

## Type of Experience – STUDY ABROAD

### Customized Summer Study Abroad Programs

#### Program Description

The College of Engineering (CoE) partners with leading technical universities around the world to organize study abroad programs for our students. Our goal is to offer an authentic immersive student experience in the host country. Where possible, Michigan engineers take classes with their local counterparts and/or other international students and stay in accommodations that are typical for local students. We believe that these arrangements provide maximum opportunities for cultural immersion—learning from local faculty and experiencing daily life at the host university.

Each partnership is reviewed by a faculty advisor and offers courses that are pre-approved for CoE credit. In addition to the technical courses, our summer programs offer an additional humanities course that is developed to fully utilize the location of the program. Since we also offer the International Minor for Engineers, which requires a 6 week international experience, many of our summer program durations have been established to meet this requirement.

Many summer programs have been developed to offer technical courses with broad appeal with special emphasis in recent years on rising first year students. This allows any undergraduate the opportunity to participate and frees up time for internships and specific degree requirements later in a student's career at UM.

#### Program Highlights

- Use existing international partner institutions to co-develop unique summer opportunities for undergraduates.
- Programs are designed to provide students both technical and humanities course credit.; taking advantage of the program location (ex. language + culture course)
- Average program size is 20 students. This allows for good inter-group community building but also easier integration with host community.

#### Tips for Replication

- Course pre-approval and mapping to degree plans is essential
- Affordability – look for ways to decrease cost (ex. we don't charge UM tuition) and offer travel grants/subsidies
- Focus marketing/outreach efforts on first year students
- Ensure scalability and sustainability in your program design

#### Contact Information:

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#### Program Details

- Tenure of the program:
  - First program established in 2006 has grown to 18 programs in 2017
- Participation rates (annual):
  - 395 students on 18 summer programs in 2017
- Target population:
  - All undergraduate engineering students; special emphasis on rising sophomores
- Duration of experience:
  - 3 – 13 weeks depending on program; average 6 weeks
- Engineering related
  - YES! ENGR credit bearing programs
- Course credit
  - YES! Technical + humanities credit
- Service component
  - No
- Reflection component
  - IPE Abroad Blog  
<https://umichenginabroad.tumblr.com/>



**Hallmarks  
Of  
Success**



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Collaborative Research: Assessing the Spectrum of International Undergraduate Engineering Educational Experiences