

The Mellon Presidential Project for Global Learning The Basics, Version 4 (July 2016)

What is this project and where did it come from? Two faculty study tours of twelve people each will travel to China (summer 2016) and Berlin (between 16 and 30 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=9895> 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 Berlin? Both study tours in China and Berlin 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. The Berlin study tour will pursue a slightly different emphasis on sustainability and social justice from the China study tour. Berlin will emphasize the sustainability of socially, culturally, and historically complex societies and regions and the challenges posed for social justice in those settings.

How do I learn about the Berlin study tour? 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 Berlin. They work in partnership with diverse organizations in both China and Berlin, including universities, community groups, and the like. The CIEE websites for the 2017 version of Berlin tour can be found below.
Berlin <https://www.ciee.org/international-faculty-development-seminars/germany-poland/arts-humanities/>

Who is involved in the Berlin study tour at Union? We have three directors for the Berlin study tour: Hans Mueller (Director), Erika Nelson-Mukherjee (Co-Director), and John Rieffel (Co-Director). Strom Thacker (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 Berlin, you can contact any of the three directors at molinarius@union.edu, nelsone@union.edu, rieffelj@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 really for me? – my research and teaching don't have anything to do with global social justice, inequality, sustainability, or Germany-Europe. 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 Berlin study tour will address the sustainability of socially, culturally, and historically complex societies and regions and the challenges posed for social justice in those settings. We will take advantage of unique opportunities in Germany to examine the current challenges facing of the European Union, including Austerity, migration, and fears about religious extremism. We will also take advantage of Germany's leadership (and challenges – think the VW emissions scandal) in engineering sustainability, its own domestic challenges with the EU,

and its cultural and commercial role linking Europe to the new 'silk roads' of Russia, Central Asia, South Asia, and China. Some travel in Germany will be part of the study tour. Travel locally in the EU may be part of the study tour, but has not been discussed at this time.

- 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 expand the science and engineering content of the Berlin study tour. That said, there are some constraints on how tailored the experience can be, but CIEE accommodated most of the requests made for the China study tour.
- For those of you with interest or expertise in these subjects but not in the German-European context, 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 for the Berlin study tour? Selected faculty are required to participate in the following activities as a condition of selection:

- Two group workshops each in Fall 2016 and Winter and Spring 2017 to develop cultural literacy regarding Berlin and the region, discuss curricular planning, and work on practicalities for the study tour itself.
- Study tour travel to Berlin in mid- to late-June 2017; exact dates forthcoming. Please note by decision of 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 1 and 2 August 2017 to create curricula (lessons, modules, team-teaching activities, new courses etc.) building on the study tour. The retreat will be highly structured and facilitated.
- Faculty are expected to integrate content relevant to the study tour experience into courses taught for Common Curriculum credit.