USC Global Scholar Distinction
School Criteria for Capstone Project

Use this guide to review the Capstone Project Requirements specified by each USC Academic School. All other eligibility and application instructions can be found on the Academic Honors and Fellowships Commencement Honors website under Global Scholars. Students enrolled in academic programs in multiple USC Schools (e.g. Dornsife and Marshall) may select which School’s criteria they prefer to follow.

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School of Communication

The essential criterion for a Global Scholars submission for Communication majors is that the work advance an original argument that relates to some area in International Communication, such as Global Media, Intercultural Communication, or International Communication Technology. Recognizing that an argument may be advanced through a range of different media, the project may take any number of forms. Therefore, while entries may be presented in standard research paper format (with or without multi-media components), we also encourage the submission of work that is entirely multimedia in its presentation, such as a video, documentary film or website. Global Scholar applicants should submit work that relates directly to their own international experience, and should take advantage of the Reflective Essay as an opportunity to explain that relationship.

School of Journalism

Public Relations and Journalism students are encouraged to submit a capstone project on a transformative international experience that has broadly reframed the student’s sensibilities and awareness of global issues. For Public Relations students, this might mean a project that explores fundamental differences in the way public relations is practiced in Asia or Europe compared with the U.S. For Journalism students, the capstone might be a comparative narrative that explores immigration in the European Union compared with the U.S. Other possible projects might explore areas such as economics, diplomacy, education or the arts. The capstone project will be judged on its clarity and depth and its effectiveness in explicating global issues. The work submitted by Global Scholar applicants should directly relate to their own international experience, and have the potential to strengthen the student’s career options by enhancing and deepening their understanding of diverse cultures.
Submission Criteria

Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy students will submit a research paper or project that explores issues in their academic field using resources and knowledge learned during their studies both at USC and abroad.
USC Global Scholar Distinction  
Davis School of Gerontology  

Submission Criteria

Gerontology student projects should focus on Global Issues in Aging. This essay should include references to reports and research projects the student may have completed abroad. If the international experience involved original research, the student will be encouraged to present at USC’s Undergraduate Research Symposium.
Dornsife students will submit a **capstone paper or project** that draws on resources and knowledge of perspectives on global issues encountered while overseas. Think of the capstone project as an academic translation of a transformative experience (the transformative experience could be academic, work-related, or service-oriented). The capstone project should clearly show that your global experience has had a major impact on your academic life at USC as well as your future as a scholar and citizen. Because of the diversity of academic programs within the Dornsife College it is difficult to narrow down a specific format for submission. Students are encouraged to submit a capstone project that resembles work from their field of study. Common formats include research papers, business proposals, and service leadership projects, but other formats are welcome.

All students should include a one-page **executive summary** that briefly introduces the ideas discussed in the capstone project, acting as a link between the reflective essay and the capstone project.

Students are highly encouraged to discuss their project ideas with a faculty mentor, someone they have studied with at USC or abroad, or the program advisor listed below.
Senior Project Documentation

In addition to the reflective essay, the project documentation may be presented in a variety of formats including a standard academic paper, presentation, or video. Students are encouraged to include links to multimedia elements, visual samples, photography of products, business models, and other supporting items.

The international experiences of IYA students should have inspired and influenced substantive elements of their contributions to a senior project. The experiences in their 10-week international immersion should have clear impacts on their academic work, domain knowledge and substantive efforts on their project. Students can combine multiple international experiences to fulfill the 10-week requirement.

Academy students will submit a project that exemplifies evidence of creative research and investigation that has been inspired by and evolved directly from their international experience. This project should demonstrate a wide-range of engagement in the country and address the global influences and concerns that influenced the work as a whole. The project will be evaluated on presentation, innovation and originality of ideas.
USC Global Scholar Distinction
Keck School of Medicine

Submission Criteria

Health Promotion and Global Health students applying for recognition as Global Scholars must submit an *academic* or *scholarly* work that demonstrates a significant understanding of global health issues. Projects may be directly based on or simply informed by the student’s experience(s) abroad. Written projects should be 10-15 pages in length.

Possible projects include:

- Research paper on an international public health issue as it manifests in or affects a specific country, locality or community.
- Comparative analysis of specific health policies and/or their implementation in different countries.
- Scientific investigation of health behavior or disease from a global perspective.
- A scholarly essay that describes the candidate’s contributions to health promotion efforts abroad. For example, service-learning or community service projects may be framed and contextualized vis-à-vis public health policy or health education practices.
- Students may propose other formats for the capstone project, but must do so in consultation with HP advisors.
USC Global Scholar Distinction
Marshall School of Business
and Leventhal School of Accounting

Submission Criteria

USC Marshall/Leventhal students should focus their capstone projects on a topic or issue pertinent to an undergraduate business/accounting education and draw upon a student’s academic work, co-curricular involvements, and international experiences. It should relate to at least one of the countries of immersion but does not need to incorporate all cities/countries that make up the 10-week immersive experience. The submission may be presented in a variety of formats including a standard research paper, PowerPoint slides or video submission. Students may propose other formats that are appropriate to their academic and international experiences. Students enrolled in academic programs in multiple USC Schools (e.g. Dornsife and Marshall) may select which School’s criteria they prefer to follow.

Selection Process

All candidates for the Discovery Scholar designation will be asked to submit completed papers/projects for evaluation by a Marshall/Leventhal review committee. These will be judged on the criteria noted above.

Additional Information

Marshall/Leventhal students are encouraged to attend a school-sponsored information session. Several are offered in the late fall and early spring semesters. Information sessions review the application and submission process, selection criteria, selection process and examples of submissions that were recognized with a Global Discovery designation in previous years. Information on these information sessions is emailed to all seniors. Candidates are also encouraged to seek out and consult with a USC Marshall/Leventhal faculty member who can advise them on their topic, focus and writing.
USC Global Scholar Distinction
Price School of Public Policy

Submission Criteria

A substantive project of high quality that integrates or explores concepts related to issues that correspond to the mission of the Sol Price School of Public Policy, e.g., public policy, public management, urban planning, health care, urban development, international development etc. The student should do this in conjunction with a faculty advisor.
USC Global Scholar Distinction  
Roski School of Art and Design  

Submission Criteria

Roski students will submit a portfolio that exemplifies evidence of creative research and investigation into a particular topic of their choice; a topic that has been inspired by and evolved directly from their international experience. This project should demonstrate a wide-range of engagement in the country and address the global influences and concerns that influenced the work as a whole. The portfolio will be evaluated on presentation, innovation and originality of ideas.
Music industry majors may submit original research projects focused on international issues of importance to the global music industry, with a focus on the host country. The project may deal with the differences between the industry in the US and in the host country, or with more global issues.

For composers and performers, the entry may be an original research project reflecting on what the student has learned about the international music world from his or her stay abroad, or may be a portfolio of works completed, performed, or learned while abroad, with an accompanying narrative.

Submissions will be evaluated on the basis of depth, originality, artistic content (when applicable), and quality and organization of writing. The evaluation will also take into account the way in which the student demonstrates the relevance of the study abroad to his or her submission.
USC Global Scholar Distinction
USC School of Architecture

Submission Criteria

Architectures students will submit a portfolio of a design studio project or projects that are developed in a global context or series of global contexts, as well as additional thematic work that has built on your global experiences.
Submission Criteria

Cinematic Arts students will submit a capstone project that may be an original work of research, critical analysis, or a creative project involving film or video production, animation, interactive media, or screenwriting. Regardless of format, the project should show evidence of how the student’s international experience has impacted their Cinematic Arts education and view of the world. If a research project is submitted, the student will be encouraged to present at USC’s Undergraduate Research Symposium.
USC Global Scholar Distinction
USC School of Dramatic Arts

Submission Criteria

Dramatic Arts students will submit either:

a) A research paper (10-12 pages) about their host country’s theatre or another research topic about the country that interests them (such as environmental, gender and culture, economics, etc.) as long as the topic is linked to the arts in some capacity

OR

b) A play that examines the culture of the host country artistically and substantively.
USC Global Scholar Distinction
Viterbi School of Engineering

Submission Criteria

Using the required reflective essay as a base, Viterbi students should submit a research report on global engineering practices of at least five pages in length that summarizes the experiences, work, service or research performed by the student. It is expected that if multiple experiences are combined to meet the minimum ten week requirement, that this report reflect a cohesive view of how these experiences are connected to the global engineering practice discussed. Students should also address ways in which this international experience will impact their future as engineers. Examples of engineering issues include areas such as international energy conservation efforts, transportation issues, urban infrastructure, informatics, water resource issues, etc. Global Scholar candidates may propose other formats that represent their international experiences that are appropriate to that experience.