We invite you to submit a proposal to present at MSU’s Learning Abroad Conference on Friday, November 20, 2015 at the International Center. Please hold availability from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.

What is this conference about? This conference is about MSU students’ learning abroad experiences. We define “learning abroad” to include: MSU students’ experiences in a study abroad program, international students’ experiences at MSU, and U.S students’ experiences with international students at MSU. The conference is designed to give voice to students’ stories through a variety of creative media so that fellow students and MSU faculty and staff may better understand the learning abroad experience.

Why would you want to participate? Here are a few great reasons why you should be involved. You can...
- Take time to reflect on your learning abroad experience.
- Share your story so that others may learn.
- Connect with other students.
- Gain valuable experience. Employers and graduate schools value conference presentations.

Examples of presentations from last year’s conference
- Shared Stories and a Dialogue in Mali
- Hi, I am Sergio: It is Nice to Meet Myself at MSU
- Traveling & Social Anxiety – The Art of Asking for Help
- Dance and Culture in Cuba

How do you get involved? Getting involved is easy and involves three simple steps.

1. Write a proposal. Complete the proposal form by copying and pasting it into a Word document. Email your submission to Dr. Inge Steglitz at steglitz@msu.edu by September 30th, 2015. Proposals will be reviewed by MSU faculty, staff, and students. You will be notified of the decision no later than October 16th.

2. If your proposal is accepted, you will work with a conference mentor to focus and refine your draft presentation.

3. Present! All individual presentations have 10 minutes, including group presentations.
Proposal Form

Thank you for choosing to share your learning abroad experience. If you have any questions please contact Dr. Inge Steglitz, Acting Director, Office of Study Abroad at steglitz@msu.edu, or 517-432-2685. Please visit http://studyabroad.isp.msu.edu/lac/ to learn more about the conference and view example presentations by last year’s presenters.

Overview. Your presentation should present a story about your learning abroad experience. A learning abroad experience includes study abroad experiences, international students’ experiences at MSU, or U.S students’ experiences with international students at MSU.

Your audience will be diverse including other presenters, students, faculty/staff, parents, and family. They will be interested in hearing about your "experiences and what you learned," as well as "why your experiences were important to you and how your story is compelling to others."

1. Contact Information. Please provide the following information so that we know a little about you and can contact you. For groups, please provide this for the lead contact.

   Name
   MSU email
   Cell Phone Number
   Major(s)
   Degree
   Class Standing
   Gender
   International student (yes/no, home country)

2. Type of learning abroad experience. Select the one that best applies to the story you’re sharing in your presentation, and complete information about the type of program/experience:

   • an MSU student’s experience in a study abroad program (please share the program name, length, and location, as well as the program type, i.e., internship, community engagement, research, internship, semester-long, faculty-led, etc.)

   • an international student’s experience at MSU (how long have you been at MSU? Are you in a degree program or American Semester Program?)

   • an American student’s experience with international students at MSU (describe the context of your experience, e.g., orientation volunteer, Resident Assistant, etc.)
3. **Title of your presentation.** Provide a title for your presentation that captures the main idea you’re sharing.

4. **Theme of your presentation.** Check all themes that apply to your presentation
   - Interactions at MSU with people who are culturally different than you
   - Interactions abroad with people who are culturally different than you
   - Personal growth
   - Professional growth
   - Development of greater cultural awareness
   - Other (please describe)

5. **The Point of your presentation.** In about 70 words, describe the main point or idea you want to express with your story and what makes your story worth telling.

6. **The Story.** In 250 words or less, describe the beginning, middle, and end of your story. Be clear about how this story relates to the main point of your presentation.

7. **Engaging your audience.** In 100 words or less, describe how you will make your story interesting to your audience. For example, describe how might you use vivid details, pictures, evidence, strong feelings, humor, drama, and so on to convey your point in an engaging manner.