

# Graduate Level Study Abroad

A collection of resources compiled by the Office of International Exchange  
& the Office of Career Services & Professional Life Development

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## Check list for Students interested in Graduate Level Study Abroad

- Determine whether you want to complete a part of your USM graduate program abroad **OR** whether you want to complete your entire Masters degree abroad.
  1. If you want to complete your entire degree abroad please see page three of the attached handout.
  2. If you want to spend a portion of your USM graduate program abroad please read on.
- Talk with your academic advisor or the Chair of your current graduate program to determine if studying abroad is an option that your degree program will support.
- Begin researching study abroad programs at the graduate level. You will find some helpful resources on page three of this handout. We also recommend that you talk with the faculty in your academic program. They often have suggestions for schools that specialize in your area of study and then you can contact that school to see if they accept study abroad students.
- Once you've found a program you are interested in you'll need to be sure that it's equivalent to an accredited program. That means doing some research on the history of the university or learning if it is accredited by a US university or accrediting agency.
- **Consider your financial options:**
  - Is there federal aid available from the school/program abroad?
  - If you are studying abroad as a part of your USM degree you **may** be eligible for USM financial aid. Every student's situation is slightly different so we encourage you to speak with Norma Catalano in the Portland Financial Aid Office early in the process.
  - If you are planning to complete your full degree program abroad, you may be eligible to apply for alternative educational loans via your local financial institution.

- Some countries allow students to work while on a student visa. However, work abroad can often be hard to find, so you should not count on this as a secure means of income. Every country is different as to whether you are allowed to work and how much. You should check that country's immigration regulations by visiting the consular/visa section of their embassy. <http://www.embassy.org/>
  - There are also some scholarship opportunities specifically for graduate research abroad. See page four of this handout for more information.
- If you do decide to proceed with studying abroad as a component of your USM degree, you will need to work with the USM Office of International Exchange to receive institutional approval via an application and review process.