



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 May 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 are featuring warm wishes from GLIS codirectors, faculty, and advisers to the graduating class of 2023. We also have spotlights and quotes from the GLIS graduates, a spotlight on our GLIS student marshal, and a Why GLIS? highlight.

Thanks for reading throughout the 2022-2023 school year! 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 continue highlighting the GLIS community next year!



PennState
College of the Liberal Arts

CONGRATULATIONS FROM GLIS DIRECTOR

by Krista Brune

Congratulations, GLIS graduates! Your undergraduate career has been a unique one as a global pandemic transformed your educational experiences. I admire your perseverance and resiliency as you were able to adjust to remote education and then return to in-person classes with renewed enthusiasm. The causes and repercussions of this pandemic further remind us of the critical importance of global and international perspectives to understanding and addressing the complicated issues facing our world.

As GLIS students, you have begun to carve your own paths and to determine which topics and areas interest you the most. Choosing your pathways opened you to new realms of study and allowed you to gain expertise in diverse areas, from culture and identity to human rights, to wealth and inequality. Guided by curiosity and genuine interest in the world, you have taken full advantage of the flexibility and the possibilities of majoring in GLIS. Many of you have combined your program studies with other majors, minors, internships, or study abroad experiences. Your commitment to community—be it at the level of the classroom, campus organizations, local politics, or global exchanges—is commendable. I urge you to remain engaged with your local and global communities as you share the knowledge that you have gained as GLIS students.

During your years at Penn State, you have overcome unexpected challenges and have accomplished a great deal. As you move on to new adventures and face other difficulties, I hope you will draw on the skills, experiences, and relationships that you fostered as GLIS students. Whether it be in a classroom, a government office, a corporation, or a stage, you have so much to offer your colleagues, friends, families, and broader communities. I look forward to hearing about your next steps of the journey. Wishing you all much success and happiness as you embark on your postgraduate lives!



Krista Brune

Dorothy W. Gilpatrick University Endowed Fellow in the Humanities
Associate Professor of Portuguese and Spanish
Director of the Global and International Studies Program

CONGRATULATIONS FROM GLIS FACULTY

Cyanne Loyle, Ph.D.
**Associate Professor of Political Science
and International Affairs**

It has been a great pleasure to teach and learn from our GLIS students this year. You are a remarkable group of scholars and advocates. It has been my great fortune to get to know you. From the global pandemic, to climate change, to war in Europe, the challenges that we will face in the next decades will be serious. I am confident in our future knowing our excellent Penn State students are prepared to tackle these challenges. Congratulations GLIS Class of 2023!



Yuliya V. Ladygina, Ph.D.
**Helena Rubinstein University Endowed Fellow in the
Humanities and Assistant Professor of Russian and
Global Studies**

Congratulations on achieving your bachelor's degrees! This is a tremendous accomplishment, and I commend your perseverance and dedication. I am grateful that I had a chance to work with some of you over the past couple of years—you are such a creative, smart, kind, and, most importantly, inclusive bunch! I look forward to meeting the rest of you as you return to campus in the years to come. With the GLIS degree in hand, I am confident that you have the expertise, knowledge, and compassion to lead us through Russia's gruesome attack on democracy and world peace, and guide us through many other global crises that the world is facing today. Go out, set the world on its ear, and make the GLIS program proud! All my very best!

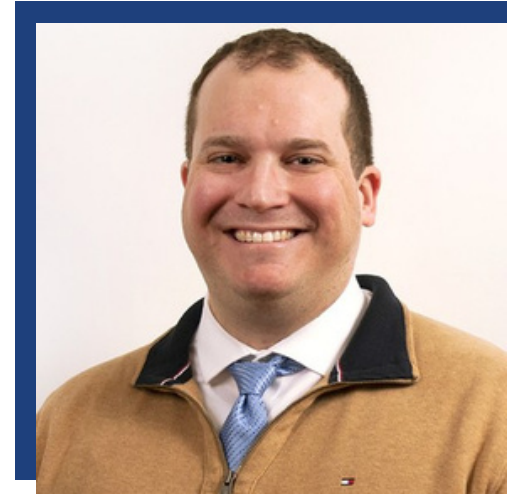


CONGRATULATIONS FROM GLIS ADVISER

Tom Spencer, Ph.D.

Academic Adviser

Congratulations, graduating seniors! I hope you are as proud of all your accomplishments as we, the faculty and staff of this program, are. Students in the Global and International Studies major consistently impress me with their co-curricular accomplishments and future plans. As the academic year draws to an end, I would like to highlight some of these.



- In this past year, students pursuing the GLIS major have studied abroad in countries such as Germany, Israel, Portugal, Curacao, Kosovo, Ireland, Spain, Egypt, Korea, Italy, and the Netherlands.
- GLIS students have been engaged citizens, often in globally significant and/or social-justice oriented ways, through experiences such as:
 - Serving as the Community Outreach Chair for the Dominican Student Association
 - Interning for the former president of Kosovo
 - Helping as peer advisers for other Liberal Arts students (out of twelve total peer advisers, two are GLIS major students)
 - Serving as an executive board member in the Office of Education & Social Equity's, "Student's Restorative Justice Initiative"
 - Talking to both Israeli and Palestinian citizens about the Israeli-Palestine conflict while studying abroad
 - Working as a production intern for a trilingual podcast focusing on Brazilian artists

In the future, GLIS students are participating in these exciting opportunities:

- Starting graduate studies, with an assistantship, at Florida Gulf Coast University to study Environmental Science
- Interning with the Bank of America
- Participating in a two-year Peace Corps assignment and following this up by pursuing a graduate level degree with money provided by the Coverdell Fellows Program

The flexibility of the GLIS major curriculum allows for opportunities to become engaged in locally and globally and prepares you for many exciting future endeavors. Returning (non-graduating) students, I hope you felt inspired reading the achievements shared above. Inspired, but also motivated to enhance your own academic careers. For all GLIS major students, I hope you feel proud for representing such a diverse and strong Penn State major.

LETTER TO THE GRADUATING CLASS

by Maria Luiza Carvalho de Moraes

Hi, Class of 2023!

We are graduating! After years of hard work and amazing experiences at Penn State we finally get to walk across the stage and receive our diploma. Looking back to my freshman year I don't think I expected to love GLIS as much as I did. We are so blessed to have had a major that gives us so many opportunities and knowledge that will for sure open many doors for us in the future. I am so proud of all of us. I surely haven't met the entire graduating class but I was fortunate enough to meet at least some and they were some of the best people I met during my time here. I know it is hard to choose a pathway at first because you feel like you want to do everything at once, but I'm so happy we all found our own way. I was always glad to bump into the same people throughout my many GLIS classes because it made me appreciate our small family even more. I have made some forever friends during those class that I will always cherish. We all made our impact in the GLIS program and helped many people throughout our time here. I am most proud of my time being on the GLIS newsletter team because I felt connected to so many people and during some interviews it made me realize even more that we are not all alone here. The class of 2023 is so brave, we went through a pandemic at the beginning of our college careers but we persevered. We made the best out of situation and worked even harder to be able to be graduating now.

We are all going into new chapters in our lives and I couldn't be happier for all of us. Some of us are going into the working field, some are going to grad school and many other things. The best thing about GLIS is there are many pathways to follow. It is such a broad major that gives us background and experiences for future endeavors. It can be overwhelming trying to navigate life after college, but I am sure we all can do it. One of the most important things that GLIS has taught me is that even though we get to study cultures and people from all over the world, we are not so different from each other. I hope we all continue to connect with other people and continue to learn from each other from here on out. Don't forget everything you learn here and the importance of being open minded to world out there. I wish you all the best and I hope to see everyone succeeding!



Maria Luiza Carvalho de Moraes

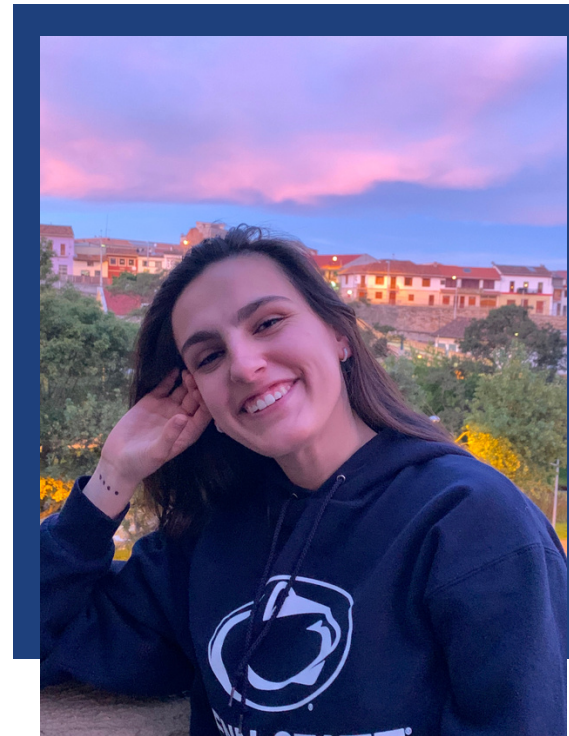
LETTER TO THE GRADUATING CLASS

by Valentina Vallejo

Dear Graduating Class of 2023,

Congratulations! As we prepare to embark on the next chapter of our lives, I am honored to address the graduating class of GLIS at Penn State. As we reflect on our time together, I am filled with pride and excitement for every student part of this journey.

Throughout your time in the GLIS program, you have acquired a diverse and comprehensive understanding of the world's cultures, politics, economies, and global issues. You have honed critical thinking and analytical skills that are crucial in today's interconnected world. Your passion for global affairs and commitment to understanding complex global challenges have been evident in your coursework, internships, study abroad experiences, and extracurricular activities.



Valentina Vallejo

As you step out into the world, remember that you are uniquely equipped to make a difference. Your knowledge of global issues, intercultural competence, and multidisciplinary approach will enable you to navigate the complexities of our globalized world and contribute positively to society. Embrace diversity, foster inclusivity, and promote social justice in all your endeavors. Stay connected with your fellow graduates, faculty, and the Penn State community, as they will continue to be valuable sources of support and inspiration.

Lastly, always remember to pursue your passions and make a positive impact in the world. Be bold, be courageous, and be the change you wish to see. As you step into the world as graduates of GLIS, I have no doubt that you will make a meaningful difference in the world and contribute to a better future.

Congratulations once again, Class of 2023! Penn State Global and International Studies has prepared us well for the global stage, and I wish you all the success in your future endeavors.

ABOUT THE GLIS CLASS OF 2023

by Sommer Mitchell

The Global and International Studies class of 2023 is a diverse group of undergraduates. There are thirty-three students graduating this semester with twenty-two earning a bachelor of arts degree and twelve earning a bachelor of science degree. There are seven Paterno Fellows, nine Schreyer Scholars, and five students who have earned a high enough grade-point average to graduate with distinction. Those include one graduating with a 3.83 or higher grade-point average and cum laude distinction, two with a 3.9 or higher grade-point average and magna cum laude distinction, and two graduating with summa cum laude distinction—Annika Throne with a 3.98 grade-point average and Payton Deeney with 3.97 grade-point average. Annika is the GLIS Student Marshal and Payton received the GLIS Top Academic Senior award. Additionally, Ziyen Curtis received the GLIS Civic Engagement award and Valentina Vallejo was awarded the GLIS Thesis Prize. Many graduates were double majors with one or more minors while also studying abroad, completing internships, and participating in undergraduate research.

Congratulations, GLIS graduates! The time you have spent earning your degree is an indicator of your persistence and dedication. The road has not been easy but your ability to move forward despite the odds proves you can embrace and adapt to a changing environment. The experiences you have gained, the lessons you have learned, and the opportunities you have taken and lost during your time at Penn State have prepared you for what's next. There are many paths available to you with no one right way forward. This reality is both exciting and scary. Whatever path you choose, the GLIS program wishes you the best of luck! Never forget your years spent as Penn Staters and always look forward to what comes next.



Sommer Mitchell

Assistant Teaching Professor of Global Studies and
Director of Undergraduate Studies for GLIS

GRADUATES IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Alison Axtman

Global and International Studies and
French and Francophone Studies majors

“The Global and International Studies major has allowed me to strengthen and grow my international perspective. I want to give a big thanks to all the amazing professors and advisors for inspiring and helping me grow as a global citizen and scholar. I will carry the meaningful courses with me wherever I go!”



Lauren Brooks

Global and International Studies and Political Science majors
Ethics minor

“My major in GLIS tremendously deepened my understanding of global context and cultures. I am so grateful to have been able to add a GLIS major because it expanded the content, I learned in my political science classes. I have thoroughly enjoyed the GLIS classes I've taken at Penn State and am thankful for the knowledge and time provided by the professors. ”



Jakeb Benedict

Global and International Studies major
Business and the Liberal Arts minor

“My major in GLIS tremendously deepened my understanding of global context and cultures. I am so grateful to have been able to add a GLIS major because it expanded the content I learned in my political science classes. I have thoroughly enjoyed the GLIS classes I've taken at Penn State and am thankful for the knowledge and time provided by the professors. ”

GRADUATES IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Micheala Broussard

Global and International Studies major
Sports Studies minor
Sports Administration certificate

“Being a GLIS major has allowed me the opportunity to learn more about the world around me and how I can make a difference in my community. I have enjoyed my time with this program because of the many areas of focus that you can take part in, as well as the community in itself. I am grateful for the opportunities that GLIS has allowed me to experience at Penn State!”



Maria Carvalho De Morais

Global and International Studies major
Economics and Political Science minors

“My experience at Penn state has been amazing from the beginning but my favorite part was being a part of the GLIS community. GLIS has taught me so much about myself and what I want to do in life and showed be that there are so many opportunities out there. I made the right decision to be in the Culture and Identity pathway as learning about different cultures made me appreciate mine even more.”



Ziyen Curtis

Global and International Studies and History majors

“GLIS has been an incredible door opener. My GLIS classes initiated my love for sustainability and the GLIS community gave me a place where I have felt heard and seen. I am so excited to be an alumnus of the GLIS program, and bring these amazing experiences with me into my future.”

GRADUATES IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Payton Deeney

Global and International Studies major
Arabic and French minors

“One of the aspects I have valued most in my experience with the GLIS program is its versatility; it has allowed me to broaden my world views while exploring subjects that truly interest me. The Culture and Identity pathway also created an opportunity for me to pursue my love for languages, which has been an invaluable part of my college experience. This program has been fundamental in deepening my understanding of the world around me, and I am excited to build off this knowledge in my future studies.”



Christina Fomunyoh

Global and International Studies and International Politics majors
Spanish minor

“The Global and International Studies major has given me the drive to invest in many of my passions including language learning, studying abroad in Colombia, and taking courses centered in exploring cultures and identities. As a GLIS graduate, I am confident that the many skills, lessons, and experiences gained will provide a pathway toward understanding the world and its many cultures. Thank you to all those who have contributed to this positive journey!”



Olivia Gearhart

Global and International Studies and
French and Francophone Studies majors
Master's of International Affairs

“I came into my freshman year at Penn State as a GLIS major, but I was unsure of what I exactly wanted to do. I am very grateful that I chose the GLIS program. Due to the flexible nature of the program, I was able to take classes that really interested me starting from my first year at Penn State. As a GLIS major with a focus on Global Conflict, I was able to take courses from various departments including political science, geography, history, and more. The GLIS program gave me an entry into the Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate degree program with the School of International Affairs, which will allow me to graduate with my master's and undergraduate degrees this May. I am very grateful for the education and experiences being a GLIS student has given me.”

GRADUATES IN THEIR OWN WORDS



MacKenzie Hart

Global and International Studies major

“I have had such an amazing time in the GLIS program. I have learned so much and feel that my time here has led me to develop the skills and knowledge to go forth into my future.”



Youngju Ko

Global and International Studies major
Sociology minor

“Through the GLIS major, I learned in depth the ability to understand and analyze international issues such as international politics, economics, culture, and society from an in-depth perspective. When I first came across this major, I thought I was studying international institutions and nonprofit organizations. However, GLIS studies the overall problems of the society we live in today in various disciplines and explores the various problems of modern society. So, it seems to help students expand their global perspective by interacting with various countries and cultures rather than narrowminded views. Therefore, through this major, I was able to gain an international career or increase my opportunity to work at an international institution.”



Bailin Liu

Global and International Studies major

“What does the world look like? How is the world different today than it was in the past? As I am trying to explore the world, the world becomes more and more expansive. My time studying international relations has given me the opportunity to see the world from the perspective of many people differently. The world is so wide and there is something ahead for me to continue exploring. Thank you so much to Penn State and the various professors I've met for taking me through the beauty of GLIS!”

GRADUATES IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Anderson Longenecker

Global and International Studies and Asian Studies majors
Japanese minor

"As a GLIS major, I enjoyed both the broad range of coverage on global issues and the ability to delve into specific regions and topics. The GLIS program builds intersections between theory and real-world applications and circumstances, and I am grateful for the wealth of knowledge and analytical skills that I have gained through this program."



Camille Marquardt

Global and International Studies major
Sustainability Leadership minor

"Global and International Studies has truly been my favorite experiences throughout my time at Penn State. This major has allowed me to follow through with the world I'm passionate about. It has opened my eyes to so much more and allowed me to study abroad throughout Europe, experiencing cultural values. I have even been lucky enough to create my own community in this major, meeting some of my best friends and exploring their passions within these pathways. My degree fits any direction I may want to take in my future. Although it's bittersweet to say goodbye, I couldn't be more grateful for my GLIS education and my amazing professors."



Maham Mian

Global and International Studies major
Chinese minor

"My journey through the GLIS program has been incredibly rewarding and fulfilling. I really enjoyed the flexibility of the program, as it allowed me to focus on a specific pathway. My experience within the Global Conflict pathway has enabled me to take courses that explore worldly issues within the framework of conflict in different societies, which has greatly impacted my interests and future career goals. Overall, I am grateful for the opportunities, knowledge, and skills that GLIS has provided me, and I am excited to apply what I have learned from this program to my future endeavors."

GRADUATES IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Global and International Studies major



Natalia Mohammed

“As a multicultural Palestinian student who has lived in different countries around the world, choosing the GLIS major was an obvious choice. GLIS has provided me the opportunity to explore global issues from multiple perspectives. GLIS allowed me to learn about diverse cultures, global interconnectedness, and international relations, which have prepared me for a career in fields like diplomacy, international development, global business, and human rights. Through GLIS, I have gained knowledge, languages, and skills necessary to make a difference in the world and turn my dream of effecting positive change into a reality. GLIS has changed my point of view on countries I visit, allowing me a deeper appreciation and understanding of their cultures and histories. I am incredibly grateful for the education and experiences that GLIS has provided, and I am excited to see where this journey takes me in the future.”

Global and International Studies major
Journalism minor



Marika Reynolds

“Majoring in GLIS has allowed me to learn about our world from a diverse perspective, which has positively affected multiple aspects of my life. I am thankful to my professors that have facilitated my learning of this “one world” concept, and because of this I’m able to blossom and see the world differently. I’m especially blessed to have learned various perspectives and lessons through my Human Rights pathway, and I am excited to make my mark on the world because of the tools I have cultivated here at Penn State. I am forever grateful for the education and skills I have attained through GLIS.”

Global and International Studies and Criminology majors



Sarah Runkle

“I chose GLIS because of the option to specialize in human rights. Modern day slavery is a blatant abuse of human rights, so I wanted to learn more about the implications and nuances of human rights to apply to my career. GLIS has taught me about the practical applications of human rights in international and domestic law and has helped me to think about legal solutions to end human sex trafficking. It has helped me to see the world in a global context that recognizes all cultures and experiences, which I hope to carry into my career.”

GRADUATES IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Madeleine Tenny

Global and International Studies major
Portuguese, International Agriculture, and
Sustainability Leadership minors

"I came into Penn State undecided and was able to explore a different course that piqued my interest. I studied abroad in spring 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal in the Language and Culture pathway with CIEE. I have been working as a student ambassador for a year as well as a learning coordinator for BiSci3, Environmental Science. I have been volunteering for a trilingual podcast, Brazil Culture Connections, since my sophomore year when I was introduced to a post-doctoral student, Jamie Lee Andreson by my Portuguese Professor. I am excited to continue my education at Florida Gulf Coast University for a master's in environmental science. The GLIS major allowed me to get a broad understanding of the world I live in and what contributes to and is affected by global developments and the importance of the environment. "



Valentina Vallejo

Global and International Studies and German majors
Economics minor

"After four years of being part of GLIS, I have had the opportunity to explore multiple areas of interest. The flexible curriculum of GLIS has given me the chance to discover my passion for animal conservation and ecotourism, which will serve as a good basis for my future studies. "



Alexandra Ward

Global and International Studies major
Business and the Liberal Arts minor
Business Fundamental certificate

"Choosing the Global and International Studies program was the best decision I made considering my choices at Penn State. The professors and courses were the best part of my experience. I was excited to go to class and learn about things I felt actually mattered and would help my future."

GRADUATES IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Annette Wienken

Global and International Studies and Italian majors
Holocaust and Genocide Studies certificate

"My time majoring in GLIS at Penn State has opened the door to the world for me, allowing me to study abroad in both Colombia and the Netherlands. My worldview has expanded immensely due to this program, and I am excited to see where in the world my career in human rights will bring me and how it will continue to change me for the better."



Holly Willhide

Global and International Studies major
Journalism minor

"Since being accepted as a GLIS major four years ago, I've never looked back. Getting the chance to take any class at my disposal and meet so many amazing classmates and professors has helped shape me both into the student I am today and the woman I am going to be entering the workforce. From Latino Studies to Chinese Culture and Language, I've learned more than I ever thought I could in college and I'm confident when I say that I'm leaving college actually having learned something, and it's all thanks to GLIS."



Thomas Young

Global and International Studies major
Spanish minor

"I came into Penn State very uneasy about what I wanted to study and learn more about. Through advising, and personal course experiences, I found a passion for GLIS. Looking back at my time at Penn State, I can confidently say I made the right choice pursuing GLIS as my major."

Graduates Not Pictured

Marieme Dia

Zachary Moon

Mikayla Reed

Linnea Sjoblom

Kristine Gutierrez

Mia Petrunyak

Kyla Roan

Yu Yue

GLIS CLASS OF 2023 STUDENT MARSHAL

by Abigail Picozzi



Annika Throne

Annika Throne '23

GLIS Student Marshal

Hometown: Estes Park, Colorado

When asked why she chose GLIS, class of 2023 GLIS student marshal Annika Throne told us about her amazing childhood spent traveling the world and volunteering with NGOs in Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, and Ghana. Through these unique experiences, she gained a love for traveling the world, discovering new cultures, meeting new people, and broadening her horizons. Penn State's GLIS program provided her the opportunity to expand this knowledge even further and continue to develop her passion for international studies..

One of Annika's favorite GLIS memories was presenting her final project in GLIS 400. In addition to being very proud of her own project, she was particularly impressed by the wide range of topics covered by her classmates and the variety of passions among her fellow GLIS students. In her own words, Annika said "I was inspired by the drive of everyone around me that also want to uncover and tackle issues in our world to better our future."

Throughout her time at Penn State, Annika was also heavily involved with THON, as she served as a Dancer Relations committee member for three years and had the honor of being a Dancer Relations captain this past February. She told us that THON was undoubtedly one of the most meaningful parts of her time at Penn State, and the unity of the whole Penn State community during THON weekend will always stay with her.

As she reflects on her time at Penn State and looks towards the future, Annika shared that being a GLIS major opened her eyes to the limitless career possibilities provided by a GLIS degree. Following graduation, she plans to work an internship in international sustainability, and then go on to pursue a graduate degree.

One piece of advice Annika would share with other GLIS students is to take advantage of the wide range of classes GLIS has to offer. Your passion may not be in the pathway you think it is, so be sure to expand your horizons when you have the chance!

WHY GLIS?

by Lauren Forbes

Lauren Forbes '25 **GLIS major** **Global Conflict pathway**

Lauren chose GLIS as her major because she loves getting a global perspective through many different courses! She loves learning about other countries, and in high school, her favorite classes were always history and English. She also is passionate about other cultures and global media. And she loves to travel! Global and International Studies was the perfect major for Lauren because it combines all of those aspects. She says that the flexibility of GLIS is so helpful when scheduling classes because she can take classes more geared towards her interests while still furthering her total education surrounding global interactions and studies.

Furthermore, Lauren is so happy that she is a GLIS major because she can learn about different ways that the world is connected, and she thinks that this major is highly applicable to day-to-day life. GLIS has taught her so much about other cultures, social norms, and how the world works. Lauren's pathway is Global Conflict, and she chose that because she is interested in global security, as well as looking at the relationships between countries and conflict and examining ways to prevent conflict. Overall, she thinks that majoring in GLIS has been one of the best decisions that she has made; Lauren has learned so many valuable things that she can carry with her into future careers, travels, or any endeavors that she pursues!



Lauren Forbes



Olivia Bratton

Content Writer

GLIS and Political Science majors

Global Conflict pathway

Third-Year



Maria Luiza Carvalho de Morais

Content Writer

GLIS major

Culture and Identity pathway

Economics and Political Science minors

Fourth-Year



Lauren Forbes

Content Writer

GLIS major

Global Conflict pathway

Political Science and

Communication Arts and Science minors

Second-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.



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