

Global Scholar Certificate

Approving Signatures Explanation Sheet

The PLATO Project

The Global Scholar Online Courses located at GlobalScholar.us are one of the products of The Project for Learning Abroad, Training, and Outreach (PLATO)—a national project developed by the Center for Global Education at Loyola Marymount University, and funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education with additional support from the IFSA Foundation. PLATO is an integrated study abroad training, certification, and diversity outreach program which provides comprehensive support resources for study abroad available to all U.S. college and university students—with special support for underrepresented students. PLATO responds to U.S. higher education’s challenge to have no student left behind through the inclusion of a greater number of underrepresented students in study abroad, many of whom come from institutions with only a limited infrastructure to support study abroad students.

Global Scholar Certificate

The Global Scholar Certificate is a symbol of academic achievement that can be earned by any college or university student who studies abroad for academic credit and completes all three Global Scholar Online Courses including the *Info Log* assignments and the home campus and K-12 or Community College outreach presentations required in the third course.

The Global Scholar Online Courses can help turn what for many students may be an unconnected experience abroad into a meaningful, integrated international learning experience. Additionally, it connects participants to their home campus and community through mentorship and outreach, enabling returned study abroad students to make their overseas experience relevant and useful. Following completion of the program and recognition of their achievement through a Global Scholar Certificate, students will have something tangible and marketable that they can add to their resume displaying their accomplishments.

Signatures

To be considered official, the Global Scholar Certificate must be signed by the designated people below whose signatures confirm completion of the different components of the courses.

1. **The Center for Global Education** confirms that students have completed the online components of the courses before the students can download their Certificate.
2. **Program Director** or **Study Abroad Advisor** signature confirming that the student studied abroad and received academic credit.
3. **Campus Advisor, Program Director, or Faculty member** confirming that the student completed their Info Log by having the student demonstrate completion of the assignments listed on the next 2 pages. Note: The student may not feel comfortable letting you read their entries, as some will be very personal—the only requirement for students completing the courses independently is to prove that the entries were done.
4. **Home Campus Faculty/Staff member** or **Student Group Leader** signature confirming that the student presented on their study abroad experiences to a student group or class on campus.
5. **K-12 Teacher** or **Community College Faculty/Staff member** signature confirming that the student presented on their study abroad experiences to a group of K-12 or Community College students.

If you have been tracking the student’s progress and know that they have studied abroad, completed their Info Log, presented on campus, and presented at a K-12 or Community College, you may be able to sign up to all 4 lines of their Certificate for them.

Info Log Assignments to be Confirmed

Course 1

Module 2: Logistical Issues I

- Research Your Host Country's Document Requirements

Module 3: Cultural Adjustment Tools and Issues

- Your Prescription for Culture Shock
- Understand Gender as Part of Cultural Adaptation
- Evaluate a Cultural Incident Using What You've Learned
- Reflect on Your Upcoming Experience Abroad
- Take the Culture-Learning Strategies Inventory

Module 4: Country Specific Culture

- Gather Information About Culture Shock in Your Host Country
- Research Nonverbal Communication
- Research Politeness and Etiquette in Your Host Country
- Research How You May Be Viewed
- Prepare Your Culture Report

Module 5: Language Learning

- Discover Reasons To Learn a Language
- Practice What You've Learned
- Develop Your Plan For Interaction
- Learn About Language Fatigue and What To Do About It
- Take the Survey to Inventory Your Strategies

Module 6: Target Language Learning

- Listen to the Radio In Your Target Language
- Select A Speaking Activity
- Use Your Reading Strategies
- Use What You Learned About Mnemonics
- Get Resources for Language Learning

Course 2

Module 2: Logistical Issues While Abroad

- Research the Crisis Questions

Module 7: Intro to Global Issues

- Learn How You May Be Viewed Abroad
- Read the List of Questions about U.S. Issues
- Think about the Influence of Geography on Culture
- Determine How You Feel about Globalization

Module 8: Learning About Your Host Country

- Research Your Host Country's Geography
- Research Your Host Country's Social Facts
- Research Your Host Country's Political Facts
- Research Your Host Country's Economic Facts
- Research Your Host Country's Sports, Music, and Entertainment
- Research Your Host Country In-Depth

Module 9: Logistical Issues II: Health & Safety

- Review the Top Ten Tips
- Know The Risk Involved in Your Activities Abroad
- Reflect on the Animations
- See what modes of transportation it is best to avoid!
- Learn About Avoiding Crime
- Research Legal Issues in Your Host Country
- Research Drug Issues in Your Host Country
- Research Crisis Information on Your Host Country

Module 10: Planning for the Return Home

- Prepare for Your Journey
- Get Re-entry Tips Before You Go!
- Find Out About the Importance of A Proper Goodbye
- Connect With Alumni Of Your Program

Module 5: While You are Abroad

- Reflect on Your Experience Thus Far and Keep Learning

Course 3

Module 1: Intro to Course 3: Once You Return

- Set Your Goals
- Assess Your Re-entry Adjustment So Far
- Avoid 'Shoeboxing'

Module 2: Logistical Issues I

- Evaluate Your Experience
- Complete the Survey About Diversity Issues
- Ideas for Improving Your Program
- Complete the Academic Credit Template
- Complete the Logistics Template

Module 3: Adjusting to Life Back Home

- Find Out the Top Ten Challenges
- Interpret One Student's Experience
- React to Your Changes
- Strategies for an Effective Re-Entry Adjustment
- Plan a Party!
- The Importance of Self-Reflection
- Compare Your Answers

Module 4: Continuing Learning Back at Home

- Get Ideas for Continuing the Learning
- Get Suggestions for Using Your New Knowledge
- Create Your Action Plan
- Explain How Your Views May Have Changed
- Describe Your Views

Module 5: Global Citizenry

- Move Forward in Your Own Development
- Describe Your Changing Perspectives
- Write Your Letter
- Put Yourself In An Unfamiliar Cultural Context
- Read Blog From Your Host Country or Culture

Module 6: Become a Mentor to Other Students

- Read Other Students' Stories, Then Write Your Own
- Create Your Statement
- How Would You Help Someone Prepare?
- Inform Others About Diversity Issues in Your Host Country
- Compile Your Top Resources

Module 7: Become a Mentor to the Community

- Work on Your Presentation
- Share Your Coolest Experiences
- Write About Your Experiences
- Share Your Experience With Others

Module 8: Continuing Your Int'l. Experiences

- Start Thinking About Your Plan
- Explain Your Choice
- Choose Your Programs of Interest
- Explore Alternative Sources of Funding
- Decide How You Will Continue Your Learning

Module 9: Logistical Issues II: Job Search

- Take Inventory of What You Learned
- Prepare to Answer Questions
- Read About Creating an Int'l. Career
- View Samples and Create Your Own Resume

Module 10: Congratulations on Completing the Courses!

- Fill Out and Interpret the Diagram
- Compare With Others Who Have Gone Before You
- Determine What Exemplifies A Global Citizen
- Write Your Final Reflections

Feedback

For more information on the Global Scholar Online Courses, please visit our website at GlobalScholar.us.

Another PLATO resource designed by the Center for Global Education for all students and particularly for students of diverse backgrounds (African-American, Asian/Pacific Islander, Latin@/Hispanic-American, and Native American students), their parents, and administrators is AllAbroad.us. The website includes advice from mentors of all backgrounds, Top 10 Reasons for each to study abroad, Scholarships specifically for different groups of students, advice on dealing with discrimination while abroad, and resources for outreach.

Other resources designed by the Center include the Study Abroad Student Handbooks at www.studentsabroad.com and the Study Abroad-Now More Than Ever site at www.globaled.us/now/about.html where you will find more information about the importance of study abroad and why students should participate!

We welcome any questions, feedback, or suggestions you may have regarding these courses or other resources! Please contact us at info@globalscholar.us.