



# ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022





Penn Global Seminars, *The Parthenon: The Many Lives of a Monument*, Greece, Spring 2022

Produced by: Penn Abroad  
 Designed by: Jamie Nisbet

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Front Cover Images:

- Top Left: Belinda Kumi, Global Research & Internship Program in Australia, Summer 2022
- Bottom Left: Penn Global Seminars, *Laboratory of Evolution: The History, Philosophy, and Science of Evolution in the Galápagos*, Fall 2021
- Right: Railyn Diaz, Semester Abroad at Queen Mary University of London, Fall 2021

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Rebecca Redlich, Semester Abroad at CASA Dublin, Spring 2022





Penn Abroad is an energetic team dedicated to providing a meaningful global experience to every Penn student. Taking a creative approach to the evolving field of education abroad, the team provides a high-touch experience to help students meet their unique academic, professional, and personal goals by providing a vibrant portfolio of global opportunities, including semester study abroad, incoming exchange, internship and research placements, and short-term programs. The team is committed to student development through education abroad, cultivating meaningful partnerships within Penn and across the world, and increasing access to global opportunities.

## OUR TEAM

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Executive Director

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**Spencer Biery**  
Global Programs Assistant

# From the Executive Director

As the world reopens from a pandemic that shuttered many borders since March 2020, Penn Abroad has welcomed the opportunity to relaunch our global programming efforts with dedicated students eager to add a meaningful global experience to their time at Penn. The Penn Abroad team worked this year to support students interested in pursuing such opportunities, drawing on the support of many across campus and our partners globally to ensure the safe resumption of programming opportunities for our students.

Penn Abroad resumed semester programming in a small, controlled way with students enrolling in 13 institutions across 7 countries for the Fall 2021 semester. In the spring term, this increased to 35 programs in 18 countries. In total, 195 students participated in our flagship semester study abroad program. All indications point to gradual yet continual growth in future terms as students start to realize that global is once again possible as a Penn student, and Penn Abroad stands ready to assist.

The Penn Global Seminars (PGS) program restarted travel with courses in the fall and again in the spring, with a total of 8 courses over the year traveling to destinations including Greece, Ecuador, and Australia. The diversity in locations for the PGS program is also mirrored in the Global Research and Internship Program (GRIP), where once again we have in-person internship placements for students in 19 locations globally.

Our inbound programming also resumed, welcoming exchange students to campus in the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semesters. A total of 155 students took up the opportunity, and while the experience was impacted by Penn's COVID-19 restrictions on campus, it was a pleasure to welcome students back to Philadelphia and to our campus as ambassadors for their home countries and institutions.

Access to and participation in global experiences is critical to Penn's mission. To this end, safely resuming programming for students remained a top priority for Penn Global and Penn Abroad this year. The Penn Abroad team has learned a lot from our partners, and our students, throughout this pandemic. The resilience shown by so many of our stakeholders is a testament to the very worth and value of global opportunities. As we round out the 2021-2022 academic year, Penn Abroad remains optimistic and excited for the year ahead with even more program options returning that will see even more Penn students realizing the potential to incorporate a global experience into their Penn degree.

Nigel Cossar  
Executive Director





# YEAR IN REVIEW

463

Penn students participated in a Penn Abroad program

155

Incoming exchange students studied at Penn

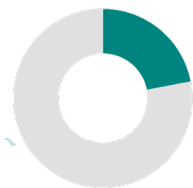
**80** students studied abroad in the United Kingdom on a semester or academic year program

**29** students studied at Penn on exchange from home universities in Spain

**6** students spent the summer conducting research in the Galápagos Islands through the inaugural program of the Penn Global Research Institutes

22%

of Penn participants are first-generation college students



51.6%

of Penn participants receive financial aid



34

The number of countries, spanning six continents, that Penn students traveled to on a Penn Abroad program

**88** students studied, conducted research, or completed an internship in Asia

**20** students traveled on the first-ever Penn Global Seminar to Australia where the group visited the Northern Territory to connect with and learn from the Namiyu indigenous community



*“As my first experience being abroad, I learned many valuable lessons about living alone and being independent. Completing a research internship abroad helped me develop professionally; as a business student, I had never really considered working in academia or research but found it to be an incredibly eye-opening experience.”*

Haerin So  
Global Research & Internship Program  
Australia, Summer 2022



# SEMESTER ABROAD



As the university reopened campus and in-person instruction resumed more fully in the 2021-2022 academic year, so too did semester and academic year study abroad. Penn Abroad's flagship program returned, providing an opportunity for students to receive academic instruction in a new culture and environment while simultaneously earning credits toward their undergraduate degree. A primary focus of Semester Abroad (SA) was the resumption of global travel while maintaining safety, student support, and strengthening international and campus partnerships.

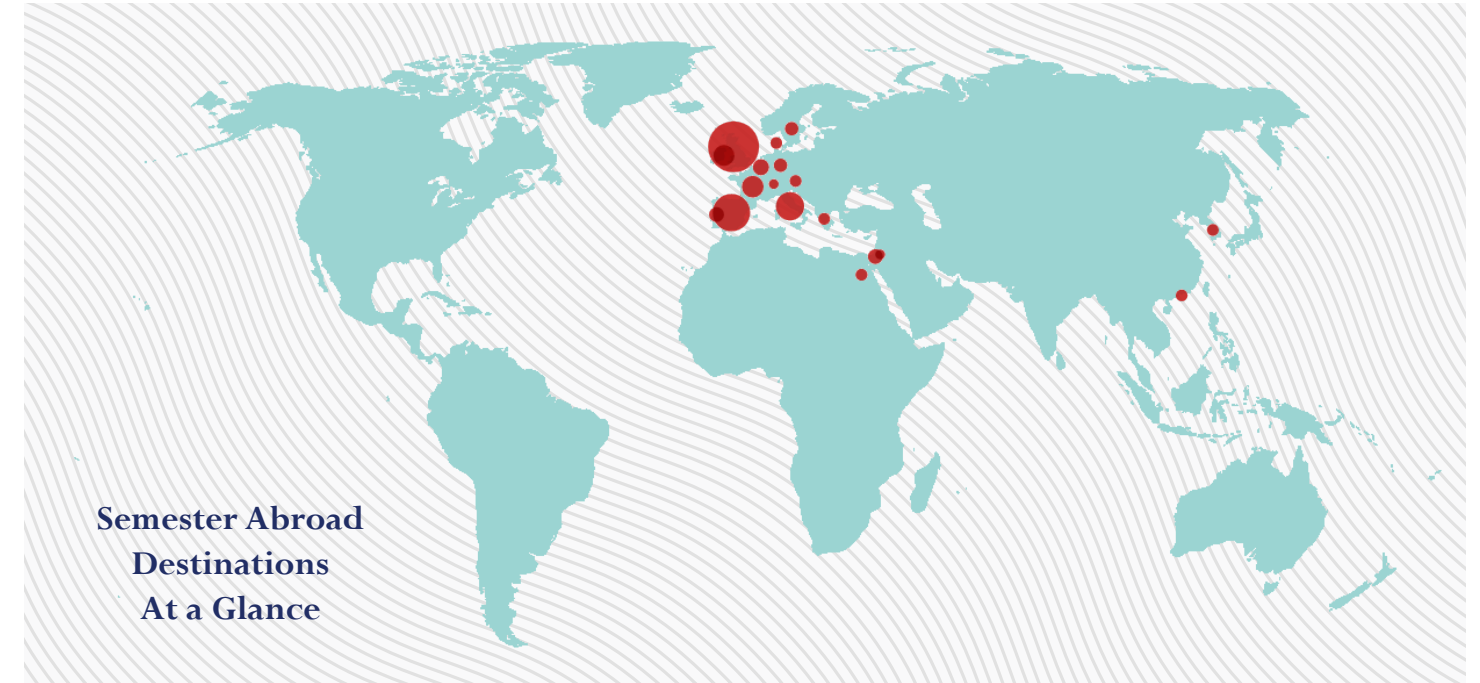
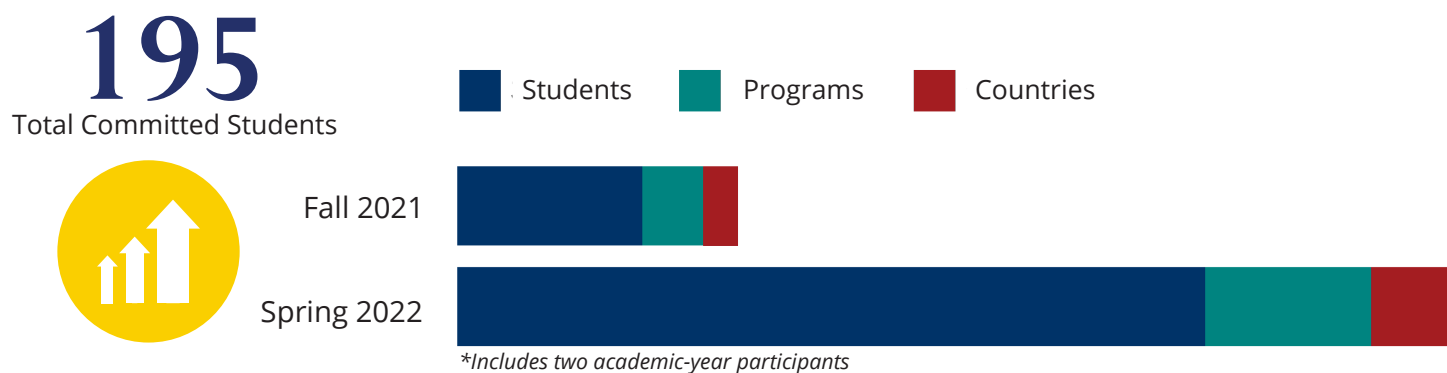
## Resuming Global Travel

The resumption of global travel required a great deal of planning and the introduction of new practices and policies. Programs required thorough vetting and close work with partners to gather and assess information about their campus operations, academic contingency planning, housing and student life, student support in case of sickness, and other relevant COVID-19 precautions and planning. In compliance with Penn's Committee for Travel and Risk Assessment (CTRA), Penn Abroad then prepared and submitted undergraduate travel petitions to gain approval for destinations and programs, as part of a paced return to student mobility.

### Key Actions and Milestones:

- Offered a limited portfolio of programs for Fall 2021, expanding to a wider selection for Spring 2022.
- Utilized a travel agency to book and monitor all student flights in Fall 2021, in order to remove the logistical challenges of booking flights from individual students and ensure that Penn Abroad remained aware of flight details and potential changes.
- Employed additional support from partners abroad to manage student issues related to COVID-19 and time-zone-relative support during lengthy quarantine periods.
- Integrated new activities into pre-departure orientations that prepared students to anticipate changing border and entry requirements.
- Relunched the Global Correspondents program, which offers students the opportunity to share their experiences while abroad and provide invaluable insight to prospective study abroad students.
- Conducted first site visits since the beginning of the pandemic with travel to the United Kingdom and Ireland to reestablish and strengthen partnerships.

## By the Numbers



## Looking Ahead

Building on the positive momentum of this past year, Penn Abroad is looking forward to the relaunch of even more programs in the coming academic year. This includes resuming programs in Latin America, Australia, Singapore, and Japan, as well as the International Honors Program (IHP) and specialized Penn English Program at King's College London. Through careful consultation with the undergraduate schools, new partnerships and program changes have also expanded student opportunities in Semester Abroad, including new partnerships with Ibero-American University in Mexico City (approved for College and Wharton academic credit) and the Paris School of Business (approved for Wharton academic credit). Additional programmatic changes include a new clinical nursing rotation program at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia for students in the fall of their senior year.

The team will also focus on improvements to the advising process for students across schools, a continued return to in-person advising opportunities, and the implementation of a new application process for College students that integrates the student's major advisor into the study abroad application process.



*“Through pushing myself out of my comfort zone, diving head-first into new adventures, and trying new things every day, I can confidently say that this semester has changed my life for the better. I am so grateful to have had this opportunity to study abroad, and absolutely recommend the abroad experience to anyone.”*

Evelyn Bond, Global Correspondent  
Semester Abroad, Fall 2021  
CASA Sevilla, Spain



# Penn Global Seminars

Penn Global Seminars (PGS) was reestablished as a premier opportunity for students and faculty after pivoting to a virtual delivery of its global components in 2020-2021. PGS returned in full force this year, giving students and faculty the opportunity to engage with one another and the world through international travel. Group travel introduced a unique set of challenges and Penn Abroad worked carefully to ensure group travel remained a safe and healthy option for students during each travel period.



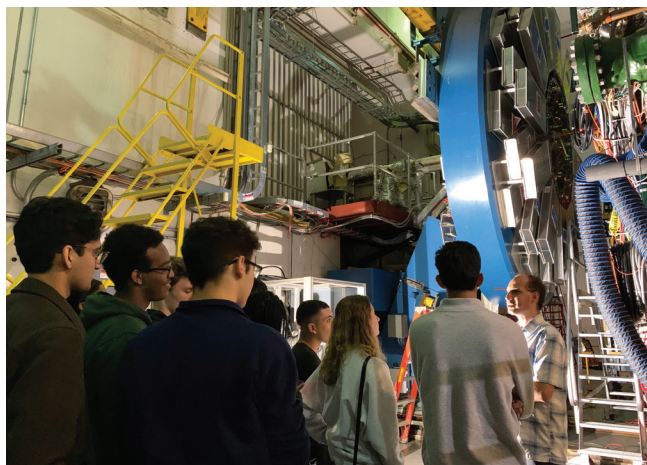
## Highlights and Initiatives:

- Successful return to international travel through the establishment of new processes to manage travel to destinations with varying public health ordinances.
- Expansion to new destinations, including Australia and Greece:
  - Students enrolled in *The Parthenon: The Many Lives of a Monument* traveled to Greece over spring break, enhancing their study of the history, restoration, and cultural meaning of the Acropolis.
  - Students in the class *Seeing/Hearing Globally Indigenous Music and the Arts of Healing* traveled to Australia in May 2022. The group visited the Northern Territory in Australia to connect with and learn from the Nauiyu Namiyu indigenous community.

## Navigating Change & Uncertainty

Before sending the first group of students abroad to the Galápagos Islands in Fall 2021, the team worked closely with faculty, in-country partners, and Penn's Committee on Travel Risk Assessment to ensure the course had the necessary wraparound support. This also required contingency plans to address student health concerns while abroad. Penn Abroad provided the necessary resources to students that tested positive for COVID-19 while in Ecuador, including arranging quarantine facilities, scheduling COVID-19 tests, and securing flight changes.

Looking to the spring, additional courses were offered as part of the paced return of group travel, capitalizing on the lessons learned from the fall semester. Each class presented different challenges and required ingenuity and flexibility when navigating in-country health guidelines, quarantine requirements, and border closures. Of the eight seminars slated to travel abroad, six successfully completed their international travel components. Though two courses were originally scheduled to travel to Japan, pandemic-related visa restrictions made the international travel components unfeasible. One class was able to pivot, offering a domestic travel component to New York City and Honolulu where students took part in activities related to energy and the environment as well as promoting better relations between the US, Asia, and the Pacific.

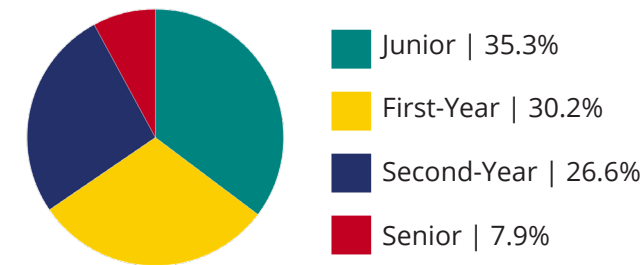


*Scientific Nationalism in Japan* during visits to New York and Hawaii in May 2022, including a tour of Brookhaven Research Lab (left).

## By the Numbers

# 139

Total Committed Students



## International Travel Destinations

- |           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| Ecuador   | India    |
| Greece    | France   |
| Australia | Mongolia |
| Iceland   |          |



*"I'm so grateful to Penn Global for pulling this off, despite the uncertainties along the way."*

Alan Burd, Penn Global Seminars  
*Mongolian Civilization: Nomadic and Sedentary*  
 May 2022 (from Penn Today)

## Looking Ahead

Building on the successful return of PGS travel, a total of 12 courses will be offered in the 2022-2023 academic year. In addition to new and returning course offerings, there will be three writing seminars geared toward first-year students, with travel to Egypt, Zimbabwe, and Mongolia. For the first time since 2019, faculty are also being invited to submit course proposals for the 2023-2024 academic year. As the team works closely with interested faculty through the process, there will be a specific focus on diversifying program offers, new writing seminar opportunities, and dual department-hosted courses.



# GLOBAL RESEARCH & INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Global Research & Internship Program (GRIP) offered a significant number of in-person opportunities for Penn undergraduate and graduate students in Summer 2022 following a pivot to remote internship and research placements last summer. This year, GRIP adopted a hybrid approach to its programming, with a portion of GRIP placements running as remote internships and a larger majority offered in-person. This allowed for a return to global travel as a core component of the program where possible, while also allowing students to continue engaging with regions and organizations where travel remained difficult.



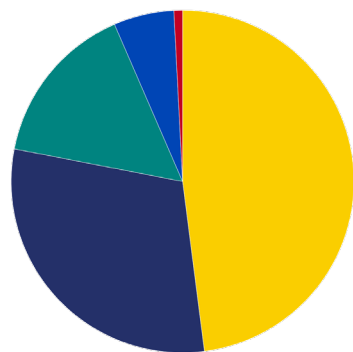
## Key Actions & Highlights:

- Focused on long-standing partners to increase the number of placements where travel was more feasible. These partnerships included *Business Development in Singapore*, *Engineering Research in Singapore*, *International Development in Seoul*, *Manna Project International*, *Environmental Sustainability in Ho Chi Minh City*, and *Social Impact in Buenos Aires*.
- Develop structured, project-based internship and research placements that offered students the opportunity to engage and collaborate remotely. These partnerships included *Drishti Works*, *Keru*, *KK Fund*, and the *Lien Centre for Social Innovation*.
- Continued to fully fund all Freeman-eligible students and partnered with Student Registration and Financial Services to fully fund all Highly Aided and middle-income need-based financial aid recipients.
- Allocated additional funding for all students to account for potential COVID-19-related expenses.

## By the Numbers

# 123

Total Committed Students



- First-Year | 48.0%
- Second-Year | 30.1%
- Junior | 15.4%
- Graduate | 5.7%
- Senior | 0.8%



*“I feel immensely grateful. The mentors that I get to work with every day have shaped my experience in Bangkok more than I have ever imagined, and I have already learned so much information from them for both my personal and professional life. I couldn’t wish for a better internship experience abroad.”*

Madison Holler  
Public Relations & Marketing in Bangkok, Thailand  
Summer 2022

## New Opportunities

In addition to resuming in-person placements and offering a selection of remote internships, new placements for Summer 2022 spanned various regions and disciplines. In Southeast Asia, business-related placements grew with *Business Development in Singapore* and *Public Relations and Marketing in Bangkok* being offered for the first time. Opportunities in the field of development were also expanded with two new placements: one focusing on community development in Uganda through the *Global Livingston Institute* and the other, *International Development in Seoul*.



Summer 2022 Manna Project Interns in Quito, Ecuador.



## Looking Ahead

In preparation for next summer, there will be an emphasis on diversifying program options for students to engage with an even larger portfolio of regions and industries. Penn Abroad will work with existing partners to expand program options while also looking to source new partners throughout the world. In addition, there continues to be a commitment to ensuring that the program remains accessible through financial transparency and increased access to funding, particularly to qualifying Highly Aided students.



# Exchange at Penn

With the university resuming in-person instruction in Fall 2021, the Exchange at Penn (EAP) program once again welcomed undergraduate students from partner institutions around the world to attend Penn for a semester or year-long exchange, engaging in rigorous coursework and experiencing unique cultural and co-curricular opportunities. This year was focused on a slow resumption of programming, with a return to on-campus instruction, a robust in-person new student orientation in the fall, and events and activities in Philadelphia throughout the year. In the same way that outbound programming resumed travel amidst global travel restrictions and public health ordinances, so too did EAP have to navigate domestic public health guidance and travel safety policies on both a national and university-wide level.



## Navigating New Campus Policies

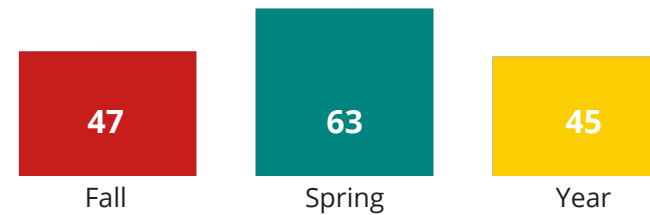
Welcoming students back to campus required new and increased support from Penn Abroad as students sought to obtain visas, navigate campus health procedures, and maintain an understanding and flexible nature during times of uncertainty. To ensure safe and timely arrival to campus in light of visa processing delays, Penn Abroad partnered with International Student and Scholars Services to provide support letters for students to expedite the visa processing time. Furthermore, regular, detailed information was provided to students about the university's COVID-19 policies before arrival, which included vaccination, testing, and masking requirements.

Additional achievements during this period include the successful shift to a virtual orientation at the start of the Spring 2022 semester. In response to the rise of the Omicron variant, the University postponed move-in and held the first two weeks of spring semester coursework online. Following this announcement, Penn Abroad worked closely with students and campus partners, including ISSS and Residential Services, to ensure that students' travel and housing needs were accommodated. The team also shifted the spring new student orientation to a virtual event, supplementing this with an in-person welcome event and additional programming that adhered to campus health policies once the campus reopened.

## By the Numbers

# 155

Total Committed Students



## Top Sending Countries

United Kingdom   43	France   12
Spain   29	Denmark   8
Hong Kong   18	Germany   8
Italy   14	

*“Studying at Penn allows me to take classes that are not available in my home institution, such as neuroscience, positive psychology, and criminology... Besides, I’m glad that Penn supports a wide variety of student clubs and societies, enabling me to broaden my social circles, make connections with both local and international students, and foster cultural exchange!”*

Hoi Laam Rachel Leung  
Spring 2022 from the  
Chinese University of Hong Kong



## Looking Ahead

The return to full EAP programming with robust events and excursions for exchange students will be a key priority in the next academic year. With the addition of a new Graduate Assistant dedicated to inbound programming and student support, the program will increase the ways that exchange students connect with the campus and Philadelphia community. New opportunities for exchange students to share their experiences while at Penn will also be a focus as Penn Abroad seeks to showcase how inbound students contribute to the University's global mission. Additionally, for the first time, inbound programming will expand to a new set of students, welcoming participation from the new Sawiris Penn Scholars Exchange Program. This distinct cohort will be integrated with the EAP activities and excursions while receiving unique academic and social support during their year on campus.



EAP students and Penn Abroad staff on an excursion in Wissahickon Park.



EAP students at a popsicle social during the fall semester.



# Penn Global Research Institutes

This year witnessed the launch of the Penn Global Research Institutes (PGRI), which aims to be Penn Global's flagship research opportunity, providing outstanding undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to conduct research abroad alongside Penn faculty during the summer. The program, led by Penn Abroad and made possible by a partnership between Penn faculty, the Center for Undergraduate Research (CURF), and Penn Global, delivers a thoughtful, year-long research experience for students and includes wraparound Penn support and funding to offset research projects and travel expenses.

## Program Timeline

Students apply for the program in the fall prior to the program's start.



**Spring Semester** - Penn Abroad and CURF provide pre-departure preparation and research training. Students develop research projects and receive ongoing mentorship from the faculty leader (PI).



**Summer** - Students travel abroad for 8-12 weeks to conduct research in the field.



**Fall Semester** - Students finalize research projects and present their findings at the CURF Undergraduate Research Conference

## Inaugural Program

This year saw the successful launch of the pilot institute in the Galápagos Islands led by Professor Michael Weisberg from the Department of Philosophy. This institute's research addresses crucial issues facing the Galápagos, including science, education, and conservation initiatives. The collaboration with Dr. Weisberg, a faculty member with whom Penn Global has previously worked on many other programs, was crucial to the success of the pilot institute as faculty networks and experience in a given location and project area are essential to recruit students and develop a meaningful and cohesive program.

Following a fall recruitment period for this inaugural program, accepted students began the program in Spring 2022. They received mentorship from Dr. Weisberg while preparing for their research experience abroad. During this time students identified their research projects and attended CURF-hosted sessions aimed at equipping students with the general knowledge needed to undertake research in a global setting, including a focus on ethics and research methodologies.

Students spent the summer in the Galápagos Islands and upon their return, will be expected to present a poster at the CURF Undergraduate Research Conference. The student's individual research topics included sustainable business initiatives, climate change, the evolution of microbes and pathogens, community education initiatives, and food sovereignty.



*The inaugural PGRI program during their time abroad in the Galápagos Islands*

## Looking Ahead

As the program looks to the future, PGRI is expected to extend to more disciplines and locations and to strengthen the collaboration with Penn faculty and CURF with current funding awarded to support the institute for three years with an opportunity to extend. Next year, the program is planning to continue offering its pilot institute in the Galápagos Islands led by Professor Michael Weisberg and expanding to include one additional institute for Summer 2023 that will be announced in the Fall 2022 term. As PGRI looks to grow and improve, a focus will be placed on providing students with greater support both by the Penn Abroad internship and research team throughout the application period and upon admission into the program and also by close collaboration with CURF to ensure students receive sufficient preparation for their independent research experience.



# LOOKING AHEAD

## Sawiris Penn Scholars Exchange Program

The University of Pennsylvania will welcome its first cohort of students as part of the new Sawiris Penn Scholars Exchange Program in the 2022-2023 academic year. The program, made possible by a generous gift from the NNS Foundation – a charity fund settled by Nassef Sawiris – provides the opportunity for a select group of students from an Egyptian university to attend Penn for a semester with full financial support. Students will enroll in Penn courses, work with dedicated faculty, and engage in unique co-curricular and extracurricular programming throughout the year. The Sawiris Penn Scholars Exchange Program will allow for the inspirational exchange of ideas, knowledge, and culture between degree-seeking Penn students and students from Egyptian universities. The Sawiris Penn Scholars will leave the University with newfound skills, a global outlook, and the preparation needed to become future leaders ready to help advance their communities upon their return.

In preparation for the first cohort of students, Penn Abroad worked closely with Ain Shams University, the Sawiris Foundation in Egypt, and campus partners at Penn to develop the program by coordinating curricular cohesion and course equivalency, developing robust programming that enriches students academically, professionally, and culturally, and successfully recruiting the first cohort of four students from the Ain Shams University Faculty of Engineering.

Looking ahead, the program hopes that a successful inaugural year can set the groundwork for an expansion to students from additional universities and disciplines. The program will serve as an essential pathway to increase access to a Penn education through Penn Abroad's inbound programming. Finally, this program will allow Penn to play a part in building future leaders in Egypt and the Middle East and will serve as a launching pad to pursue deeper and more robust academic engagement within Egypt and the Middle East.



Penn staff members meet with Ain Shams University's Faculty of Engineering in Cairo, Egypt, April 2022. Left to right: Dr. Angie Eldamak, International Agreements Coordinator, ASU Faculty of Engineering; Dr. Mostafa Refat A. Ismail, Vice Dean for Education and Student Affairs, ASU Faculty of Engineering; Michael Greigo, Senior Global Programs Manager, Penn Abroad; Lau-ren Fiori, Associate Director of International Programs, Penn LPS; Dr. Diaa Khalil, General Supervisor of the Center for Innovation and Creativity, ASU Faculty of Engineering; and Dr. Noha Gamal Said, Student Mobility Coordinator, ASU Faculty of Engineering.

## China Education Initiative

Penn Abroad is thrilled to launch the China Education Initiative (CEI) in the 2022-2023 academic year. CEI is funded by generous donations from Robin Yuxiang Ren, C'95, E'95, Linda Ying Ye through the Linda Ye and Robin Ren Family Foundation, and Wang Chen, E'95, GEN'95, W'95. The initiative provides undergraduate students with an unparalleled opportunity to understand US-China relations through a combination of study with leading Penn faculty during the semester and in-depth and culturally immersive travel to China over a break period. CEI, unlike other short-term programs, is designed specifically to engage each one of the four undergraduate schools with a course on US-China relations and a short-term travel component to China.

As we look to the year ahead, we are faced with unfortunate realities about short-term travel to China amidst ongoing pandemic restrictions. Unfortunately, we don't expect these to subside in the upcoming academic year. Despite this, Penn Abroad's strong international partnerships and motivated faculty are keen to advance the goal of CEI and to introduce and educate our students about emerging and complex issues that shape China and the world. To this end, Penn Abroad is preparing to launch CEI with courses rooted in US-China relations, and travel to complementing locations in the region.

### Pivoting "Traditional Chinese Medicine" from China to Thailand

Dr. Jianghong Liu will lead the inaugural CEI course, *Exploring Traditional Chinese Medicine*, in Fall 2022. Dr. Liu's course will travel to Thailand, hosted by Huachiew Chalermprakiet University. Huachiew Chalermprakiet University is the largest Chinese university in Thailand and the pioneer university that teaches Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), including having its own TCM hospital. The University boasts onsite clinics and laboratories for TCM. In addition, they are a collaborating partner of Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Tianjin University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, with the latter opening a Confucius Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine on Huachiew Chalermprakiet University's campus. Huachiew Chalermprakiet University will provide the primary academic component during the course's travel to Thailand in January 2023, including a series of guest lectures, site visits, and hands-on workshops for students.

To further strengthen the focus on TCM subject matter, and the relationship between Huachiew Chalermprakiet University and Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Dr. Liu will also leverage technology by providing two virtual sessions with physicians and lecturers of Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine during the semester. Finally, while in Thailand, the group will have the opportunity of studying Qi Gong under Master Yin Quan, who will travel to Thailand from Taiwan to engage the group in a hands-on learning experience. Master Yin Quan has a long-standing relationship with Penn Nursing, having come to Penn in 2018 to provide Qi Gong seminars to Penn students in Philadelphia.

Penn Global is confident that under Dr. Liu's leadership, this course will provide a dynamic and robust academic experience despite the inability to travel to China. Indeed, the course is drawing much anticipation from students – of the forty qualified applicants, twenty were accepted to the program and are eager for it to commence in Fall 2022.

Looking ahead to the spring term, Penn Abroad is exploring the feasibility of having offering a College of Arts and Sciences course. Like the Nursing course, the College of Arts and Sciences course will have a focus on China, with a travel component to an alternate location in the region. The 2023 - 2024 academic year will hopefully usher in the return of short-term travel to China, during which we are aiming to roster a Wharton course on doing business in China and an Engineering course on Artificial Intelligence.

Despite the challenges that persist with travel to China, Penn Abroad is excited to launch CEI to alternate locations in 2022-2023, and is looking forward to continuing this exciting initiative in the years ahead.



Master Yin Quan while visiting Penn in 2018 to conduct Qi Gong Seminars with Penn students.