

# NEWSLETTER



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND  
EASTERN SHORE



## Hawks Soar in Spain Through Faculty-Led Study Abroad



Dr. Carole Champagne and students pose in front of Plaza de España in Sevilla, Spain.

The second UMES faculty-led study abroad program successfully completed its trip to Spain during spring break. See page 5 for highlights.

## French Students' Journey at UMES and Beyond



UMES and French students during a field trip to Washington, D.C.

French exchange students share a memorable semester at UMES, experiencing American culture and academic life. See page 8 for the full story.

## UMES Student Earns Major National Scholarship



UMES senior Isiah Butler discusses his scholarship experience at Wilson Hall.

**Isiah Butler**, a senior hospitality and tourism major with a foreign language minor in Japanese, has earned a prestigious federal Boren scholarship. Read about his experience on page 10.

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# **FROM THE DIRECTOR**

Dear Hawk Family,

Each year the Global UMES team endeavors to improve, grow, and develop our international programs at UMES. The development of new programs while enhancing our existing programs contributes to better student experiences abroad and more access to global opportunities for our campus community. Global learning programs contribute to a more peaceful and prosperous future for UMES, the United States, and the world. We continue our efforts to build relationships between people and develop the knowledge and capacity to collectively address local and global challenges.

International education and student mobility are vital to U.S. economic prosperity and national security. The robust exchange of students, researchers, scholars, and educators, along with broader international education efforts between UMES and other institutes of higher education around the world, strengthens relationships between current and future leaders.

UMES' revamped global engagement and emphasis on global learning signifies a deep commitment to advancing the university's internationalization efforts. We hope that over time members of the UMES community will be able to navigate a variety of cultural and political environments resulting in empathetic and inquisitive individuals who are educated in cross-cultural contexts and have the yearning and ability to collaborate.

I invite you to join me in celebrating our international engagement and in taking pride in the many ways it strengthens UMES and the world beyond.

Hawk Pride!



**Phillip Broussard**

Global Opportunities Director  
Lecturer  
University of Maryland Eastern Shore

# GLOBAL Highlights



UMES Provost Dr. Rondall E. Allen, left, and BBUC President Dr. Theresa Adderley-Smith, right, sign a memorandum of understanding between the two institutions.

## UMES Expands Global Reach through Bahamas Partnership

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) has partnered with Bahamas Baptist University College (BBUC) to create a streamlined academic pathway for students.

On February 3, UMES Provost Dr. Rondall E. Allen and BBUC President Dr. Theresa Adderley-Smith signed a memorandum of understanding.

The agreement allows students to start undergraduate studies in the Bahamas before transferring to UMES to finish their degrees. The partnership also creates pre-pharmacy pathways and takes certain UMES courses to the BBUC campus.

## Enhancing Global Arts Education with Florence University of the Arts

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) recently signed a memorandum of understanding with Florence University of the Arts (FUA) in Florence, Italy. The partnership comes on the heels of continued student and faculty interest in the region.

UMES student and art major Nayani Lewis was inspired by her first trip to Italy in 2024 as part of a program led by art gallery director Mehves Lelic. Lewis was determined to return and spend a full semester learning more.

This year, Hospitality and Tourism Management professor George Ojie-Ahamiojie led a faculty-led trip to Florence. FUA hosted the UMES group and co-instructed a course on hospitality and event planning.

The partnership will allow UMES and FUA to broaden cooperation between the two universities while providing greater access to study abroad opportunities for both campuses.



Art major Nayani Lewis shares highlights from her Italy study abroad trip with HBCU Week Now.



Dr. George Ojie-Ahamiojie and UMES students pose for a photo at the entrance of the Florence University of the Arts building in Florence, Italy.

# UMES Opens New Global Window with USAID Book Donation



UMES Library Director Sharon D. Brooks, left, and USAID Alumni Association Co-Chair Dr. Tony Chan, right, present a collection of donated books.

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore library has received a collection of international fiction from the Lucas-Kennedy Foundation and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Alumni Association.

"We are pleased to share this collection for the benefit of UMES students," said Dr. Tony Chan, co-chair of the USAID Alumni Association.

The collection includes books from nearly every region served by USAID, originally used by staff to prepare for overseas service. These resources are now intended to empower UMES students pursuing interests in international affairs and global careers.



## UMES and Lucas-Kennedy Foundation Launch Global Mentoring Program



The University of Maryland Eastern Shore and the Lucas-Kennedy Foundation have announced a joint global mentoring program designed to advance shared missions of leadership and education.

The program connects UMES students with global professionals and development practitioners across the U.S. and Africa and provides career guidance and exposure to global networks.

Following the April 20 application deadline, six "global-minded" UMES students have been selected to begin their mentoring journey next semester.

Over one year, the students will engage with diverse global professionals to develop the leadership skills necessary to impact communities and the world.

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



Over **50**!

Reach out to us today at [oiss@umes.edu](mailto:oiss@umes.edu) or call 410-651-8386 and let's make your study abroad dreams come true!

### Countries Available for Study Abroad in 2026



# 2026's Hawks Abroad

## UMES Faculty-Led Trip to Spain



Ten University of Maryland Eastern Shore students went global this spring break, spending 11 days in Spain for an unforgettable faculty-led study abroad experience.

This program, led by Dr. Carole Champagne from the Department of English and Modern Languages, was UMES's second faculty-led trip of 2026, following Dr. Ojie-Ahamiojie's successful study abroad trip in Italy.

Students immersed themselves in Spanish language and culture in Madrid and Seville through language and culture classes at the Paraninfo Institute and visits to Spain's most iconic landmarks, including Plaza de Cibeles and Monumento a Cervantes.

In Seville, they explored the historic Santa Cruz District, the Royal Alcázar gardens, and the Murillo and María Luisa botanical gardens.

All students returned home inspired and eager to continue their global learning journey, with many saying the trip made Spanish language and culture come alive in ways the classroom could not.



Students gather on the Guadalquivir River bridge in Seville.



Students and Dr. Champagne at the Monumento a Cervantes in Madrid.



A student reaches out to touch a royal guard's horse at Palacio Real in Madrid.



Students and Dr. Champagne pose in front of Plaza de España in Seville.

# UMES GLOBAL UPDATE AND HIGHLIGHTS



UMES International students pose with the flag of their home country, Nepal.

## International Student Networking Event

The first International Student Networking event of 2026 was held March 4 at the Center for International Education (CIE). Nearly 30 international graduate and undergraduate Hawks attended the event. It was the best turnout for the event in recent years.

“It’s very good for international students to mingle and get to know each other,” said Yanis Choucha, a junior accounting major and French exchange student. “We don’t have many chances to meet and talk about our cultures, and this event is perfect for that.”

Students shared stories from their home countries, enjoyed food, and took photos with their national flags.



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

## Study Abroad Day

Study Abroad Day took place at the Student Services Center (SSC) Rotunda on March 26 to bring global study and internship opportunities to UMES campus. Hosted by the Center for International Education (CIE), the event offered UMES students a chance to learn about their options one-on-one with CIE’s partner study abroad organizations.

Many students stopped by the event that day to explore programs available around the world and take the first step toward global learning opportunities.



A student learns about study abroad programs from Craig Jefferson, International Studies Abroad (ISA) senior regional director, during Study Abroad Day in the SSC Rotunda.



Ralph Papillon, an academic relations manager with SAI Programs, a study abroad organization, introduces study abroad programs to a student during Study Abroad Day.

# UMES GLOBAL UPDATE AND HIGHLIGHTS

## The Art of East Asian Calligraphy



Students in Japanese, Korean, and Chinese language classes hold their work for a group photo in Wilson Hall.

The East Asian calligraphy session was held April 7 in Wilson Hall. Language students of Japanese, Korean, and Chinese came together to learn about the history of calligraphy and had the chance to discover a captivating ancient visual art form through the practice of traditional brush writing.



Professor Youngmi Kim, a Korean instructor, left, and Professor Qicheng Liu, a Chinese instructor, right, guide students in calligraphy practice.

"It's my second time attending the session, and I enjoy it every time," said A'nia Dagold, a junior fashion major. "I wish we could have more cultural and hands-on events like this."

The event highlighted the value of uniting Japanese, Korean, and Chinese students under a shared East Asian cultural experience and provided a meaningful learning opportunity.



Professor Hanna Kang, a Korean instructor, and students pose in Hanbok, traditional Korean clothing, at the Korean language table.



Professor Archana Gupta, a Hindi instructor, explains Hindi letters to students at the Hindi language table.

## World Language and Culture Tables

The Department of English and Modern Languages was hosting an annual festival from April 20 to April 24. As part of the event, Korean and Hindi language and culture tables were featured among the sessions, held in the EASC building.

On April 21, students visiting the Korean table explored K-pop culture, learned basic language expressions, and played traditional Korean games. On April 22, the Hindi table offered students the opportunity to learn basic Hindi and experience henna art.

The event drew strong student participation and highlighted the success of the department's world language sessions.

# From France to UMES for Campus Life and New Adventures

This spring, four exchange students from the University of Lorraine (UL) are bringing an international presence to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Three juniors, Yanis Choucha, Elliott Wagner and Flavy Seminara and sophomore Nathan Millot, are spending the Spring 2026 semester on campus, becoming the first group of international exchange students in UMES's nearly 140-year history.

The four students majoring in accounting, finance and marketing are adjusting to both academic life and campus culture in Princess Anne.

"Being in a new country and not knowing anyone can be a scary and stressful situation," Millot said. "But during my time at UMES, people have been welcoming."

Outside the classroom, the students have explored American history and culture through a range of activities. In February, they visited the Harriet Tubman Museum and Educational Center in Cambridge, Maryland, where they learned about African American history and Tubman's legacy. In March, they traveled to Washington, D.C., toured the National Museum of African American History and Culture and enjoyed the cherry blossoms.

The momentum continued on April 21, when professor Bjorn Wallister from UL visited UMES. During his visit, Wallister met with the four exchange students and UMES faculty to strengthen institutional ties and discuss future collaboration.

"Hosting the exchange students is a vital step in expanding UMES's global footprint and reinforces our mission as a globally engaged HBCU," said Phillip Broussard, Director of the Center for International Education. "We want to give students a chance to have global experiences they can remember for the rest of their lives."



French exchange students and UMES students pose in front of a Harriet Tubman mural in Cambridge, Maryland, during a February visit.



Students dine inside the National Museum of African American History and Culture after touring the museum in Washington, D.C.



French and UMES students and Phillip Broussard, Director of the Center for International Education, pose with the French flag.



Professor Bjorn Wallister of the University of Lorraine and UMES faculty pose with French exchange students following a meeting on campus, April 21.



Students pose with the Washington Monument in the background during a visit to Washington, D.C.

# FUN FACT

## HOW DO PEOPLE ACROSS THE WORLD SPEND THEIR TIME?



How different is your day from the day of someone across the world? From work to rest to social life, daily routines vary more than you think!

**Explore** how people spend their time and why it matters!

SCAN ME



<https://ourworldindata.org/time-with-others-lifetime>



### FLAGS

January	February	March	April
Cuba	Sri Lanka	South Korea	Iran
Haiti	New Zealand	Bulgaria	Senegal
Sudan	Grenada	Ghana	Zimbabwe
India	Gambia	Ireland	Ireland
	Saint Lucia	Namibia	Tanzania
	Guyana	Pakistan	Netherlands
	Kuwait	Bangladesh	Sierra Leone
		Virgin Islands	South Africa
			Togo

Missing your home country? Share your country and culture with us. If we have your national flag available, we would be proud to fly it in your honor!

Contact us at [oiss@umes.edu](mailto:oiss@umes.edu)

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

Global Opportunities\_UMES

CIEatUMES

CIEatUMES

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



## 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](mailto:flic@umes.edu) or by calling **410-651-8386**.

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Soaring Globally: A Milestone Win for the Boren Scholarship at UMES

### Isaiah Butler



**Isaiah Butler**, a senior hospitality and tourism management major with a foreign language minor in Japanese, received a grant from the federal government's highly competitive Boren Awards. Butler has been awarded a \$25,000 scholarship to spend an academic year in Japan.



Isaiah Butler discusses his experiences and the application process for the Boren Scholarship in Wilson Hall.

**Q1:** Congratulations on earning the Boren Award! What is your understanding of the Boren program's mission, and how did you feel when you found out you won?

**Isaiah:** The Boren program's mission is to fund student leaders travelling abroad to study languages in underrepresented places of interest to the United States. I was ecstatic when I found out I received the award! I called all of my family, friends, and mentors immediately and let them know. It is an amazing achievement, the biggest scholarship I've ever gotten in my life!

**Q2:** Could you share how you prepared and what your application process looked like?

**Isaiah:** I actually applied for the Boren twice in the past prior to this. The Boren Scholarship application requires two mandatory essays that focus on why you want to travel abroad and why the destination you want to travel to and the language you want to study are important to United States interests. I kept my very first essays that I wrote on my first application and over the last two years, I have simply added all of my experiences to the essays to boost my credibility as an applicant and the power of my claims that Japan is a crucial theater in U.S. logistical interests.

**Q3:** This is your fourth scholarship after Freeman-ASIA, Gilman and UN UNA Fellowship. What motivates you to keep pursuing these opportunities?

**Isaiah:** I thank my nature and the way I was raised for my insatiable drive to be the best at everything I do. I have always wanted to be the best at anything I try my hand at; I'm competitive and love to learn new things. My family fostered that drive by constantly engaging that side of me and celebrating my victories, no matter how small, which only pushed me to try harder and achieve more than anyone else!

**Q4:** How do you see this Boren experience fitting into your long-term career goals?

**Isaiah:** I want to work towards becoming a diplomat. Learning languages and travelling the world is my dream job, and I will stop at nothing to achieve it. The Boren is the perfect gateway into attaining that position by allowing me to go to school on full scholarship and study in Japan, ultimately helping me finally master Japanese, as well as begin learning some other languages.

**Q5:** What advice would you give to other UMES students who are considering applying for prestigious scholarships?

**Isaiah:** To other UMES students looking to apply for study abroad scholarships, take me as a prime example of what's possible here. Apply yourself and chase any opportunities that your heart desires, and be persistent in your pursuit: never give up! I know you have it in you to be successful. Go out there and show the world that hawks are excellence personified!!!

### THE NEXT SUCCESS STORY COULD BE YOURS!

Do you want to be our next Boren Scholar? Whether you're looking for scholarship opportunities or want to add a foreign language minor, we are here to guide you! Contact the Center for International Education at [oiss@umes.edu](mailto:oiss@umes.edu) or call **410-651-8386**.

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



*Hawk in Paris Exploring the Global Intersection of Fashion and Business*

## Dev'vonna Morris

**Dev'vonna Morris**, a marketing major and graduating senior, recently traveled to Paris for a study abroad program focused on the global fashion and business industries. As she prepares for graduation, Morris reflected on how immersing herself in the world's fashion capital has enhanced her professional outlook and marketing expertise. She shares her story with us:

**Q1:** What first motivated you to study abroad? Why did you choose France?

**Dev'vonna:** I've always been drawn to the intersection of fashion, luxury, and business strategy, and Paris is honestly the epicenter of all three. I knew that studying abroad in France specifically would give me real, firsthand exposure to the industry I want to build a career in, not just reading about LVMH in a textbook, but actually being in the city where it all lives and breathes. France felt like the most intentional choice I could make for where I want to go professionally.

**Q2:** How did you prepare for your trip? Were there any resources or mentors at UMES that helped you along the way?

**Dev'vonna:** I actually created a full sponsorship pitch deck and presented it to offices across campus to help fund the trip, so the preparation started way before I packed a bag! I also leaned on mentors within UMES who encouraged me to pursue opportunities that aligned with my career goals. The process of advocating for myself to make the trip happen was honestly part of the experience.



Dev'vonna Morris stands at the entrance of the Hermès flagship store in Paris, France.

**Q3:** What did a typical day look like for you in France?

**Dev'vonna:** Mornings usually started with class at the CIEE Paris Study Center in the 12th arrondissement; then afternoons were often field visits. We toured the Hermès flagship on a private visit, visited designer Benjamin Benmoyal's office and atelier, saw the Louis Vuitton exhibition, and explored the Alaïa Foundation. I caught the metro everywhere, which took some trial and error at first, but eventually became second nature. Evenings were for exploring the city, grabbing food, and soaking it all in.

**Q4:** What's the most memorable part of your trip?

**Dev'vonna:** Honestly, stumbling into a vintage designer archive store while shopping and, on the spot, pitching the owners on how I could help with their marketing content. They actually scheduled me to model rare, expensive designer pieces for them. It was completely unplanned, but it was such a full-circle moment: using real skills I'd developed at UMES, in Paris, in a room full of rare designer archives. That one will stay with me.

**Q5:** How do you feel this experience has changed you or helped you grow?

**Dev'vonna:** Personally, it gave me a level of confidence I didn't fully have before, navigating a foreign city alone, pitching myself in unexpected situations, and showing up in spaces I had never been in. Academically, it deepened my understanding of brand strategy, luxury marketing, and global business in a way that no classroom could replicate on its own. I came back with a sharper eye for how brands are built and why certain ones endure.

**Q6:** Do you have any advice or tips for students who are considering study abroad to France in particular?

**Dev'vonna:** Don't wait until everything is perfectly lined up to go. If it interests you, start the application, figure out the funding, and take the meeting. For France specifically, embrace being a little lost at first, whether it's the metro or the language barrier, because figuring it out is where the growth happens. And always carry a pitch. You never know what door you might walk into.

# SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



## 01

### FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM



Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Fulbright U.S. Student Program provides grants for individually designed study/research projects or for English teaching assistant programs.



- Be U.S. citizens or nationals at the time of the application deadline
- Hold a bachelor's degree or the equivalent
- Demonstrate proficiency in the written and spoken language of the host country
- Benefits include accident & sickness health benefits, round-trip transportation to host country, and stipend for room, board, and incidental costs.

Website

➔ <https://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants/getting-started>

**2027–2028 Program National Deadline:  
Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. ET.**

For further information, please contact [FBstudent@iie.org](mailto:FBstudent@iie.org)

## 02

### BOREN AWARDS



- 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 required
- Criteria: Must be a U.S. citizen



Website

➔ [borenawards.org](http://borenawards.org)

**Boren Awards 2027–2028 Cycle  
Coming soon**

For further information, please contact [boren@iie.org](mailto:boren@iie.org)

# SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



03

## CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Website

➔ <https://clscholarship.org>

- A fully funded summer language and cultural immersion program
- The scholarship covers all travel, tuition, housing and a living stipend
- Students spend eight to ten weeks abroad over the summer studying one of 15 critical languages.
- For all undergraduate/graduate levels
- No minimum GPA required
- Criteria: Must be a U.S citizen

**2027 Application Deadline: TBD  
(around September 2026)**

For further information, please contact [cls@americancouncils.org](mailto:cls@americancouncils.org)

04

## FREEMAN-ASIA PROGRAM



Website

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

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

**Freeman Asia 2027-2028 Cycle  
Coming soon**

For further information, please contact [Freeman-ASIA@iie.org](mailto:Freeman-ASIA@iie.org)