GENERAL INFO

I am interested in studying abroad. Where can I find more information?

- Study Abroad website: https://www.jmu.edu/global/abroad/index.shtml
- Advising & Information Sessions: https://www.jmu.edu/global/abroad/advising/index.shtml
- Email: studyabroad@jmu.edu

Where is the Center for Global Engagement located?
Madison Hall
MSC 5731
100 E. Grace Street
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22807

What types of programs are offered?

- **JMU Semester Programs**: These are JMU credit programs offered on site in one of our semester programs. You spend the entire semester abroad with other JMU students! These programs are offered every Fall, Spring, Summer.

- **JMU Short Term Programs**: These are JMU faculty led and JMU credit, but are offered throughout the summer for various locations and majors. Our spring break programs will also fall under this category as well.

- **Exchange Programs**: An Exchange program offers JMU students an amazing opportunity to study at a foreign university. Currently, JMU has Exchange partnerships with 18 universities through the International Network of Universities (INU), giving students access to some of the best universities and professors around the world. Exchange programs are the most cost-effective way for in-state students to study abroad. Students continue to pay their tuition to JMU, but pay room and board fees to the host university, which in most cases, can be less expensive than housing in the states. Exchange programs are available only for the fall or spring semesters or a full academic year. Exchange programs are not available during the summer.

- **External Programs**: External programs open a world of additional study abroad opportunities to JMU students. Even though external programs are technically "non-JMU" programs, students will still apply to JMU’s CGE, remain a JMU student, and keep all of your JMU services. *All external program participation must be approved by the CGE.*

- **Study At Oxford, Cambridge or St Andrews Programs**: JMU offers the opportunity to study abroad for a semester or full academic year at Great Britain’s oldest and most respected universities: The University of Cambridge and The University of Oxford in England, and the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Participants will take part in tutorials or small classes across a wide range of topics and can have these credits fulfill major, minor, honors, or elective credit requirements at JMU. Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.3, but need not be members of JMU’s Honors Program to participate.

Where can I study abroad? JMU offers programs in approximately 60+ countries throughout the world. Students can study in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Australia, India, the Middle East, etc. The opportunities are endless!

When should I plan to study abroad? Your degree program and personal interests will determine the most appropriate timing of your study abroad experience. JMU requires that students successfully complete their freshman year in order to be eligible for most study abroad programs- the exception being the freshman only study abroad options in the summer prior or fall Semester in London programs.
ACADEMICS

What are the minimum requirements to study abroad?
To be considered for admissions into JMU’s international programs, you must be in good academic standing, hold a cumulative GPA of at least a 2.0, or the minimum GPA as required by the program, at the time of application. Applications from freshman or those in their first semester at JMU will be reviewed after semester grades are processed. Approval is based, minimally, on a verification of your records, not limited to but including your status according to Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Judicial Affairs, and University Finance. Your participation may be denied if your university records or conduct prior to departure raise doubts that you should be allowed to participate.

Can I study abroad with my major?
YES! Students in ANY major can study abroad. There is a wide selection of subject areas available abroad through various types of programs: JMU, Exchange, External, and Study At... Oxford, Cambridge, St Andrews.

Will I receive JMU credit through my study abroad program?
Students who participate on a JMU program take JMU courses and receive JMU credit. Grades earned while studying abroad are calculated into students’ JMU GPA. Students may earn credit towards their major, general education credit, or elective credit.

Students who participate in a non-JMU program (or exchange) must complete a Transfer Credit Approval form prior to their program start date to get their courses and credits approved.

What are my options for studying abroad if I do not speak a second language?
There are many opportunities all over the world for students with any level of language ability. While plenty of opportunity exists in English speaking countries, there are also programs in non-English speaking countries that offer course instruction in English. There are also programs with instruction in various levels of the native language.

FINANCES

How much does it cost to study abroad?
Students participating on a JMU semester program pay their regular JMU tuition and room/board (based on residency) along with a supplemental program fee. Students participating on a JMU short-term summer program pay per JMU credit to be taken (based on residency) along with a supplemental program fee. For more information about study abroad costs and fees: https://www.jmu.edu/global/abroad/fees.shtml

Does Financial Aid apply to study abroad?
Financial aid is applicable to study abroad. Any grants, loans, or scholarships that you would normally receive during a semester at JMU can be transferred for you, as long as you fill out the necessary paperwork. For more information: http://www.jmu.edu/financialaid/study-abroad.shtml

Are there scholarships available for study abroad?
JMU sponsors scholarships for semester and short term programs. To be eligible, students should apply for scholarships at the same time that they are applying for any JMU study abroad program. For more information about the JMU scholarships available: https://www.jmu.edu/global/abroad/scholarships/jmu-scholarships.shtml

What kind of insurance coverage should I have for study abroad?
Students enrolled in a JMU study abroad program will be covered by a medical insurance policy administered by Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI) for the period of time that they are participating in the JMU program. This is basic health coverage of up to $250,000 and covers medical evacuation.
DEADLINES

What is the deadline to apply for JMU study abroad programs?

- For JMU Summer 2021, Fall 2021, and Spring 2022 programs, - November 1st, 2020.
  - After the deadline, applications will be accepted on a rolling basis for any programs that may not have been filled.
  - Decisions can be expected before Thanksgiving break those who met the deadline.
  - Those who submit an application after the deadline can expect a decision in 2 weeks.
- Exchange Programs: November 1st, 2020 (Early Action Deadline), February 1st Regular Decision
- Study At Oxford, Cambridge or St Andrews: March 1st, 2021 for Fall and April 15th for Spring
- External Program applicants should refer to their Program Provider’s deadline.

What are commitment and deposit deadlines?

- Commitment — Deposits and signed documents are needed to complete commitment (those without passports can commit without this information and update later).
- Deposit deadline:
  - For those who apply by November 1st, the due date is early December.
  - After November 1st, the due date is approx. 10 days to 2 weeks after acceptance. *Freshman and Transfer decisions are contingent upon maintaining the program GPA.
- Waitlist — Directors will review waitlist students when space is available.

What should I do if I want to withdraw from a study abroad program?

If a student needs to withdraw from their study abroad program after being admitted/committed, they will be required to complete a cancellation/withdrawal form and submit it to CGE as soon as possible. If already paid, students will lose their $500 program deposit. Also note, students who wait too close to the term abroad to withdraw can end up owing additional fees.