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STUDY IN THE **USA**



THE AMERICAN SEMESTER PROGRAM

STUDY IN



THE **USA**

Michigan State University Spartans work to advance the common good with uncommon will. The nation's pioneer land-grant university, MSU began as a bold experiment that democratized higher education and helped bring science and innovation into everyday life. Today, MSU is one of the top research universities in the world—on one of the biggest, greenest campuses in the nation—and is home to a diverse community of dedicated students and scholars, athletes and artists, scientists and leaders.

MSU's mascot "Sparty"





Why MSU?

Top tier **research** institution

200+ academic programs

17 degree-granting colleges

650+ student clubs
and organizations

On-campus **housing**

On-campus **dining halls**

MSU Facts

Top 70 university, globally

Top 50 university, nationally

Top 20 undergraduate programs in
Supply Chain, Production Management,
Bio Engineering, Accounting, Management

#1 ranked graduate programs in
African History, Nuclear Physics, Elementary
Education, Secondary Education,
Organizational Psychology, Rehabilitation
Counseling, Supply Chain and Logistics



American Semester Students at ASP graduation



ASP students cheer on the Spartans



The "Rock" is a famous campus landmark painted almost every day by students to promote an event or organization



ASP students on an excursion to Niagara Falls, New York



"The Spartan" is a huge statue which symbolizes the university's athletic teams. The statue weighs three tons and is one of the largest free standing ceramic figures in the world. Popularly known as "Sparty," the statue is one of the favorite photo subjects of visitors to the campus.



ASP students learning about the U.S. legal system



ASP students enjoying food at a picnic

The American Semester Program (ASP) is a fee-paying, study abroad program offered at Michigan State University (MSU). ASP offers programs for international undergraduate and graduate students to study abroad at MSU, a top-tier academic and research institution, based in East Lansing, Michigan.

All ASP students are fully integrated into university life, and guaranteed on-campus housing with access to MSU dining halls. Students can also participate in student organizations, join sports teams, and enjoy the quintessential college town of East Lansing.

Two options are available to students depending in their study abroad goals – brief “Short Courses” and a longer “Semester” option.

ASP students in the semester-length option will take courses alongside MSU degree-seeking students. In the summer, ASP students participate in classes with other international students. In both cases, students normally transfer the credit back to their home institution for the courses they complete.

Regardless of duration, participating on an ASP program provides students with many resources and opportunities including on-site orientation, social and cultural excursions, and ASP-sponsored programming and events. Additionally, students receive one-on-one health, safety and academic support, before, during and after the program.

STUDY ABROAD AT MSU

SEMESTER OR TWO SEMESTERS

Students participating in a full semester (or two) will have access to coursework, taught by **MSU** faculty, in nearly all 17 academic colleges at Michigan State. Whether an **UNDERGRADUATE**, **GRADUATE** or **GAP YEAR** student, participants can complete coursework in their major or trying something new! Credit is transferrable to their home institution or towards future degree programs at Michigan State. Opportunities for research and service-learning are also available.

Fully integrated on campus, ASP students can join more than 650 clubs, organizations and academic groups, along with access to a wide array of MSU sporting events, shows and concerts.

Participants in ASP must be full-time students, and hold a valid F-1 or J-1 visa. Additional eligibility information can be found on our website.

SHORT COURSES

Covering topics from **LAW**, **COMMUNICATIONS**, **SCIENCE** and **TECHNOLOGY**, ASP Short Courses are 2- to 4-week programs taught by MSU faculty.

While at MSU, students will experience the American Midwest and the State of Michigan. All aspects of an American semester are condensed into a few weeks including American holidays, sporting events, high-quality academics, excursions and even a graduation ceremony.

Students are fully integrated at MSU, living on campus, with access to MSU dining halls.

Program offerings vary annually and are listed on our website.

americansemester.msu.edu

ASP students
tossing their
graduation
caps at
Beaumont
Tower

WHAT CAN YOU STUDY?

American Semester Program students are seen as fully integrated MSU students, able to choose courses from a large catalog of offerings.

With 17 individual academic, degree-granting colleges, students have many subjects to choose from, including law, science, technology and the arts.

COMMON AREAS OF STUDY

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

College of Arts & Letters

College of Communication Arts & Sciences

College of Education

College of Natural Science

College of Social Science

Eli Broad College of Business*

College of Engineering

College of Law

College of Music

James Madison College (International Relations, Public Policy)

Lyman Briggs College (Natural Sciences)

Residential College in the Arts and Humanities

**indicates limited availability*

Michigan State University offers a variety of academic options for students including degree granting programs, student exchange programs and professional development programs (non-degree).

**Get your
degree at MSU**

admissions.
msu.edu

**Come as
an exchange
student**

americansemester.
msu.edu/programs/
exchange

**Focus on
professional
development**

vipp.msu.edu

SEMESTER STUDY ABROAD ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The American Semester Program (ASP) has very specific requirements for all students, as the program is highly integrated within MSU.

ASP is not an extension program. Students are not taught in separate classrooms, nor are they living in separate residence halls.

ASP students are full MSU students.

As such, admissions criteria is important to follow. Students must provide documentation of language competency, academic record and proof of financial support, along with other requirements, at the time of application. **If students have any concerns or questions related to the application process, or admissions requirements, please contact us at american@msu.edu.**

English Language Proficiency

Standardized English Language test results are required unless English is designated as the primary language of instruction. These TOEFL results are an example of accepted test scores:

Internet Based TOEFL (IBT) 79, with no sub score below 17

Paper Based TOEFL (PBT) 550, with no sub score below 52

Other tests are accepted. See our website for more details.

Academic

Students must be in good standing with their university, and specific requirements and prerequisites may apply to certain courses or departments.

Proof of Financial Support

In order to obtain a visa to study in the United States, students must provide documentation (student or parent bank account or other

documentation) stating the student will have sufficient funds for each semester. Proof of financial support is very important for the processing of visas, and should be included with the initial application.

Letter of Interest

An essay submission is required (approximately 300 words) describing the following:

- Why do you want to study abroad and why are you are interested in the American Semester Program?
- How will studying abroad help you meet your academic, professional and personal goals?
- What personal strengths do you have that support your acceptance into this program?
- How do you plan to apply your experience upon returning to your home institution?

Spartans on the Bogue Street bridge



SHORT COURSE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Short Courses are designed to be 3 U.S. credits and run in July and August each year. Most courses run concurrently, so you can only participate in one course.

Students applying for ASP Short Courses must meet the following criteria:

- Completion of at least one year of university
- If English is not the native language, or language of instruction at home,

proficiency in English with TOEFL (IBT) score of 79 or IELTS of 6.5. Other tests accepted - see our website for more details.

- Experience/background in the desired course topic
- Ability to secure a tourist visa for the USA, or an F-1 student visa for specific programs

**Proof of English proficiency is required for students who will require a student visa to attend an ASP Short Course. Citizens of a country that is eligible for a Visa Waiver Program to come to the USA do not need to show proof of English Proficiency. However, applicants should be aware that many students in each course will be native English speakers (i.e. Australian, British, etc.). Applicants should feel confident enough in the English language to participate in a fast-paced learning environment in English.*

Concerns or questions related to the application and admission process can be directed to american@msu.edu.

HOUSING

MSU is a big campus. However, students quickly discover that campus is similar to a small, walkable city. It has beautiful park-like green spaces, botanical gardens and neighborhoods where students will easily find favorite spots to study, eat and relax with friends.

American Semester Program students are guaranteed on-campus housing, living amongst degree-seeking MSU students and scholars from around the world. With 27 residence halls grouped into five neighborhoods, there is a place for everyone to call home. Living on campus provides a traditional U.S. college experience and allows students to connect with other students.

Residing on campus puts students at the center of all that MSU has to offer: academic support, health

resources, renovated residence halls, recreational activities, student organizations, leadership opportunities, friends and fun. The wide array of award-winning dining facilities allows students to choose where to eat on campus, utilizing their meal plan wherever they go.

On-campus living proves to be a smart move, too, as national research shows that students who live on campus are more academically successful and more connected to the campus community.



Student studies outside near Brody Square

DINING

Ranked 22nd in the nation for best college food (Niche.com), MSU makes deciding what to eat—from fresh sushi to an award-winning, locally produced cheeseburger—the biggest challenge.

Students can use their dining plan at more than 30 places on campus from full-service dining halls to express cafes and food trucks. Plus, there is a dining option open any time of day (or night).

Each dining facility offers a variety of healthy food options, including menu items to support ovo-lacto vegetarian and vegan diets. Students with food allergies or intolerances and those who follow a special diet have resources and information to help make safe choices while still having a great dining experience.



The Vista at Shaw, a newly renovated residential dining facility



ASP students at Detroit Tigers baseball game



ASP student attending a Spartan football game



ASP students on a weekend ski trip in Northern Michigan

WHAT IS THERE TO DO IN MICHIGAN?

Defined by its beauty, inside and out. From its four, distinct seasons, to its Automotive Industry past, Michiganders have great pride in living in *Pure Michigan*.

Whether you want to explore clean, expansive beaches and coastline, or discover art in urban centers, Michigan has a lot to offer. Centrally located, the Michigan State University campus is no more than a few hour's drive to the freeing, green national parks of Northern Michigan, the busy city streets of Chicago or the professional sports powerhouse of Detroit.

The American Semester Program is designed to provide not just an American experience, but also a look into Michigan life in a unique, Midwestern US state. On the American Semester Program, students enjoy planned excursions to places that exemplify what being a Spartan and Michigander is all about!

Sleeping Bear Dunes near Empire, Michigan along the Lake Michigan coastline. This national park was established primarily because of its outstanding natural features, including forests, beaches, dune formations, and ancient glacial phenomena.

www.michigan.org

HOW TO APPLY?

Students wishing to apply for the American Semester Program should download an application packet from our webpage (americansemester.msu.edu) and return it via email. Follow these steps to ensure a complete application!

STEP ONE

Make sure you meet the necessary admissions requirements and prerequisites of the courses you wish to take at MSU.

Pay special attention to our English Language Requirements.

STEP TWO

Check with the study abroad office and your home university to confirm that you are eligible to transfer MSU credits to your degree.

STEP THREE

Collect all the necessary paperwork needed prior to applying.

STEP FOUR

Send your completed application and supporting documents via email to **american@msu.edu** with a subject line "American Semester Program Application."

Questions? Contact us anytime at **american@msu.edu** or visit our webpage at **americansemester.msu.edu**.



Spartan Stadium during a night game.



*Farm Lane in the heart
of MSU's campus*

americansemester.msu.edu



TRAVEL TIME TO EAST LANSING

TIME TO EAST LANSING	DRIVING	FLIGHT
Detroit	90 min	45 min
Chicago	3.5 hrs	1 hr
Washington, D.C.	9 hrs	1.5 hrs
New York City	10.5 hrs	1.5 hrs
Miami		3 hrs
Houston		3 hrs
Los Angeles		4.5 hrs
Seattle		6 hrs



International Center

427 N. Shaw Lane, Room 109

East Lansing, MI 48824

Email: american@msu.edu

Web: americansemester.msu.edu

MSU Homecoming Parade



Photos courtesy of the American Semester Program and MSU Communication and Brand Strategy.