

PRINCETON
intl

2025

Bridges to
the World

14

Engineering
Exchange

16

International
for Life

30

The Fear
Tariff

intl

2025

18

Where Are They Now?

Alumni who have appeared in past issues reveal how their international experiences as students changed their lives.

Produced by the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS) in collaboration with the Office of International Programs (OIP) and the Office of the Associate Provost for International Affairs and Operations (APIAO).

EDITORS: Pooja Makhijani, PIIRS; Carrie Compton, Princeton International

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Michelle Tong, OIP

COPY EDITOR: Jean Kahler

DESIGN: art270, inc.

COVER: Illustration by Shaw Nielsen

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Trisha Craig, PIIRS

Rebecca Graves-Bayazitoglu, OIP

Aly Kassam-Remtulla, Office of the Provost

Deborah Yashar, PIIRS

For questions, contact international@princeton.edu

Copyright © 2025 by The Trustees of Princeton University

in review

6

Amazonian Leapfrogging A cross-disciplinary collective seeks nature-based solutions for protecting the world's most important biome

8

PIIRS Welcomes Inaugural Postdoc Fellows New program advances innovative scholarship

10

A Global Trend Shamus Khan is examining the spread of international libertarianism

PRIDE OF PLACE: Cy Liu '18 discovered photojournalism during a Princeton experience in Hong Kong. His photos would eventually win two first-place awards in the 2016 International Eye Photo Contest. He has gone on to practice international photography professionally. This image shows Cambodian youth celebrating Pride in Phnom Penh. READ MORE about Liu and other alumni who've carried their international experiences with them into their professional lives on page 18.

Photo by Cy Liu '18

2 **Our Global Promise** Grigore Pop-Eleches, professor of politics and international affairs and acting director of PIIRS, considers international initiatives in an unprecedented year

news

3 **Out of Africa** Veteran field station scientist Brian Kloeppe joins Mpala's senior team

4 **World Studies** PIIRS' wide-ranging and evolving research initiatives respond to the world's most urgent questions

features

11 **Fellowships 101**
The complex landscape of fellowships, explained

14 **Engineered for Exchange**
Engineering exchange programs connect classwork with hands-on experiences

16 **Travel, Through Time**

A how-to guide for Princeton travelers, from Bridge Year to postgraduation



22 **Passage to Purpose**
PIIRS launches five new Global Seminars, tackling an array of pressing issues

28 **Vital Organ** Streicker Fellow Alex Anderson '28's master class on the pipe organ

30 **Nervous Travelers**
Rory Truex '07 reflects on keeping people and ideas out

32 **Crossword**

Back Cover:
"Cliff on Kowloon Peak"
by Arnold Jiang '26

Princeton University is committed to equal opportunity and non-discrimination. To maximize excellence, we seek talent from all segments of American society and the world, and we take steps to ensure everyone at Princeton can thrive while they are here. That is the sole rationale and purpose of our diversity and inclusion programs, all of which are voluntary and open to all, and which comply with federal and state non-discrimination laws. Princeton does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, ethnicity, color, national origin, religion, disability, or any other protected characteristic, and Princeton does not provide special benefits or preferential treatment on the basis of a protected characteristic.

In a year when the value of global engagement has been questioned, the University's international community of faculty, researchers and students at the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS), the Office of International Programs (OIP) and the Office of the Vice Provost for International Affairs remind us why understanding the world — and one another — matters more than ever.

It Takes a Global Community

Considering international initiatives in an unprecedented year

Photo courtesy of the
Department of Politics



Recently, together with a group of Princeton graduate student researchers, we collected online data in seven countries that neighbor Russia and/or Ukraine to analyze popular attitudes toward the war and identify factors that may counter growing war fatigue.

Half of the almost 6,000 respondents were randomly exposed to an empathic prompt encouraging them to reflect on the challenges of daily life in wartime Ukraine. These participants expressed more sympathy and concern for Ukrainians, a higher likelihood of engaging in actions such as contacting politicians or attending protests and a greater willingness to support humanitarian aid. However, the study also shows that these effects were much weaker among respondents with greater exposure to Russian media. This research shows that even brief moments of reflection can move people toward international solidarity, but optimism is tempered by the pernicious effects of propaganda and misinformation.

From data-driven research to student experiences abroad and faculty collaborations across continents, Princeton's international initiatives work to address the issues that connect us all. Our global challenges — democratic backsliding, environmental degradation, global and domestic inequality, violent civil and interstate conflict — are at the heart of PIIRS researchers' work. Our scholars, remarkable in their range of scholarly backgrounds and interests, bring their singular life experiences to bear in animating our world's most pressing problems.

This is *Princeton Int'l*'s 10th year of exploring Princeton's commitment to studying the world's most intractable problems. And for the first time in recent history, we must grapple with the fragility of academic freedom, not just in authoritarian strongholds like Russia but at home. This year has brought unprecedented attacks on U.S. democratic institutions and potentially devastating threats to knowledge production via suppression of both speech and research funding. Fortunately, Princeton remains a relative haven for academic freedom and integrity; it has both the leadership and the resources to continue to promote the type of international engagement that is under siege elsewhere. This means global scholarship is more important than ever.

Growing up in 1980s Communist Romania, I learned that when confronted with a repressive regime, it becomes even more important to build community beyond family and close friends. Such broader networks must be inclusive and deliberate about creating a space where dissenting opinions are tolerated and respectfully debated. Princeton has been that place for many decades, and these troubling times have only strengthened its commitment to building an international community that values academic freedoms above all else. This, after all, is the surest way to preserve a legacy of excellence.

Grigore Pop-Eleches
Professor of Politics and International Affairs
Acting Director, Princeton Institute for
International and Regional Studies

Connect the Thoughts

Veteran field station scientist Brian Kloeppel joins Mpala's senior team

By Carrie Compton, Princeton Int'l

Brian Kloeppel, hired in June as the inaugural director of the Mpala Secretariat, knows field research centers. As a professor of natural resource conservation and management at Western Carolina University, a role he held for 17 years, his time spent in research and managing field research centers is vast. In fact, his first job post-Ph.D. would span 13 years as the field station director of the Long-Term Ecological Research Program at Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory in North Carolina, where he managed a large grant.

In 2021, when he came across a call for proposals circulated by the Organization of Biological Field Stations for an extended site review of the Princeton-managed Mpala Research Centre in Kenya, he jumped at the opportunity. Kloeppel and his team of six spent a week at Mpala “looking at all aspects” of the center including “administrative structure, financial management, research programming, educational programming, physical infrastructure, buildings, roads, water,” all important information that went into Mpala’s 2024 strategic plan, he said. “At the time, I had no idea this position would be created, but it’s been really valuable to come into this role already knowing the center and the people I’d be working with.”

As the director of the Mpala Secretariat, a main focus will be on increasing engagement with the center by Princeton’s faculty and students. And he’s already made strides: In the fall, three Princeton courses — two undergraduate, one master’s level — included travel to and fieldwork at Mpala. He will also

attend to issues around capital projects, facilitating new long-term studies and building collaborations.

After a career of field station work, Kloeppel waxed philosophical about the ways in which they — but especially Mpala — embody a singular, synergistic and immersive space within the world of research. “You’re in a very remote location, so you’re part of a community,” he said. “There’s this wonderfully broad mix of people coming and going — not only from your university — and there’s a sharing of ideas, a questioning of your projects and hypotheses. I get a lot joy out of being able to connect people.”

Kloeppel on a forest-canopy walkway at the Ngare Ndare Forest Trust in Kenya.

“Mpala is unique in a lot of ways, but one is that it’s completely off the grid. It’s 100% solar-powered, and all the water is filtered rain runoff. But you wouldn’t know it when you arrive to the ranch house and connect to the internet or take a warm shower.”

— Brian Kloeppel,
Director, Mpala
Secretariat



Photo by Kelsie Rouse

Field Work, Real Work

PIIRS' wide-ranging and evolving research initiatives respond to the world's most urgent questions

By Pooja Makhijani, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies

The Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS) supports bold, collaborative projects that connect faculty research with the wider world. Through competitive grants of up to \$75,000 over three years, PIIRS advances innovative work across disciplines and regions — opening archives, deepening fieldwork and building partnerships that expand access to knowledge and resources.

By linking Princeton's scholarship to pressing global challenges, these efforts embody the University's international mission. The three initiatives featured here, spanning Africa, Latin America and Europe, highlight discoveries that reshape research practices, strengthen partnerships and create lasting, real-world impact.

Photo by John Blazejewski



Participants of the May 2025 Mount Athos workshop convene to explore Princeton's remarkable collections.

Connecting Histories: The Princeton and Mount Athos Legacy

Organizers: Julia Gearhart, Director of Visual Resources, and Maria Alessia Rossi, Art History Specialist in the Index of Medieval Art

Region: Europe

Mount Athos, an autonomous region in Greece housing more than 20 Orthodox monasteries, has for millennia influenced spiritual, cultural and artistic realms. Princeton's Athonite collections in the Department of Art and Archaeology began during an unofficial Princeton expedition to Mount Athos with a Hollywood cinematographer in 1929, which was followed by several expeditions led by Professor Kurt Weitzmann in the 1930s to photograph manuscripts in the monasteries. These collections were expanded by Professor Slobodan Curčić, who obtained an archive of drawings of the restoration of the Serbian monastery of Mount Athos in 1987. In recent years, Princeton University Library and the art museum have carefully selected items that also reflect the unique character of the region, resulting in a campuswide legacy of interest in the Holy Mountain.

While Princeton houses impressive resources on the subject of Mount Athos, such as Byzantine and post-Byzantine manuscripts, engravings, watercolors and photographic prints, accessing the treasures held on the Holy Mountain is not always straightforward. The "Connecting Histories" project aims to rectify this. In May 2025, researchers from around the world specializing in the culture and history of the Greek monasteries of Mount Athos convened to explore Princeton's remarkable collections and engage in discussions on accessibility, preservation, digitization and potential research topics.

"Athonite collections, both within and beyond the borders of the Holy Mountain, come with a unique set of challenges," said Rossi. "Throughout the workshop, we learned from one another, brainstormed new collaborative efforts and discussed ways of making [archival materials] more accessible and available."

Learn more at athoslegacy.project.princeton.edu.

Kirstin Ohrt, Communications Specialist, Department of Art and Archaeology, contributed to this reporting.

Kenya Reproductive Health Study

Director: Alyssa Sharkey, lecturer, School of Public and International Affairs

Region: Africa

Kenyan girls face high rates of teen pregnancies and barriers to reproductive health. The causes of these negative health outcomes are complex and vary across regions and neighborhoods.

This initiative funds a pilot study in two communities to understand the unique barriers to contraceptive care among Kenyan adolescents. This year, an interdisciplinary group of epidemiologists, medical practitioners, sociologists, anthropologists and policy analysts built relationships with local stakeholders in informal settlements in urban Nairobi and rural Laikipia County. They conducted pilot research, met with community and research organizations and facilitated qualitative research training for local

collaborators, including researchers and community health promoters.

“This is an ethical approach in that it helps to ensure that the work is relevant to local priorities and that community members are partners in working toward improved health outcomes,” Sharkey said. “Such an approach also increases the odds that the research findings will be translated into solutions that align with what local communities need and want.”

Researchers hold a community meeting and training in Nairobi, Kenya, in June 2025.



Ph.D. student Qwahn Kent (in tree) and postdoctoral scholar Joshua LaPergola explore a palmchat nest in the Dominican Republic.

Ecology and Conservation of the Palmchat, the National Bird of the Dominican Republic

Director: Christina Riehl, associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology

Region: Caribbean/Latin America

As the national bird of the Dominican Republic, palmchats are abundant and conspicuous, adorning merchandise from postage stamps to coffee mugs. Their cooperative nests — apartment-style structures containing different chambers for up to 30 different families — have long fascinated biologists. Palmchat nests also provide nesting sites for Ridgway's hawks, a critically endangered species that is also restricted to Hispaniola. Riehl's project focuses on the evolution of the unusual breeding behavior of the robin-sized palmchats and their interactions with the raptors.

With PIIRS' support, “We developed and tested new field experiments showing that palmchats recognize the calls given by specific individuals in their social groups and are more likely to respond to the calls of familiar group members than strangers,” Riehl said. “These results suggest that the multilevel social structure of palmchat nesting groups resembles that of humans and other primates and paves the way for upcoming experiments testing how group members communicate with — and learn from — one another.”

Amazonian Leapfrogging 3.0 Promotes Bold Solutions

A cross-disciplinary collective seeks nature-based solutions for protecting the world's most important biome

By Carrie Compton, Princeton Int'l, and the Brazil LAB

The Amazon, often dubbed “the lungs of our planet” for its singular capacity to absorb carbon and release oxygen into our atmosphere, has recently been imperiled on multiple fronts.

“Consecutive years of extreme drought and escalating fires have exacerbated the existing crisis, underscoring the region's vulnerability to climate change, biocultural diversity loss and organized crime,” said João Biehl, Susan Dod

Brown Professor, chair of anthropology and director of the Brazil LAB at the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS), kicking off the Amazonian Leapfrogging 3.0 conference in May. “While recent efforts to curb deforestation have shown promise, the Amazon now faces multiple potential

tipping points that demand groundbreaking cross-sector collaborations aimed at transformational change,” he said.

The conference — comprising more than 100 leaders in science, policy, finance, business, civil society and media, alongside social entrepreneurs, students and concerned citizens from Brazil and Princeton — endeavored to do just that.

This year was the third conference, convened every three years by the Brazil LAB, to examine the multiple threats to the Amazonian ecosystem and its Indigenous communities. In his remarks, environmentalist Beto Veríssimo, a conference co-organizer and Imazon Institute co-founder, emphasized the

need for a new vision for the Amazon “that breaks with the paradigm that prevailed in the past.” This vision was being orchestrated at the conference, he said: “I think we have a real chance to leapfrog.”

Amazonian Leapfrogging 3.0 included several panels of pioneering scholars discussing the Amazon's plight. Drought, a phenomenon that should be counterintuitive for a rainforest, is among the ongoing struggles now in contention, said Erika Berenguer, an ecologist from the University of Oxford. “For millions of years, we had no fires. Now we have plenty of fires,” she said during a presentation that showed the intractability of the drought-fire cycle. “We have come to accept a rainforest burning. We have normalized the catastrophe.”

Justino Rezende Tuyuka, an Indigenous scholar from the Federal University of Amazonas said during his presentation: “We, Indigenous peoples... can meaningfully contribute to academic research — not merely as objects of study, but as key interlocutors in shaping political strategies and conservation efforts.” Marina Hirota, a climate scientist from the Federal University of Santa Catarina, further urged participants to develop a “bottom-up perspective” and consider “how conserved and preserved are the Indigenous territories.”

Brazilian historian Miqueias Mugge, an academic researcher at PIIRS who, along with Biehl, has co-convened all three Leapfrogging conferences, sees the symposia as belonging to distinct eras in Amazonian climate science: The first, in 2019, was mostly political in nature, after the election of far-right Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who promoted deforestation and removal of protective rights for Indigenous populations. The next conference, in 2022, was solutions



Luís Roberto Barroso, former president of Brazil's Supreme Court (left) in lively conversation with journalist Razia Iqbal, the John L. Weinberg/Goldman Sachs & Co. Visiting Professor and Lecturer at the School of Public and International Affairs.

Photo by Sameer Khan/Fotobuddy



based, as it aligned with the ultimately successful presidential campaign of progressive Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who was expected to end many of Bolsonaro's policies. "We pair Brazilian and Princeton scientists on all panels to make a dialogue happen," Mugge said. "Princeton's convening power is essential to establish these conversations."

Presenters weighed in on multiple aspects of the issues surrounding the ecological destruction of the rainforest, in an extensive interdisciplinary array. Navroz Dubash, professor of public and international affairs and the High Meadows Environmental Institute, highlighted the role of the Brazilian government in supporting conservation. "The country developed a credible national policy that has political support in addition to some of the financial engineering," he said.

Panelists noted that implementing breakthrough ideas will require innovating scientifically, overcoming siloed technocratic thinking and significant governance and enforcement challenges, garnering strong public support, securing robust investments and developing policies and equitable partnerships that truly value the forest, its peoples and the sciences and services they provide.

Panelists noted that implementing breakthrough ideas will require innovating scientifically, overcoming siloed technocratic thinking and significant governance and enforcement challenges, garnering strong public support, securing robust investments and developing policies and equitable partnerships that truly value the forest, its peoples and the sciences and services they provide.

Luís Roberto Barroso, former President of Brazil's Supreme Court, provided the conference's keynote address and engaged in a conversation with renowned journalist Razia Iqbal, John L. Weinberg/Goldman Sachs & Co. Visiting Professor and Lecturer at the School of Public and International Affairs. Barroso, whose court handed down a pivotal 2022 ruling asserting the public's right to a healthy environment, identified the main challenges impacting climate change mitigation and environmental protection: climate denialism on the government level, short-term political motivations and lack of scientific engagement and the need for global collaboration to identify and implement solutions. He called upon notions of intergenerational justice and the role courts must take in protecting Indigenous peoples.

Barroso concluded that the government must create legitimate jobs for workers perpetuating environmental crimes and it must strenuously punish kingpins in those efforts, such as land grabbers, drug traffickers and illegal logging and mining operators. "We have all the conditions to become an environmental leader at this moment," Barroso said. "The Amazon renders all these services to humanity, and we have the duty to protect it."

Four Exceptional Scholars Selected as Inaugural PIIRS Postdoctoral Fellows

By Pooja Makhijani, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies

Four scholars from disciplines spanning political science, sociology and anthropology have been named to the inaugural cohort of the Princeton Institute of International and Regional Studies (PIIRS) Postdoctoral Fellows Program.

The program supports scholars whose research deepens understanding of specific regions while tackling big-picture questions in the social sciences. Fellows join a vibrant intellectual community of faculty and peers, engaging in regular workshops, interdisciplinary conversations, and collaborative activities that challenge assumptions and expand horizons.

“As a global institution, PIIRS is dedicated to advancing innovative scholarship and teaching that addresses the world’s most pressing challenges,” said Deborah Yashar, the Donald E. Stokes Professor of Public and International Affairs and director of PIIRS, “and the Postdoctoral Fellows Program is integral to that mission.”

The PIIRS Postdoctoral Fellows for the 2025-2026 academic year are:

- **Akshay Govind Dixit**, *Harvard University*
- **Jillian LaBranche**, *University of Minnesota*
- **Shoko Yamada**, *Yale University*
- **Narmin Yousef-Butt**, *University of California San Diego*

The postdocs meet biweekly with the program’s faculty director — and periodically with a core group of faculty fellows across disciplines — to present their work and learn from others. They also have access to research funds and the opportunity to organize book workshops. The program encourages scholars to engage in what developmental economist Albert Hirschman called the “art of trespassing” — crossing disciplinary boundaries to advance scholarship by interrogating underlying assumptions and points of view — and to discover new analytical perspectives. The goal is to support pathbreaking research that simultaneously engages regional experts, disciplinary colleagues and a broad social science audience.

The program supports scholars whose research deepens understanding of specific regions while tackling big-picture questions in the social sciences.



Akshay Govind Dixit

is a political economist whose research investigates why ethnic divisions endure in developing countries and how government policy can reduce them. He received his Ph.D. in political economy and government from Harvard University. His dissertation analyzed how and under what conditions welfare programs foster intercaste integration in India, combining causal inference with in-depth qualitative fieldwork. At Princeton, Dixit is working on a book manuscript based on his dissertation, advancing the argument that ethnic divisions persist in part because individuals rely on co-ethnic networks for social insurance during times of need.

Jillian LaBranche

is a sociologist who employs comparative and qualitative methods to examine how knowledge is constructed in the wake of mass atrocity. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. At Princeton, LaBranche is developing a book manuscript, based on her dissertation, which examines how macrostructures and microstructures interact in the construction of knowledge. More specifically, the book investigates how Rwandan and Sierra Leonean educators and parents teach the newer generations about their nation's recent history of violence.



Shoko Yamada

is an anthropologist with research interests in political and moral economies, time and event, and human-environment relations. She earned her Ph.D. in the Department of Anthropology and the School of the Environment at Yale University. As a PIIRS Postdoctoral Fellow, she is working on her ongoing book project, which is based on long-term ethnographic engagements across a river basin in North Central Japan.

Narmin Yusef-Butt

is a political scientist specializing in conflict and reconciliation in post-conflict states, with a regional focus on the Middle East and North Africa. She earned her Ph.D. in political science from the University of California San Diego. At Princeton, she is working on her book, *Rebuilding After Conflict: Legacies of Collaboration and How to Overcome Them*, which incorporates new mixed-method studies from Syria and Iraq and explores how bias against former collaborators can be addressed to promote political reintegration and sustainable peace.



Libertarians Go Global

An international collaboration will explore a growing international political movement

Shamus Khan, the Willard Thorp Professor of Sociology and American Studies, has spent his career studying America's elite class through the lens of their schools and institutions. Now, thanks to a grant from PIIRS, he and Humboldt University of Berlin sociologist Daniel Bultmann, are working on a multiyear project called "Global Sociology of Transnational Elites, Inequalities and Values" that will examine growing libertarian political movements throughout the world, particularly in the United States and Europe. Khan discusses his work, the many shapes libertarianism takes around the globe, and why PIIRS partnerships, such as this one, are so important.

How did you get started studying elites?

In 2003, a famous paper came out by Thomas Piketty and Emmanuel Saez, showing that most inequality was driven by rich people, not poor people. Since the '60s, poor people have been economically locked in place. This shows us that poor people have nothing to do with inequality, because they're not moving. The people who are moving around the economic spectrum are the rich people, and rich people are getting richer. So that made me super interested in studying elites.

You and your Humboldt counterpart are writing a paper. What will it examine?

A major portion of that paper is going to look at the dissemination of ideas among varieties of libertarianism. There has been a large-scale movement of libertarians to undermine the idea of the value of state power and state capacity.

Regardless of where they are in the world, libertarians' premise is that it's better not to have regulations and to let markets run unconstrained — this has turned into somewhat of a global movement. But if you fundamentally don't believe in the value of the state, what does it mean to start engaging in the state?

Our work will attempt to also capture and evaluate this idea that there's been a shift in the political winds and in right-wing movements. Who are these groups and how do they relate to one another?

Why are international partnerships like the one with Humboldt important?

We scholars have a huge bias relative to the information available to us. I know a lot about some particular areas, and I tend to assume that the things that I know a lot about are generalizable beyond that context. Having other scholars who don't live in the second Trump administration and are thinking about other kinds of questions is super helpful. The Germans are going to have a different perspective. Their viewpoint offers a glimpse at the peculiarity and particularity of our own approach, and that is a valuable thing.

Interview conducted and condensed by Carrie Compton

A longer version of this story can be found at [BIT.LY/ShamusK](https://bit.ly/ShamusK).



Photo by Denise Applewhite,
Office of Communications

In Conversation with Fellowship Advising

Fellowship Advising, a division within the Office of International Programs, assists undergraduates and recent alumni as they navigate the complex landscape of identifying and applying for fellowships, scholarships and grants, many of which support postgraduate study and research abroad.

Princeton Int'l spoke with Deirdre Moloney, director, and Eric Myers, assistant director, about the lasting benefits these opportunities offer and how students can thoughtfully incorporate fellowships into their Princeton experience.



Q Why and when should students consider applying for fellowships?

Applying for fellowships is an excellent way to reflect on one's undergraduate experience, clarify future professional goals and build relationships with mentors. Ideally, first-year undergraduates should be familiar with our program and our office, but most of our awards are for juniors, seniors and recent alumni.

For many, early junior year is an optimal time to focus on fellowships.

Q What are the first steps that students should take?

Explore our website to browse the range of fellowship opportunities and identify the ones that support their interests and goals; attend information sessions to learn more about specific awards and the application process; and schedule an individual advising appointment with our office. These conversations allow us to get to know students personally, help them think strategically about fit and provide guidance on how to begin preparing strong applications.



Deirdre Moloney,
director



Eric Myers,
assistant director

Q How can students identify which fellowships align with their goals and interests?

We encourage students to reflect on their longer-term goals and to speak with faculty, peers and other mentors to identify experiences that best support their personal and professional aspirations. Many fellowships fund structured graduate degree programs, such as the Rhodes Scholarship for graduate study at Oxford University. There are also others that support projects of an applicant's own design, in the United States or abroad. Examples include the Fulbright U.S. Student Program (study, research or teaching English in over 140 countries) and the ReachOut 56-81-06 Fellowships, which enable Princeton seniors to pursue public-interest projects during their first postgraduate year.

Q What makes a compelling applicant?

The fellowship foundations' missions vary, as do their selection criteria. While many fellowships for graduate study in the U.K., including Rhodes, Marshall and Gates Cambridge, require very high GPAs, others take a more holistic approach. We advise students to meet with us to identify awards that align well with their interests and goals. Overall, a strong applicant demonstrates enthusiasm for the opportunity as well as commitment to the application process. It is also important to recognize that — regardless of outcome — the application process itself offers a valuable opportunity for self-reflection, encouraging students to clarify and articulate their goals and strengths.

Q Can a fellowship help an applicant in applying for jobs or graduate school?

Fellowships play an important role in career advancement and graduate school placement. During their fellowship, grantees often receive training, mentorship and opportunities to develop their leadership, research and cross-cultural skills. Most programs, such as the Marshall and Gates Cambridge Scholarships, connect participants with mentors, alumni and professional communities that shape future professional opportunities. Because most fellowships are highly selective, earning one signals to graduate admissions committees and employers that a candidate is accomplished, motivated and capable — an important advantage in a competitive applicant pool.

Q How have fellowship opportunities evolved over recent years? What trends are you seeing in types of fellowships students are pursuing today?

During this time of global and domestic uncertainty, we have been experiencing a significant growth in fellowship applications. There are more options than ever and more opportunities are offered each year. The Schwarzman Scholarship, for a postgraduate experience in China, and the Knight-Hennessy award for graduate/professional study at Stanford University are two examples of newer awards that are of significant interest to seniors and recent alumni.

Recent fellowship recipients offer insight into their personal and professional growth.

Sam Harshbarger '24

Major: History

Fellowship: Rhodes Scholarship

Award: Study at the University of Oxford, currently a second-year MPhil student in Modern European History at Balliol College



Photo by Denise Applewhite,
Office of Communications

In my first meeting with my supervisor, Professor Zbig Wojnowski, we discussed potential directions for my dissertation project over tea in his office. I was filled with excitement at continuing my historical research amid the rich community of scholars working on the Soviet Union and the Cold War at Oxford. That meeting crystallized exactly why I had applied for the Rhodes Scholarship: It has provided me with a stimulating intellectual community at Oxford and deepened my conviction that studying the past remains the key to understanding present-day challenges. The methodological training and opportunities to engage in archival work at Oxford have prepared me to write my dissertation over the academic year ahead and made me more certain of my desire to continue this work as a historian.

Oluwatise Okeremi '24

Major: School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA)

Fellowship: Schwarzman Scholarship

Award: One-year master's program in global affairs at Tsinghua University in Beijing



Photo courtesy of
Oluwatise Okeremi

I wanted to be a Schwarzman Scholar to learn Chinese, to reflect and be surrounded by global citizens who prioritize change. I graduated from Schwarzman and Tsinghua University with new friends, journals full of notes and a vision. I am interested in the rapid economic growth in East Asia, particularly China's growth and its relations with countries like Nigeria.

Learning Yoruba, French and Korean and being immersed in the corresponding countries and cultures made me value how languages open doors for points of connection and understanding. As a Schwarzman Scholar, I went from a beginner-level Chinese speaker to navigating conversations comfortably. I decided to stay in Beijing to continue exploring China, learn more Chinese and stay connected to the community. I remained at Schwarzman College as a senior scholar (residential assistant). I work full-time at the International School of Beijing as an International Educational Leadership Fellow, serving as chief of staff to the head of school and leading a project that will bring high schoolers from around the world to study abroad in Beijing.

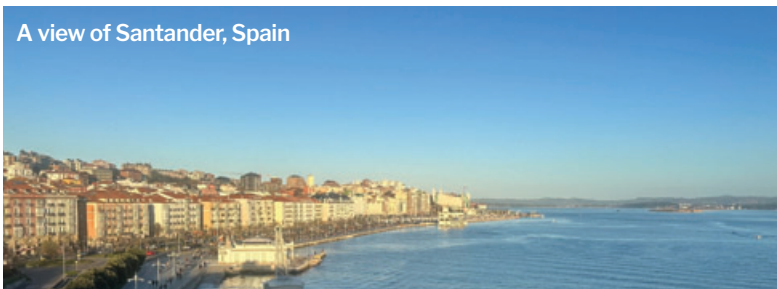
Passport to Problem-Solving

Engineering exchange programs connect classwork with hands-on experiences

By Michelle Tong, Office of International Programs

Photo by Jackeline Sacasari '26

A view of Santander, Spain



Princeton's engineering curriculum

is renowned for its rigor, equipping students with the technical foundation to pursue cutting-edge research in areas such as artificial intelligence and infrastructure development. For engineering students who are looking to broaden their horizons and explore international opportunities, Princeton offers six engineering exchange programs that allow them to connect classroom theory with practical applications — all while gaining global perspective and collaborative skills that prepare the next generation of engineers. These programs are structured to align with Princeton's engineering curriculum, enabling students to stay on track with their degree while providing the opportunity to study at some of the world's leading technical institutions.

Civil and environmental engineering major Jackeline Sacasari '26 was motivated by stories from fellow students and encouragement from professors to study abroad, she said. After working with her academic and study abroad advisers, Sacasari spent the spring semester of her junior year at the University of Cantabria in Santander, Spain. "It took some organization and early planning, but it was worth it," she said.

Unlike traditional study abroad programs, exchange programs offer two-way mobility—allowing Princeton students to study abroad and international exchange students to study at Princeton. "This reciprocity is unique to the exchange program experience and deepens the connections between Princeton and our partner institutions," said Jordan Zilla, assistant director of study abroad.

María Tesán Martínez, an exchange student from the University of Cantabria, studied at Princeton during the 2024-2025 academic year to broaden her civil engineering knowledge. She was particularly drawn to Princeton's structural engineering track, which she saw as a complement to her home institution's focus on materials research. "The exchange felt like a great opportunity to combine the strengths of both programs," she said.

Studying abroad also enables students to engage in specialized courses that often include a strong emphasis on practical, project-based applications. At the University of Cantabria, Sacasari explored construction-focused topics such as machinery, labor division and project management from planning to execution. "I made and tested concrete in the lab, cleaned contaminated water to make it drinkable and learned about local infrastructure," she said.

Computer science major Yagiz Devre '26 studied at ETH Zurich last spring. A highlight of his academic experience was a 3D-vision course where he conducted hands-on research with a robot. "Princeton taught me how to think theoretically," he said. "At ETH, I took that theoretical understanding into the practical."

Devre acknowledged ETH's rigorous project-based structure and how it greatly sharpened his time-management skills: "One of the things I learned — and it became an advantage — was how to keep track of the [tasks] I was doing and how to optimize my time and efficiency," he said.

For fellow computer science major Arnold Jiang '26, who spent the fall 2024 semester at the University of Hong Kong (HKU), the most impactful part of his experience was adapting to a new academic environment. "At [HKU], there's a heavy emphasis on independent learning," he said. "It taught me a lot about taking my own kind of stride, finding my own path and how I wanted to learn."

Back at Princeton, Tesán Martínez said that taking "Design of Large-Scale Structures: Buildings," was a highlight of her academic experience. "Professor [Richard] Garlock guided us through designing a 60-floor building as a team project," she said. "Working with different standards and approaches showed me that engineering isn't just about formulas — it's about understanding context, thinking creatively and finding the best solution for each situation." The experience left her feeling better prepared to work anywhere in the world and inspired her to consider using some U.S. approaches in her own projects, she said.

According to Andrew Houck, dean of Princeton's School of Engineering and Applied Science, engineering exchange programs underscore the increasingly global nature of the field as "countries around the world have adopted different approaches to push science and technology forward. This diversification in strategies leaves us all better off, and seeing these different approaches firsthand can have a profound and lifelong impact on how students approach problems in their own careers," he said.

"I think it's valuable to step outside the 'orange bubble,'" said Sacasari. "Being exposed to different teaching styles with different ways of thinking really expanded my mindset and made me open to new approaches."

Photo by Jackeline Sacasari '26



At the University of Cantabria, Sacasari made concrete columns to test and studied samples to explore material behavior.

Princeton's engineering exchange programs are in partnership with six prestigious international institutions:

- École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) (Switzerland)
- Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich (ETH Zurich) (Switzerland)
- Tsinghua University (China)
- University of Cantabria (Spain)
- University of Hong Kong (China)
- University of Oxford (United Kingdom)

Each year, an average of 10 Princeton engineering students study abroad through exchange programs, while a similar number of engineering exchange students come to Princeton. Depending on the program, students can study abroad either for a semester or a full academic year.

HOW TO

INTERNATIONAL

The Princeton journey is often thought of as a four-year odyssey of the mind. But it can also be taken literally: Princeton offers opportunities for meaningful international engagement from the earliest stages of the student journey and well beyond.





Princeton In
ASIA



Princeton In
AFRICA



Princeton In
LATIN AMERICA



PRINCETON JOURNEYS
(Alumni group travel)

POSTGRADUATION

5



POSTGRADUATE
FELLOWSHIPS
(see more on Page 11)



FALL SEMESTER

is the final semester
for study abroad. Check
SAFE for international
senior thesis funding.

SENIOR

4



JUNIOR



Junior year is the only year eligible for a full academic
year abroad. The most popular option for semester study
abroad is junior spring.**

3

SUMMERS: FIRST YEAR THROUGH JUNIOR YEAR

- PIIRS Global Seminar
(Faculty-led trip for course credit)
- Princeton faculty-led summer course
or independent summer study abroad for credit



- International Internship Program (IIP)
- Other international internship opportunities are offered
by units throughout campus. See more at
international.princeton.edu/international-experiences

IMPORTANT NOTES:

*Study abroad eligibility depends on departmental policies.
Students may study abroad for a maximum of two semesters.

**The only time a student can pursue a full academic year study abroad is
their junior year. Students may also do two separate semesters, e.g.,
sophomore spring and junior spring, or junior fall and senior fall.

International Superstars

Five alumni share their — *very* international — life journeys

By Sherri Kimmel, for Princeton Int'l

Around campus, they are affectionately known as “frequent flyers.” students who take a determined approach in finding creative ways to see as much of the world as they can through Princeton’s offerings. Experiencing other cultures and perspectives can be transformative, personally and professionally, as exemplified by these five shining examples. To commemorate *Princeton Int'l*’s 10th edition, we catch up with a few stellar alumni who were previously featured in the magazine. Read the full accounts of these remarkable alums at [BIT.LY/IntlSuperstars](https://bit.ly/IntlSuperstars).



Noah Arjomand '10

Occupation: Filmmaker, sociologist, photographer, writer

Current Home: Riverside, Calif.

Countries visited for Princeton-sponsored projects: Turkey, Iran and Kurdish parts of Iraq

Recent accomplishment: 2024 Emmy Award winner for Outstanding Social Issue Documentary

Noah Arjomand '10 had always been interested in the geopolitics of the Middle East.

"I pitched an idea to go and study Kurdish political graffiti in Turkey, Iran and Iraq," said Arjomand, who was ultimately awarded a research grant from the Department of Near Eastern Studies (NES). "I bought a camera to photograph graffiti and pursue lots of other interesting photographs. The idea of doing documentary film came out of that time that I spent abroad, particularly doing these photo essays."

His next journeys included international journalism seminars and a year of travel, language learning and research in Turkey, Iran and Kurdish parts of Iraq, again with support from NES.

"If I've done something that matters for the nation or the world, it stems from the interests that were first sparked in my time at Princeton."

"The ethics and craft of telling documentary stories that I learned during my time at Princeton — and going abroad while there — is something I'm using every day on my current film project."

— Noah Arjomand '10

"Stories are key, because one person is a tragedy, and a million are a statistic. We need to tell individual stories to help to broaden people's perspectives and see themselves in someone else."

— Katherine Clifton '15

Katherine Clifton '15

Occupation: Assistant Director of Communications for Migration and Refugee Services at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

Current Home: Washington, D.C.

Countries visited for Princeton-sponsored projects: Serbia, Greece, Japan

Recent accomplishment: Becoming a mother

As the USCCB's assistant director of communications for Migration and Refugee Services, Clifton tells the stories of migrants to the United States.

Clifton undertook two stints in Serbia — the first with the Novogratz Bridge Year Program, the second with a Martin A. Dale '53 Fellowship — resulting in a yearlong project after she graduated. She says both made her "much more aware of the particular vulnerabilities migrants face. You don't have to look far now to see where this is happening," she added. "Usually, migrants are treated poorly, used as scapegoats for other societal problems. I was seeing that up close in Serbia."

Clifton was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to pursue a master's degree at Oxford University and went on to lead the Religion and Forced Migration Initiative at Princeton, which studied the role religion plays in refugee resettlement in the U.S.



“My work with music is so often about bringing people with different perspectives into the same concert hall. It’s my job to make sure people feel connected to one another.”

— Shruthi Rajasekar '18

Shruthi Rajasekar '18

Occupation: Composer, singer

Current Home: Minneapolis, Minn.

Countries visited for Princeton-sponsored projects: Austria, Germany, England

Recent accomplishment: North American premiere of her composition *Sarajini*

Shruthi Rajasekar '18 has had several musical compositions performed around the world and, at only 28, boasts a lengthy Wikipedia page.

Rajasekar's international engagement began with a quote from President Christopher L. Eisgruber that she read in this magazine: “He said students should take a Global Seminar with PIIRS. I had no idea that it would completely change my life.”

She took her first Global Seminar, “Vienna: Music, Culture and Politics,” after her first year. The following summer she experienced Princeton in Munich, followed by a semester abroad at the Royal College of Music in London. “That is when I decided I wanted to continue my singing, but I really wanted to be a professional composer,” she explained. “That experience in London cemented all the things that had been brewing until then.”

Photo by Roscoe Rutter

Cy Liu '18

Occupation: Artist and experiential-learning facilitator

Current Home: China

Places visited for Princeton-sponsored projects:

China, Hong Kong, Cambodia

Recent accomplishment: Authentic selfhood

Cy Liu '18 arrived at Princeton from Beijing with dreams of becoming a software engineer. Though he studied computer science, a summer Princeton in Asia fellowship after his first year began to expand his perspective. A year later, Liu roamed Hong Kong with his camera when not serving as a Keller Center REACH intern in computer science at the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute.

Back at Princeton, he won two first-place awards in the Office of International Programs and PIIRS annual International Eye Photo Contest. This recognition “was the first encouragement that photography was not just something that I enjoy doing,” Liu reflected.

For a show in Singapore this fall, he used the visual medium to express more of his story and those of other members of the queer and trans community “so that people can shift some understandings of that community,” he said.

“I must remember to stay humble and know that I don’t know everything and to continue to be aware of my privilege, especially while working as a journalist and as a storyteller, as a medium or conveyor of other people’s stories.”

— Cy Liu '18

Photo by Cy Liu '18

Jack Lohmann '19

Occupation: Full-time writer

Current Home: The Hebrides, United Kingdom

Countries visited for Princeton-sponsored projects: England, Scotland, Greece, Spain, Morocco, Kiribati, New Zealand, Australia, Nauru

Recent accomplishment: Publishing his first book, *White Light: The Elemental Role of Phosphorus — in Our Cells, in Our Food, and in Our World* (Pantheon, March 2025)

“The very first international trip I took at Princeton was to this place, where I live right now,” Lohmann, a Richmond, Va., native said from his home on the Isle of Benbecula in the Outer Hebrides.

His first book, the critically acclaimed, *White Light: The Elemental Role of Phosphorus — in Our Cells, in Our Food, and in Our World*, which began as his thesis, was born out of HMEI Smith-Newton Environmental Scholars



Photo by Alice Maiden '19

Program funding and close collaboration with Princeton journalism professors.

“I feel so lucky to have been able to see and encounter so much of the world as a student,” he said. “Going to Princeton exposed me to questions I didn’t even know I had. The work that I’ve committed myself to doing since then has been answering those questions.”

“I love to read something that’s written in a different voice, that makes you feel you’re getting a different take on the world. To me, that’s a good book, and that’s what I’m interested in writing.”

— Jack Lohmann '19



Global Classrooms, Lasting Lessons

PIIRS Global Seminars equip students with the skills needed to make a positive impact in an interconnected world

By Pooja Makhijani, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies

Each summer, PIIRS sponsors multidisciplinary Global Seminars that meaningfully unite pedagogy and place. In these six-week credit-bearing courses, students engage with the world beyond Princeton through experiential learning in places at the heart of the seminar's lessons.

“Global Seminars take learning beyond the classroom and into the world,” said Trisha Craig, PIIRS’ executive director. “For many students, this is the moment when ideas and experience meet, when curiosity turns into purpose. They expand what students see as possible, both in the world and in themselves, and help them imagine how they might use their education to shape the future.”

In 2025, PIIRS piloted five new seminars — in France, Ireland, Kenya, Romania and Taiwan. Here, faculty and students reflect on a transformative summer abroad.

Paris: Spaces of Memory

Paris, France

Like most people, undergraduates in “Paris: Spaces of Memory” had preconceptions of the city’s geographies and histories. “Some of them had a vision of Paris from movies or a series like *Emily in Paris* — that very picturesque side of the city, with monuments and nice benches,” says André Benhaïm, professor of French and Italian. “It’s actually a living city. Very cosmopolitan, sometimes gritty.”

Benhaïm tasked his group to confront their misconceptions by learning the realities of the city’s past, present, and future and to pursue an independent project about Paris that aligned with their interests. One student documented the history of the city’s hospitals, focusing on those that had been decommissioned. Another volunteered with the American Church in Paris and supported the unhoused. Yet another wrote about dance in Paris and took hip-hop classes. Collectively, these projects complicated the oversimplified, romantic notions of the city — and even gave Benhaïm new insights. “The students honed their research skills, and their projects took me by surprise. I learned a lot about a city I thought I knew,” he said.

Photo by Yassine Ait Ali



Undergraduates gather on Pont Neuf, located between the Académie Française and the Louvre Museum, a location that situates itself between human inquiry and the global arts — symbolic of the central motifs in the course, “Paris: Spaces of Memory.”



My project focused on Franco-Chinese communities before, during and after the pandemic, and attempted to understand how they responded to discrimination. I interviewed small-business owners specifically in the Chinatowns of Paris and the neighborhood of Belleville in the 19th and 20th arrondissements. There's a spectrum to how Chinese communities responded to the pandemic and the China-bashing rhetoric. A lot of them have recovered from the economic hardship, but the pandemic has left them with a mark as well. There's been a loss of customers. It was a global pandemic, but specific countries and populations experienced more adversity than others. This research has exposed me to ethnographic work — it's shown me what it's like to speak with people, ask them difficult questions, and get a glimpse into their stories. This program has been invaluable in terms of exposing me to this type of field work.”

— Winnie Lin '28

Reproductive Justice in Ireland

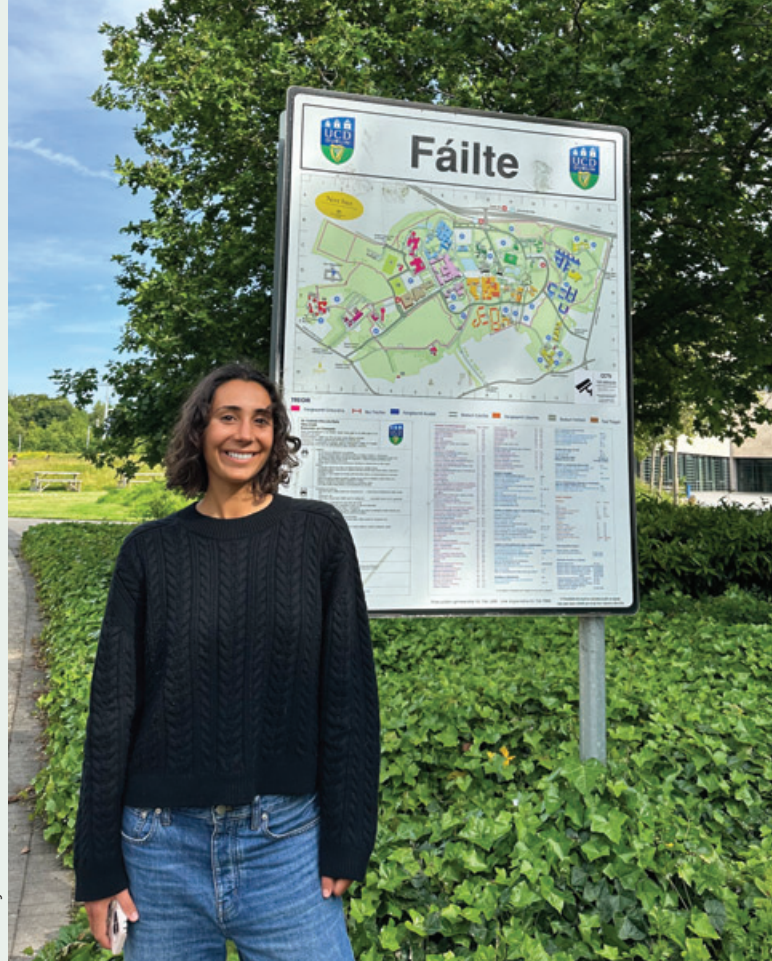
Dublin, Ireland

As students traveled across Ireland, the long shadow of English colonization and the Irish struggle for independence followed them through their lessons about Irish history, sociology, anthropology and political science in “Reproductive Justice in Ireland” with Elizabeth Armstrong, associate professor of sociology and public affairs.

Students met with scholars and activists at the forefront of Irish abortion advocacy and consulted archives as they considered the past, present and future of reproductive rights in Ireland, while thinking about reproductive justice globally.

“I could’ve assigned the same books and articles on campus, but they wouldn’t have had the same impact,” Armstrong said. “Seeing glass art by Alison Lowry at the National Museum or visiting Glasnevin Cemetery to experience the gravesites and memorials to those who suffered in the Magdalene Laundries and mother and baby homes made a deep impression on students. Learning is activated when students are engaged emotionally as well as intellectually.”

Photo by Jane Gaito



Nicki Gaito '28 at University College Dublin.



I loved the opportunity to see firsthand how Ireland’s complex history continues to shape its present. Abortion didn’t become legal until 2018. They’re living through such fresh history. For the first half of the class, we focused on the history of the creation of the Irish state and women’s role in that society. In the latter half, we looked at political movements and how something starts from a grassroots movement and turns into a countrywide fight. We had opportunities to engage directly with scholars, advocates and individuals whose lives have been touched by reproductive politics. They would come present about their experiences, and we’d go out to a dinner with them. It’s one thing to read someone’s work, but it is an entirely different experience to be able to ask them questions and hear their personal stories in conversation, which made everything we were studying feel so much more immediate and alive. This seminar has deepened my interest in women’s reproductive rights, an area I am excited to continue studying at Princeton and possibly even pursue as a future career.”

— Nicki Gaito '28

Technology for African Languages in the Digital Age: An Interdisciplinary Approach

Kisumu, Kenya

There are over 7,000 languages in the world today, and around 2,000 are spoken on the African continent. Yet, fewer than 20 African languages are currently represented in commercial large language models (LLMs) that drive services like ChatGPT. Happy Buzaaba, associate research scholar at the Princeton AI Lab and lecturer at PIIRS and First-Year Seminars, is a data engineer focused on introducing more African languages into LLMs. “People shouldn’t need to switch to another language for them to interact with technology,” Buzaaba said. “For these African communities, it’s a barrier.”

In “Technology for African Languages in the Digital Age: An Interdisciplinary Approach,” co-taught by Buzaaba, Princeton undergraduates and six local Kenyan students worked to collect image, audio and text data in six Indigenous Kenyan languages to enhance the representation of African languages in LLMs.

The course, co-taught with Mahiri Mwita, a senior lecturer at PIIRS, and Srinivas Bangalore, lecturer in the Program in Translation and Intercultural Communication, will return to Kenya in summer 2026. “The students appreciated the complexity and the work it takes to develop a technology for low-resource African languages,” Buzaaba said. “Some students told me that the course gave them a direction of what they want to focus on going forward.”

Additional reporting by Jamie Saxon, Office of Communications

“Local languages around Kisumu are primarily oral, often lack standardized scripts and, most importantly, don’t appear online. We were focused on building strong databases that were comprehensive and culturally aware. Companies like Google may develop models in Swahili, but the people designing them might not consider cultural contexts such as local fishing practices, crops or foods. The resulting models may miss themes relevant to actual users. Our project involved taking photos of daily life and then writing captions. The key was not to just translate captions — we developed them in English, Swahili and Maragoli, enriching the database and making it more authentic. ... Princeton has been about taking parts of my identity — interest in computer science and languages alongside my Latin American Jewish heritage — and finding ways to connect them to meaningful projects. This seminar inspired my next steps to build a model for Quechua, an Indigenous language I study that’s spoken by only a few million people across South America.”

— Uriel Lin '28



Photo by Uriel Lin '28

Andrei Florian '28 and Uriel Lin '28 on the campus of Maseno University, PIIRS' institutional partner. In “Technology for African Languages in the Digital Age,” local Kenyan students collaborated with Princeton students, fostering a rich exchange of knowledge and culture.

A Region at the Crossroads: Eastern Europe and the Black Sea Between Russia and the West

Cluj-Napoca and Sibiu, Romania

As a postcommunist country bordering Ukraine and the Black Sea and a relatively recent member of the European Union and NATO, Romania offers an important lens for understanding of the significant political and economic changes in the region as a result of Russia's war in Ukraine. "A Region at the Crossroads," co-taught by Grigore Pop-Eleches, professor of politics and international affairs and acting director of PIIRS, and Nadia Crisan, the executive director of the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination, provided students with an overview of the region's precommunist and communist past and the political dynamics that have transformed it as countries embarked on diverging postcommunist political trajectories — both toward stable democracy and entrenched authoritarianism.

Pop-Eleches, who was born and raised in Sibiu, hoped to give the students context for current debates about the tensions between European aspirations and Russian threats in Eastern Europe, as well as about the way in which these tensions are rooted in the imperial and communist legacies of the region. "The layers of history in two Transylvanian cities, along with trips to meet with politicians in Bucharest and visits to the Memorial Museum to the Victims of Communism and the Elie Wiesel Memorial House in Sighet on the border with Ukraine gave them a much more vivid understanding of the complex history and politics of Romania and the broader region than what we could have done in a classroom in Princeton," he said.



Photo by David Caro

David Caro '28 at Bran Castle, a national monument and landmark in the Transylvania region of Romania.

“Understanding the legacies of communism in the region as well as the pivot toward democracy was a fascinating topic that is really reflected in the cities we explored. Our trip to Maramures, a region that neighbors Ukraine, reiterated how crucial the contemporary fight for democracy is. Romania took in the greatest number of Ukrainian refugees of any other European country. Being in that area, hearing people speak Ukrainian, seeing Ukrainian flags, put all that into perspective. Visiting Sighet Prison, a former prison for anticommunist political opponents, reinforced why we should support those in the fight and not be afraid of protecting our democracies at home. Studying Romania through a political and historical lens emphasized how democracies depend on civically engaged citizens to flourish. It's vital that we're going through all the channels necessary — diplomacy, voting, protesting — before using military force; 'military intervention' is tossed around by every country too easily. These perspectives have motivated me to become more involved in civic engagement here in Princeton and are sure to follow me.”

— David Caro '28

Joshua Jen '28 and his classmates in "Taiwan Beyond the Headlines" explore Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, which honors Taiwan's former president and is a symbol of the island's complex political history.

Taiwan Beyond the Headlines: History, Society and Culture

Taipei City, Taiwan

"For some years I had been thinking and worrying about the glaring absence of Taiwan in Princeton's undergraduate curriculum," said Janet Y. Chen, professor of history and East Asian studies and director of the Program in East Asian Studies. "The opportunity to take students to Taipei as part of the Global Seminar program was the perfect answer."

She and Fang-Yen Hsieh, lecturer in Chinese language, led "Taiwan Beyond the Headlines: History, Society, and Culture," taking students to Taipei and to a world beyond the headlines to examine the island's colonial past, its economic rise, the transition to democracy, and social movements such as feminism, LGBTQ rights and environmental activism.

Chen described a weekend trip to Kinmen Island, near China's coast, as illustrative: "As we stood at the beach and looked to the mainland Chinese city on the other side, all the headlines about conflicts across the Taiwan Strait made sense in a piercing new way," she said. "We met with a city councilor, who shared with us his views of the challenges and opportunities for the local community — those who grew up in the glare of the Cold War and the younger generation learning to navigate new geopolitical realities. Throughout the summer, what students could see and experience outside the classroom amplified and deepened their academic studies."



“As a Taiwanese-American, this experience broadened my understanding of Taiwan and expanded my perspective to other sectors and people, including the manufacturing industry and indigenous communities. One of the most notable experiences was sharing a meal with Lengmengman Rovaniyaw [associate professor, Department of Indigenous Affairs and Development, National Dong Hwa University], learning about the relationships between Indigenous communities and the modern Taiwan government and her opinions about how Indigenous communities can move forward. This was particularly interesting as we learned about the history of how Taiwan was formed and the unique role Indigenous people played in that process. Beyond that, getting the chance to explore Taipei with my classmates was a huge highlight of the trip; whether it was hiking in Jiufen, shopping in Xinyi or eating lots and lots of food, the informal trips and daily excursions both brought our group closer and also gave us the chance to learn more about Taiwanese people.”

— Joshua Jen '28

The Sound of Tradition: Exploring the Craft of Pipe Organ Building

By Alex Anderson '28

I have always been drawn to the intersection of music and architecture. Until my summer fellowship through the Streicker International Fellows Program, I had never truly considered what it takes to keep sound alive.

I worked with Harrison & Harrison, a world-renowned pipe-organ building firm based in Durham, England. Upon arriving, I quickly learned that the firm is not driven by profit but rather by a deep commitment to preserving a centuries-old craft and serving the community. This model creates a working environment informed by a passion for the work and an ongoing commitment to tradition. Some builders today even rely only on hand tools passed down for generations. It is not a nostalgic affectation; it is a philosophy. The work matters not only for the sound it produces, but also for its role as a presence in a community.

I spent most of my fellowship in the workshop: casting and shaping metal pipes, cutting wind trunks, planning restoration work in the design office. My favorite days were on site, helping inspect and care for the organs themselves. These site visits brought me to some of the most important cathedrals in England; others led to far smaller parishes. In a village church in Stanhope, my team was welcomed by a former Bishop of Salisbury. Having once presided over one of England's most renowned cathedrals, he had retired to serve this rural congregation. His devotion to both the grand and the modest communities echoed the very ethos I had witnessed working for Harrison & Harrison: the idea that dignity and care are not reserved for the prestigious but applied equally to every instrument. The firm maintains some of the most distinguished organs in the world but also dedicates itself to churches that struggle

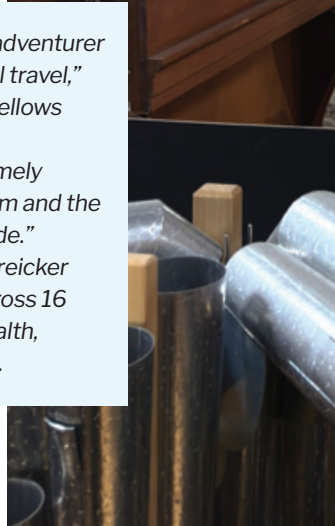
The Streicker International Fellows Program was established in 2015 by John H. Streicker '64 to provide undergraduate students the opportunity to design their own summer internship in collaboration with organizations outside of the United States.

Since its inception, the program has supported nearly 150 students in pursuing self-designed internships across the globe. Fellows undertake projects that align with their academic and professional goals while engaging in cross-cultural exchange that deepens their understanding of our interconnected world.

"In his heart, our father was an academic adventurer who loved the lessons afforded through global travel," said Michael Streicker '99. "He designed the Fellows Program as a way for students to pursue their curiosities across cultures. He would be extremely pleased to see the development of the program and the wonderful contributions its students have made."

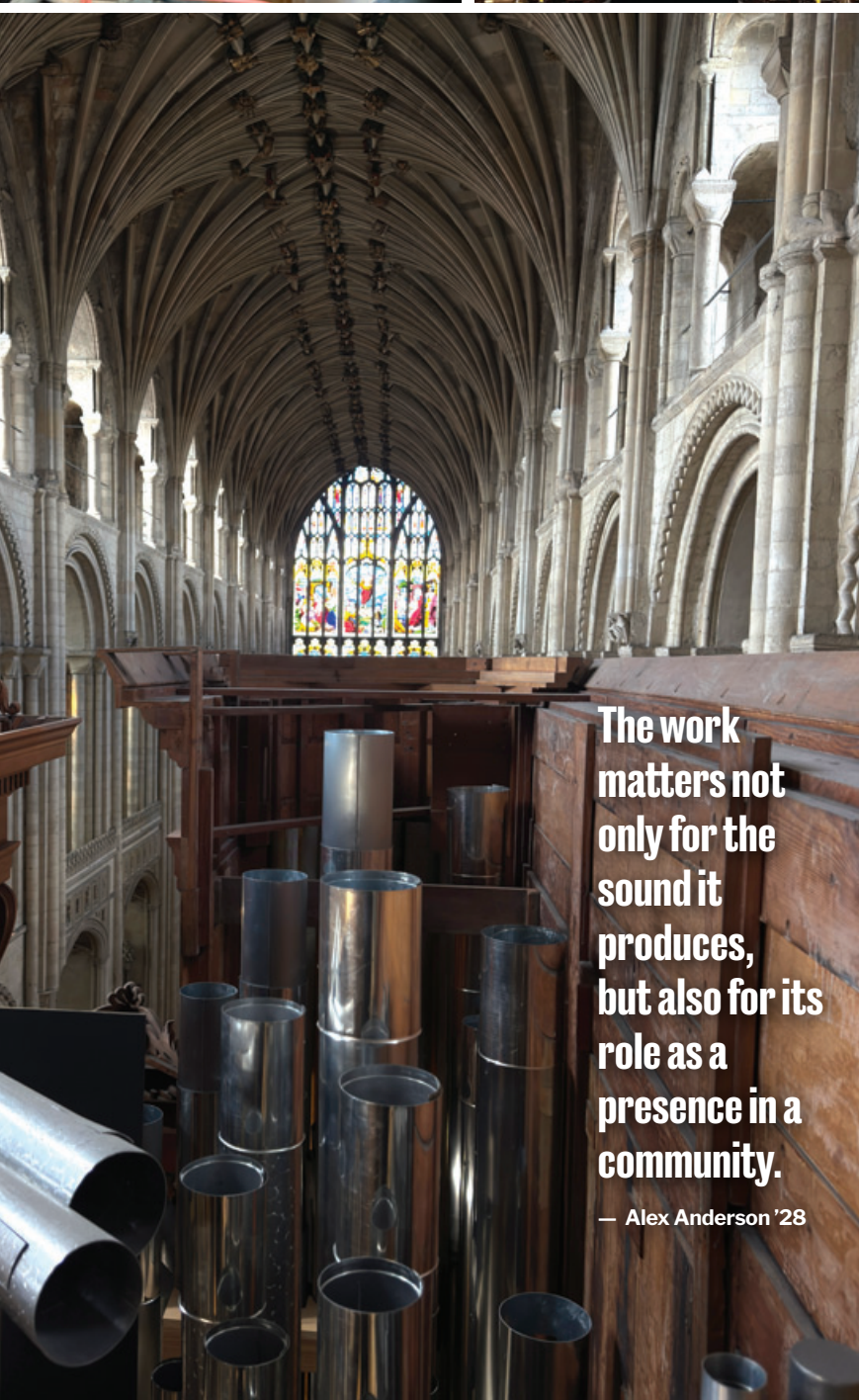
This summer, 22 students were named Streicker International Fellows to pursue internships across 16 countries and in industries including global health, human rights and advocacy, finance and more.

Photos courtesy of Alex Anderson '28





Clockwise from top left: Anderson's colleague inspects the pipe feet of the pedal division at St. Dominic's Priory Church in Newcastle; Alex Anderson in Gloucester Cathedral; On site at Norwich Cathedral.



The work matters not only for the sound it produces, but also for its role as a presence in a community.

— Alex Anderson '28

to raise funds. Before my fellowship, I had not thought much about what motivated craftsmanship; I assumed that fiscal considerations dictated priorities. While looking over the company estimation process, I wondered whether specific optimization might make the business more cost efficient. But I realized that efficiency is not the end goal. The firm does not exist to maximize profit. It exists to preserve traditions, to keep instruments alive for their communities. That perspective reshaped how I thought about my work. While practical improvements are necessary, they must serve a greater purpose.

By the end of the summer, my work had carried me into incredible spaces: I looked down upon the quire at Ely Cathedral; I explored the triforium of Norwich Cathedral; I tuned the reeds of Westminster Abbey; I helped install a renovated organ in St. John's College, Cambridge. These moments taught me how this tradition contributes to something much larger than the instrument itself.

While I do not plan to become an organ builder, the fellowship showed me how disciplines like architecture and music can intersect in unusual ways. It reminded me that craftsmanship and community are inseparable. It taught me to look at my projects as contributions to a communal good. Hearing my colleagues share memories of their favorite organs, some of which featured pipes made over a century ago, encountering the quirks and histories of local organs — this experience gave me more than a set of technical skills. Ultimately, this fellowship established a personal understanding of why I am drawn to architecture and music in the first place; not only for the beauty of the art itself, but also for its ability to sustain tradition and create spaces where people come together.

Rory Truex '07, an associate professor of politics and international affairs at Princeton University, focuses his research and teaching on Chinese politics, specifically Chinese policymaking, public opinion and human rights. His research and commentary has been featured in The Atlantic, The New York Times, The Washington Post, The South China Morning Post and other outlets. He recently launched The Civic Forum, a Substack

newsletter and webinar/video podcast series about democracy and how to protect it. "Educating the public is particularly important in this

moment," he told Princeton Int'l.

"Democracy is in recession worldwide; over 70% of the global population lives under authoritarian rule. Americans can learn from the experiences of other countries.

"In academia, our research is so inward-focused," Truex said. "We're taught to research and publish, but we're not taught to communicate to the public. My hope is to bring the ideas of my field — China studies, authoritarian politics, comparative politics — to a broader audience."

The Civic Forum can be found on Substack, YouTube, Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

The following post, which we are reprinting in full, is from April 20, 2025.



The Fear Tariff: On Keeping People and Ideas Out

I recently received an email from a colleague in Europe who had been planning on visiting our campus. The trip had been in the works for months, but he sent me a note indicating that he would no longer be visiting the United States. The risk of a trip to the States just wasn't worth it, he said.

The sad irony is that I have written some version of that email myself many times in the past — to colleagues in China. Journalists, scholars and other foreigners face distinct risks when entering China, and many of us who conduct research on Chinese politics no longer feel comfortable going. We all know people who have been detained in China or turned around at the border, a "rare but real" phenomenon that can make travel there uncertain and unpleasant.

The Trump administration has created a security situation where foreigners no longer feel comfortable coming and going from our country. European citizens have faced harsh detention practices at the border, including a German traveler who spent 16 days locked up before being sent back to Germany. A French scientist claims they were turned away at the border because they had messages critical of Trump on their phone. We are deporting Ph.D. students if they have speeding tickets. An article

in *The Guardian* now provides guidance for Europeans traveling to the U.S. about how to properly wipe their phones before entry. A growing list of countries — Canada, Ireland, the Netherlands, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Germany, Finland — have issued travel warnings to their citizens about visiting the United States.

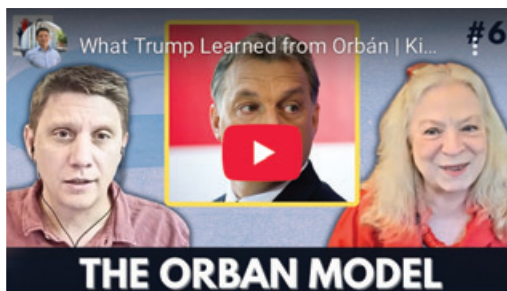
And of course, noncitizens that are already in the United States confront an unprecedented level of fear and uncertainty. Attend the wrong protest, or have the wrong tattoo, and you can be whisked away by ICE, sent to a detention center in Louisiana or El Salvador.

Collectively, the Trump Administration's practices amount to a "fear tariff." Like the trade tariffs that dominate our news cycle, a "fear tariff" is meant to deter things from coming in.

I see this fear in my own international students. Many of them are not sure whether they can go home for the summer to see their families, lest they get shaken down at the border upon reentry or have their visas revoked while abroad. Many universities are issuing warnings to international students and faculty to avoid travel. I've seen some that suggest students should not travel abroad if they have attended a Middle East protest or have talked about Palestine on social media.

All of this is incredibly damaging to the mental health and well-being of our students, as well as the general health of U.S. universities and the broader scientific community. Some of my best Ph.D. students have already indicated to me that they will be looking for academic jobs outside of the United States, and I don't blame them. Why would they stay in a country where they clearly aren't wanted?

I was at a conference last year sponsored by the Carter Center, with academics from both China and the United States in dialogue about how to rebuild scientific exchange between the two countries. There was a disquieting symmetry in the discussion. The American professors complained about the dangers of entering China, and the Chinese professors complained about their treatment in the United States. One had been subjected



to secondary questioning at the border on that very trip. I remember one professor from China noted how American scholars needed to "be braver" and make the trip, as the Chinese professors had done that time around.

I appreciated the solidarity in the conference, but that comment irked me, as there seemed to be a false equivalence underlying it. China lacks the rule of law, and at the time of the event, the Chinese government had recently detained and tortured two Canadian citizens for years in a spate of hostage diplomacy. Visitors to China do not enjoy standard political rights and can be subjected to arbitrary detention, just like Chinese citizens. Our Chinese colleagues may be taken for secondary questioning during their visits to the U.S., but they still had the rights and protections of a democracy and a well-functioning legal system.

The Trump administration has done away with all that. Fear tariffs are a feature of the authoritarian world — places like China, Russia, North Korea create barriers to outsiders, deterring critical voices from entering. The American fear tariff is nowhere near the levels in those countries, but it is no longer zero.

“ I see this fear in my own international students. Many of them are not sure whether they can go home for the summer to see their families, lest they get shaken down at the border upon reentry or have their visas revoked while abroad.

— Rory Truex '07, professor of politics and international affairs

Connecting Flights

An internationally themed puzzle with a Princeton twist!

By Carrie Compton, Princeton Int'l

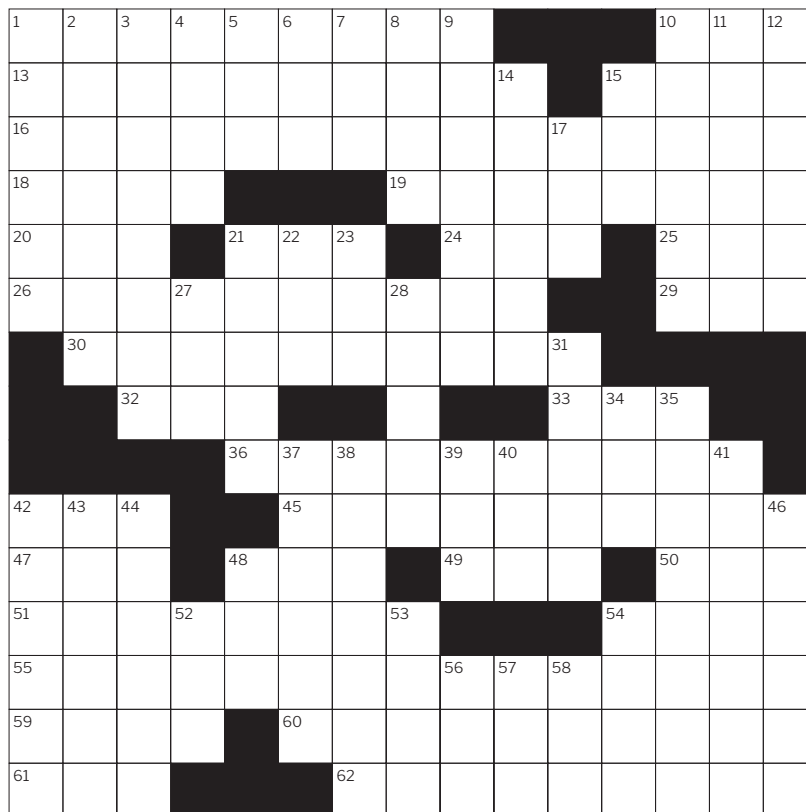
Finish this puzzle for a chance to win! Submit a photo of your completed grid to international@princeton.edu to be entered into a drawing for a free language translator device. Submissions must be received by April 1, 2026. Please include your name and mailing address.

ACROSS

- 1 A hunt you will go on for 11-down and 51-across
- 10 "When you ___ it that way ..."
- 13 2018 Siva Vaidhyanathan book, "___ Media: How Facebook Disconnects us and Undermines Democracy"
- 15 Museo offering (Sp.)
- 16 World traveler's passport contents?
- 18 "The Best Man" star Diggs
- 19 Shuttle compartments
- 20 Director Ang
- 21 Zeitung article
- 24 Like RKV vis-a-vis JFK, directionally
- 25 International ___, Princeton's annual photo contest
- 26 Museum amenity
- 29 ABBA song that asserts: "The love you gave me, nothing else can save me"
- 30 Headline superlative used to describe alumni featured in this magazine
- 32 Links number
- 33 Name hidden in *telenovela*
- 36 Copied
- 42 NYC dance troupe
- 45 Coveted award featured on pages 12-13
- 47 Elton's john
- 48 Spanish hero El ___
- 49 Some pop-ups
- 50 ___ Pen
- 51 International Princeton partner school, whose seal has been cleverly hidden on this magazine's cover
- 54 Ugandan dictator
- 55 "Bueller? ... Bueller?"
- 59 Post-op places, often
- 60 What might follow a successful chemistry experiment?
- 61 Precious person
- 62 Run ___ over

DOWN

- 1 SoCal area with the Latino Walk of Fame
- 2 "Invincible" victim of Hercules
- 3 Watched Seth Meyers, perhaps
- 4 Hourglass figure?
- 5 Seer's gift
- 6 Sinbad's transport
- 7 Green starter
- 8 Only venomous lizard native to the U.S.



- 9 "Wicked" witch's birth name
- 10 They're unpleasant when hiked
- 11 International Princeton partner school, whose seal has been cleverly hidden on this magazine's cover, colloq.
- 12 Language-class subject
- 14 Loewe's partner on Broadway
- 15 ___ Z
- 17 Princeton presidential inits.
- 21 "All the Light We Cannot See" novelist Anthony
- 22 Closest airport to the Taj Mahal (abbr.)
- 23 Shady, in modern lingo
- 27 Pub order, in brief
- 28 "See ___"; a traveler's most ardent wish
- 31 Haitian Pikliz and Salvadorian Curtido are two
- 34 French connections
- 35 Biblical wall builder
- 37 Uses TurboTax, say
- 38 Street vendor
- 39 He has (Fr.)
- 40 The fish in fish and chips, commonly
- 41 Museo offering (It.)
- 42 Secretary of state under Ronald Reagan
- 43 ___ back (recover)
- 44 Hot and sour Thai soup
- 46 Sent a reminder to
- 48 Chili ___ carne
- 52 Busiest New Eng. airport
- 53 New Zealand : Kiwi :: Costa Rica : ___
- 54 English connections
- 56 Quebecois term for a cent
- 57 Series with Capt. Picard
- 58 "Auld Reekie" airport code



A World in Frame

The 15th annual International Eye Photo Contest captures the spirit of international engagement

The Lone Herder

Cusco, Peru

Timothy Tymecki '26

1st Place,
Landscape/Nature
and Best in Show

The Office of International Programs, in collaboration with the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, celebrated the winning photos of the 15th annual International Eye Photo Contest. This year, 29 photos were selected from over 375 total submissions from 40 countries by students in all seven residential colleges and 25 different majors. Jeff Whetstone, professor of visual arts, Lewis Center for the Arts, judged the main categories. To mark the contest's 15th anniversary, Princeton faculty and staff were invited to submit entries for a special category judged by Emily Taylor, photo editor, Office of Communications. Selected photos were revealed during an on-campus gallery event, and awards were presented for Best in Show and Best in Category.

This annual contest shines a spotlight on moments captured by Princeton undergraduates as they engage in study abroad, internships, research and service projects around the globe. Entries represent a wide variety of international programs including semester and summer study abroad, the International Internship Program, PIIRS Global Seminars, and the Novogratz Bridge Year Program.

Scan to see all the
winning photos



