



# GLOBAL LEADERS OF PENN STATE

Global and International Studies  
Monthly Email Newsletter

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## WELCOME

by Abigail Picozzi, Managing Editor

Hello! Welcome to the December edition of the Global and International Studies Newsletter for the 2022–23 school year. We're so excited to continue sharing stories from the GLIS community! In this issue, we have a feature on upcoming events for GLIS students, an education abroad story from Mia Petrunyak '23, a Wealth and Inequality pathway course spotlight, a special feature on a few GLIS honors theses, an education abroad program highlight, and information about relevant clubs and organizations for GLIS students.

Thanks for reading! If you have any feedback or would like to submit a story, please email [glis@psu.edu](mailto:glis@psu.edu). We look forward to hearing from you, and cannot wait to show you all the opportunities that GLIS has to offer.



**PennState**  
College of the Liberal Arts

# EDUCATION ABROAD SPOTLIGHT

by Maria Luiza Carvalho de Moraes



Mia Petrunyak

## **Mia Petrunyak '23** **Global International Studies major** **Global Conflict pathway** **Security and Risk Analysis minor**

Fourth-year student, Mia Petrunyak chose the Institute for the International Education of Students (IES Abroad)'s European Union semester-long program in Freiburg, Germany, for the spring 2022 semester, primarily due to the courses it offered. She was mainly interested in learning about topics related to the European Union, and was able to take courses related to Muslim and European Union relations, European Policy, European and United States relations, European diversity, and more. Because she grew up in Germany, she was already familiar with the region. While abroad, she was able to travel all around Europe and meet lots of people from around the world!

During her time overseas, Mia met many new friends. One of her closest travel buddies was a fellow student, Lily, with whom she went to London, England; Majorca, Spain; Amsterdam, Netherlands; and Athens, Greece. For their spring break, they took a bus through the Alps to explore Lake Como, Italy. For lazy weekends, they would take trains to relax in spas in the Black Forest or go spend a night in Basel, Switzerland. In addition to personal travel, IES Abroad had amazing trips planned for the student participants. Students traveled to Berlin, Germany; Paris, France; Strasbourg, France; Brussels, Belgium; and Rome, Italy.

The classes Mia took were extremely enriching. Her courses dove into the complicated politics of each nation in the European Union. On her trips around Europe, she was able to meet with European Commissioners, parliamentary members, ambassadors, and human rights leaders. Mia was able to see first-hand how these representatives make the necessary decisions for their home countries. Her advice for someone thinking about studying abroad is to take advantage of the opportunity and take the leap toward doing something new!

**“Studying abroad allows you to learn something new about both the world we live in, and also yourself.”**

# COURSE SPOTLIGHT

by Abigail Picozzi

## **AFR 192 Modern African History Wealth and Inequality pathway**

If you're looking for an interesting Wealth and Inequality pathway course for the upcoming semester, AFR 192 may be for you! This course dives into the finer points of African history and culture, greatly expanding on topics such as slavery, colonialism, and development. Starting with a background on Africa from 1750 to the present, a wide variety of lesser-known topics are explained and connected to one another, giving students a whole new perspective on the entire African continent.

This course is not only a part of the Wealth and Inequality pathway within GLIS, but also a General Education credit for Humanities (GH). The course introduces students to the diversity of Africa's geography, demography, and history and investigates the experience of modern history through specific, regionally distinct, examples. Students will learn about structures of power, society, and economy in the colonial and post-colonial era in comparative terms, and about a variety of cultural forms and expressions. Clearly, this class covers a range of interesting topics, making it a great choice for any GLIS student.

This class is already available to everyone, but there is also an honors option for those in or aspiring to join Schreyer Honors College. AFR 192H goes into greater depth on a select few topics, giving more time to primary sources, the historical method, and historiographic trends—making it perfect for any GLIS student looking for an engaging honors course.

If you're looking for a stimulating Wealth and Inequality course, or just looking to expand your knowledge on the rich history and culture of Africa, then AFR 192 is an excellent choice!





# GLIS HONORS THESES

by Olivia Bratton

**Gianna Pinto '22**  
**GLIS and Spanish majors**  
**Culture and Identity pathway**

## **What was your thesis?**

“How the International Community Has Failed the Responsibility to Protect the World’s Most Vulnerable Groups”

## **How have you utilized your findings or skills acquired from completing a GLIS honors thesis following your graduation from Penn State?**

I think in a way my honors thesis helped a lot with my confidence. When you start it, it’s this big daunting thing standing in the way of you and graduating with honors; but if you put in the work as suggested, you will almost always succeed. When you submit it in April, you get this feeling of “Wow, I just did that!”



Gianna Pinto



Noelle Musolino

**Noelle Musolino '21**  
**GLIS and Political Science majors**  
**Human Rights pathway**  
**Anthropology minor**

## **What was your thesis?**

“Immigration in the United States: Cultural Diffusion and Xenophobia”

## **Were you satisfied with completing your thesis in the GLIS program?**

Yes, it gave me a lot more flexibility. I could make it an anthropology focus and base it in history. Basically, in GLIS you get the freedom to write about whatever you’re interested in, instead of being constricted by another major’s technical requirements.

## **Do you have any advice for students about writing their thesis?**

Write about something you’re interested in and will have fun writing as opposed to something you feel like you should write!



# EDUCATION ABROAD PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

by Valentina Vallejo

## Madeleine Tenny '23

GLIS major and CIEE Student Ambassador

CIEE: Language and Culture in Lisbon, Portugal  
Education Abroad program

Studying abroad is an exceptional opportunity not only to enrich some of your program requirements, but also to travel the world and experience a drastically different perspective of life while enjoying another culture. The Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) is one of the many partner companies that offers Penn State students education abroad programs all around the globe.

CIEE student ambassador and GLIS student Madeleine Tenny shared her education abroad experience in Portugal from last spring.

As a full-time student overseas, she completed a variety of courses during her time enrolled with CIEE. From Portuguese to political science and art history classes, Madeleine was able to satisfy many of her requirements for her minors in Portuguese and International Agriculture.

Madeleine particularly enjoyed the wide variety of programs that CIEE offers. On their [webpage](#), they not only offer academic programs but also internship opportunities. Another important aspect of the organization, she believes, is the cultural awareness that CIEE's curriculum promotes. Through various weekend-long field trips, efficient orientations, and useful resources, Madeleine believes CIEE sparked their students' curiosity and motivation to travel around Portugal and Europe.

Now, Madeleine and three other Penn Staters, offer students support and guidance during their program search and application process with CIEE. As young students themselves, they are a great resource for better connectivity and understanding applicants' worries and interests during their preparations for traveling abroad. For students interested in studying abroad with CIEE, Madeleine and her team of student ambassadors are here to help you.

For more information email Madeleine at [mxt5435@psu.edu](mailto:mxt5435@psu.edu).



Madeleine Tenny in Lisbon, Portugal, during the spring 2022 semester

# CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS SPOTLIGHT

by Cheyenne Hennen

## PSU Centre Helps Club

Centre Helps is a local nonprofit that has been serving the Centre County community for nearly fifty years by providing resources and referrals through a 24/7 hotline, emotional support, and crisis intervention to those in need. The PSU Centre Helps Club serves as a bridge between service opportunities for the community offered through Centre Helps and the Penn State community. Centre Helps aims to create a positive culture on campus that allows students to help their peers in need of support. For more information, email Marc McCann at [mhm137@psu.edu](mailto:mhm137@psu.edu).



## Student Red Cross Club

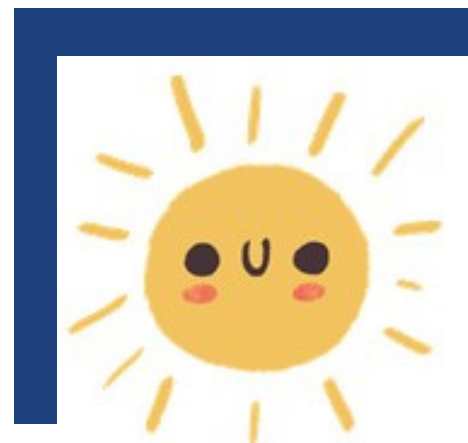
The mission of Penn State's Student Red Cross Club is to coordinate student activities related to the programs fostered by the American Red Cross. Such activities include blood services, safety and life-saving instruction, health fairs, youth services and other projects agreed upon by the membership. For more information, email Taylor Codispoti at [tlc5814@psu.edu](mailto:tlc5814@psu.edu).



**American  
Red Cross**

## Sunny State

Sunny State is Penn State's random act of kindness club on campus. Sunny State's main goal is to spread kindness and inclusivity, and bring a smile or sense of relief to both students and faculty. They also volunteer in service projects off campus. For more information, email Megan Galvin at [mlg5853@psu.edu](mailto:mlg5853@psu.edu).



# FALL 2022 GRADUATES



Cheyenne Hennen

“Majoring in GLIS with minors in both Asian Studies and Korean, has allowed me to explore my interests with a focus on culture and identity, while connecting with individuals from all over the world. Over the past three years, I was able to get involved in organizations focused on humanitarian aid, disability advocacy, language, and youth development. These experiences have shaped my future goals and have allowed me to gain a sense of intercultural communication and better understanding of the world as I continue to pursue a path that involves advocating for diversity and inclusion.”

## Graduates Not Pictured

**Changsoo Lee**  
**Zachary Moon**

**Seohyeon Park**  
**Maya Walker**





**Olivia Bratton**

Content Writer

GLIS and Political Science majors

Global Conflict pathway

Third-Year



**Maria Luiza Carvalho de Moraes**

Content Writer

GLIS major

Culture and Identity pathway

Economics and Political Science minors

Fourth-Year



**Cheyenne Hennen**

Content Writer

GLIS major

Culture and Identity pathway

Asian Studies and Korean minors

Fourth-Year



**Abigail Picozzi**

Managing Editor

GLIS and French and

Francophone Studies majors

Culture and Identity pathway

Third-Year



**Valentina Vallejo**

Content Writer

GLIS and German majors

Wealth and Inequality pathway

Economics minor

Fourth-Year

***Global Leaders of Penn State is looking for content!***

**If you are interested in submitting a story, please email us at [glis@psu.edu](mailto:glis@psu.edu).**



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