THE SCHOOL FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAINING (SIT)

The School for International Training (SIT) is World Learning Inc.’s nonprofit educational institution. Founded in 1964, it was originally established as a training center for Peace Corps volunteers before they were dispatched to overseas assignments. Since then, SIT has evolved into a full-scale accredited educational institute based on many of the same principles as the Peace Corps: immersion, inclusion, mutual understanding, and respect. Today SIT prepares students for intercultural leadership positions at home and abroad through high-quality internationally focused programs that include field-based academic research for undergraduate and graduate students, in addition to certificate programs for graduates and professionals:

SIT Study Abroad offers more than 70 semester and summer programs for undergraduate students in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East, as well as comparative programs in multiple locations. Students step beyond the boundaries of a traditional classroom to analyze the critical issues shaping local communities around the globe.

SIT Graduate Institute offers internationally focused master’s degrees, certificates, and professional development programs in peacebuilding and conflict transformation, international education, sustainable development, and TESOL, as well as an interdisciplinary program in intercultural service, leadership, and management. SIT Graduate Institute’s flexible full-time and low-residency programs accommodate a global student body living and working around the world. Programs are based on an experiential learning model and a commitment to social justice and intercultural communication.

Over the years, SIT has developed a worldwide network of professionals and organizations committed to responsible global engagement. Through SIT’s globally focused educational programs, we are paving the way for tomorrow’s leaders to learn, graduate, advocate, and innovate.
World Learning is a global NGO with development and exchange programs in more than 100 countries. Through our varied programs in the U.S. and abroad, we help people from different walks of life find their voices, transform, and lead, while making their communities a better place to live. In our interconnected and interdependent world, their success and strength is also our own.

We’re working on improving education for refugee children and low-income communities, creating better opportunities for women, encouraging youth participation in civil society, wiping out poverty and exclusion, and supporting government accountability. We’re building stronger foundations for a better tomorrow. We don’t do it alone. We work with local experts, organizations, and institutions in respectful, collaborative, and adaptable partnerships. Our local partners value our core strengths in teacher training, workforce development, civic engagement, and institution building. For example, our Quality Instruction Towards Access and Basic Education Improvement (QITABI) project is working with various stakeholders to expand high-quality education in public schools in Lebanon to support two vulnerable communities: students living in poverty and Syrian refugee children. The Pakistan Reading Project is strengthening the reading skills of more than 1 million primary school students. The Algiers STEAM Center offers educational programs for youth in science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM) to stimulate innovation, critical thinking, and communication skills. The Malawi Scholarship Program offers master’s degrees and other academic programs for some 800 healthcare workers to improve healthcare delivery and management in the country. In Asia, the Leaders Advancing Democracy-Mongolia Program (LEAD) and the Institute for Political and Civic Engagement (iPACE) in Myanmar support fundamental democratic principles and train emerging leaders in the practical applications of those principles through workshops, civic engagement activities, and international exchanges. For decades, World Learning’s development programs have helped improve the lives of people in diverse communities. By strengthening these communities through empowerment, education, and social inclusion, we’re working to eliminate fundamental forces of instability worldwide.

In addition to working in communities around the globe, World Learning hosts thousands of emerging leaders of all ages in the U.S. each year on a variety of people-to-people exchange programs. We offer short-term visits for individuals seeking professional development through meetings with U.S. and international counterparts, workshops and community discussions, and a deeper understanding of core U.S. values and culture.

Our academic exchanges place international students in colleges and universities around the U.S. to strengthen their leadership and career-specific skills while they discover American culture and improve their English language skills. Our youth programs are designed to help high school students and young adults from around the world learn about leadership, critical global issues, and peacebuilding.

Through these exchange programs, we empower a cross-section of people to successfully develop their careers and transform their communities.
For example, World Learning’s International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) is customized for professionals in almost every field so visitors from abroad can get a first-hand look at trends, best practices, and the new ways their professional counterparts in the U.S. are tackling challenges. Our Global Undergraduate Exchange Program (Global UGRAD) introduces university students from around the world to the U.S. higher education system, civil society, and our country’s racial, religious, and ethnic diversity. The Transformational Leadership-Scholarships and Partnerships Program (TL/SPP) helps train a new generation of Kosovar leaders to drive economic, political, and social change in their country through partnerships with and participation in U.S. higher education programs. The Jóvenes en Acción program supports leadership, civic responsibility, and the culture of lawfulness among Mexican youth through participation in community projects and interactive training in the U.S. Our Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program (IYLEP) brings Sunni, Shia, and Kurdish undergraduate and high school students to the U.S. to learn about leadership, diversity, civic responsibility, and community engagement.

THE EXPERIMENT IN INTERNATIONAL LIVING

World Learning’s youth programming also extends to American teens. Our flagship program, The Experiment in International Living, designs life-changing opportunities for high school students to explore, learn, and emerge as young leaders through educational experiences. Founded in 1932, The Experiment offers three-to-six-week summer immersion programs in more than two dozen countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, North America, and Europe. Experimenters connect and engage with the richness and complexities of their host country through homestays, outdoor excursions, activities, and meetings with local leaders and civil society groups. Program themes include language and cultural discovery; arts and social change; sustainability and the environment; and peace, politics, and human rights.