



World Learning

EDUCATION | DEVELOPMENT | EXCHANGE

Call for Expression of Interest: Speaker, America250: Global UGRAD Alumni Virtual Activities (Webinar Series and Virtual Seminar)

Approximate Number of Speakers: 15

Location: Virtual (U.S. Eastern Time)

Timeline: February to April 2026

Application Deadline: January 31, 2026

This document serves as an invitation for subject matter experts to submit an expression of interest to engage in the America250: Global UGRAD alumni virtual activities from February to April 2026 and includes the following:

- Background and Objectives
- Responsibilities and Anticipated Deliverables
- Requirements
- Application Instructions
- Selection Process

Background: A program of the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Global Undergraduate Exchange Program (Global UGRAD) is an opportunity for exceptional young leaders from over 60 countries/areas to attend colleges and universities across the United States for a semester of non-degree study. The program is designed to increase participants' understanding of the United States and enhance their leadership skills through academic coursework, community service, and professional development activities.

Each year, over 300 students are selected by U.S. Embassies and Fulbright Commissions to participate in the Global UGRAD Program through a competitive application process that considers leadership potential, academic promise, and community involvement. World Learning then partners with over 60 institutions of higher education across the United States to host Global UGRAD students on their campuses and provide high-quality academic programs, superior international student support, and impactful professional development activities.

World Learning

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The America250: Global UGRAD alumni virtual activities are taking place in the lead-up to the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence (America250). The America250 celebration brings people together to share stories, spark creativity, give back to communities, and honor the strength and spirit that defines democratic society. Alumni of the Global UGRAD Program embody these very principles—having experienced firsthand the power of cultural exchange, civic engagement, and cross-border collaboration. These virtual activities will celebrate the enduring values that have shaped the United States for 250 years: civic engagement, democratic participation, and community-driven innovation.

World Learning is preparing to implement two virtual activities for alumni of the Global UGRAD Program from February to April 2026. Please find the details below:

- 1) **America250: Global UGRAD Alumni Webinar Series:** A series of four to six webinars (each webinar will be one hour in length) for Global UGRAD alumni from February to April 2026. Sessions will directly connect to America250 themes: community engagement, leadership, democratic values, innovation, and cultural exchange. The sessions aim to empower alumni by providing expert insights to help them grow personally, develop professionally, and strengthen their impact on their communities. World Learning is seeking subject matter experts to lead the design and delivery of the webinars. Individuals may submit an expression of interest to lead one or more of the webinars.
- 2) **America250 and Global UGRAD: Connecting Alumni, Building Communities:** A virtual seminar for Global UGRAD alumni that will be held on April 7-10, 2026 in celebration of America250. This four-day virtual event will bring together alumni from participating Global UGRAD countries for sessions focused on civic engagement, leadership, innovation, and entrepreneurship. World Learning is seeking subject matter experts to lead the design and delivery of individual sessions during the seminar. The virtual sessions will be 60-90 minutes in length. Individuals may submit an expression of interest to lead one or more of the sessions.

These activities are sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, with funding provided by the U.S. Government and administered by World Learning.

The Audience:

The webinars and virtual seminar will be available to alumni of the Global UGRAD Program who completed their exchange semester from 2008 to 2025 from over 60 countries. The alumni range in age from 22-40 and work across different professional fields. The majority of the alumni who are likely to attend the webinars and seminar will have fewer than five years of experience. World Learning expects 50 to 200 participants per session, depending on the topic.

The Format:

Each webinar will be one hour in length, and each session under the virtual seminar will be 60-90 minutes. If your topic area requires a different duration, please include the proposed duration and justification.

When surveyed, alumni shared that they prefer session types in the following order:

- Interactive workshops
- Case studies (real-life examples)
- Panel discussions
- Q&A sessions with an expert

This list is not exhaustive – World Learning is open to alternative and/or blended formats.

Topic Areas:

Below is a list of topics of interest to the alumni. This list should not limit but serve as a guide for your expression of interest.

Professional

- Navigating transitions in your career, job, or field
- Communication, digital media, and storytelling

Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- Creative problem solving
- Ethical and effective use of technology in the age of AI
- Building a successful entrepreneurial ecosystem

Community Engagement

- Civic leadership and responsibility
- Effective strategies for community organizing
- Overcoming financial constraints
- Stakeholder engagement
- Fundraising for community initiatives

Leadership

- Democratic leadership
- Leadership development
- Volunteer management
- Team management
- Organizational leadership and management
- Leading international teams

U.S. History, Culture, and Values

- American innovation and entrepreneurship
- U.S. arts, music, and literature

To Apply: Please submit your expression of interest to:

Michelle Bolourchi, Program Manager: Michelle.Bolourchi@worldlearning.org

Amy Broome, Senior Program Officer: Amy.Broome@worldlearning.org

Your one-page expression of interest should include:

- Proposed webinar and/or seminar session topic(s) and description(s), including:
 - Duration and format
 - Ideal audience size for the webinar(s) and/or seminar session(s)
 - Strategies for engaging a group across a wide range of ages and professional experience
 - How the webinar(s) and/or seminar session(s) will connect to America250, emphasizing its significance through content and engagement
- Any time constraints. Please note that the webinar series will take place in February, March, and April 2026. The virtual seminar will take place on April 7-10, 2026. The webinars and the sessions at the virtual seminar will take place in the mornings (U.S. Eastern Time).

In addition to your one-page expression of interest, please submit your resume/CV and/or biography that highlights your background in the subject matter.

Please note that while you may apply to speak on multiple topics, the webinar series and virtual seminar are intended to include several subject matter experts.

Selection Process: Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until **January 31, 2026**. World Learning may request a brief virtual interview with any shortlisted candidates.

Compensation: Subject matter experts will receive an honorarium of \$750.00 USD per session or webinar for this speaking engagement.

World Learning Inc.

World Learning Inc. is a thriving international education organization made up of [The Experiment in International Living](#), the nation's most experienced provider of international education through exchanges for high school students; [School for International Training](#), offering accredited undergraduate study abroad programs through [SIT Study Abroad](#) and internationally focused graduate degrees through [SIT Graduate Institute](#); and [World Learning](#), a global nonprofit organization.

For more than 90 years, World Learning has brought together individuals, institutions, and communities worldwide to foster mutual understanding, information sharing, and leadership. World Learning implements an array of programs that encompass experiential learning, immersion, training, and service to promote lifelong learning.

World Learning's exchange programs bring over 2,000 emerging leaders from more than 140 countries to the United States each year through professional, academic, and youth exchanges. We also implement programs for young Americans to travel abroad, as well as U.S. experts who share their professional expertise with global counterparts. We offer expertise in basic education, provide hands-on experiences in STEM, and deliver English language education programs.

All of our programs build respect for our nation's culture and values while tackling critical global issues and fostering intercultural understanding and networks worldwide.