Globally-Minded Leadership

Business demands leaders with global perspectives who are ready and able to work together to address some of the world’s most pressing problems. At the University of Michigan Ross School of Business, our Global Initiatives team continues to provide the foundation for both undergraduate and graduate students to lead as culturally-intelligent global citizens, in both their personal lives and in their careers.

Through the strength of our partnerships and our commitment to innovation, our global experiences go much deeper than semester study abroad opportunities. From internships with international companies to global service projects and short-term global immersion courses, our students have unique opportunities to lead and learn in global business contexts.

- Short-Term/Summer Global Experiences
- Global Fellowships
- Global Internships
- Global Semester Exchange
- Action-Based Global Courses

Growth & Partnerships

Global Initiatives has had tremendous growth since its inception less than 10 years ago. In 2019, approximately 50% of all Michigan Ross undergraduate students studied abroad during their time at the University of Michigan, and an even higher percentage of full-time MBA students include an international experience in their degree.

Our growing partnerships with universities and companies all over the world enable students to study and intern in countries such as Australia, China, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Israel, and the UK. International partnerships also make it possible for students studying at partner universities to spend one semester studying at Michigan Ross, diversifying the local student population and promoting global learning right here in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Additionally, we offer several ways for students to engage globally on campus, including through funding opportunities for global research, cultural intelligence training for students, faculty, and staff, and targeted programming to further global education for the Michigan Ross community.
Ongoing Innovation

Innovation remains at the heart of Global Initiatives and new programs, such as our global fintech consulting projects with international fintech firms, continue to be created. Another innovative program is our Global Service Learning, which provides students the opportunity to gain real-world experiences by helping local communities in Latin America; previous programs took place in Nicaragua and Guatemala.

Though in-person travel in 2020 was deferred due to COVID-19, it allowed for many new creative collaborations to take place worldwide in a virtual setting. For example, we launched a course in partnership with the Universidad de Torcuato di Tella (UTDT) in Buenos Aires, Argentina. This course is co-led by Michigan Ross and UTDT faculty and provides Michigan Ross students with the opportunity to take the class alongside and work on projects with Argentine students.

We’ve also developed extracurricular virtual activities and global virtual summer internships in places as diverse as Australia, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore.

These types of collaborations encourage students to continue to focus on their cultural intelligence and diversify the student experience without leaving Ann Arbor. They reflect our commitment to continue to create dynamic, high-quality global experiences both within virtual and in-person settings.

Internationalization of the Michigan Ross degree now includes everything from global engagement while on campus with visiting exchange students to a short-term or full semester abroad. Through these experiences, students learn the importance of cultural intelligence and a global mindset, and will carry these forward as they become our future business leaders.”

JESSICA OLDFORD // DIRECTOR OF GLOBAL INITIATIVES

Global Initiatives plays a crucial role in creating a powerful set of transformational global experiences and courses to develop empathetic, influential, and open-minded business professionals who can work seamlessly across boundaries to find truly global solutions to tomorrow’s business challenges.”

GRETCHEN SPREITZER // ASSOCIATE DEAN OF ENGAGED LEARNING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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