

The Global Citizenship Alliance

The Global Citizenship Alliance is an independent, non-profit organization chartered as a 501(c)3 in Oregon and based in Salzburg, Austria.

The Global Citizenship Alliance (Alliance) is dedicated to promoting education for engaged knowledge and responsible action in an interdependent world. It was founded in 2015 as an independent, non-profit organization, however, the origin of this enterprise dates back to 2004 when this work began under the aegis of the Salzburg Global Seminar, a renowned international policy forum based in Salzburg, Austria.

Initially a pioneering effort to promote a critical engagement with the effects of rapid globalization as they relate to the aims and purpose of college educa-

tion, over time the Alliance has succeeded in running one of the most comprehensive and inclusive programs on global citizenship education in the United States. We have:

- partnered with nearly **100 colleges and universities** across the U.S. with a combined total enrollment of nearly one million students
- conducted **more than 100 week-long seminars for students**, as well as faculty and administrators
- involved close to **4,500 participants** of which roughly two-thirds were students and one-third were faculty and administrators

Why Global Citizenship Education?

Never before have the lives of people across the globe been more interconnected than they are today. "We are no longer living in national communities of fate, but in overlapping communities of fate" (David Held). Therefore, we must develop and share the knowledge of how to manage this unprecedented interdependence in a way that makes globalization a positive force for the majority of humankind and not a precept for increasing inequality and conflict. Failure to do so is resulting in damage that jeopardizes the welfare of humanity and the planet we inhabit.

“When a world order breaks down, that is when people begin to think about it.”

- Ulrich Beck (2011)

Approach

The Alliance's focus is on institutional development and change with the goal of enabling colleges and universities to graduate students who are aware of their place in a globalizing world, have a sound understanding of the challenges we are confronting, and are willing and able to make a positive difference in the world.

Our programs offer a unique combination of intense, short-term study abroad experiences for students and weeklong workshops for faculty and administrators aimed at initiating, promoting, and informing strategies for global citizenship education through-

out the campus and making it part of the institutional fabric. (For more detailed information please refer to the back page.)

Until recently, programs were held exclusively in Salzburg, however the Alliance is in the process of expanding its areas of operations to additional locations in Europe, the U.S., and other parts of the world.

Outcomes

Thanks to their participation in the Alliance, partner institutions have reinforced their commitment to global citizenship education by:

- re-orienting **mission/vision statements, strategic plans and student learning outcomes**
- creating countless new **courses, programs, certificates** etc.
- building critical mass among faculty and administrators to launch and sustain **institutional-wide change processes**
- formulating their own, institution-specific responses to their students' **global literacy and engagement**

By virtue of their involvement in the Alliance, partner institutions have won **prestigious national awards** for their achievements in promoting global citizenship education such as NAFSA's Paul Simon Awards for International Education, the Andrew Heiskell Awards for Innovation in International Education by the Institute for International Education, and "Top 10 Programs on Global Citizen Diplomacy" conferred by the US Center for Citizen Diplomacy.

Becoming Involved

Our programs are open to any college or university which commits to:

- bringing students to our **student seminars**
- sending faculty/administrators to our **faculty programs**
- working with us to develop more **tailored local programs**, such as workshops or short seminars focusing on specific institutional needs
- or any combination of the above

Some institutions focus initially or solely on the institutional/faculty development aspect while others see Alliance programs as primarily an opportunity for student learning and travel.

It is possible to become involved with the Alliance by initially sending a smaller number of students or faculty/administrators to one of our programs in order to get a sense of our work and ascertain if and how a deeper partnership and larger commitment might be possible and beneficial.

Costs of participation* (as of 2025)

- **US\$2,450** per person for Student Seminars and **US\$ 1,900** per faculty advisor accompanying a student group
- **US\$3,250** per person for Faculty & Administrators seminars

*Includes all program fees and full room & board.



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Two Major Hallmarks

Our partner institutions and alumni represent the broadest possible spectrum of U.S. higher education. For the Alliance, two features of our community stand out: diversity and inclusion.

1. Our participants come from some of the largest urban community colleges and some of the smallest rural liberal arts colleges in the U.S.; from typical public universities and private institutions. An engineering or biology student

2. From the beginning, community colleges have been a driving force within the Alliance (overall, more than half of the total number of participants in the Alliance's programs came via community colleges). By bringing the very best and brightest of their students to an academically rigorous program, community colleges add an enormous wealth of diversity to our seminars which enriches the exploration of the multiple dimensions of global citizenship. Discussions change when they include the voices and perspectives of "Dreamers", minorities, socio-economically disadvantaged students, veterans, students who

might sit and learn next to someone studying social work or nursing; a dean of a business school next to an adjunct professor from the music department, an LGBTQ activist next to a climate change skeptic. It takes the knowledge and involvement of all of these individuals to transform colleges and universities into sites of global citizenship education. Cross-national, cross-campus, interdisciplinary engagement is critical to success.

are parents or who both study and work full-time. Thanks to the ongoing strong commitment of community colleges to the Alliance, it is not unusual for a seminar to include participants from over ten different countries who often bear witness to the impact of rapid globalization from the viewpoint of developing or emerging economies.

Program

The Alliance, along with its partner colleges and universities in the U.S., offers weeklong seminars for students as well as for faculty, administrators and staff.

The *seminars for students* provide a space for participants to critically engage with the central questions of the new global world order. In an international setting, participants have the opportunity to encounter perspectives that literally and figuratively lie outside the borders of the U.S. What does globalization mean for our economic, political, cultural and social realities and what are our civic responsibilities in the context of the changes brought on by globalization? In what

ways does the often disruptive impact of globalization require new forms of cooperation that simultaneously include and transcend the nation state? What does it mean to be a global citizen in an interdependent world and how can we translate this knowledge into action - in one's everyday personal and professional life? With changing thematic foci (e.g. sustainable development, human rights, refugees and migration), the seminars expose students to the idea of cosmopolitanism in a way that allows participants to develop the knowledge and commitment to attach their own meaning to the adage of "think globally, act locally."

The *seminars for faculty, administrators, and staff* focus primarily on supporting partner institutions as they develop strategies and programs to make education for responsible global citizenship the converging point in their students' quest for knowledge and identity. This requires higher education institutions to determine what students need to know (regardless of the discipline they study) in order to lead productive and rewarding lives as future professionals and as active citizens within an increasingly interdependent world struggling for balance. To meet this challenge, our seminars provide a space for members of college and university communi-

ties to reflect on their overarching missions and develop innovative ways to re-orient their teaching and research. Including the broad concepts of global citizenship and engagement into the institutional fabric of the specific institutions requires a long-term institutional commitment. Starting and sustaining this type of work also requires the engagement and support of a dedicated group of critical stakeholders composed of the faculty, staff, and administrators. Our seminars often serve as the catalyst for establishing, maintaining, and expanding such dedicated groups.

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Related Program – Mellon Global Citizenship Program

From 2008 to 2017, under the auspices of the Salzburg Global Seminar, the founders of the Global Citizenship Alliance have been working with a select group of colleges and universities from the Appalachian College Association and Historically Black Colleges and Universities on global citizenship education approaches, and models for both institutional development and

student learning. This program has allowed us to develop domestic seminar models that include domestic seminars and workshops, an annual global citizenship summit, shared visits of advisors and speakers among a group of institutions, study away programs, and undergraduate research activities. The program is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.