

The Mellon Presidential Project for Global Learning The Basics, Version 1 (June 2015)

What is this project and where did it come from? Two faculty study tours of twelve people each will travel to China (late June 2016) and Turkey (late June 2017) for a ten-day set of seminars, experiential learning opportunities, and site visits. President Ainlay drew on his own experience as a mid-career faculty member at Holy Cross in developing this project. At Holy Cross, he joined a group of faculty who travelled to and studied in China. As President Ainlay wrote in his Mellon grant application, 'It was an educational experience that had a profound impact on my pedagogy and my relations with other faculty, many of whom I consider close friends and colleagues to this day.' He wanted to create a similar opportunity for Union faculty to have meaningful, transformative experiences in their lives, careers, and classrooms.

What are the goals? The *Project for Global Learning* aims to bring together faculty members dedicated to transforming the Liberal Arts experience at Union through cross-disciplinary, global experiences. The study tours are designed to develop faculty experience with multi-disciplinary approaches that focus on important questions and encourage a global perspective. The experience will help faculty forge connections across disciplines that create for them and their students a holistic, integrated understanding of questions of great import to humanity. By focussing the *Project for Global Learning* on the Common Curriculum, we aim to engage student learning across the campus in diverse settings and courses, creating an opportunity more broadly to reimagine the Common Curriculum around multi-disciplinary perspectives on issues of global significance.

What do you mean by global learning or a global perspective? We aim to engage questions, issues, and challenges that are of global importance, but in complex ways:

- questions that are truly global in scale and link peoples and societies
- shared challenges with effects on peoples and societies across the globe but with indirect or no obvious direct connections
- issues that have unique local manifestations that require us to recognize the global in the local and vice versa or move beyond a simple local-global binary itself
- problems whose solution demands that we live not in the eternal present but embrace our complex pasts and think about the long-term.

Where can I learn more about global learning? Readings available at the PGL folder on Nexus, located here: <https://nexus.union.edu/course/view.php?id=1943>. Useful articles can be found a recent copy of *Diversity and Democracy*: <http://www.aacu.org/diversitydemocracy/2014/spring>

What is the focus of the study tour to China? To Turkey? Both study tours in China and Turkey will take a multi-disciplinary approach to the same theme: *global social justice and the challenges of inequality and sustainability*. The study tours will bring together faculty from disciplines, departments, and programs across the four divisions to examine this theme in all its complexity. Faculty have already expressed an interest in questions around gender and power, social-artistic critique and advocacy, designing and engineering sustainable cities and farms, food ecologies and social-political instability, the environmental, economic, and cultural limits of carbon-based societies, strategies for individual and community empowerment, and others. Both study tours give us scope to explore these and other unique, original interests in the subject.

How do I learn about the China study tour? Where does it go? What are the seminars and topics? Union is working with CIEE (Council on International Educational Exchange) to develop the two study tours around our theme and particular subjects. CIEE is based in Portland and has a fully-staffed regional office in both Beijing and Istanbul. They work in partnership with diverse organizations in both China and Turkey, including universities, community groups, and the like. The CIEE websites for the 2015 versions of the China and Turkey tours can be found below. In addition, the call for applications you received via email included a link to the syllabus for the 2015 China study tour.

China <http://www.ciee.org/international-faculty-development-seminars/china/sustainable-growth/>
 Turkey <http://www.ciee.org/international-faculty-development-seminars/turkey/arts-humanities/>

Who is involved in the China study tour at Union? We have three directors for the China study tour: Joyce Madancy (Director), Megan Ferry (Co-Director), and Cherrice Traver (Co-Director). Therese McCarty (administrative matters) and John Cramsie (curricular matters, PGL coordination) with the Gen Ed Board oversee the *Project for Global Learning*.

- For questions about study in China, you can contact any of the three directors at madancyj@union.edu, ferrym@union.edu, traverc@union.edu with PGL in the subject line.
- For questions about the application process, the PGL itself, and curricular integration of the study tour, you can contact John Cramsie at education@union.edu with PGL in the subject line.

Is this for me? – my research and teaching don't have anything to do with global social justice, inequality, sustainability, China, or Turkey. The study tours are **not** only for faculty with teaching or research expertise in these subjects or places. We selected locations that gave us the best opportunities to explore the overall theme in all its complexity and respond to faculty interest.

- The study tour directors will work directly with CIEE to add and modify content, ideally to reflect the interests of all the participating faculty members. For example, we will add stronger content on arts and humanities to the China study tour. We will expand the science and engineering content of the Turkey study tour. That said, there are constraints on how tailored the experience can be.

- For those of you with interest or expertise in these subjects but not in the Chinese or Turkish contexts, we would hope seeing them at work in a particular locale will encourage new, perhaps broader, cross-cultural or global perspectives.
- For those of you with interest or expertise in what might at first appear a clearly defined subject outside either these subjects or places, we would hope the study tour encourages creative and imaginative perspectives on familiar teaching and research.
- For those of you without experience or expertise in any of these subjects or places, the study tour is an invitation to think anew about your teaching or research in a different context with an engaged, committed, supportive group of colleagues.

What am I committing to if I'm selected for the China study tour? The final call for applications will come in September with a deadline of 6 October. We plan to inform faculty of the selection results by 6 November. Selected faculty are required to participate in the following activities as a condition of selection:

- An initial group meeting in November 2015.
- Two groups meetings in Winter and Spring 2016 to discuss curricular planning and practicalities for the study tour itself.
- Study tour travel to China in late June/early July – exact dates forthcoming. Please note by decision of Dean McCarty and the PGL working group that faculty are obligated for the entirety of the study tour to the group and group activities. Families and friends are not allowed to travel with or accompany the faculty member during the study tour. Separate arrangements for travel and sightseeing **during** the study tour are not permitted.
- A two-day campus retreat in late July or early August to create curricula (lessons, modules, team-teaching activities, new courses etc.) building on the study tour. The retreat will be highly structured and facilitated by outside expert(s). Faculty are expected to integrate content relevant to the study tour experience into courses taught for Common Curriculum credit.