



The Global Independent Study Grant, offered through the Office of Global Activities (OGA), is a grant worth up to \$2,500 awarded to students through a competitive application process. Residential and online students in all curriculum tracks and pathways are eligible for this grant, including part-time students. Students **must** be enrolled in the MSW program for the Spring/Summer 2025 term or the Fall 2025 term to be eligible for the grant.

Travel must be international and last for at least 14 consecutive days (not including travel days) to qualify for the grant. Please note that students who will be enrolled in the Spring/Summer term (e.g. Advanced Standing, MasterTrack, and UM Sociology + SW tracks) may **not** travel during scheduled coursework, and maximum travel time will be 3-3.5 weeks in August. Students who will not be enrolled in the spring/summer term (e.g. 20-month track) have the option to travel for a longer period if they wish.

Below is a checklist for applying for the Global Independent Study Grant. Please note that applicants are not guaranteed funding.

FALL TERM

October

- Attend the **Global Independent Study Information Session**. If you are unable to attend the information session, contact ssw.oga@umich.edu to set up an appointment to discuss your options with a staff member.
- Begin contacting **potential faculty instructors**. To complete a Global Independent Study, you **must** have a faculty instructor. Faculty instructors must be [clinical-track](#) or [tenure-track](#) (please note that lecturers and research faculty cannot serve as an instructor). If you need help identifying an appropriate faculty instructor, you may arrange a meeting with OGA staff (ssw.oga@umich.edu) early in the fall term.

October-December

- Open a Global Independent Study Grant application in [M-Compass](#) and review the requirements.
- After securing a faculty instructor, complete the [Global Independent Study Instructor Signature Form](#). Please note that your **faculty instructor's signature is required** to apply for the grant. You will need to upload a copy of this form to [M-Compass](#) as part of the application.
- Establish contact with an agency, organization, or individual in your GIS host country who will support you with your project while you are abroad. You will be **required to provide proof of contact** with an agency, organization, or other representative with whom you will be completing your GIS experience abroad as part of your grant application.
- Review other funding opportunities at <https://ssw.umich.edu/offices/global-activities/funding>

WINTER TERM

January-February

- Meet with your faculty instructor to develop a plan for your experience abroad and discuss how it fits within your larger educational goals. Along with your instructor, you will need to determine the number of credit hours you will receive for the independent study.
- Familiarize yourself with visa application and immunization requirements for your GIS country.
- Draft the essays and other information for your [M-Compass](#) application.
- Research the items listed on the [Travel Cost Sheet](#) to compile an approximate budget for your GIS project.



Early March

- GIS Grant **Application Deadline:** Submit all application materials through [M-Compass](#).

Mid-March

- Check for email communication from OGA regarding grant acceptance and next steps
- Complete all required post-decision materials in M-Compass. Detailed information will be sent through email. **These items must be submitted before any funds can be dispersed to your accounts.**
- Complete the [Independent Study Recording Form](#). Once the registrar has processed the form, you will receive email permission to register for the independent study course (SW 528). Work with your faculty instructor determine the number of credits you will receive for the independent study. If you will **not** be enrolled in the Spring/Summer term, you **must** register for SW 528 in the winter term as a late add before the end of the term.

March-April

- Apply for additional funding if needed: <https://sww.umich.edu/offices/global-activities/funding>
- Check to see if there is a [U-M Health Risk, Travel Warning, or Travel Restriction](#) in effect for the country of planned travel. If so, you **must submit additional documentation** to the UM International Travel and Oversight Committee (ITOC), and provide copies of ITOC approval for your travel to the OGA via [email](#).
- Begin making trip preparations ([refer to Travel Planning Resources guide](#)):
 - 1) Research your GIS country and agency
 - 2) Apply for a passport and visa (if necessary)
 - 3) Purchase flights
 - 4) Consult [UHS travel health services](#) and [CDC](#) for immunization and travel health recommendations
 - 5) Consult the [State Department's website](#) for current updates on local conditions
 - 6) Develop and discuss an emergency safety plan with your faculty instructor

April

- If all required paperwork has been submitted, grant monies will be dispersed to your student accounts. Failure to submit the above paperwork on time will result in a delay of funds.
- If you are a 16-month or 12-month student (e.g. Advanced Standing, MasterTrack, UM Sociology + SW, and some part-time tracks), you must register for SW 528 in the spring/summer term. You must complete the [Independent Study Recording Form](#) for approval **before** you can register.
- Attend the mandatory Pre-Departure Orientation. Detailed information about this event will be provided via email.

AFTER THE GIS PROJECT HAS BEEN COMPLETED

September/October

- Create and present a poster in the Fall term for the Global Social Work Poster Session. This is a **requirement for all students** funded through the Global Independent Study Grant.

If you have any questions, email sww.oga@umich.edu or call (734) 615-0012.