

# Melbourne Global Mobility move your world

# Go Abroad in Urban Planning



## How going abroad can benefit YOU...

- Enhance your analytical and critical thinking skills through real world experience
- Expand your cross-cultural and problem-solving skills
- Build your resume by showcasing your unique global knowledge
- Prepare yourself to work in an increasingly diverse workplace
- Increase your appreciation for other nations' perspectives
- Gain confidence and develop resilience as you learn new things about yourself, others and the world

The Melbourne School of Design recognises the importance of internationalising each student's experience. Going abroad helps you explore the world, expand your cultural horizons, and increase your experience by studying Urban Planning in an international context amongst professionals from around the world.

## How can I make it happen?

The good news is, despite the small window in which Urban Planning students can go abroad, there are many exciting options. It is best to start thinking about it early because the process can take up to 6 months.

- **Start planning NOW!** For Urban Planning students to get the most out of your time abroad, it is best to start planning during your first semester. This will allow you to have an easier time developing an appropriate experience to meet various course requirements and your own expectations.
- **Set goals.** If you want to go abroad it is best to think about the following factors: Subjects offered and how they will fit into your course plan, the size and location of the host institution and program specifics, important dates such as academic calendars and application deadlines, costs involved with going abroad and most importantly your own interests.
- **Prioritise your goals.** Consider your long-term academic and professional goals, as well as your on-campus degree requirements.

## Can I afford to go abroad?

YES! If going abroad is a priority, there is generally a way to make it affordable. Early planning for international experiences helps students make cost-effective program decisions and it also helps them prepare their finances through savings, scholarships and financial aid. Usually students who receive a youth allowance or current Melbourne scholarship are able to continue that funding while on exchange.

The University of Melbourne also offers about \$2.5 million in global mobility scholarships and travel grants each year. Melbourne Global Mobility provides resources on these and a variety of other funding opportunities such as OS-HELP and external scholarships on their website. Please visit: [www.mobility.unimelb.edu.au/outgoing/funding/](http://www.mobility.unimelb.edu.au/outgoing/funding/)

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"Exchange visits enhance the student's personal development and insight into other cultures, and can enrich the student's education through exposure to different planning perspectives and priorities."

Dr. Richard Tomlinson  
Grad. Coordinator, Urban Planning,  
Melbourne School of Design

# Academic Considerations for Urban Planning Students

## Investigate programs

Before speaking to the MSD Exchange Advisor it is important to research programs that fit your career goals and interests. Urban Planning students are able to go abroad on exchanges, travelling studios or independently organised study abroad. Properly preparing before scheduling an appointment will help you get the most out of the meeting.

To get some ideas visit the MGM web page: <http://www.mobility.unimelb.edu.au/>

## Talk to a Student Advisor

Since Urban Planning students have a limited time in which to go abroad it is important to seek advice at the start of your degree. A student advisor will assist you in deciding when to take required courses and when it would be possible to go abroad.

### For Exchange Programs

Go to an **application info session** which will answer many of your questions about preparing for an exchange. Visit the **MGM webpage** to register and research exchange partners. It is also highly suggested that you meet with the MSD Exchange Advisor prior to submitting your application.

### For Travelling Studios

Students apply directly to the **Travelling Studio Coordinator** once dates are advertised prior to the beginning of each semester. There is a quota for each studio and selection is based on academic merit and criteria specified on the application form.

### For Independent Study Abroad Programs

Choose a program keeping in mind due dates, supporting documents and time commitments. You will need to organise subject approvals and other application procedures **independently**. Make an appointment with the MSD Exchange Advisor for advice.

Timeline		BEnvs & UoM Graduates	Non-UoM Graduates
Year 1	Semester 1	X	X
	Semester 2	X	X
Year 2	Semester 1	X	X
	Semester 2	✓	✓

- X Can not go abroad
- ✓ Can go abroad

## Timeline - Urban Planning students abroad

- Due to demanding degree requirements Urban Planning students are only able to do a semester-long exchange or study abroad program in Semester 2 of Year 2.
- Urban Planning students are required to complete a 2 semester thesis in order to graduate. Students must remain on campus during the first part of the thesis, however they are able to complete the second part remotely. If you plan to go abroad for a semester contact the course coordinator to organise your thesis requirement.

## Seek cultural immersion

- Look for programs that offer significant cultural integration. Deep involvement in the host culture leads to personal growth and instils the cross-cultural skills that are so important to success in the Urban Planning field.
- Classroom learning is only part of the education abroad experience. Try volunteering or joining extracurricular groups to get involved in the community. This sort of educational approach can give you a much broader feeling for your host society and culture than if you experience it mostly in a conventional academic setting.
- Take risks and explore new things, but be realistic; not all students are ready for the same amount of cultural immersion. Seek other program types such as Travelling Studios which allow you to go abroad for a short time with your University of Melbourne peers.

# Sample Education Abroad Options

The remainder of this sheet lists some sample options that might be especially nice fits for MSD students.

- These are examples only; you do not need to confine your search to this list.
- Think about where, when, what, and for how long you want to go abroad.
- Also consider which program formats fit with your educational objectives and your learning style.

## Go Abroad on an Exchange

The University of Melbourne has exchange agreements with over 160 institutions. MSD students are eligible to go on an exchange with one of our partners as long as they have an Urban Planning program.

- Students going on exchange remain enrolled in and pay their tuition fees directly to the University of Melbourne. They also need to be enrolled full-time at the host institution.
- Going on an exchange will give the student a culturally significant experience by taking classes with local students and possibly in the local language.
- Exchange is good for students interested in experiencing a different academic system and who want to select subjects from a wide variety of offerings.

### China – Nanjing University

The Department of Urban Planning and Design is housed in the School of Geographic and Oceanic Sciences. It is one of the oldest and most well-established Geographic departments in China. Located outside of Shanghai students can experience Urban Planning in one of the most populated cities in the world. **Sample Subjects available:** Urban Study and Urban Geography, Tourism Geography and Tourism Planning, Regional Economy

### Canada – Queen's University

The School of Urban and Regional Planning is committed to social equity, economic efficiency, environmental sustainability, and ethical responsibility.

QU is located on scenic Lake Ontario which is close to exciting cities both in Canada and the US. **Sample Subjects Available:** Land Use Planning, Community Design, Heritage Conservation

### USA – The University of Washington

The Department of Urban Design and Planning had the opportunity to grow along side its host city, Seattle. It strives to help urban regions become more livable and environmentally efficient. **Sample Subjects Available:** Natural Hazards Mitigation, Sustainable Real Estate, Transportation Planning

### France - Bordeaux III, Michel de Montaigne University

For students that are interested in studying Urban Planning in French, Bordeaux III would provide a unique perspective. Studying in Bordeaux combines a historical setting in which to study with modern views and techniques in the classroom. **Sample Subjects available:** Urbanisation et gestion des espaces naturels (Urbanisation and management of natural spaces), Analyse, écologie et politiques du paysage, écologie urbaine (Analysis, ecology and politics of landscape, urban ecology), Formes urbaines et patrimoine (Urban forms and patrimony)

## Go Abroad with a Travelling Studio

The MSD introduced travelling studios to give students the opportunity to experience different cultures and places, while engaging in diverse, 'real-life' design processes and practices.

### What is a travelling studio?

Travelling studios are 'working laboratories' for design, thought and production and involve the exploration of complex, real-life issues. Exposure to unfamiliar cultures, places and people will stimulate your ability to think creatively and problem-solve.

Pre-trip seminars will precede the travel component of each studio and each studio will incur travel costs, in addition to tuition fees.

### Why Should I go?

Travelling studios are short-term programs that take place during the Winter and September holidays, which might fit into your degree plan easier than a semester-long program.

Since the travelling studios are organised by MSD academics they are tailored to fit MSD students' needs. Some of the travelling studios have a specific focus on issues in Urban Planning so look out for those studios in particular.

\*denotes Urban Planning focused studios

### Where can I go?

Each year the MSD chooses several diverse locations that showcase examples of design from around the world. Be sure to check the MSD website to learn about the newest travelling studio locations. In 2011 MSD staff will take students to:

- Mumbai, India\*
- Kiribati, Pacific Islands\*
- Santiago, Chile
- Tokyo, Japan
- Montreal, Canada\*



# Beyond Education Abroad

Your opportunities for significant learning experiences are not limited to studying abroad. Whether as an alternative to study abroad/exchange or as a complement to it, you might want to consider overseas work, internships or volunteer experiences. Such programs provide a great opportunity to strengthen your intercultural communication skills.

## Work Abroad

In a globalised world many graduates are looking internationally for opportunities to gain work experience or develop a career. The web is overwhelmingly crammed with sites full of advice on how to obtain work overseas. This is a great place to start but try to be selective when uploading personal information such as resumes.

**The Careers and Employment Office** offers many interesting suggestions for students interested in working overseas. If you are interested in going on a short-term, active adventure try going to the US with **Camp America** where you can become a camp counsellor and work with kids. If you are more interested in working at a bar or ski chalet **Resort Jobs**, a company based in the UK, lists opportunities on their website. Many of these jobs can be done while you are still a student during university breaks

If you want to live overseas after you graduate for a longer period of time try searching for English teaching opportunities such as the **JET Programme** that sends graduates to Japan or the **Higher Colleges of Technology** in the United Arab Emirates. If teaching is not what you are wanting there are various sites such as **Escape Artist** or **Monster Work Abroad** where you can search for jobs or get advice on living abroad. Please visit the Careers and Employment website for more ideas: <http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/careers/student/overseas/index.html>

## Volunteer Abroad

A volunteer opportunity gives you the chance to give your time and energy to a community while strengthening your language skills and learning about a new culture. A host of organisations arrange opportunities for you to volunteer abroad in many different areas, from working with children to helping construct a community clinic. If you are on exchange, try visiting the careers unit or community outreach office at your host university. Whether you want to do hands on community work in Tanzania or build homes in Honduras **i-to-i** and **Planeterra** are companies that arrange international volunteer opportunities. Please visit the Leadership, Involvement, and Volunteer Experience (LIVE) unit website for more information about volunteering abroad: <http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/live/>

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is hosted by the Leadership, Involvement and Volunteer Experience (LIVE) unit and is an internationally recognised 'leadership in action' program which enables young people to broaden their experiences. If you are currently working towards a Duke's award you can complete some components of the award while overseas. It is a great way to engage with the host community outside of the classroom. Please visit the LIVE unit's website to find out how to work towards earning the Duke's award: <http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/live/doe/index.html>

## Update your resume

Whatever you decide to do after graduation, you will want to include your learning abroad experience on your resume or graduate school application. Learning abroad can lead to the beginning of intercultural competence that is appealing to potential employers and graduate schools alike. When including learning abroad in your resume, highlight the skills you gained and what you learned while abroad. Did you become proficient in a language? Did you gain research experience through conducting an independent study project? Did you develop skills on an international work or internship experience? Have you become knowledgeable in some aspect of your host country's culture? You will want to make the connection to actual skills you gained through your experience abroad – connections that will not always be obvious to an employer. After participating in your mobility program MGM coordinates a re-entry workshop to give students tips on how to be successful upon return.

