



The Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies Announces a New Initiative for Internationalizing Undergraduate Education

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The Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies (CES) is pleased to announce expanded efforts to better integrate an international dimension into the educational experience of Harvard College students. With generous donor support, CES is developing new opportunities to assist students at all stages of the undergraduate career in exploring their interests and deepening their knowledge of Europe, both on campus and abroad.

The program is designed with students' needs in mind and takes into account how interests and concerns will vary from year to year as students progress. It attempts to build a package of activities around the undergraduate years that facilitate the connections students make between what they learn in their classes and what they experience in the world, especially during an experience abroad. For freshmen, for example, the goal is to help them explore interests in Europe and gain access to resources on campus. As part of this goal, CES will host small [“state of the field”](#) dinners with faculty members at the Center. During these dinners, students will be introduced to some of the “big ideas” and the range of issues affecting Europe, and they will get to know Harvard faculty outside the classroom.

For students in the later years, the focus is on helping them develop and integrate their experiences abroad with their studies and their overall intellectual and career goals. This takes many forms: the creation of positions to work directly with faculty members on research projects; new opportunities for internships with Harvard alumni in Europe; an innovative student-hosted [podcast interview program](#) focusing on politics and culture; a program to bring European scholars into Harvard classrooms and interact and advise students informally; and a year-long [colloquium for juniors](#) preparing senior theses.

CES will leverage its existing resources that include not only research travel fellowships and an extensive network of scholars and alumni in Europe, but also the expertise of faculty members, visiting scholars, graduate students, and affiliates. An in-depth orientation for students going to Europe will focus on some of the key issues central to European politics and society so that their international experience will be prefaced by a deep understanding of the region.

The program is designed to be a vehicle for integration of Harvard College students' experiences in the classroom and abroad. It provides vertical integration in the sense that it envisions portals through which students can deepen their knowledge of Europe at each stage of the undergraduate experience. It provides horizontal integration in the sense that it seeks to integrate study abroad with study at Harvard, ensuring, in effect, that internationalization takes place both at home and abroad.