



ACADEMIC EXCHANGE

Education

The next generation of leaders needs quality education to compete in a globalized market, contribute to the establishment of democratic institutions, and develop themselves and their communities.

Yet the educational needs of many students around the world aren't being met by their local communities, despite the fact that access to a high standard of education and new ways of thinking is essential for sustainable economic growth, political stability, and social progress.

Academic exchanges offer life-changing opportunities to students at the undergraduate and graduate level and encourage participants to use their new knowledge and skills to lead positive change in their home communities. Academic exchanges also promote cross-cultural understanding. Participants who study in the U.S. develop a deeper understanding of American society, government, and civic institutions. At the same time, they help Americans gain a greater appreciation for other countries and cultures.



Approach

World Learning's commitment to fostering engaged citizens and helping communities thrive is at the center of our approach to academic exchanges. We custom-design each program to match the individual needs and interests of international participants while providing the framework for a complete student experience – academic success, cultural immersion, and personal growth. We assist each student in setting attainable goals for their exchange and closely monitor and support their academic and personal progress.

This support begins pre-program with in-depth orientations and opportunities for online learning and extends to participants once they complete their programs with opportunities to apply for small grants, participate in leadership workshops, and stay connected virtually with World Learning.

For more details please contact Director of Exchange and Training at World Learning, Melissa Oppenheimer at Melissa.Oppenheimer@worldlearning.org



Success Story

Serbian student, Ksenija Komljenovic, was inspired by her exchange in the United States to create a “connecting bridge between the two cultures.”

Working with the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade and World Learning, she designed a musical exchange program that brought five American percussionists to Serbia to work with Stankovic Percussion Ensemble, Serbia's only drum line.

She then organized a TEDx youth presentation and, with her U.S. colleagues, raised \$30,000 to put together another musical exchange for summer 2012.

“I know of no other program that provides this kind of comprehensive and hands-on service.”

“I continue to be impressed and appreciative of the fact that World Learning supports and guides students before they even leave their home countries all the way through their return home again. I know of no other program that provides this kind of comprehensive and hands-on service.”

*Stephanie Gonzalez
Exchange Student and Scholar Advisor
Illinois State University*

“Once I touch down in my country and re-enter my home, I have the duty to show my emotional and psychological growth to those around me. They need to see in me a different person with more maturity, decisiveness, independence, confidence, and leadership. It is time to reflect on my strengths and weaknesses. It is time to do and be the change.”

*Randy Madrigal Castillo, Costa Rica
Global UGRAD Program, 2011-2012*

“I am so happy to know that my proposal has been selected as one of the eight winning proposals. I am already very excited to implement this project. I always have been concerned by deforestation in my country and wanted to bring my help to my community, and this is a dream that will finally come true.”

*Nathalie Rodnez, Haiti
Global UGRAD Program, 2011-2012*

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