

NEWSLETTER



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
EASTERN SHORE



Take Your 2026 Global Journey with Faculty-Led Study Abroad Programs

UMES faculty-led study abroad trips are back and better than ever for 2026! Eight exciting trips are ready for Hawks who are ready to explore the world, experience new cultures, and visit popular destinations with UMES faculty. Check page 4 for upcoming trips, dates, and details.



Faculty and students from UMES Kinesiology at the Parthenon, Athens, **Greece**.



Dr. George Ojje-Ahamiojie with Hospitality students in front of the Leaning Tower of Pisa, **Italy**.



UMES Pharmacy faculty and students visiting Cape Coast Castle, **Ghana**.

Welcome University of Lorraine French Students to UMES!

We're excited to welcome students from the University of Lorraine (UL) in France to our campus this spring. Learn more on page 8.

Hawk Soars After Study Abroad in Japan to the UN

Isaiah Butler, a senior majoring in Hospitality and Tourism with a Japanese minor, transformed his study abroad experience in Japan into a United Nations internship. See page 11 for his story.



Isaiah Butler shaking hands with Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations from Nigeria, during his internship.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Hawk Family,

Spring is one of my favorite seasons at UMES, from the excitement of commencement to the variety of flowers and trees in bloom across campus.

This issue of Global Opportunities features some of the dynamic global learning programs at UMES and some of the incredible student achievements.

Global pathways allow students to discover and explore a vast world full of opportunities and challenges. UMES' global learning programs span from East Asia to Africa to Europe and South America. We continue to work on creating new and lasting partnerships with universities that share our vision of creating a better world. These areas include Japan, South Korea, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Southwest Oceanic region.

We celebrate this landmark year as we endeavor to create transformative opportunities for every Hawk that expand beyond the continental United States of America.



Phillip Broussard

Global Opportunities Director
Lecturer
University of Maryland Eastern Shore

2026's First Hawks Abroad: UMES Faculty-Led Trip to Italy



The first UMES faculty-led study trip of 2026 officially kicked off this January. Seven UMES students joined a faculty-led study abroad program at our host institution, Florence University of the Arts (FUA) in Italy, under the guidance of Dr. George Ojie-Ahamiojie, Associate Professor of Hospitality & Tourism Management.



Students pose together upon arriving in Rome, Italy.

Over two weeks, students participated in experiential learning activities as part of the Event Planning and Management course (HMGT 308, 3 credits). Through in-class experiences led by FUA faculty, along with academic site visits and structured observations, students explored Italian hospitality practices and cultural expectations in event planning and management. Students also visited key cultural landmarks, including the Leonardo da Vinci Interactive Museum and the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

This Italy trip created lasting memories for the students, providing direct experience in European hospitality operations and equipping them with real-world skills for their future careers in hospitality and tourism.



Students and Dr. George Ojie-Ahamiojie pose in front of sculptures at the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy.



Students and Dr. George Ojie-Ahamiojie take group photos at Piazzale Michelangelo in Florence (left) and in front of the Leaning Tower of Pisa (right).



Students visit a local restaurant to experience Italian hospitality firsthand and pose for a photo before enjoying their meal.

How many different countries can UMES students choose from for study abroad?

Over **50**!

Reach out to us today at oiss@umes.edu or call 410-651-8385 and let's make your study abroad dreams come true!

Countries Available for Study Abroad in 2026





2026 FACULTY-LED STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS



Italy

January 5 – 19

Hosted by the Dept. of Hospitality & Tourism Management



Spain

March 12 – 22

Hosted by the Dept. of English & Modern Languages' Foreign Language Instructional Center (FLIC)



Italy

May 4 – 11

Hosted by the Dept. of Criminal Justice



Japan

May 18 – 26

Jointly hosted by the Depts. of Hospitality & Tourism Management and Kinesiology



Virgin Islands

June 1 – 22

Hosted by the Dept. of Early Childhood Education

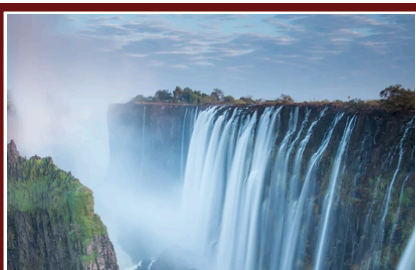
**Deposit Deadline Extended
Friday, February 6**



Greece

June 25 – July 5

Hosted by the Dept. of Kinesiology



Zambia

June 6-19

Hosted by the Dept. of Hospitality & Tourism Management

**Deposit Deadline Extended
Friday, February 6**



Colombia

June 30 – July 24

Hosted by the Dept. of English & Modern Languages' Foreign Language Instructional Center (FLIC)

**Deposit Deadline Extended
Friday, February 6**



If you have any questions about studying abroad, please feel free to email us at oiss@umes.edu or call **410-651-8385**.

Start your study abroad adventure today!



UMES GLOBAL UPDATE AND HIGHLIGHTS



Students enjoy refreshments and conversation during the International Student Networking Events.



Kwaku Bonsu from the Student Apartments office poses with the flag of his home country, Ghana.

International Student Networking Event

Connecting with international students is always a joy! On Monday, September 29, the Center for International Education (CIE) hosted another International Student Networking event. Faculty and International students stopped by the center between classes to share their experiences and enjoy light refreshments. Students also brought out their country flags and took photos for a truly interactive event.

Faculty Visitors from Tokyo University of Agriculture

Two professors from Tokyo University of Agriculture, Dr. Rika Terano and Dr. Mami Irie, visited the Center with Dr. Erinn Tucker-Oluwole, Chair of Hospitality and Tourism Management, on Tuesday, November 11.

During the visit, the professors introduced their university and academic programs and discussed ways to collaborate in research as well as in student and faculty exchanges moving forward. The discussion focused on initiatives like short-term study abroad programs and joint academic projects connecting students across campuses.

Everyone left the meeting excited about more opportunities for international collaboration and cultural exchange.



From left: Prof. Phillip Broussard, Director of the Center for International Education, Dr. Hanna Kang, ESL Program Coordinator, Dr. Erinn Tucker-Oluwole, Chair of Hospitality and Tourism Management, and Dr. Rika Terano and Dr. Mami Irie from Tokyo University of Agriculture.



From left: Dr. Rika Terano, Tokyo University of Agriculture, Dr. Hanna Kang, ESL Program Coordinator, Prof. Phillip Broussard, Director of the Center for International Education, Dr. Mami Irie, Tokyo University of Agriculture, and Dr. Erinn Tucker-Oluwole, Chair of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

UMES GLOBAL UPDATE AND HIGHLIGHTS

World Languages & Cultures Table

The Foreign Language Instructional Center (FLIC) and the Center for International Education (CIE) successfully concluded the World Languages and Cultures Table series. Throughout the 2025 fall semester, UMES language instructors hosted tables in eight different languages: Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, Hindi, and French.

At each session, small groups of students met at the CIE building to practice everyday phrases and learn about the cultures and traditions behind the languages through fun activities.



Professor Archana Gupta (Hindi Instructor) and students practice Hindi expressions at the Language Table.



A student learns Chinese characters through calligraphy with Professor Qicheng Liu (Chinese instructor) at the Language Table.



Mr. Karl Jacobs from AIFS presents AIFS's study abroad programs during a Korean class.



Kayden Battle, a Bio/Pre-Med major, asks AIFS representative Ms. Kory Saunders about study abroad programs at the AIFS table.

CIE & Partners Study Abroad Events

On September 25, CIE and the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS) hosted a study abroad table at the SSC Rotunda and met with students to share information about global programs and scholarship opportunities. Mr. Karl Jacobs, an AIFS representative, also visited classes to introduce AIFS's global learning programs.

A few days later, on September 30, CIE partnered with the Knowledge Exchange Institute (KEI) at the same location, engaging with students and highlighting its programs, global internships, and study abroad opportunities.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK



International Education Week (November 17–21) was successfully celebrated at UMES with events highlighting global learning and study abroad opportunities. With a heartfelt message from President Dr. Heidi M. Anderson emphasizing the importance of this educational week, the Office of Global Opportunities hosted activities throughout the week. Here's what happened!

SAI STUDY ABROAD DAY



Jada Brown, a junior in Digital Media, asks about study abroad locations. From left: Jada Brown; Somuadina Egbulam, a senior in Computer Science and CIE student worker; and Ralph Papillon, SAI Academic Relations Manager.

SAI, one of CIE's study abroad partners, visited the UMES campus on Thursday, November 20 during International Education Week.

Ralph Papillon, SAI Academic Relations Manager, met UMES students at the SSC Rotunda and shared worldwide study abroad and global internship opportunities with a focus on Italy, Spain, and France.

More than 20 students visited the SAI table, asked questions, and explored various study abroad and internship options.



Sydney Dixon, a sophomore in Pre-Vet, asks about courses at SAI Study Abroad Day.

BOREN VISIT TO UMES



Mr. Michael Saffle, a Boren Awards representative, introduces the Boren Scholarships to UMES students at the SSC.

Michael Saffle, a representative of the Boren Awards, traveled to campus to meet with students on November 18, 2025.

He held two sessions in the SSC Multipurpose Room and Wilson Hall, introducing the Boren Awards and encouraging students to apply for this study abroad scholarship.

Attendees showed strong interest in the scholarship, which offers the chance to learn a language, experience a foreign culture, and gain a deeper appreciation for the world.



BOREN AWARDS DEADLINES APPROACHING!

- **Undergrad Scholarships: Jan 28 (\$25K max)**
- **Graduate Fellowship: Jan 21 (\$30K max)**

U.S. citizens from ANY major can apply!
Study abroad to learn critical languages and serve national security.

Need help or have questions? Email us at oiss@umes.edu or call **410-651-8385**

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SPRING 2026

French Exchange Students Join UMES for Spring 2026



UL building, image source: <https://www.univ-lorraine.fr/en/univ-lorraine/>

UMES is excited to welcome exchange students from the University of Lorraine in France.

During the spring 2026 semester, four students - Yanis Choucha (junior), Nathan Millot (Sophomore), Flavy Seminara (junior), and Elliott Wagner (junior) - will take courses in the Business Department, experience life on campus and explore American culture.

Each month, they will go on field trips to Ocean City, Washington, D.C., and other destinations, making meaningful memories along the way.

If you see them around campus, say hello and give them a warm welcome!

International Student Networking Event

The Office of Global Opportunities will host another International Student Networking Event on **March 4th** from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the CIE Building.

This event brings together UMES students from around the world to share experiences, exchange tips on campus life, and make new friends. It's a great chance to strengthen connections among international students and celebrate the diversity of our campus community.

Grab some refreshments and connect with fellow international students! Everyone is invited!



Albert Oforu, who participated in a faculty-led trip to Denmark in 2024, shares his experiences with fellow international students during the 2025 networking event.



From left: Riannalee Ellis of Jamaica, Saron Getachew of Ethiopia, and Assel Awad of Sudan attended the 2025 networking event, holding their country flags in front of the CIE Building.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SPRING 2026

World Languages & Cultures Interest Meeting

The first World Languages and Cultures Interest Meeting of 2026 will take place on **January 29 at 11:30 AM** in Wilson Hall, Room 2113.

At this meeting, students will have the chance to meet UMES foreign language instructors and learn about the benefits of studying a new language and pursuing a foreign language minor. Students will also learn about prestigious international scholarships and a variety of global opportunities, as well as hear stories from other students about their own global experiences.

All UMES students, faculty, and members of the surrounding community are welcome to join!



Dr. Carole Champagne, Portuguese instructor, discusses faculty-led study abroad programs during the fall 2025 Interest Meeting.



Elise Johnson, a Spanish language minor and UMES alumna (Class of 2025) shares her study abroad experiences at Middlebury Language Schools during the fall 2025 meeting.

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
- ESOL

For additional information contact FLIC at flic@umes.edu or by calling **410-651-8385**.

FUN FACTS

Did you know that there was a U.S. President who spoke Mandarin Chinese?



HERBERT HOOVER
(1929-1933)

Herbert Hoover spoke English, Latin, and even a bit of Mandarin!

He may not have been fluent, but he spent two years living in Asia before becoming the 31st President of the United States!

Follow us on **social media** to stay updated on our events and global learning opportunities!



Global Opportunities_UMES



CI EatUMES



CI EatUMES



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



Podcasts That Take You Places

lonely planet



Discover new places, dream about future trips, and plan your bucket-list adventures with travel podcasts curated by Lonely Planet.



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



Hawks' Stories in Foreign Language Learning and Faculty-Led Travel

A'nia Dagold

A'nia Dagold, a sophomore majoring in Fashion Design with a foreign language minor (Korean & French), has pursued her passion for languages and global cultures. She shared her story as a polyglot and her experiences in language learning.

Q: You speak several languages! What first sparked your passion for learning them, and what inspired you to pursue a Foreign Language minor?

A'nia: Yes, I speak French, English, Korean, and Chinese. My love for travel, which runs in my family, inspired me to learn languages so I could communicate with people in the countries I visit. I also enjoy watching dramas and shows without subtitles, and, most importantly, I want to be able to connect with people from all around the world.



A'nia Dagold, a sophomore in Fashion Design with minors in Korean and French, smiles as she talks about her language learning journey.

Q: What are the benefits of having a Foreign Language minor, and how do you see it impacting your future career?

A'nia: I think it's best to build international connections in business. If you know more languages, you can collaborate with people from all over the world. For me, learning French has been helpful since I am studying fashion, and Paris is, of course, the fashion capital! Korean is more of a personal choice. I love exploring the culture and finding inspiration that I can bring into my major.

Nionna Miller



Nionna Miller posing in front of the center beside the Hungarian flag.

Nionna Miller, a Criminal Justice major in the Class of 2025, is currently pursuing teaching and early childhood education. She's an alum of our faculty-led Zambia summer course in 2025 and is excited to share her experiences with us.

During the study abroad program, Nionna said she learned how to have more patience, especially with things she didn't know or wasn't aware of in Zambia. She found inspiration in the people, culture, schools, food, and language, and said it helped show her how she wanted to live in the future. For example, while visiting a college, she found the people uplifting, and helped the group learn about Zambia, while being very kind and warm. They were full of knowledge and eager to see the group and talk to them and share an experience together.

When asked what advice she would give to students preparing for study abroad, her face brightened. "Just come with confidence, Trust yourself, and know that everything is not going to be the same as what you are used to where you are going. You have to be willing to be uncomfortable. Then you do everything you can to become comfortable. This unlocks a lot of levels in life."

Nionna would like to thank CIE, and Dr. Ojie-Ahamiojie for his leadership. She also appreciates all the people she was able to build a bond with on this trip and share this opportunity.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Hawk Soars After Study Abroad in Japan to the UN

Isaiah Butler



Isaiah Butler, a senior majoring in Hospitality and Tourism with a foreign language minor (Japanese), earned a scholarship to study abroad at Toyo University last year. Now he is taking his talents to the global stage as an intern at the United Nations. Let's dive into Isaiah's exciting journey!



Isaiah Butler posing at the United Nations General Assembly Hall.

Q1: How did you learn about the UN internship and what motivated you to apply?

Isaiah: A year ago, I attended a United Nations seminar on campus where I met the guest speaker, Troy Wolfe. At this event, he spoke about the United Nations and its importance around the world. He emphasized that the UN seeks bright new ideas and voices to help change the world for the better. His message really resonated with me and afterwards we exchanged contact information.

Q2: You studied abroad at Toyo University in Japan last year. How did that experience help you in your UN career?

Isaiah: During my time in Japan, I learned how to speak Japanese much better, but on top of this, my conversational and leadership skills improved greatly. As I was forced to use my Japanese to get around, I learned that no conversation could be too awkward in the pursuit of knowledge. With every interaction, my confidence grew. I grew as a person in mind and body by conquering the unknown of a foreign nation all by myself. I didn't just live in Japan, I thrived. The growth and self-discovery I experienced there truly prepared me for my internship at the United Nations.



Isaiah Butler collaborates with peers during his internship at the United Nations in New York City.

Q3: What was the most memorable task/project you worked on with the United Nations?

Isaiah: My most memorable task here was creating an onboarding program from scratch for the youth department. Before me, they didn't have one. When I joined, I was dropped straight into the madness of working on the General Assembly. From now into the foreseeable future there will always be a part of me here in the youth office. I'm happy I am able to leave such a big mark.

Q4: What's your future plans?

Isaiah: I plan to complete my bachelor's degree this spring and then pursue graduate studies abroad, where I'll officially begin learning Korean and Mandarin. After that, I plan to return to the United Nations more equipped than ever.

UMES-UNA CHAPTER

Did you know that **UMES has a United Nations Association (UNA) chapter?**

The UMES-UNA chapter aims to expand global awareness and cultural understanding while encouraging UMES students to engage with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across all majors and career paths.

We look forward to students taking advantage of this exciting opportunity to lead and grow on the global stage!

For more information, please contact the president of the UMES UNA Chapter, Fiyi Oladapo (maoladapo@umes.edu), or email oiss@umes.edu.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



01

BOREN AWARDS



✓ APPLY NOW

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

- Offers study abroad opportunities for undergraduate & 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 is required
- Must be a U.S. citizen

**Boren Scholarships for Undergraduate Student
Deadline:**

Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 5 p.m. ET.

**Boren Fellowships for Graduate Student
Deadline:**

Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 5 p.m. ET.

For further information, please contact boren@iie.org

02

TOSHIZO WATANABE STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP



✓ APPLY NOW

<https://usjapancouncil.embarc.com/login/apply?target=scholarship-2026>

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
- Must demonstrate financial need for international study

**2026 Application Deadline:
Monday, February 23, 2026 at 5 p.m. ET.**

For further information, please contact WatanabeScholarship@usjapancouncil.org

For any scholarship-related questions, please reach out to oiss.umes.edu

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

03

PHI KAPPA PHI STUDY ABROAD GRANT



[APPLY NOW](#)

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

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.

- An undergraduate attending an institution with an active Phi Kappa Phi chapter
- Cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher
- 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

2026-2027 Application Deadline:
Monday, March 16, 2026 at 12:59 a.m. ET
(March 15, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. CT)

For further information, please contact awards@phikappaphi.org

04

FREEMAN-ASIA PROGRAM



[APPLY NOW](#)

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

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, or Vietnam
- Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident

2026-2027 Program Application Deadline:
February, 2026, Date TBD

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

For any scholarship-related questions, please reach out to oiss.umes.edu

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



05

FUND FOR EDUCATION ABROAD



APPLY NOW

https://fundforeducationabroad.scholarships.ngwebsolutions.com/CMXAdmin/Cmx_Content.aspx?cpld=1803

The Fund for Education Abroad (FEA) is a U.S.-based non-profit organization that provides scholarships to students from underrepresented backgrounds who want to study abroad. Awards are valued at \$1,000 - \$5,000.

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or DACA recipient
- Be currently enrolled as an undergraduate at a college or university in the U.S.
- Be receiving credit at your home institution for the study abroad program

The Summer/Fall 2026 and Academic Year 2026-2027 Application Deadline:

Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. ET

For further information, please contact fea@fundforeducationabroad.org

06

BRIDGING SCHOLARSHIP



APPLY NOW

<https://www.bridgingfoundation.org/scholarships>

The Bridging Scholarship is a life-changing opportunity to study abroad in Japan in a credit-bearing semester or academic-year program. Each year, approximately 70-100 U.S. undergraduate students who demonstrate academic merit and financial need are selected as Bridging Scholars.

- Must complete a semester (3+ months) or academic-year program in Japan with transferable credits to their U.S. home campus
- Must be a U.S. citizen enrolled as an undergraduate at a college or university in the U.S.
- Student majoring in any field of study
- Japanese language study is not a prerequisite
- Semester scholarship: \$ 2,500 cash stipend; Academic-year scholarship: \$4,500 cash stipend

2026-2027 Program Application Deadline:
Sunday, March 15, 2026

For further information, please contact studyabroad@aatj.org

For any scholarship-related questions, please reach out to oiss.umes.edu