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
• Enjoy the opportunity to experience different approaches to learning
• Gain confidence and develop resilience as you learn new things about yourself, others and the world

The Eastern Precinct Student Centre 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 Engineering among professionals from around the world.

How can I make it happen?

The good news is, Engineering degrees have the flexibility that allows students from all types of disciplines to go abroad for a semester or year.

• **Start planning NOW!** In order to get the most out of your time abroad, it is best that you start planning during your first year. This will allow you to have an easier time developing an appropriate experience to meet various course requirements and your own expectations.

• **Set goals.** No one institution is best suited to Engineering students. 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 funding 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/)

If obtaining funding is an important part of your decision to go abroad, choose your host institution wisely. There can be extra funding available for students who go to U21 universities or diverse locations and institutions.

"Spending a part of the university education overseas by students in Engineering and IT will broaden their Melbourne experience, promote independence and adaptability in different learning environments and prepare them with a set of skills needed in increasingly internationalised workplaces."

Dr. Saman Halgamuge, Assistant Dean (International), Melbourne School of Engineering
Academic Considerations for Engineering Students

What are my next steps?

**Investigate programs**

Engineering students can go to many different types institutions around the world. There is some flexibility in Engineering majors that allows students to take various elective, core and breadth subjects abroad. It is important to consider which type of program would suit your current course plan and goals.

To get some ideas visit the EPSC mobility page: http://studentcentre.unimelb.edu.au/eastern/support_and_opportunities/sa_ex

**Talk to a course adviser**

If you find it difficult to determine which subjects to take abroad it is important to speak with a course adviser at the beginning of the process. They will assist you in deciding when to take required subjects and when it would be possible to go abroad.

**For exchange programs**

Go to an application information session which will answer many of your questions about preparing for an exchange. Visit the MGM webpage to register for sessions and research exchange partners. Be sure to do your research before making an appointment with an MGM or faculty advisor.

**For non-exchange programs**

If you hope to go abroad other than by way of exchange, for example a UM Overseas Subject, visit the UM handbook website to view subject descriptions. If you are interested in study abroad you must independently organise your application and subject approvals and fill out an online registration form.

**Apply**

Depending upon the type of program you choose you will have different application procedures. They often include recommendation forms, essays, subject approvals and transcripts. If during the process you have further questions please schedule an appointment with an MGM advisor or the EPSC.

**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 career world.
- Classroom learning is only part of the study abroad experience. Use internships, service learning and home stays 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. Explore other program types such as short-term programs or internships.

**Study Engineering from a different cultural perspective**

- Learn how Engineering subjects vary throughout the world and how it impacts developments in other societies. Ask your lecturers if they have personal connections at partner universities that they would recommend.
- Consider looking for a program that highlights your particular interests. It does not matter what type of Engineering you are studying, you should be able to find a program that fits your interests.
Sample Education Abroad Options

The remainder of this sheet lists some sample options that might be a good match for Engineering 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 study 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. Engineering students are eligible to go on an exchange with one of our partners as long as they have an Engineering or general undergraduate agreement.

- 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.

**Sweden – Royal Institute of Technology - KTH**

KTH incorporates a certain flexibility and freedom of choice, thus allowing the students to focus upon the learning itself and not simply aim to pass the exams. The School of Engineering Sciences focuses on experimental and applied computational-heavy engineering based on core sciences. **Example Subjects offered:** General Eng – Engineering Materials, Civil Eng – Engineering Hydrology and Climate, Software Engineering

**The Netherlands – Technical University of Delft**

TU Delft is the largest and most all-round university of technology in the Netherlands. At TUD, civil engineers not only make the world safe, liveable and accessible, but also ensure that a country remains safe, liveable and accessible as the climate changes and the economy makes new demands. **Example Subjects offered:** Civil Eng – Structural Mechanics, Civil Eng – River Engineering, Civil Eng – Steel Structures

**USA - University of Michigan**

UM is a Big Ten university that gives students an authentic American college experience. Pursuing part of your degree at UM will put you in touch with famous professionals from the US and around the world. **Example Subjects offered:** Chem Eng – Reactor Engineering, Chem Eng – Process Dynamics & Control, Chem Eng – Environmental Process Engineering

**Israel - Technion Israel Institute of Technology**

Technion’s superior position is founded on a long list of international breakthroughs in research and outstanding achievements in different scientific fields. Technion is a major source of engineers who lead the development of advanced Israeli technology in the fields of electronics, computers and communications. **Example Subjects offered:** Electrical Eng, Chemical and Molecular Eng, Computer Science

**Poland - Technical University of Lodz**

At TUL students can get acquainted with the latest technologies and computer applications. There are various subjects that are available in English which can create a unique experience for students in Poland. **Example Subjects offered:** Mechanical Engineering and Applied Computer Science, Biomedical Engineering

**France - Grenoble Institute of Technology**

GIT’s high-quality engineering degree courses and cutting-edge research puts it firmly at the heart of European higher education. Grenoble Institute of Technology also aims to provide fulfillment and opportunities for students to get involved - with societies, sports, clubs and cultural activities. **Example Subjects offered:** Mechanical and Energy Engineering, Information Systems Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering

**Other Options for Science Students**

- **Internships** - If going abroad on exchange does not appeal to you and you would prefer to gain technical experience related to your studies, an international internship is another option available to Engineering students. IAESTE administers these programs, which can last 6-12 weeks on average, and assists with visa and housing organisation. [www.iaeste.org](http://www.iaeste.org)

- **School of Languages** - Engineering students might find it easier to take breadth subjects abroad. Consider studying a language as part of your breadth requirements to enhance your intercultural knowledge. Language study provides opportunities to study in culturally diverse countries and for additional funding. [www.languages.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.languages.unimelb.edu.au)

- **National University of Singapore Civil Engineering Integrated Design Project** - For four weeks over the summer holidays Civil Engineering students can travel to Singapore to participate in the NUS Civil Eng Integrated Design Project. On this program students will work in groups to carry out the design and prepare engineering drawings.

To learn more visit [www.mobility.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.mobility.unimelb.edu.au)
Beyond Education Abroad

Your opportunities for significant learning experiences are not limited to study abroad. Whether as an alternative to study abroad/exchange or as 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/doi/index.html

Update your resume

Whichever 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.

To learn more visit www.mobility.unimelb.edu.au