



Studying Abroad on a Non-UMSL Program

Study Abroad Office • University of Missouri-St. Louis

Applying to a Non-UMSL Program

Students are encouraged, if possible, to participate in a UM-St. Louis sponsored study abroad program. There are over 80 opportunities, with programs available for the fall, winter, or summer semesters. It is also generally less expensive to participate in a UMSL program. However, it is impossible for any university to have a program in every country or specialization, so students may participate in approved non-UMSL programs when a UM-St. Louis program is not available (for example, Italy or Australia). In the end, the most important thing is that you study abroad. The Study Abroad Office is here to assist you with whatever qualified program you choose.

Eligibility & Credit

Students must be in good academic standing and have the recommendation of faculty members to study abroad. You must also meet any requirements specified by the study abroad program provider (such as minimum GPA, foreign language requirements, etc.).

The credit earned from a non-UMSL study abroad program will be transfer credit. There is a pre-approval process to have your courses evaluated before you study abroad so you will know exactly how your coursework will apply towards your UMSL degree. Students should speak with an advisor to ensure participation in a non-UMSL program will not affect university and departmental residency requirements.

Procedure

The procedure to study abroad on a non-UMSL program is nearly identical to the procedure for a UM-St. Louis program.

1. Identify a study abroad program
2. Make an appointment to meet with the Study Abroad Advisor to ensure that your program is accredited and to discuss any questions you have.
3. Complete the application process by the UM-St. Louis deadlines (late February for Fall and Summer, late September for Winter/Spring). Application documents include:
 - a. UM-St. Louis Study Abroad Application form
 - b. Essay
 - c. Transcript
 - d. Two letters of recommendation
 - e. Scholarship application form and essayForms are available online at www.umsl.edu/studyabroad or in the Study Abroad Office.
4. Once you have been approved by UMSL to study abroad, then you will submit the program application directly to the study abroad program provider.
5. The Study Abroad Office will provide you with the appropriate paperwork to have your credit transfer pre-approved.
6. All students must attend pre-departure orientation and purchase international health insurance. Information on both will be given to students with their study abroad acceptance packet.

Financial Aid and Scholarships

By working through the Study Abroad Office, students maintain their enrollment at UM-St. Louis while studying abroad. If participating in an accredited study abroad program, students may use all of their federal financial aid (such as Stafford loans, Pell grants, etc.) and apply for additional loans if needed. UM-St. Louis aid may or may not apply. Direct financial aid questions to Carol Banks at 516-6394.

The Center for International Studies distributes scholarships for study abroad. However, priority is given to students participating in UM-St. Louis sponsored programs.

Resources

Here are some websites and program providers to help you find the program best suited to you. There are also numerous books and brochures in the Study Abroad Office. This is not an exhaustive list; there are hundreds of study abroad programs out there, so do your research!

Study Abroad Program Directories

www.iiepassport.org

www.studyabroad.com

A Few Study Abroad Program Providers

American Institute for Foreign Studies Abroad www.aifs.com

Australearn www.australearn.com

Center for Education Abroad www.arcadia.edu/cea/

Council on International Education Exchange www.ciee.org

IES Abroad www.iesabroad.com

Institute for Study Abroad www.ifsabutler.org

International Studies Abroad www.studiesabroad.com

UWP Study Abroad www.uwplatt.edu/studyabroad/

Other U.S. Universities

Keep in Mind...

As mentioned before, there are literally hundreds of study abroad programs available. Some are more reputable than others, and the level of services provided will vary for each. Keep the following things in mind as you research programs:

- **Credit:** Who is issuing the credit? It must be an accredited US or foreign institution. The study abroad coordinator can help you discern if your program is accredited.
- **Program Dates:** Do they conflict with the semester dates at UMSL? For example, the fall semester in Germany is October – January. Therefore, you would not return in time for winter semester at UMSL.
- **Program Fee:** What does this include? Sometimes it may include tuition, housing, excursions, etc. Sometimes it only includes tuition and other expenses are separate. Make sure you know the estimated costs for all expenses.
- **Language of Instruction:** Are the classes taught in English or a foreign language? If your goal is to learn a foreign language, do they offer language classes at your level?

What Next?

Review the study abroad programs available and narrow down your choices. Then make an appointment to meet with the Study Abroad Coordinator by calling 314-516-5229.