

NEWSLETTER



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
EASTERN SHORE



Summer 2025: UMES Hawks Soar Across the World!

This summer was an unforgettable milestone for UMES’s faculty-led study abroad programs!

Check out the highlights on page 5, and discover the 2026 faculty-led study abroad opportunities waiting for you on page 6.



Students and faculty in the Olympism for Humanity program are at the theater of the archaeological site in Delphi, **Greece**.



Isaiah poses for a photo with his classmates during his study abroad in Japan.



Hospitality students and Dr. Ojje-Ahamiojie pose for a group photo at LIUTEBM University in Lusaka, **Zambia**.



Criminal Justice students and Dr. Weathers-Titus gather for a group picture at the European Commission in Brussels, **Belgium**.

The Success Story of Isaiah’s Japan Study Abroad

Isaiah Butler, a senior majoring in Hospitality and Tourism with a Foreign Language Minor (Japanese), has returned from a remarkable Spring 2025 semester in Japan.

Now, he is ready to share his amazing journey and inspire future Hawks to soar across the globe!

Turn to page 10 to read his story.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Hawk Family,

As we prepare to embark upon a new academic year, let us reflect on the many great achievements of our fellow Hawks and the increasing number of Hawks participating in global learning programs. We continue to make great strides in global learning programming at UMES.

During the 2024-2025 academic year there were over 70 UMES students that participated in a global learning program, almost double from the previous year. We continue to forge enduring and robust partnerships with universities from around the world. Global learning programs tend to have important and lasting positive impacts on students and faculty. This is why we believe it is important to continue to expand access to these opportunities.

Take a moment to explore the many prestigious international fellowships or scholarships available to UMES students and make an appointment with us to discuss your next global adventure. There are many global opportunities that are available to you at UMES—from world language learning to study abroad or global internships, UMES is your gateway to the world. Let's soar together!

Hawk Pride!

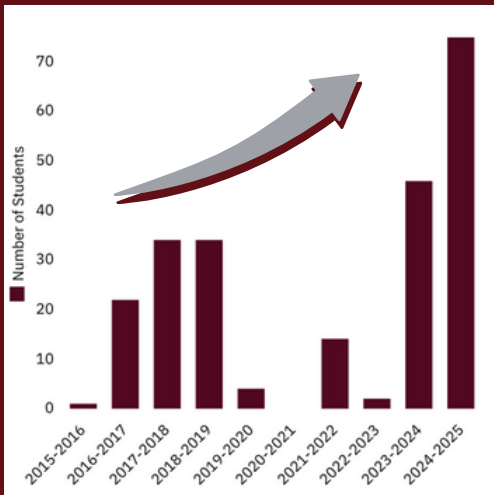


Phillip Broussard

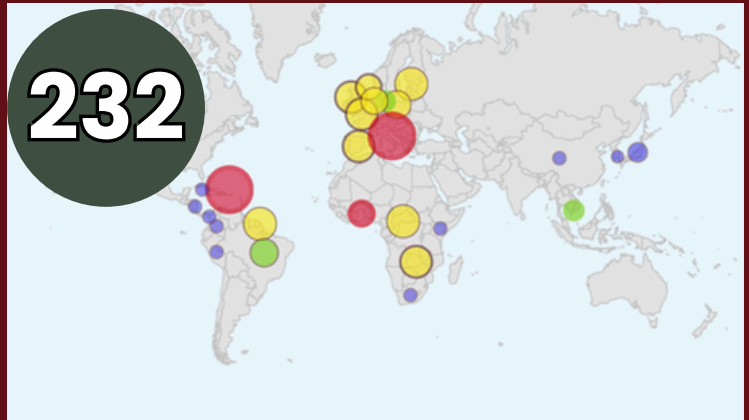
Global Opportunities Director
Lecturer
University of Maryland Eastern Shore

UMES STUDY ABROAD & GLOBAL LEARNING *AT A GLANCE*

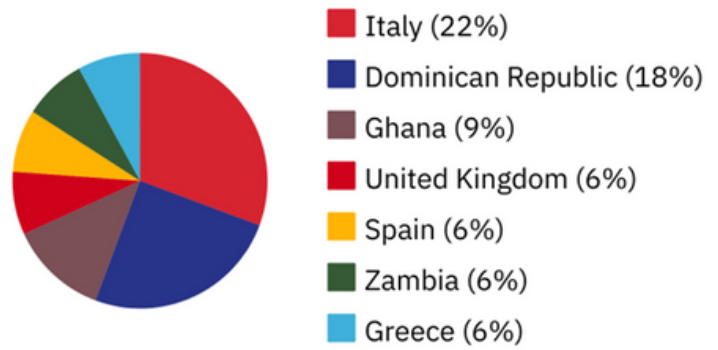
Student Participation in Study Abroad



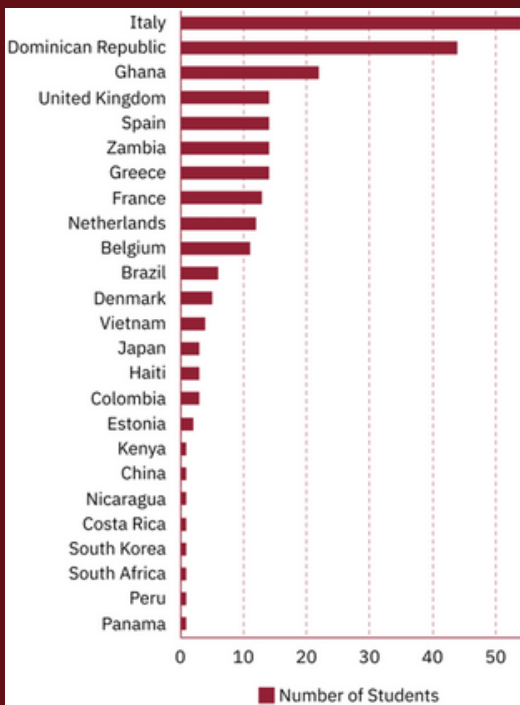
Total Number of Study Abroad Participants



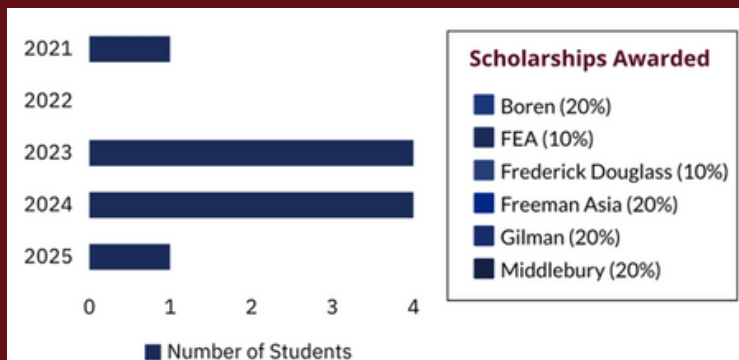
Top Study Abroad Destinations



Most Visited Countries



Students Awarded Prestigious Global Scholarships





2025 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 Professions & Honors Program
- Faculty lead: Dr. Kawanda McCarthy-Williams



Italy

May 13 - March 22, 2025

- Art History (ARTS 211) 3 credits
- Hosted by the Department of Fine Arts
- Faculty lead: Professor Mehves Lelic



Europe (Netherlands, Belgium)

May 27 - June 6, 2024

- Variable Global Justice and Advocacy: A European Perspective (CRJS 492) 3 credits
- Hosted by the Department of Criminal Justice
- Faculty lead: Dr. Janese Weathers-Titus



Zambia

June 6 - June 17, 2025

- Guest Relationship Management (HMG 415) 3 credits
- Hosted by the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management
- Faculty lead: Dr. George Ojie-Ahamiojie



Greece

June 27- July 7, 2025

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



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2025 SUMMER FACULTY-LED STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

This summer, UMES Hawks soared across continents on faculty-led study abroad trips to Greece, Central Europe (the Netherlands and Belgium), and Zambia.

Students in the Olympism for Humanity: Champions of Change program, hosted by the Department of Kinesiology, embarked on an exciting 10-day journey to Greece. They delved into the ancient roots of the Olympic Games and discovered inspiring lessons about freedom, democracy, and the resilience of the human spirit.

Criminal Justice students, led by Dr. Janese D. Weathers-Titus, traveled to the Netherlands and Belgium, stepping beyond the classroom to experience international law and human rights in action.

In addition, Hospitality students, guided by Dr. George Ojie-Ahamiojie, immersed themselves in Zambia's vibrant culture by attending local classes, engaging with community members, and forging meaningful connections with the people and traditions of the region.

Across every destination, students grew, connected, and discovered new worlds. They return with hearts and minds full of inspiration and unforgettable memories.

"Zambia trip provides more than just travel—it offers real-world experience, cultural immersion, and a deep sense of purpose. The most impactful part of the trip was seeing Victoria Falls and experiencing everyday Zambian culture.

Taking in the breathtaking natural beauty of the country, along with engaging with local communities, truly enriched my understanding of Zambia.

This experience reinforced my passion for education and my commitment to becoming a guidance counselor who advocates for underserved students both locally and globally.

I believe every student should take advantage of such a transformative opportunity."

-Kaceia A. Bradford, Graduate Student in Guidance Counseling



Students with Dr. Michael Lane and Dr. Alexis Lyras in the Olympism for Humanity program pose for a group photo at the Symposium Conference Center in Delphi, Greece.



Criminal Justice students and Dr. Weathers-Titus pose in front of International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, Netherlands.



Hospitality students take a lecture on Zambian political history and tourism at Liutebm University in Lusaka, Zambia.



Criminal Justice students pose for a photo in front of the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands.

2026 UPCOMING FACULTY-LED STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS



Colombia

Summer 2026

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



Italy

Spring Break 2026

Hosted by the Dept. of Hospitality & Tourism Management



Greece

Summer 2026

Hosted by the Dept. of Kinesiology



Italy

Summer 2026

Hosted by the Dept. of Criminal Justice



Japan

Winter 2026

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



Virgin Islands

Summer 2026

Hosted by the Dept. of Early Childhood Education



Zambia

Summer 2026

Hosted by the Dept. of Hospitality & Tourism Management



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!



OFFICE OF GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES SUMMER EVENTS RECAP



International Student Networking Event

On Wednesday, June 4, the Center for International Education (CIE) hosted an International Student Networking Event for students studying or working on campus over the summer.

About 20 participants, including undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff, came together for a break from the summer heat and a valuable chance to connect and share experiences in a relaxed space, over light refreshments.



Students have a great time enjoying refreshments and socializing at the networking event.



Kelly Williams, lab assistant (right), and Anu Punchihewage Don, staff member from the Food Science department (left), pose for a photo next to the Sri Lankan flag.



Dr. Reginald Garcon, Associate Vice President for Student Records and University Registrar (right), and Dr. Hanna Kang, ESL Program Coordinator (left), smile after sampling a variety of iced teas during the event.

International Iced Tea Celebration



To celebrate June as National Iced Tea Month, the Center hosted an international Iced Tea Tasting Event on June 19. Students, faculty, and staff on campus stopped by the center to sample a delicious variety of iced teas from around the world!

The Center looks forward to offering more diverse cultural and social events throughout the year—and everyone is always welcome!

For more information, please contact 410-651-8385 or email oiss@umes.edu.

FALL 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS



Dr. Gupta Archana, Hindi Instructor (top), and Dr. Edgar Larrea, Spanish Instructor (bottom), spoke to students about the importance of learning foreign languages during the 2025 Spring Semester World Languages and Cultures Interest Meeting.

WORLD LANGUAGES & CULTURES TABLE

The Centers for Foreign Language Instruction (FLIC) and International Education (CIE) will continue the World Languages and Cultures tables this fall semester.

The program will kick off with a **Japanese Table** on **Thursday, September 11 at 11 am** at the CIE building. The series will feature all languages offered at UMES, giving students opportunities to deepen their understanding of foreign languages and cultures.

For more information, please contact 410-651-7595 or email flic@umes.edu.



WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES INTEREST MEETING

The World Languages and Cultures Interest Meeting will take place on **August 28 at 11:30 AM** in Wilson Hall, Room 2113. The event will highlight the advantages of learning foreign languages and provide information on foreign language minors, scholarships, and study abroad opportunities.

FALL 2025

JAPANESE LANGUAGE & CULTURES TABLE

11

SEPTEMBER

11 am - 12 pm

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION (CIE)

CIE is located across from the Student Apartments Office

Come for the language and cultural experience and stay to learn more about study abroad and scholarship opportunities!

SCHEDULE	
SEP 18	Korean
SEP 25	Chinese
SEP 30	Hindi
OCT 9	Portuguese
OCT 23	Arabic
OCT 30	Spanish
NOV 6	French
NOV 13	Calling All Language Speakers

COMING SOON

**The schedule is subject to change

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NETWORKING EVENT



From left: Assel Awad (Sudan), Riannalee Ellis (Jamaica), and Saron Getachew (Ethiopia) attended the event last semester.



Jaylin Johnson, a UMES graduate and Digital Media Studies major, is the first UMES student to be admitted to the New York Film Academy (NYFA).

The Center for International Education (CIE) will continue to host the International Student Networking Event this fall semester.

All international students are welcome to join us on **Monday, September 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** at the CIE to meet fellow international students, enjoy light refreshments, and build connections across our diverse campus community.

For more information, please contact 410-651-8385 or email oiss@umes.edu.

Jaylin Johnson Becomes First UMES Student Admitted to New York Film Academy Program

Jaylin Johnson, a recent UMES graduate and Digital Media Studies major, has been accepted into the New York Film Academy (NYFA) program.

He is the first UMES student to be admitted to NYFA and will begin his journey at the LA campus in January, 2026.

Congratulations, Jaylin! We look forward to seeing all you will achieve at NYFA and beyond. Soar, Jaylin!!

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

Say 'Yes' to the World! Isaiah's Study Abroad Story in Japan



Isaiah Butler



Isaiah Butler, a senior majoring in Hospitality and Tourism with a Foreign Language Minor (Japanese), made an impressive mark as UMES's third student to receive a scholarship for studying abroad in Japan.

We're excited to share his inspiring journey—from his time as an exchange student at Toyo University to the unforgettable experiences he had while immersing himself in Japanese culture.



Isaiah with classmates during study abroad in Japan.

Walking into Haneda airport for the first time, I immediately noticed how clean everything was. There wasn't any trash to be seen and on top of that the building was full of color and cultural symbols. I also noticed how people there carried themselves with a high level of discipline and everyone was courteous of their surroundings and of other people. It was quiet and everyone respected each other's space despite the huge amount of people. It was really nice to see that.

Q2: Could you describe what a typical day looked like for you during your time studying in Japan? What kinds of activities, classes, or experiences filled your daily routine?

Isaiah: The typical day for me in Japan started with waking up early at 6:30 a.m. I would get dressed, eat breakfast at the dormitory cafeteria, and then take the train to school, which was always a lot of fun. I'd have classes from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m., and then afterward, I'd catch the train back home, do my homework, and use the rest of the day to explore the beautiful city of Tokyo. The flexibility of my schedule allowed me to truly experience Japan without my academics getting in the way too much. (Continued on next page)

Q1: Can you share your first impressions and feelings when you first arrived in Japan? What stood out to you the most during those initial moments?

Isaiah: My first impression upon arriving in Japan was complete and utter awe at my surroundings! As I stepped off the plane and walked into Haneda Airport, I remember looking out of the window and seeing how different the infrastructure was, how the cars were shaped differently, and, of course, seeing the giant sign in the terminal saying "Welcome to Japan" really reminded me that I was no longer home. Despite that, I was ecstatic to be there—to finally accomplish my dream of studying in Japan!



Isaiah poses next to a traditional festival float during his cultural exploration in Japan.

Q3: Did you have any funny or challenging moments because of language or cultural differences?

Isaiah: My language proficiency made most conversations with Japanese natives easy but I am not perfect yet by any means, so a few times when talking to other Japanese students, I would mess up my words and it made some conversations run on for a lot longer than they should have.

Everyone was very patient with me though and they respected how much I went out of my way to speak as much Japanese as possible. My speaking mistakes also led to quite a few funny moments and jokes that only allowed me to make more friends.



(Left) Isaiah poses for a photo with Mount Fuji in the background. (Right) Striking a pose in front of Sensō-ji.

Q4: Through your study abroad experience in Japan, what did you learn about yourself?

Isaiah: I learned that I can do anything I set my mind to. This was the trip of a lifetime for me, and I have broken a generational barrier in my family by being the first person to leave the United States.

4 years ago, I was just a high school student with determination and a dream to one day travel to Japan and study there, and now here I am at 20 years old with that goal already accomplished. I have also awakened within myself a desire to travel to even more countries and learn even more languages.



Isaiah captures the vibrant atmosphere of a traditional Japanese parade.

Q5: What advice would you give to students considering studying abroad?





Isaiah: To anyone looking to study abroad, my advice is don't let your nerves or doubts get in the way of it. Travelling abroad and exploring the world beyond the borders we're so familiar with is a life changing experience.

I wouldn't trade my experience in Japan for the world. My time studying abroad was genuinely the most fun I've ever had in my life. So go out there, be adventurous, get out of your comfort zone, and above all, enjoy yourself. Just Do It. Do it scared, do it nervous, but do it. I promise you won't regret it.



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/>



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



01

BOREN AWARDS



✓ APPLY NOW

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

- 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 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

CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



For further information, please contact cls@americancouncils.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

2026 Application Deadline: TBD (around mid-November 2025)

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

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

03

FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM



 **APPLY NOW**

<https://apply.iie.org/apply/>

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is the nation's largest study abroad fellowship program, and is designed to give recent B.S./B.A. graduates opportunities for international experience, personal enrichment and an open exchange of ideas with citizens of other nations.

- For seniors and recent graduate students
- Opportunities in all academic disciplines
- GPA of 3.4 or higher recommended
- Criteria: Must be a U.S citizen

2026–2027 Competition Deadline:
Tuesday October 7, 2025 at 5 p.m. ET.

For further information, please contact fbstudent@iie.org

04

PICKERING FELLOWSHIP



 **APPLY NOW**

<https://pickeringfellowship.org/>

The Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Graduate Fellowship Program is designed for those committed to making a global impact as U.S. diplomats. Fellows receive comprehensive support for graduate education, internships, and professional development, paving the way to a rewarding career as a Foreign Service Officer.

- Rising seniors and alumni entering grad school
- All fields with a Foreign Service connection
- GPA: minimum 3.2
- Criteria: Must be a U.S citizen

2026 Application Deadline:
Thursday September 25, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. ET.
(Tentative)

For further information, please contact pickeringfellowship@howard.edu

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

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

05

RANGEL GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP



✓ APPLY NOW

<https://apply.rangelprogram.org/>

The Rangel Graduate Fellowship aims to attract and prepare outstanding young people for careers in the Foreign Service of the U.S. Department of State in which they can help formulate, represent, and implement U.S. foreign policy.

- Must be seeking admission to enter graduate school in the fall of 2025 for a two-year program
- All fields with a Foreign Service connection
- A cumulative grade point average of 3.2 or higher
- Criteria: Must be a U.S citizen

2026 Application Deadline:

Thursday September 18, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. ET.
(Tentative)

For further information, please contact rangelprogram@howard.edu

06

MIDDLEBURY LANGUAGE SCHOOLS



✓ APPLY NOW

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

For summer 2026, 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

2026 Application Deadline:

Saturday November 15, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. ET.

For further information, please contact lsfellowships@middlebury.edu

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