

## Frequently Asked Questions

### SustR Study Abroad Program to Mexico and Canada

Contact: Alex Mayer ([asmayer@mtu.edu](mailto:asmayer@mtu.edu))

Project website: <http://www.geo.mtu.edu/~asmayer/sustr.htm>

**1. If I am planning on attending one of the Mexican universities, do I need to speak and write Spanish fluently?**

Although some courses at the Mexican universities are offered in English, it would be advisable for students to have a working knowledge of Spanish before arriving in Mexico. We are able to support some students in taking Spanish language instruction prior to departing. Spanish language courses also can be taken concurrently at the Mexican universities for students who want to “brush up” on their skills.

**2. Are the courses offered at the Mexican and Canadian universities transferable back to Michigan Tech to satisfy the requirements of my degree?**

In general, courses are transferable, but you will need to contact the international student advisor at the host university to find out what courses are offered in the semester you expect to be abroad and to get more detail on the course content. You will then need to bring this information to your departmental advisor to determine transferability for the courses you intend to take abroad.

**3. Are funds available to support my study abroad?**

Yes, part of the grant funding we received for the program will subsidize your study abroad. This includes **\$5000** per student for one semester to be used for travel, accommodation and living expenses, health insurance and language preparation (if needed).

**4. What is the deadline for application?**

Each semester has a deadline where application materials are due in the Michigan Tech International Program and Services office:

Spring 2012:                   **October 15, 2011**

Summer 2012:               **March 1, 2012**

Fall 2012:                   **April 1, 2012**

***Each partnership university has their own application deadlines, which may be earlier than Michigan Tech's deadline dates. Please submit your application documents to Michigan Tech soon enough to meet your host application deadlines.***

## 5. What is the application process to participate in the program?

- a) Talk to Alex Mayer ([asmayer@mtu.edu](mailto:asmayer@mtu.edu), 906-487-3372) to indicate an interest
- b) Complete the one-page **Statement of Purpose for Participation in the SustR Program** (<http://www.geo.mtu.edu/~asmayer/sop.pdf>), and submit to Alex Mayer.
- c) Check out the universities' websites and contact the international student advisors at the university you wish to attend to find out about course availability, semester dates and other information.
- d) Fill out a Michigan Tech Study Abroad application packet and submit it by the deadline date. Once International Programs and Services (IPS) and the Dean's Office have approved your application, then you will be working with Alex Mayer, Carol Asiala, and IPS to complete the applications to the university you will be attending.

**How to Apply for Study Abroad through Michigan Tech**  
(International Programs and Services - IPS)

<http://www.mtu.edu/international/study-abroad/apply/>

### Contacts for partnership universities:

- 1) [Universidad de Sonora](http://www.uson.mx/) (<http://www.uson.mx/>)  
SustR program contact: Dagoberto Burgos Flores [dburgos@dicym.uson.mx](mailto:dburgos@dicym.uson.mx)  
**APPLICATION DEADLINE: Check with University**
- 2) [Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes](http://www.uaa.mx/) (<http://www.uaa.mx/>)  
SustR program contact: Magdalena Nájera Figueroa [mnajera@correo.uaa.mx](mailto:mnajera@correo.uaa.mx)  
**APPLICATION DEADLINE: Check with University**
- 3) [University of Northern British Columbia](http://www.unbc.ca/) (<http://www.unbc.ca/>)  
SustR program contact: Patrick Maher [maherp@unbc.ca](mailto:maherp@unbc.ca)  
**UNBC International Programs:**  
<http://www.unbc.ca/whyunbc/international/index.html>  
**APPLICATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 15, 2011 for Spring 2012 semester**
- 4) [Lakehead University](http://www.lakeheadu.ca/) (<http://www.lakeheadu.ca/>)  
SustR program contact: Brian McLaren ([bmclaren@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:bmclaren@lakeheadu.ca))  
**Lakehead International Programs:**  
<http://international.lakeheadu.ca/?display=page&pageid=6>  
**APPLICATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 1, 2011 for Spring 2012 semester**

**6. Will I pay tuition and fees at Michigan Tech or the Study Abroad university?**

Even though you are studying abroad, you will pay your tuition at Michigan Tech. You will not need to pay most MTU student fees if you are studying at an out-of-country university. Your current financial aid will remain the same, and will be applied to your study abroad semester in the same way as your Michigan Tech semesters.

**7. Is this program open to graduate students?**

Yes, undergraduate and graduate students may apply to the program.

**8. Could the program be extended to more than one semester?**

We expect that the majority of students will participate in the program for one semester, but it is possible that a student could stay at a visiting university for up to two semesters.

**9. If I am a foreign student may I participate in the program?**

The program is open only to citizens or permanent residents of the home universities' countries [only US citizens or permanent residents can apply from the US, etc.].

**10. What makes for a competitive application to the program?**

The application consists of the

- a) IPS Study Abroad application packet (<http://www.mtu.edu/international/study-abroad/apply/>), and
- b) essay describing the applicant's interest in the program  
**Statement of Purpose for Participation in the SustR Program**  
(<http://www.geo.mtu.edu/~asmayer/sop.pdf>).

Students whose essays indicate that they are familiar with the program and that their interests reflect the program's objectives will be competitive.

Two Faculty/Advisors Recommendation forms are part of the IPS application packet. A competitive student's recommendations should indicate that the student has sufficient maturity to participate in a study abroad program and, for those students interested in the Mexican universities, has sufficient Spanish language skills.

**11. Could I study at the other partnership university that is located within my own country?**

No, students can only exchange to universities in other countries.

The University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez (UPRM) is the 2<sup>nd</sup> United States University along with Michigan Tech. American students cannot do their study abroad in Puerto Rico.

**12. What kind of support would be available to me in case of problems or emergencies while studying abroad?**

Each of the host universities' international programs offices are well prepared to handle problems or emergencies that may come up during your study abroad. In addition, Michigan Tech has well established contingencies for helping students abroad with problems or emergencies.

**13. Is this program administered through my college's study abroad program or is it a departmental program?**

This program is administered jointly by the Michigan Tech [International Programs and Services \(IPS\)](#) office and Alex Mayer, the program director in the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering. Dr. Mayer can give you information on the academic aspects of the program, but administrative details, such as supplying and reviewing your application will be handled by IPS.

**14. Are there any course requirements associated with the program?**

Yes. All students participating in a semester-long study abroad through this program are required to take the web-based course, "Seminar Rural Sustainability," offered Fall semesters, which has been developed and is taught by faculty at all six SustR universities.

- This course must be taken within 1 year of the study abroad semester
- Can be taken at Michigan Tech or at the host university
- Course number for Fall 2011: UN2990, CRN 83422, 3 credits

**15. Will there be any essays/presentations/technical reports due at the completion of the program?**

No, but you will be required to take a pre-program survey, and complete a program evaluation and survey at the end of your study abroad.

**16. What kind of internship will be offered? Is it a paid position?**

Internships may consist of positions with university faculty, government agencies, or non-governmental organizations involved in research on rural sustainability issues or rural development. The internships will require about 10 hours per week of effort. The internships will not be paid.

**17. Is the program open to all majors?**

Yes.

**18. What does SUSTR stand for?**

Good question! SustR stands for Sustainable Development for Rural Communities: Social, Health, Economic, and Environmental Advances.