Global Studies Program

Overview

Global Studies (GLST) prepares students for international, bilingual, and cross-cultural careers in business, international organizations and the non-profit sector. GLST is a unique interdisciplinary program that draws on the rich offering of international courses in departments all across campus. Core courses in anthropology, economics, geography, history, and politics lay the foundation for electives in these and other fields such as communications, law, ethnic studies, sociology, women’s studies, and business.

GLST offers maximum flexibility and the opportunity for each student to personalize his or her education according to individual interest and career goals. The program encourages student initiative and exploration to develop a course of study that is at once fulfilling, academically rigorous, and which facilitates the transition to career choices. A strong advising program (an average of three contacts per year) ensures that students are taking the courses and getting the tutoring they need.

All students achieve competency in a language other than English; many start a third or fourth language. Forty percent of GLST students participate in study abroad. All others perform internships either locally or overseas. Most GLST students are active in the programs at the International House, or belong to one of the many international clubs on campus. Graduating students report a high level of satisfaction with the program. In the 2019 exit survey, all graduating seniors praised the program, crediting the GLST major with helping them improve their academic skills and achieving their personal goals.

Career Opportunities

The GLST major enriches the global understanding of students seeking any career path. Many GLST graduates seek employment in rapidly expanding international careers. They gain the extra edge that foreign language competency and international experience provide. Companies in every country are going global and seek employees with international perspectives. Some students are dedicated to careers in the growing non-profit humanitarian field. Others seek careers in international organizations or in diplomacy. Recent graduates have worked in the computer industry, in translation services, for cultural and environmental organizations, in banking, tourism, teaching and for a variety of humanitarian and human rights organizations. Others pursue graduate studies in international relations, regional studies, business, international policy studies or law.

Most Popular Emphases

International Business and Economics, International Organizations and Law, Cross-Cultural Studies, Comparative Studies, Global Environment, International Women’s Studies, Human Rights, Latin America, Middle East and Africa, Asia

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Community Outreach

- Global Studies Student Organization
- Lectures on Global Studies and visits to community colleges
- Community service internships with human rights, immigrant services, refugee settlement, peace and justice, fair trade, educational exchange, and international diplomacy organizations.

Student and Alumni

Twenty percent of alums attend graduate school, law school, or MBA programs.

- Jessica Burt Smith, ’02, is a deputy public defender in the Santa Clara County Public Defender’s Office.
- Amber Butts, ’19, is in the MA Program in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) at CSU, San Bernardino.
- Chelsea De Mesa, ’19, is a core assurance associate at PricewaterhouseCoopers (one of the “Big Four” accounting firms).
- Ikuko Dearinge, ’18, is in the MA Program in International Relations at San Francisco State University.
- Nathan Failing, ’00, works for International Educational Tours.
- Raymond Fraters, ’01, is an English teacher in Kyoto, Japan.
- Miguel Gaitan, ’17, is a paralegal at Mathews & Peddibhotla Law Group.
- Alvin Jaimes, ‘19, is in the MA Program in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) at San Francisco State University.
- Mihaela Muntean, ‘02, is a property manager.
- Mohamet Lamine Ndiaye, ’00, works for Oxfam in West Africa.
- Rheeze Ng, ’05, teaches English in Beijing, China.
- Drayson Ngiraingas, ‘18, is a senior recruiter/account manager at ATC Healthcare.
- Frank Noey, ’03, is a legal officer in the U.S. Navy.
- Luis Ojeda, ’01, does management reporting and analysis for Charles Schwab, and was a Fulbright Scholar in Spain.
- Cameron Olson, ’20, is an operations manager at Stanford University.
- Itsuyo Oshiba, ’05, works for the European Aeronautics, Defense, and Space Company.
- Raphael Timmons, ‘18, is a social studies teacher at George Washington Academy in Morocco.
- Alexa Velazquez, ’17, is a sales manager at Aero Precision in Livermore.

Faculty

Professors

Michael D. Lee (Anthropology, Geography and Environmental Studies), Ph.D. London School of Economics (England)
Maria C. Ortuoste (Political Science), Ph.D. Arizona State University
Andrew Wong (Anthropology, Geography and Environmental Studies), Ph.D. Stanford University
Meiling Wu (Modern Languages and Literatures), Ph.D. State University of New York at Binghamton

Associate Professors

Ekin Alakent (Management), Ph.D. University of Texas at Dallas
Vahid Fozdar (History), Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley
Marcelo Paz (Modern Languages and Literatures), Ph.D. University of Cincinnati