

IX. INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND THE EPICENTER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introductions to International Programs and the EpiCenter	2
Advising Suggestions	2
How to Navigate the Course Equivalency Database	3
Messiah-approved Programs	4
Four Year Plan	8

Introductions to International Programs and the EpiCenter

What is the EpiCenter and what are the options for off campus study?

The EpiCenter (Experiential Programs Information Center), located in Eisenhower Campus Center, is a place for students to explore off-campus study opportunities—cross cultural courses, as well as semester-long international and domestic programs that will enrich their college education. Students can travel across the ocean to Europe, the Middle East, or Africa. Students can visit our neighbors to the south in Latin America or discover educational adventures here in the United States. The EpiCenter houses catalogs, brochures, course listings, applications, videos, and travel-related literature and resources. Students also can learn about costs, deadlines, and requirements, as well as obtain passport photos, passport applications, and International Student Identity Cards.

- For additional information, browse the EpiCenter homepage at: www.messiah.edu/studyabroad.
- Academic advisors will want to browse the FOR ADVISORS section of the EpiCenter web page: http://www.messiah.edu/academics/epicenter/travel_info/Advisors.htm

International Programs / EpiCenter Staff

Wendy Lippert

Director of International Programs and the EpiCenter

wlippert@messiah.edu – Ext. 6089

Faith Minnich

Assistant Director of International Programs

fminnich@messiah.edu – Ext. 7373

TBD

Faculty Liaison for Cross Cultural Courses

Gina Jablonski

Administrative Assistant for International Programs and the EpiCenter

gjablonski@messiah.edu – Ext. 6719

Advising Suggestions

General Advising

- **Early Planning:** Encourage students to explore their options early; their first semester is not too soon!
- **Advising Meetings:** Students should come to your advising sessions already having done their homework. After visiting the EpiCenter and searching the resources available on the web page (such as the course equivalency database), students should (1) have an idea of the programs that they are exploring as well as (2) possible courses that they are hoping to take.

NOTE: ALL MESSIAH-APPROVED SEMESTER-LONG INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS WILL MEET STUDENTS' THIRD LANGUAGE/CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS. Students do not receive three credits; rather, the requirement is waived.

Advising Students Who Plan To Study Abroad Next Semester

- **Meeting with students:** Students should meet with you if they are interested in studying off campus to make sure that this option will fit into their schedule.
- **Course Equivalencies:** The EpiCenter will help them find course offerings and will assist them as they explore the **Course Equivalency Database** on the Registrar's Channel on MCSquare; this is also a good resource for advisors.
- **Early Application:** Encourage students to apply a year in advance.
- **References:** All students who study off campus will need a reference from their academic advisors.
- **Approving Courses:** All students are required to complete an "Off Campus Study Course Approval" form before they leave. Forms will need their advisor's evaluation and signature.

Advising Students Who Currently Are Studying Abroad

Note: Registration is typically a bit more complicated when students study abroad. Consequently, the Registrar allows students who study with our semester-long off campus programs to register a day or more before the seniors register.

- **Registration Materials:** The EpiCenter will be contacting students with registration materials and instructions once the Registrar's Office has the information available.
- **Limited Internet Access:** Advising may be a bit more difficult; internet access is in some cases limited. Moreover, sometimes students are on educational excursions in places where they will not have access to the Internet for a period of time.
- **Difficulty Registering:** If students have difficulty registering on MCSquare, please ask them to contact Wendy Lippert, and she will help with the registration process.

How to Navigate the Course Equivalency Database

Course equivalencies for Messiah-approved off-campus study programs are listed in MCSquare. This is the most up-to-date information about what courses have previously been approved for either major or general education requirements. **THIS DOES NOT MEAN THESE COURSES WILL BE OFFERED EACH SEMESTER.**

Note from the Office of the Registrar: The general education requirement for Ethics, Worldviews, Pluralism and Science Tech and the World, integrates a Christian perspective in the course content. As a result, these requirements are satisfied only when taken at Messiah College or a comparable Christian college or university. Similar courses taught at secular institutions, public and private, will not fulfill the general education requirement.

Students should still review course options with their advisors

Students should still complete an "Off-Campus Study Course Approval Form" BEFORE they leave to participate in an off-campus program

How to Search for Courses on the Course Equivalency Database

- Sign into MCSquare
- Click on "Academics" tab
- Look under the Registrar's Channel
- Click on "Transfer Course Equivalencies"
- Look for "Detailed School Name Search" at the bottom of the page. Enter program name
- Hit the button that indicates "contains"

OFF-CAMPUS LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The following is a list of current programs:

American Studies Program (Washington, D.C.)

The American Studies Program brings together students from various Christian colleges for one semester of study and internship experience in Washington, D.C. Students are introduced to a wide range of subjects relating to domestic and international political, economic, and social issues and are individually placed in internships suited to their academic and vocational interests.

AuSable Institute of Environmental Studies (Mancelona, MI)

AuSable attempts to foster ecological knowledge and to integrate scripture with the study of the environment to help students gain an understanding of environmental stewardship. Students study in January, May and/or over the summer.

Australia Studies Centre (Sydney, Australia)

The Sydney-based Wesley Institute provides students with an opportunity to live in this coastal city, to experience Australian culture, and to study visual, theatrical, and/or musical arts. During the semester students will travel to Blue Mountains, Jenolan Caves, and to the capital city of Canberra. Students live with Australian families.

Central American Study and Service (Guatemala City, Guatemala)

This 12-week study opportunity allows students to spend eight weeks in language and cultural study as well as four weeks in voluntary service projects which may include working in health clinics, educational programs, squatter settlements, orphanages, churches, or development organizations.

China Studies Program (Xiamen, People's Republic of China)

The China Studies Program seeks to expose students to a country whose people make up a fifth of the world's population. Students learn Chinese language, history, and culture through classroom instruction, by traveling around the country to such places as Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, and the Great Wall of China, and by being conversation partners with Chinese students.

City University Athens (Athens, Greece)

Students live and study in the shadow of the ancient Acropolis while participating in BCA's program in Athens, Greece. Field trips to such places as Delphi, Corinth, Mycenae, Epidaurus, Naphleon, and Sparta provide students with an introduction to the history and culture of Greece. The program includes orientation, university classes, and travel to a number of Greek cities.

Contemporary Music Program (Martha's Vineyard, MA)

Students interested in contemporary music—as artists or in executive roles—will discover firsthand the inside workings of the music industry. Each semester students will create, produce, and market a CD. Martha's Vineyard provides a beautiful setting for students to explore what it means to be a Christian in today's music industry.

Creation Care Study Program (New Zealand/Samoa)

This semester-long program allows students to explore Biblical environmental stewardship, firsthand, in New Zealand / Samoa. Designed with the non-science major in mind, the program includes opportunities for study, reflection, research, and travel, and may meet a number of general education requirements.

Cross Cultural Courses (Multiple International Sites)

Students can discover a whole new world when they step out of familiar surroundings by participating in cross-cultural study courses. The three-week courses include intensive study of the society through lectures and readings, as well as either an extended home-stay or an ethnographic fieldwork project. Courses and locations vary annually, and have included areas such as Costa Rica, Germany, Trinidad, and Zambia.

Dalian University of Foreign Languages (Dalian, China)

Mandarin Chinese language and Chinese history, literature, politics and geography are the focus of study for this semester-long program. In addition to classroom instruction, students participate in several weekend excursions and a study tour to such places as Beijing and Chengdu.

Daystar University (Nairobi, Kenya)

Students can join over 1,800 African students from a number of African nations at Daystar. The university provides courses in a variety of majors. All instruction is in English, offered by a faculty composed primarily of African nationals.

GoEd Africa (Kampala, Uganda and Kigali, Rwanda)

Based in Kampala, Uganda and Kigali, Rwanda, GoEd Africa engages students with the reality of global poverty. Run by Food for the Hungry, a non-profit Christian relief and development organization, the program offers students an opportunity to participate in one of their service projects.

Hokusei Gakuen University (Sapporo, Japan)

Students will experience Japanese language and culture while studying in Sapporo—Japan’s third largest city. Students are placed in language classes—based on their abilities—from beginning through advanced levels and take classes from the BCA director and at the university. To get a broader understanding of Japanese culture, students will visit cities around the country such as Kyoto, Tokyo, and Hiroshima.

International Business Institute (Multiple European Sites)

Austria, England, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, and The Netherlands are the classroom settings for students who participate in this 10-week adventure. Students experience European historical and cultural interests, listen to briefings by world economic leaders, and take four academic courses.

Jerusalem University College (Jerusalem, Israel)

The Jerusalem University College exposes students to the geography, history, culture, and languages of Israel/Palestine, preparing them for a lifetime of biblical study. The school offers a number of 300-level courses in archaeology, geography, Hebrew Bible translation, history, and Middle Eastern studies.

Latin American Studies Program (San Jose, Costa Rica)

Students study Latin American economics, culture, politics, and faith at the San Jose-based program which includes home stays, Spanish language study, travel to a number of Central American countries, and two-week service projects. Students choose from one of four concentrations: Latin American Studies, Advanced Language and Literature, International Business, and Environmental Science.

London Internship Program (London, England)

London is the classroom setting for students who spend a semester studying and interning with the London Internship Program. Students participate in part-time internships and take classes at City University while gaining practical work experience in another culture.

Los Angeles Film Studies Center (Los Angeles, CA)

This program provides an introduction to the work and workings of the mainstream Hollywood film industry. LAFSC’s curriculum is designed to allow students to think and reflect on what it means to be a Christian in the film industry. Students gain practical experience by participating in internships which have included placement with Warner Bros. Studios, Bruckheimer Films, and Chamian Casting.

LCC International University (Klaipeda, Lithuania)

Students witness history in the making while studying in Klaipeda, Lithuania. Part of the former Soviet Union, Lithuania is home to LCC International University which serves students from a number of Eastern European nations. Students live in dormitories and take classes with Lithuanian students. A trip to Moscow and St. Petersburg and a weekend trip to Estonia and Latvia round out this educational adventure.

Middle East Studies Program (Cairo, Egypt)

Students spend one semester in Cairo, Egypt, studying Middle Eastern culture and religion, learning Arabic language, and exploring political conflicts. The program includes an ongoing field service project, a two-week trip to Israel/Palestine, and a two-week tour of several Middle Eastern countries.

O’Neill National Theater Institute (Waterford, CT)

This intensive theater program offers students a unique opportunity to study acting, directing, playwriting, movement and voice, and design in a conservatory setting. Students take classes seven days a week and typically take educational excursions to train with professional theater companies in Stratford-upon-Avon, England or St. Petersburg or Moscow, Russia

The Oregon Extension (Ashland, OR)

This fall semester program enables juniors and seniors to pursue intensive interdisciplinary study in the southern Oregon Cascade Mountains. The program provides an opportunity for students to deal seriously with ideas, Christian commitment, and life as they examine the nature of contemporary society.

Orvieto Semester (Orvieto, Italy)

Art students can spend a semester studying Italian language and culture as well as participating in a variety of studio art courses at this program sponsored by Gordon College. Students study the rich tradition of European artists, architects, and poets, live in the Italian convent of San Lodovico, and are challenged to explore the connection between faith and art.

Oxford Study Abroad Programme (Oxford, England)

Academically-strong students spend a semester participating in one-on-one tutorials with Oxford professors at New College, St. Edmunds, St. Annes, Trinity College and (Magdalen - Visiting Students Only). The 13 week program also includes educational tours in Britain.

Philadelphia Campus (Philadelphia, PA)

Messiah established the “Philly Campus” in 1968 as a response to the continuing urbanization of American society. Some students attend the Philadelphia Campus to complete requirements for a major or minor; others attend for general enrichment purposes. Students select courses offered by Messiah College faculty and through Temple University.

Philipps-Universitat (Marburg, Germany)

Messiah students can strengthen their language skills by spending a semester or a year studying at the oldest protestant university in the world. Students live with German families or may be permitted to live in Schloft castle. The program includes orientation / language study, university classes (plus special BCA classes), several weekend excursions, and a study tour to Munich, Salzburg, Berlin, or Prague.

Russian Studies Program (Nizhni Novgorod, Russia)

The goals of this program are to expose students to Russian people and culture and to allow students to observe, firsthand, the changes occurring in this post-communist society. Students study Russian language (at Nizhni State University), culture, and society and take part in two-week service projects in Russian churches, community organizations, businesses, or schools.

Scholars’ Semester in Oxford (Oxford, England)

The Council for Christian Colleges and Universities presents a slice of British life and Oxford education to academically strong students who participate in one-on-one tutorials with Oxford professors. Field trips to such places as Stratford-on-Avon, Bath, the Cotswolds, Canterbury, and St. Augustine’s Abbey are designed to increase student understanding of British culture and society.

Student Visitor Program

A student may apply for a semester to study at any one of 12 other members of the Christian College Consortium. This option provides a unique opportunity to benefit from the resources of another Christian College while remaining a Messiah student.

Temple Rome (Rome, Italy)

Juniors and seniors can explore art, international business, and humanities in the heart of Italy when they participate in Temple University’s study program in Rome. Course work is augmented by field trips that allow students to experiences Italy’s rich history and culture.

Uganda Studies Program (Kampala, Uganda)

The Uganda Studies Program allows students to explore African culture firsthand. Messiah students live in dorms and take classes with East African students as well as participate in service projects in orphanages and medical clinics. During the semester students will travel to historic sites, parks and cities within the country.

Universidad de Barcelona (Barcelona, Spain)

Living with a host family and studying along side 80,000 Spanish students allows Messiah students to become immersed in the language and culture of Spain. Students are introduced to the Spanish culture through an initial orientation that includes intensive language instruction and travel to cities throughout the country.

University of Gloucestershire (Cheltenham, England)

Located in southwestern England (near the border of Wales), the University of Gloucestershire allows students to experience British life in the quaint English town of Cheltenham where they live in dormitories with British students, take classes at the university, and travel to historical and cultural locations around the country.

Universite de Strasbourg (Strasbourg, France)

Located near the boarder of Germany, Strasbourg is the home to the Universite de Strasbourg where Messiah students can spend a semester or a year experiencing French language and culture. The program in includes orientation / language study, university classes (plus special BCA classes), and several study tours to cities throughout France.

University of Valparaíso (Valparaiso, Chile)

Located on the coastline of Chile between the Andes Mountains and the Pacific Ocean, Valparaíso offers hilltop vistas, beaches, and abundant cultural opportunities. At the Pontifical Catholic University of Valparaíso, students strengthen their language skills as they study alongside Chilean students.

University of Veracruz (Xalapa, Mexico)

Students discover our neighbors to the south in this semester-long language program. The semester begins with intensive language instruction before classes commence at the University of Veracruz in the mountainous city of Xalapa. Students experience cultural immersion living with host families, taking classes with Mexican students, and participating in voluntary service opportunities.

Washington Journalism Center (Washington, DC)

A semester in our national's capital will give students a firsthand taste of how our government works. Through coursework, students will develop hard-news writing skills, study the history and further or Washington, and examine the role of Christians in the media. A 12-week internship will give students hands-on, practical knowledge, which is crucial in the journalism industry.

FOUR YEAR PLAN FOR STUDENTS

Four years to forge experiences that last a lifetime

First Year: Exploration

The first year on campus is the most important for students interested in off-campus study; it is the year that will lay the ground work for participating in experiential learning. Students will discover programs options, will work with their advisors to learn how these programs will compliment their disciplines, and will begin choosing courses at Messiah with an understanding of the types of courses they can take off-campus. Because of curricular obligations, it is crucial that students in some majors (Education, Engineering, Nursing, Nutrition) exploration process as soon as they arrive on campus and in some cases, begin the application process soon after.

Let your advisor know that you are interested in studying off-campus.

- Visit the EpiCenter to explore programs and discover courses that may meet general education or major requirements for your field of study. Students also can begin this search at www.messiah.edu/studyabroad
- Once you find a program in which you are interested, contact your academic advisor to see how this will fit into your curriculum. It is especially helpful to let your advisor know as early as possible so that he or she can help you choose courses that will not duplicate what you will be taking off-campus.

Sophomore Year: Application

For many students the second year is the time to start applying to study off-campus. Some programs are open only to juniors and seniors which makes the sophomore year the optimal time to begin this process. Consider applying up to a year in advance. Some programs are very competitive; early application may give you an advantage.

- Pick up applications and checklists from the EpiCenter.
- Start reading / learning about the country in which you will be studying (check out the EpiCenter library) - read local newspapers and research information on the web. Check out the EpiCenter web page for helpful travel- and country-related information: www.messiah.edu/studyabroad Talk with other students on campus who studied at your intended location; a resource list of students is available in the EpiCenter. Or browse the Facebook group, "I Want to Study Abroad" to talk with returning students.
- Visit your advisor with course listings and complete an off-campus study form to choose possible courses for your off-campus semester.
- Once you have been accepted, refer to your application checklist. Visit the EpiCenter for assistance with passports, International Student Identity Cards, off-campus study forms, and air arrangements for Central American Study and Service, Jerusalem University College, London Internship Program, LCC International University, Oxford Study Abroad Programme, Scholars' Semester in Oxford, Temple Rome, and the University of Valparaiso.

Note: If you are planning to study off-campus during your sophomore year, you will need to complete the application steps during your freshman year.

Junior Year: Realization

You have completed your preparation; now is the time to make all of that hard work pay off. Enjoy your semester off-campus.

- Once you arrive on site, you will receive a weekly e-mail newsletter from campus. The newsletter WILL BE SENT TO YOUR GROUPWISE ACCOUNT. Also, students will receive electronic information about course offerings and registration instructions for the following semester as well as other important communications from campus offices (housing, parking, for example).
- Many students participate in internships during the spring semester of their senior year, a transition from academics to the world of work. Consider an internship your junior year and bring that hands-on experience back to campus. You will be surprised how much it will enhance classroom learning.

Senior Year: Reflection

- You have had a wonderful experience off campus. Now is the time to share your enthusiasm with others in the college community. As you begin to process what you have learned, you will discover you have a lot to offer – not only to other students, but to the campus as a whole and to future employers.
- Attend re-entry workshops and celebrations.
- Share your experience with other students:
 - Speak in classes / participate in panel discussions
 - Agree to serve on the alumni resource list
- Participate in classroom discussions drawing from your experiences off campus
- Befriend an international student - who better than you (if you have studied internationally) knows how it feels to be a stranger in a totally new culture
- Join the Messiah Facebook group, “I Want to Study Abroad” and share your experiences with students who are exploring their options
- Share your insights about the program with the EpiCenter staff. Each semester the EpiCenter surveys students who studied off-campus the previous term. By completing this survey, you help Messiah College evaluate our programs and help us know how we can serve future students more effectively.
- Include your off-campus experience on your resumé. You have experiences that go beyond the traditional classroom, experiences that translate into a stronger resumé when you begin your career search.

“ . . . the words on the pages of my textbooks come to life and flood my reality with new meaning and greater depth. . . . Suddenly the world has a face.”

One student’s reflection on studying abroad.