

THE EXPLORER

Promoting connections across borders



Hello from the Office

By Angelica Rackow

In our increasingly interconnected world, we must acknowledge the significance of international education and its valuable impact on our personal and professional lives. Recently, I came across an article by Maddux et al. highlighting how students who embrace and learn about diverse cultures tend to receive more job offers than their counterparts. This phenomenon can be attributed to many facts linked to intercultural skills, such as the ability to demonstrate flexibility and openness towards different approaches, comfort with discomfort, and willingness to engage in self-reflection and personal growth. These intercultural skills have become indispensable for meaningful social interactions and successful professional pursuits in today's global society.

At Harper College, the Office of International Education is dedicated to creating opportunities for students like you to cultivate these skills. Whether through on-campus efforts or studying abroad, we aim to bring portions of the global to you so you can learn and engage.

Studying abroad provides a unique chance to immerse yourself in different cultures, languages, and perspectives. This Spring semester, we have two groups studying abroad (Kenya and England) and two more in the Summer (South Africa and Mexico). Our goal is to create a mix of opportunities between traditional and non-traditional destinations and provide resources to help students partake in these experiences through open access enrollment, scholarships, and more. We want to facilitate opportunities for ALL students inspired to explore the global world and develop these skills to achieve just that.

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If you cannot study abroad, there are still numerous opportunities on campus to engage with international students, attend lectures focused on global exchange, participate in cultural events, and join clubs and organizations that promote intercultural exchange. These experiences can be equally transformative, fostering cross-cultural understanding and preparing you to navigate a diverse and interconnected society.

Remember, international education is not just about acquiring knowledge; it's about embracing diversity, fostering empathy, and becoming a global citizen. The skills you develop through international education will enrich your personal growth and empower you to make a positive impact in an increasingly interconnected world.


Wishing you a fulfilling and transformative semester! We hope to engage with you throughout the semester and make an impact on your educational journey at Harper.

Reference: Maddux, W. W., Bivolaru, E., Hafenbrack, A. C., Tadmor, C. T., & Galinsky, A. D. (2014). Expanding Opportunities by Opening Your Mind: Multicultural Engagement Predicts Job Market Success Through Longitudinal Increases in Integrative Complexity. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 5(5), 608-615. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1948550613515005>

Global Scholar Report

The Global Scholar Distinction program gives you an opportunity to explore intercultural and international perspectives as you pursue your major at Harper College. It is designed to expand your awareness of global systems, the interdependence of cultures, sustainable development, and global justice, equity and peace. To become a Global Scholar, students complete three qualifying classes that may already be a part of their degree plan and work on a capstone project under the guidance of a faculty mentor.



This past Fall was the first time we ran the capstone project in the form of a course and as a cohort. The results could not have been better. Students reported that the course was a one-of-a-kind experience where the cohort built a safe environment to discuss sensitive topics, learn from each other, and develop essential personal and professional skills. Watch their project presentations [here](#) 



Global Scholars graduates 2023, Lydia Schultz and Rahi Dasadia



Capstone project presentation
Fall 2023



OIE IN PICTURES

On January 1st, an adventurous group of Harper professors embarked on a journey to discover India. For two weeks, the group visited locations such as Aurangabad, Mumbai, Kochi, Munnar, and more!! Check out their adventure on our Instagram.



Diwali celebration was one of several events we hosted for International Education Week in 2023. We hope you can join other cultural campus events we'll be hosting this spring.



It was an incredible joy to welcome delegates from the Universidad Autónoma de Chiapas (UNACH) in October 2023. What started as a virtual exchange between two professors became a partnership between two institutions. Moving forward, we'll continue to develop more opportunities for our professors and students to share with and learn from the UNACH community. During their recent visit, they presented to students about their region and the history behind Dia de Los Muertos.



OH, THE PLACES YOU'VE BEEN: STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

*You
did
it!*

While at Harper College, I participated in the Art 105: Seeing Italy Then and Now study abroad. The short term study abroad was excellent and had amazing professors who made sure each student had the opportunity to make the most of their cultural learning experiences and trip abroad. As someone with learning disabilities, I especially benefited from the experiential learning aspects of my study abroad programs. The success of my Harper study abroad journeys inspired me to go on Semester at Sea, Spring 2017 Voyage around the world, which I used as a Global Scholars Distinction project at Harper.

Professors Stephany Rimland and Karen Patterson taught the Introduction to Visual Arts course in Italy where we visited Milan, Florence, Siena, Ravenna, Padua and Venice. While in Florence we were privileged to see the Last Supper by Leonardo Da Vinci, tour the Uffizi Gallery, and see Michelangelo's David. Another special aspect of the program was attending the Venice Biennale contemporary international art exhibition, which is often described as the "Olympics of the Art World." One of the major learning outcomes of the trip to Italy was the creation of a course reflection journal. I used current and vintage post cards in my journal to illustrate and reflect on the theme of "Art Then and Now" for various world-renowned Italian renaissance works of art and architecture. The use of journaling to process experiences, learning and memories showed me the value of time spent on reflection in the education process.

I believe in the power of experiential learning and that it is the best way to learn about another culture, even if it is for a short period of time. If I could recommend one thing to every college student, it would be to study abroad. There are many affordable short-term study abroad programs available, as well as semester long programs on practically any topic in countries all around the world. You will learn so much about yourself and other cultures, while gaining the skills to be an effective global citizen and a success in our interconnected world economy.

-Lily Voyles



Sarah Tzakos, Fashion Design

Opportunities Near and Far

Study Abroad Table Events

OOIE and faculty leading study abroad will host table events in the first weeks of the semester. Programs highlighted in the table events are still open to apply until all spaces are filled. Events will be happening from 10 am to 12:30 pm on following dates and locations:

January 18 Building L and Rotunda

January 23 Avante

January 24 Avante and Rotunda

January 25 Building L

January 30 Building L and Rotunda

February 1, Rotunda

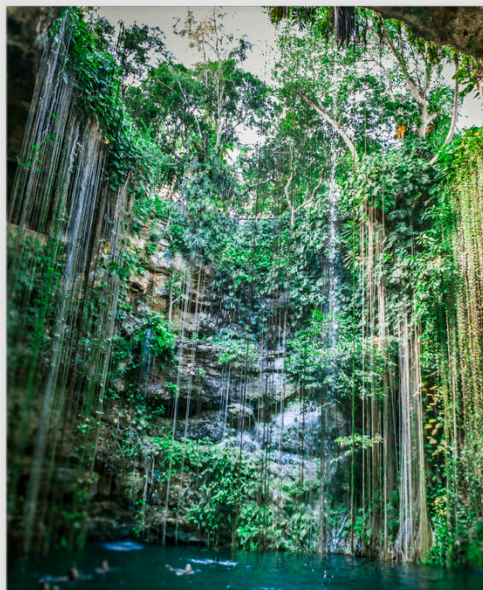
[Check all Programs Available](#)



Currently Open



London, UK
Sociology 101



Merida, Mexico
Spanish 102, 201 and 205



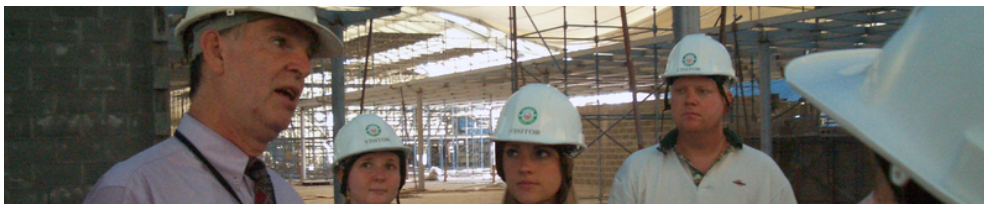
Cape Town, South Africa
Service Learning for Health Career

Fall Semester Program Discounts

CIS Abroad, a partner with whom Harper has an agreement to provide a larger portfolio of programs, is offering \$1,000 discount to many of their Fall programs. Some of the destinations include Australia, Korea, England, Greece, Spain and more.

- [CIS Abroad Website](#)

The \$1,000 discount includes affiliate discount if applicable. Please [see the terms below](#).



Internship Abroad

Most KEI programs offer experiential learning opportunities, which enable students to participate in an internship, community service, research or independent study while taking courses. Placement is based on an individualized process that takes into account students' needs, interests and goals.

[Learn about internship opportunities with our partner KEI](#)



Host an International Student

We are looking for families to host a German exchange student from the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program (CBYX). Families provide students with a place to sleep and study, some meals, support and encouragement throughout their year in the U.S. CBYX participants really bond with their host families and make lifelong friends at Harper. Complete [this form](#) if you would like to explore hosting a student. It's important that your whole household is committed as well.



SAVE THE DATE: DEADLINES

UK/Sociology and South Africa/Independent Studies: Feb 1

ICISP Summer Programs: Feb 15

Mexico/Spanish: March 15

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. Many of them are currently open, so pay attention to deadlines.

Institutional Scholarships: Harper Foundation



Harper has three institutional scholarships for study abroad: Castle International Studies, WorldView Study Abroad Fund, and Global Learning Opportunities Broaden Education (GLOBE).

All these scholarships still have funds for the Spring/Summer programs we are promoting, with awards ranging from \$500 to \$1,000.

To apply, complete the General Scholarship application [here](#).

FEA: Fund for Education Abroad

The mission of the Fund for Education Abroad (FEA) is to provide scholarships and ongoing support to students who are underrepresented among 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](#).



Fund for
Education Abroad

Applications for Summer/Fall '24 semester or Academic Year '24 - '25 are OPEN NOW and they close February 7, 2024.

ICISP: Founders' Study Abroad Scholarship

ICISP (Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs) Scholarships are available to ICISP owned 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 Summer 2024 is OPEN NOW

Application deadlines:

- Feb. 15 for Summer programs
- May 15 for Fall program

More information available in the ICISP application.

Scholarships

Gilman and Gilman-McCain



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 will open in mid-January for Summer and Fall. Contact the Office if you plan to apply for this scholarship, as we can advise you through the process. More information is available [here](#).



CLS: Critical Language Scholarship

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 | • Indonesian | • Portuguese |
| • Azerbaijani | • Japanese | • Russian |
| • Chinese | • Korean | • Swahili |
| • Hindi | • Persian | • Turkish |
| | | • Urdu |



CLS Spark

CLS Spark is a virtual initiative for U.S. undergraduate students to learn languages essential to America's engagement with the world. Designed to leverage best practices in online language learning developed by the CLS Program during the pandemic, CLS Spark provides American students the opportunity to study critical languages virtually when they may not have access to studying these languages on their campuses.

Languages Offered:

- Arabic for students with no formal classroom experience learning the language;
- Chinese for students with no formal classroom experience learning the language;
- Russian for students with no formal classroom experience learning the language.

Application Opens in the Fall



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, I'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.

Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Explore: Nigeria, Life of an African International Student in the USA, Cultural Clashes, Race & Colorism

Ifemelu and Obinze, a young couple deeply in love, make the decision to leave Nigeria, which is under military rule, to pursue their education in England and the United States. Ifemelu chooses to go to America, where she faces the challenges of navigating her identity as a black individual for the first time, despite her academic achievements. On the other hand, Obinze had intended to join her, but due to the restrictions imposed after the events of 9/11, he finds himself embarking on a perilous and undocumented life in London. After a span of fifteen years, they reunite in a newly democratic Nigeria, reigniting their love for each other and their shared passion for their homeland.

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.](#)



LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH



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