



GLOBAL LEADERS OF PENN STATE

GLOBAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM

Monthly Email Newsletter



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WELCOME

by Cynthia Wang, Managing Editor

Hello! Welcome to the September edition of the Global and International Studies Newsletter for the 2025–26 school year. Since this is the first issue for the school year, I'm ecstatic to introduce new members of the newsletter team. My name is Cynthia and I'm the managing editor! I can't wait to work with my amazing team of writers! I want to welcome back Faith Turnbull who will be writing a course highlight, and introduce Eugene Choi, and Catherine Goldberg who are writing about why they chose GLIS.

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 sharing stories and experiences in GLIS!



PennState
College of the Liberal Arts

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Cynthia Wang

TUESDAY

3/29

Libraries are the foundation of democracies. This summer, I had the privilege of volunteering at the New York Public Library-Stephen A. Schwarzman Building as an event volunteer. Located in the heart of New York City, the library functions not only as a local archive of knowledge but also as a global cultural hub. The Schwarzman Building branch of the New York Public Library is home to research collections that span centuries and continents, from ancient manuscripts to contemporary global archives. During my time as an event volunteer, I saw firsthand how the library attracts an audience as diverse as the city itself.



Visitors hailed from every corner of the world—scholars researching international topics, and New Yorkers engaging with stories that connect them to broader global narratives. My responsibilities as an event volunteer were to monitor entry and exit points in order to ensure smooth traffic flow and to coordinate with library staff and security to troubleshoot issues should they arise. I also assisted with line management during high attendance events. Perhaps the most inspiring aspect of volunteering there was realizing how an institution in the heart of New York City can act as a cultural bridge. The library hosts lectures on world history, exhibitions highlighting global artistic traditions, and conversations on pressing international issues. Helping to welcome guests and orient them within the space made me feel like part of a much larger dialogue—one that extends outside of the library. For students in the Global and International Studies program, the Schwarzman Building represents an ideal intersection of local service and global perspective. It serves as a reminder that libraries aren't just archives, but living institutions where ideas spread freely. In the heart of New York City, I found myself not only serving my community but also participating in a global conversation.

WHY GLIS?

By Catherine Goldberg

Catherine Goldberg '27
History and Global and International Studies
Global Conflicts Pathway



Catherine Goldberg

Catherine chose GLIS as one of her majors because the knowledge you receive from a GLIS degree ensures you have skills to tackle global challenges in the workforce. Catherine has always had a strong interest in topics such as diplomacy, history, and global conflicts, which is why GLIS was the perfect choice for a double major. She started as just a history major but realized she wanted to double major in something that would narrow down her career interests. After taking GLIS 102 in the beginning of her sophomore year, Catherine knew GLIS was the perfect fit for her. Not just learning about past and current global conflicts but immersing herself in different cultures is one of the ways GLIS classes are taught and Catherine believes she has grown as a student and a person because of it. Catherine was further persuaded to add GLIS because of the ability to pick a specific pathway she was interested in to focus even more on her interests. Catherine chose the Global Conflicts Pathway within GLIS because she is interested in international aid, as well as the United States's diplomatic relations with other countries.

To continue, Catherine is very happy she chose GLIS because of how encouraged it is within the major to study abroad for any length of time. Catherine has always wanted to study abroad, given her passion for global studies, but was worried that with her course load she wouldn't be able to. Thankfully her GLIS adviser has worked with her every step of the way to make sure that Catherine took the right classes in order to study abroad when she wanted to, and it paid off because she was recently accepted into the study abroad program of her choice. Overall, Catherine believes that majoring in GLIS was a great decision for her and has helped her narrow in on what she wants to do once she graduates. Catherine would recommend the GLIS major to any student who is passionate about global issues and affairs.

COURSE SPOTLIGHT + ABROAD OPPORTUNITY

By Faith Turnbull

GER 001, GER 002, GER 003, and GER 201

Spring Break Embedded Program

The Penn State German department is once again offering an incredible opportunity to go abroad! If you are a student planning on enrolling in German 1, German 2, German 3, or German 201 for spring 2026, then you are eligible to participate in the Spring Break embedded course option. This course is a week-long trip that includes airfare, hotels, breakfasts, transportation, museum entries, and a day-trip to Salzburg, Austria, all for only \$2,300. For the program to occur, they require a minimum of twelve students, so if you're not currently enrolled in a German course but plan to be enrolled in one in the Spring 2026 semester, email Professor Finch at jff5582@psu.edu to be put on the email list for updates.

I personally went on this trip my freshman year, spring 2023, and absolutely loved it! As a GLIS minor, I found this opportunity to be incredibly rewarding. This course allowed me to gain first-hand experience in cultures different from my own. I was able to apply what I learned in a classroom setting to real-world scenarios. As this opportunity spans across several German courses, this experience allowed me to connect with several other students interested in learning German. I still reference my time on this trip three years later!

This embedded program offers the opportunity of a lifetime. It provides an immersive educational experience that enhances language learning in a meaningful and lasting way. By being physically present in German-speaking environments, students can practice their language skills in authentic, everyday contexts, reinforcing vocabulary and grammar through real-world application. For students studying GLIS or those simply interested in expanding their worldview, this trip provides a unique platform for connecting classroom knowledge with lived experience, all while forming lasting friendships with peers who share similar academic interests.





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GLIS and Psychology majors
Human Rights pathway
Women's, Gender, and Sexuality
Studies and Chinese minors
Fourth-Year



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Global Leaders of Penn State is looking content writers!
If you are interested in joining the team, please email us at glis@psu.edu.



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