



CENTER FOR GLOBAL AND INTERCULTURAL STUDY

A worldview through global engagement

The University of Michigan endorses global education as an essential part of the undergraduate experience. The Center for Global and Intercultural Study (CGIS) is LSA's gateway for students to explore the wide variety of options available for them to pursue learning around the world. CGIS offers undergraduates more than 70 programs in 30 countries—from short-term summer service learning projects to traditional year-long study abroad. As well as intensive language learning through immersion in another culture, students on CGIS programs have participated in unique research in art history, clinical psychology, nursing, media studies, microbiology, sociology, comparative literature, and more.

Experiencing differences and similarities between a host country and their home country expands students' global perspectives. Studies show that cultural immersion helps undergraduates obtain a greater awareness of global affairs, including political, educational, societal, and economic issues. As they develop a more mature worldview, students gain a deeper understanding and respect for global issues. CGIS provides a variety of learning formats to fit students' unique range of interests and needs so that all participants have the opportunity to achieve the academic and personal growth made possible by our global programs. And research shows that studying abroad sets new graduates apart from their peers in the job market. Employers are looking for the skills that students typically develop abroad, such as critical thinking, self-sufficiency, flexibility, and communication skills, as well as intercultural knowledge and awareness. Through the experience of a global education program, our students gain a competitive advantage in securing their first job after graduation and as they build their careers.

"The LSA Study Abroad Scholarship didn't have a small impact on my experiences abroad; it is what made those experiences possible. As a first-generation, low-income student from rural Northern Michigan, I had never seriously considered the possibility of international study, assuming that doing so would be far too expensive...Thanks to this scholarship, I was able to complete this program and benefit from all that it had to offer me—professionally, intellectually, and individually."

—KELSEY PEASE, Argentina 2019

GLOBAL COURSE CONNECTIONS

During the fall or winter term, students enroll in courses that have a field-based component, ranging from 18 to 30 days, which takes place at the conclusion of the academic term. Participants travel with classmates and their instructor to a field site where they practice skills and experience first-hand what they have studied in the classroom. Students earn additional credits for this off-campus component, which may encompass linguistic and cultural immersion, service projects, or individualized research. Because classes are small, participants work very closely with a U-M faculty member, making GCC courses an ideal gateway experience to prepare students for subsequent longer time spent abroad. Also the shorter duration enables students who are unable to devote a semester or summer off-campus to participate in a global experience. Currently, courses are scheduled on a year-to-year basis as funding is secured. Endowed funding of \$2M or \$100,000 annually would enable GCC courses to be scheduled years in advance so students could take prerequisites and plan their coursework to include a global component.

SPRING/SUMMER INTENSIVE LANGUAGE IMMERSION COURSES

Short-term study abroad programs are becoming increasingly popular and accounted for 49.7% of all students nationally who studied abroad in 2010. Also shorter programs allow students in more structured degree programs to gain global experience without falling behind. LSA's spring- or summer-term intensive language immersion courses enable students to complete the final two courses of their language requirement during one intensive six- to ten-week term. Students deepen their comfort and fluency in a language through direct immersion as they live with host families, receive four hours of language instruction each day, and participate in the life of the community through activities such as interviewing locals or interacting with vendors. The specialized curriculum structure of CGIS language immersion courses, which is designed to generate more interactions between students and local people within the host culture, sets this program apart from similar programs at other institutions. But, we have more demand than capacity for every language and cannot offer a spot to every student who wishes to participate. Endowed funding of \$2.5M or \$125,000 annually would provide the resources for 10 courses to be offered each year. Ideally, we would like to offer language courses, such as Korean, Japanese, Arabic, and Mandarin, as well as Romance languages, where the university already has a strong overall program, with the potential for additional offerings in less commonly taught languages.

LSA INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIPS

Many careers today involve collaboration with colleagues or teams from around the world, and international internships provide students with the opportunity to gain real-world work experience in an intercultural setting. Students who engage in CGIS internships develop professional skills like communication, leadership, appreciation for diversity and cultural differences, and confidence; they experience concepts from classes concretely and first-hand; they earn academic credit through a supportive internship seminar; they enhance their language learning; and they use experience to obtain future jobs. An internship is typically at least eight weeks working full time, in a carefully vetted professional placement. An endowed gift of \$150,000 or annual gifts of \$7,000 covers the cost for one student for accommodations, professional and cultural development activities, and tuition. Gifts of all sizes contribute to funding support so that more students can benefit from these life-changing experiences.

LSA GLOBAL EXPERIENCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Scholarship support is vital to enable more LSA students to study abroad and prepare to be global citizens. Although every trip differs in its programmatic and travel costs, the average financial commitment is a sizeable burden for many interested students. The LSA Global Experience Scholarship Program strives to provide financial support to students with demonstrated financial need who are participating in CGIS programs. A minimum endowed investment of \$25,000 or \$10,000 annually will help provide critical support. Many more undergraduates have been able to participate in a global experience because of scholarship support, and the demand continues to grow. Scholarship awards vary depending upon the length and cost of the program and the level of student financial need. Support is awarded to help with tuition and program fees, as well as airfare, insurance, and travel costs.

GLOBAL CURRICULUM INITIATIVE

Because CGIS programs emphasize significant engagement with the local culture—traveling to non-traditional destinations, collaborating with local partners, and offering students opportunities to work directly with the local population—faculty leaders must develop their curriculum by establishing on-site connections prior to the arrival of their cohort of students. Funding of \$10,000 to \$50,000 annually is needed to enable faculty leaders to visit a location to plan activities, budget more accurately, anticipate and preemptively troubleshoot problems, make necessary arrangements with local people who will be working with students, and work closely with CGIS staff to create a well-rounded program for undergraduates. Support that enables faculty to focus fully on developing their site program will result in a richer and more innovative experience for our students, as well as make possible a greater variety of site offerings.



“My time in Japan served as a pivotal moment for me. As an International Studies major, I had chosen my regional focus to be Latin America. However, with this major, I believed it important that my studies not be limited to one region, as that to me felt like a contradiction. I had the least amount of interaction with Asian culture; both throughout my studies, and my life as well. I knew that to be well-rounded, I needed to expand my knowledge into this region, however I also knew that I did not have room in my academic schedule to study the region, nor did I have the resources for my own personal travel.

GCC Japan offered me a comprehensive medium to not only study the region, but to also interact on an exponentially deeper level. I was able to receive financial aid to cover the program costs, making this dream a reality. Without the LSA scholarship, I would not have had the ability to immerse myself in Japanese culture, nor have the opportunity to meet the incredible and intelligent people I encountered.

LSA Scholarships did not just fund a trip to Japan. Rather, it provided me the opportunity to learn about Japanese culture, history, and landscape while simultaneously allowing me to give back to local communities and nature. It gave me resources to meet local professors, activists, farmers, etc., and the time to interact with them and share knowledge.”

—Sydney Bell (Global Course Connection: Environmental History in Tokyo)

GLOBAL INTERCULTURAL EXPERIENCE FOR UNDERGRADUATES

The Global Intercultural Experience for Undergraduates (GIEU) is a program that offers students the opportunity to extend their learning beyond traditional classroom boundaries by engaging in short-term (three or four week) summer service projects around the world and across the U.S. Cohorts of 12 to 15 students attend a class during the winter term and conduct fieldwork with their instructor during the summer. Then they share their experiences at a symposium for the university community in September. Projects benefit local communities and students earn academic credit as they work closely with community members. The GIEU program is unique because it combines study abroad with a service-learning program and, since its creation in 2002, has appealed to those who are less likely to study abroad (first-generation college students, students with financial need, athletes, students of color, and students in the STEM fields). Endowing GIEU with a gift of \$2.5M or \$125,000 would enable the program to continue to offer eight sites for community work each summer. Currently, courses are scheduled as funding is secured on a year-to-year basis. An endowment would make it possible for GIEU to develop a network of community projects around the world.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

CONTACT INFO

LSA Advancement // College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
101 N. Main Street, Suite 850 // Ann Arbor, MI 48104

P. 734.615.6333 // F. 734.647.3061 // lsa.umich.edu/cgis