

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.

USC School	Page
Annenberg School for Communications and Journalism	2
Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy	3
Davis School of Gerontology	4
Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences	5
Gould Undergraduate Law Programs	6-7
Iovine and Young Academy	8
Kaufman School of Dance	9
Keck School of Medicine	10
Marshall School of Business and Leventhal School of Accounting	11
Price School of Public Policy	12
Roski School of Art and Design	13
Thornton School of Music	14
USC School of Architecture	15
USC School of Cinematic Arts	16
USC School of Dramatic Arts	17
USC Alfred E. Mann School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences	18
Viterbi School of Engineering	19

**Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism
USC Global Scholar Distinction**



Submission Criteria

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.

**Chan Division of Occupational Science
& Occupational Therapy
USC Global Scholar Distinction**



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.

Davis School of Gerontology
USC Global Scholar Distinction



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 College of Letters, Arts and Sciences
USC Global Scholar Distinction



Submission Criteria

Dornsife students will submit a **capstone paper or project** that draws on resources and knowledge of perspectives on global issues encountered while overseas. The capstone project should be thought of as an academic translation of a transformative experience (the transformative experience could be academic, work-related, or service-oriented). The capstone project should clearly demonstrate that the student's global experience has had a major impact on their academic life at USC as well as their 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 reflection 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. Consulting a faculty member who is familiar with the USC Global Distinction is advised.

Gould Undergraduate Law Programs USC Global Scholar Distinction



Submission Criteria

Global Scholars candidates in the USC Gould School of Law will be recognized for their completed work in our Legal Studies Capstone Project course where students focus on an examination of the American legal system that draws on their learning from across their studies at USC and/or for their completed work in our Undergraduate Law Review course where they will have written a law review article that has required an extensive amount of research and legal analysis, and is ready for publication. **The capstone project or law article must exemplify the student's experience while abroad and how their study abroad experience contributed to the capstone project or law review article.**

Criteria for USC Gould School of Law Global Scholar Distinction under our Legal Studies Capstone Project course:

The Legal Studies Capstone Project is required of all students majoring in the B.S. in Legal Studies program. Students will research an approved topic over the semester, write a paper of 15 to 20 pages or more on that topic, and present their research and ultimate findings in a formal presentation at the end of the semester. Topics for our Legal Studies Capstone Project may originate from any discipline with a focus on its intersection with law. With guidance from a faculty member, students select their topic and examine the various forces that shape that area of law. Students will then synthesize ideas from their courses, write a research paper and prepare and conduct a presentation on the topic they have studied. The topic is intended to be interdisciplinary, reflect students' overall interests, and represent their cumulative experience as an undergraduate Legal Studies major at USC Gould.

Submission of the Legal Studies Capstone Project requires the fulfillment of the following learning objectives:

- Apply concepts and principles from undergraduate law courses to a research question, proposing an original solution or answer in writing.
- Critically analyze academic research, law review articles, news sources, expert analysis and other sources of information, discerning its reliability.
- Engage in critical self-assessment to improve writing and argumentation skills.
- Engage in critical assessment of peers' writing, successfully communicating ideas to constructively improve a piece of writing.
- Articulate a meaningful understanding of common law legal rules and principles and how they apply to a given contemporary societal issue.
- Gain public speaking skills to successfully present a thesis in a clear, informative manner

Criteria for USC Gould School of Law Global Scholar Distinction under our Undergraduate Law Review course:

The Undergraduate Law Review course introduces students to the basics of legal writing and research with a focus on legal scholarship and law review-type journal articles. Writing a law review article requires an extensive amount of research and legal analysis, far beyond the level of a typical college paper. Students will write a law review article that is ready for publication. Law reviews are a venue for students and legal professionals to explore legal and/or political issues in a more professional and scholarly manner. Undergraduate Legal Studies major students will have a basic, yet thorough, introduction to law review publications and legal scholarship with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to write a law review article. Students have a unique opportunity to learn about a topic of interest in the legal arena under the direct supervision of faculty from the Undergraduate Law School. In addition, students are involved with and collaborate on The Trojan Review, USC's sole undergraduate law journal. The Trojan Review publishes articles and hosts symposia every semester and is entirely student-run. Undergraduate law journals are very rare, and involvement with such a journal is very helpful for anyone with plans to attend law school.

Submission of our Undergraduate Law Review course requires the fulfillment of the following learning objectives:

- Through the student's law review work the student will demonstrate the basics of legal writing, legal research, and proper citation under the Bluebook format.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of legal scholarship, create and write their own law review article, one ideally ready for publication.
- Demonstrated that the student has obtained the skills and tools necessary to write and/or edit a law review article.
- Perform basic research of broad legal topics, properly edit basic legal citations, and present an argument using proper legal writing structure.
- Complete a fully researched and developed paper in the style of a law review article eligible for submission of publication.

**Iovine and Young Academy
USC Global Scholar Distinction**



Submission Criteria

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. (Note: the applicant's Garage Experience project may be considered as the capstone project). Complete and submit an online application, reflective essay, and senior project by the annual deadline.

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.

Kaufman School of Dance
USC Global Scholar Distinction



Submission Criteria

In addition to the required Personal Reflection Essay, Kaufman students will submit a capstone 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 (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 an artist, scholar and citizen. The capstone project can take the form of a performance in a cultural form of dance related to travel, an original choreographic creation, a portfolio collection of images and videos artfully organized, a scholarly paper, or some other form to be put forth and defended by the student.

**Keck School of Medicine
USC Global Scholar Distinction**



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.

**Marshall School of Business
& Leventhal School of Accounting
USC Global Scholar Distinction**



Submission Criteria

The Global Scholar Capstone Project for Business Administration and Accounting majors should:

- Focus on a topic or issues pertinent to an undergraduate education in business administration or accounting
- Relate to at least one of the countries of immersion (but need not incorporate all cities/countries that make up the 10-week immersive experience)
- Apply your USC classroom learning and demonstrate your academic learning within a global setting
- Demonstrate your active engagement within a global setting
- Demonstrate an awareness of global interdependence and an understanding of the interplay of local, regional, and international markets related to the project
- Demonstrate intercultural competence and address the economic, social and cultural issues related to the project
- Focus and integrate your international experiences, along with your academic courses, on global issues of importance to society where business can and should play an important role. Emphasis should be focused issues that are critical to multiple economies such as enhancing gender equality in society, promoting employment opportunities by supporting MSMEs, creating new payment systems for the unbanked in society, etc.

Additional Information

- We recommend you present the Capstone Project in a management/consulting report format, although students have submitted projects in a variety of formats such as a scholarly essay, research paper, business proposal, white paper, PowerPoint slides, or video submission. Students may select a format that is most appropriate to their academic and international experiences.
- Candidates are encouraged to consult with a faculty member who can advise them on their project, focus, and writing.
- Completed materials will be evaluated by a Marshall/Leventhal faculty review committee and judged on the criteria above as well as the quality of presentation, strength of analysis, and the innovation and impact of the project. Successful submissions explicitly connect the dots across classes/academics, overseas experiences, and the project and integrate them into a clear compelling narrative in the reflective essay.

**Price School of Public Policy
USC Global Scholar Distinction**



Submission Criteria

A substantive project or essay from student's international study abroad experience. The project or essay must be 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.

**Roski School of Art and Design
USC Global Scholar Distinction**



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.

Thornton School of Music
USC Global Scholar Distinction



Submission Criteria

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 how the student demonstrates the relevance of the study abroad to his or her submission.

USC School of Architecture USC Global Scholar Distinction



Submission Criteria

Portfolio

Architecture students shall 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. It is important to consider the aspect of narrative in your portfolio so that the storytelling of your experiences identifies clear themes and topics of learning. Keep in mind that the jury is made up of faculty in other schools at USC and not solely from architecture. It may be helpful to include a short introduction or abstract at the beginning of your portfolio. Subsequent pages should be titled clearly with text that is simple and succinct. For group projects, please clearly identify your role or contribution to the project. All projects should be identified by title, semester, location, and studio instructor.

Reflective Essay

Students should prepare an essay that reflects on their experiences abroad. It is important to discuss how studying abroad has had personal impact, how it has increased your awareness as a budding architect and how it might affect your next steps in your education or field. Discuss how your education (specific coursework) has influenced your awareness of different cultures and your outlook to see design as a tool to solve intractable problems of the world. Considering how your outward-looking findings can be disseminated or shared with others (e.g. graduate work, exhibitions, publications, etc.)

Criteria

The quality of project(s) AND personal reflective essay will have equal weight in the review process. Conceptual idea, execution and presentation of projects will be evaluated. Impact of experience on applicant will be important. All submissions will be initially reviewed by a panel of faculty in the School of Architecture. A selection of top submissions will be forwarded to the University prize panel for review.

**USC School of Cinematic Arts
USC Global Scholar Distinction**



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 School of Dramatic Arts
USC Global Scholar Distinction**



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 Alfred E. Mann School of Pharmacy
and Pharmaceutical Sciences
USC Global Scholar Distinction
Submission Criteria**



Seniors in the Pharmacology and Drug Development and Biopharmaceutical Sciences majors at USC Mann are encouraged to submit a research project for consideration for the USC Global Scholar Distinction. The project is a demonstration of knowledge in the student's chosen area of interest which results in a product/project, research data, research paper, or portfolio of work, and a presentation. This experience encourages students to use a variety of skills in the areas of writing, speaking, research, and documentation, which distinguishes them as scholars and future leaders in pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences. Criteria and submission requirements will be determined in consultation with a faculty advisor.

Goals

- To provide students with the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills acquired in their courses to research relating to a research area of interest
- To allow students to extend their academic experience into areas of personal or professional career interests, to include working with new ideas, organizations, or individuals
- To encourage students to think critically and creatively about academic, professional, and/or social issues and to further develop their analytical and ethical leadership skills
- To provide students with the opportunity to refine research skills and demonstrate their proficiency in written and/or oral communication skills

The project allows students to demonstrate their ability to synthesize and apply the knowledge and skills acquired during their academic studies to real-world issues and problems. The project should affirm students' ability to think critically and creatively, to solve practical problems, to make reasoned and ethical decisions, and to communicate effectively. Students should endeavor to actively integrate and apply all they have learned through their undergraduate coursework in the development, implementation, and analysis of a practical, hands-on project that addresses a problem or issue encountered by the student during their course of study.

Students should seek a project that requires a creative solution and that they have a personal interest in exploring.

**Viterbi School of Engineering
USC Global Scholar Distinction**



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 artificial intelligence (AI), international energy conservation, transportation, urban infrastructure, informatics, and water resource management. Global Scholar candidates may propose other formats that represent their international experiences that are appropriate to that experience.