

FALL | 2023

# RED HAWKS ABROAD

A newsletter from International Academic Initiatives

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## 2023-24: Faculty-Led Programs

International Academic Initiatives (IAI) reviewed and will run many programs this year, all safely done through state procurement with excellent risk management. Our three spring break 2024 programs, Montclair in Iceland (EAES), Montclair in London (ENGL & THTR), and Montclair in Austria (ENTR), are built and nearly enrolled. For **May/June 2024** and **Summer 2024** programs, we need help to recruit students to these career-boosting opportunities:

### **May/June 2024**

- Montclair in **Greece**: Greek Civilizations (HUMN)
- Montclair in **Costa Rica**: Global Marketing in South America (INBS)
- Montclair in **South Korea**: Historic and Contemporary Perspectives (KORE)
- Montclair in **Morocco**: Media and Business Immersion (MLT/SPIN/ITAL & FMTV)
- Montclair in **Germany**: Berlin & Munich (GERM & WRIT)
- Dance in **India** (Kochi, Mumbai & Bangalore) (DNCE)

### **Summer 2024**

- Montclair in **Italy**: Archeology Field school at the Villa de Antonines (HUMN)
- Montclair in **Sicily**: Culture and Sustainability (HIST)
- Montclair in **Scotland**: Global Business Skills of Golf (HSET)
- Theatre in **Italy**: Rome & Florence (THTR)

**To learn more, and to help our IAI office and your faculty colleagues to enroll these credit-bearing study programs, visit [montclair.edu/study-abroad/explore-programs](http://montclair.edu/study-abroad/explore-programs)**

## Semester Study Abroad

Montclair IAI sent a record number of 36 Red Hawks abroad in summer 2023, and we have also advised and sent robust numbers of students abroad for Fall 2023 and AY 23-24. Students have been taking courses in Australia, Austria, Canada, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, South Korea, and the U.K.

We have a *new exchange* with **Groupe EDH in France**, and Red Hawk **Danielle Colon** (pictured left) is studying in Paris in Fall '23. We also revived exchange with Victoria University in Australia, sending **Luke Han** (pictured right, in back), also in Fall '23.





## Fulbright Focus: Emily Wong



We are thrilled to share that **Emily Wong** was named **Finalist in the Fulbright U.S. Student Program** and is serving as an English Teaching Assistant (ETA) in **Germany in 2023-24**. She graduated in May 2023 with a major in Music Education and a Minor in German. In her time as a Montclair Red Hawk, Emily was a highly active musician at the Cali School of Music. She taught violin to children and also did excellent work in the German SPARK Lab and the German Club.

Her career goal is to become a NJ public school teacher. In Bavaria as a Fulbright ETA, Emily (pictured right) will utilize her cross-cultural skills as a first-generation Chinese-American to connect with young German students. She will help them with English phrases and vocabulary, while also engaging the community as an ambassador.



## Fulbright: 24 Red Hawks “Hit Submit”



Our IAI team advised a record number of applicants for the **U.S. Student Program** in 2023. As a result of our investment in advising, **24 Red Hawks “hit submit” with complete applications** by the October deadline. To celebrate this record, as well as our faculty, staff, and students who were awarded Fulbrights previously, we hosted a first annual **Fulbright Reception** on October 10, 2023. We were grateful to invite faculty who helped with mentoring, advising, and recommendations. Also in attendance were our graduate student Fulbrighters in the **Foreign Student Program**, Montclair faculty awarded through the **U.S. Scholar Program**, and other staff and administrators who helped us recruit. We were thrilled to feature remarks by our President Jonathan GS Koppell, himself a Fulbrighter in Shanghai in 2003-04. President Koppell delivered an inspiring speech about the transformative power of international education. Our 24 students who “hit submit” came from wide and diverse backgrounds, with majors in Acting, Animation, Education, German, Justice Studies, Nutrition, and more. Faculty interested in applying for their own Fulbright awards are invited to contact **Montclair’s U.S. Scholar Liaison, Dr. David Schwarzer**.

## Visiting Scholar Program

This program resumed in September 2022. Our process begins when a full-time Montclair faculty member submits an **application (linked here)** to become host faculty for a proposed international scholar, who would visit their department on a J-1 visa for research, projects, workshops, etc.. Applications need endorsement by Chairs and Deans, and must benefit both our university and the research agenda of the visiting scholar. Host faculty should make sure to begin their applications well in advance, at a minimum 4 months before the start date.



# New Study Abroad Office location: Cole 319

Student interest in study abroad opportunities and Fulbright remains very strong. Both the IAI team as well as the Provost's Office, where we report, recognize that is vital for our Red Hawks to have a centralized location for student advising, information sessions, and staff support of students. Our **student-facing office** at **Cole Hall 319** has quickly become very busy with walk-ins, scheduled advising, and other student support services. All students, as well as our staff and faculty allies and partners, are invited to visit us in the new space.

## New Colleague

The IAI team is glad to welcome colleague **Mariella Hernandez** to the Feliciano School of Business. She was hired in 2023 as Director of Global Programs and Partnerships at Feliciano. Mariella brings a wealth of experience in partnerships and global programs from Peru, and she already works closely with IAI on many projects.



## Global Village and Global Belongings



Exchange Students on our Fall 2023 Walking Tour of Lower Manhattan and the Brooklyn Bridge



The IAI Office is proud to announce the revival of a *Global Village Living-Learning Community* at the Village Apartments, Alice Paul Hall, starting in Fall 2023. Through a partnership with *Residence Life*, we place inbound exchange students in apartments and on hallways with other international exchange students, NSE students, and domestic Red Hawks. In line with the goals of the J-1 visa program, these students commingle with domestic students in meaningful ways outside the classroom. Notably, we offer all Global Village residents premiere and no-cost excursions into NYC for academic walking tours of multicultural neighborhoods. We also sponsor programming about cultural heritage, game nights, and social events.

We have also launched *Global Belongings*, which sustainably provides dormitory supplies such as sheets, comforters, pillows, appliances, decor, and kitchen equipment to Global Village residents at Alice Paul, free of charge. Some items are purchased new, while others are gathered sustainably on move-out days, cleaned and stored, and then offered to new residents at move-in. Rather than having to furnish an apartment entirely on their own, one- or two-semester exchange students can benefit from the belongings already brought into Alice Paul by prior students.

## Study Abroad Peer Advisors (SAPAs)

Red Hawks who want to study abroad are advised and supported by a volunteer staff of **Study Abroad Peer Advisors (SAPAs)**, all participants in prior study abroad programs. SAPAs share details of their programs with interested students, volunteer at fairs and events, and visit classrooms to allow Red Hawks to learn about study abroad from peers. They also connect with inbound exchange students on excursions and at events, and work on featuring study abroad in resumes and in interviews, as part of their own career development. Pictured to right are SAPA Aisha Khateeb, Program Associate for Inbound Exchange and Campus Engagement Brooke Klinger, exchange students, and other SAPAs.



# Erasmus funding for faculty and students

Our IAI office successfully applied for Erasmus funding in conjunction with our long-standing partner, the University of Graz, and we were funded for faculty and student mobilities in 2024-25. The faculty opportunity will be some funding for a short duration visit to Graz, Austria in the summer or fall of 2024, while the student opportunity will be for semester study at Uni Graz in Fall 2024 or Spring 2025. Students will be given the opportunity to apply via our website's scholarships page. For faculty interested in submitting a proposal, visit [montclair.edu/international-academic-initiatives/faculty-resources](https://montclair.edu/international-academic-initiatives/faculty-resources) to learn more, and note the proposal **deadline of Feb. 15th, 2024**.

## Call for Proposals: Faculty-Led Programs, 2025 Submit by Feb. 15th, 2024 for consideration

Faculty who are interested in taking students abroad in January 2025, Spring 2025, or Summer 2025 should submit through our IAI Request for Proposals process by the **deadline of Feb. 15th, 2024**. More details regarding the RFP and application will soon appear here: [montclair.edu/study-abroad/faculty-get-involved-with-study-abroad](https://montclair.edu/study-abroad/faculty-get-involved-with-study-abroad) Going through our process ensures that our students, faculty, and staff traveling abroad will be informed and safe, while also protecting the University and its employees from exposure to liability. All proposals should be written by the proposed lead instructor, and will need review and signature by the relevant Chair and Dean. Faculty interested in learning about how these programs work are invited to join the **Faculty-Led Programs Workshop** on Zoom, **Wed. January 17th from 2:30-4pm**. Updates about the **Zoom link** and workshop topics will be posted on the website noted above.



Red Hawks on a faculty-led program in Genzano, Italy, in Summer 2023

**“It was truly life changing for me. ... I feel so grateful for the opportunity to experience a different culture.”**

Nolan Clark, faculty-led program student, *Montclair In Sicily: Culture and Sustainability*, Summer 2023



Red Hawks on a faculty-led program in Sicily in Summer 2023



Faculty-Led Program in Graz, Austria

# Health, Safety, & Risk Management

International Academic Initiatives was established within the Office of the Provost to create one central location for approving programs with study abroad and travel outside of the U.S., and to manage the associated risk to students, faculty, and staff beyond what is expected on our campus in Montclair. Risk management protocols have been designed by IAI to not only keep our students, faculty, and staff informed and safe, but to protect the University and its employees from exposure to liability. Therefore, all Montclair faculty or staff must receive approval from IAI in accordance with its processes and protocols to create a study abroad program, and, without such approval, are not authorized to travel with students outside of the United States. Faculty who create study abroad programs outside of the United States without IAI approval are subject to University action in accordance with their collective bargaining agreement.

## In order to receive approval from IAI for a Faculty-led study abroad program, the following is required:

- 1. State Department Travel Advisory – Program Approval:** The Office of Academic Initiatives will only approve program proposals from faculty/staff travel with students that involve study abroad in locations with a Level 1 Travel Advisory by the U.S. State Department, unless the regional details of the Level 2 Advisory demonstrate no undue risk. Under no circumstance would travel with students be approved in countries assigned a Travel Advisory Level 3 or 4.
- 2. State Department Travel Advisory Levels – Cancellation:** IAI has sole authority to cancel itineraries of faculty/staff traveling with students in the event the State Department raises the Travel Advisory above Level 1 or 2 after a program was initially approved by IAI, depending upon the risks assessed.

IAI was tasked with developing a risk management strategy in 2020 spurred by the pandemic and its impact on international programs. In 2021, a thorough consultant's report was secured from the highly reputable *Forum for Education Abroad*, who worked in partnership with IAI and University Counsel. We developed the following **four risk management protocols** from this report. Montclair State University requires all faculty/staff traveling with students in connection with programs approved by IAI to complete 1, 2, 3, and 4 below. Faculty and staff traveling abroad for "University related" purposes, but not with students, are highly encouraged to complete protocols 1, 2, 3, and 4.

## Risk Management Protocols

### 1. Travel Registry:

It is required that travelers enter dates of travel and destinations, ensuring that University officials get immediate alerts in the event of natural disasters, terrorist actions, unrest, or other events in close proximity.

### 2. Alert Traveler:

Travelers must download the Alert Traveler app to a phone device and activate it. Free to University students, faculty, and staff, this app provides location-based safety alerts about natural disasters, dangerous storms, terrorist threats, strikes, protests, or other events that are imminent and nearby.

### 3. S.T.E.P. Enrollment:

All students, faculty and staff traveling must enroll in this free service from the State Department. It provides vital info about safety conditions of the destination, and in emergencies it helps the U.S. embassy locate the individual and helps friends and family initiate contact.

### 4. Travel/Medical/ Int. Health Insurance:

In cases where student, faculty, or staff insurance is insufficient for international medical, evacuation, or emergency support, it is required that a traveler sign up for an affordable international health insurance plan. The cost and coverage is determined by duration of travel and IAI advises on what is necessary.

Covid policies for faculty-led study abroad are fully aligned with Montclair State University's policies in regard to vaccinations, religious/medical waivers, which are [available here](#).



# A Tale of Two Offices: IAI & Global Engagement

Montclair has undergone changes in the structure of international/global programs, and we wanted to make sure colleagues know where to direct questions, inquiries, and projects. There is some confusion as the two main offices in question, the **Office of Global Engagement** (OGE) and the **Office of International Academic Initiatives** (IAI), were once unified. Gone are the days of the unified *Global Education Center*, or *Office of International Engagement*. Instead, as of 2021, we have OGE and IAI, serving different functions as outlined below. (We should note that there is one exception: If a full-time faculty or staff line goes to an international candidate requiring an H1-B visa, this is handled by Elizabeth Gill of University Counsel.)

## International Academic Initiatives

### Division: Academic Affairs

International Academic Initiatives (IAI) is a function of the Office of the Provost, reporting to Associate Provost Dr. Katia Paz Goldfarb. The portfolio of this office includes semester study abroad and study away (National Student Exchange), summer study abroad, faculty-led programs, agreements and partnerships for student exchange, in bound exchange student services and support, the Montclair Visiting Scholars program, Fulbright advising for the U.S. Student Program and the U.S. Scholar Program, and support for faculty efforts to internationalize Montclair's courses and curriculum. IAI works closely with the Registrar and Department Chairs on course equivalencies for study abroad, liaises with Residence Life for inbound exchange student housing, and maintains robust campus engagement to connect as many Red Hawks as possible to credit-bearing study abroad and post-graduate Fulbright opportunities. They are located in [Cole 319](#).

#### Contact the IAI staff for more information about:

- study abroad course enrollment requirements, application processes, and program options
- National Student Exchange and summer abroad
- faculty-led programs
- international partnerships and agreements for student exchange, faculty exchange, or other academic collaborations not related to degree-seeking enrollment.
- inbound exchange student recruitment and support services, for everything except the visa
- the Fulbright U.S. Student Program and Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program
- the Montclair Visiting Scholar Program in all aspects, except for the visa
- International projects requiring approval or support from Academic Affairs
- academic internationalization efforts/initiatives

## Global Engagement

### Division: Enrollment Management

The Office of Global Engagement (OGE) is led by Assistant Vice President Dr. Cristiana Kunyczka. OGE is Montclair's primary resource of services to all incoming and current F-1 and J-1 visa students. They serve as a liaison with the US Department of Homeland Security to ensure the University and students remain compliant with federal regulations governing student visas. In addition, this office is responsible for recruiting and enrolling degree-seeking F-1 and J-1 international students, planning and hosting comprehensive international graduate student orientations, assisting incoming and current F-1 and J-1 visa students with their immigration-related questions (including issuing the initial documentation needed to apply for a student visa), hosting cultural programming, and supporting J-1 visiting scholars with their immigration process. The office serves as a resource for all faculty and staff who have questions about F-1 and J-1 compliance issues. They are located in [Cole 148](#).

#### Contact the OGE staff for more information about:

- Recruitment of degree-seeking international students, both undergraduate and graduate, contracts, partnerships, or agreements for the recruitment of degree-seeking students
- F-1 or J-1 visa process, immigration status, rules and regulations
- F-1 and J-1 student employment questions, requests, and approvals
- English language proficiency requirements for J-1 exchange visitors
- Programming for international degree-seeking and J-1 visiting students, such as International Education Week, International Friendsgiving, Culture Care and Share, immigration workshops, and other events on campus (some co-sponsored with other offices)
- Departmental presentations on FAQs of international students

