Faculty at the Stamps School decided to change the curriculum and require students to gain international experience because they recognized the critical importance of preparing global citizens. The Stamps School is the only school or college at UM to require all its students to gain international experience. It is also the only school of art and design with an international requirement. This requirement is a valued part of a Stamps School education and provides each student with a unique opportunity to challenge themselves to explore the unknown, and through this journey, increase their independence, maturity, and knowledge of their own place in the world.

Follow these ten steps to begin preparing for this remarkable experience.

**GETTING STARTED:**

1) Check your passport expiration date and apply or renew. Scan and store on your laptop.

2) Read details of graduation requirement in student handbook and international section of Stamps website. [http://stamps.umich.edu/international](http://stamps.umich.edu/international)

3) Review your 4-year academic plan and determine how education abroad fits into your curriculum. Discuss with academic advisor(s) as needed.

4) Many study abroad programs require four semesters of university-level foreign language study. Consider enrolling in one of the 65 languages taught 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 foreign languages, 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 and live in North Quad. Attend international events within Stamps and across campus to learn about the range of available programs.

7) Complete the advising questionnaire in M-Compass. Find it under the “Getting Started” tab. This is a pre-requisite to meeting with the Intl Engagement Coord in Stamps.

8) For a semester abroad during junior year, brainstorm about where, when, and why you want to study abroad in a particular place. Some programs also offer concurrent internship opportunities. Add your own career goals to the equation.

9) Network! Talk with exchange students in your Stamps classes, faculty, staff, and students who’ve just returned from abroad. Volunteer to teach English to non-native speakers. Improve your foreign language skills with a native speaker. Learn as much as you can from the diverse Ann Arbor community.

10) Begin the pre-application process in M-Compass 6-9 months before your departure date.