How can I make it happen?

The good news is, there is some flexibility as to when Landscape Architecture students can go abroad. It is best to start thinking about it early so you don’t miss out on an exciting experience. Be aware that the process can take up to 6 months.

• **Start planning NOW!** For Landscape Architecture students to get the most out of their time abroad it is best to start planning for your time abroad 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.** 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/

“Study in another country offers a valuable insight into the ways that different cultures value and conceive of landscape architecture.”

Dr. Jillian Walliss
Program Coordinator, Master of Landscape Architecture, Melbourne School of Design

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Academic Considerations for Landscape Architecture Students

Investigate programs
Before speaking to the MSD Exchange Advisor it is important to research programs that fit your career goals and interests. Landscape Architecture 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 Landscape Architecture students have a limited time in which to go abroad it is important to seek advice at the start of your degree. They 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 for Landscape Architecture students
- If you earned a Bachelor of Environments in Landscape Architecture Studies from the University of Melbourne there is more flexibility for you to go abroad. It is possible to go during your first semester so start researching options soon!
- If you did not earn an undergraduate degree from the University of Melbourne you are not eligible to go abroad during your first year. Start thinking about your career and educational goals.
- Due to degree requirements M. Landscape Arch students are only able to go abroad on exchange for one semester or less.

Seek cultural immersion
- Look for programs that offer significant cultural integration. Deep involvement in the host culture leads to personal growth and instills the cross-cultural skills that are so important to success in the Landscape Architecture 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 work amongst your University of Melbourne peers.

Timeline

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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 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.

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

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. Travelling studios can be used as a replacement for Landscape Studio 4 or Landscape Studio 5 requirements.

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 design studio space available.

- 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.

Scotland – Edinburgh College of Art

Edinburgh College of Art has an international reputation as one of the most successful independent art colleges in Europe, offering a range of programmes across art, design, architecture and landscape architecture at undergraduate, postgraduate and research degree level. The College is known for its creativity, its friendly students and staff, its track record of awards successes and its stunning location at the heart of the beautiful city of Edinburgh. **Sample Subjects available:** Land Reclamation, Urban Regeneration, Landscape Planning and Assessment

Sweden – Swedish University of Agricultural Science and Design

At SLU you will get a deeper understanding of the relation between man and the environment and learn how to handle the processes of landscape change in the modern society. You will meet and work with Swedish and other international students in the courses that are all in English. **Sample Subjects Available:** Surveying and Land Management, Cultural Heritage, Built Environment Planning

Canada – University of British Columbia

UBC is a close community committed to providing an outstanding and distinctive professional education that will prepare graduates to be agents of beautiful and sustainable landscape change through design. **Sample Subjects Available:** Creating North America’s ‘Most Livable City’, Field Studies in Landscape Architecture

Denmark - University of Copenhagen

At the U. of Copenhagen you will have the opportunity to combine knowledge about nature with an understanding of human experiences and use of their surroundings. Students will learn how to combine functional, aesthetic, social and biological considerations to achieve holistic solutions to city and landscape development. **Sample Subjects Available:** City Planning, Politics, Ecology or Financial Management

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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/doi/doi/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.

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