How to Prepare for an International Experience

Art & Design students are required to gain international experience. Below are first steps to prepare.

Getting Started:

1. Check your passport expiration date and apply or renew.

2. Read details of graduation requirement in student handbook and international section of A&D website. http://art-design.umich.edu/international

3. Talk to your Smucker-Wagstaff Academic Programs Center (SWAPC) advisor to determine how study abroad fits into your curriculum.

4. Many programs require four semesters’ foreign language study to obtain sufficient proficiency to enroll in courses taught in that language. Consider enrolling at UM.

5. Plan ahead when selecting courses. Find relevant humanities and social science courses on the UM campus that will prepare you for your international experience and fulfill requirements at the same time. Study geography, archaeology, cultural anthropology, world history, art history and more.

6. Get involved on the UM campus. Join an international student club. Apply for the Global Scholars Program. Attend international events within A&D and across campus to learn about the range of available programs. Events are sponsored by the International Institute, the International Center, student organizations and many academic units.

7. Complete the advising questionnaire in M-Compass. Find it under the “Getting Started” tab.

8. For a semester abroad, brainstorm about where, when, why and for how long you want to study abroad.

9. Network! Talk with exchange students in your classes, with faculty, with staff, with students who’ve just returned from abroad, volunteer to teach English to non-native speakers. Learn as much as you can from the diverse Ann Arbor community.

10. Apply through M-Compass 6-9 months before your departure date.