Students pursuing an MBA degree at the University of Missouri–St. Louis have the option to experience and see business through a global lens. MBA students can take two-week courses in Germany, Finland or both, and apply it toward their UMSL degree.

In addition to the intensive instruction provided by international faculty, students will participate in corporate visits, networking opportunities and cultural activities. Evenings and weekends are open for a variety of cultural excursions, tours and social activities offered by the host university.

The IMBA is an excellent addition to the College of Business Administration IB offerings and helps to fortify UMSL’s strong international partnerships, including those in the IMBA program.

3 graduate credits per course • program flexibility • 2-week courses • free time to explore

UMSL IMBA (intensive) Program

May 2017 GERMANY
University of Applied Sciences Aschaffenburg
Focus on global management
Company tours and cultural activities

May 14-22, 2016 FINLAND
Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences
Focus on international marketing
Company tours and cultural activities

November 18-27, 2016 USA
University of Missouri–St. Louis
Focus on global diversity of services
Company tours and cultural activities

Global Leadership and Management Advisory Board

The Global Leadership and Management (GLAM) Advisory Board includes academic and business leaders based in St. Louis and around the world. Board members represent companies and industries of various sizes. This linkage is critical to the ongoing development of the International Business degree programs at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Business members of the advisory board provide valuable input to the curriculum, internship opportunities for international MBA students, and participate in classes and forums to share their experience and knowledge with our students.

Steve Blasius
Principle, Red Spider Consulting LLC
Russ Bonuch
President,
Morin Jackson
Michael Castello
Co-founder, Apeirion, LLC
Gilias Cottier
President, Pharmaceutical Development Services, Pantheon Inc.
Lloyd “Henry” Evans
Vice President, Marketing, H2 Enterprises, Inc.
Thomas Essell
Associate Dean and Director of Graduate Studies, UMSL Business, University of Missouri-St. Louis
Manchita Parekh
CEO, IBENETIC Systems Co., Ltd.
Joel Glassman
Associate Professor, University of Missouri-St. Louis
John Guckes
Independent Consultant, John Guckes & Associates, LLP
Michael Haney
Business Development Associate, Next Generation Company
Tim Heard
Senior Vice President, International, Caterpillar
Charles Hoffman
Dean, UMSL Business, University of Missouri-St. Louis
Jaye Heflin
Attorney, Law Office of Jane E. Heflin
Craig Ingredmany
International Counsel, News International
Robert Jeffreys
Vice President and Deputy Chief Compliance Officer, RSA Insurance Company
Michael Kelley
Vice President of International Business Development, Metal Exchange Corporation
Timothy Nowak
Executive Director, World Trade Center Saint Louis
Kai Pang
CEO, Nides Wireless Corporation
Radoslo Kirsner
Director, Business Development, Fidelity Title International
Joseph Bettine
Vice President, International Business Institute/Department Chair, Global Leadership and Management, University of Missouri-St. Louis
Shaher Sabadosh
CEO, SiplusCeramic Semiconductor
Jennifer Schwerin
International Attorney, Partner, Armstrong/Treadwell
Jay Stolchut
President, St. Louis International Inc.
Turpion (Turbo) Singh
Vice President, Global Franchising, Enterprise Holdings Inc.
Raja Sunandar
Vice President, Global Franchising, Enterprise Holdings Inc.
Jennifer Schwesig
International Attorney, Partner, Armstrong/Treadwell
Jay Stolchut
President, St. Louis International Inc.
Norihito Furuya
CEO, Nides Wireless Corporation

New scholarships have been added to help UMSL students travel abroad, and new executives have joined the advisory board. Our 2016 International Business Career Conference set records for sponsorships and registrants, our three-university IMBA program partnership enters a new circuit in Finland, we will compete in our fourth Case Competition soon, and our faculty continues to conduct ground-breaking and impactful research.

As you read through this issue, I hope you see how each new piece of the puzzle adds value to the whole enterprise as we continue to enhance student performance, engage the community, and advance the study of International Business. Enjoy!
There is no better way to learn about international business concepts than to have a hands-on travel experience, and engage in discussions with government leaders, businesses, and educators to better appreciate the cultural and business environment in that country.

China is one of those experiences that I was part of; two phenomenal weeks of summer that I will forever remember.

Our first stop: Beijing! My friends and I roamed through the Summer Palace, walked the Great Wall, discovered Forbidden City, experienced Tiananmen Square and wondered at Bird’s Nest Stadium. The Great Wall cannot be defined with words, and is too huge of a wonder to be confined within a photograph. This was truly a once in a lifetime experience.

For the majority of the trip we remained in Nanjing, a small college town on the Yangtze River. We took tours of the ancient city walls, the Nanjing mausoleum, the Nanjing university, and several historical sites.

Our next stop was Suzhou: the City of Silk. We were happy to eat duck and do a little shopping on this part of the trip. We then boarded the bus to our next stop in Hangzhou, which is the capital of China’s Zhejiang province. We saw the ancient Grand Canal waterway which originated in Beijing. Our professor of Finance and insightful tour guide, Professor Hung-Gay Fung, took us to Shanghai as our last stop. We toured the amazing Oriental Pearl Tower in the Pudong district, and finally caught a river cruise on that rainy evening.

Food was my favorite part about the trip. My motto was, “Let me try it.” Cuisine never tasted so good. Some regions are known for their duck, certain provinces cook with more spicy flair. Interesting foods included liver, hearts, brains, blow fish, and blood sauce. Overall, if I could not find it in the United States, I was keen to try it. Breakfast street food was fresh, and late night food was the best. Here are some tips for your trip to China:

- You should know a few words of the language before you arrive.
- Be open to try all the food.
- Try karaoke; you have not been to China unless you karaoke.
- There are four different sounds to every letter in the country’s spoken language. More than likely you are pronouncing the word completely wrong.
- Scholarships are available through the Study Abroad office that helped me with the expenses of the trip. The office also helped with pre-departure orientation and prepared students for the trip.

If you are someone who would like to experience something unique, make life-long friends, try amazing food while also learning interesting lessons, this trip is for you.

My decision to participate in the faculty-led program to Costa Rica during the 2015 Winter Intersession came as a surprise to my family and friends, but I was determined to have an adventure that I would remember long after my time here at the University of Missouri–St. Louis ended. I was invited to join the International Business Club by a friend who had just returned from Tokyo. After attending one of the International Business Club’s meetings where everyone gave presentations about their experiences in different countries, I wanted to have a story of my own.

Traveling to Costa Rica presented me with seemingly endless possibilities to explore. It did not matter that none of the students knew each other beforehand, because we were all excited to have an adventure like no other. We became fast friends as we took excursions and classes together. On the weekends, we traveled to different parts of Costa Rica including Tortuguera and the Punta Coral. We visited the beautiful rainforests, climbed mountains and volcanoes, felt the power of the waterfalls, and had fun on the beaches. For the first time in my life I went hiking, zip-lining, and even jet-skiing!

During the week, we took Spanish classes at the Costa Rican Language Academy (CRLA), which we all absolutely loved. My class had only 3 students, including myself, so our professor really took the time to understand each of us individually. We became very close after having critical conversations about the world as it is and how it should be. Learning another language meant gaining a new perspective.

My Spanish improved through all the activities and experience we had both in and out of class. In the afternoon, many of us took a tour of downtown San Jose where we learned about Hispanic literature, art, and the history of that beautiful city. While in Costa Rica, I stayed with a host family who made me feel right at home. We shared many great moments, priceless memories, and wonderful meals. Having a support system while going on this journey helped me fully experience the Costa Rican lifestyle. I still talk to my family in San Rafael, my professor from CRLA, and the friends I made who had traveled there from all over the world. Studying abroad not only changed the way I view the world around me, but the role I can play. My experience in Costa Rica was incredible and I would do it again in a heartbeat. I only wish that I could have stayed longer.


Top: View from the observation deck in Oriental Pearl Tower in Shanghai.

Above: Brianna Clemens (center) in a music session with Costa Rican locals.

By Brianna Clemens, IB 8584A 2016

Costa Rica 
winter intersession

By Brianna Clemens, IB 8584A 2016

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The Bavarian Nice is a town with about 70,000 inhabitants, located at the border of Bavaria and Hesse, around 40 minutes away from Frankfurt am Main. The city got its nickname due to its mild climate. Driving into Aschaffenburg by car, the first thing that caught my eye was the majestic red sandstone Johannisburg Castle that reigns over the Main River. Another site is the Pompejanum, a Roman-style house that is connected to the Johannisburg Castle by a beautiful promenade that runs along the river.

During my stay at the Hochschule Aschaffenburg, one of the partners of UMSL’s IMBA program, I could explore the city center with its various shopping opportunities (the City Galerie is one of the biggest malls in the region), museums and Biergärten. Why not? We are in Bavaria! In the summer, people have picnics along the river or take walks in one of the two parks in the city.

Park Schönthal is in the center of the city and includes beautiful ruins. We were told that during big soccer events, when everyone in Germany cheers for the national team, the games are shown on big screens in bars, Biergärten, and the Park Schönthal. Park Schönbusch is located a little outside of the city but is much bigger. It is a great place to go for walks, ride boats or get lost in the scenic nature.

As soon as the sun was out, it seemed as though all of Aschaffenburg was outside, sitting in the parks, lounging along the river, hanging out in one of the Biergärten, enjoying some ice cream, people watching, or visiting one of the various festivals around the city like the Africa-Caribbean Festival. Even if the weather was not that nice, there was always a bar around the corner where we could enjoy one of the numerous local beers. Aschaffenburg has the highest amount of bars and restaurants per capita in Bavaria. With it being so close to Hesse, we were still able to try some local Hesse specialties like Apple wine.

During my time in the IMBA program, we visited several local companies that operate worldwide. In Aschaffenburg, you find Linde, producer of forklifts, as well as Takata, a Japanese company that got some negative attention due to its failing airbags. We also visited the European Central Bank in Frankfurt am Main. We combined this visit with a city tour through the area around the historic main station and along the other historic parts of Frankfurt (Old Stock Exchange, the Römer, the Pauls Kirche and so on). We finalized our visit by getting some Hesse cuisine (Green sauce with potatoes and schnitzel, as well as Apple Wine) in Frankfurt’s old Sachsenhausen, a part of the city known for its small old Apple Wine pubs.

Another attraction of my stay was the visit of the Faust Brewery in Miltenberg, a city about 40 minutes away by train. Miltenberg itself has a beautiful old city center. The Faust Brewery is well known for its beer in the region.

Classes were held on the Hochschule Aschaffenburg’s campus, which is a historic site itself. The older part of the campus is located in an old Hunters Casern, which was built in 1896 for a Bavarian emperor. In general, you can find a lot of historic buildings in Aschaffenburg and the region. The mix of historic and modern is quite impressive. Due to Aschaffenburg’s central location and the well-developed public transport system in Germany, it was easy to extend the stay for a few days and explore some other cities in Germany or even the countries close by.

Aschaffenburg – The Bavarian Nice
(by Alexandra Loehr, MBA 2016)

Do you want to see this jewel with your own eyes? The next round of the IMBA partnership courses start soon. In May 2016, our partner in Seinäjoki, Finland, invites students from all three universities to a two-week course with a marketing focus. UMSL hosts their courses this Thanksgiving break and Aschaffenburg will welcome you in 2017.
The International Master of Business Administration, offered through UMSL's College of Business, is a rigorous and innovative program. The IMBA Program allows students to spend one year in their home school, and one year abroad at one of UMSL's partner schools, earning students a dual degree.

Part of this program enables students to interact with industry leaders throughout St. Louis. Recently, a group of IMBA students was given an opportunity to experience daily operations in an international manufacturing facility. H-J International, Inc. supplies electronic components to the worldwide original equipment manufacturer (OEM) market using the latest technology production processes. H-J International is one of the many companies that have a strong relationship with UMSL's international business program. Founded in 1989, H-J International was created as a means to differentiate between the domestic sales of parent company H-J Enterprises and the company's growing international sales division. Located in High Ridge, Mo., H-J International is a leading manufacturer and supplier of transformer components, switchgear apparatus, porcelain and epoxy bushings and insulators, distribution and power transformers, and electrical connectors for the world market.

Henry Evitts, VP of Manufacturing, conducted the tour. He led the group through two of the company's major operating facilities. Mr. Evitts explained the company's global holding in the OEM market. He was careful to provide students with the full experience and helped them understand the company and its objectives. As one of the leading manufacturers and suppliers for the electrical industry market throughout the world, this company visit was great exposure for students interested in operations and logistics, quality management, and international business.

Throughout the tour, Mr. Evitts' son and HR manager, Jeffrey Evitts, chimed in on HR practices and strategic changes towards atomization for further accuracy. Following the tour the company's marketing manager David Stockton gave some humorous encounters on his business trips to South America and some of the obstacles he had to overcome to achieve successful deals with clients. The day concluded with an in-depth Q&A with Henry Evitts and company President Jay Shekelton.

Jay Shekelton and Lloyd “Henry” Evitts both serve on the Global Leadership and Management (GLAM) Advisory Board for the College of Business. H-J International offers a dual degree.

H-J International is one of the many companies that have a strong relationship with UMSL’s international business program.

Top: IMBA 2015-2016 Participants
Bottom: Henry Evitts licensed engaging with IMBA students.

Peter Luecke, Vice President of Sales and Marketing, led the group through two of the company’s major operating facilities. Mr. Luecke explained the company’s global holding in the OEM market. He was careful to provide students with the full experience and helped them understand the company and its objectives. As one of the leading manufacturers and suppliers for the electrical industry market throughout the world, this company visit was great exposure for students interested in operations and logistics, quality management, and international business.

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Jay Shekelton and Lloyd “Henry” Evitts both serve on the Global Leadership and Management (GLAM) Advisory Board for the College of Business. H-J International’s involvement with UMSL extends well beyond sponsoring internships. As board members, Shekelton and Evitts use their industry expertise to enrich the learning experience in the IMBA program, providing students with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in their own careers.

8th annual International Business Career Conference exceeds its goals again
By Abdi Karim Mattacchi, IBMA 2016

This year’s 8th Annual International Business Career Conference, “Your Connection to a Global Future,” did not disappoint. It was the biggest conference to date, breaking last year’s record by more than 100 registrations. Year after year, this conference has continued to draw connections between students and business professionals in an interactive setting.

The conference began with a warm welcome from UMSL alumnus Dr. Joseph Rotman. He is the Department Chair of Global Leadership and Management and Director of the International Business Institute. Dr. Rotman introduced Dean Charles Hoffman. This was followed by the introduction of Scott Bell, keynote speaker and Vice President of Global Sales Programs at Siemens SISW. The conference committee changed things up this year by moving the executive panel to follow the keynote speaker on the schedule in order to accommodate students who could not attend events happening later in the day. When Safia Madani, a master’s student at UMSL, was asked how she liked the schedule change, she replied “I missed out on the executive panel last year, because I wasn’t able to stay the entire time. Having them back to back was a great addition for me.”

On the executive panel was Turbo Sjogren, Vice President of Air Force Fighters and Aircraft Sustainment at Boeing; Peter Smith, Vice President of Global Franchising at Enterprise Holdings; Shaker Sadasiwam, President and CEO of SunEdison Semiconductor; and Amber Simpson, Vice President of Multicultural Strategy at US Bank. Our panel moderator was Tom Wilson, Vice President of Public Communications and Marketing at Monsanto. It is a tradition for students to have to catch a stress ball when they want to ask a question during the Q & A portion of the discussion. This helps students to loosen up while also revealing the fun side of the executives. Students had the opportunity to ask the panel questions while getting a sense of the atmosphere.

Following the executive panel, attendees were able to break away to workshops covering many topics. The speakers included Nestlé Purina’s Kate Maki, who gave the ins and outs of “Connecting with the World around You;” The St. Louis Mosaic Project’s Betsy Cohen, who discussed “Connecting the World to St. Louis;” Masterlock’s John Clark explored “The New Generation Takes Off;” and Zoltek’s Ric Baldini explained “Your Ticket to Connecting with International Customers.” Furthermore, UMSL alumnus Sheena Crompton from Boeing, Carlos Suarez from JCI, and Samantha Greminger from Thomson Reuters collaborated to discuss “From Departure to Destination.” There was also a “Lunch and Learn” session where Thomas Carrington from The Blessing Basket Project presented “Connecting People for a Better World.”

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Top-tier students take on global challenge
By Peter Wilson, BBAS 2015

It was the end of quarter three for seniors at UMSL, and it was hard to believe that we only had two months left of classes in our business-school lives. I was asked to join UMSL’s team and compete in the International Business Case Competition. Of course, I said yes because I enjoy a good challenge. When I told family and friends that I would be participating in the competition reactions were along the lines of “Huh?” or “What’s that?” So I think it’s probably best to define what the competition is before I go on.

A case competition begins with the presentation of a business problem, usually in the form of a short story with data to display key aspects of the situation. Teams of students are then tasked with solving the problem and presenting their solution to a panel of judges who then evaluate the analysis and effectiveness of the presentation. It is important to note that this all must be done within a predetermined time constraint, and the time allotted is usually far too short. Essentially, it is designed to simulate an actual business issue that one would face as a chief executive or a board of directors member in a company. With an overload of data, ambiguous facts, and no clear solution, it truly takes a lot of practice, effort and skills to come out on top.

The UMSL International Business Case Competition, hosted by the College of Business and the International Business Institute, took place on April 17th and 18th, 2015. A company, formerly known as Brown Shoe, now rebranded as Cabela’s, provided the case to us. The challenge we were tasked with was to understand the European market and a licensing strategy to maximize profit. Our thoughts and a licensing strategy to maximize profit were this would be a great idea and the perfect mix of selective distribution and a licensing strategy to minimize capital required while maximizing profit. Our thoughts were this would be a great marketing tool and be the building blocks for superior brand recognition in the region.

At 3:30 AM, supported by energy drinks and M&Ms, my team and I finally concluded our slide deck. We each took a nap to rejuvenate ourselves then put on our suits, and practiced our delivery. We ended up taking fourth place out of twelve teams. We were proud to represent a University with a proven track record in preparing students from all backgrounds with the skills needed to succeed in their future careers. By now you are probably thinking “Jeze Peter, why would I ever want to put myself through something like this? I have too much going on already.”

I will be the first to tell you that yes, the cases are demanding. However, I will also tell you that these contests are a great way to apply what you have learned in the classroom. At the end of the day, you will have demonstrated various competencies that make you more marketable when it comes to seeking employment opportunities. I am tasked with creating cases every month at the company I am working for right now. I research companies to understand their strategy and industry in order to position myself as a credible individual. I collaborate with specialists in the company to develop cases. So I actually use these skills, and I am glad I started building my case competition muscles while still in school.

I had a blast participating in UMSL’s 3rd annual International Business Case Competition. I gained unforgettable memories and made new friends. I was particularly proud of the efforts to reach out to prospective schools and the student community in the Midwest region. With 12 judges, 12 teams, and more than 60 students attending, it was truly a great success. It is important to note that this competition is a student-run project, and their efforts helped pull off a successful event. Professor Gupta, who provided our team with his professional advice leading up to the competition, acted as our mentor and a coach. Everyone in the International Business Institute office make opportunities like this possible. It is an experience unlike anything else you will get to do while in college, and a unique opportunity for students to tackle a “real world” challenge.

If you ask Devin Billups about his path to higher education, he will tell you his mother really does know best.

“She was the biggest contributor for me coming to UMSL,” says Billups, a freshman majoring in business administration with an emphasis in international business.

It was during his years at Hazelwood (Mo.) Central High School that his mother began putting the university on his radar.

“She got me involved in UMSL’s Bridge Program, which gave me a taste of college life before college,” he says.

When it came time for him to apply to colleges, his mother informed him of UMSL’s nationally ranked International Business program and outstanding business partners.

“She showed me that for my field of interest, UMSL really was the best place for me,” he says.

After applying to UMSL’s nationally ranked International Business program, he received a total of six scholarships, including the Emerson Scholarship, the Enterprise Opportunities Scholarship and the Paz Scholarship.

“I chose UMSL because it was the best fit for me. I love the campus. I love the energy,” Billups says. “And UMSL chose me. They gave me more scholarships and financial aid than any other college. For me personally, it’s the best place for a quality education.”

Visit UMSL’s YouTube page to watch an “I Chose UMSL” video featuring Billups.

Excerpt from original story in UMSL Daily.
International Business Club networks with area executives

By Kourtney McKinney, BSBA '16

On a chilly November evening, students, faculty and members of UMSL’s Global Leadership and Management Advisory Board gathered at Cantina Laredo in downtown Clayton for the International Business Club’s happy hour event. Like the other students, I was excited to mingle with business professionals across all industries. A casual environment was the goal of the event, providing students with an informal way to network with successful executives. It can be intimidating for students to approach professionals, but the format of the happy hour helps take the pressure off when starting a conversation.

During the event, students at both the undergraduate and graduate level mingled with UMSL faculty from the GLAM department, as well as members of the advisory board. The refreshments were the perfect accompaniment to conversations about world travel, different cultures and business. This was the club’s third happy hour event, and has yet again proved to be an enriching experience for students, faculty, and advisory board members alike.

One of the most important aims of the event was for the students to learn about working in international business from the advisory board members. I received some great tips, from how to adjust to a new culture when you move abroad, to how to work with co-workers of different nationalities. I was amazed when I heard the advisory board are genuinely interested in talking with students. You may even receive some advice about learning new languages. I was amazed when I heard the list of languages advisory board members can speak.

The happy hour is one of many activities the International Business Club hosts during the school year. We also hold meetings where American speakers share their study abroad experiences, and international students discuss their respective home countries. Additionally, we have speakers who discuss the necessary skills to be successful in international business. This semester, stay tuned for meeting dates and a trivia night! For more information on the International Business Club, please visit ib.umsl.edu.

New cybersecurity lab opens

By Jan Nazario

Several dozen faculty and staff gathered Nov. 13 for the grand opening of the Cybersecurity and IT Innovation Lab at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The lab, located on the second floor of Express Scripts Hall, is a collaboration between the Department of Information Systems in the College of Business Administration and the Department of Math and Computer Science in the College of Arts and Sciences.

“The creation of this lab has been an ongoing effort between the two colleges,” said Charles Hoffman, dean of the College of Business Administration. “In addition, we’ve received help from Information Technology Services on campus, friends and donors.”

With this learning studio setup, this lab will provide a sandbox where the students can safely learn and practice things like ethical hacking and penetration testing, and have an opportunity to discover and understand the various types of threats to businesses. This will be a centerpiece for the two departments.”

Collaboration between the Department of Information Systems in the College of Business Administration and the Department of Math and Computer Science in the College of Arts and Sciences ensures that capable and motivated students are prepared to meet the international experience requirement.

2015-16 IB scholarship recipients

Through the generosity of the International Business Institute Advisory Board, UMSL faculty and friends of the university, we were able to award $24,250 in scholarships this year to assist students. Such financial support ensures that capable and motivated students will have an opportunity to earn international business degrees by subsidizing the cost associated with the required overseas travel and study.

Top: Shaji Khan demonstrates capabilities of the new cybersecurity lab. (Photo by Jennifer Rozel)
Bottom (from left): Ribbon-cutting ceremony participants Joseph Pori, Dinesh Maitreja, Chickrew Justice, Huntley Curt, Sagar Mishra, Alexander Tugra George, Prakash Chil-Dop, Shaji Khan and Dean Charles Hoffman. (Photo by Jen Hatton)
Year after year, UMSL goes a step beyond producing:

1. Over 70 study abroad programs in more than 40 countries.
2. Student exchange programs enriched through cultural interactions and internship opportunities.
3. Internships with companies like Boeing, Caleres (formerly Brown Shoe), PricewaterhouseCoopers, KPMG, Scottrade, The Walt Disney Company, Edward Jones, Emerson Electric, MasterCard, Monsanto and more!

Why is UMSL's International Business program the best in Missouri?

Because the numbers add up!

UMSL's International Business

No. 12 in the nation

13 years in top 20!

70+ study abroad programs in more than 40 countries