With ample opportunities for international study and engagement, College of Arts & Letters students studied all over the world this past year. Whether traveling to China, Europe, Africa, or South America, these study abroad students crossed disciplines and time zones to expand their worldviews and to engage in the local culture through outreach and research efforts.
“Traveling abroad expands your knowledge and takes you out of your comfort zone,” said Kristen Gmerek, Global Studies and Professional Writing major, who did a study abroad in western Kenya where she also worked in an orphanage and a local library. “It goes beyond the classroom where you’re applying real-life experiences. It’s a crucial investment in college.”

As the national leader in study abroad participation among public universities for the past six years, Michigan State University has one of the largest study abroad catalogs in the country and is a top producer of global citizens who are prepared to make a difference in communities near and far.

The College of Arts & Letters is a leader of study abroad at Michigan State University with 80 study abroad programs in 40 different countries and more than 50% of our students engaging in international education.

This is all made possible due, in part, to the hard work of a large number of dedicated faculty who invest time and energy to share their passion for international education with our students.

MSU’s international partners also are key to student success.

“Studying abroad provides so much valuable insight in the world and in your life that I can’t think of how you could get that any other way than going abroad,” said Jake Mell, Spanish major, who did a 12-week program in Peru and worked in a donation-funded school for students who also work to help support their families. “Ever since my study abroad trip, I’ve had no issues having Spanish conversations with anyone I can find.”

As MSU expands its international reach, the College of Arts & Letters and Office of Study Abroad are committed to helping the University remain a “world-grant” institution by offering study abroad programs focused on quality, diversity, and accessibility.
Clockwise from above: Tanzania, Ireland, Germany, China, South Africa.

Facing page, clockwise from top: France, Spain, India, Puerto Rico, China.