

Exploring Education in Germany

Short-term, Faculty-led Study Abroad

May 3-16, 2026

This short-term study abroad program will provide MSUB College of Education students with the opportunity to explore Germany's educational systems and cultural heritage while engaging in meaningful cultural exchange with German peers and educators. This program will emphasize cultural and global citizenship, preparing students to compare and contrast educational practices in the United States and Germany, and to critically reflect on cultural assumptions and global perspectives.

This study abroad will be linked to the following Spring 2026 Courses:

- Classroom Management-Undergraduate (EDU 343)
- Elementary Social Studies Methods-Undergraduate (EDU 397B)
- Secondary Social Studies Methods-Undergraduate (EDU 497A)
- Elementary Social Studies Methods-Graduate (EDCI 512)

However, if a student wishes to participate that has either already taken these courses or they are not enrolled in the Spring, they can be enrolled in the following 1 credit Seminar: EDU 494 Seminar.

During this study abroad program, students will directly engage in service-learning activities and discussions with students and faculty from Ludwigsburg University of Education, St. David's International School, and Ramstein Air Force Base schools. To gain a better understanding of the diverse lifestyles and history in the region, students will visit historically and culturally significant sites such as Dachau Concentration Camp, Heidelberg Castle, Luxembourg City (Luxembourg), and Strasbourg (France).

Students will engage in structured daily reflections to connect their study abroad experiences to course outcomes. These reflections will include journaling and photo journaling, where students capture and analyze key moments from each day. Additionally, guided group discussions over dinner or evening meetings will be held to share insights and perspectives. This process will encourage critical self-awareness and help students link cultural observations to broader themes in education and global citizenship.

- **Goal 1:** Compare and contrast schooling systems and practices between schools in Germany and the United States.
 - Aligned with Global Learning Value: Understanding Global Systems Benchmark 1: "Identifies the basic role of some global and local institutions, ideas, and processes in the human and natural worlds."
- **Goal 2:** Explore visible and hidden cultural norms, behaviors, assumptions, and expectations associated with personal identities and those of German peers.
 - Aligned with Global Learning Value Understanding Global Systems Benchmark 1: "Identifies the basic role of some global and local institutions, ideas, and processes in the human and natural worlds."
- **Goal 3:** Develop cultural and global citizenship competencies aligned with MSUB's Global Learning Values.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

Students will identify global systems shaping education, demonstrate cultural self-awareness, and reflect on how local/global contexts influence decision-making in education.