



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 February 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 the first of our GLIS at Work series, a feature on the next GLIS at Work series event, a course spotlight on LA 495, a GLIS honors thesis highlight, and an education abroad spotlight.

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



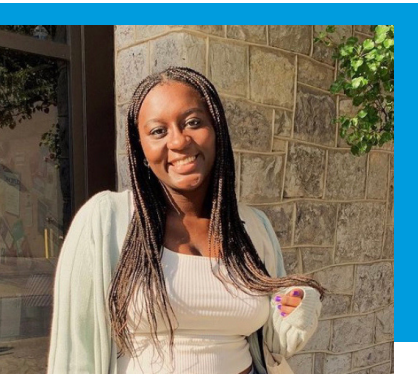
PennState
College of the Liberal Arts

GLIS AT WORK SERIES - INTERNSHIP PANEL

by Maria Luiza Carvalho de Morais

On November 30, the GLIS program held an internship panel with GLIS students as panelists—sharing their personal experiences—and Abigail Picozzi as the moderator. Students were able to learn firsthand how other students were able to find opportunities, navigate their internships and what they learned from it. Information about local and international opportunities were shared from the six panelists and moderator.

The Panelists



Christina Fomunyoh is a senior majoring in International Politics and GLIS with a minor in Spanish. She interned at the U.S. Department of State, Virtual Student Federal Service in the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. A mutual friend recommended she apply. During her internship, she was able to be involved in arts programs, recruitment of artists and cultural programs.

Andrew Johnston-Walsh is majoring in Political Science and GLIS with a minor in Sexuality and Gender Studies. He attended the Pennsylvania Farm Show, where he saw Senator Bob Casey campaigning, and decided to express his desire to work with the senator's office. After a few days, he got a call back and later got an internship.



Prachi Soni is a senior majoring in Political Science and GLIS and pursuing a master's degree in International Affairs. She was connected with her internship through the Liberal Arts Career Enrichment Network, where she was looking for a position related to foreign diplomacy. They recommended the Virtual Student Federal Service internship program with the U.S. State Department, where she now works on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility issues throughout South and Central Asia.

GLIS AT WORK SERIES - INTERNSHIP PANEL

by Maria Luiza Carvalho de Morais

Kristen Miller studied Labor and Human Resources, GLIS, and Latin American Studies, and completed a Portuguese minor. She was able to get an internship with the consulting firm Ernst & Young in their government and public sector human capital consulting practice through Nittany Lion Careers.



Valentina Vallejo is a senior majoring in German and GLIS with a minor in Economics. She went on a summer internship abroad in Berlin, Germany, with the European Academy Berlin. She worked in their civic education department and project management team. Valentina connected with the European Academy Berlin through Penn State Global and their partner organization, IES Abroad.

The Conversation

How did your internship connect to GLIS and how did the GLIS coursework help you prepare for it?

- Prachi Soni: “The GLIS 101N Globalization course helped me in completing my work with research since I had to do a lot of open-source research. During the course, I learned about it to some extent and also about analytical writing. The course really helped me shape my mindset and put things in a different perspective.”
- Christina Fomunyoh: “Pursuing the Cultural and Identity pathway of the GLIS major really went hand-in-hand with my experience as a cultural program intern. A big part of the program was about the importance of cultural exchanges and how they can be effective, which was something I had learned in my classes and was able to apply to my internship.”

GLIS AT WORK SERIES - INTERNSHIP PANEL

by Maria Luiza Carvalho de Morais

Were you able to receive credit for your internship? If yes, how was the process of getting it?

- Valentina Vallejo: "My internship was through IES [Abroad], which is a partner with Penn State and it was similar to a study abroad process on getting credit because I took a seminar class while abroad and that gave me 3 credits."
- Kristen Miller: "In a previous internship I had in the past year I was able to receive credit with Liberal Arts 495 [Undergraduate Field Experience or Practicum] and it was very simple to apply for the credit. You apply and fill out a form in advance of your internship or add it after the semester had started. You have an academic supervisor and an internship supervisor and there were some supplemental assignments I had to do."

If you worked in a foreign setting, what were the main differences you saw in the work environment and dynamics with your colleagues?

- Christina Fomunyoh: "I also did an internship in Kosovo this past summer with the former president of Kosovo the work environment was very relaxed and go with the flow. They would often take breaks and value relaxation. I wasn't always told what to do at exact times and worked on an assignment the whole summer."
- Valentina Vallejo: "It was a cultural shock since I thought it would be a strict environment and it ended up being the opposite. They wouldn't be on top of me for a task and it was very easy to get in touch with the people in higher positions."

What do you think GLIS can implement to facilitate students with the internship process?

- Andrew Johnston-Walsh: "I think a lot of people can benefit from the Career Enrichment Network and their opportunities. We should also spread to younger students how GLIS operates and how it is such a flexible major to work with many pathways and there are a lot of things you could do with it career-wise."
- Christina Fomunyoh: "I think an important part is to continue to build a GLIS community because we learn a lot from each other. Having the opportunities to meet more of us and share our experiences and these types of exposures can happen with more community-based events."

GLIS AT WORK SERIES - INTERNSHIP PANEL

by Maria Luiza Carvalho de Moraes

What pathway did you choose and what led you to choose it?

- Prachi Soni: “I chose Global Conflict as my pathway because I eventually want to go to law school and focus on internal law and that was the one that stood out the most to me. On the GLIS website, you can see the classes that fall into every pathway, and the classes that interested me the most were under global conflict.”
- Kristen Miller: “I was interested in every pathway at first so I let the pathway choose me. I looked at the classes online and Culture and Identity had the ones I was most interested in. I am also a World in Conversation dialogue facilitator and it relates to understanding my identity and the identity of people around me and I feel like that aligned very well with the Culture and Identity pathway.”

How do you see your internships or your major relate to your post-graduate plans?

- Andrew Johnston-Walsh: “With my major, there are a lot of global components but it is somehow centralized in domestic policy and it showed me that I want to branch out a little more and it reminded me that I want to look into government in different countries.”
- Valentina Vallejo: “My internship really confirmed to me that I want to go into research because it is something I find very interesting and enjoy doing it. It also showed me how interesting project management and event planning is and how it aligns with who I am, as a very organized person.”

[Watch the internship panel video recording.](#)

Resources for Your Internship Search

- [Liberal Arts Career Enrichment Network](#)
- [Career Services Internship and Job Search](#)
- [LionLink](#)—Penn State’s version of LinkedIn, where you can connect with Penn State alumni.
- [Nittany Lion Careers](#)—The main resource for job postings at Penn State, offering hundreds of internship opportunities.
- [Idealist](#)—After creating an account, you can connect with thousands of organizations that value social impact.
- [Virtual Student Federal Service Internships](#)

UPCOMING EVENT FOR GLIS STUDENTS

by Abigail Picozzi

GLIS at Work Series - Virtual Alumni Panel Wednesday, March 1 at 5:00 p.m.

The GLIS at Work Series continues this semester with a virtual event. This virtual conversation will feature recent GLIS alumnae Cristina Cebotaru, Carolina Mejía-Moya, Gianna Pinto, and Augusta Rentenbach talking about their experiences working in education, nonprofits, and other global sectors. They will also discuss applying to graduate school and the differences between undergraduate and graduate study.

The GLIS at Work Series Alumni Panel is scheduled for Wednesday, March 1 at 5:00 p.m. More details, including the Zoom link, are to come.

Make sure to keep an eye on your email to register for this Zoom event and learn how our alumni are applying their GLIS knowledge outside of Penn State. We look forward to seeing you there!



Cristina Cebotaru '21



Carolina Mejía-Moya '22



Gianna Pinto '22



Augusta Rentenbach '21

COURSE SPOTLIGHT

by Abigail Picozzi

LA 495 Undergraduate Field Experience or Practicum

Students planning on participating in an internship can receive 1–3 credits for completing LA 495 during their experience. This course is a great way to earn credit in tandem with field experience and is available to any Liberal Arts student.

LA 495 is designed to help you get the most out of your internship experience. You will be asked to network with colleagues, reflect on work and life in this career, explore potential jobs, and consider how your experiences relate to GLIS. More information can be found in the LA 495 syllabus.



There is flexibility in the credit-earning process. In cases where the internship is very closely related to your academic major, you should check with your department’s internship coordinator to discuss your assignment and registration for the department-based internship course. If your internship does not meet the requirements for earning credit through your specific department, you may request registration for the college (nondepartment specific) internship course section of LA 495. Essentially, academic credit is available for all legitimate internships that are considered to have a significant and valuable career and educational component.

There are **five steps** that are needed to enroll in LA 495 and receive credit for internships:

1. Secure an internship.
2. Consult your academic adviser about the internship and LA 495.
3. Request approval for your internship through the [Career Enrichment Network](#).
4. Access [Nittany Lion Careers](#).
5. [Check your CANVAS account](#) to ensure enrollment in LA 495.

If you are interested in taking LA 495 with your internship this summer, make sure you enroll before your internship begins—credit cannot be earned after the fact.

[Learn more about earning credit\(s\) for an internship.](#)

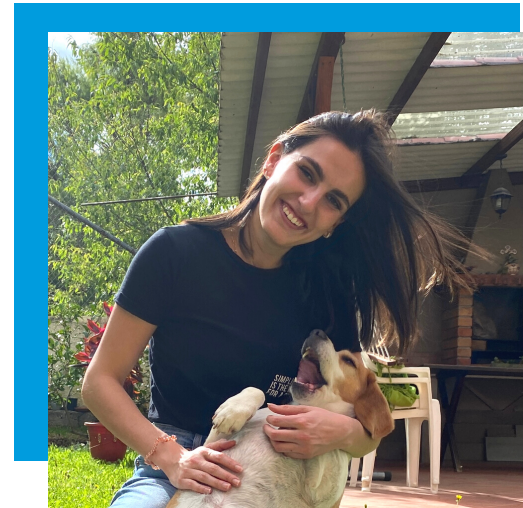
GLIS HONORS THESIS

by Valentina Vallejo

Valentina Vallejo '23 GLIS and German majors Wealth and Inequality pathway

After the approval of her thesis proposal, Valentina is researching the integration of mountain gorilla conservation and the economic development of the communities adjacent to Protected Areas (PAs) in Rwanda and Uganda.

Both countries are densely populated with a significant percentage of their citizens living in extreme poverty. These nations' PAs are sanctuaries for the conservation of biodiversity, however, the maladministration of area expansion by the parks and governments, causes massive displacements of communities that live adjacent to the PAs. Entire villages are forced to abandon their homes and resettle without a proper governmental support system in place.



Valentina Vallejo



Due to regional poverty, most of these villages are subsistence farmers, who depend not only on their crops but also on forest resources, for example, bamboo, water, medicinal plants, and *bushmeat*. For years, mountain gorillas have been illegally hunted for their meat, organs, skins, and body parts. The adjacent communities to PAs poach the gorillas for nutritional reasons and due to animal crop-raid.

Human-Wildlife-Conflict, like incidents with animal crop-raid, are detrimental to the villages' livelihoods as they already suffer from nonexistent incomes, food security constraints, and unreliable shelter.

By performing a literature review of published articles on the topic, a skill learned in her GLIS 400 course, there is a combination of both the sources' summary and the student's own synthesis of that information. After narrowing her topic, Valentina also reached out to experts that could support her through her research and writing process, as being able to discuss her findings with someone that works in the field is essential for her critical thinking. Lastly, having a reliable thesis supervisor facilitates the planning and organizational aspects of her thesis. Most importantly, Valentina can make progress by setting herself deadlines and establishing tangible goals, similar, to creating a game plan.

EDUCATION ABROAD SPOTLIGHT

by Olivia Bratton

Olivia Bratton '24
GLIS and Political Science majors
Global Conflict pathway

Why Study Abroad?

Even before attending college, I desired to study abroad in Spain. After years of learning the Spanish language from grade school into high school, I developed a strong passion and appreciation for Spanish culture. No matter which culture or country, I also believed it would be an extremely eye-opening experience that would allow me to foster a greater global mindset and new perspective outside of the United States.

The accessibility to study abroad was one of the aspects that drew me to attend Penn State; the university advertises and encourages a large number of its students to engage in an international experience whether it is an embedded course, summer program, or entire semester. Also, my love for other cultures and traveling aligned perfectly with the GLIS major!



Olivia Bratton and Lauren Carey
at Bunkers del Carmel

My Experience So Far

I am currently studying abroad in Barcelona, Spain, for the spring 2023 semester. Although I have only been here for a week, the city and its culture are already incredibly unique and have left their mark on me. My days can still consist of grocery shopping, going to the gym, doing school work, and hanging out with my friends, but there are many things about our livelihood here that differs as well. The timing of our day is very different than at home. It is more typical to sleep in a little later, take a break around 2:00–4:00 p.m., and have a later dinner around 9:00 or 10:00 p.m., with the nightlife activities occurring very late as well. In this city, I love that there are always places to explore and new things to try; whether you are walking around Park Güell, watching the sunset from the bunkers, or indulging in one of the amazing tapas restaurants on every corner, you are sure to feel in awe and grateful for the opportunity to immerse into a new country.



Carrer de Casanova



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 Global Conflict pathway
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