching the many unique scholarships dedicated to education abroad at studyabroad.isp.msu.edu/financing/scholarships.

Preparing for your return home is just as important as preparing for your departure. Before you return to the United States it is helpful to consider how changes in your self-identity may affect your relationships with family and friends. Give thought to what you have gained from your program. What have you learned while abroad and how will you use this knowledge in the future?

Are you interested in sharing your story?

The Office of Study Abroad welcomes student articles, photographs and/or video submissions. Send submissions to studyabroad@isp.msu.edu with your name, your program's title/dates and a short description. Also feel free to share your story on our social media using #spartansabroad.

RESOURCES

Office of Support Services (OSS)

434 Farm Lane, Room 209
Bessey Hall
Email: oss@msu.edu
Phone: (517) 353-5210
Web: oss.msu.edu

OSS provides comprehensive services to first-generation, low-income college students or those who may have a disability and is home to the MSU TRIO program.

Migrant Student Services (MSS)

234 Wilson Rd., Room C249
Holden Hall
Phone: (517) 432-9900
Web: mss.msu.edu

The MSU MSS office provides academic, social and financial support to migrant and seasonal farm worker students to enable them to complete higher education while preparing them for their future careers.

Office of Cultural and Academic Transitions (OCAT)

556 E. Circle Dr., Room 339
Student Services Building
Email: ocat@msu.edu
Phone: (517) 353-7745
Web: ocat.msu.edu

OCAT can help connect you with other students and provide advice about education abroad.

Office of Study Abroad (OSA)

427 N. Shaw Lane, Room 109
International Center
Email: studyabroad@isp.msu.edu
Phone: (517) 353-8920
Web: studyabroad.msu.edu

The OSA Advising Center is open Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm and is a great place to begin the process of searching for a program and ask questions about scholarships, financial aid, the application process and various deadlines.

Education Abroad 101

Are you interested in going abroad, but don't know where to start? Attend an Education Abroad 101 session to learn more! Sessions are held daily to help guide you through the first steps.

Monday and Tuesday, 11:00 am
Wednesday and Thursday, 4:00 pm
Friday, 2:00 pm

OSA Advising Center
427 N. Shaw Lane, Room 108
International Center

