1) Am I required to study abroad?  
All BA and BFA students are required to undertake a course of study outside the U.S.

2) Are there exceptions?  
1) Students whose permanent address is not in the U.S.  
2) Students enrolled in the BFA in Interarts Performance are strongly encouraged to engage in an international experience, but are not required.  
3) Students enrolled in a minor are exempt from the requirement.

3) Do I need a passport to leave the U.S.?  
Yes! Apply or renew at www.travel.state.gov

4) Am I required to study abroad for credit to fulfill the requirement?  
There are three ways to satisfy the international requirement:  
1) A formal course of study through an accredited program, where credit is earned  
2) An internship, where credit may or may not be earned  
3) An independent research, volunteer or service-learning experience, where credit is not earned

5) Do I need pre-approval?  
Yes. Each of the above paths requires completion of a pre-approval process.

6) Are there scholarships?  
Yes. After you have identified your international experience, Stamps students can apply for scholarships in M-Compass.  
Deadlines: Jan 15, Mar 15 and Nov 15. Students with the greatest financial need and whose host countries are outside Western Europe are the most likely to receive a scholarship.

7) How can I get started?  
Complete the advising questionnaire and profile in M-Compass. Navigate to www.mcompass.umich.edu and find it under the “Getting Started” tab.

8) How much time does it take to find the international experience that is best for me?  
Most students need at least 12-18 months to identify and prepare an application for a specific international program. This timeline includes passport application, review of specific courses offered by a study abroad program, meetings with academic advisors, financial aid, and more. Rigorous preparation for the particular experience requires another 2-4 months and sometimes more, especially if a visa application is required.

9) How can I prepare on the UM campus?  
a) Attend the annual Stamps International Fair at the Michigan Theatre, prior to one of the Thursday afternoon Stamps Lectures  
b) Enroll in foreign language courses. More than 65 languages are taught at UM!  
c) Mentor an international student. Over 1800 undergraduates travel from around the world to study at UM. The top three countries: China, India and South Korea.  
d) Register for courses with global content that will prepare you for your international experience and simultaneously fulfill humanities and social science requirements: cultural anthropology, public health, geography, archaeology, world history, world religions, and more  
e) Apply for the Global Scholars Program and live in an intentional community in North Quad  
f) Attend events sponsored by the International Institute, home of many of the area studies programs. Some, such as the Nam Center for Korean Studies, offer scholarships! http://www.li.umich.edu/ncks/academics/fellowshipsgrants/undergraduatestudentfunding
9) I'm worried about cost. Is it affordable?
Program costs vary widely. The transferability of financial aid packages also varies. If you think you’ll need assistance, start exploring options freshman year. Subsidized programs and scholarships are available but require several months, sometimes years, of advance planning.

10) Where can I get more information?
   a) Start with the international section of the Stamps website to read about Stamps student experiences and find out more about policies and procedures www.stamps.umich.edu/international/undergraduate
   b) Complete self-directed worksheets, including self-reflections, a detailed 4-yr timeline, and a worksheet to compare program features. These are available in the resources/forms section of the Stamps website: www.stamps.umich.edu/forms/undergraduate
   c) Proceed to www.mcompass.umich.edu for detailed information on individual programs, including application deadlines

11) When do most Stamps students go abroad?
   a) Faculty-led courses taught during Spring or Summer term are the most popular. In 2014, more than 70 students studied in China, Japan, Ireland, Italy, and Tanzania. Read the China blog http://chinaisnear.tumblr.com/
   b) Semester-long study abroad is growing in popularity. In 2013-14, 39 Stamps juniors studied abroad during Fall or Winter term. Read the blog a Stamps student kept while studying in Copenhagen http://judy-europe.tumblr.com/

12) What is the application deadline for faculty-led courses taught abroad?
For the 2014-15 academic year, applications will become available in M-Compass in November and due by Dec 15. These courses require enrollment in a preparatory course taught W2015. The international portion of the course will occur during Spring or Summer term.

Scholarship applications for faculty-led courses will become available in M-Compass in late December and will be due Jan 15.

13) How do I apply?
Students must apply for all UM programs through M-Compass. If you are doing an external program of study, you must register the program in M-Compass.

14) When do I apply for a semester abroad?
Stamps sponsored preliminary program applications are available in M-Compass. They are due Oct 1 for study abroad the following Winter term. Stamps sponsored programs require a second application to the host university. These deadlines vary and will be explained in the accompanying M-Compass materials for that specific program.

External, non-UM program registration of pre-approved programs must be complete by Nov 1. The registration process is done in M-Compass and requires several steps, including uploading a copy of your passport and purchasing travel health insurance. Registration may take students 2-6 weeks or longer.

15) What is the deadline for making special requests?
December 1

If you are petitioning to waive the international experience requirement or requesting approval for an independent international experience, the deadline is December 1. These requests are only reviewed annually.

If there are serious extenuating circumstances that would prevent you from completing the international experience, complete a request for Waiver of a Degree Requirement form, and submit it to Sandra Wiley, the International Engagement Coordinator, by December 1. Exceptions are exceedingly rare and may require official documentation to substantiate the appeal. If you are a junior who has not yet fulfilled the international experience requirement, December 1 of your junior year is the last year a petition will be considered.