ILR Global Scholars Program

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What makes this an international curriculum?

The ILR Global Scholars program was started in the Fall of 2012 to motivate eligible ILR students to more formally incorporate a global perspective into their education and deepen their intercultural competence in preparation for the global world of work. Those students who are accepted into the program and complete all requirements graduate with a special “Global Scholar” designation on their transcript.

Rising juniors with a GPA of 3.6 or above are eligible to enter the Global Scholars program, which is officially managed by faculty in the Department of International and Comparative Labor. Upon entry, they are expected to identify a faculty advisor with whom they develop a plan for the courses and international experiences in which they will participate to complete the program. The criteria for completion of the program include the following:

- **International experience:** At least one significant international experience in a country outside the United States and which differs from one’s country of origin while matriculated as an undergraduate at the ILR School. International experiences must be longer than one month in duration and be anchored around courses, research, or service learning projects. Examples of eligible international experiences include: study abroad for a semester or a year, international credit internship, participation in a service learning program overseas, and collecting data for one’s honors thesis abroad.

- **Language requirement:** The equivalent of 12 language credits in a single foreign language (i.e., three consecutive courses), with at least one of the courses at the 2000 level. Language courses taken while studying abroad can be counted towards this requirement. Alternatively, a student may pass out of this language requirement by passing a Cornell Advanced Standing Exam in a language in which s/he is proficient.

- **International Course Requirements:** In addition to the one International/Comparative course that is required of all ILR students, Global Scholars are required to take four additional International/Comparative courses. All courses must be taken for a letter grade. Of the five total International/Comparative courses that are required, three of them must be taken inside of ILR. These courses can be selected from a list of courses that have been pre-approved by ILR as fulfilling the International/Comparative requirement, but they need not be. If approved by the student’s advisor, up to two of the five courses may be taken elsewhere in the university to fulfill the requirement. In order to facilitate the development of a global rather than regional perspective, students are only permitted to take three of the five courses on any single region of the world; the remaining two courses must focus on other regions of the world. While students who choose to study abroad are encouraged to take international courses, only one of the courses taken while studying abroad can count towards the requirements. Similarly, only
the equivalent of one course’s worth of independent study or honors thesis credits can count towards the requirements. Finally, students are permitted to combine two 7-week, 2-credit courses to count as one full-semester course.

- **Reflective senior paper:** Students are required to write a reflective learning paper of approximately 10 pages under the guidance of their faculty advisor during their senior year. Although the parameters of the paper are flexible and co-determined with one’s advisor, students are expected to reflect upon their international experiences as they relate to their personal, intellectual, and professional growth.
- **Cumulative GPA:** Earn a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher at the time of graduation.

**How has the international experience been integrated into the curriculum?**

This program is highly integrated into the existing ILR curriculum, as 3 out of the 5 required International/Comparative courses must be taken within ILR, and students must be advised by an ILR faculty member and engage in an ILR-approved international experience. Students who successfully complete program requirements are officially recognized by ILR both at graduation and on their transcripts. Besides graduating with honors, the Global Scholars designation is the only other special designation that students can earn on their ILR transcript.

**What are the intended student learning outcomes of the internationalized curriculum related to knowledge generation, changed attitudes, and developed skills, and how do you assess them?**

Most of the requirements for the Global Scholars Program consist of courses taken for academic credit; in these instances, learning outcomes are assessed through the courses themselves. The less tangible forms of personal growth and learning are meant to be captured through the reflections students share in their senior reflection paper. In addition, students who participate in ILR-sponsored global service learning programs for their international experience are required to complete reflective writing assignments during their overseas experience as well as after they return to ILR.