

Study Abroad in Women's Studies

"Studying abroad was an unforgettable experience that I encourage all Women's Studies majors to do. You will meet wonderful people, explore the world, and take what you have studied at UMM and see it in action. Not only did I learn about other cultures and different ways of life around the world, I learned about myself."

-Anna Kosloski, Women's Studies student

Imagine studying in Greece, England, Guatemala or New Zealand. These are just some of the places that Women's Studies students have gone when studying abroad. The great thing about Women's Studies is that there is no limit to the places where you can study. Virtually any location offers a rich opportunity to examine and compare ideas about gender in social contexts.

Study abroad can help you...

- Find exciting and diverse Women's Studies coursework and curriculum
- Challenge ethnocentrism and appreciate what is similar or different about women's experiences in different cultures
- Join the world-wide struggle for gender equality
- Deepen your understanding of the way gender intersects with global forces like racism, colonialism, nationalism or capitalism
- Expand your cross-cultural communication and problem-solving skills
- Broaden your academic horizons
- Improve your language skills

By its nature, Women's Studies takes place in a cultural context. There is much to be gained from understanding the history and traditions of cultures outside your own. Study abroad is one very exciting way to deepen your understanding of human diversity and consider the role of gender in global change.

Set goals and plan for results

Women's Studies students can study abroad any time during their four years. The process of selecting a study abroad program is similar to selecting your major or minor.

- Begin at least six months in advance of your study abroad. It is never too early to start planning.
- Set some goals. There is not one program best suited for Women's Studies students. There are many good study abroad programs, and the best one for you depends on **what you want**.
- Prioritize your goals. Consider your long-term academic and professional goals, as well as your on-campus degree requirements.
- Consider short-term and long-term programs.
- Prepare academically. You may need to take language or other prerequisite courses for your chosen program.
- Give yourself time to research and talk to advisers and students who have studied abroad.

Can you afford to study abroad?

YES! Early planning for study abroad helps you make cost-effective program decisions, and it also helps you prepare your finances through savings, scholarships, and financial aid. Financial aid applies to study abroad and, in some cases, your eligibility will increase to cover additional expenses.

Each year, several scholarships are also available for students planning to study abroad. The web-site for UMM's [Center for International Programs](#) also includes information about system-wide and national study abroad scholarships. Remember: you have nothing to lose and everything to gain by pursuing all your options!

What are your next steps?

- Contact the Center for International Programs (231 Community Services Building, 589-6464)
- Attend the International Fair in the fall semester, as well as the annual Informational Meeting for Study Abroad to investigate the May programs being offered through UMM. Use the [Learning Abroad Center](#) web site to investigate the semester and academic year programs and find one that is right for you!

- Talk to your Women's Studies professor and/or your Academic Advisor to plan a course of study that will complement the work you have done at UMM *and* fulfill requirements.

Academic Considerations for Women's Studies Students

General Education Requirements

Students may take selected general education requirements through study abroad.

Major/Minor Requirements

- Any Women's Studies class can be taken abroad, including Introduction to WoSt 1101 or any Women's Studies requirement or elective. The only exception to this is WoSt4901, Assessment of Women's Studies, which requires an on-campus presentation.
- If a course offered abroad is not comparable to one offered at UMM, but still looks like it could count for Women's Studies credit, talk to your advisor about petitioning to count the course as an elective.

Deciding *when* to study abroad is as important as deciding *what* to study abroad:

- You may enroll in one of the UMM May term programs anytime during your career at UMM (and more than once!) -- the earlier the better!
- You are encouraged to spend either a semester or a year abroad during any year.
- Because of UMM's Residency Requirement, you should avoid going abroad in the spring of your final year at UMM.

Program Options

Women's Studies does not limit your choices to specific programs or destinations.

Former Women's Studies students have studied in England, Greece, Guatemala, New Zealand and even participated in Semester at Sea. You are not limited to only UMM Study Abroad programs either. If you are interested in participating in a study abroad program at a different University, talk to your advisor and the Study Abroad office. They will help you make a program fit into your major. And if you want to attend a Study Abroad program unrelated to Women's Studies, you can always talk to your Women's Studies advisor about a directed study to get credit for work in Women's Studies related to your study site.

SOME Women's Studies Abroad Programs:

[Antioch's Comparative Women's Studies in Europe](#)

[U Mich Women's Studies Abroad](#)

[SIT Gender Studies](#)