



COUNCIL *for* OPPORTUNITY *in* EDUCATION



KEITH SHERIN GLOBAL LEADERS STUDY ABROAD **HANDBOOK**

APPLICATION INFORMATION

2027

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Council for Opportunity in Education

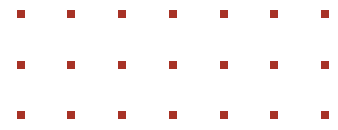
The Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) is a nonprofit organization, established in 1981, dedicated to furthering the expansion of college opportunities for low-income, first-generation students, and students with disabilities in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., the Pacific Islands, and Puerto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

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Phone: 202-347-7430

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

2027 KSSA Experience

General Information



COE is excited to sponsor **10 TRIO SSS/McNair students** to participate in the 2027 Keith Sherin Global Leaders Program. Students will have the opportunity to study global sustainability goals, peace, and justice in The Hague, Netherlands, **from June 25-July 17, 2027.**

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 various communities throughout the Netherlands.

Following time spent at ECHO, students will study at The Hague University of Applied Science (THAUS) Summer School. THAUS 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 THAUS. There is an extensive social and cultural program for all Summer School students during the evening.

2027 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 virtual meetings with COE and their partners to discuss the academic requirements and logistics related to the short-term study abroad program.

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

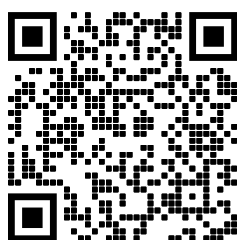
1 Deadline

The deadline to apply is **Monday, November 16, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. ET**. The application must include the following materials:

- 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 **\$2,800**.
- Applicants selected to participate will be required to submit a nonrefundable **\$250 deposit upon acceptance**. This deposit will be applied toward the total program fee.

4 Balance

- The remaining balance must be paid in full by the designated deadline. This is a hard deadline with no exceptions. Failure to submit payment by the deadline will result in removal from the accepted participant list, and the opportunity will be offered to a student on the waitlist.

5 Payment Plan

- An installment payment plan is available:
 - February 1, 2027: \$850
 - March 1, 2027: \$850
 - April 1, 2027: \$850
- Participants may also choose to pay the remaining balance in full at any time, provided payment is received by the final deadline of **April 1, 2027**.

6 Expenses

THIS REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES:

- Hotel and meal costs associated with the pre-departure orientation (dinner, breakfast, lunch);
- Round-trip air travel (cost of \$1,800) 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 \$2,800 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.

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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

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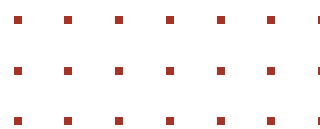
Applicant Expectations

- Submit a copy of your passport.
- If you do not yet have a passport, provide documentation showing that you have applied. A passport application must be submitted before completing this application process. Please note that passport processing can take up to three months, and passport information will be required to confirm your travel arrangements to the Netherlands.
- Complete and return all required forms and documentation by designated deadlines.
- Be prepared for a rigorous academic experience, including any required pre-departure coursework.

8 Applicant Expectations

- Authorize COE to review and share relevant student records and transcripts as part of the application process.
- 1. • Adhere to all payment deadlines and complete required pre-departure requirements.
- Consult with their academic advisor and registrar regarding transfer credit eligibility.
- Participate fully in all group travel and program activities; independent travel is not permitted.
- Refrain from arranging travel for family members or guests to accompany the program.
- Meet the physical demands of the program, which may include extensive walking and stair navigation.
- Notify COE of any needed physical, mental health, or religious accommodations upon acceptance.
- Obtain any required visa(s) by the specified deadline, if applicable.
- Understand and comply with the program's withdrawal and refund policies.
- Acknowledge that COE and its partners may cancel the program, in which case program payments will be refunded.

Resources



Student Guide

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

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

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

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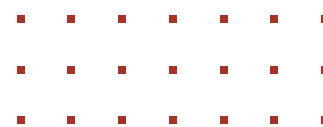
Gilman Scholarship Program

- 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.
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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, November 16, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. ET**
 - Student application with supporting documentation due
- **December, 2026**
 - Students notified of selection status
- **Monday, February 1, 2027:**
 - \$850 installment payment due
- **Thursday, February 11, 2027 at 7:00 p.m. ET**
 - Online Meet & Greet (**mandatory**)
- **Monday, March 1, 2027**
 - \$850 installment payment due
- **Thursday, April 1, 2027**
 - \$850 installment payment due
 - The total registration fee must be submitted by this date
- **April, 2027** (date and time to be determined)
 - Webinar with international partners (**mandatory**)
- **Monday, May 24, 2027, at 7:00 p.m. ET**
 - Virtual student and group leader check-in (**mandatory**)
- **Friday, June 25, 2027- Saturday, June 26, 2027**
 - In-person pre-departure orientation
- **Saturday, June 26, 2027**
 - Student departure
- **Saturday, July 17, 2027**
 - Students return to the U.S.
- **July (Date and Time TBD):**
 - Re-Entry Orientation (**mandatory**)

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