

FACT SHEET

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY STUDY ABROAD

The momentum surrounding study abroad across the United States continues and Michigan State University is one of the major players in this national success story. According to the Institute of International Education (IIE), in 2006-07—the most recent year for which complete national statistics are available—MSU leads the nation in study abroad participation among public universities in the United States for the fourth year in a row.

Nationally and locally, study abroad is becoming a common component of today's higher education experience for many students from various types of backgrounds. MSU currently has over 260 programs on all continents and in more than 60 countries including New Zealand, China, Peru, Greece, Ireland, Uganda, as well as program in the Arctic (Norway) and Antarctica.

With its focus on high quality programs, expected learning outcomes, and unusually high involvement by faculty across the spectrum of academic disciplines, study abroad at MSU serves as a national leader in education abroad.

STUDY ABROAD AT MSU...

- ◆ is a key building block in MSU's long-standing commitment to international education.
- ◆ is the expected norm. At MSU, it's not a question of IF students participate in study abroad, but WHEN they do so.
- ◆ offers students a wide variety of program options
 - students can participate in study abroad anytime during their academic careers, freshman year through graduate school.
 - they can participate during any time of the year, including winter and spring breaks; they can go from one week to an entire academic year.
 - students from all academic majors can participate in study abroad, fulfilling a variety of graduation requirements while abroad, including Integrative Studies requirements.
 - students of all levels of foreign language skill can participate, including those with no foreign language preparation at all.
- ◆ focuses on helping students develop the academic/intellectual, professional, personal, and intercultural knowledge, skills and attitudes that today's employers are looking for in college graduates.
- ◆ offers numerous credit-bearing international internship opportunities.
- ◆ offers incoming first-year students a unique experience in Freshman Seminars Abroad. Seminars are designed to give first-year students an academic and social head start at MSU and another view of the world early in their college careers.
- ◆ is academically accessible. Close collaboration with academic units assures academic fit
- ◆ is financially accessible. A liberal financial aid policy as well as numerous study abroad scholarships and grants help ease financial concerns.
- ◆ is physically accessible. Cooperation with the MSU Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities helps open study abroad opportunities to students facing physical, emotional, and mental challenges.
- ◆ works closely with academic advisers across campus to ensure integration of programs into students' curricula.
- ◆ works with students prior to departure and during re-entry to enable them to gain the maximum benefit from their study abroad experience.

- ◆ has a nationally recognized Study Abroad Security and Risk Assessment Committee—a standing committee charged with reviewing program locations for safety and security of program participants.
- ◆ has increased enrollment by more than 280% percent (from 776 to 2,969 MSU students) over a 14 year period (1994-95 to 2007-08). Approximately 30% of graduating seniors at MSU have participated in at least one study abroad experience.
- ◆ offers semester programs that are unusually cost effective when compared with programs offered by peer institutions. MSU has been recognized by the American Council on Education for its high quality, cost effective programs.
- ◆ was cited by *U.S. News & World Report* in its “Best Colleges 2009” as an “outstanding example of academic programs that are believed to lead to student success.”

Visit <http://studyabroad.msu.edu> for more information about MSU’s study abroad programs.

SAFETY and STUDY ABROAD AT MSU

MSU is dedicated to offering a wide variety of study abroad opportunities to meet the needs of a diverse student population. MSU has recognized the importance of establishing policies and procedures in the effort to protect the safety and well-being of study abroad participants, while acknowledging that no single plan can address all contingencies. Listed below are a few of the ways MSU strives to keep study abroad, before and during your participation, as safe as possible.

- ◆ OSA regularly and responsibly monitors safety issues in each of our program locations. A review of all study abroad programs at departmental, college, and university levels is conducted in which safety, security, and overall quality are measured.
- ◆ OSA is one of the few study abroad office's in the country to employ a full-time travel security analyst responsible for overseeing health and safety concerns and serving as first responder to any emergency abroad involving MSU students, faculty or staff.
- ◆ Each MSU program's safety and security conditions are evaluated by an independent committee. The Study Abroad Risk and Security Assessment Committee is headed by a senior university official appointed by the President and Provost. The committee has ultimate authority for approving the safety of programs and sites, and has the ability to cancel programs or revise them to address safety and security concerns.
- ◆ All participants are required to attend one or more general orientation sessions that stress safety issues and understanding cultural differences. Most programs also provide a country-specific orientation in which safety precautions are outlined.
- ◆ Emergency procedures are in place, including medical and general emergency evacuation procedures. In any emergency, OSA has plans to be in contact with faculty and students abroad. MSU's procedures for handling emergencies abroad have served as a model for other institutions.
- ◆ All program leaders who accompany a MSU study abroad programs are required to attend an Emergency Preparedness and Response Seminar conducted by the Office of Study Abroad's Health and Safety Team.
- ◆ All who accompany a study abroad program are required to carry an international cell phone to facilitate emergency communications.
- ◆ In addition a collect-call phone number has been established to provide emergency assistance to members of the MSU community who are abroad on University business or study abroad. This number will connect callers directly to the MSU Police Operations Desk. Calls are processed following a detailed emergency response protocol. The phone number and procedures, produced on a wallet-size card, are given to all students at orientation.

The Office of Study Abroad strives to keep students, faculty, and parents informed of conditions and decisions related to student safety and well-being. However, in these changing times, it is necessary that each student take responsibility for his/her own safety by staying informed and conducting themselves accordingly. This web site is designed to provide tools and resources about a variety of such issues.

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