



PROGRAM IN GLOBAL STUDIES
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
801 S Wright St
132 Coble Hall, MC-402
Urbana, IL 61801

GLBL 298: Global Studies Seminar Abroad

CALL FOR PROPOSALS, AY 2026-27

Important note for new proposals: Continuing proposals will be eligible for AY 2026/7, however new proposals will require extra lead time to ensure program approvals, agreements, and promotional materials are finalized in time to promote and accept students.

LAS Global Studies invites proposals to offer a GLBL 298: Global Studies Seminar Abroad (GSSA). These seminars abroad are special topics courses designed by faculty to enhance undergraduate students' understanding of a topic or problem of global import through an on-campus course that extends into a field experience abroad with an applied focus. The seminars should foster skills to identify and analyze issues from multiple disciplinary and cultural perspectives, promoting a global mindset and respect for diverse ways of living, thinking, and being through cross-cultural exchange.

The seminars begin on campus, usually during the 2nd 8-weeks of a term, and then spend approximately 2-3 weeks abroad after the term in intensive instruction and exploration. The fall term portion abroad is generally from late December to mid-January, and the spring term portion abroad is generally from late May to mid-June.

Faculty directors indicate that they value their seminars because of the extraordinary teaching experience and the opportunity to develop or strengthen professional relationships and experience abroad. Students value their seminars abroad because of the enhanced learning environment, high quality interaction with a faculty member, and intercultural experiences.

Please note: if your proposal is accepted, you will work with LAS International Programs to craft a full course abroad proposal for review by the College and by International Safety and Security. Given conditions at the time of this RFP all programs are tentative pending clearance for study abroad experiences from campus. Conditions and policies in effect in host countries may also impact the ability to offer specific programs, with final approval subject to review by the campus International Safety and Security committee.

The [Information for faculty working with international programs and partners](#) contains important resources on course development, salary and the full proposal.

The [International Safety and Security web](#) site contains important resources for faculty leaders.

Examples of previous offerings:

<https://las.illinois.edu/academics/international/abroad/shortterm>



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Instructional Team Eligibility

Teams will consist of a lead faculty member and a program assistant (another faculty/staff/advanced grad student) with a current teaching appointment with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign campus in one of the following employment categories.

- Tenured and tenure-track Faculty,
- Specialized Faculty (PhD preferred),
- Emeritus Faculty,
- Academic Professionals (Master's required, PhD preferred)

Graduate students and staff are not eligible to direct a program abroad, although they may co-teach with an eligible instructor. Courses are open for enrollment by undergraduate students at UIUC; graduate students are not eligible to take these courses.

Funding

Faculty director costs for travel, including lodging and per diem, related to the course are covered.

Directors will receive a salary based on the following scale.

Base salary of \$6000

Yr 2: \$6600

Yr 3: \$7975

Yr 4: \$8770

Yr 5: \$9650

Yr 6+: \$10,500

Faculty who have led courses prior to 2018, and whose previous salary payment was higher than the salary they would receive on the above salary scale, will receive their previous salary amount each year until they have taught enough years to move up the salary scale. The maximum payment to any faculty leader for an LAS faculty-led course is \$10,500.

All proposals to teach the course must be approved by the faculty/instructor's department, and requests to teach the course on-load may be negotiated.



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Questions

For questions and information on LAS Global Studies Seminars and course content please contact Tim Wedig, Associate Director of LAS Global Studies: twedig@illinois.edu. For questions on LAS policies and requirements please contact Cheryl Marcello, cmarcelo@illinois.edu, Associate Director for Education Abroad & International Exchanges, LAS International Programs Office.

Proposal Format and Due Date

Complete proposals will contain the following elements:

- Course proposal using the format below
- LAS Faculty-led : [LASFacultyLedCourseProposalDocument.pdf](#)
- Completed [budget template](#)

Submit proposals electronically to Chandre Johnson, chandrej@illinois.edu by **Monday, February 2, 2026.**

Proposals are reviewed by the LAS Global Studies Faculty Advisory Committee.

Additional Proposal Details

We generally schedule no more than two winter-term courses, and no more than three in the summer given funding and demand limitations. Therefore, this will be a competitive process as proposals are closely evaluated on meeting the criteria identified in this proposal.

Priority in approval will be given to proposals that:

- Are closely linked to instructor experience, expertise and knowledge of the topic and location
- Emphasize empirical (although not necessarily quantitative) research in their inquiry design
- Offer field destinations underserved by other short-term study abroad programs
- Focus on issues of global import in a manner that helps students build skills and knowledge that will enhance career and academic opportunities
- Are affordable for students (program fee range approximately \$4000 to \$5000)



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**GLBL 298: Global Studies Seminar Abroad
Proposal Format**

☐ **Program Leader Information**

1. Name and e-mail:
2. Position title and Department:
3. Department of Instructional Appointment, if different from above:
4. Proposed Term for on-campus course component:

Fall 2026: 2nd 8 weeks
Spring 2027: 2nd 8 weeks
5. Attach Statement of Purpose/Justification of Course (approx. 300-400 words):

☐ **Program Support Information**

1. Name and e-mail:
2. Position title and Department:
3. Department of Instructional Appointment, if different from above:

☐ **Attach tentative syllabus, using format for general GLBL 298 syllabus shell below.**



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- ☐ **Submit departmental approval for your proposal from your home department.** This may come in the form of an e-mail from your department chair/head or their designee acknowledging approval for your proposal, or you may have that person sign below. Graduate co-teachers should also provide approval from their Director of Graduate Studies.

Home Department approval

Name/Title:

Department:

Date:

Signature:

Proposal Due: Monday, February 2, 2026.

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SAMPLE PROPOSAL

GLBL 298: Global Studies in [xx] *Seminar Title*

3 cr. (1-2 cr on-campus; 1-2 cr in field)

Instructor Information:

Course Description:

Course Objectives: Customize to reflect overall GLBL 298 seminar abroad objectives
Enhance **knowledge** of human cultures, their interactions, and impacts on the world

- Enhance understanding of own and host culture
- Understand difference created by distinct ethnicities, histories and beliefs; view difference through at least two cultural lenses
- Recognize global themes and how they are manifested in localities around the world

Develop **skills** for successfully negotiating realities of contemporary societies

- Expand on intercultural skills through ethnological study and experience in another culture
- Develop empirical inquiry skills associated with ethnographic and case study methods
- Develop critical thinking through reflective writing on field experiences

Promote **values** for global learning, diversity and sustainable futures

- Realize the importance of intercultural exchange and responsibility to others and to our environments
- Appreciate the diverse ways of living, believing, understanding, and responding to challenges that are manifest locally but have global domain.

Course Schedule: *Design Suggestion*

Pre-departure

Setting the Context

- Introductions
- General goals of Program
 - o Understanding global integration and its impact on local communities



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- Advancing intercultural knowledge and skills
- Establish problem for case study
- Course/case study format and expectations

Case Study Module 1: Exploring culture and cultural relativity

- What is culture
- Domains of culture: beliefs, values, traditions, behaviors
- Cultures in contact: ethnocentrism and cultural relativity
- Define own culture and cultural lens
- Research host country's history and culture

Case Study Module 2: Comparing and contrasting cultures

- Methods of inquiry: Ethnographic and case studies
- Objective description vs. interpretation (multiple cultural lenses)
 - Definition and example
 - Learning to take field notes
- Comparison/contrast of home and host cultures
- Reflection and the art of journal writing
- Sharing observations and research across sections of GLBL 298
- Establish protocol/expectations for field experience (objectivity, observations, etc.)

Case study Module 3: Problematizing and planning

- Problematizing: In-depth introduction to case study problem, objective, format, expectations
- Collaborative group and individual goal setting for learning: intercultural knowledge, global issue, [case study focus]
- Student organization to plan for achieving group goals
- HW:
 - Journal entry on individual goal for experience: rationale and plan
 - Reading on global issue/culture under focus

Case study Module 4: Historical, contemporary context for 'problem'

- Faculty establish historical and methodological approaches for the course
- Group generates questions on problem from home and host cultural lens to pursue
- Group generates questions on host culture: practices, values



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Case study Module 5: Addressing the 'problem' while in the field

- Generating activities to engage in, questions to ask, set of observations to make that will address 'problem' from multiple disciplinary and cultural perspectives and that will contribute to intercultural learning part of GLBL 298 website
- Final preparations for group travel
- HW:
 - o Students submit fieldwork plan to instructor with their specific focus based on their group and individual goals for the experience.

In the Field:

Based on specific seminar/instructor objectives

Post-return: Final meeting:

- Group does final synthesis/discussions about experiences
- Discuss how students can continue their experience through coursework, other study abroad opportunities, and beyond graduation

General Course Requirements (minimum)

Pre-departure research

On-site Field Notes and Journal

Final synthesis project