

THE EXPLORER

Promoting connections across borders



Hello from the Office

We're kicking off this academic year with big news—the launch of the Center for International Education and Global Engagement (CIEGE)! The Center will be the one place dedicated to connecting you with global learning, cross-cultural experiences, and our vibrant international community here at Harper. Stay tuned for the official announcement.

The year ahead is full of opportunities. We have four courses with a study abroad component approved for this academic year, giving more students the chance to take their learning beyond the classroom. We're also introducing our new Global Region of Focus: the Middle East, South Asia, and North Africa (MENA). Expect special events, lectures, and activities to help you dive into the cultures, histories, and contemporary issues of this dynamic region. And the excitement doesn't stop there—on campus, you can look forward to International Film Festivals, International Education Week in November, and other programs designed to help you connect with the world from right here at home.

We can't wait to see where this semester takes you—both near and far.

By Angelica Rackow

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OIE IN PICTURES

In an exciting collaboration, OIE, the German Club and Student Engagement hosted Harper's Oktoberfest. It was a day of celebration and education.

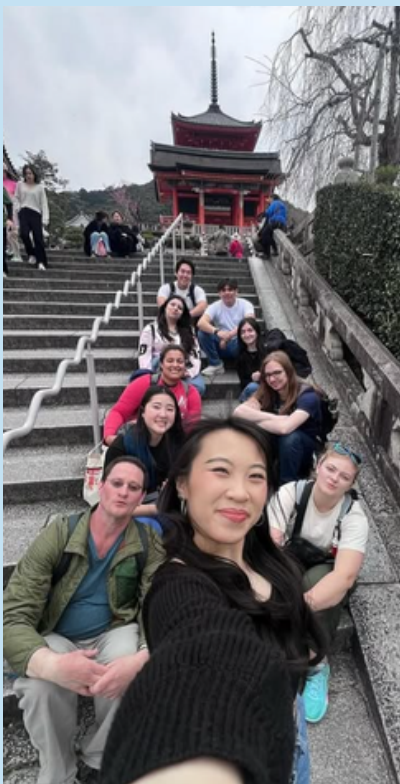


Liman Lei, former Student Trustee and now a proud Harper alum, joined the Harper delegation at the Community Colleges for International Development Annual Conference to showcase his Global Scholar Distinction capstone project, the Consul General Project Handbook. Student Ambassadors gain access to unique academic and professional opportunities, including representing Harper at national and international events.

On behalf of Harper College, OIE Director Richard Johnson signed a new partnership agreement with the Universidad Autónoma de Guerrero, opening the door to exciting new opportunities for collaboration.



Professors Marjorie Allen & Allison Hahn visited Tuxtla Gutiérrez as part of a 2-week exchange with the Universidad Autónoma de Chiapas (UNACH)



In the Spring 2025 students went to Japan and England as part of a Japanese Literature Class and Acting II. In Japan, they visited Hiroshima, Osaka, Kyoto, and Tokyo. In London, they had masterclasses at the Globe Theater.



UPDATES

Are any of the courses you are taking this Fall a World Cultures and Diversity course?

At Harper College, students must take at least one course that's been approved as a World Cultures and Diversity (WC/DIV) course in order to graduate. These courses are designed to help you:

- Understand different cultures and global systems
- Learn about social identities and justice in the U.S.
- Build skills in communication and cultural awareness



This requirement isn't about taking extra classes—many WC/DIV courses also count toward your major or gen eds!

For a class to be labeled a WC/DIV course, it has to include at least one World Cultures and at least one Diversity learning goal. Learning Goals provide guidelines to essential learning objectives that students should accomplish by the end of their course.

World Cultures learning outcomes focus on helping you better understand and appreciate the different cultures and identities that exist around the world. They also explore how big global forces—like colonialism, globalization, or economic systems—have shaped people, societies, and even the environment. Diversity learning outcomes focus on understanding how different groups of people in the U.S. have experienced and continue to experience the world. These classes explore the relationships between groups, helping you build awareness of social issues and diverse perspectives.

Have you taken 2 or more World Culture and Diversity Courses? You can become a GLOBAL SCHOLAR

The Global Scholar Distinction is a graduation honor that recognizes your commitment to global learning and intercultural engagement. You'll:

- ✓ Dive deeper into global topics through your existing coursework
- ✓ Reflect on your global learning journey in a final Capstone project
- ✓ Gain a competitive edge for jobs, scholarships, and transfer applications
- ✓ Be honored at graduation as a Global Scholar

LEARN MORE



UPDATES

Study Abroad 2025-2026

Faculty-Led Programs



Ireland - Spring
English 102 and History 142



Panama - Spring
Global Business MGT 165



London, UK - Summer
Sociology 101

Semester Abroad



Harper College students can participate in semester-long study abroad programs through the Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs (ICISP). Current destinations include:

- Austria
- England
- Ireland
- Spain

Students enroll in 1–2 required core courses and choose 2 additional electives, all of which are designed to transfer back as Harper College credit—helping students stay on track toward graduation while gaining international experience.

SAVE THE DATE

Study Abroad Fair



On Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 16, from 11:30am to 2:30pm, in the Avante Concourse, we'll be hosting a Study Abroad Fair.

Stop by to:

- ◆ Meet faculty leading 2025–2026 study abroad programs
- ◆ Connect with affiliate partners offering global experiences
- ◆ Learn how to fund your journey through scholarships
- ◆ Discover short-term and semester-long options



Study Abroad Application Deadlines



Spring Faculty-Led programs (Ireland and Panama): November 1, 2025

Summer Faculty-Led program (England): February 15, 2026

ICISP Spring Semester Abroad: October 1, 2025

ICISP Summer Abroad: February 1, 2026

ICISP Fall Semester Abroad: March 1, 2026



Scholarships

We understand that many students need to overcome financial challenges to partake in studying abroad and other global opportunities. OIE is committed to making studying abroad more accessible and affordable to students from all backgrounds with the unique qualities needed to succeed in our transformative programs. Below are some scholarships available. Note that they all have different due dates and criteria.

Benjamin A. Gilman



Benjamin A. Gilman
International Scholarship

The Gilman and Gilman McCain are prestigious academic awards funded by the State Department. Awards range up to **\$5,000**. Applications are open now for Spring and Summer. Contact the Office if you plan to apply for this scholarship, as we can advise you through the process. More information is available [here](#).

Gilman Eligibility

- U.S. citizen or national
- Undergraduate student
- Federal Pell Grant recipient
- Community College Students are highly desirable



Applications open in mid-August and stay open for 4 weeks

FEA: Fund for Education Abroad



Fund for
Education Abroad

The Fund for Education Abroad (FEA) mission is to provide scholarships and ongoing support to underrepresented students in the U.S. study abroad population. FEA makes life-changing, international experiences accessible to all by supporting students of color, community college, and first-generation college students before, during, and after they participate in education abroad programs. Learn more [here](#). Awards up to **\$5,000**.



Spring application is open

Watch their Applicant Webinar [HERE](#)

Scholarships

Institutional Scholarships: Harper Foundation



Scholarships are available through the Harper College Foundation. By completing the donor general scholarship application, the foundation team determines the best scholarship and grant opportunities for you. Awards vary from **\$400 to \$1,200** and are available to help fund **faculty-led and ICISP programs**.

To apply, complete the General Scholarship application. Deadlines are the same as the program's application deadlines. More information [here](#).



ICISP: Founders' Study Abroad Scholarship

ICISP (Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs) Scholarships are available to ICISP-run or sponsored programs. Scholarships range from \$500 for summer to \$1,000 for semester programs. Students participating in an ICISP program are eligible to apply.

Applications for SPRING 2026 is OPEN NOW

CLS: Critical Language Scholarship - Opens late Fall

The Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program is an immersive summer opportunity for American college and university students to learn languages essential to America's engagement with the world. Destinations vary in different countries where languages are spoken.

Languages Offered:

- Arabic
- Azerbaijani
- Chinese
- Hindi
- Indonesian
- Japanese
- Korean
- Persian
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Swahili
- Turkish
- Urdu




Happening Near and Far

Cine Latino - Celebrate Culture Through Film

Mark your calendars and join us for a powerful celebration of culture, identity, and social issues—through cinema.

The Harper College Mass Communication Department invites you to the upcoming International Film Series, where they'll be screening five incredible films that explore diverse cultures, traditions, and perspectives across the Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking worlds.

 3 films in Spanish (2 from México, 1 from Spain)

 2 films from Brazil

Whether you're a language lover, global explorer, or just enjoy a good story, this series is for you!

Join us and expand your horizons while enjoying some good arts.



International Students Club

Experience global perspectives right here at Harper College!

The International Students Club promotes friendship and understanding among students from the United States and around the world, and creates a cultural learning experience for its members through activities on and off campus.

The Club meets on Thursdays, at 3:30 pm, in D-195

[Join the email list to receive the schedule and location for the next meetings.](#)



Happening Near And Far

Internship Scholarship in the Netherlands



The USA2Holland Internship Grant provides funding for high-achieving and low-income American college students to intern in Netherlands. The grant provides up to \$10,000 in direct financial support through a monthly stipend, travel reimbursement, and visa support. This program is for highly self-motivated students who have the independence and drive to find their own Dutch internship but lack the financial means to travel and live in the Netherlands.



From our bookshelf



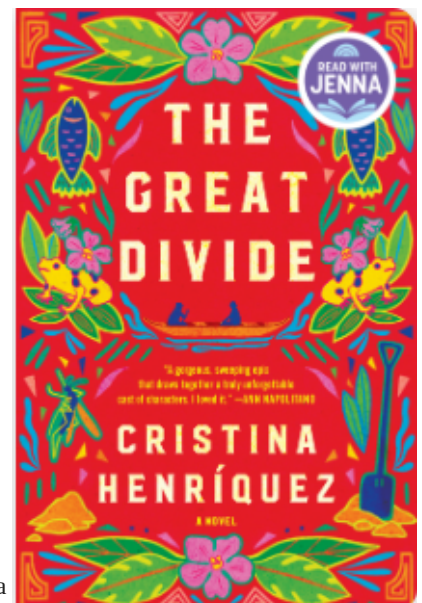
Books are an invaluable resource when it comes to learning about other countries and cultures. They offer a window into different perspectives, traditions, and histories, allowing readers to gain a deeper understanding of the world around them. Through books, we can explore the customs, values, and social dynamics that shape societies across the globe. In every newsletter, We'll highlight one or two books available in the Harper Library so that you can explore a little bit of the world from the comfort of your favorite reading nook.

THE GREAT DIVIDE, by Christina Henríquez

The Great Divide by Cristina Henríquez offers a vivid and human look at the history and culture of Panama, one of our study abroad destinations. Set during the monumental construction of the Panama Canal — hailed as one of the greatest engineering achievements in history — the novel weaves together the lives of people whose stories are often left out of textbooks.

From Ada, a daring 16-year-old from Barbados in search of opportunity, to Francisco and his son Omar, navigating the changes foreign influence brings to their homeland, to John Oswald, a scientist racing to combat malaria, Henríquez paints a rich portrait of ambition, sacrifice, and resilience. Through these intersecting lives, the book brings to life the diverse communities — West Indian laborers, local Panamanians, and international arrivals — whose work, struggles, and cultures helped shape modern Panama.

Reading this story is more than enjoying historical fiction; it's a powerful way to understand the layered history and cultural heritage you can explore firsthand during a study abroad experience in Panama.



Happening Near And Far

Oh, the Places They've Been

"When Professor Wilson mentioned the Japan trip in class, I knew I couldn't pass it up. I've always been interested in Japanese culture—through manga, anime, Nintendo games—and this was my chance to experience it firsthand. Normally, I'm not much of a traveler, but Japan was the one place I truly wanted to visit.

The program was incredible. **Every day offered something new**—temples, bustling city streets, peaceful gardens, modern architecture, and stunning nature. Our tour guides made the experience richer by sharing cultural insights, guiding us through transportation, and making sure we felt at home.

Being in Japan brought our Japanese Literature course to life. It was exciting to see elements from our readings right in front of us—connecting the stories we'd studied with the real people, places, and history they came from.

Culturally, I learned so much more by being there than I ever could from reading alone. I got to immerse myself in the daily rhythms, try incredible foods like takoyaki, ramen, mochi donuts, and dango, and explore cities like Osaka and Tokyo that felt straight out of a sci-fi novel.


This trip inspired me creatively—I'm a writer and artist working on my own graphic novel—and gave me memories I'll carry for life. My advice to other students? Absolutely go. These opportunities are rare, **the cost is far less than going on your own**, and the experience is worth it a hundred times over. Even if traveling isn't your thing, Japan just might change your mind—like it did for me."

Kacper Nowak

Spring 2025 Study Abroad in Japan



LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

 847-925-6436

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