



# GLOBAL LEADERS OF PENN STATE

GLOBAL AND INTERNATIONAL  
STUDIES PROGRAM

Monthly Email Newsletter



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## WELCOME

by Lauren Forbes, Managing Editor

Hello! Welcome to the December edition of the Global and International Studies Newsletter for the 2024–25 school year. We're so excited to continue sharing stories from the GLIS community! This month, I am excited to share a spring internship opportunity! This issue also contains another IUG highlight, a GLIS course highlight, and a student spotlight! We have had a great semester bringing Global and International Studies to you and cannot wait to see what the new year brings!

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 continue sharing stories and experiences in GLIS!



**PennState**  
College of the Liberal Arts

# SPRING INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

by Lauren Forbes

## *Center for Global Studies Internships*

Are you looking for more professional experience for your resume, or just want to get involved on campus more? Consider the Center for Global Studies (CGS) internship for the spring 2025 semester?

All students will receive valuable work experience in a global studies environment. Duties will be adjusted based on the academic and professional interests of the intern. However, all interns are expected to support CGS activities and global studies research. Primarily, we are looking for students who are excited about global studies and interested in supporting the advancement of such education both here at Penn State and beyond. We really need people who are organized and able to manage themselves and their time well. Some of the intern duties include creating and sending out newsletters, assisting with event planning, website updates, interacting with Penn State faculty, etc. **The experience is really flexible, so you can focus on the areas that interest you!**

This internship is open to all Penn State students interested in the field of global studies. Some required skills are: attention to detail; ability to meet deadlines; strong organizational skills. Minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0. Hours are negotiable but should range between ten–twenty hours per week. Academic credit may be earned by speaking with your academic adviser. All of the work can be done remotely!

Interested students should send a résumé and cover letter (which should indicate, among other things, which semester you are applying for, how many hours per week you are interested in, and whether you are interested in receiving credit) to [cgsinfo@psu.edu](mailto:cgsinfo@psu.edu). More information regarding dates will be posted on our website soon!

## *My experience*

I did the Center for Global Studies internship almost two years ago, and have stayed on the team ever since! I really have loved this experience, and the flexibility I have been given while still making a meaningful contribution! This was the perfect opportunity for me as a GLIS major to explore what I wanted to do after graduating and sharpen my skills to get there! If you have any other questions regarding the experience, feel free to email me at [lef5298@psu.edu](mailto:lef5298@psu.edu)!

Center for  
**Global Studies**

# COURSE SPOTLIGHT

by Marcayla Connell

## **African Studies 110N: Introduction to Contemporary Africa Culture and Identity Pathway**

AFR 110N invites students to explore Africa's vital role in shaping today's global dynamics. By unpacking the historical, political, and cultural forces that have influenced modern African societies, this course presents the continent as a richly diverse and multifaceted space, far removed from the oversimplified narratives often seen in media and textbooks. It challenges students to critically analyze and confront the legacies of colonialism, fostering a deeper understanding of how these impacts continue to shape governance, development, and culture in contemporary Africa.

For those striving to become engaged global citizens, AFR 110N offers a foundation for understanding not only, Africa's interconnectedness with the world, but the significant effects of colonialism on the continent. By delving into Africa's historical context and current realities, students gain critical insights into its pivotal role in addressing global challenges like climate change, migration, and international trade. This awareness equips them with the perspective and cultural sensitivity needed to address such issues thoughtfully and effectively.

AFR 110N also serves as an academic hub for interdisciplinary growth. Through an exploration of African literature, theater, cinema, and belief systems, students sharpen their critical thinking and analytical skills while deepening their appreciation for cultural diversity. The course's analysis of governance and economic systems, along with their inherent challenges, provides a solid framework for future studies in political science, anthropology, and global development.

Aspiring leaders across economic, political, and social sectors will find AFR 110N particularly valuable. Its emphasis on Africa's urbanization, gender dynamics, and public services prepares students to tackle pressing global issues with innovation and empathy. The course's exploration of Africa's diverse realities equips students with the knowledge and tools to create sustainable, equity-driven solutions that acknowledge and respect local contexts.

Ultimately, AFR 110N is more than a class—it's a call to action for those who want to lead with compassion, curiosity, and informed purpose. By bridging the gaps between cultures, histories, and policies, this course transforms students into critical thinkers and advocates for a more just and interconnected world.



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

by Cynthia Wang



## **Berenice Nuñez '25** **Global and International Studies** **Global Conflict pathway**

### **What sparked your interest in pursuing a major in Global and International Studies?**

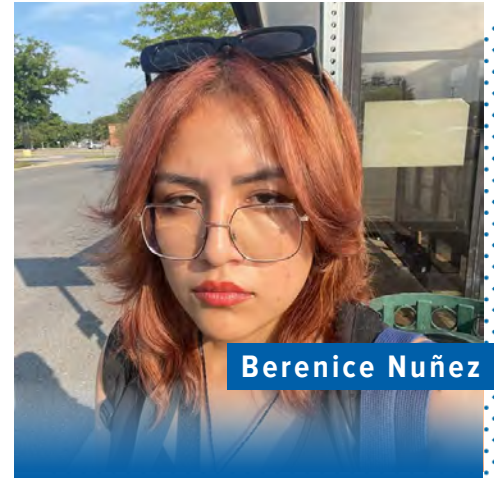
When I was first admitted to Penn State, I was a forensic science major. I had friends that were in the GLIS major and that piqued my interest. I didn't know GLIS was a program that Penn State had. They said that I would do well in GLIS because I possess an international background as an international student from Bolivia.

I changed my major from forensic science to GLIS in my fourth semester and added a sociology minor as well. I speak four languages at varying proficiencies. I was active in the Model UN sphere back in Bolivia and my mother was a U.S embassy so those factors further influenced my decision to major in GLIS.

I wanted to pursue a career where I could travel the world instead of being tied down in one place. I want to learn more about other cultures and be more understanding of other people. Cultural competence is a given when it comes to being a GLIS major so my future careers would allow me to be I wish to understand how they think and how certain aspects affect them.

### **What is your pathway and why?**

I was originally in the culture and identity pathway because I was really interested in culture, and I've always liked these things. While I really liked being in that pathway, it wasn't fit for me. For me, the Israel-Palestine conflict that changed the game for me and led me to change to the global conflict pathway. Even though I don't possess any roots in those two countries, it really struck home for me with the way people reacted to it and what was going on. I thought that maybe global conflicts were more in my sphere of interest than culture and identity. I started taking classes on genocide, global conflicts, the Global South and human rights because the subject of global conflict really sparked my interest. As someone who is from the Global South—from Bolivia—I learned how international law can be effective in preventing certain things from happening but sometimes the odds are not in favor of countries that are not major powers like China, Russia and the United States. It's complicated but I feel that it is also my duty to learn about these aspects and be aware to have a career because I do want to advocate for disadvantaged countries, marginalized communities or people that don't have a voice. Take Palestine for example, they don't even have a seat in the international system. There's so much going on in the world and I felt that global conflict was my calling.



**Berenice Nuñez**

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT (cont.)

## **How do you envision your future career path aligning with your studies in Global and International Studies?**

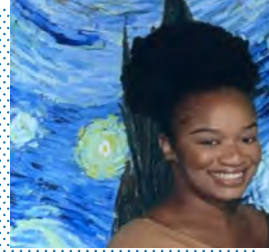
I want to travel around the world and be exposed to as many cultures as possible. People from other cultures have different ways of thinking when compared to my way of thinking so I feel that global and international studies provides me with the cultural competence to learn more about other cultures and their ways of thinking. Global and international studies also establishes an understanding of how things function around the world as well as how the international system works. The program also gives me different perspectives in general and it's a career path that opens doors to so many opportunities. As an international student, it's also very difficult to find a job here in the United States due to the visa requirements. Honestly, I just wanted a broader area of study where I can apply my knowledge. Global and international studies also ties in well with my sociology minor.

## **How has GLIS allowed you to develop your global understanding, and what are you looking forward to learning more about in the future?**

I feel like GLIS has helped me challenge some ideas that I had before being in that area because I do admit that my position back in Bolivia was one of privilege. As someone who has grown up with privilege, I acknowledge that there are some things that I think about aren't inherently bad, but they are elements that I need to be aware about. The global and international studies program has helped me see the world from different points of views and not to just support one side because you do not agree with the opposition.



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If you are interested in joining the team, please email us at [glis@psu.edu](mailto:glis@psu.edu).



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