



# Office of International Programs

## Fact Sheet

### “Preparing Global Citizens”

*OIP promotes the internationalization of the teaching, research, and outreach missions of the University of Minnesota:*

- Study, work, intern, and volunteer abroad
- International students and scholars
- Funding opportunities
- Language-learning research
- Intercultural training
- International project management
- Visa-related services
- Databases of international resources
- Alumni abroad
- Bridging to China
- Outreach and information

### Study, Work, Intern, and Volunteer Abroad

- **Global access.** Each year we send more than 2,000 University of Minnesota and other students to study in more than 80 countries on six continents, and advise hundreds on other credit and non-credit programs.
- **Quality and diversity of opportunities.** Minnesota maintains a high national rank in the number of internships and experiential learning opportunities abroad, as well as the number of students who study at non-traditional sites.
- **Financial access.** We help students find sources of financial aid and funding for international study and research, and manage numerous graduate and undergraduate fellowship competitions.
- **Enriching University academic programs.** We administer about a dozen traditional study abroad programs plus numerous global seminars designed and developed by University faculty, we work with colleges and departments to manage their own programs and increase study abroad participation through curriculum integration, and we administer a foreign studies minor.
- **Strategic location.** We serve as the North American headquarters for Denmark’s International Study program.
- **Preparing students.** We provide advising and intense predeparture and on-site orientation programs and materials on critical issues including health, safety, insurance, travel, visas, and living and learning effectively in the host country.
- **Work, internship, volunteer, and travel options.** We provide information through peer and staff advising, a library, and databases, plus services such as passport photos, travel insurance, and rail passes.
- **Reentry and integration of international experiences.** We help students integrate and build on their experiences abroad after returning to campus.

### Serving International Students and Scholars

- **Government documents for global departments.** We advise and prepare visa-related documents that support a campus international population of more than 4,500 people from over 130 countries—one of the nation’s largest. These services enable departments to enroll about 3,200 students and bring more than 1,300 visiting researchers and faculty members on non-immigrant visas each year.

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<http://www.international.umn.edu/>

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Learning Abroad Center, 230 Heller Hall, 612-626-9000

- **International census and records.** Countries of origin of our students and scholars closely reflect world population distribution, with more than 50 percent coming from countries in Asia. Approximately 75 percent of international students are graduate students, and most are self-supporting. We are leading efforts to recruit the best and brightest students from around the world.
- **China resources.** The University of Minnesota hosts more than 1,300 Chinese students and scholars—thought to be the largest number in the United States—and maintains community ties and support to meet the unique needs of this group.
- **Counseling and career services.** We offer professional counseling and career services that address the specific needs of international students and scholars, and we have set the national standard for fifty years.
- **Financial support.** We award some tuition assistance to international students in the final stages of their degree programs and partial matching funds to departments to help create graduate assistantships for financially needy students.
- **Intercultural consulting and interventions.** We help departments and faculty members address concerns and solve problems related to international students or scholars.

## Internationalizing Research, Curricula, and Campus Life

- **Funding for individual faculty members.** We are the campus contact for the faculty Fulbright and other programs. We award travel grants to individual faculty members on all five campuses for activities on every continent and help to identify external funding opportunities through individualized searches and workshops.
- **Home to interdisciplinary centers.** We house the China Center, created in response to the opening of China in 1979, and the Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition (CARLA), created in 1993. We are in the exploratory phase of opening an India Center.
- **Tracking and developing exchanges.** We provide guidance for faculty members and departments developing and renewing international exchange agreements and maintain a systemwide registry of University international linkages.
- **Hosting international visitors and preparing delegations.** We assist departments and colleges by arranging appointments and providing background on exchanges and linkages. We also host and sponsor delegations, and we assist in preparing University delegations going abroad.
- **Intercultural training.** We provide customized training for U.S. and international members of departments, offices, and student groups.
- **Teaching and serving on the faculty.** Several of our staff members serve as faculty or adjunct faculty, teaching courses, serving on master's and doctoral committees, and supervising research and internships.
- **Fostering international initiatives.** We bring international perspectives to the University community through cross-cultural programs like Culture Corps, external linkages, and the support of seminars and events on issues of strategic importance.

## Bringing the University's Expertise to the Community and the World

- **Building foreign language competencies.** We provide leadership and resources for developing standards and the teaching of foreign languages from kindergarten through university in Minnesota, nationally, and internationally. We are a unique global resource in the areas of immersion education, proficiency-oriented language instruction and assessment, and less commonly taught languages such as Norwegian, Polish, Hindi, and Hebrew—languages other than English, German, French, and Spanish. Our Confucius Institute promotes the study of Chinese language and culture throughout Minnesota.
- **Institution building abroad.** We coordinate the University of Minnesota's membership in the Midwest Universities Consortium for International Activities (MUCIA), which, through a wide range of projects, brings the skills and resources of large public research institutions to other nations and enhances U.S. faculty capabilities.
- **International alumni and friends.** We strive to maintain relationships with the thousands of University of Minnesota alumni and friends around the world, including more than 8,000 Chinese alumni; host graduation and scholar receptions; and sponsor an award for outstanding international alumni.
- **Enhancing international understanding across Minnesota.** We partner with the Minnesota International Center to welcome international students and scholars and bring them into community programs and seminars. Our centers involve community members and businesses with specific international interests.
- **Meeting the employment needs of global companies.** We connect businesses and organizations with qualified University international students and alumni for work at home and abroad, and we provide training to enhance intercultural competencies of existing staff.
- **Access to information and resources.** We respond to media and community requests for international expertise, publish newsletters, maintain websites, and prepare fact sheets on University activities in specific countries.

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