**Models for International Collaboration**

Michigan State University, College of Engineering

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1. [Types of International Agreements](https://www.isp.msu.edu/msus-global-reach/relationships-partners/drafting-protocol/) – MSU does not normally require an agreement as a basis for international collaborations that do not have formal requirements and obligations involving the participants. A general agreement can be developed when the partners wish to formalize a relationship agreeing to collaborate. Other specific agreements can be developed for the types of programs listed below.
2. [Education Abroad](https://educationabroad.isp.msu.edu/) – MSU undergraduates can complete approved courses at an international partner institution and credits can be applied (transferred) to their MSU degree. These are on a short-term basis, typically for a semester or less, most commonly occur during in the summer semester. Agreements can be structured with MSU students paying tuition and housing costs directly to the partner, or under an exchange agreement where approximately equal numbers of students from both institutions study abroad and pay tuition to their home institutions.
3. [American Semester Program](https://americansemester.isp.msu.edu/) allows international students to take regular courses at MSU on a short-term basis, for one or two semesters. Students must be in good academic standing at their home university and meet English language proficiency requirements. Additional requirements and prerequisites may apply to certain courses or academic departments. Fees are posted on the MSU web site.
4. [International transfer students](https://admissions.msu.edu/apply/international/transfer) – international students can apply for regular admission to MSU with the potential to receive credit for courses competed at another institution.
5. Linked programs – agreements can be developed under which students at an international partner institution can receive consideration to be admitted to a graduate program at MSU on the basis of mutually agreeable criteria for each degree program. These programs may be structured as BS to MS, BS to PhD or MS to PhD, and are negotiated individually with partner institutions.
6. Dual PhD Programs – In this type of program students pursue PhD degrees at both MSU and at a partner institution that is jointly supervised from the start by a common committee and co-advisors at the two institutions. Students must complete the degree requirements of both programs, but courses and exams at either institution may be accepted by the other, and only one dissertation is required. The agreement is normally set up at the College level at MSU, and requirements for each program worked out individually for each student and the degree program involved. Students spend similar amounts for time at each institution (typically 2-3 years each) are normally supported by each institution during the period of study there.
7. Collaborative research arrangements between research investigators or groups involving international partners are widespread at MSU but a formal agreement is not normally required by MSU. This may involve periods of time that faculty researchers, post-docs and students spend at the partner’s institution. Funding is arranged individually by the researchers. If commitments to specific activities are involved, a [specific activity agreement](https://www.isp.msu.edu/msus-global-reach/relationships-partners/drafting-protocol/) can be developed.
8. Innovative educational and research partnerships can be structured for situations and programs not covered by the arrangements listed above.

For more information, contract:

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