



# PENN ABROAD ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

## FROM THE DIRECTOR



The 2017-2018 academic year was a year of positive transition as the reimagining of Penn Abroad both in its people and culture began to be realized. The redevelopment and refinement of our programming was a key focus for the team which resulted in a rebranding of the Global Internship Program (GIP) – formerly the International Internship Program (IIP), and significant policy development and planning to relaunch Penn Global Seminars post-pilot phase. Semester and Academic Year programming also had a number of changes made to better support the student advising experience. We completed a major overhaul in the visual and technical support of global programming at Penn with a new website as part of the Penn Global website redevelopment project, and the rebranding of PASSPORT, the application management system used for our education abroad programming. With a new team, a new vision, and a new culture, the 2017-2018 academic year was one full of accomplishments and in planning for the years ahead. With Penn’s new Strategic Framework for Global Initiatives endorsed during the Spring 2018 semester, education abroad programming is very much at the forefront. Significant focus and overhaul of our processes and policies will continue in the year ahead as we look to provide a greater level of service to more students and we work towards our goal of providing every Penn student with a meaningful global experience.

-Nigel Cossar, Director

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Penn Abroad is committed to providing a meaningful global experience to every Penn Student.

# OUR PHILOSOPHY

Each year the University sends over 2,500 Penn students to more than 50 countries around the world on semester study abroad, summer internships, service learning, and short-term programs. Penn Abroad serves as the hub for student global opportunities at the University of Pennsylvania. Our dynamic team is dedicated to providing and facilitating global opportunities for all Penn students, faculty, and staff. We are committed to providing every Penn student with a meaningful global experience. Being responsive to the needs of students by taking a creative approach to the evolving field of education abroad is at the core of what we do.



*Raisa Shah CAS '19, Semester Abroad - CASA Sevilla, Spain*

## Core Values

A dedication to student development as we deliver a wide range of program options is one of our core values. We prepare students for a globalized world through integrated academic experiences that challenge and expand their global competencies. Our expertise allows us to deliver a wide range of program options that provide our students with rigorous, individualized, and authentic experiences. We are well versed in the priorities of the University and immerse ourselves in professional development to ensure that our work is best in class locally, nationally, and globally.

We cultivate and maintain productive relationships with our faculty and staff campus partners, our off-campus providers, and the broader network of international educators. We embrace optimism and pursue our work in a prepared, coordinated, and strategic manner. We are accountable for our actions. We are culturally aware, and we take the time to reflect on our strengths and our opportunities as a team.

We work hard to ensure that Penn Abroad programs are accessible to people from all backgrounds. Access is an essential part of our strategy in providing meaningful global experiences to the Penn community. We believe a diverse community of learners allows for a richer experience and represents the University's values. We strive to identify and connect students to support services who work with various communities, and help students reflect on how their identity impacts their experience abroad both before, during, and after the experience.

# MEET OUR TEAM

Nigel Cossar  
Director



Erica Sebastian  
Senior Associate Director



Kristyn Palmiotto  
Associate Director



Jamie Nisbet  
Marketing and Events Manager



Melissa Jen DiFrancesco  
Senior Global Programs Manager



Greta Kazenski  
Senior Global Programs Manager



Jillian Cener  
Global Internships Manager



Jacob Gross  
Global Programs Manager



Laurie Jensen  
Global Seminars Manager



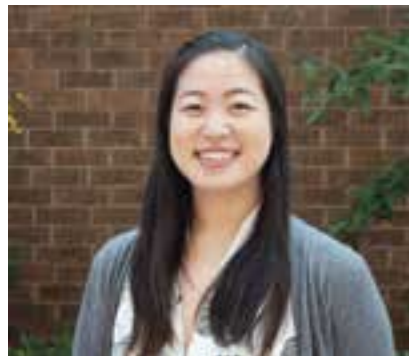
Josh Pontrelli  
Global Programs Manager



Amber Leisher  
Global Programs Coordinator



Amy Wei  
Global Programs Coordinator



## 2017-2018 ACADEMIC YEAR

- Penn students traveled to 45 countries, spanning six continents, on Penn Abroad programs.
- 34 students studied or interned abroad in South America; countries included Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Ecuador
- 22 students studied or interned abroad in Africa; countries included Botswana, Gambia, Ghana, Rwanda, South Africa, and Uganda
- 47 students traveled to the Middle East on three Penn Global Seminars
- 162 students studied abroad in semester or year-long programs in the United Kingdom
- 184 students studied or completed internships in Asia, countries included China, India, Thailand, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, and Singapore
- 36 international exchange students studied at Penn from partner institutions in Australia
- 1716 students visited the Penn Abroad office
- 1462 students were advised for a Penn Abroad program
- 1000+ students attended a Penn Abroad event



“I learned about politics, economics, language, culture, and so much more than anything I could have read in a textbook. I also revisited various theories of international relations that I had learned at Penn...it allowed me to interpret them from a different social and cultural perspective, giving me a more well-rounded view.”

– Ahmed Jones, CAS '18,  
Semester Abroad in Brazil

- 
- 792 Penn students participated in a Penn Abroad program
  - 207 incoming exchange students studied at Penn
  - 105 Penn participants were first-generation college students

## Penn Abroad Fair 2017

- 349 students attended



- 33 international partners attended

## SEMESTER ABROAD

Semester study abroad provides the opportunity for Penn undergraduate students to establish themselves in a new global community through extended study for a semester or year, while earning credit towards their undergraduate degree. Penn Abroad's program offerings span a variety of academic disciplines and provide academic credit across each of Penn's undergraduate schools.

The 2017 – 2018 academic year saw the number of outbound semester abroad students rise 3.6% from the previous academic year, with the 500 total students divided as follows by undergraduate school: 64% College of Arts & Sciences, 17% Wharton, 7% Engineering, 1% Nursing, and 11% dual-degree programs. Juniors continue to be the largest class year studying abroad, with the most popular destinations being the United Kingdom, Spain, France, Australia, Italy, and Hong Kong.

### Expanding Partnerships & Opportunities

The 2017 – 2018 academic year saw the expansion of Penn Abroad study opportunities in several regions. In partnership with the undergraduate schools and academic departments across campus, Penn Abroad added 11 new semester abroad programs this past year. The growth of the Middle East and Africa portfolios of the College of Arts & Sciences were a direct result of the summer 2017 program review of both regions. At Wharton and SEAS, increasing student demand in specific program locations were the impetus for their expansion in the UK and Ireland. New approved programs:

- College of Arts & Sciences: Middlebury C.V. Starr Schools Abroad in Cameroon, Morocco, and Jordan, CIEE Arts & Sciences in Ghana and Botswana, CIEE Language and Culture in Senegal, Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Israel, Smolny College of St. Petersburg State University in Russia, and Keio University in Japan
- Wharton School of Business: King's College London and London School of Economics, both in the United Kingdom
- School of Engineering and Applied Science: University College Dublin in Ireland

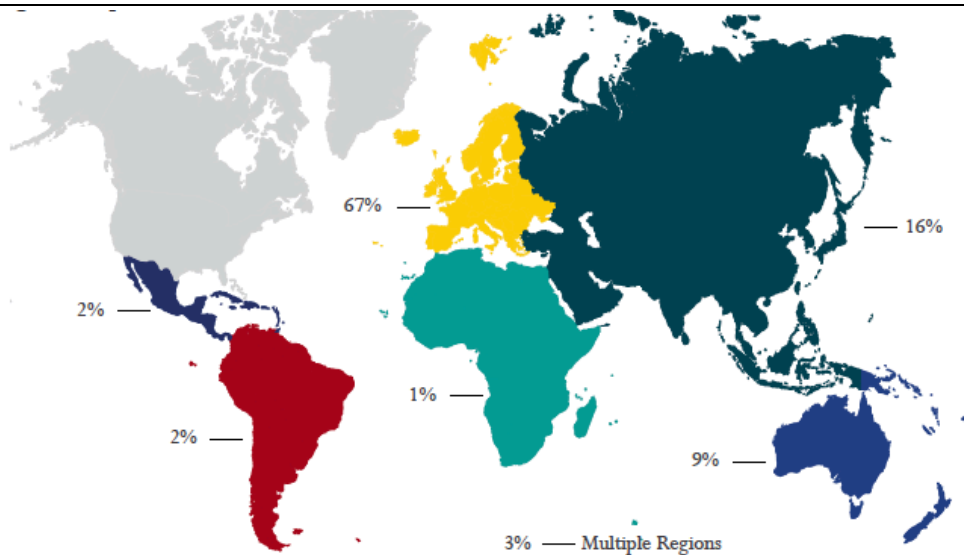
### Enhancing the Inbound Exchange Experience

A large part of Penn Abroad's diverse semester abroad portfolio is made possible by robust bilateral exchange agreements with partner universities around the world. With these partnerships, Penn Abroad welcomed 207 international exchange students to Penn in the 2017 – 2018 academic year. The 2017 – 2018 academic year also saw significant enhancements to the cultural experience for incoming exchange students to Penn. In the past year we added several cultural excursions to the calendar including two Halloween events in fall 2017, a hike in the fall and in the spring, and a day-trip to Hershey, Pennsylvania.



Left: Erica Dienes, University College Dublin Center: Arman Ramezani, CASA Barcelona Right: Fall 2017 Incoming Exchange Students

## 2017-2018 Outbound Statistics



### Regions Represented

- 2% North America
- 2% South America
- 67% Europe
- 1% Africa
- 16% Asia
- 9% Australia
- 3% multiple region

500 students committed to Penn Abroad programs in 2017-2018; Increased 3.6% from 2016-2017

### Home Schools

- CAS 64%
- Wharton 17%
- SEAS 7%
- Nursing 1%
- Dual-Degree 11%

## Looking Ahead

Looking forward, Penn Abroad will be reviewing its portfolio of semester abroad programming in France, Spain, Italy, Germany, and Portugal in the upcoming academic year. This review is certain to provide opportunity for robust conversations with the undergraduate schools, academic departments, and international partners in order to ensure that Penn Abroad's semester programming and incoming exchange partnerships continue to suit the needs and interests of our entire Penn community, as well as our overseas partners.

Within our incoming exchange program, the upcoming year will see the addition of both a buddy program and weekly walk-in office hours. These new initiatives will further enhance the incoming student experience by providing additional avenues to help students acclimate to their new surroundings, either through pairing with current Penn students or by stopping by Penn Abroad on an as-needed basis for additional support.

## GLOBAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Global Internship Program (GIP) provides undergraduate and graduate students at Penn with international internship and research opportunities. These opportunities take place over the summer, are eight to twelve weeks in duration, and come with funding awards to offset associated costs. Previously established as the International Internship Program in 2009, the program underwent a massive overhaul for Summer 2018, providing more placements, improved outreach, formal advising, and increased access for students.

Summer 2018 was GIP's biggest program to date, with 468 students submitting 686 applications. In the end, 171 students committed to participating in internships and research assistantships all around the globe. Student placements ranged from venture capital firms in Singapore to owl monkey research projects in the fields of Argentina. New for Summer 2018 was the use of third-party provider programs, which allowed Penn students the opportunity to be part of a cohort of interns in one of five different countries.

With a wide range of opportunities (both in terms of career fields and locations), an increased commitment to outreach and to advising, and a flexible funding model that aimed to be inclusive of students from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds, the GIP has proven to be an opportunity of interest for students typically underrepresented in semester study

abroad. Of the 171 committed students, 54% receive financial aid during the academic year, 23% identify as first-generation college students, and 63% of US citizens self-identified as students of color. Ongoing student reflections throughout the summer show that the GIP has allowed students to explore their personal, academic, and career identities on a global scale.

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## Summer 2018 Statistics

171 committed summer 2018 students; increased 45% from 2017

### Regions represented

- Africa: 20
- Asia: 85
- Australia: 8
- Central America 10
- Europe: 22
- Middle East: 5
- South America: 19
- North America: 2

468 applicants; increased 114% from 2017

63% of US participants identified as students of color compared to 28.4% national average<sup>1</sup> of global program participants

54% of participants receive financial aid; increased 10% from 2017

Of the committed students, there were 153 Undergraduate and 18 Graduate students from 9 of Penn's schools



“Living abroad has taught me a great deal about my personal identity, and what I will seek from myself in the next few years...I’ve come to ask myself a lot more: what kind of work environment do I thrive in, and what sort of environments can I contribute the most to?...I’m not sure I have the answers, but being abroad is certainly helping me think it through.” – Laura Chu, Wharton ’21 LYNK – Hong Kong

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## Looking Ahead

Building upon the changes made for GIP Summer 2018, we look forward to further refining our processes and working on the following for Summer 2019:

- Providing students with effective advising in a variety of mediums
- Increasing research assistantships and STEM opportunities to further encourage students from underrepresented academic backgrounds to participate.
- Utilizing our third-party providers to create “hubs” of internships in locations known for success in particular fields (e.g. Engineering in Shenzhen, Human Rights in Rabat, Startups and Entrepreneurship in Buenos Aires).
- Working with campus centers and departments to market the program, particularly among identity groups underrepresented in international education.
- Continuing to use a flexible funding model to provide high-need students with a higher amount of funding.

### Program Name Change Beginning Fall 2018

We are pleased to announce that GIP will undergo a name change beginning in the 2018-2019 academic year in order to reflect the increased research opportunities and focus of the program:



## Global Research & Internship Program

# PENN GLOBAL SEMINARS

Penn Global Seminars (PGS) combine intensive semester-long undergraduate courses with an embedded short-term travel component that is intended to deepen students' understanding of concepts discussed in the classroom. These courses are particularly advantageous to freshmen and sophomores, first-generation, low-income students, athletes, and students with particularly rigorous curricular requirements who cannot commit to a semester or year abroad.

The PGS program was launched in Spring 2016 with a two-year pilot phase to test program format, eligibility guidelines, travel component policies, and recruitment strategies. Under the pilot's model, student participants were required to pay for their airfare to and from the program site, as well as personal meals and expenses, while Penn Global provided funding and logistical support for all other elements of the travel component.

The 2017-2018 academic year was the program's largest to date at nine courses representing a wide array of disciplines and geographic areas. Course topics ranged from operations and corporate strategy in Israel to comparative healthcare systems in Chile.

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## 2017-2018 Statistics

9 Seminars Offered

121 Total Students

32 First-Generation College Students

69 Financial Aid Recipients

## Schools Represented

- CAS: 62%
  - Wharton: 15%
  - SEAS: 9%
  - Nursing: 7%
  - Dual-Degree: 7%
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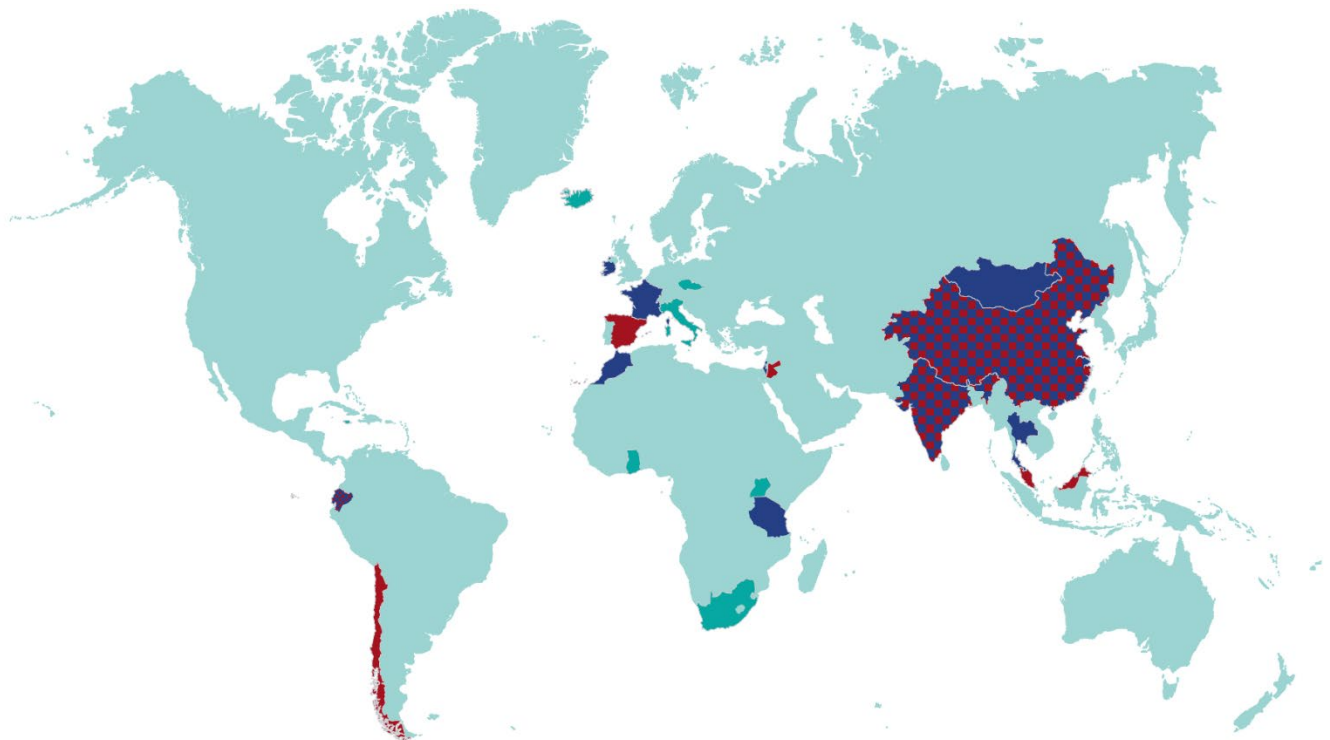


“The things you read in books are not the same as actually being in the place, interacting with people, getting to see their way of living, and just getting to know a few words of the language. Being a student at Penn and taking advantage of opportunities such as this give me a real-world education.” – Liliane Kevine Ikirezi, SEAS ’19, SEAS China Immersion

## Looking Ahead

In the 2018-2019 academic year, the Penn Global Seminars program will exit the pilot phase and implement a variety of progressive policies which are intended to make the program sustainable, accessible, and scalable. Major highlights for the 2018-2019 academic year include:

- The introduction of a \$950 flat program fee for students which will cover all aspects of their participation in the course, including round-trip airfare. The program fee is already proving successful in increasing access to students; the attrition rate of accepted students was the lowest to date at 2% for the Fall 2018 semester.
- Increased efforts to target freshmen, including offering two inaugural first-year PGS writing seminars.
- A deeper focus on underrepresented regions, including four courses traveling to Africa and the first course traveling to the Caribbean.
- An increased emphasis on interdisciplinary coursework, including two courses co-taught across Schools. Faculty from the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and Perelman School of Medicine will collaborate on a robotics and rehabilitation course in Jamaica, and faculty from the School of Nursing and the School of Arts and Sciences will co-teach a course on culture, health, and development in Ghana.



Multiple Year Program Sites: China, Ecuador, India

2016-2017 Program Sites: France, Ireland, Israel, Mongolia, Morocco, Tanzania, Thailand

2017-2018 Program Sites: Chile, Jordan, Malaysia, Spain

2018-2019 Program Sites: Czech Republic, Iceland, Italy, Ghana, South Africa, Uganda



## EXPANDING STUDENT ACCESS

The 2017-2018 academic year re-invigorated our commitment to diversity and access. New iterations of the Global Internship Program and the Penn Global Seminars, in addition to our existing Semester Abroad portfolio, allowed for students from a variety of majors, interests, and backgrounds to participate in meaningful global opportunities that fit their needs and interests. The University as a whole has become increasingly diverse, with the Class of 2021 consisting of 47.9% students of color, 12.4% first-generation college students, and nearly 50% financial aid recipients. Penn Abroad strove to preserve the campus's great diversity and has committed to serving Penn students from all backgrounds.

Improvements continue to be made to programming and advising in an effort to further increase access to global programs for the 2018-2019 academic year, including: minimum guaranteed funding awards for the Global Internship Program; a \$950 flat fee for the Penn Global Seminars, and increased outreach and advising for students interested in semester-long programs, starting at New Student Orientation for first-year students.

### Building Partnerships – The Diversity Abroad Advisory Board

Penn Abroad created the Diversity Abroad Advisory Board (DAAB) in the Spring of 2018, bringing together faculty and staff with a common dedication to serving underrepresented University students from across the institution. The participants of the advisory board have committed to sharing knowledge about global opportunities at Penn and working together to break down the barriers that students face in participating in these opportunities. Working collaboratively, the members of the board are eager to continue working together over the coming years to help every Penn student achieve a meaningful global experience.



Penn Global Seminar, Human Rights, Forced Migration, and Education, Jordan



Cindy Luo CAS '20, Penn Global Seminar with travel to Singapore

## 18-19 Strategic Goals

### Preparing Our Students

Penn Abroad will launch a new advising model that builds on the changes made during the 2017-2018 academic year. This includes the shift in focus for semester advising from “where” to “why” and new walk-in advising hours for students to explore all of the global opportunities available. In addition, a new set of online pre-departure orientation modules will be publicly available to the whole campus community in order to better prepare students for their time abroad.

### Educating Global Citizens

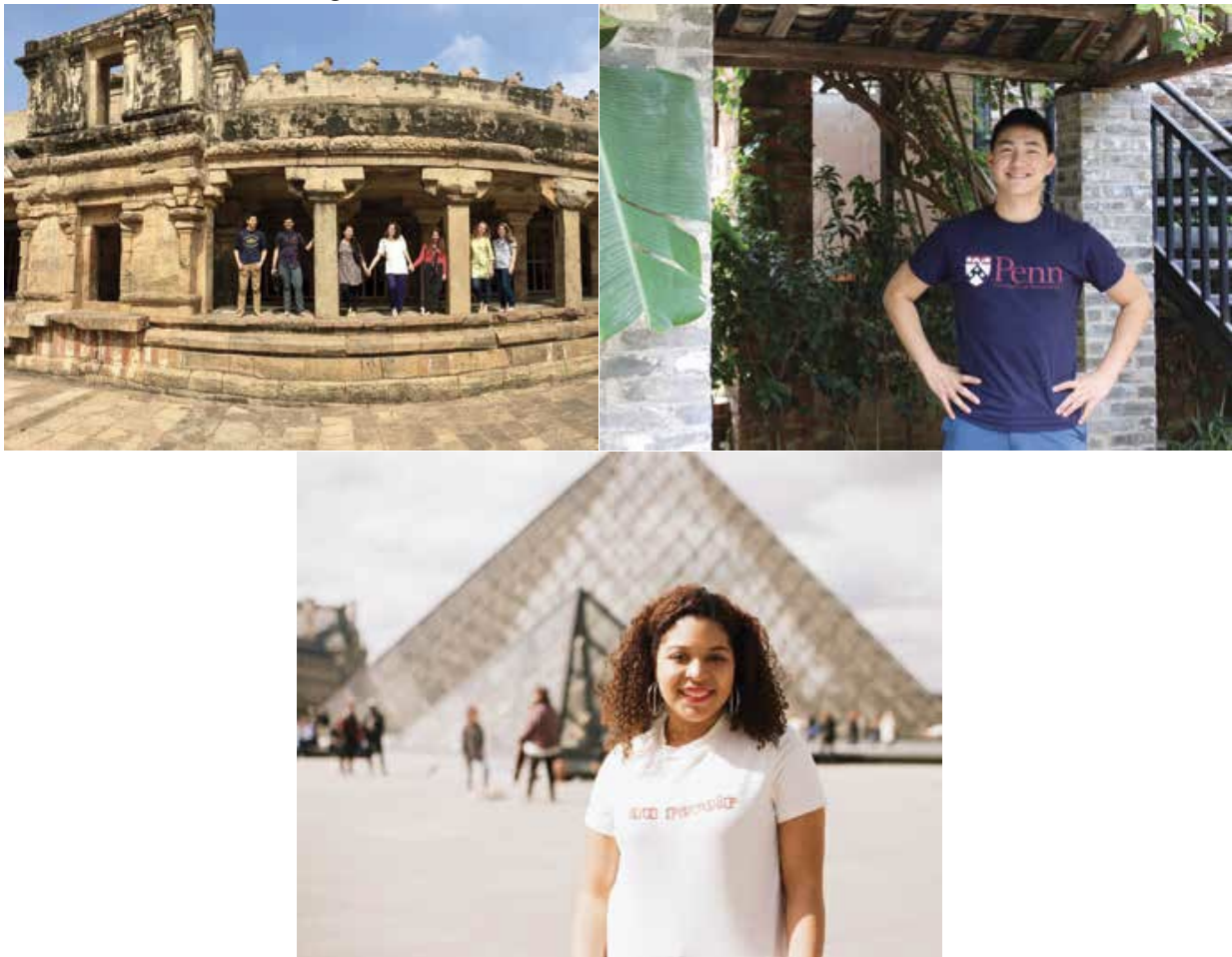
Penn’s new Strategic Framework for Global Initiatives was endorsed during the Spring 2018 semester, prompting Penn Abroad to deepen their focus on educating global citizens by providing a meaningful global experiences for every Penn student. With the development of a new post-program assessment, Penn Abroad will gain more insight into the student experience and how current programs meet University goals.

## Expanding Outreach

Building on the launch of the Penn Abroad website and the appointment of a Marketing and Events Manager in 2017- 2018, Penn Abroad will implement a new strategic outreach plan aimed at reaching a wider audience of Penn students. This includes changes to the Penn Abroad Fair to better engage our students, a strategic events plan, and the launch of the Penn Abroad Ambassadors and Penn Abroad Leaders (PALs) programs.

## Strategic Partnerships

As part of an inclusive and wide-reaching effort, Penn Abroad will continue to build partnerships with Penn schools, academic departments, campus centers, and international partner institutions in order to share knowledge and best practices, serve underrepresented students, and develop dynamic program options. Penn Abroad will also take steps to better connect faculty with peers at current and prospective partner institutions in order to strategically expand and assess program options for students.



Front Cover:

Top: Katherine Putnam Nursing '19, Semester Abroad - University of Queensland, Australia  
 Middle: Penn Global Seminar, Muslims, Christians, and Jews: Pilgrimage, Memory and History, Spain  
 Bottom: João Campos do Vale Dourado CAS '21, Global Internship Program, Mexico

Back Cover:

Top: Elisabeth Hyde CAS '19, Semester Abroad - Institute of Political Studies in Paris, France  
 Middle: Kenneth Shinn CAS'21, Global Internship Program, China  
 Bottom: Penn Global Seminar, The Performing Arts of Modern South India

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