



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 September edition of the Global and International Studies Newsletter for the 2023–24 school year. We’re so excited to continue sharing stories from the GLIS community! In this issue, we are featuring a welcome message from the GLIS Director, highlighting some upcoming events for GLIS students, two stories from education abroad experiences, information on summer abroad programs, and a piece on a Penn State Center for Global Studies internship.

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 this school year!



PennState
College of the Liberal Arts

LETTER FROM GLIS DIRECTOR

by Krista Brune



Krista Brune

Dear students,

Welcome! I hope that you had fulfilling summers, whether you were working, completing an internship, taking classes, studying abroad, or traveling, and that you are ready for another exciting academic year. As you settle into your classes this fall, I want to encourage you to take advantage of all the opportunities that Penn State, the College of the Liberal Arts, and the Global and International Studies program have to offer.

During this past year, my first as the director of GLIS, I have learned more about the amazing possibilities of a GLIS degree and the excitement that you all bring to the program and our classes.

This newsletter that you are reading now is a prime example of that energy and commitment. Thanks to the current team for their dedication and creativity in writing, editing, and publishing this monthly publication. I urge everyone to read it to learn more about interesting courses and professors, the pathways, current students and alumni, internship and career possibilities, and relevant events on campus.

GLIS also hosted a series of events last year for the first time. Thanks to those of you who attended or participated in the inaugural edition of the GLIS at Work series, which consisted of a panel discussion with current students about summer and academic-year internship opportunities in the fall and a conversation with recent alums about their employment and graduate studies in the spring. We ended the year with a reception honoring graduating GLIS majors.

This year, we hope to build on the success of those events with more of the GLIS at Work series, including a session with the College's Career Enrichment Network; a fall open house; and an end-of-the-year awards ceremony for all majors. More information about these events will appear in the newsletter and in e-mail announcements. If you have ideas about additional events that the GLIS program can organize or cosponsor, please let me know. We are excited to foster collaboration with student groups, other departments and programs, or community organizations to enrich the academic and extracurricular life of the program.

LETTER FROM GLIS DIRECTOR (cont.)

by Krista Brune

As a program invested in global and international issues and studies, I want to stress the value of an experience abroad. Take time to visit the Education Abroad office and [website](#) to learn more about the programs approved by Penn State. If a semester away seems too long or daunting, consider a faculty-led program during Maymester or the summer, or an embedded program as part of one of your classes. Over spring break, GLIS will be offering an optional embedded program to Lisbon, Portugal, as part of the course 400Y. If you have questions about how you can enrich your studies with a global experience, please reach out to me, the College's [Career Enrichment Network](#), or the Education Abroad office. Remember, your academic advisor, Tom Spencer, is always able to help you figure out how study abroad can fit in to your path of study and to make sure that you fulfill your degree requirements.

I look forward to working with all of you this year. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions, comments, or suggestions that you have about the GLIS program.

Warmest wishes for an enriching academic year,
Krista

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

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR GLIS STUDENTS

by Abigail Picozzi

Dilemmas of Democracy Lecture: Timothy Snyder

Monday, September 18 | 7:00 p.m.

State Theatre, Downtown State College

Historian, author, and European history expert Timothy Snyder will be speaking about the Dilemmas of Democracy in this free lecture open to the public. This event also includes a Q&A session and the opportunity for a book signing for all attendees. Taking place Monday, September 18 in the State Theatre in Downtown State College, this event is perfect for any GLIS student looking to hear an academic's thoughts on this intriguing philosophical problem.

GLIS Open House

Thursday, September 28 | 4:30–6:00 p.m.

Sunset Park, Pavilion 1

The GLIS Open House is an opportunity for current major/minor students as well as prospective students to meet each other, learn more about the GLIS program, and interact outside the classroom or office with professors and advisors.

Sunset Park is a short walk from campus in the College Heights neighborhood with parking off McKee Street. Light refreshments will be provided.

GLIS at Work

Thursday, November 2 | 4:30–5:30 p.m.

160 Willard Building

The first GLIS at Work series event for this school year features a presentations by the Career Enrichment Network. Join us for a conversation about the best ways to highlight your experiences as a GLIS major on your resume, in applications, and during interviews.

TIPS FOR EXCELLING IN THE GLIS PROGRAM AND POST-GRADUATION

by Valentina Vallejo

You may have noticed that Penn State's GLIS program offers more flexibility compared to other academic paths. While this isn't a negative aspect, it does mean that as a GLIS student, careful planning and critical thinking are essential to chart a clear career path post-graduation. Unlike fields like finance, business, engineering, and hospitality, the job market for "Global and International Studies Entry-level positions" is limited. This can add to the typical job search stress. However, newsletters like this offer valuable tips to excel in your Penn State academic journey and better prepare you for your job search.



- **Master Time Management:** With program flexibility, you can double-major, research, work part-time, and engage in extracurricular activities. Prioritize strong organization, using tools like calendars and to-do lists for effective balance.



- **Build Strong Relationships:** In our close-knit program, do not be afraid to network with professors, fellow students, and professionals in the field. This can lead to mentorship, research opportunities, and career guidance. Also, active engagement in the few GLIS courses available shows your commitment and helps you grasp concepts better.

- **Internships and Education Abroad:** Many of our students seek out internships and education abroad opportunities to gain practical experience and immerse themselves in different global environments. Traveling is truly an eye-opening experience, Global Penn State has countless opportunities awaiting you.



- **Utilize Resources:** Make the most of libraries, online databases, academic support centers, and workshops offered by the program to enhance your learning experience. LinkedIn is another great tool for networking and connecting with GLIS students and professionals in similar fields. Engage in meaningful dialogues to learn insights into how a GLIS degree aligns with real-world career prospects.

- **Time for Reflection:** Allocate time for self-reflection on your academic journey, personal growth, and career aspirations. Regular introspection can help you stay focused and motivated, but remember that excelling does not mean perfection—mistakes along the journey are necessary too!



EDUCATION ABROAD EXPERIENCE - SPRING 2023

by Olivia Bratton

Olivia Bratton - Barcelona, Spain
Institute of Education Sciences (IES)

Program Overview

This past spring, I spent four months living and learning in Barcelona, Spain through the IES program. The program offers numerous classes for specific majors, classes about Spanish culture, history, and art, and a chance to take classes at local universities; thanks to this opportunity, I enrolled in two classes at the beautiful University of Barcelona. IES also offered an introductory field trip to the historic area of Tarragona, Spain where students were able to become immersed in cultural practices and meet fellow students. My roommates and I were placed in a spacious apartment in close proximity to our school building, living among local families.



Olivia Bratton and Jessica Fell on a day trip to Montserrat, Spain

Semester Highlights

Studying abroad grants students the opportunity to explore numerous countries and cultures if they choose to do so. Because of the close proximity of European countries and efficient means of travel, I was able to visit a total of nine countries over two continents during my time abroad.

Although I will forever remember my many exciting travels and experiences in various places, my main takeaway from my semester abroad was the experience of becoming fully immersed in my host country. I have never had the opportunity to live in another country for an extended period of time, and my favorite experiences were the lesser-known customs and traditions I learned while mingling with the locals, and beginning to feel like I belonged as a participant in their lifestyle.

Semester Challenges

Like many exhilarating decisions in life, traveling and adapting to life in another country did not come without its challenges; missing holidays and family gatherings was especially difficult. I also had to push my self to new levels of independence as I planned trips and navigated through countries with different languages.

EDUCATION ABROAD EXPERIENCE - SPRING 2023

by Abigail Picozzi



Abigail Picozzi with her host family

Abigail Picozzi - Aix en Provence, France Institute for American Universities (IAU)

Program Overview

My study abroad experience through IAU included a regular semester of 15 credits taken at a university affiliated with schools from across the United States, allowing me to meet American students all while living in town with a French host family. We followed a French grading scale and a typical French semester schedule, allowing us to participate in cultural holidays and events throughout the spring. IAU offers a variety of classes, so I was able to take a full course load to advance my degree while abroad.

Semester Highlights

One of the most rewarding parts of going abroad was the opportunity to refine my French language skills. Between living with a host family and navigating a Southern French town, I was able to greatly expand my vocabulary and fine-tune my accent, which was a massive personal accomplishment. Another noteworthy highlight was my ability to travel all around France and surrounding European nations: an exciting experience for any GLIS student. Immersing myself in various regions of French culture, getting to visit a friend in London for Spring Break, and traversing Italy by gondola are just some of the incredible adventures I got to embark on while abroad.

Semester Challenges

Of course, studying abroad isn't always easy. The challenge of being so far from home, away from friends and family, and across an ocean from State College for four whole months is a daunting undertaking for any young student. Homesickness and culture shock were very real realities, making this experience a personal challenge. The reward of conquering these difficulties is invaluable; the sense of independence and confidence I left France with is the greatest gift studying abroad could've given me.

SUMMER EDUCATION ABROAD

by Olivia Bratton

Summer Education Abroad Opportunities

In addition to semester or year-long programs, Penn State Global also provides various education abroad opportunities for students to engage in over the summer. These programs have proven to be helpful to students who have less flexibility in their course requirements but still desire to study abroad, students who prefer a shorter length of time abroad, or for anyone looking to spend their summer taking courses or participating in an internship overseas rather than at home.

Though summer programs are shorter in length, there are still an enormous list of locations to choose from. Summer programs are available in a range of locales: from China to Greece, Italy to Tunisia, The Netherlands to Spain, students of every foreign-language level can find a program that works for them. Certain programs even incorporate multiple cities in one, such as the Ireland Landscaping and Arts program which travels between Ballyvaughan, Dublin, Galway, and Inis Oirr, Ireland. In addition to the flexibility of location, Penn State Education Abroad also offers a variety of program types depending on the experience students are looking for. Penn State students can opt for a Maymester or a summer session, partake in an internship, or take specific classes to advance their degree.

Summer 2023 Abroad Experience

Choosing to partake in a summer abroad experience has many benefits. Third-year student, Emma Bice had the opportunity to engage in a six-week education abroad program in Aix-en-Provence, France. She stated, "I felt like my summer experience was the perfect amount of time. I didn't get home sick or spread my finances too thin, but I still gained life-changing exposure to many new places."



Emma Bice on a weekend trip to Nice, France in June

SUMMER INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

by Lauren Forbes

About Penn State's Center for Global Studies

This summer, I had the opportunity to be one of the Summer interns for Penn State's Center for Global Studies. The Center for Global Studies, otherwise known as CGS, is a National Resource Center (NRC). An NRC is a government-funded organization that works collaboratively with institutions across Penn State to support teaching, research, and programming that advances the University's expertise in global studies and international events.

With the use of grants awarded from the U.S. Department of Education, CGS supports cross-cultural awareness by providing important resources to educators at Penn State, schools in State College, and globally through their website. CGS puts on events on campus such as lectures, luncheons, and movie showings for those who are interested in global studies. The Center also supports the learning of less-commonly taught languages, such as Farsi, Hindi, Arabic, and Swahili. CGS aids professors at Penn State in the promotion of these courses to students. Regarding languages, the Center also awards funds to excellent researchers, both professors and students in foreign language study through the FLAS fellowship, to aid their research further.

My experience

As my first internship, I wasn't sure what to expect with my time at CGS, but throughout the summer I had an extremely valuable experience and had a lot of fun! Since it is the summer, there were no events to sponsor on campus, so the goals of CGS shifted a little bit. Some of my smaller duties included researching other NRCs to look for potential partnerships, aiding in federal grant reporting, and creating flyers to advertise less-commonly taught languages. My main task this summer was to aid in the creation of the CGS Annual Report, which is a long document that summarizes all of the activities, events, and funding that CGS did in the past year. Through the creation of this report, I learned so much about how a National Resource Center is run and about all the complexities of a government-funded organization. My time at CGS was so valuable to not only gain professional experience, but also learn about global events from a different perspective.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE (cont.)

by Lauren Forbes

My favorite thing about interning at CGS was my excellent director, who helped me immensely throughout the summer. The team of interns was small, so it was nice to get to know everyone throughout the term as well. I also really enjoyed making the flyers to advertise the language courses, because it was really nice to see how passionate the professors were about their courses. In the fall, I am staying on as an intern with CGS and I was given the opportunity to run their social media and assist with outreach. I am looking forward to getting started in this new role!



The flyer is titled "LANG 197.001 SPECIAL TOPICS" and "FARSI (PERSIAN) 1". It is for the Fall 2023 semester, held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:05-9:55 a.m. in the 312 Boucke Building, taught by Instructor Nasir Arian. The flyer includes a map of the Persian-speaking world and the Persian word "فارسی" (Farsi). It describes the course as an exciting new offering of an important world language, spoken by 70-110 million people in Iran, Afghanistan, and other countries. The course is designed to introduce students to the language and culture so they can communicate in different contexts. Farsi is noted as a Critical Language by the U.S. State Department, useful for careers in government, military, linguistics, and international relations. Contact information for Nasir Arian is provided at the bottom.

LANG 197.001 SPECIAL TOPICS
FARSI (PERSIAN) 1

FALL 2023
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
9:05–9:55 a.m.
312 Boucke Building
Instructor: Nasir Arian

You are invited to join this exciting new offering of an important world language, spoken by an estimated 70-110 million people in Iran, Afghanistan, and other countries. No prior knowledge of Farsi is needed. This course is designed to introduce you to the language and culture so you'll be able to use the language to communicate in different contexts.

Farsi is considered a Critical Language by the U.S. State Department. It is helpful for those pursuing a career in government, military, linguistics, and international relations.

For more information, contact **Nasir Arian** (nva5455@psu.edu)

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One of the flyers I created to promote Farsi!



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 Content Writer
 GLIS and Political Science majors
 Global Conflict pathway
 Fourth-Year



Lauren Forbes
 Content Writer
 GLIS major
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Valentina Vallejo
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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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