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

Melbourne Law School recognises the importance of internationalising the law school experience. Going abroad helps you explore the world, expand your cultural horizons, and increase your experience by studying Law among professionals from around the world.

How can I make it happen?

The good news is, despite the small window in which JD students can go abroad, Melbourne Law School offers many exciting and diverse options for JD students interested in going abroad.

- Start planning NOW! Due to time constraints it is best that JD students 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. No one program is best suited to JD 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.

Melbourne Law School has access to some of its own funding for student mobility, this includes funding for exchange, internships, as well as travelling scholarships such as John and Alison Kearney Overseas Scholarship. For the most up-to-date information regarding funding please contact the Study Abroad and Exchange Advisor.

The University of Melbourne also offers about $2.5 million in global mobility scholarships 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/

“Education Abroad gives our JD students the opportunity to enrich their legal knowledge and experience in an international context, while making a contribution to foreign debates and communities.”

Andrew Mitchell
Associate Professor
Academic Considerations for Law Students

What are my next steps?

Investigate programs
JD students can go on many different types of programs such as: Exchanges, University of Melbourne Overseas Subjects, Short-Term Programs, Partnership Degree programs, the Centre For Transnational Legal Studies program in London and Internships for credit. It is important to consider which type of program would suit your current course plan and goals.

To get some ideas visit the JD exchange page: http://jd.law.unimelb.edu.au/go/student-experience/student-exchange

Talk to a course planner
Since JD students have a limited time in which to go abroad it is important to speak with a course planner at the beginning of the process. 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 information 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 recommended that you meet with the Law School Exchange Advisor prior to submitting your application.

For non-exchange programs
If you hope to go abroad other than by way of exchange, for example a UoM Overseas Subject, visit the UoM handbook website to view subject descriptions and then make an appointment with the JD abroad advisor to discuss your options.

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 adviser or the Law School study abroad and exchange adviser.

Timeline

First Year — Students should plan for an international experience. They are unable to go abroad during their first year.

Second Year — Continue planning. The only subjects that students are able to take abroad are electives. It is not possible for JD students to go on exchange or a semester long program during their 2nd year but students could consider doing a University of Melbourne Overseas Subject or short-term program during Winter or Summer breaks.

Third Year — The ideal time for a JD student to go abroad is Semester 2 of their third year. It is possible to go abroad during Semester 1 but students should ensure they have completed the compulsory subjects taught in Semester 1 of Year 3.

Accelerated Students — Students accelerating to 2.5 years are able to participate in an education abroad program if they have completed all compulsory subjects (including Legal Ethics, Evidence and Proof and Legal Research). Students accelerating to 2 years cannot undertake an education abroad program with the exception of a subject abroad.

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 world of Law.

• 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.

**“Undertaking a semester of study at CTLS was one of the highlights of my time at University. For me, the most amazing part of the program was the ability to meet, study with and form such close friendships with students and academics from all around the world. I believe that my experience at CTLS has both synthesised and built on my previous studies at the Melbourne Law School, and that CTLS gives its students a unique understanding of global legal practices.”**

Sarah Zeleznikow
Centre for Transnational Legal Studies, London
Sample Education Abroad Options

The remainder of this sheet lists some sample options that might be especially nice fits for JD 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. JD students are eligible to go on an exchange with one of our partners as long as they offer a minimum of Masters or advanced-level law courses.

- 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 institutions.
- 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.

USA – Georgetown University, Washington DC

Located in the heart of Washington DC, Georgetown Law offers an impressive program to be credited to their JD.

- Georgetown Law will be blocks from the politically stimulating US Capitol and the Supreme Court and be taught by faculty that have served key roles in shaping, enforcing, challenging and defending the law. Available: Fall semester (August-December), application due by the December deadline. Example Subjects offered: Genocide/Justice/Reconciliation, International Environmental Law

Canada – McGill University, Montreal

McGill Faculty of Law is the second ranked Canadian law school with professors being experts in both common and civil law. The depth of their knowledge gives students a wide variety of subjects in private and public international law with a special emphasis on human rights. Available: Both semesters, all applications are due by the December deadline, course approval required. Example Subjects offered: International Air Law, Law of Space Applications, Sustainable Development Law.

Ireland – University College, Dublin

The Law School at UCD has been educating distinguished law professionals for over 100 years. It is one of the leading centres for legal education and research in Ireland. A variety of subjects such as European law, criminal justice and employment law are available at the Masters-level. Available: Both semesters, JD students must take subjects at the Masters level and receive course approval. Example Subjects offered: Defamation and Privacy Law, Medical Law: Misconduct and Malpractice, Industrial Relations Law

Go Abroad on a Degree Partnership Program

Melbourne Law Schools offers the chance for JD students to earn combined degrees in law from either University of Oxford, New York University or the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

New York University

Melbourne Juris Doctor (JD) 2.5 years + NYU Masters of Law (LLM) 1 year
+ NYU Juris Doctor (JD) 2 years
+ NYU Masters of Law (MLF) 1 year
NYU is among the Top 5 Law Schools in the US. Students that attend NYU will have access to extensive legal career service, including placements and internships with 98% of graduates obtaining their first choice of job after graduating. Available: Students can apply after completing their 4th semester at UM for JD+LLM or they can apply to both law schools at the same time for JD+JD. Students need to ensure they course plan to keep enough electives for the LLM program to be credited to their JD.

University of Oxford

Melbourne Juris Doctor (JD) 2.5 years + Oxford Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL) OR Oxford Masters in Law and Finance (MLF) 1 year
The Oxford BCL is currently the most highly esteemed Masters-level qualification in the common law world. This program will provide students with expertise that is keenly sought after by law firms and financial institutions. Available: Students can apply after completing their 4th semester at UM and will be assessed on the 4 semester’s academic results. Students need to ensure they plan to keep enough electives for the BCL or MLF program to be credited to their JD.

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Melbourne Juris Doctor (JD) 2.5 years + CUHK Master of Laws in Chinese Business Law (CBL LLM) 1 term
CUHK offers the only postgraduate program in Chinese business law taught in English. Students will be amongst the top graduates and lawyers from across Asia. Available: Students can apply after completing their 4th semester at UM and will be assessed on all academic results. Students pay tuition to UM for a semester, no additional tuition fees will be charged by CUHK. Students need to ensure they course plan to keep enough electives for the CBL LLM program to be credited to their JD.

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More Education Abroad Options

Go Abroad on the Centre for Transnational Legal Studies Program

United Kingdom
This is a semester long program coordinated by Georgetown University’s Legal Centre that teaches programs in Transnational Legal studies in the heart of London’s legal quarter. Students can take a wide variety of subject offerings that will be taught by academics from top universities around the world such as the Free University of Berlin, King’s College and the University of Sao Paolo which will provide for an exciting multicultural experience. Available: Both semesters (applications are run for each UK Academic year concurrently), please refer to the handbook for more information, or contact the Law School’s Study Abroad and Exchange Advisor.

Go Abroad on a UM Overseas Subject

The Law School currently offers two exciting overseas subjects. Students who have had little international experience or strict time constraints regarding the completion of their degree will benefit from going on a UM overseas subject. Both of these programs have elements that are taught by UM academics on the UM campus and overseas.

Switzerland – Institutions in International Law, Geneva
This program has run successfully in Geneva for four consecutive years, offering students the chance to engage face to face with worldwide leaders in numerous specialisations of public international law. Students come away from the subject with a rich understanding of practical and substantive aspects of international law and the careers it offers. Available: Semester 1 with travel during Winter Recess. Please refer to the handbook or contact the Study Abroad and Exchange Advisor for more information.

USA – Global Lawyer, New York and Washington D.C.
Global Summer 2011 being this program’s inaugural year it is one of the Law School’s newest opportunities. This subject examines the various roles played by lawyers such as advisors, advocates and negotiators. Students will have the opportunity to hear from and interact with expert guest lecturers from institutions such as Citibank, The Australian Embassy in the US, and the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs. Available: January term, 5 contact hours spent in Melbourne and 30 contact hours in the US. Please refer to the handbook or contact the Study Abroad and Exchange Advisor for more information.

Go Abroad on a Short-term program or Internship

Internships
To get an edge in the current job market many law students choose to participate in a global internship. By doing an internship overseas students get the opportunity to network with law professionals around the world and learn about international legal systems. For some example Internship options please visit the Melbourne Law Schools Careers Office here: http://careers.law.unimelb.edu.au/
Countries Vary

Short-term Programs
There are many options to meet the specific needs of students. If, after checking out all options available through University of Melbourne, you still haven’t found a program to fit your goals you may want to go abroad with an external provider on a short-term program. Please contact the Study Abroad and Exchange Advisor for some potential options.
Countries Vary
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/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.