



GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP SEMINARS 2026

Connecting Perspectives. Building Shared Futures.

Integrative Theme:

*Multiperspective Collaboration and Dialogue:
Core Competencies for Global Citizenship*

In a world marked by growing complexity, polarization, nationalism, conflict, and rapid global change, the ability to collaborate and engage in meaningful dialogue across perspectives has never been more essential. The 2026 Global Citizenship Alliance Seminars invite participants to explore and practice these core competencies of global citizenship—listening deeply, bridging divides, and co-creating solutions that advance democracy, justice, human rights, sustainability, and peace.

The seminars examine challenges directly related to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—a universal framework of 17 interconnected goals adopted by all UN member states in 2015 to address the world's most pressing issues by 2030.

The SDGs encompass challenges ranging from poverty and hunger to climate action, quality education, gender equality, and peace and justice. As a blueprint for global cooperation, the SDGs are a vital component of global citizenship education because they provide a shared language and common purpose for addressing challenges that transcend national borders. By grounding our work in the SDGs, participants learn to think systemically about global issues, recognize their role in collective action, and develop solutions that are locally relevant yet globally connected.



Student Seminar participants will engage in transformative, problem-based learning that connects local and global challenges through dialogue, critical reflection, and collaborative action. Faculty and Administrator Seminar participants will examine global citizenship education as a framework for institutional innovation, exploring how dialogue and collaboration can transform teaching, leadership, and campus culture.

GCA's seminars embrace a pluralistic approach, cultivating respect for diverse perspectives and practicing pluralism in dialogue and collaboration as essential foundations of global citizenship. Through this approach, participants not only strengthen their ethical and intercultural capacities but also develop the professional competencies that make them competitive and successful in the global workforce.

Set in the historic and inspiring environment of Salzburg, the seminars provide an immersive international experience where participants from diverse backgrounds learn with and from one another—developing the skills, values, and mindsets needed to lead with empathy, purpose, and global responsibility.

GC Seminar 36 — Student Seminar

February 20-27, 2026

Theme

Leadership and the Sustainable Development Goals

Description

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires more than policies and innovation—it requires empowered leaders who can think and act as global citizens. This seminar focuses on developing students' capacity for dialogue, collaboration, and perspective-taking in addressing issues like climate change, inequality, and peacebuilding. Students will practice inclusive decision-making and empathy-driven problem-solving as they explore how grassroots leadership contributes to global progress.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the seminar, participants will demonstrate greater willingness and abilities to:

- Articulate the role of student action and leadership in advancing the SDGs.
- Apply a global citizenship mindset when defining and addressing local/global sustainability challenges.
- Participate in collaborative, pluralistic dialogue and problem solving across cultural and disciplinary perspectives.
- Mobilize peers and communities for collective action.
- Articulate their global competencies in professional resumes and interview protocols.

Final Project

A digital advocacy toolkit designed to inspire and equip youth to take action on one or more SDGs at local, national, or global levels.

Program Format

Global Citizenship Alliance's Student Seminar model involves faculty-mentored, project-based, peer-to-peer learning that engages all participants as active contributors and collaborators, preparing them for professional success in a globally interconnected workforce through practical application of pluralistic dialogue, leadership, and innovation.

Over the course of an intensive week in Salzburg, students participate in a mix of structured learning, dialogue, and creative exploration that connects personal experience with pressing global challenges. Our unique home in the Schloss Leopoldskron provides a unique context for changemaker education—a refuge for re-examining complex pasts and re-imagining more sustainable futures.

Program components include:

- Plenary sessions with distinguished international faculty offering diverse academic and cultural perspectives.
- Experiential workshops that foster global citizenship competencies such as multi-perspective dialogue, ethical reasoning, systems thinking, and collaborative problem-solving.
- Small-group dialogues and peer exchange sessions encouraging reflection on identity, leadership, and global responsibility.
- Research-based case studies and simulations that bring real-world issues—such as climate change, migration, and human rights—to life through collective inquiry.
- Faculty-mentored independent and team project development, culminating in a creative or action-oriented presentation.
- Cultural and community activities in Salzburg that situate learning within a broader historical and intercultural context.
- Guided learning reflection, including methods for incorporating learning into students' personal, professional, and civic success plans.
- Site visit to the Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial, providing an experiential learning opportunity for deep reflection on human rights, historical responsibility, and ethical leadership—connecting lessons from the past to the global citizenship imperative of building just, inclusive, and peaceful societies today.

Who Should Attend?

Undergraduate and graduate students from all disciplines who are eager to lead, collaborate, and create change in an interconnected world. Open to both student cohorts from partner institutions and individual applicants worldwide.

GC Seminar 37 — Student Seminar

April 3-10, 2026

Theme

Global Health and Human Rights

Description

Good health and well-being (SDG 3) is more than a medical issue—it is a fundamental human right tied to dignity, justice, and equity. This seminar explores global health challenges, from pandemic preparedness to systemic health inequities, through the lens of global citizenship. Students will learn to bridge scientific, cultural, and ethical perspectives to create inclusive responses that center marginalized voices and uphold human dignity.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the seminar, participants will demonstrate greater willingness and abilities to:

- Advocate for global health as both a human right and a social justice issue.
- Identify the ways in which health inequities intersect with social, economic, and political factors.
- Apply pluralistic dialogue and collaboration skills to address community-based global health challenges.
- Design multi-sectoral approaches that prioritize equity and inclusion.
- Articulate their global competencies in professional resumes and interview protocols.

Final Project

A community-based action plan, developed in teams, that addresses a local issue at the intersection of health and human rights. Teams will present their plans as policy recommendations or pilot initiatives.

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GC Seminar 38 — Student Seminar

May 23-30, 2026

Theme

Migration, Identity, and Belonging

Description

Migration is a cross-cutting issue in the 2030 Agenda, relevant to all of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It shapes communities and identities, raising profound questions about home, belonging, and human dignity. This seminar examines migration as a global reality that challenges individuals and societies to embrace diversity and inclusion. Through the creation of a creative performance or multimedia project, students will cultivate skills in intercultural dialogue and perspective taking, exploring the complexities of migration and potential strategies for fostering inclusive communities where every voice is valued.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the seminar, participants will demonstrate greater willingness and abilities to:

- Reflect critically on their own experiences and biases in relation to migration.
- Analyze how migration influences identity, belonging, and community.
- Use pluralistic, intercultural dialogue and collaboration skills to develop a creative or multimedia project addressing challenges related to migration and identity.
- Develop inclusive solutions that foster belonging across differences.
- Articulate their global competencies in professional resumes and interview protocols.

Final Project

A creative performance or multimedia project (e.g., play, spoken word, short film, visual arts) that depicts challenges and solutions at the intersection of migration, identity, and belonging.

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GC Seminar 39 — Student Seminar

June 2-9, 2026

Theme

Leadership and the SDGs through Entrepreneurial Thinking

Description

Meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires bold innovation and entrepreneurial thinking. This seminar emphasizes how students can design and pitch creative solutions to global challenges by working across disciplines and perspectives. Through dialogue, teamwork, and systems thinking, participants will cultivate leadership and innovation skills essential for advancing sustainable change.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the seminar, participants will demonstrate advanced willingness and abilities to:

- Identify opportunities for innovation linked to the SDGs.
- Develop and pitch solutions informed by global citizenship competencies.
- Collaborate effectively and engage in pluralistic dialogue within diverse teams to design social impact projects.
- Design human-centered entrepreneurial solutions for sustainability challenges.
- Articulate their global competencies in professional resumes and interview protocols.

Final Project

A program proposal and pitch presentation to a panel of peers and faculty, simulating investor or stakeholder engagement for SDG-focused innovations.

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Who Should Attend?

Undergraduate and graduate students from all disciplines who are eager to lead, collaborate, and create change in an interconnected world. Open to both student cohorts from partner institutions and individual applicants worldwide.

GC Seminar 40 — Faculty & Administrator Seminar

July 13-20, 2026

Theme

Re-imagining Global Citizenship Education Through Collaboration and Dialogue

Description

Quality education (SDG 4) is a fundamental human right that is at the heart of the 2030 agenda, facilitating achievement of all other Sustainable Development Goals. Yet global citizenship education—which prepares students to contribute to the goals at local, national, and international levels—is often treated as an "add-on" rather than as framework for facilitating high-quality, transformative teaching and learning. This seminar invites faculty and administrators to localize the SDGs and critically reexamine their current practices through the lens of global citizenship education. We will explore the critical question: "How might we prepare our students for work, life, and civic responsibility through collaborative local and global dialogue and problem solving?" By engaging in dialogue across disciplines and institutions, participants will co-create approaches that cultivate students' capacities to connect perspectives, collaborate inclusively, and act for justice and sustainability.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the seminar, participants will demonstrate advanced willingness and abilities to:

- Critically evaluate current approaches through the lens of global citizenship education.
- Collaborate across roles, disciplines, and institutions to design plans for implementing global citizenship education programs on their home campus.
- Model the core competencies of global citizenship (pluralistic dialogue, collaboration, systems thinking).
- Develop strategies for embedding global citizenship into curricula and institutional practice.

Final Project

A collective impact proposal for implementing or strengthening global citizenship education at the classroom, program, or institutional scale.

Program Format

Global Citizenship Alliance's Faculty & Administrator Seminar is professional learning through global learning. Higher education professionals from institutions of all types across the world participate in an immersive, dialogue-driven, professional learning community to design and embed global citizenship education programs in their curriculum and/or co-curriculum. Using the Alliance's problem-based and collaborative design framework, participants explore global citizenship education as a catalyst for institutional innovation and transformative learning.

Program components include:

- Plenary dialogues with scholars and practitioners addressing global challenges and pedagogical innovation.
- Collaborative design workshops where faculty and administrators co-create strategies to embed global citizenship into courses, programs, and institutional practices.
- Peer learning circles that provide space for sharing campus models, challenges, and success stories.
- Case studies and scenario-based exercises that apply systems thinking and dialogue to real institutional contexts.
- Cross-institutional team projects, culminating in the development of a collective impact proposal for advancing global citizenship education.
- Cultural engagement opportunities in Salzburg, fostering reflection on the historical and global dimensions of education.

Who Should Attend

Higher education faculty, administrators, program directors, and student affairs professionals seeking to integrate global citizenship education into curricula and campus life. Particularly valuable for institutional change agents and global learning champions. Participation is open to both institutional teams from partner institutions and individual applicants globally.



Learn More & Apply

All seminars take place at Schloss Leopoldskron in Salzburg, Austria—a historic setting that inspires reflection, dialogue, and transformative learning.

Whether you are a student ready to develop your global leadership skills or a faculty member or administrator seeking to transform your institution's approach to global citizenship education, we invite you to be part of this unique learning community.

To learn more and apply, visit:
www.GlobalCitizenshipAlliance.org

Questions? Contact us today:

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