



COUNCIL *for* OPPORTUNITY *in* EDUCATION



KEITH SHERIN GLOBAL LEADERS STUDY ABROAD HANDBOOK

APPLICATION INFORMATION

2026

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Council for Opportunity in Education

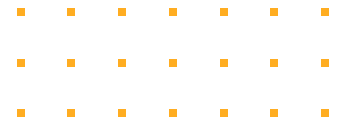
The Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) is a nonprofit organization, established in 1981, dedicated to furthering the expansion of college opportunities for low-income, first-generation students, and students with disabilities in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., the Pacific Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Related to our charge of helping students to overcome economic, social, academic, and cultural barriers to higher education, the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) believes international experiences are crucial to helping students understand and prepare for the roles they will play in their society and in the world at large. Our members are U.S. colleges and universities hosting the Federal TRIO Programs, which assist low-income students who are first in their families to attend university, and students with disabilities to prepare for, enter and complete postsecondary education.



Over the last two decades, the Keith Sherin Global Leaders Study Abroad (KSSA) program has had tangible, far-reaching effects on the lives of more than 450 students. Moreover, several alumni have noted that the impacts have been multigenerational, extending to their parents, siblings, peers, and children. The study abroad experience led several participants to change their academic majors and their professional goals; several decided, as a consequence, to pursue careers in international education and international affairs.

Point of Contact



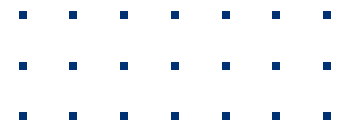
Angela Holley
Director of Student Services

Email:
angela.holley@coenet.org

Phone: 202-347-7430

Available to Offer Application Assistance
9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. E.T..
Monday -Friday

2026 KSSA Experience



General Information



COE is excited to sponsor **10 TRIO SSS/McNair students** to participate in the 2026 Keith Sherin Global Leaders Program. Students will have the opportunity to study global sustainability goals, peace, and justice in The Hague, Netherlands, **from June 20-July 18, 2026.**

What to Expect

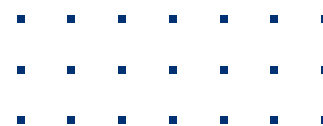


Students will spend the first week getting to know the host country! They will learn about the Netherlands' social and educational context with a specific focus on higher education and culture in theory and practice. Under the auspices of the ECHO Center, students will visit Amsterdam as well as meet student leaders representing migrant communities.

Following time spent at ECHO, students will study at The Hague University of Applied Science (HAUS) Summer School. HAUS offers a cutting-edge modular set of courses based on the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The courses focus on solving global issues by connecting the public and private sectors. There is no better place to learn and practice world citizenship than in The Hague (Den Haag), the International City of Peace and Justice, and the political, cultural heart of the Netherlands. The Hague Summer School program is accredited by The Hague University of Applied Sciences. All instruction is in English.

Students get the opportunity to discover the city of The Hague. All students are paired with students at HAUS. There's an extensive social and cultural program for all Summer School students during the afternoon and evening.

2026 KSSA Experience



Academic Credit



Academic transcripts for the program are issued by The Hague University of Applied Sciences (THUAS), which awards four (4) European credit hours (the equivalent of 2 U.S. credits) for the program provided. Students seeking credit for the program are encouraged to consult with their registrar's office and their academic adviser prior to leaving the U.S.

Pre & Post Departure

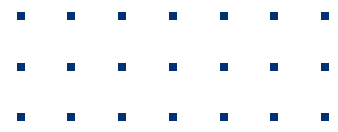


Students accepted into the program will take part in at least one virtual meeting with COE and their partners to discuss the academic requirements and logistics related to the short-term study abroad program. They will receive several emails with useful information. Therefore, they must check their email frequently.

Before departure, students will attend a one-day orientation in New York City. During this orientation, students will be introduced to their peer group as well as the group leaders who will be chaperoning the trip abroad. Topics addressed during the meeting will provide additional guidance about the host country and health and safety measures.

Upon return to the U.S., students will take part in a virtual re-entry meeting. During this time, students will discuss their experience and learn how it connects with their future career goals.

Application



1 Deadline

To apply, complete the student application form and upload supporting materials no later than **Monday, January 26, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. ET**. The supporting materials include:

- Student Essay #1 - Why are you interested in participating in the Keith Sherin Global Leaders Study Abroad Program? What do you hope to gain from this experience academically, personally, and professionally?
- Student Essay #2 - What does it mean to be a global citizen? How would you represent your community and values while studying abroad, and how would you bring what you learn back to benefit others?
- Recommendation Form from the TRIO Project Director.
- Letter of Recommendation from a TRIO or Faculty Advisor.
- Unofficial Transcript.
- A copy of your passport or evidence of submission of the passport application.

2 Form

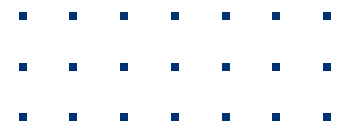
The application can be found at this [link](#) or by scanning the QR code below. Only **complete** applications will be considered. Please review the application carefully to ensure that all questions are answered and uploads are complete.



3 Fees

The registration fee for the KSSA Program is **\$2,750**. As part of the application process, students are required to submit a **deposit of \$250**. If the student is selected to participate in the KSSA program, the \$250 will be applied toward the total registration cost. The deposit will not be processed for students who are not selected.

Application



3 Fees Continued

This registration fee includes:

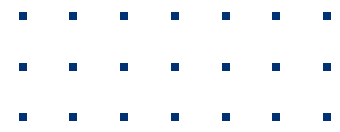
- Hotel and meal costs associated with the pre-departure orientation (dinner, breakfast, lunch);
- Round-trip air travel (cost of \$1,600) between the U.S. departure site, New York, and Amsterdam with one bag according to the selected airline;
- Ground transportation in the Netherlands, including airport transfers to and from The Hague;
- Program costs associated with the one week with ECHO, including meals, snacks, and living arrangements;
- Tuition and fees for the courses, living arrangements at The Hague University Summer Program, and some meals;
- Emergency medical insurance; and
- Program group excursions.

The registration fee does not include:

(Note: these costs will be in addition to the \$2,750 registration fee)

- Round-trip travel from the student's home to the departure site, New York City's JFK Airport;
- Student passports, passport photos (and visas, if necessary) Immunizations;
- Luggage handling for domestic flights and extra fees for oversized/overweight and additional luggage;
- Independent sightseeing expenses;
- Personal items;
- Telephone calls; and
- Optional insurance for baggage and/or trip cancellation; and
- Reimbursement for lost or stolen personal items or currency.

Application



4 Eligibility

- Current TRIO college program (SSS/McNair) participant;
- Good academic and social standing with their institutions;
- Have at least sophomore status;
- Demonstrated leadership ability and potential;
- The host TRIO institution must be an **active member** of COE;
- Applicants must be nominated and receive **ongoing guidance** and support from a TRIO Program Director; and
- Preference is given to sophomores and juniors.

5 Applicant Expectations

- Submit a copy of your passport.
- If the student does not have a passport, they **must** provide evidence of completion of their passport application. It can take up to three months to obtain a passport. Students must apply for their passports **before submitting the KSSA application**. It can take up to three months to process a passport, and the information will be needed to confirm student flights to the Netherlands.
- Submit a **\$250 Deposit** with the application.
- If accepted, submit the **remaining payment of \$2,500 by May 1, 2026**.

Payment Process



Credit Card

- To pay the **\$250 deposit** using a credit card by using this [link](#) or scan the QR code below.



Check

- A payment by check can be sent via USPS “certified mail” or with a FedEx/UPS “tracking number” to the following address:

Council for Opportunity in Education
ATTN: Angela Holley
1025 Vermont Ave. Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20005

- Checks should be made out to the ***“Council for Opportunity in Education” or “COE”.***

Payment Plan

- If a student is accepted, they must submit the remaining payment of **\$2,500 by May 1, 2026**. This is a hard deadline, with no exceptions. Failure to make payment by this date will result in the student being removed from the travel list. An installment payment plan will be made available as follows:
 - **March 2, 2026: \$750.00**
 - **April 2, 2026: \$875.00**
 - **May 1, 2026: \$875.00**

Resources



Student Guide

- A comprehensive handbook about Study Abroad can be found [here](#).

Staff Guide

- A comprehensive guide about Study Abroad is available for TRIO staff [here](#).

Family Guide

- A comprehensive guide about Study Abroad is available for family [here](#).

Passport

- Information about the passport process can be found [here](#).

Gilman Scholarship Program

- The U.S. Department of State's [Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program](#) (Gilman Program) supports students of limited financial means to study or intern abroad, providing them with skills critical to our national security and economic prosperity. To be eligible for the Gilman Program, applicants must be receiving a Federal Pell Grant during the time of application or provide proof that they will be receiving a Pell Grant during the term of their study abroad program or internship. You are highly encouraged to apply before the application closes on March 5, 2026.

Fundraising

- Information about fundraising ideas for the study abroad experience can be found [here](#).
- A sample donation letter can be found [here](#).

Important Dates



- **Monday, January 26, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. ET:**
 - Student application with supporting documentation & \$250 deposit due
- **Monday, February 9, 2026, by 5:00 p.m. ET:**
 - Students notified of selection status
- **Monday, February 16, 2026, by 5:00 p.m. ET:**
 - Selected students submit their decision to participate form
- **Thursday, February 24, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. ET:**
 - Virtual meet and greet (attendance is **mandatory**)
- **Monday, March 2, 2026:**
 - \$750 installment payment due
- **April (Date and Time TBD):**
 - Virtual Program Partners Orientation (attendance is **mandatory**)
- **Thursday, April 2, 2026:**
 - \$875 installment payment due
- **Friday, May 1, 2026:**
 - Final \$875 installment payment due
- **Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 500 p.m. ET:**
 - Virtual student and group leader check-in with COE Staff (attendance is **mandatory**).
- **Friday, June 19, 2026- Saturday, June 20, 2026:**
 - In-Person Pre-Departure Orientation
- **Saturday, June 20, 2026:**
 - Student departure
- **Saturday, July 18, 2026:**
 - Students return to the U.S.
- **July (Date and Time TBD):**
 - Re-Entry Orientation (attendance is **mandatory**)

This schedule is subject to change. Check your email for updates.