

NEWSLETTER



Isaiah Butler explains the dish he prepared to guests at the Henson Center.

Isaiah Butler Wins Scholarships to Study Abroad in Japan!

Isaiah Butler, a senior majoring in Hospitality and Tourism with a Foreign Language Minor (Japanese), has been accepted into the Study Abroad program at Toyo University in Japan for Spring 2025. He is the third UMES student to receive scholarships for studying abroad in Japan. To learn more about his efforts in preparing for studying abroad and securing scholarships, turn to page 8.

2025 Faculty-Led Programs Are Back with Popular Study Abroad Options



Hospitality students and Dr. Ojie-Ahamiojie in Zambia.

UMES students are looking ahead to 2025 faculty-led study abroad programs. This year, UMES is leading trips to Greece, Zambia, Colombia, Ghana, Italy, and Europe. See page 3 for upcoming trips!



Students and Dr. Carole A. Champagne in Spain.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Director.....	2
2025 Faculty-Led Trips.....	3
International Student Event.....	4
World Language Meeting.....	5
Foreign Language Tables.....	5
2024 Fall CIE Visitors & Flags.....	6
Fun Facts & Trip Tips & Mango.....	7
Spotlight on Student: Isaiah Butler.....	8
Foreign Language Minor.....	9
Spotlight on Student: Elise Johnson.....	10
Upcoming Scholarships	11



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Hawk Family,

As we move into the second half of this 2020-2030 decade, there are an array of changes and opportunities on the horizon. As the world grows increasingly global, there are an increasing number of careers that involve working across cultures, requiring language skills, regional knowledge and the ability to see things from different perspectives. We are excited by the continued and growing interest in the various UMES study abroad and global learning opportunities. We firmly believe these kinds of abroad experiences and world language learning help students acquire new perspectives.

As you continue your journey as a UMES Hawk, we encourage you to be curious about the world and to explore and discover beyond the horizon.

Let's soar together! Hawk Pride!



Interim Director
Center for International Education

2025

GLOBAL LEARNING FACULTY-LED STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS



Ghana

January 7 - January 17, 2025

- Public Health Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (PHAR 704) 3 credits
- Hosted by the School of Pharmacy and Health Profession & Honors Program



Italy

March 14 - March 22, 2025

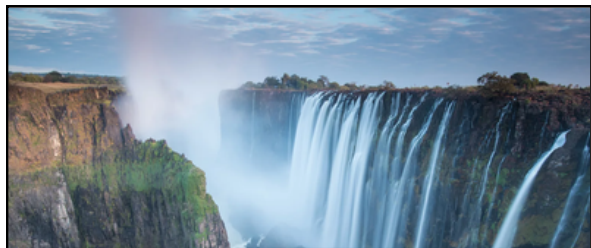
- Art History (ARTS 211) 3 credits
- Hosted by the Department of Fine Arts



Europe (Netherlands, Belgium)

April 30 - May 7, 2025

- Variable Global Justice and Advocacy: A European Perspective (CRJS 492) 3 credits
- Hosted by the Department of Criminal Justice



Zambia

June 6 - June 17, 2025

- Guest Relationship Management (HMGT 415) 3 credits
- Hosted by the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management



Greece

June 27 - July 7, 2025

- Olympism for Humanity: Champions of Change (Certificate Program; Non-Credit Bearing)
- Hosted by the Department of Kinesiology



Colombia

July 1 - July 24, 2025

- Intermediate Spanish Language & Culture (SPAN 201) & (SPAN 202) 6 credits
- 1 week at UMES and 3 weeks in Colombia
- Hosted by the Department of English and Modern Languages' Foreign Language Instructional Center (FLIC)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NETWORKING EVENT



On September 30, the Centers for Foreign Language Instruction and International Education held an International Student Networking Event in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions (SPHP) building. The event featured presentations by Dr. Leesa P. Thomas-Banks, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Sungjae Hwang, Associate Professor in the Department of Kinesiology.

Phillip Broussard, Director of the Center for International Education, warmly welcomed attendees and introduced the presenters. Dr. Hwang then gave a presentation titled *"Embracing Olympism and Cultural Heritage"* and shared his experience from the faculty-led trip to Greece. He showed photos of the students and faculty at historical sites like Olympia, Trizonia, Delphi, and Athens, and talked about how they immersed themselves in the local culture and traditions. He also noted that the trip was truly meaningful because it gave students the chance to learn lessons they couldn't in class, while also allowing them to bond with their professors and peers.

Dr. Thomas-Banks followed with a warm greeting, sharing her experience as an international student during her college years. She reaffirmed her commitment to ensuring that international students feel supported and thrive in their academic journey at UMES. The event provided a great opportunity for international students to connect, exchange personal stories, and foster a stronger sense of community at UMES.



Phillip Broussard, Interim Director of the Center for International Education, welcomes students and introduces Dr. Sungjae Hwang during the event.



The international students listen to the presentation and share their thoughts and opinions.



Dr. Sung Jae Hwang shares his insights from the faculty-led trip to Greece



Dr. Leesa P. Thomas-Banks engages in a conversation with the international students.

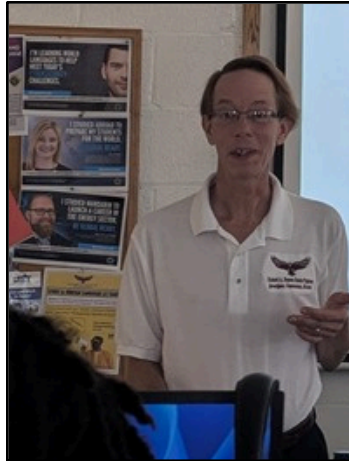




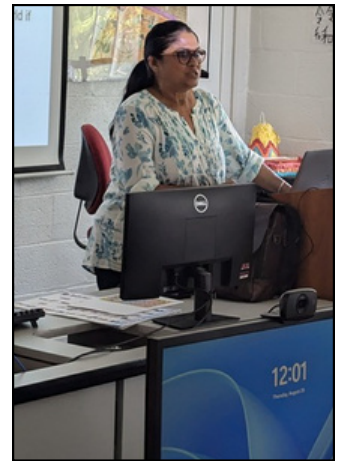
FALL SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS

WORLD LANGUAGE INTEREST MEETING

The Fall 2024 Foreign Language Interest Meeting, held on August 29 at 11:30 a.m. in Wilson Hall (Room 2113), was an engaging and well-attended event that brought together over 25 students, UMES foreign language instructors, and staff.



Prof. Michael E. Lane (French Instructor)



Prof. Archana Gupta (Hindi Instructor)



Students attended the World Language Interest Meeting

During the meeting, foreign language instructors highlighted the benefits of learning a foreign language, the opportunity to earn a foreign language minor, and available scholarships and study abroad programs. The meeting sparked lively discussions and inspired students to explore the many opportunities that learning a new language can offer.



Professor Zheng Xi (Chinese instructor) and students practice calligraphy at the Chinese language table.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TABLES

The Centers for Foreign Language Instruction (FLIC) and International Education (CIE) launched the "Foreign Language Table" series at the Center for International Education (CIE). The series introduced nine languages: Korean, Japanese, Chinese, Arabic, Portuguese, German, Hindi, Turkish, and Spanish. Each session took place in a relaxed, small-group setting, where students learned useful language expressions, explored the histories and traditions of different cultures, while enjoying traditional snacks from the represented countries.



Professor Champagne (Portuguese instructor) with two students at the Portuguese language table (right). Professor Lelic teaches students the game of backgammon at the Turkish language table event (left).

FALL 2024 VISITORS TO CIE



SNEHA SHAHI

Freshman Sneha Shahi from Nepal visited CIE to obtain information and to learn about various opportunities. She attended several international education events since her arrival to UMES to connect with other students, like the Summer International Student Networking events, and the CIE Open House where she won the drawing for a tote bag with UMES swag, snacks, and other goodies!



JOSEPH BREE

Librarian and Head of Access Services, Joseph Bree, is someone who fully commits to costume play. On Halloween this year, he transformed into the Phantom of the Opera and visited the Center.



PROFESSOR LELIC & SYDNEY

Professor Lelic, Director of Mosely Gallery and Faculty Program Director for the upcoming trip to Italy, visited CIE to host the first ever Turkish language table. Study-abroad interested student Sydney and Professor Lelic concluded the Turkish language table with a picture in front of the Turkish flag.



Are you walking for Commencement in December? Let us know your country or heritage. If we have the flag in our inventory, we would be proud to fly it in your honor!
oiss@umes.edu

FLAGS

September

- Brazil
- Chile
- Costa Rica
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Mexico
- Nicaragua

October

- China
- Nigeria
- Guinea
- Zambia
- Uganda
- Germany
- Croatia

November

- Panama
- Antigua & Barbuda
- Dominica
- Sri Lanka

In honor of students or visitors

- Turkey
- India
- Canada
- Nepal

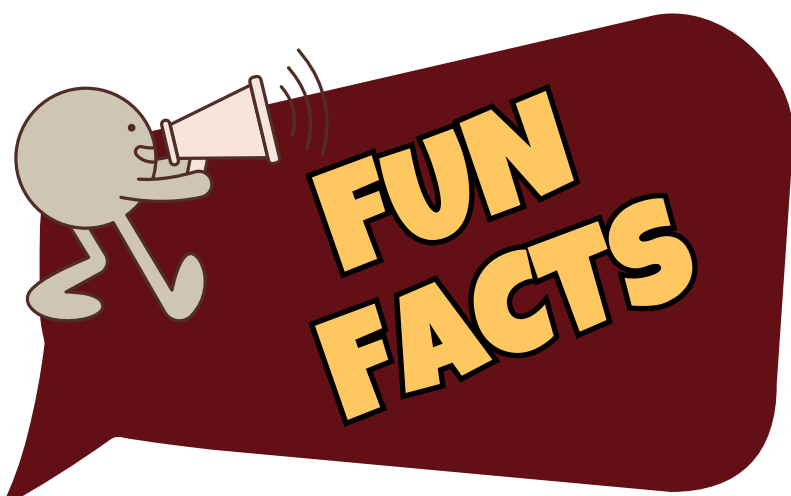
Follow Our **Social Media** to Stay Updated on Global Learning Opportunities!

[umes_oiss](#) #UMESabroad

CIEatUMES

CIEatUMES

<https://www.umes.edu/CIE/>



FUN FACTS

Do you know that **India** is the **birthplace of chess**? The original word for "**chess**" is the Sanskrit chaturanga, meaning "four members of an army"—which were mostly likely elephants, horses, chariots, and foot soldiers!

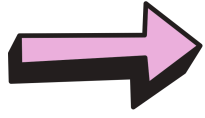


Do you know the countries where **Hindi** is spoken?

Fiji, India, Mauritius, Nepal, Singapore, South Africa, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, and the United States!



CHECK IT OUT



01 WindowSwap

<https://www.window-swap.com/Window>

It helps to fill that deep void in our wanderlust hearts by allowing us to look through someone else's window, somewhere in the world.

02 Sounds of Earth

<https://www.soundsofearth.eco>

It is a collection of ambient sounds of nature to help you relax or meditate and raise awareness for the protection and restoration of our ecosystems.



Language learning that **works** from home.



MANGO LANGUAGES

HOW TO START ?

- 01 Visit www.umes.edu/flic
- 02 Click on 'Mango Languages'
- 03 Sign up using **your UMES email account**
- 04 Learn new languages for **FREE**



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

A Journey to Japan: UMES Student Makes History with Prestigious Scholarships



Isaiah Butler Interview

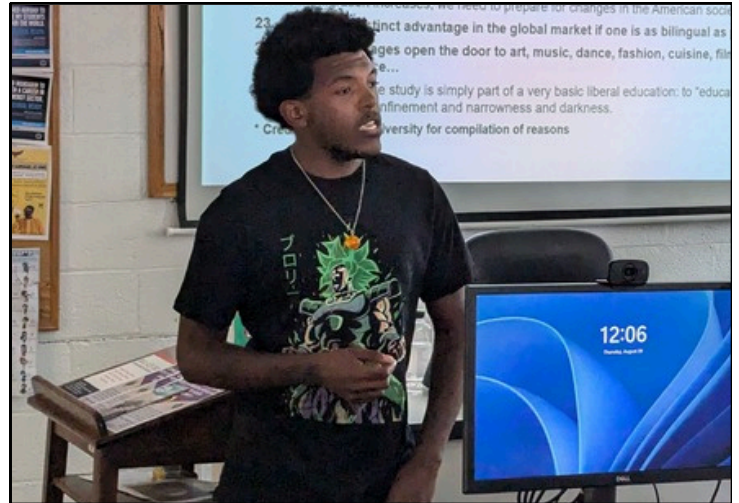
Isaiah Butler, a senior majoring in Hospitality and Tourism with a **Foreign Language Minor (Japanese)**, has been awarded prestigious scholarships this year and will be studying abroad at Toyo University in **Japan** for the Spring 2025 semester. Isaiah, the third UMES student to study abroad to Japan with scholarships, sat down with us to share his experiences, challenges, and exciting plans for the future.

Q1: Congratulations on being awarded the Gilman Award and the Freeman Asia Award! How does it feel to be UMES's third student to study abroad to Japan with scholarships?

Isaiah: Since coming to UMES two semesters ago, I have accomplished just about everything I've set out to do as far as language studies go. In High school, I made it my goal to one day travel to Japan, a nation I've been interested in for so very long, and now to finally be able to say that I'm going there soon is an amazing feeling. Not only has the journey been made easy with the help of my teachers and other staff, all of the hard work I put into learning the language and understanding the culture are paying off and I couldn't be happier.

Q2: What have been the most challenging experiences on your journey, and how did you overcome them?

Isaiah: I haven't faced many challenges on my journey of applying for scholarships, which honestly really speaks to the amount of support I've received during this process. I'd have to say the biggest challenge I've faced is managing my work, school, and life balance, which I overcame with time and plenty of planning. I know how to use my time much better now.



Isaiah Butler discusses the advantages of pursuing a foreign language minor with his peers at the 2024 Fall World Language Interest Meeting.

Q3: As a Foreign Language Minor, what benefits do you believe it offers? What have been the most rewarding aspects of being a foreign language minor?

Isaiah: I came to UMES looking to refine and eventually master my Japanese, so being a minor in the language shows my dedication to the art. I am given the benefit of being taken much more seriously than others when I'm applying for scholarships. More than what I would be if I was taking Japanese as a mere elective. I'd even go as far as to say that I'm seen as more credible when it comes to tutoring Japanese on campus.

Q4: Can you share your experience with Japanese tutoring? How did you get started, and what have you found most fulfilling about it?

Isaiah: Japanese tutoring is the most fun job I've ever had. I started last semester as a way to make money doing something that I enjoyed and it is one of the best decisions I've ever made. I go into every tutoring session looking forward to helping students understand the Japanese language. I love getting to work with other students and aiding in their pursuit of mastery. I see a bit of myself in everyone I teach because I remember when I was still learning the basics, and I pride myself on my ability to teach in a way that is understandable to all.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Isaiah Butler gives a presentation on the dish he prepared for guests at the Henson Center.

Q5: What are your plans for Japan? What excites you most about the trip?

Isaiah: I am set to travel next March and will be gone for 6 months while I attend Toyo university in Tokyo Japan, a prestigious private university. My goal for Japan is to go and immerse myself in the language and culture to finally gain mastery over my language skills. I want to go and indulge myself in all the aspects of culture I've only been able to see through books and television thus far. Two of the biggest things I look forward to meeting new people and trying out different foods while I'm there.

Q6: What are your long-term career or personal goals, and how do you plan to achieve them?

Isaiah: I want to one day fuse my experience in hospitality and my language proficiency to work in the travel field. Whether it be as a multilingual travel agent or a translator, I aim to learn many languages and unite the world with hospitality.

Q7: What advice would you give to future UMES students who aspire to follow a similar path?

Isaiah: To all future UMES students who look to follow a similar path to me, YOU CAN DO IT! I have accomplished all of this in just three semesters, just imagine all that you can achieve with more time than I had. UMES is full of opportunities, it's up to you to take advantage of as many as you can. Work hard, take risks, stand out, get to know people, and forge healthy relationships with your teachers. The sky is truly the limit!

Q8: Lastly, is there anything you'd like to share with your friends and family?

Isaiah: To my friends and family, THANK YOU for everything. I wouldn't be in the position I am in today without their loving care and support. I work hard, that's evident, but my work ethic is heavily spurred on by my desire to make the people around me proud. I will continue to work harder than ever to become a great leader.

EARN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE MINOR AND BECOME A GLOBAL CITIZEN!



HOW TO EARN THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE MINOR?

A total of 18 credit hours in one or more of the listed foreign languages must be completed in order to earn the Foreign Language Minor. When combining more than one language, the Minor requires students to complete at least one 200 level class in each language.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES OFFERED

- Arabic
- Hindi
- Portuguese
- Chinese
- Japanese
- Spanish
- French
- Korean
- Swahili

For additional information contact FLIC at flic@umes.edu or by calling **410-651-7595**

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Bridging Art, Culture, and Global Connections: A UMES Senior's Path to Success



ELISE JOHNSON

Elise Johnson, a senior majoring in Applied Design with a concentration in Graphic Illustration and a **Foreign Language Minor (Spanish)**, continues to make her mark at UMES! Known for her artistic talent and passion for cultural exploration, Elise recently displayed her latest work, "The Servant of La Catrina," at the Mosely Gallery's student exhibit from October 23 to November 3, 2024.

About her exhibit piece, Elise explained: *"When the show was advertised in September by the Envision Art Club, I already had a sense of what I wanted to do. While I am not of Hispanic origin, I had a basic understanding of Dias de Los Muertos. With the help of others and personal research, and in the paintings where the eyes appear to follow you, I found my inspiration. I hope it does show my appreciation of the culture".*

In addition to her contributions to the art world, Elise is a passionate traveler and language enthusiast. She has participated in several faculty-led study-abroad trips, starting with a journey to the Dominican Republic through the Honors Program. She later spent a summer in Spain and, most recently, traveled to Ghana in January 2024 through the Honors/Pharmacy joint faculty-led program. Elise also plans to study abroad in Italy and Colombia this Spring and Summer 2025 as part of her last semester on campus prior to graduating.



Elise stands next to her acrylic artwork "The Servant of La Catrina"

Reflecting on her travel experiences, she shared, *"Every time I travel, I'm scared of the unknown. You have to be a little uncomfortable - to do something, like ask for directions. Immersing yourself in the culture helps you to try to speak the language. Strangers, even if you make a mistake, are accepting of you, and you can communicate. I start to relax and enjoy myself, to grow more confident. I am very grateful to my instructors."*

Elise's talent was also spotlighted in a recent video on the UMES homepage, where she was featured in a close-up, painting a portrait. Her dedication to her craft and her adventurous spirit continue to inspire those around her.

Soar on, Elise Johnson!



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



01

ESU USA LUARD MORSE SCHOLARSHIP

ESU
USA



✓ APPLY NOW

➔ <https://legacy.esuus.org/esu/programs/luardmorsescholarships/howtoapply/>

For further information, please contact auhl@esuus.org

- Spending a semester abroad at a British University
- Open to sophomore HBCU students pursuing a degree in any major
- Benefits: Up to \$25,000 towards tuition, program deposit, airfare, room and board for a semester during the junior year
- 3.0 GPA minimum
- Must be U.S. citizen

**2025–2026 Program Application Deadline:
Friday, December 6, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. ET.**

02

MIDDLEBURY LANGUAGE SCHOOLS



Middlebury
Language Schools



✓ APPLY NOW

➔ https://middlebury.my.site.com/application/tx_communityeshome

For summer 2025, the Middlebury Language Schools will continue to offer scholarships for students enrolled at HBCUs.

- Meet all requirements for Language School admission
- The scholarship covers the total fee (tuition, room & board) for one summer of any language
- Be currently enrolled full-time at a HBCU
- U.S. citizens and international students

**2025 Application Deadline:
Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. ET.**

For further information, please contact lfellowships@middlebury.edu

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



03

THE WHITE HOUSE FELLOWSHIP



✓ APPLY NOW

➔ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/get-involved/fellows/apply/>

For further information, please contact whitehousefellows@who.eop.gov

- The White House Fellows Program office processes the applications
- Former Fellows screen the applications to identify the most promising candidates
- Candidates are interviewed by eight to ten regional panels, which are composed of prominent local citizens
- Chosen candidates then proceed to Selection Weekend for the final round of interviews
- Must be U.S. citizens
- Must have completed their undergraduate education
- Applicants will be asked to submit the names and email addresses of three recommenders

**2025–2026 Application Deadline:
Friday, January 3, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. ET.**

04

BOREN AWARDS



✓ APPLY NOW

➔ <https://www.borenawards.org/apply-now>

For further information, please contact boren@iie.org

- Offers study abroad opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students committed to pursuing a career in U.S. government services
- Boren Scholars and Fellows study a wide range of critical languages, including Arabic, Chinese, Portuguese, and Swahili
- Non-citizen of destination country (Africa, Asia, Eurasia, Latin America and the Middle East)
- For all undergraduate/graduate levels
- No minimum GPA required
- Criteria: Must be a U.S. citizen

**Boren Scholarships for Undergraduate Student
Deadline:
Wednesday January 29,
2025 at 5 p.m. ET.**

**Boren Fellowships for Graduate Student
Deadline:
Wednesday January 22,
2025 at 5 p.m. ET.**

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



05

FOREIGN AFFAIRS IT FELLOWSHIP

FOREIGN AFFAIRS IT
Fellowship

The U.S. Department of State is seeking to attract top technology talent to Foreign Affairs Service that reflects the diversity of the United States.



- Must be enrolled, or planning to enroll, in a full-time IT-related bachelor's or master's degree program
- Benefits: \$43,500 annually (for two years) in academic funding for tuition, room and board, books, mandatory fees and some travel expenses
- Stipends, housing and travel allowances for the two summer internships.
- Hold a cumulative 3.2 GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Must be a U.S. Citizen

APPLY NOW

➔ <https://www.faitfellowship.org/how-to-apply/>

For further information, please contact FAITFellowship@twc.edu

2025 Program Application Deadline:
Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. EST.

06

TOSHIZO WATANABE STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP

U.S.-JAPAN
COUNCIL

The Toshizo Watanabe Endowed Scholarship Fund provides financial assistance to Japanese and American undergraduate and graduate students pursuing study abroad program or international study in either the United States or Japan.



- Must be a U.S citizen or permanent resident
- Currently in good academic standing at an accredited university in the U.S.
- Will be enrolled in a credit-bearing course of study at an approved academic center in Japan in the upcoming academic year
- Demonstrate financial need for international study

APPLY NOW

➔ <https://www.usjapancouncil.org/watanabe-scholarship/>

2025 -2026 Application Deadline:
February, 2025 DATE TBD

For further information, please contact WatanabeScholarship@usjapancouncil.org

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



07

PHI KAPPA PHI STUDY ABROAD GRANT



Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Grants are designed to help support undergraduates as they seek knowledge and experience in their academic fields by studying abroad. Seventy-five \$1,000 grants are awarded each year.

- Undergraduate attending an institution with an active Phi Kappa Phi chapter
- Cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher
- Study abroad program begins between May 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026
- Applied to or been accepted into an accredited study abroad program before the session deadline
- Transcripts are required for each academic institution granting credit hours

✓ APPLY NOW

➔ <https://apply.phikappaphi.org/Awards/>

2025 Application Deadline:
March 15, 2025

For further information, please contact awards@phikappaphi.org

08

STEPHEN FEINBERG SCHOLARSHIP



Congressional
Black Caucus
Foundation



- Open to African-American and Black scholars who are pursuing a graduate or doctoral degree
- Selected recipients will receive a one-time award in the amount of \$20,000.
- Have a minimum 3.0 GPA on 4.0 scale
- Exhibit leadership and be active in community
- All disciplines welcome

✓ APPLY NOW

➔ <https://www.cbcfinc.org/programs/scholarships>

For further information, please contact info@cbcfinc.org

August 2025–September 2026 Cohort Deadline:
April 2025, Date TBD



FREEMAN-ASIA PROGRAM



The Freeman-Asia program is designed to support U.S.-based undergraduates with demonstrated financial need who are planning to study abroad in East or Southeast Asia.

- Must currently receive need-based financial aid or demonstrate a verifiable need for financial assistance
- An undergraduate student with a minimum GPA of 2.8
- Must have applied or have been accepted to a study abroad based program in: Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Macao, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam.
- Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident

APPLY NOW

<https://www.iie.org/programs/freeman-asia/apply/>

For further information, please contact Freeman-ASIA@iie.org.

2025 Program Application Deadline:
April, 2025, Date TBD

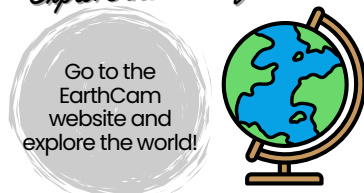
Do you know **how many countries** are available for UMES students to study abroad?

Countries Available for Study Abroad in 2024-2025

Over **50**

Check out the live webcams to find the location where you'd like to study abroad.

Explore the world from home



<https://www.earthcam.com>



For any study abroad, global learning, international scholarship opportunities or world language learning, please contact: oiss@umes.edu