

University of Southern Maine  
Office of International Programs and National Student Exchange  
*Bringing the World to Mind*

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS WHO  
WOULD LIKE TO STUDY AWAY**

**1. What are the major requirements to study away?**

Students planning to study away must be highly motivated successful students. This means a minimum grade point average of 2.5, however, a 3.0 is required for many programs. Intellectual curiosity and personal flexibility are important traits to cultivate in oneself prior to beginning any period of study away. Only U.S.M. degree candidates are eligible. If you were admitted through the U.S.M. admissions office, that's you!

**2. Where can I study away?**

Study opportunities are available at 180 universities throughout the USA and over 200 universities throughout the world. Examples of national sites include California, Texas, Ohio, Alaska and Hawaii. Examples of international schools include Canada, Mexico, Australia, Ireland, London, and The Netherlands.

**3. Do I have to speak another language to study away?**

No, you do not need to be fluent in another language to study away. Some universities have a required number of years that you must have studied a language in order to study away. Most universities will test you upon arrival and put you into classes that will most match your level of fluency. There are also many English speaking study away programs.

**4. When can I study away?**

Before you can study away you need to be a matriculated degree student. Students should have completed a minimum of 24 U.S.M. degree credits prior to their departure. You should have completed some courses from both your major and the CORE requirements. However, it should be early enough in your program so that you still have some flexibility with regards to the courses that you need to complete. The most important issue is to determine when is the best for you, academically and personally.

**5. How long can I study At Another University?**

Depending on which program you choose, you can study for 3 weeks during the summer, one semester or for the entire year. You EVEN can study on National Student Exchange for a year, THEN study internationally.

**6. How much does it cost to study away?**

U.S.M. has a number of established programs in which you pay U.S.M. tuition. However, there are also a number of programs set up by other universities that allow the same low cost. Scholarships are available for international study.

**7. Can I use my U.S.M. Financial Aid to study away?**

Yes, your aid package will be based on your study away program costs.

## **8. Will I receive full credit if I study away?**

*On pre-approved programs* you will get full credit for your studies away. It is important to note that credit is based on the transcript which is received from your host university. You should also be prepared to bring back your work, the books and the syllabi that you used for your studies away, so that accurate course equivalences can be established.

*Credits through National Student Exchange* will be posted on your U.S.M. transcript under the appropriate semester and they will be factored into your cumulative GPA.

*Credits earned through International Exchange* will be listed on your U.S.M. transcript as "**transfer credits**" and although the grades will be listed, these credits will not be factored into your cumulative GPA.

## **9. Is study away limited to certain majors?**

You can be majoring in any subject as long as you explain the reasons why study away will help you in your academic career.

## **10. If I decide to study away, what is my next step?**

Application deadlines are early October and late February each year for international exchange. Mid-February for priority placement through National Student Exchange. Spring placements for National Exchange are available through early October, although school choices may be limited. Some programs have earlier deadlines so it is best to start planning at least one year in advance and work closely with the staff members in the Office of International exchange. *See #12 below for next steps.*

## **11. Does U.S.M. offer study courses with U.S.M. faculty to international destinations?**

Yes! Through Summer and Winter Session, anyone can enroll in study/travel courses and earn U.S.M. credit. These courses are offered regularly through the U.S.M. Summer Session Office which can be reached at 780-5617.

**Website:** <http://www.usm.maine.edu/~summer>

## **12. What should I do now?**

### **A. Visit our website at [www.usm.maine.edu/international](http://www.usm.maine.edu/international) !**

B. Make sure you meet the minimum criteria for Study Away (*see item #1 above*).

C. Review the study away options available through the Office of International Exchange and National Exchange based on:

- ~ your major field of study
- ~ personal interest
- ~ career goals
- ~ language skills

D. Narrow your institutional choices to 5 or 6

E. Make an appointment to meet with Domenica or Kimberly in the International Exchange Office (780-4959).

- ~ review your choices
- ~ refine your list of options
- ~ discuss the qualities of a successful application

F. Prepare a full application to meet the appropriate deadlines (*See #10 above*).