Global Engagement Seminars: Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can I apply...?
   - Ada Comstock Scholars
     Ada Comstock Scholars can apply to GES; credits earned through a GES will count towards the maximum number of credits for which they can receive financial aid.
   - International students
     International students can apply to GES; international students should consult with the Associate Dean for International Students to determine how travel outside of the US and return to the US will affect their visa and to discuss visa requirements for travel to the GES destination.
   - First-year students/rising sophomores
     First-year students/rising sophomores can apply to GES; preference will be given to rising juniors and seniors.
   - Seniors
     Seniors who will graduate before the completion of the GES may not apply.
   - Students planning to study abroad
     Students planning to study abroad the semester following the GES must research the visa process for their study abroad program. Some visa processes may require passports to be submitted during the summer. Depending on your study abroad location, participation in a summer GES may not be possible.

2. What are the prerequisites? Is there a language requirement?
   Prerequisites vary for each GES and are listed on the application and the website (http://www.smith.edu/world/programs_engagement.php). For more information, contact the faculty leading the GES.

3. What is the cost? Is financial assistance available?
   The program fee is $8000. This fee covers airfare, lodging, food, local transportation and site visits, as well as five academic credits. Each seminar will implement the budget differently: some will pay in advance for items such as airline tickets and meals; others will provide students with a stipend to cover expenses.

   Financial assistance will be automatically applied to the program fee based on student need level as determined by Student Financial Services. Additionally, students may use their International Praxis funding of $3,500. The Lewis Global Studies Center will notify students of the amount of financial assistance available to them after GES applications are submitted. Students’ current financial aid award must be complete in order to process this information.

4. What if I have already used my Praxis?
   If you have already used your Praxis funding, you are not eligible for an additional Praxis award for a GES. Any financial assistance will be applied only to the $4,500 difference in the program fee.

5. When is the deadline to apply? When will students be notified about acceptance? When must students confirm their participation?
   The application deadline is Monday, November 25, 2013. Accepted students will be notified in mid December, no later than the last day of fall semester classes. The confirmation deadline is Monday, January 27, 2014, the first day of spring semester classes.

6. What happens if I withdraw from the program?
   The $500 deposit required for confirmation is non-refundable (due Monday, January 27, 2014). Students withdrawing from the program after this date will be subject to additional penalties, including non-refundable costs such as airfare and program deposits, depending on the withdrawal date, as outlined in the Enrollment and Participation Agreement.

7. What type of food, housing and travel will be provided?
   Food, housing and travel will vary for each seminar. In some cases, accommodations are very basic such as a stipend to purchase food from the market to prepare at home, dorm-style housing, and a bus pass for travel to internships. Please contact the GES faculty for more information.
8. **How are students placed in internships? Do we have to find an internship on our own? How long do they last?**
Generally, internships will be identified by the instructors in consultation with the Lazarus Center for Career Development. Certain GES may subcontract with a local provider who will assist students in identifying suitable internships and supervising their progress. In some cases, telephone interviews with the internship organizational staff may be required prior to internship placement. Students are not expected to identify them on their own, though they may always suggest for approval an internship they have found on their own. Internships may last for six to eight weeks, depending on the specific GES. Please contact the GES faculty for more information.

9. **Will the faculty members be with the students during the internship portion of the GES?**
No, faculty will not be with students for the entire duration of the GES. Faculty teach the seminar portion and students remain without the faculty while they pursue their 6-8 week internships. Students will be provided with emergency contact information for local and Northampton-based support during the internship period. A staff member associated with the internship organization will be designated as our in-country emergency liaison.

10. **How will I be graded?**
Each GES sets its own requirements for evaluation and grading. These may include oral presentations, seminar preparation and participation, research papers, blogs, video diaries, and other assignments deemed pedagogically suitable by the instructors. Please contact the GES faculty for more information.

11. **Where can I get more information?**
Questions about the application process should be directed to the Lewis Global Studies Center in Wright Hall during regular office hours or email global@smith.edu or call 413-585-2697. Questions about the course content should be directed to the GES faculty instructors.