

Global Scholar Prize Committee Suggestions and Expectations

The Global Scholar Selection Committee is composed of five faculty members representing a variety of academic departments at USC. The Spring 2010 Selection Committee was interviewed and asked to share suggestions, insights, and hints for effective Global Scholar capstone projects and essays. Their feedback is collected here.

The most important issues to address in a Global Scholar capstone project or essay are as follows:

- A. Explain the true and meaningful connection between your experiences abroad and your academic experiences on campus at USC.
- B. Describe your personal growth through this experience and the impact it has had on your academic life thereafter.
- C. Demonstrate deep investigation and research into a particular topic complimented by a wide-range of engagement in the country where you become more knowledgeable of an area through your own personal experience.
- D. Identify how the experience has encouraged you to address global concerns and make transnational connections.
- E. Consider and discuss what it means to be a global citizen and global scholar. Demonstrate how you can and will apply this perspective to your chosen field of study and/or career.

Global Scholarship is more than visiting diverse places or volunteering in a variety of programs. Global scholarship is learning that changes your understanding of your own life, your community, and the world and impacts your decisions, judgments, and actions.

It is necessary that a capstone project speak to all the learning objectives for the Global Scholars Program. The Six Learning Outcomes expected of a Global Scholar are listed below.

1. Engage in international activities
2. Raise your global literacy
3. Increase intercultural competence
4. Expand awareness of global interdependence
5. Critique knowledge from a global perspective
6. Develop your own global perspective

The capstone project can concentrate on a single experience or include information from several experiences.

A cohesive experience that relates your travels in a particular area to your decision to get involved in a related area of scholarship, service, or leadership is the typical Global Scholar submission. If, however, you can make meaningful connections between several experiences, explain how your scholarship was advanced through each experience, and show they have together impacted you and led you to develop a truly global perspective then include all of them and how they are connected.

If your experiences have been short volunteer trips or personal travel, or if they do not necessarily reflect related topics then it is best not to include them in your submission. Discuss several experiences by considering their interconnectivity and how they have together impacted your life since.

The Top Tips for Prospective Global Scholar Applicants

Research the country and its culture to which you plan to travel in advance. Explore its history, watch films from the region, and read literature from native authors. Raise questions in advance about the country and discuss them with a faculty mentor, particularly someone who has experience in that area as well.

This should be a true international experience. Avoid sounding like you had a great trip. The grant does not support students who had a great time studying abroad, but rather students who are fundamentally different in their thinking and perspectives given their experiences abroad and are using this uniqueness to impact their chosen career path or field of study.

Be critically reflective before, during, and after the experience. Explore how you think, act, and make decisions along the way and consider if your thinking, actions, or decision-making has changed once you return.

Use the six Global Scholar Learning Outcomes as prompts for preparing your capstone project.

If you are using several experiences explain specifically how they are interdependent. One experience should influence another and so on.