Exploring Communities at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities
The University of Minnesota is a special place with a vibrant community where students interact and exchange ideas. Diversity is an essential, invaluable component of the University of Minnesota experience. Building a multicultural campus ensures that as a University, we are nurturing and supporting future leaders for a globally inclusive society. Our classrooms encourage critical thinking, provide opportunities to grow intellectually, and are trusted places to challenge beliefs and theories. Your academic, personal, and professional goals are important to us, and we will support you every step of the way.

So, are you ready to be a world-changer? A discovery-maker? A barrier-breaker?

YOU’VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE.
Looking for opportunities related to a specific ethnicity? Head to z.umn.edu/diversity for more information on how students dive into their own cultures and explore others.
START SOMETHING GREAT
The Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence (MCAE) is a campus-wide resource that promotes an inclusive atmosphere. MCAE’s programs are designed to create powerful, caring connections among all members of the University of Minnesota community.

MCAE’s signature programs include “Student Excellence in Academics and Multiculturalism,” which offers students the opportunity to explore multiculturalism across disciplines, and the “President’s Distinguished Faculty Mentor Program,” which links underrepresented students with distinguished faculty mentors. MCAE believes students should feel connected to their culture while attending the U of M. MCAE’s annual events include the “Celebration of Achievement” and programming that supports Black History Month, Women’s History Month, Asian Pacific Islander Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, and Native American History Month.

LIVE TO LEARN
The U of M offers students living on campus a chance to engage in a Living Learning Community—a group of like-minded individuals who explore college, culture, and community together in a residence hall.

Check out the Cultural LLC options at z.umn.edu/LiveLearn
DIVE IN

U of M students have fun and make friends through nine student-run cultural centers; 200+ cultural student groups, from the African to the West Indian Student Associations; and 15 Multicultural Greek Council/National Pan-Hellenic Council fraternities and sororities. But it’s about more than just being social—you’ll also build a great skill set by managing budgets, planning events, or coordinating volunteers.

Want to find specific student groups and cultural centers? Visit gopherlink.umn.edu/organizations.

Want more information on fraternities and sororities? Visit www.begreekumn.org.

“The Black Student Union (BSU) has been very instrumental to my success on campus. It offered me a smaller community within a larger campus, allowed me the space to build my leadership experience, and supported me in pursuing my goals and passions. But at the core, the BSU is a family for me—a second home.”

—Amber Jones, past president of BSU Class of 2015.
CULTURAL STUDIES
When you take advantage of the U of M’s cultural studies departments, you’re building on the success of countless meetings, petitions, and protests. Student voice is integral to our University history, and students have played a significant role in the creation of our programs. Academics inspire students like you to make a difference, challenge the powers that be, and become world-changers.

So learn a lesson. Then put it to use.

The U of M is home to some of the oldest cultural studies programs. Two of them—the Department of African American & African Studies and the Chicano Studies Department—were born from student protests in the Civil Rights era. In addition, the American Indian Studies Department is the oldest in the nation.

“In early 2014, I started a nonprofit empowering youth refugees in the Twin Cities through mentorships, arts-based learning, and college awareness. I’ve also worked with another recent U of M grad to design a theater for disabled children in Northeast China.

“These things have only been possible because of the skills, social awareness, and appreciation for culture I learned at the U of M—both inside and outside of the classroom.”

–Yefe Jin, Class of 2012
Majors: Theater, Asian Languages & Literatures
Minor: Teaching English as a Second Language
YOU’LL LOVE THE NEIGHBORS
In addition to countless career opportunities, the Twin Cities also gives you lots of chances to explore cultures through events, like the Japanese Lantern Lighting Festival every August, and the Festival of Nations every May.

The Twin Cities area is full of vibrant cultural communities. With 126 languages and dialects, close-knit neighborhoods, and hundreds of traditional and international performances, you’ll experience the benefits of our Minneapolis-St. Paul location.

“The U of M’s Twin Cities location helped me connect with my own culture... As a Dakota student, I got to connect with the local Native community and sacred Dakota sites near campus.”

—Elizabeth Cates, Class of 2014
Majors: Music, American Indian Studies
Past President, American Indian Student Cultural Center
“Cultural studies classes exposed me to the things that I may have taken for granted. After taking them, I gained a new appreciation for all kinds of experiences.”

—Va Xiong, Class of 2016

“Multicultural student groups have definitely affected my experience at the U of M. They’re great ways to meet other people of similar backgrounds and find your home on campus!”

—Adalia Samuel, Class of 2017

“MCAE offers a lot of great resources. ...One thing that has really helped me is the MLK Jr. advising program. Because my adviser had a smaller group of students to advise, I was able to work with him a lot freshmen year to declare my major. Also, the free printing is great.”

—Sarita Diaz, Class of 2016
QUESTIONS?
Don’t hesitate to reach out to us with any questions you have!

Phone: 612-625-2008 or 1-800-752-1000
TTY for the hearing impaired: 612-625-9051