

2023-2024

AMERICAN SEMESTER PROGRAM & EXCHANGES

FACT SHEET

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

427 N. Shaw Lane, International Center Room 12, East Lansing, MI 48824 USA

GENERAL INQUIRIES

American Semester Program (ASP) / Direct Enroll
american@msu.edu

Exchange
msuex@msu.edu

PROGRAM CONTACTS

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International Emergency

MSU Campus Police
(517) 355-2221

EXCHANGE

The MSU exchange program gives students the opportunity to engage with a new culture and experience life as a traditional international student, while paying home university tuition and fees.

Students are eligible to participate in exchange if they:

- » Attend one of our partner universities
- » Are nominated by their host institution (our partner)
- » Meet and fulfill all admission requirements

Exchange students will be expected to take the majority of their courses from the college with which the exchange partnership exists.

AMERICAN SEMESTER PROGRAM (ASP)

ASP offers students from universities not currently tied by an exchange agreement the opportunity to study at MSU as a visiting student for a semester or a year. Graduate students are only eligible for the semester-long program. ASP students will pay MSU tuition and fees for their studies.

ASP students will have the flexibility to choose courses from a wide range of disciplines and are expected to meet course prerequisites in order to be considered for course enrollment.

SHORT COURSE

Our Short Course Programs are the most customized of all study options.

These three-week programs take place over summer or winter break and are designed with a specific area of study in mind. Topics for each short course change annually, so we encourage you to check our website often for updates.

With these programs, students do not earn MSU credit. Instead, they will earn a certificate of completion and grade report upon completion of the program.

NOMINATION & APPLICATION PROCESS

To nominate a student, please send an email containing the following information to msuex@msu.edu:

Student legal first and last name, area of study at home university, level (undergraduate or graduate), term nominating for, ad student email address.

Once nominated, students will be emailed instructions from our team on how to apply through our online application portal, [ViaTRM](#). Students can expect to hear an admission update from our team within 2 weeks of the published term deadline.

EXCHANGE SEMESTER AT A GLANCE

FALL 2023

SPRING 2024

	FALL 2023	SPRING 2024
NOMINATION BY PARTNER	March 1, 2023	September 1, 2023
APPLICATION DEADLINE	April 1, 2023 (Exchange) May 1, 2023 (ASP)	October 1, 2023 (Exchange) October 1, 2023 (ASP)
COURSE REQUEST PROCESS	May 15-September 8, 2023	October 15, 2023 - January 8, 2024
ARRIVAL/RESIDENCE HALL CHECK-IN	August 23, 2023 - after 8 AM	January 3, 2024 - after 8 AM
MANDATORY ASP&E ORIENTATION	August 25, 2023	January 5, 2024
CLASSES BEGIN	August 28, 2023	January 8, 2024
DEADLINE TO DROP CLASSES	September 8, 2023 (tentative)	January 19, 2024 (tentative)
SEMESTER BREAK (NO CLASSES)	October 23-24, 2023	February 26 - March 1, 2024
EXAM WEEK	December 11-15, 2023	April 22-26, 2024
DEPARTURE/RESIDENCE HALL MOVE-OUT	December 15, 2023 - by 8 PM	April 26, 2024 - by 8 PM



CLICK HERE TO VIEW A
CAMPUS MAP

MSU AT A GLANCE

- » **50,000+** students on campus
- » Over **700** degree-seeking international students from **138** countries
- » Offers over **200** academic programs
- » **Iconic** Midwest university
- » **40** programs ranked in the **top 25** nationally
- » Student to faculty ratio is **16:1**

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

MSU has an excellent public bus system that includes all of campus as well as the surround Lansing area. Students can ride the bus on campus free of charge. Connecting to popular off-campus locations is also available for a nominal fee. Learn more about [CATA Buses](#).

Beyond Lansing, students have access to many popular destinations by [Amtrak train](#) and [Michigan Flyer bus](#).

COST OF LIVING

From a recent poll of our ASP&E participants, students told us they typically spend \$300-\$500 per month on living expenses and leisure activities.

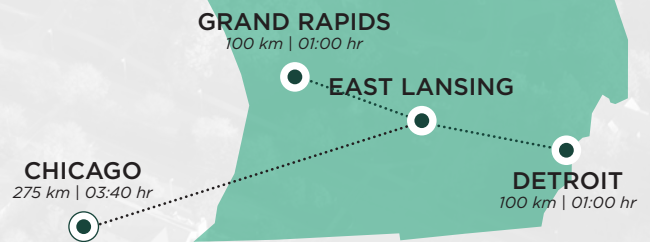
ASP&E PROGRAMMING

In addition to independent extra-curricular activities, ASP&E hosts several socio-cultural events for students each semester. These events allow students to experience pieces of MSU, Midwest and American culture. Students will be presented with the opportunity to learn about these events during their orientation upon arrival. Each event will have a small registration fee associated and are optional.



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

EAST LANSING AND ITS SURROUNDING CITIES



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

ACADEMIC

Though MSU does not have a minimum GPA requirement for admission, we do expect that all applicants are in good academic standing at their home university.

PROOF OF ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

MSU requires a minimum English proficiency level to prevent potential communication barriers while studying at MSU. The scores we typically look for when evaluating an application are:

TOEFL (IBT): 79, no subscore below 17

IELTS: 6.5, no band score below 6.0

Duolingo: 110 or higher

We also accept waivers for students whose home school's curriculum is taught **entirely** in English.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

As part of the application, students will be expected to submit a brief essay describing their overall interests in studying at MSU, how their participation will help them personally and professionally and how they plan to grow from their experience after the program ends.

PROOF OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

In order to obtain a visa to study in the United States, students must provide documentation showing proof of sufficient funds for each semester of study. Please see page 5 of this guide for program cost details.

HOUSING ACCOMODATIONS

The American Semester Program & Exchanges allows students to choose whether they wish to live on-campus in one of our five residential neighborhoods or off-campus in independent housing.

Students who request to live on campus can expect to be placed in shared occupancy rooms. Rooms are furnished with beds, desks, and additional storage. Depending on residence hall placement, bathrooms are either shared with suite-mates or shared with students living on the same floor of their assigned residence hall. High-speed internet is included in the residence hall fee. As part of the application process, students will be prompted to fill out a housing questionnaire to share their desired housing preferences with our team. Preferences will be shared with our housing team and placements will be sent to students in advance of arrival.

Please note, we will make every effort to accommodate all requests, but on-campus housing is extremely limited at this time and placement in residence halls is not guaranteed.

To begin exploring on and off-campus housing options, please visit our [Housing & Arrival webpage](#).

DINING

All students living on campus will be required to purchase the [Silver Dining Plan](#) to accompany their housing contract. This plan permits universal and unlimited access to all-you-care-to-eat on-campus dining facilities. MSU dining facilities cater to many dietary needs including: halal, vegan, vegetarian, gluten and dairy free. For more information on meal planning, visit [Eat At State](#).

ARRIVAL SERVICES

MSU does not coordinate group airport pickup. However, we do offer a voucher for a rideshare service through Lyft. More information is available in the [Visa & Arrival Orientation Module](#).

TEXTBOOKS & REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Course material costs range widely. Students can learn which textbooks and other materials are required by searching for a given course on the [Schedule of Courses](#).

COVID REQUIREMENTS

MSU requires that all students enrolling in classes be vaccinated and boosted (3 doses) against COVID-19 with a World Health Organization approved vaccine. Vaccination must be completed prior to course enrollment. Students will be asked to verify their vaccination status prior to enrolling in classes.

More information about MSU's approach to covid can be found on [Together We Will](#).

RCPD ACCOMODATION

If students need accommodations in order to be successful while at MSU, please let us know. Our [Resource Center For Persons with Disabilities](#) (RCPD) Office is equipped to assist students with a wide array of needs.

PROGRAM EXTENSION POLICY

American Semester Program & Exchange students are welcome to extend their stay up to one academic year if they have approval from their home university and are nominated to do so. Graduate level ASP and Exchange students are limited to a single semester of study only.



COURSE REGISTRATION TIMELINE

As part of the pre-arrival process, students will be asked to submit their top 10 course choices. Course enrollment decisions are made by the respective colleges.

In order to be approved for a given class, students must have fulfilled any necessary course prerequisites and there must be seats remaining in the course. Students may be denied from a course because they are over-qualified or because the course is only offered to degree-seeking students. MSU will make every effort to secure students' course preferences, but specific courses are not guaranteed.

AMERICAN CREDIT SYSTEM

Courses at MSU are given on a "semester" basis, and credits earned are semester credits. Each course carries a specific number of credits based on the number of instructional contact hours and study hours required each week per semester. In general, each credit requires, at a minimum, one instructor-student contact hour per week plus two hours of study per contact hour. Visit the [Office of the Registrar](#) website for further details.

For reference, most courses at MSU have a 3 or 4 credit bearing (some exceptions apply). Most undergraduate students typically take four 3 credit classes or three 4 credit classes. Most graduate students take three 3 credit classes.

MSU GRADING SCALE

MSU utilizes a [numerical grading system](#) for evaluation of all courses.

The scale is as follows:

4.0 - 3.5 - 3.0 - 2.5 - 2.0 - 1.5 - 1.0 - 0.0.
(4.0 being the highest mark, and 2.0 considered the lowest passing grade)

TRANSCRIPTS

ASP&E students may order an transcript to be sent to their home university free of charge from the Office of the Registrar after program completion. Students must make this [request](#). ASP&E cannot request on the student's behalf.

AREAS OF STUDY

The following colleges at Michigan State offer courses to American Semester Program and Exchange Students:

- » College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
- » College of Arts and Letters
- » College of Communication Arts and Sciences
- » College of Education
- » College of Engineering
- » College of Natural Science
- » College of Social Science
- » Eli Broad College of Business (Broad-sponsored exchange programs)*
- » James Madison College
- » Lyman Briggs College

Please be aware that course availability varies greatly based on college. Additionally, there are many modality a course can be delivered in (in person, hybrid or online). Check the schedule of courses to see how a given course is scheduled to be delivered.

Academic areas not open to visiting students:

- » Pre-professional programs are currently unavailable to visiting students. These include: Law; Nursing; Education; Osteopathic Medicine; Human Medicine, etc.
- » Other areas of study currently excluded include Game Development and Design; Aerospace Studies; Healthcare Management; Construction Management; MBA courses.

Please note this list is not exhaustive but is representative of the most common requests we receive for restricted areas of study.

Please see [our academics page](#) for more information.

*Partners interested in sending business students through non-Broad sponsored exchange agreements are encouraged to reach out to our team to discuss course offerings."

SCHEDULES & ENROLLMENT

All ASP&E students are expected to maintain full-time student status as a regulation of their immigration requirements.

Undergraduate students must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 US credits.

Graduate students must be enrolled in a minimum of 9 US credits.

All students* are limited to 12 credits unless exchange agreement stipulates more.

Students must be flexible and willing to work with academic advisers at their home institution to identify courses they wish to take at MSU. We suggest gap year students work directly with our office.

Students will request their courses using the ASP&E Course Request Form located in their application portal shortly after being accepted. We recommend students begin reviewing available courses with their home university advisor prior to admission. Our team will work with students over the course of their pre-arrival period to enroll students in courses of interest. This process may take many weeks. Students will have a guaranteed finalized schedule within the first 2 weeks of classes on site.

*American Semester Program students can take up to 18 credits, but tuition will increase for any courses beyond 12 credits.





STUDENT VISAS

Upon acceptance into the program, ASP&E students will apply for a student visa for entry into the United States. Our office will collaborate with the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) to prepare the paperwork needed to obtain the appropriate immigration form.

Immigration documents will be mailed to students after they place an order for their [pre-paid shipping label](#). From the time the shipping label is ordered, it typically takes around 4-6 weeks to receive the acceptance packet in the mail. Students must schedule their own visa interviews at their country's respective U.S. consulate or embassy once they receive their DS-2019 or I-20 from MSU.

Program	Form	Visa Type
ASP	I-20	F-1
Exchange	DS-2019	J-1

*These are the forms students typically receive based on program, but the actual form may vary based on student's financial documents.

Generally speaking, F-1 and J-1 students are eligible for on-campus employment during their stay with us. However, the process to gain employment can take time. For more information about employment limitations while studying in the U.S., please visit the [OISS website](#).



PROGRAM COST REQUIREMENTS FOR IMMIGRATION DOCUMENT ISSUANCE

EXCHANGE

Application Fee: \$75

Undergraduate (12 credits)

Living Expenses*: \$8,698

Graduate (9 credits)

Living Expenses: \$8,934

Exchange students do not pay MSU tuition; this should not be calculated in the Proof of Financial Support requirement.

AMERICAN SEMESTER PROGRAM

Application Fee: \$75

Undergraduate (12 credits)

Tuition: \$12,688

Living Expenses*: \$8,698

Graduate (9 credits)

Tuition: \$9,516

Living Expenses: \$8,934

Enrolling in additional credits will increase tuition costs.

*Living expenses include: room & board (accommodations), course supplies, books, and spending money. ASP&E students should anticipate a few other associated costs. Please visit the [program fees webpage](#) for more information. Please note: these are the Spring 2023 costs and that tuition is set each July for the following year. Please check website for most up to date cost info



A NOTE ON HEALTH INSURANCE

The above cost does not include mandatory student health insurance. This cost [ranges from semester to semester](#); for reference, the average cost is typically between \$1,200-\$1,500 per semester depending on semester duration. Students must be prepared to take this insurance, as students are not permitted to opt out of MSU's health insurance policy, even if the home university or government supplies insurance.

For more information on health insurance, as well other health and safety information please visit our [health and safety webpage](#).

IMPORTANT LINKS

americansemester.isp.msu.edu/

[Apply Now](#)

[Arrival Resources & Orientation](#)

[Sample Syllabi](#)

[Virtual Campus Tour](#)