Global Engagement Seminars: Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can I apply...?

- Ada Comstock Scholars Adas 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 Students 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. Do GES have language requirements or other prerequisites?

No, the 2016 GES does not have language requirements. Students are expected to meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Demonstrate evidence of maturity, responsibility and preparation for study abroad;
- Be in good academic standing at the time of application: students placed on probation after being accepted will have their approval rescinded;
- Be in good standing in student conduct matters at the time of application and up until departure for the program.

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. 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. When is the deadline to apply? When will students be notified about acceptance? When must students confirm their participation?

The application deadline is February 15, 2016. Accepted students will be notified by the first week of March. The confirmation deadline is March 21, 2016.
5. **What happens if I withdraw from the program?**

The $500 deposit required for confirmation is non-refundable (due **Monday, March 21, 2016**). 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.

6. **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.

7. **How are students placed in internships?**

Generally, internships will be identified by the instructors and local program partners who will assist students in identifying suitable internships and supervising their progress. In some cases, telephone interviews with the internship or volunteer organizational staff may be required prior to placement. Students are not expected to identify them on their own, though they may always suggest for approval a placement they have found on their own.

8. **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.

9. **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.