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 Science among professionals from around the world.

How can I make it happen?

The good news is, Science 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 Science 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 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/

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.

"An international study experience enables science students to develop their independence, tap into an exciting range of science study opportunities as well as enhance their capacity to communicate in an increasingly global science community."

Michelle Livett, Assoc. Professor, Assoc. Dean (Undergraduate Program)
Academic Considerations for Science Students

What are my next steps?

Investigate programs
Science students can go to many different types institutions around the world. There is great flexibility in Science majors that allows students to take various elective 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 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 for sessions and research exchange partners. Be sure to do your research before making an appointment with an MGM or course 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.

Timeline
First Year – Students should plan for an international experience. They are unable to go abroad during their first year. Consider doing a Diploma of Languages that opens doors to unique options.

Second Year – Continue planning and start application procedures. Since Science doesn’t have core subject requirements, students can take most electives abroad, although be aware of prerequisites before you go and when you return. It is recommended that students go abroad in Semester 2 of Year 2 due to application procedures.

Third Year – Science students can go abroad any time during Year 3. If you decide to go abroad during Semester 2 of Year 3 it might affect when you can graduate due to delays in receiving transcripts and transfer credits.

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 Science from a different cultural perspective
• Learn how Science subjects and research 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. Whether you are studying Psychology, Environmental Science or Chemistry 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 Science 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. Science students are eligible to go on an exchange with one of our partners as long as they have a Science 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.

USA – University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

UNC was the first public university in the US and is located in the beautiful college town of Chapel Hill. The College of Arts and Sciences is at the academic centre of “the Carolina experience”. By studying in the intellectual community at Carolina you will get to shed light on new ideas in the world of Science. Example Subjects offered: Biotechnology, Genetics, Geography and Physiology

UK - University of Nottingham

The University of Nottingham is amongst the top 100 universities in the world and is a Universitas 21 partner. Located in the heart of England, Nottingham is a city full of historical significance and beauty. Most Science departments focus on sustainability and have top rated researchers. Example Subjects offered: Anatomy, Botany, Neuroscience and Pathology

Sweden - Lund University

Studying at Lund University gives students the chance to mingle with both Swedish and international students alike. It is the top exchange university in Sweden offering more than 300 subjects in English. World renowned research is carried out in cutting edge fields for example climate change and stem cell technology. Example Subjects offered: Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Mathematics and Statistics and Physics

Hong Kong - University of Hong Kong

The University of Hong Kong is committed to Knowledge Exchange which involves students, staff, community members and businesses. HKU teaches in English and offers an array of Science subjects that cater to each student’s interests and needs. Example Subjects offered: Biochemistry, Information Systems, Microbiology and immunology, and Zoology

Estonia - University of Tartu

The University of Tartu is a prestigious university that has one of the oldest Genetic faculties in the world. You can enjoy studying interesting subjects in English while learning the Estonian or Russian languages. Example Subjects offered: Population Genetics, Vegetation and Habitat types in Estonia, Biochemistry

Singapore - National University of Singapore

NUS offers a global approach to research and education with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise. You will have the opportunity to take subjects in English while being surrounded by a diverse student body speaking languages such as Tamil, Chinese and French. Example Subjects offered: Anatomy, Biology, Geography and Environmental Studies, Information Systems

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 Science students. IaEStE administers these programs, which can last 6-12 weeks on average, and assists with visa and housing organisation. www.iaeste.org

School of Languages - Science 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

Breadth - Science students can take University of Melbourne Overseas subjects offered in a number of different areas of study suitable for the breadth component of the Bachelor of Science. For example, Faculty of Arts offers unique short-term programs such as “Searching for the American Dream” or “Ville Lumiere: Paris” which takes students abroad during Summer or Winter holidays.

To learn more visit 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/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.

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