Instructions:

1) Schedule time to plan; identifying an international experience takes time and effort
2) Buyer beware: course selection, language of instruction, quality of instruction and many other factors vary widely across program providers.
3) Before making a decision about your education and the related financial commitment, use the third document in this series, “Identifying a Program”, to make an informed decision. This requires extensive time to research options and compare program features.

Researching the International Requirement

Stamps students are eligible to apply for UM and non-UM study abroad and non-credit experiences to fulfill the international experience requirement. For further information, read the student handbook and the international section on the Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design website.

1) UM-sponsored programs. The easiest way to study abroad is through a UM-sponsored program. Learn about and apply for programs and scholarships through M-Compass. The application process is extensive and continues once the student has been accepted to a particular program. It is possible to apply for only one UM program at a time. http://mcompass.umich.edu

2) External, non-UM programs. If the student decides to enroll in an external study abroad program, the student is temporarily leaving the UM during the term abroad and requesting transfer credit. This is an additional bureaucratic responsibility and the student is responsible for understanding applicable UM policies and procedures. Further guidance:

• Read the transfer credit guidelines for non-UM study abroad programs on the LSA website http://www.lsa.umich.edu/students/academicsrequirements/academicpolicies/residencepolicyandtransfercredit
• Carefully research this external, non-UM, study abroad program, just as you would any other major financial investment
• Uncover course descriptions, syllabi and reading lists to prepare for your request for transfer credit
• Schedule an appointment with your academic advisor (or advisors) to discuss how the transfer credit might potentially fit into your particular curriculum and fulfill graduation requirements
• Apply for the external program
• Simultaneously, register this program with the Stamps School.
• This registration process starts on the Stamps International website and ends in the M-Compass database.
• Once the application process is underway, students can access the application starting with the M-Compass gateway.

3) Non-credit experiences. The Stamps international experience requirement may also be fulfilled through volunteer, service learning, independent research, or an internship, not just study abroad for credit programs. Many organizations offer structured experiences such as Volunteers for Peace, Habitat for Humanity, or a growing number of UM student organizations. Students must submit a proposal with specific plans, including a final creative project, to request approval for a non-credit experience. There is no form for this proposal. After the proposal has been submitted, students will be interviewed. Finalists will be recommended for review by the International Committee.

PROPOSALS ARE ONLY ACCEPTED ONCE A YEAR. THE DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 1.
Internet Resources

• Apply for UM-sponsored study abroad programs through M-Compass. https://Mcompass.umich.edu

• The UM International Center offers extensive resources on how to study, travel and work abroad. Attend one of their many info sessions, use their website or stop by their office in SAB. http://internationalcenter.umich.edu/swt/

• Global Michigan. International activities across campus are highlighted on this portal. It includes links to the International Center, area studies programs at the International Institute, and UM policies for health and safety http://global.umich.edu

• The Institute for International Education (IIE) offers an extensive search engine to help students identify study abroad programs. http://www.iiepassport.org/

• There are many other search engines available to guide students. Three examples are studyabroad.com, transitionsabroad.com and nscs.studyabroaddirectory.com

• Use resources prepared by UM Librarians. Annette Haines, who specializes in Art & Design, has prepared an Art & Design International Engagement Guide for Stamps students.

• Do you want to work, intern, volunteer or teach abroad? Use a resource called: myworldabroad.com to learn more. Access for the UM community is free from the MLibrary website.

Need personal advice identifying a program?

• Attend a Stamps international event. Events will be announced via email.

• Make an appointment with the Stamps International Engagement Coordinator, Sandra Wiley, using the online scheduling system, http://stamps.Genbook.com