

2024-2025

AMERICAN SEMESTER PROGRAM & EXCHANGES

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY FACT SHEET

427 N. Shaw Lane, International Center Suite 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 at a [reduced international student rate](#).

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 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. Students should work with their home university to determine equivalent credit.

## NOMINATION & APPLICATION PROCESS

To nominate a student, please use the nomination form provided and email it to msuex@msu.edu. The form will ask for the following student information: *Student legal first and last name, sex, date of birth, area of study at home university, level (undergraduate or graduate), term nominating for, and student's 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 2024

### SPRING 2025

	FALL 2024	SPRING 2025
<b>NOMINATION BY PARTNER</b>	March 1, 2024	September 1, 2024
<b>APPLICATION DEADLINE</b>	April 1, 2024 (Exchange) May 1, 2024 (ASP)	October 1, 2024 (Exchange) October 1, 2024 (ASP)
<b>COURSE REQUEST PROCESS</b>	May 15 - August 29, 2024	October 15, 2024 - January 16, 2025
<b>ARRIVAL/RESIDENCE HALL CHECK-IN</b>	August 21, 2024 - after 8 AM	January 8, 2025 - after 8 AM
<b>MANDATORY ASP&amp;E ORIENTATION</b>	August 23 & 24, 2024	January 10, 2025
<b>CLASSES BEGIN</b>	August 26, 2024	January 13, 2025
<b>DEADLINE TO DROP CLASSES</b>	August 30, 2024 (tentative)	January 17, 2025 (tentative)
<b>SEMESTER BREAK (NO CLASSES)</b>	October 21-22, 2024	March 2-8, 2025
<b>EXAM WEEK</b>	December 9-13, 2024	April 28 - May 2, 2025
<b>DEPARTURE/RESIDENCE HALL MOVE-OUT</b>	December 13, 2024 - by 8 PM	May 2, 2025 - by 8 PM

\*All dates subject to change without notice.



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW A CAMPUS MAP](#)

## MSU AT A GLANCE

- » **50,000+** students on campus
- » Over **5,000** degree-seeking international students from **138** countries
- » Offers over **400** academic programs
- » **Iconic** Midwest university
- » **49** programs & concentrations ranked in the **top 25** nationally
- » Student to faculty ratio is **16:1**

## MSU ATHLETICS

As a member of the BIG 10 network, athletics is a big part of MSU culture. We have some of the most well attended collegiate sporting events in the country. We encourage visiting ASP&E students to attend one of the many collegiate athletic events hosted on campus during the semester.



## MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EAST LANSING AND ITS SURROUNDING CITIES

## 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. Students are encouraged to research Michigan weather prior to arrival and plan wardrobe costs accordingly.

## 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.



## 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 (MyBest scores not accepted)  
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 program 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 pre-arrival process, students will be prompted, 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 through the rideshare company, Lyft, to help offset the fare cost. More information is available in the [Visa & Arrival Orientation Module](#).

## 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 & Michigan Flyer bus](#).

## 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](#).

## VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

MSU does not require proof of any vaccinations to enroll. However, students will be asked to disclose their vaccination status prior to classes commencing. For a complete list of recommended vaccines, please visit our [University Physician website](#).

Please note MSU no longer requires covid vaccination for enrollment.

## 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 a transcript to be sent to their home university free of charge from the Office of the Registrar after program completion. Transcripts are sent electronically. 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 (undergraduate students only)
- » 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 several modalities 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 Interior Design; Game Development and Design; Aerospace Studies; Healthcare Management; Construction Management; Neuroscience; MBA courses; Graduate level courses in the College of Arts and Letters; Graduate level Psychology 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 on restrictions.

\*Partners interested in sending business students through non-Broad sponsored exchange agreements are encouraged to reach out to our team to discuss course offerings, as options are extremely limited.

## 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 collaborates with the [Office of International Students and Scholars \(OISS\)](#) to prepare the paperwork needed to obtain the appropriate immigration form.

Immigration documents will be sent electronically to the student's MSU email address once prepared. 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 document 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\*: \$8,326

#### Graduate (9 credits)

Living Expenses\*: \$9,788

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

Exchange students must demonstrate: \$10,313 (undergraduate) and \$11,101 (graduate) for immigration purposes.

\*Living expenses include: include standard shared occupancy 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 2024 costs and tuition and health insurance rates are set each July for the following year. Please check website for most up to date cost info.

### AMERICAN SEMESTER PROGRAM

Application Fee: \$75

#### Undergraduate (12 credits)

Tuition: \$13,332

Living Expenses\*: \$8,326

#### Graduate (9 credits)

Tuition: \$9,999

Living Expenses\*: \$9,788

Enrolling in additional credits will increase tuition costs.

ASP students must demonstrate: \$23,645 (undergraduate) and \$21,100 (graduate) for immigration purposes.



## 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 \$1,300-\$1,700 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](http://americansemester.isp.msu.edu)

[Apply Now](#)

[Arrival Resources & Orientation](#)

[Sample Course Syllabi Repository](#)

[Virtual Campus Tour](#)

## SAFETY & MENTAL HEALTH

Safety is a top priority for Michigan State University, and all members of the campus community — students, faculty and staff — are encouraged to take an active role in preventing and reporting incidents that jeopardize safety on and around campus.

MSU has many resources to protect students while here on campus including an emergency alert system, residence hall physical protection, on campus transportation safety services, etc. Details about these resources can be found on our [Campus Safety website](#).

MSU also has a robust team of trained professionals to assist students who may need physical and mental health support during their time abroad. These include:

### COUNSELING AND PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES (CAPS)

[CAPS](#) is the place on campus for students seeking help for a wide range of concerns, including depression, anxiety, stress management, homesickness, adjustment or acculturation, relationships, issues around race, gender and sexual orientation (LGBTQ), substance abuse, traumatic experiences, eating or body image concerns, and other personal mental health concerns. CAPS combines the clinical services of counseling and psychiatry in one setting.

### OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS STUDENT ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH UNIT

This unit focuses on serving international students who are experiencing difficulties with academics, cultural adjustment, finances and overall well-being. Students will have the opportunity to meet staff from this unit at orientation and utilize their services throughout their time at MSU, free of charge.

### OLIN HEALTH CENTER

[Olin Health Center](#) is an on-campus healthcare facility offering primary care, allergy/immunizations, sports medicine, laboratory and physical therapy services, among others. They also have links to a pharmacy for students to utilize should it be necessary.

