



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 March 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 an education abroad spotlight, a GLIS pathway spotlight, a course spotlight on PLSC 443, information for those looking to study abroad, a feature on upcoming study abroad programs, and a spotlight on one of Penn State's new organizations: Sharing Excess.

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

EDUCATION ABROAD SPOTLIGHT

by Abigail Picozzi



Abigail Picozzi visiting Monaco

Abigail Picozzi '24

GLIS and French and Francophone Studies majors Culture and Identity pathway

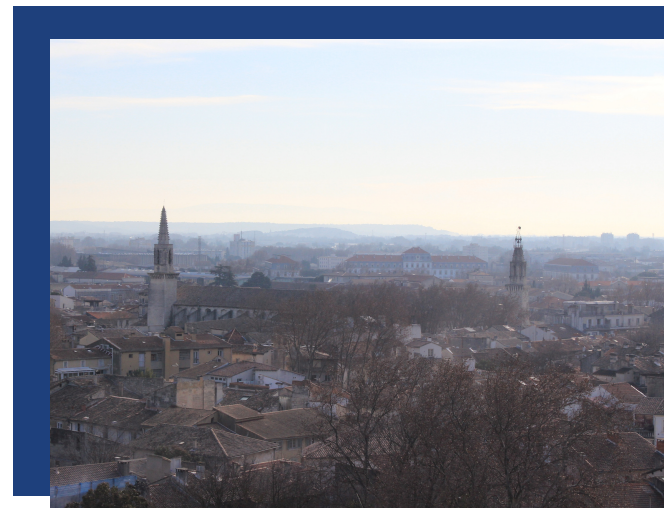
How did you decide to study abroad?

Studying abroad was a dream of mine before I had even started applying to colleges; I knew I wanted to study outside of the United States for a semester, so that was a big factor for me when choosing a university. Penn State offers a plethora of programs that make studying abroad possible for students in any major. Being a GLIS and French double major, it made a lot of sense for me to go to Aix-en-Provence, France for the spring 2023 semester. The College of Liberal Arts and the Schreyer Honors College made my experience even more accessible by offering grant opportunities, greatly relieving some of the financial stress that comes with going abroad. So far, it's been an amazing experience!

What has your experience looked like so far?

This semester, I'm living with a host family and attending school at the Institute for American Universities (IAU). IAU has a wonderful program approved through Penn State that draws in students from all across the United States! I'm taking a normal course load of 15 credits and IAU also offers lots of opportunities for field trips, extracurricular activities, and volunteerism.

It has been an awesome experience so far; immersing myself in the culture of South France has been a dream come true. I also have a lot of flexibility in my schedule and get to travel on the weekends! Studying abroad is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I believe it is the perfect chance for GLIS students to put their studies into practice in the real world.



Avignon, France

CHOOSING YOUR GLIS PATHWAY

by Maria Luiza Carvalho de Morais

Maria Luiza Carvalho de Morais '23

GLIS major

Political Science and Economics minors

Culture and Identity pathway

Why the Culture and Identity pathway?

When Maria first came to Penn State she was a little lost on what classes to take and what pathway choose. While filling up her requirements, she chose to let the classes she liked choose her pathway for her. Even though she liked classes in every pathway, she saw herself being pulled towards classes under Culture and Identity. She had been traveling the world with her family since she was a child, and has lived in many places including Brazil—where she was born—and the United States.

Because of her experiences living around the world, Maria has a passion for learning about different cultures. Her favorite class in high school was world geography, because every month they would focus on the culture of a different country. As a result, when choosing her classes at Penn State she gravitated towards classes that focused on different global cultures. In her early years at Penn State, she took classes covering the Middle East, Latin America, and Greek civilizations, and they were truly her favorite classes. She even took several French classes which allowed her to dive into French culture.

Of course there were classes in other pathways—specifically Global Conflict—that she found very intriguing; however, she chose to focus on Culture and Identity because the topics excited her the most. She is currently taking a gender and politics class that opened her eyes to a totally different side of politics that she hadn't seen before. Now, Maria has the opportunity to talk about and explore her own multiple identities, how they intersect, and how it has shaped her experiences in life. Classes like these, as well as many other in the Culture and Identity pathway, are the type of classes she looks forward to.



COURSE SPOTLIGHT

by Valentina Vallejo

PLSC 443 Ethnic Conflict in Africa Global Conflict pathway

From the Ethiopian-Eritrean Badme War to the Apartheid in South Africa, PLSC 443 (cross-listed with AFR 443) provides students with great insight and analysis of the complex ethnic conflicts around the African continent. The course is structured so students understand the basic but essential bases for nation- and state-building in any region. The material then moves on to disentangling the extensive history of over ten nation-states from all around the African continent.

The final part of this course consists of solutions and recommendations on how these countries could slowly recover from long years of ethnic conflict. This is also an opportunity to test your research and writing skills, as well as your public speaking. A significant portion of the final grade depends on a final paper which entails a presentation on the development of the research plan and findings to the class.

This 3-credit class makes the list for approved Global Conflict pathway courses. PLSC/AFR 443 can also be counted as an ethics course toward the Paterno Fellows requirement. You can find more information on the requirements to [**graduate as a Paterno Fellow here**](#).

If you are interested in African Studies and would like more background information on the current ethnic conflicts occurring in the region, this course is ideal.



A TPLF fighter in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia

EDUCATION ABROAD - WHERE TO START?

by Olivia Bratton

Get informed

When considering whether to study abroad, the [Penn State Global website](#) is the best place to start. There you can find the [Education Abroad 101 Module](#)—which is a course explaining the process of choosing a program, the application requirements and deadlines, and various suggestions for how to fund the experience.

Secure an academic plan

Before getting carried away by the excitement of your next adventure, it is ideal to ensure that your experience abroad will effectively align with your academic goals. It is best to meet with academic advisers for all majors or minors to check that the classes you would take abroad will fit into your degree plans. In addition to meeting with advisors, there is also an [Education Abroad Course Planning Tool](#) and an [informative video](#) about this step located on the Penn State Global website.

Research and explore your options

It is important to spend time researching the financial aspects of studying abroad. Penn State Global has multiple resources that provide information on the typical cost of the entire experience, financial tips, and scholarship opportunities that are available. With the cost and funding section in mind, it is time to explore your program options! You can utilize the Education Abroad Program Search to browse through different locations, periods of time, and types of programs.

Get advice from others

During all steps of the process, it is extremely beneficial to utilize the resources and people offered to provide insight and advice. Education abroad has peer advisers who are willing to share about their personal experiences and tips, as well as education abroad staff advisers who will help answer any questions or concerns about studying abroad.

Submit your application

After reading the application instructions on Penn State Global, you are ready to click the “Apply Now” button and complete your registration! Once you have fulfilled all requirements before the deadline, you wait to receive further information via your Penn State email.



EDUCATION ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES

by Abigail Picozzi

Penn State offers a wide variety of opportunities for education abroad. With the application deadline quickly approaching, here are a couple programs to keep in mind while researching your options:

IES - Amsterdam, The Netherlands

If you are a rising junior looking for the chance to study in Amsterdam, then this program may be for you! Through this Penn State-approved opportunity, you can study abroad for a semester or full academic year in the historic capital of the Netherlands. With a wide range of courses available, this is a great way to earn credits toward your degree all while enjoying the beauty of Amsterdam.



Penn State students in the college of Earth and Mineral Sciences abroad



Penn State students abroad

IES - Tokyo, Japan, Language and Culture

For GLIS majors with a focus on Asian studies or Japanese, or those who are just looking to study in the beautiful cultural hub of Tokyo, this program is a perfect option. Taking classes at the Kanda University of International Studies, only 45 minutes away from downtown Tokyo, you can advance your degree while experiencing Japanese culture firsthand for a semester or full academic year.

Learning Abroad Center: Dakar, Senegal, Studies in International Development

For those looking for a program off the beaten path, a semester abroad in Africa may be of interest. This program is based in Dakar: Senegal's cosmopolitan capital. Senegal has long been seen as a crossroads where African, Islamic, and European civilizations have met, clashed, and blended. This program is the perfect opportunity for GLIS students to immerse themselves in the rich and tumultuous history of Senegal and expand their knowledge on the development through an African lens.

ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

by Sharing Excess

Sharing Excess Penn State Chapter

Sharing Excess is coming to Penn State! Sharing Excess is an organization whose goals are to bridge the gap between food scarcity and excess. In our society, 40 percent of all food made goes to waste every year, causing around 40 million people to experience food insecurity. Therefore, the goal of Sharing Excess is to partner with local grocery stores, restaurants, and farmers to supply people with food and reduce waste.

Sharing Excess was brought together by a group of people with a common goal. These people were made up of creators, changemakers, and people willing to step up and solve problems. Our chapter at Penn State will focus on fundraising, popups, and raising awareness for this cause. We will fundraise through bake sales, merchandise sales, bingo board, and incentives related towards donating.

Sharing Excess has made a difference in our world, becoming a national movement. This organization is growing to become a leader in food redistribution, and we plan on helping this organization grow by starting a chapter here. Every volunteer helps, the work we do will make life more feasible and equitable for everyone. Our executive board is extremely excited to begin this chapter and we cannot wait for what the future holds for sharing excess in State College.

If you are interested in being a part of this incredible organization and joining us on this journey, please follow our Instagram ([sharingexcess_psu](#)) or reach out to our Recruitment Officer, Bryn Kirchhoff (bgk5140@psu.edu).





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Global Leaders of Penn State is looking for content!
If you are interested in submitting a story, please email us at glis@psu.edu.



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