

Guidelines for Student-Initiated Semester Study Abroad

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL
CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE LAW

300D LEGAL RESEARCH
ANN ARBOR, MI 48109-1210
Tel: (734) 764-0535 Fax: (734) 763-9182

Students interested in pursuing a student initiated study abroad program must gain admission independently to the law school overseas. The foreign university proposed by the student must be one that provides an academic program toward the first degree in law within that country, although master's level course work may be more appropriate for transfer credit. It is the student's responsibility to establish that the educational program of the university overseas is of high quality and that the particular course work for which the student seeks approval is at a level of sophistication, rigor, and intensity appropriate for transfer credit toward the J.D. degree at Michigan. Students must make sure that the academic calendar does not conflict with the University of Michigan's calendar.

All interested students must consult the General Guidelines for Semester Legal Studies Abroad, available in the Center for International & Comparative Law, Room 300D Legal Research, or on the Law School web site at: <http://www.law.umich.edu/curriculum/studyabroad/Pages/default.aspx>. Students are responsible for abiding by all the requirements outlined in the General Guidelines, which contain important additional information.

How to Locate Information about Foreign Law Faculties

Among the resources students can consult to help them locate information about foreign law faculties are:

1. Assistant Dean Virginia Gordan (vgordan@umich.edu; tel: 764-5269), Center for International and Comparative Law.
2. University of Michigan Law School faculty members.
3. The Web.
4. Ask current LL.M. students at the University of Michigan Law School about their home institution and universities in their countries. (The Center for International and Comparative Law has a list of current LL.M. students and their e-mail addresses.)
5. University of Michigan Area Centers.

If students are interested in a particular foreign law school, they should contact the school **directly** to learn more about it both substantively and procedurally, including information about faculty and curriculum and application processes, and to learn whether the foreign law school is willing to consider applications for non-degree semester study.

Student's Proposal to the Graduate Programs and Foreign Affiliations Committee of the University of Michigan Law School

Students seeking permission for a student-initiated semester study abroad opportunity must submit a proposal to the Law School's Graduate Programs and Foreign Affiliations Committee (the "Committee") as described in the General Guidelines for Semester Legal Studies Abroad. In addition to the information described therein, students must simultaneously provide additional information to establish to the satisfaction of the Committee that the student's proposed program of study and the student's proposed foreign university is of sufficient quality to be suitable for academic credit toward the JD. To this end,

the student must include in his or her proposal:

- 1) Information about the foreign university's law school, its national and international reputation and the degree programs offered.
- 2) Name and level of each course to be taken.
- 3) Description of the course content.
- 4) If possible, name of the professor for each proposed class with an abbreviated curriculum vitae.
- 5) Number of weeks each class meets, number of class meeting hours per week, and the start and end dates.
- 6) Teaching methodology (e.g., lecture, small seminar.)
- 7) University's grading system.
- 8) Evaluation method (i.e., written examinations, oral examinations, papers, etc.)
- 9) Name and resume of the full-time faculty member at the host institution who has agreed to supervise the student's program of study, and a letter from him or her committing to supervise the student's course of study.
- 10) Statement from a law faculty member at the foreign law school that Michigan Law School's and the student's proposed educational objectives can be achieved at the foreign law school.
- 11) Statement from a law faculty member at the foreign law school describing a full course load for one semester.
- 12) Any other supporting descriptive material from the host university that would be helpful.

It is the student's responsibility to obtain the information required from the foreign university and to arrange for a faculty supervisor at the foreign law school.

If the language of instruction at the foreign university is other than English, the student will need to demonstrate sufficient fluency to pursue legal studies, including, in most cases, a language proficiency test.

With respect to all student-initiated study abroad program proposals, the student should keep in mind that the requirements at this Law School, for example, for a three-credit course typically include 39 hours of class sessions spread over 13 weeks, exclusive of vacation, exam and reading period, with a requirement of a paper or examination or other evidence of satisfactory performance, and the ABA requires that the granting of residency credit for study overseas shall comply with the same standards for residency study for domestic study.

Students are strongly encouraged to read the Student Study Abroad Reports currently available in the Center for International and Comparative Law (300D Legal Research). The reports contain invaluable information about courses, professors, library, computers, housing and so on. They identify the pluses and minuses of the students' study abroad experiences and what aspects they enjoyed and what they found problematic while studying abroad.

Please see Assistant Dean for International Affairs, Virginia Gordan, (vgordan@umich.edu; tel: 764-5269; 300C Legal Research), for questions and advice.

Updated September 2009