

2022-2023



ANNUAL REPORT

Produced by: Penn Abroad
Designed by: Camille Cropley

Copyright © 2023 The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania
All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods without our prior written permission. The University of Pennsylvania values diversity and seeks talented students, faculty and staff from diverse backgrounds. The University of Pennsylvania does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, creed, national or ethnic origin, citizenship status, age, disability, veteran status or any other legally protected class status in the administration of its admissions, financial aid, educational or athletic programs, or other University administered programs or in its employment practices. Questions or complaints regarding this policy should be directed to Sam Starks, Executive Director of the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs, 421 Franklin Building, 3451 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6205; or (215) 898-6993 (Voice).

Front Cover Image: Linda Wu, Semester Abroad, CIEE Monteverde: Tropical Ecology and Conservation, Costa Rica, Spring 2023

Table of Contents

OUR TEAM	4
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	5
YEAR IN REVIEW	6
SEMESTER ABROAD	8
EXCHANGE AT PENN	10
PENN GLOBAL SEMINARS	14
RESEARCH AND INTERNSHIPS	16
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT	20



Penn Abroad | Penn Global | University of Pennsylvania

3539 Locust Walk

Philadelphia, PA 19104 USA

T: +1.215.898.9073



Our Team



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.

Kristyn Palmiotto
Executive Director

Erin Feeney
Global Programs Manager

Zoraida Hu
Global Programs Coordinator

Laurie Jensen
Associate Director

Yasmina Pierre
Global Programs Manager

Alexander W. M. Eisenthal
Global Programs Assistant

Arielle Schweber
Associate Director

Emily Plowman
Global Programs Manager

Tiffany Swan
Front Desk Coordinator

Greta Kazenski
Associate Director

Joana Arruda
Global Programs Manager

Michael Griego
Associate Director

Camille Cropley
Marketing and Outreach
Manager

From the Executive Director



Kristyn Palmiotto
Executive Director, Penn Abroad

The 2022 – 2023 academic year marked a return to enrollment and programming at a pre-pandemic pace for the Penn Abroad team. Semester abroad programming resumed sending students to nearly all locations this academic year. Exchange at Penn thrived with enrollment just shy of its pre-pandemic peak, and all programming and excursions returned to ensure a meaningful cultural experience complemented exchange students' academic life at Penn. The demand for short-term programming continued with each of our twelve Penn Global Seminars meeting their enrollment goals. Our Global Research & Internship Program remained in high demand with applications exceeding placements 5 to 1. Finally, we launched a second Penn Global Research Institute which explores human migration and diasporic communities around the world. Alongside our core inbound and outbound student programming, we ushered in two new opportunities at Penn Abroad: the China Education Initiative and the Sawiris Penn Scholars Exchange Program.

Penn Abroad's success this year has been thanks to the hard work of each of our team members, several of whom joined us this year. While our team has acclimated to a new way of life and work post-pandemic, we have also adapted to the evolving needs of our students. This past year has been one of reflection and recalibration, with perhaps our biggest

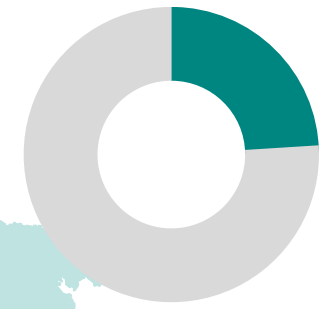
adjustment being in how we prepare an increasingly diverse student population for their global experience. From a newly conceptualized pre-departure orientation for semester abroad students to monthly newsletters that build community among our research and internship cohort, we are constantly adapting to ensure that the support and resources we offer meet the needs of every Penn student.

This past year concluded with a leadership transition for the Penn Abroad team. After eight incredibly successful years, Penn Abroad bid farewell to its Executive Director, Nigel Cossar. Nigel joined Penn Abroad in the fall of 2015 and led the team through a remarkable transformation, redefining the breadth and scope of global experiences available to Penn students and building a dedicated and passionate team to support this work. Looking to the future, our team will build on its expertise, hard work, and camaraderie to tackle the goals set out in Penn Global's 2023-2028 strategic plan. Over the next five years, we intend to expand enrollment in each of our core programs and are actively exploring expansion in three primary areas: summer study abroad for academic credit, gap year programming, and increased collaboration with Penn's graduate and professional schools.

As we close out the year and look to the future, we are moving as swiftly as ever. Providing every Penn student with a meaningful global experience has become the mantra that motivates our work on a daily basis. In the pages that follow, we look forward to sharing our accomplishments from the past year and the impact that each opportunity has had on our students. Thank you for coming on this journey with us and for being a part of our Penn Abroad story.

Year in Review

667 Penn students participated in a Penn Abroad program in 48 different countries, including:



314

- 128 IN THE U.K.
- 44 IN SPAIN
- 43 IN FRANCE
- 28 IN ITALY
- 18 PORTUGAL
- 14 NETHERLANDS
- 11 IRELAND
- 10 OR FEWER: GERMANY, SWITZERLAND, AUSTRIA, SWEDEN, DENMARK, HUNGARY, BELGIUM, TURKEY

78

IN COSTA RICA, ARGENTINA, CHILE, COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, URUGUAY AND BRAZIL

47

IN EGYPT, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, ISRAEL, JORDAN, LEBANON, AND MOROCCO

5

Students spent the summer engaging in research and media production in Kenya through the Penn Global Documentary Institute

33

Penn students spent winter break in Thailand while traveling with a Penn Global Seminar course

161

- 45 IN SINGAPORE
- 40 IN THAILAND
- 27 IN JAPAN
- 15 MONGOLIA
- 12 KOREA
- 15 VIETNAM
- 4 INDIA
- 3 OR FEWER: HONG KONG, MALAYSIA

37

STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN A PROGRAM IN AUSTRALIA



Semester Abroad

As COVID-19 restrictions lifted worldwide, Penn students pursued a Semester Abroad (SA) with increased ease and enthusiasm. Penn Abroad saw a 71% increase in semester abroad participant numbers and a 61% increase in the number of host countries represented from 2021-2022. Alongside this renewed interest in studying abroad for a semester or academic year came unique challenges related to student preparedness that quickly became a theme for the SA team to tackle over the course of the year.

Reimagining the Semester Abroad Experience

As undergraduate students continued to grapple with the long-term impacts of the pandemic on their health and wellbeing, the SA team worked tirelessly to navigate the evolving needs of Penn students embarking on global experiences for the first time following the pandemic. Addressing these evolving needs head on, the SA team launched a refreshed and revitalized advising program in Fall 2022. From an introduction of group advising sessions for all regions to a reimagined pre-departure orientation curriculum, the team provided enhanced wraparound support for all students in the phases leading up to the abroad experience.

KEY ACTIONS AND MILESTONES



Hosted over **724** students for group advising between December 2022 & May 2023



Reimagined Pre-Departure Orientation with a focus on the student as the driver of their study abroad experience.



Conducted site visits to **19** program sites to reestablish connections with partners.



Sent students to Australia for the first time since Spring 2020 after COVID-19 restrictions were lifted across the globe.



Launched a new partnership with Paris School of Business and sent **8** students in the Spring 2023 semester.



Interest in the UK, measured by the percentage of committed applicants, rose to **38%**, a six percent increase from the previous three years.

TOP 5 MAJORS

- 59** FINANCE
- 46** INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (HUNTSMAN PROGRAM)
- 35** POLITICS, PHILOSOPHY, ECONOMICS
- 28** BUSINESS ANALYTICS
- 19** ECONOMICS

Looking Ahead

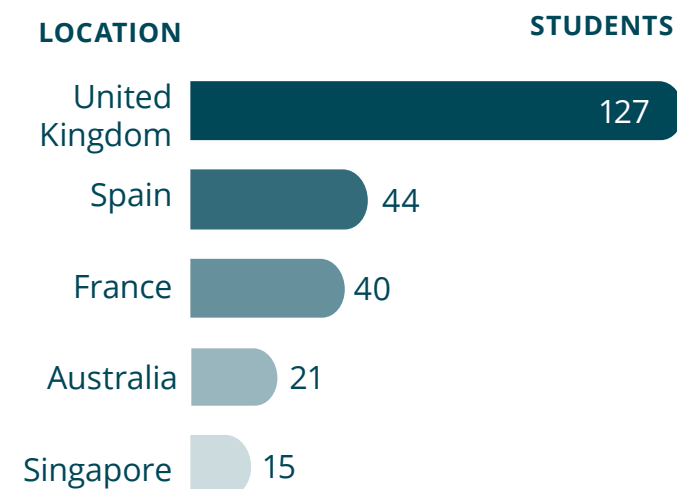
In the first year of the new strategic framework, the Semester Abroad team is excited to diversify program offerings, break down barriers that prevent students from spending a semester abroad, and ensure that students of all academic disciplines and demographic backgrounds have access to a wide array of program types and locations. Programming in China will resume in the Fall 2023 semester and students will study at the Stockholm School of Economics and Ibero American University in Mexico for the very first time. Students from the School of Engineering & Applied Science will have additional opportunities to study abroad in Asia through expanded partnerships with Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Yonsei University in South Korea.

The SA team is taking concrete steps to make the semester abroad experience easier to navigate and afford. They will work to establish partnerships with reputable housing providers in locations with difficult markets to ease the risks and burdens associated with students sourcing their own accommodation. The team will continue to advocate for advanced financial support for significant pre-program costs that prevent students from studying abroad, such as airfare.

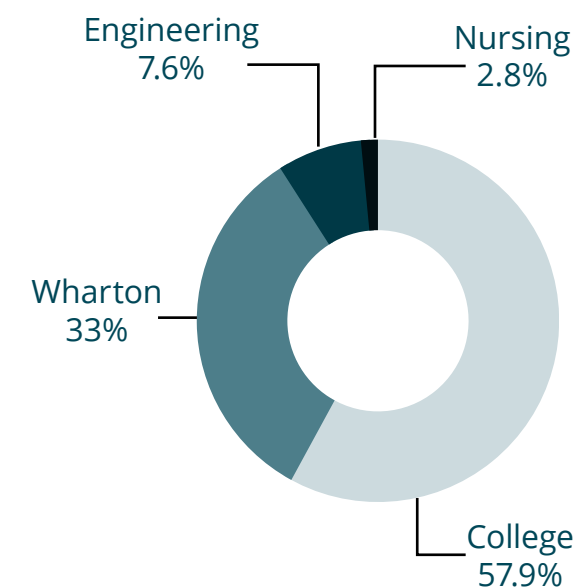
333

TOTAL COMMITTED STUDENTS

TOP LOCATIONS



BREAKDOWN BY SCHOOL





Exchange at Penn

The 2022-2023 academic year was one of revival for the Exchange at Penn program. Incoming exchange participation increased to near pre-pandemic numbers, and these students were able to enjoy the full complement of resources and cultural exchange opportunities for the first time since 2019. 2022-2023 was also the first year with a dedicated EAP Graduate Assistant who was able to manage EAP excursions and the new EAP Correspondents program.

A Renewed Focus on Integration

With the tight restrictions of the previous academic year, including limitations on group gatherings and travel, firmly in the rear-view, the Exchange at Penn team was able to double down efforts related to student integration. Incoming exchange students jumped at the opportunity to participate in a robust calendar of cultural

excursions and programming, including trips to Ocean City, New Jersey and an Amish village in Pennsylvania. In addition to these opportunities for cultural exchange off-campus, EAP also made strides in developing new collaborations with partners across campus, making the Exchange at Penn experience richer than ever.

Key Accomplishments

- Launch of new student engagement opportunity with the first group of EAP Correspondents. The inaugural four correspondents shared a dual role: documenting and sharing their experiences via social media and blog posts as well as serving as leaders of the EAP community organizing events like EAP night at a Penn basketball game and a weekend thrifting activity.
- Introduction of new orientation programming in collaboration with the Penn Libraries Education Commons to facilitate student familiarity with campus and EAP community building.
- Successful completion of the first EAP video contest, which gave students the opportunity to make a video demonstrating a “day in the life” of a Penn exchange student.
- Modifications to the academic advising structure for students enrolled in Penn Engineering ensured more catered Engineering advising and academic support.

173

TOTAL COMMITTED STUDENTS

FALL 2022



51

SPRING 2023



65

'22-'23 YEAR

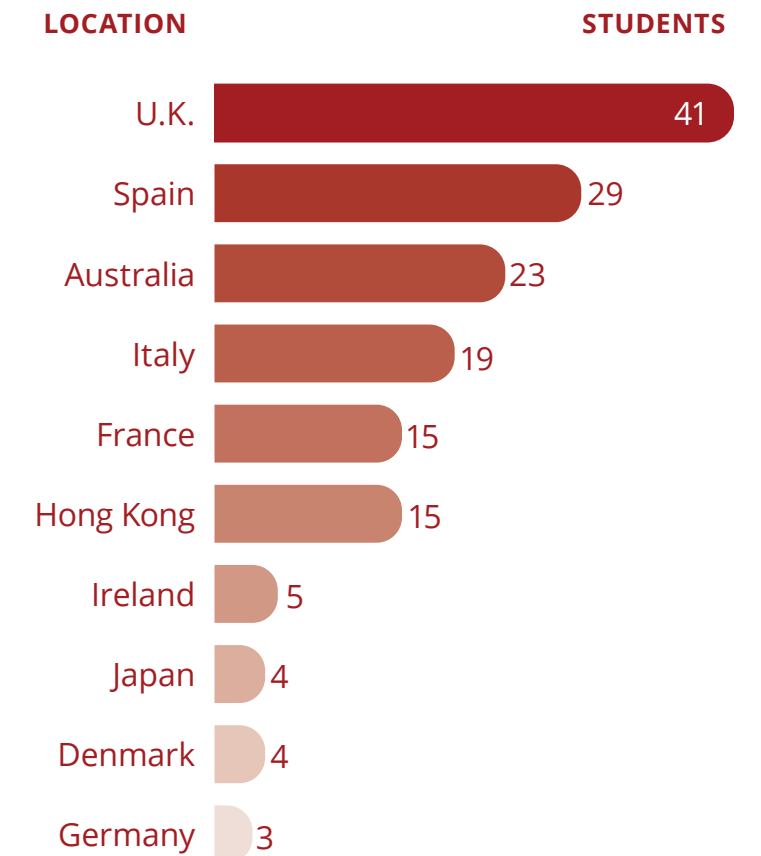


57



2022-2023 EAP student Alex Baxter from the University of Edinburgh

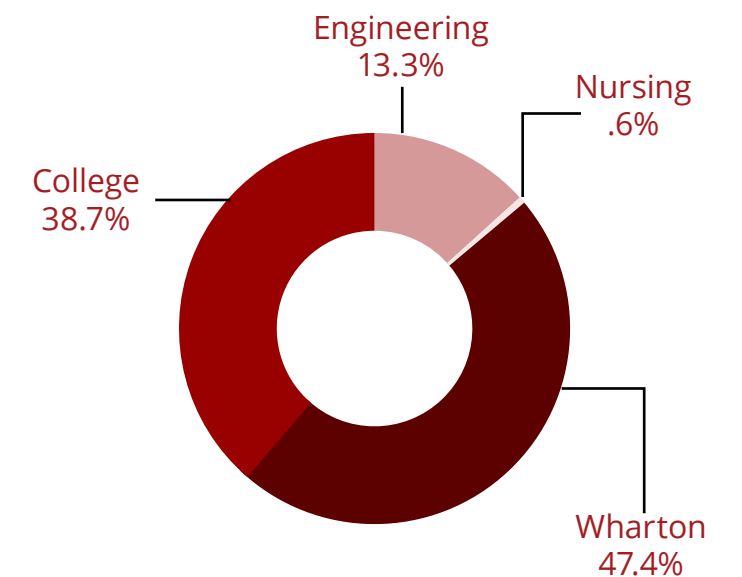
TOP SENDING COUNTRIES



Looking Ahead

Responding to feedback from the latest cohort of exchange students, the EAP team will roll out a revamped New Student Orientation for 2023-2024, which will have an increased focus on practical health and wellness support. The team also plans to introduce more student-led initiatives and engagement opportunities to the program by growing the profile of EAP Correspondents. Penn Abroad will continue to accommodate larger numbers of incoming exchange students to meet the demands of partner universities. In particular, now that COVID-19 restrictions in China and Hong Kong are easing, Penn Abroad looks forward to resuming exchanges in those regions and welcoming more students moving forward.

BREAKDOWN BY SCHOOL



Sawiris Penn Scholars Exchange Program

Built on the foundation of the academically rigorous and culturally immersive Exchange at Penn program, the Sawiris Penn Scholars Exchange Program provides the opportunity for a select group of students from an Egyptian university to attend Penn for an academic year with full financial support. The 2022–2023 inaugural cohort of Sawiris scholars included four exceptional students from Ain Shams University in the disciplines of Electronics and Electrical Communication Engineering and Architectural Engineering. This year’s cohort excelled both in the classroom and out, making exceptional strides academically while deepening their engagement with the rich history and culture of their surroundings through local excursions in Philadelphia and weekend trips to New York City and Washington DC. In the year ahead, Penn Abroad will welcome six new Sawiris scholars who will undoubtedly



2022-2023 Sawiris students on Penn Campus

build on the success of their predecessors and make their own lasting imprint on both the Penn community and their home university.

Program Highlights

- Launch of a 5-day pre-orientation program that prepared students for their time at Penn and in Philadelphia through cultural excursions and academic preparation sessions.
- An overnight trip to New York City over fall break that featured visits to Times Square, Central Park, and the world premier of an off-Broadway play, including a private breakfast with the playwright.
- A trip to Washington, DC, with visits to senate office buildings, a private meeting with representatives from Senator Casey’s office, a tour of the Library of Congress, a visit to the African American History and Culture museum, and a visit to the Cherry Blossom Festival.
- Opportunities to explore the cultural aspects of Philadelphia by attending a performance of the Philadelphia Orchestra with the Sawiris Faculty Advisor and a private tour of the Penn Museum Egyptian Galleries.

“Every day, ever since I got here, I have been growing and prospering on both academic and personal levels. Studying at such a prestigious university as UPenn with all its vast and rich resources and renowned professors made me more determined than ever to work on what I am truly passionate about!”

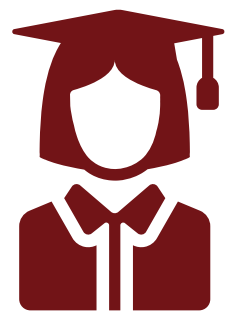
Carine Mankarious
Sawiris Penn Scholar

SAWIRIS BY THE NUMBERS



3

ELECTRONICS AND ELECTRICAL COMMUNICATION ENGINEERING MAJORS



1

ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING MAJOR



Sawiris students at Penn, 2022-2023



Penn Global Seminars

Penn Global Seminars (PGS), the leading opportunity for students to travel abroad with their professor as part of a semester-long course, made significant strides in the 2022-2023 academic year. The program expanded in multiple ways, with the PGS team growing from 1 to 2 full time staff, the portfolio expanding to 13 courses from the previous year's six, and the introduction of a new program type called the China Education Initiative. A total of 198 students embarked on life-changing experiences which put the concepts learned in the classroom into practice abroad.

Program Highlights

- According to the World Health Organization, climate change is the single biggest health threat facing humanity. This year, 1/3 of all PGS courses had a focus on sustainability and climate change with travel to countries facing these issues head-on: the United Arab Emirates, Costa Rica, the Netherlands, and Mongolia.
- The PGS portfolio included three critical writing seminars – the most of any term – which helped students improve their writing skills while exploring a global topic. These courses have become gateway opportunities by providing students early in their Penn career with a curated global experience which encourages them to consider additional global experiences in the future.
- PGS Japan was featured on NHK, one of the country's largest television networks. The Global Radiation History class attended the testimony of hibakusha (Atomic Bomb survivors) at the Social Book Cafe, a meeting space for activists. In addition, a few students from the course were [interviewed at the 49th G7 Summit](#), which was held in Hiroshima in May 2023.
- Students who participated in PGS Netherlands traveled to four cities by bike, working in partnership with Penn's Water Center and Eastwick United CDC to develop a resiliency plan for the Eastwick neighborhood in Philadelphia (a neighborhood on a former marshland that suffers from frequent flooding). Their findings were presented at the United Nations Water Conference held on campus.

“The experience of studying history in Cairo has broadened my perspective as an international student and instilled in me a deeper sense of global citizenship. It has reinforced the importance of cultural sensitivity, empathy, and understanding when engaging with diverse societies and their historical narratives.”

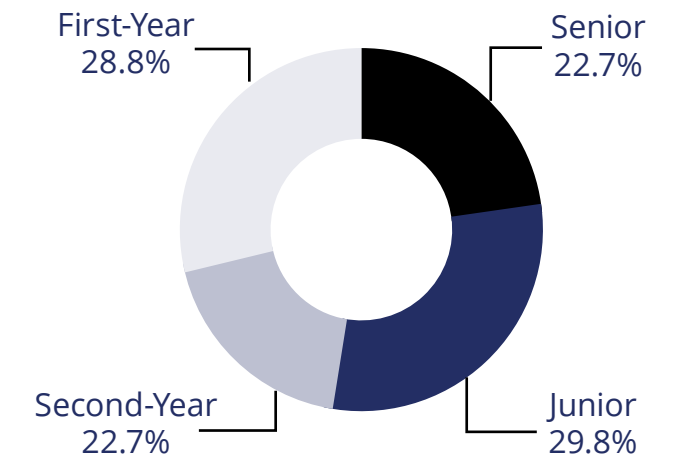
Filip Manjevic

Cairo as Palimpsest with travel to Egypt, Spring 2023



Sustainable Development and Culture in Latin America with travel to Costa Rica, Fall 2022

BREAKDOWN BY YEAR



12

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL DESTINATIONS

Chile, Costa Rica, Egypt, Italy, Jamaica, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Thailand, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, and Uganda

China in the Spotlight

The China Education Initiative (CEI), which follows the Penn Global Seminars model, provides undergraduate students the opportunity to understand US-China relations through a combination of academic study and cultural immersion. The inaugural year of the program saw the launch of one Nursing course and one Arts & Sciences course with academic content focused on China and international travel to a complementary location. The Nursing course

traveled to Thailand, where students met with faculty and doctors trained at Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine. The Arts & Sciences course traveled to the United Arab Emirates, where students met with Chinese financed entities focused on climate change. Despite the inability to travel to China, both courses nonetheless instilled in students the importance of having a deep understanding of China and its critical role in the world.

Looking Ahead

Over the next academic year, Penn Global Seminars will expand to an incredible 18 courses. The portfolio will consist of nine brand new courses, including an engineering course focused on artificial intelligence and an Asian American Studies course focused on race and international law. The program will continue to offer a robust suite of writing seminars, two

of which will feature travel to Botswana and Indonesia for the first time in PGS history. The China Education Initiative will expand to three offerings in partnership with the School of Nursing, Wharton, and the School of Engineering & Applied Science. Faculty across the CEI and PGS programs look forward to resuming travel to China as early as January 2024.



Global Research & Internship Program

Summer 2023 witnessed another year of growth for the Global Research & Internship Program (GRIP) with nearly 140 students traveling to 28 placements across 20 countries. COVID-19 restrictions were lifted in virtually all locations, removing the quarantine period for students upon arrival and allowing students to pursue GRIP with more ease. Students prepared for the ever-evolving world of work as GRIP employers embraced hybrid internships, with many students working from the office three days per week and remotely two days per week. The program also received the highest number of applications in history—nearly 700—which reflected a hunger for in-person global internship experiences. This is an appetite that the GRIP team will endeavor to satisfy over the next several years.

Key Milestones and Accomplishments

- Provided expanded support for students through regular drop-in virtual office hours before, during, and after the application and commitment process.
- In conjunction with the Greenfield Cultural Center, Financial Wellness, and Career Services, offered expanded Pre-Departure Orientation for students with three additional supplemental sessions including “Survival Guide for Students of Color,” “Financial Wellness,” and “Preparing for Success in Your International Internship.”
- Launched several new placements with a focus on innovation in business, including International Business in Tokyo (Japan), GAO Capital (Singapore), and Entrepreneurship in Montevideo (Uruguay).
- Introduced the GRIP Global Career Guides program for students to share career insights gleaned from their summer experiences through writing, videos, and social media posts aimed at the GRIP community.

“When my time in Braga eventually comes to an end, as all good things eventually must, I will remember to feed the me that I have rediscovered the same kind of uplifting experiences no matter where I find myself.”

-Dushaun Thompson
GRIP: University of Minho Law School, Portugal

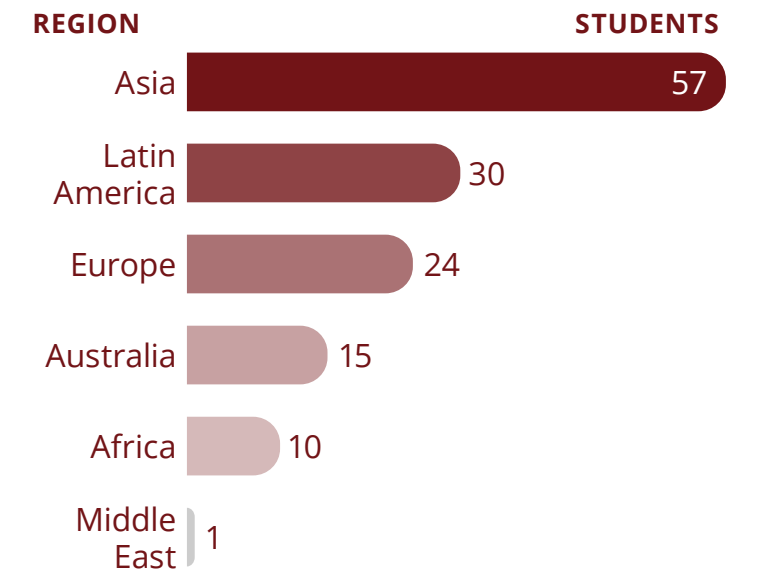


Dushaun Thompson, GRIP: Legal Research at University of Minho Law School (Braga, Portugal), Summer 2023

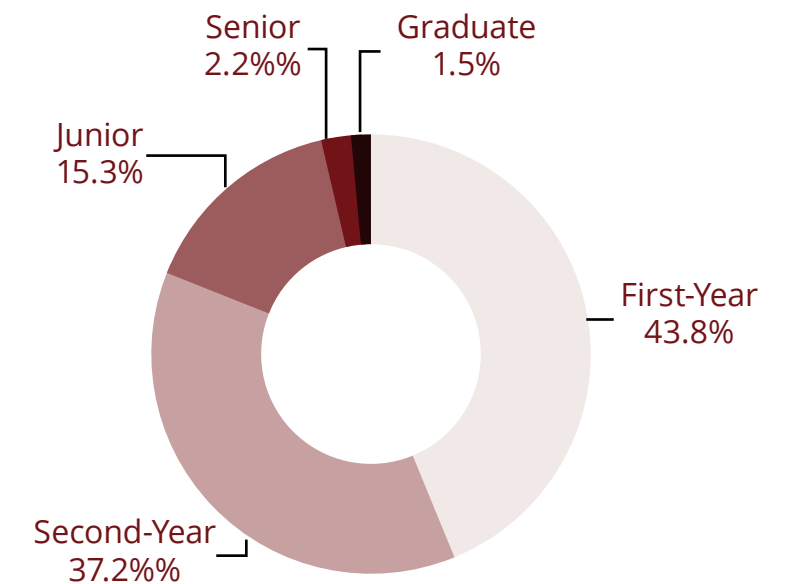
138

TOTAL COMMITTED STUDENTS

PARTICIPANTS BY REGION



BREAKDOWN BY YEAR



Looking Ahead

Summer 2024 is shaping up to be an exciting one for the GRIP program. Over the next academic year, the team will execute a targeted strategy to expand the scope of program sites as well as infuse a greater diversity of disciplines and career fields. An additional focus will be placed on the selection process as the starting point for student reflection and growth; the application process will include an opportunity for students to set goals, anticipate challenges, and reflect

on their strengths. The program is also pleased to initiate a new collaboration with Penn’s James Joo-Jin Kim Center for Korean Studies by launching a cohort internship placement in Seoul for Summer 2024. This partnership could become a model to replicate with other Penn centers and departments who have goals of increasing internship and research opportunities for their students.

Penn Global Research Institutes

The Penn Global Research Institutes (PGRI) provide outstanding undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to conduct research abroad alongside Penn faculty during the summer. Students work as part of a small research team made up of Penn students, a Penn faculty PI, and local community members and researchers to address major global challenges.

Key Milestones and Accomplishments

2023 saw the launch of a second institute: the Penn Global Documentary Institute (PGDI), led by Drs. Peter Decherney (Director) and Sara Byala (Associate Director). PGDI collaborates with global partners to document human migration and diasporic communities. Its projects use film, photography, virtual reality, and other media to examine the impact of politics, religion, and climate change on displaced and other at-risk communities. In PGDI's inaugural year, five undergraduate student fellows traveled to Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya to collaborate on documentary and virtual reality productions



PGRI in the Galápagos, Summer 2023

with FilmAid Kenya students and staff who live and work at the refugee camp. In addition to the launch of PGDI, the Galápagos Education and Research Alliance (GERA) entered its second year as a PGRI and supported six students pursuing research projects in One Health, climate change, and business consulting.

GERA PARTICIPANTS



4

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

2

GRADUATE STUDENTS

PGDI PARTICIPANTS



5

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Looking Ahead

In the year ahead, Penn Abroad will launch its inaugural call for proposals for the Penn Global Research Institutes program to identify a third institute. The call will also raise awareness about PGRI across campus and elevate the work of the existing institutes. In addition, the Galápagos Education and Research Alliance will enter its third year and the Penn Global Documentary Institute will enter its second. The program directors of the Penn Global

Documentary Institute conducted two site visits this year with the objective of launching a new student project for 2024 which focuses on Jewish communities in Africa. Students will travel to Uganda next summer to learn more about the sociopolitical forces that have prompted a rise in conversation to Judaism and will find creative ways to tell these communities' stories through visual media.



PGDI Fellow in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Summer 2023

Student Engagement

Ambassadors

Penn Abroad Ambassadors provide essential information and experience that encourages and prepares other Penn students to take part in global opportunities. Ambassadors serve as a point of contact for interested students, assist with events, and speak on student panels. A total of 60 students, each of whom had participated in one or more Penn Abroad global programs, served as Penn Abroad ambassadors in 2022-2023. They played a major role in Penn Abroad student engagement events this year, such as staffing tables at the Penn Abroad Fair, serving as panelists at pre-departure orientations, and speaking directly with parents at Family Weekend events.



Linda Wu, Semester Abroad in Costa Rica, Spring 2023

“The opportunity to spend a semester in a place as rich in biodiversity as Costa Rica allows me to learn about this dynamic from passionate, knowledgeable entrepreneurs. I am excited for my next few months of studying, experiences, and memories in this country.”

-Linda Wu

Penn Abroad Ambassador, Semester Abroad: CIEE Monteverde: Tropical Ecology and Conservation, Costa Rica

Penn Abroad Leaders

During the 2022 – 2023 Academic year, 12 students served as Penn Abroad Leaders (PALs). As part of Penn Abroad’s efforts to better prepare students for their study abroad experiences, PALs observed and provided critical feedback on pre-departure orientation sessions. Additionally, the group successfully hosted a “Snack and Chat with Penn Abroad Leaders” event in which PALs offered guidance to prospective students on how to select a

program, manage the application process, and make the most of their abroad experiences. The PALs program will undergo a restructure in 2023-2024 to capitalize on Penn Abroad’s most engaged student population in service of the next 5-year strategic framework. Members of the PALs will meet 4 – 5 times per semester, serve in focus groups, and execute year-long projects and present their final recommendations to the Penn Abroad team.

PA101s, Pop-Up Advising, and Drop-In Advising

Throughout the academic year, Penn Abroad hosted eight Penn Abroad 101 info sessions in partnership with departments and organizations across campus. These first-contact informational sessions were held for a wide array of College Houses, Penn First Plus, Pan-Asian American Community House, and the Society of Women Engineers. Additionally, the team organized six pop-up advising sessions to increase Penn Abroad’s visibility across campus. Through the Drop-in Advising program, the Global Programs Coordinator and Graduate Assistants provided

340

STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN DROP-IN ADVISING

one-on-one advising to 340 students during the academic year. The advisors offered students information on program search and selection, the application process, and next steps.

Penn Abroad Fair

The annual Penn Abroad Fair, held on September 9, 2022, attracted an incredible 344 attendees and Penn Abroad was delighted to welcome campus partners such as Penn First Plus, Penn Summer Abroad, Student Registration and Financial Services, Financial Wellness, and representatives from all four undergraduate Schools as co-presenters. These partners provided necessary information to attendees about the process of participating in

344

STUDENTS ATTENDED THE PENN ABROAD FAIR

global programs at Penn, as well as the myriad resources that remain available to support students during their time abroad.



Fall 2022 Penn Abroad Fair





Penn Abroad

Penn Abroad | Penn Global | University of Pennsylvania

3539 Locust Walk

Philadelphia, PA 19104 USA

T: +1.215.898.9073