

THE EXPLORER

Promoting connections across borders



Hello from the Office

By Angelica Rackow

Welcome to the Office of International Education's first student newsletter. I hope you can feel the excitement surrounding the campus this Fall 2022. It's a refreshing feeling. After so much adjustment, disruption and loss, this new academic year finally feels like we are all ready to embrace our new normal and make it shine. Departments are getting extra in-person coverage, event calendars are getting full, and students are starting to take over the halls again.

These two years of the pandemic were interesting for the International Education field. While extremely challenging, it came with a grand opportunity for us at Harper College: show our community that we have always been more! Our work is often only associated with travel across borders, and it can be challenging to feature all the other amazing things we do. However, with the borders closed and study abroad programs put on hold, we found opportunities to broaden horizons with all the great work we can do here, at home! During the pandemic we increased the diversity in the types of programs we offer and expanded into virtual exchanges, giving students the opportunity to experience the world, not just through study abroad, but right here on campus. On campus or abroad, we serve our community with the same goal: to foster an environment that promotes global perspectives through global awareness and international/intercultural advancement.

As we (kind of) press a restart button this Fall, we hope to reach out to you in different ways throughout the semester so you know what opportunities we have available. We welcome you and hope to see you often.

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LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

What is Virtual Exchange?

"Virtual Exchange is a practice, supported by research, that consists of sustained, technology-enabled, people-to-people education programmes or activities in which constructive communication and interaction take place between individuals or groups who are geographically separated and/or from different cultural backgrounds, with the support of educators or facilitators. Virtual Exchange combines the deep impact of intercultural dialogue and exchange with the broad reach of digital technology." (EVOLVE). There are two routes for virtual exchange at Harper:

- Virtual exchanges within existing Harper courses
- Virtual exchanges that students can participate independently of Harper courses

The list of professors and classes that offer virtual exchange is always changing, so stay connected with our office to receive updates.

Below you will find virtual exchange opportunities that are independent of Harper courses.



Virtual Internship: Barcelona SAE

Barcelona SAE is a leader in this lively Spanish city. It offers 6, 8, or 12 weeks during the Fall + Spring Semesters and 6 or 8 weeks during the Summer. Students are matched with a Spanish company through a personalized placement process. The hours are

flexible, as students will be working on projects and checking in with their supervisor in set meetings to report on their progress. During the program, there are also meetings with a Barcelona SAE staff for guided reflection and coaching to help keep students on the path to understanding the cultural, professional, and logistical pieces of work-life in Barcelona.

All companies that host a remote internship on this program are based in Spain and available in Spanish or English. Fields include:

BARCELONA
STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Advertising | • Human Resources & PR | • Event Planning |
| • Business | • IT | • Finance & Economics |
| • Education | • Journalism | • Graphic Design |
| • Entrepreneurship | • Marketing | • Translation |
| • NGO – Social Work | | |

Virtual Internship: EDU Africa



This program is an 8-week, project-based internship experience placing students on small global teams with host companies in Africa seeking to address a business problem related to sustainability across the world.

The program will run from September 26 to November 16, with meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 am to 11 am. The cost for this program varies if you choose to receive credit for it or not. Contact our office for more information, or check the full program schedule [here](#), under virtual exchange.



STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

"It's fascinating that I can meet a lot of people all around the world if I choose a virtual exchange. At the beginning of the Internship, we were introduced to the companies and divided into teams of five or six to work in these companies projects. There are regular meetings every Tuesday and Wednesday with constant check-in from your mentor. On Thursdays, we had cultural activities. This experience taught me how to be an intern! It taught me how to work as a team, do research, and consider my company's demands when developing a project. I would definitely recommend this program if you want to make new friends from around the world (and even inside the USA), learn about working as a team, be exposed to working with an international organization, and grow personally and professionally."

- Rahi Dasadia



Check Rahi and other students' full testimonials on our YouTube Channel



CREDIT OR NOT CREDIT, THAT IS THE QUESTION

Many global experiences and study abroad opportunities that Harper offers allow students to receive credit. On some occasions, it will be the student's choice to receive credit for the experience or not.

Things to consider when deciding:

- will this credit help me to fulfill academic requirements at Harper?
- will this credit help me to fulfill academic requirements at another institutions?
- are there costs attached to bringing this credit

Pack your bags: Study Abroad News

Short-term January Programs

We recently reconnected with our affiliate CIS Abroad, a giant in the Study Abroad field. We are happy to announce that they offer short-term winter term programs in the month of January. The January 2023 season will offer 4 programs in 3 destinations: Costa Rica, England, and Italy. Contact our office if you would like to learn more.

January/Winter programs are an alternative for students seeking short-term programs but do not want to wait until the summer.



ICISP: Spring 2023

ICISP is a consortium of Illinois community colleges to which Harper belongs. Through this network, ICISP provides equitable and inclusive study abroad courses. Their programs are often less expensive than other programs and they provide scholarships. There are two semester abroad opportunities for Spring 2023: Ireland (for \$8,200) and England (\$8,975). Contact the office for more information about these programs. Check the [ICISP website](#) for more information or contact our office.



SAVE THE DATE: DEADLINES

Study Abroad Spring 2023 Application deadline: OCTOBER

FEA Scholarship Submission Deadline: SEPTEMBER 15

Great opportunity for underrepresented students!!!!!!

Pack your bags: Study Abroad News



STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

"I went to Costa Rica for a month in the Summer ICISP program. I studied at a college called Costa Rica Language Academy. My program was language based, to learn the language. We met Monday through Thursday, from 9 am to 2 pm, with a one-hour lunch break. We were all tested on the first day and placed at the level that met our proficiency. Once or twice a week, we also had excursions exploring other cities and historical sites.

Learning a language in an immersive setting was very different than in the US. We learned grammar and vocabulary, but it was more centered on topics to talk about, and the class would develop from there. It was a feeling of "you have to rise to the occasion". As they (local people, teachers) keep talking, you just kind of pick it up and start being able to express yourself and give your opinions instead of having a structured presentation or working from a workbook. It was learning how to use the language rather than from a book.

Overall, I learned from this experience to step out of my comfort zone. This experience was very different than what I am used to. I had never been away from my family for more than two weeks or on a plane. When I got there, there were a lot of cultural shocks: everything there was different! The clothes were different, the way people drove was different, everything! And I was kind of in shock at first, but I learned the importance of that shock. And the importance of putting yourself in a situation that you are not that comfortable with because only then I was able to open myself to that much growth."

-Julia Markowski

Check Julia and other students' full testimonials on our YouTube Channel



Events and Opportunities

Global Student Leadership Summit



October 5-6, 2022

San Francisco, CA

Hosted by: Diversity Abroad

The Global Student Leadership Summit (GSLS) is the premier leadership conference for students who are interested in further developing skills related to global diversity, equity, and inclusion. This will be the 8th annual GSLS, which attracts dozens of students from colleges and universities nationwide with a simple goal: to develop the skills essential to being a successful and inclusive leader in a global society. Students will participate in interactive student leadership sessions, engage in critical dialogue centered on self-reflection and identity, establish and maintain relationships with like-minded student leaders, and connect with professionals from higher education, the public sphere, and private sector. Participation in the GSLS will help students' strengthen their leadership and develop global competencies including self-awareness, communication, team building, embracing diversity and difference, and more.

For more information check the [official website](#) or contact our office.

Study Abroad Info Session



September 12, 2022 From 12pm - 1pm

Room Z-131

On September 12, from 12pm to 1pm, we'll be hosting an info session with our KEI partner, Eduard Mandell. This event will cover basic information about the kinds of study abroad programs we offer and it will highlight inside information about some of the destinations and programs available through KEI.

Pizza and drinks will be available.

[RSVP to this event here.](#)





International Students' RECEPTION

September 8, 2022 From 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Location: Starbucks Atrium D-190

Join us to welcome the new and returning International Students on campus. This reception is a great way to make these students feel welcome and a part of our campus.

International Education Week

At Harper College, the International Education Week is an event that promotes and celebrates international education by providing students and employees the opportunity to engage in a wide array of globally themed programs and intercultural exchanges.

This year, the celebration will include fun and informational sessions hosted by student groups, speakers, and faculty, through panels, presentations, poster sessions, and engaging activities.

More information will be coming out soon, but for now, save the date:

OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 3



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.

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



LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH



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To receive updates from the office

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