

FACULTY GUIDE



SIT

Study
Abroad

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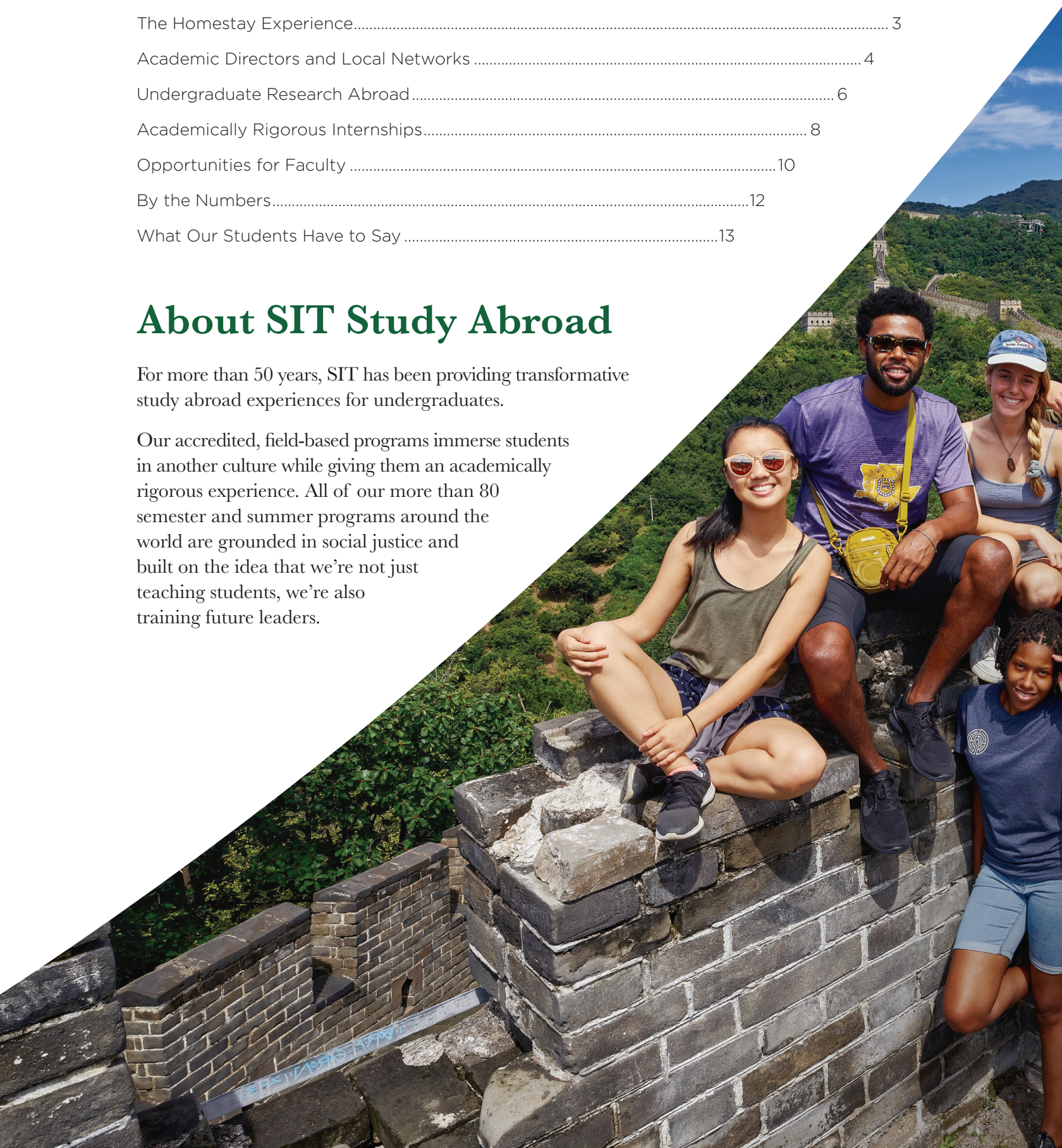
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About SIT Study Abroad

For more than 50 years, SIT has been providing transformative study abroad experiences for undergraduates.

Our accredited, field-based programs immerse students in another culture while giving them an academically rigorous experience. All of our more than 80 semester and summer programs around the world are grounded in social justice and built on the idea that we’re not just teaching students, we’re also training future leaders.





A Focus on Critical Global Issues

All SIT Study Abroad programs focus on complex issues that are critically important to the world today. Students examine these issues in specific cultural and geographical contexts or comparatively across different countries—all in environments where these issues are particularly pressing. Programs are interdisciplinary, with curricula applicable to a broad range of majors.



CLIMATE | ENVIRONMENT

The relationship between environmental and resource management policies, ecological realities, and socioeconomic objectives



DEVELOPMENT | ECONOMY | INEQUALITY

Innovative solutions communities are pursuing to build healthier, more livable, equitable, and sustainable societies



GLOBAL HEALTH

Strengths and limitations of diverse wellness systems, healthcare delivery models, and related healthcare policies



MEDIA | ARTS | SOCIAL CHANGE

The relationship between art, politics, and society and the use of art and media in advocating change



MIGRATION | IDENTITY | RESILIENCE

The complex roots of historical, sociopolitical, economic, and transnational forces that shape communities, countries, and regions



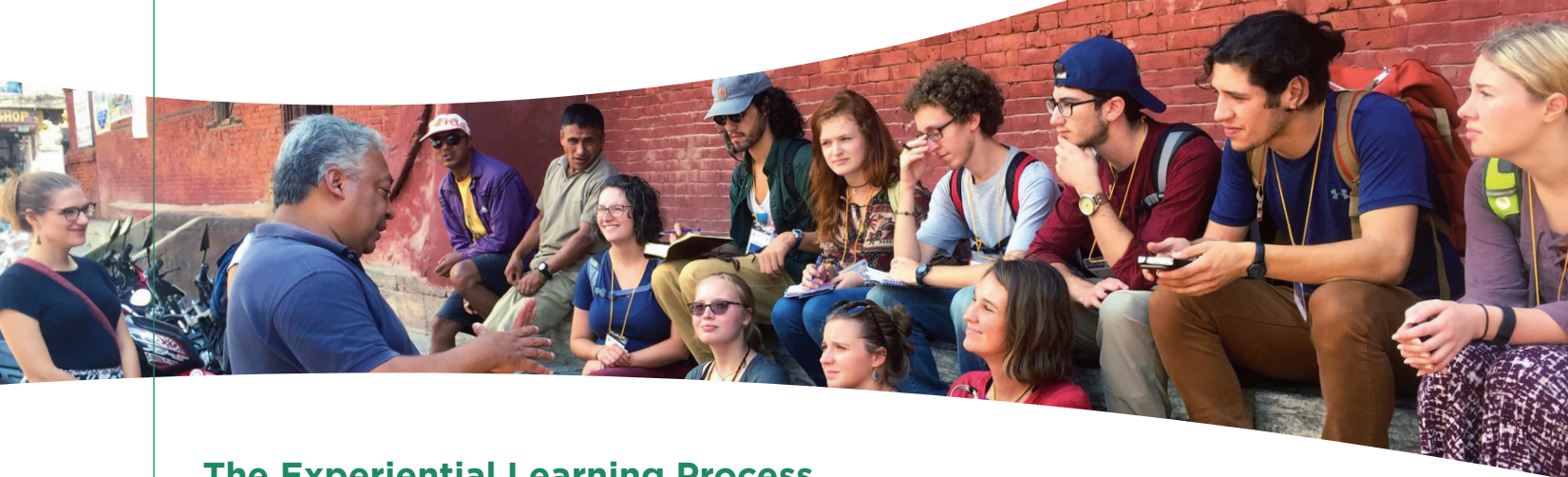
PEACE | HUMAN RIGHTS | SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

The role of civil society and labor, environmental, indigenous, and gender groups in relation to improved social conditions and human rights

Experiential Learning: SIT's Academic Approach

SIT Study Abroad is the pioneer in experiential, field-based programs abroad. For more than fifty years, we have provided carefully designed study abroad programs that engage students in a facilitated and mentored process of translating experience into learning in order to prepare them for more independent inquiry.

On our programs, experiential learning is not just an aspect of what we do; it is the foundation of all student learning. Our programs blend structured and unstructured experiences that allow student learning to happen through multiple formats—lectures, field visits, language study, homestays, and day-to-day interactions with local communities—in classroom and field-based settings. This approach not only teaches students how to integrate the disparate elements of the program but also leads to greater reflection on and understanding of the complexity of critical global issues. Students take this approach to learning with them into their future academic and professional endeavors.



The Experiential Learning Process

Whether students are exploring epidemiology in Kenya, renewable energy in Iceland, geoscience in Nepal, education in Chile, journalism in Morocco, or one of the many other topics examined on an SIT program, they are engaged in the experiential learning process well before they enter the field and remain engaged in this process after returning from the field.

BEFORE: SIT systematically selects and sequences homestays, lectures, and site visits. All program activities are structured logically and incrementally. Before students go on a site visit, for example, they discuss expectations, theoretical perspectives, and probable questions related to that particular excursion, in ways that prepare and equip them to get the most out of that experience.

AFTER: SIT faculty push student cohorts to think critically and systematically about each experience and to draw on their unique perspectives. Readings speak to specific learning experiences. Faculty facilitate weekly critical reflection sessions that draw upon students' various multidisciplinary backgrounds. Students are constantly challenged and urged to challenge one another.



The SIT Homestay Experience

A homestay is one of the best ways for students to fully experience another country. Homestays allow students to improve their language skills and deepen their cultural understanding in a family setting. Our carefully screened homestay families reflect the full diversity of the host community and come from a range of occupational, economic, and educational backgrounds. Most programs include at least one homestay experience, and many offer homestays in both urban and rural areas, providing an experience of daily life in different social and ethnic contexts.

What Does a Homestay Look Like?

On a homestay, a student might:

Experience life in a felt and wood ger with Mongolian nomads who move their homes across rolling steppes and semi-desert areas.

See the effects of refugees on host communities by living with a family in Jordan.

Witness the legacy of apartheid while living in a township with a South African family.

Learn from shamans and birth attendants among the Aymara communities in the Chilean Andes.

Engage in dinnertime conversations with Icelandic families on the front lines of climate change.

Language Study

A Critical Tool to Greater Cultural Integration and the Pursuit of Field-Based Research

Students on most SIT programs have the opportunity to study foreign language abroad.

Most SIT programs offer beginning language instruction in a language spoken by the local community, and many programs offer language study at intermediate and advanced levels. Students experience language immersion through homestays and interactions with community members.





Our Academic Directors

All SIT programs are led by an academic who is accomplished in their field. Most program and academic directors were born and raised in the country in which they teach. Those who were not have significant experience in the program's country or countries. Our directors oversee all aspects of their programs, design the academic components of the program, supervise staff and faculty, teach courses, ensure students' academic needs are met, and provide support for students throughout their entire experience abroad. They are actively publishing and presenting and are involved in international academic discourse within their area of expertise.

Academic Director Highlights

URSULA LINDSEY, MA, Near East Studies, New York University

Morocco: Field Studies in Journalism and New Media (Semester)

Ms. Lindsey has worked as a journalist in North Africa since 2002. She was an editor and correspondent in Egypt, reporting on the Arab Spring and its aftermath for *Newsweek* and *The New York Times*. She was a long-term correspondent for the BBC/PRI program *The World* and *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and contributes to *The Nation* and *Al Fanar*. She speaks French and Arabic.

BETH PRATT-SITULA, PhD, Geosciences, University of California Santa Barbara

Nepal: Geoscience in the Himalaya (Summer)

Dr. Pratt-Sitaula has worked in geoscience and education in Nepal since 2000. With Tribhuvan University faculty, she has installed and maintained a GPS station network in Nepal to monitor Earth-surface movements. She directs the Cascadia EarthScope Earthquake and Tsunami Education Program, which received the Western States Seismic Policy Council's 2016 National Award in Excellence for Educational Outreach to Schools.

XAVIER SILVA, PhD, Entomology, Pierre and Marie Curie University

Ecuador: Comparative Ecology and Conservation (Semester)

Dr. Silva has worked extensively in natural resource conservation in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as Africa and Asia. He was director of biodiversity conservation for The Nature Conservancy. His books include *Butterflies of Ecuador* and *Ecuador's Butterfly Ecology*, which won Best Biological Publication of Ecuador in 2012. He is president of the Entomological Society of Ecuador.

STEVE WANDIGA, PhD, Medical Research, Ludwig Maximilian University

Kenya: Global Health and Human Rights (Semester)

Dr. Wandiga leads the tuberculosis research team at Kenya Medical Research Center in Kisumu. He serves on the steering committee of the East African Consortium for Clinical Research and is co-chair of the TB Stakeholder Community Engagement Working Group. He coordinated the East Africa Healthy Pregnancy, Birth, Growth, and Development Knowledge Initiative funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Our Local Networks

All of our programs are supported by long-standing relationships within communities around the world. Our local staff and faculty are rooted in our programs' communities and support and enrich students' learning process, and our extensive in-country networks of partner organizations and institutions give students access to a variety of research and internship opportunities.

Throughout their program, students have access to an array of experts, leaders, and community members affected by and working to address the issues they're examining.

Right Now:

Professional local journalists from outlets including Agence France Presse and Times Media Group are teaching students on our journalism tracks in Serbia and South Africa.

A CEO of a teaching and learning hospital in Kenya provides lectures and oversees students' Independent Study Projects and internships.

In Jordan, students receive lectures from the former deputy prime minister and other high-ranking politicians and can engage with them further through their Independent Study Projects.



At the Forefront of Undergraduate Research Abroad

SIT provides opportunities on all of our semester programs and many of our summer programs for students to engage deeply with a research topic by completing an in-depth, field-based project that emphasizes multidisciplinary analysis and integrates experience-based learning. Students are encouraged to interact with scholars and other mentors, both in the host country and at their home colleges and universities, through a collaborative process that stimulates inquiry-based learning.

Countless SIT students have cited that learning how to produce a field-based research project is one of the most exciting and valuable aspects of studying abroad with SIT, and many of our students have turned their SIT research projects into senior theses.

Support and Guidance from Start to Finish

Many students enroll in an SIT program with limited, or no, primary field research experience. Throughout their program, they acquire the tools, knowledge, and contacts needed to complete a substantial field-based research project. Student research is self-directed but fully supported by our faculty through coursework instruction, field experience, and guidance from the initial proposal stage through project completion. Students are given the resources they need to make original, creative contributions to the field.

Setting the Standard for Ethical Research

SIT Study Abroad was one of the first in the field to implement a Human Subjects Review policy across a broad geographic spectrum and has long been a leader in research methods and ethics. Our federally registered Institutional Review Board and local review boards in each program location are responsible for overseeing the implementation of ethical research on all our programs. Students also learn to examine the ethics of their research and consider its impact on local communities.

Strict Adherence to Safety and Security

All student research locations are vetted and approved for safety and security. Prior to the independent research period, students must submit a detailed plan outlining travel plans, accommodations, and local contacts for how they can be reached. Students are required to check in on a regular basis with the academic director throughout the project.





Research Methods and Ethics—Not Your Ordinary Course

All of our students take a research methods and ethics course prior to starting their Independent Study Project. This course prepares students for undertaking independent research by helping them understand the resources available to them and giving them important training on the cultural context of various methodologies for data collection in their host country. This provides students with preparation to help them succeed locally and adhere to local laws/regulations on research.

Notable Student Publications

A number of SIT students have turned the research they did on an SIT program into work that has been published by peer-reviewed journals, university presses, and newspapers. Here is just a sampling:

JACQUELINE CHIPKIN, Duke University
Argentina: Public Health in Urban Environments
“Cesarean Section and Natural Birth: The Opinions of Health Provinces in the Province of Buenos Aires,”
ISALUD Journal, 2017

JOEL ABRAHAM, Yale University
Australia: Rainforest, Reef, and Cultural Ecology
“Effects of Time-since-fire on the Invertebrate Communities of Kangaroo Grass *Themeda triandra*-dominated Grasslands in Melbourne, Victoria,”
The Victorian Naturalist, 2018

AMANDA LAWNICKI, Beloit College
Serbia, Bosnia, and Kosovo: Peace and Conflict Studies in the Balkans
“An Analysis of Visitor Impression Books at the Bosnian Historical Museum in Sarajevo,” *Columbia University Journal of Politics & Society*, 2014

SAMUEL MORRISON, Cornell University
Uganda: Development Studies
“Hidden in Broad Daylight: Kuchu Safe Spaces and Sites of Resistance,” *Journal of Undergraduate International Studies*, 2017

See more student research at:

[DIGITALCOLLECTIONS.SIT.EDU/STUDY_ABROAD](https://digitalcollections.sit.edu/study_abroad)

“This internship was a turning point in my life. It gave me insights into how an international aid NGO operates and the complexities of the organization. I was able to find my niche in the international aid world and use my skills to assist in many diverse projects.”

—**ABIGAIL PELON**

St. Michael's College

Uganda: Global

Development

Studies

SIT INTERNSHIP STUDENTS:



Find their place in the world



Choose from a variety of options



Build their résumés



Give back



Put their learning into practice



Reflect on their experiences

Academically Rigorous Internships

SIT internships are designed to help students build professional skills such as intercultural communication, collaboration, and problem solving in a structured, reflective environment while interning at a local business or organization that is making a positive difference in people's lives.

In our academically rigorous internships, students are expected to:

- complete readings related to the internship and program theme,
- keep field notes or a journal,
- prepare progress reports,
- conduct critical self-reflection, and
- complete a final presentation and paper.

We offer internships in approximately 30 locations in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East. Our broad networks in nonprofit, private, and government sectors allow students to find an internship that appeals to them.

SAMPLE INTERNSHIPS

- Helping Ocean Planet with marine conservation campaigns in Tasmania
- Promoting women's involvement in government with the League of Tunisian Women Voters
- Working with refugees at the Asylum Protection Center in the Balkans
- Assisting research on HIV, TB, and malaria at the Centers for Disease Control in Kenya





Opportunities for Faculty

Faculty Seminars Abroad

SIT's faculty development seminars are a unique opportunity to engage deeply with a critical global issue in the context of a specific country. Participants gain the following:

- Valuable experience with and expertise on a topic and/or region that can be applied to existing course offerings or developed into new courses
- Increased ability to contribute to internationalization efforts on campus
- Meaningful insight into a distinct geographic region, which may lead to the development of a faculty-led customized program in that location in the future
- A new network of colleagues and experts around the world

“This was the best thing I’ve done for my own education in my field in all my years of teaching (16 years).”

—**WENDY MCINTYRE**

University of Redlands
*Comparative Ecology
and Conservation in
Ecuador, 2017*



Sample Seminars

ART AND MEMORY IN ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Analyze how residents of Buenos Aires have made sense of the violence of the dictatorship and the period of State Terrorism through the arts.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE IN CHINA

Kunming, China

Study the intersection of “western” and “traditional” medicine in practice, policy, and community health in the city of Kunming and in Tibetan areas of Yunnan province.

THE NEW TUNISIA: MIGRATION AND DEMOCRATIC CONSOLIDATION

Sidi Bou Said, Tunisia

Explore current issues in Tunisia, where the only successful revolution of the Arab Spring ushered in a new democracy as well as an influx of migrants headed towards the EU.



Faculty-led Custom Programs

SIT Study Abroad partners with faculty across the country, providing academic and logistical support on short-term, faculty-led courses abroad during the summer or January terms. SIT draws upon its broad network of resources in each country, supporting your course curriculum by providing orientation, language courses, local site visits, expert guest lectures, and other activities, as well as logistical support and risk management.

Site Visits

One of the best ways to learn more about SIT's program model and educational approach is to visit us in the field. Site visit participants interact with SIT academic directors and program faculty, observe classes and fieldwork assignments, connect with students and homestay families, and learn more about the opportunities for research and internships. Group site visits occur annually and generally accommodate 12–15 participants. We can also arrange individual site visits tailored to specific objectives.

See current faculty seminars abroad, site visits, and more at studyabroad.sit.edu/campus-advisors-and-faculty.



By the Numbers*

2,212

students participated in
our **2017–2018 programs**

Most Popular Region

23% of our students studied
in **Latin America**

Student Majors

320 **different majors** were
pursued by our students

Students have come from

 **451** institutions

 **50** US states, plus DC

 **75** countries

Top Three Critical Global Issues

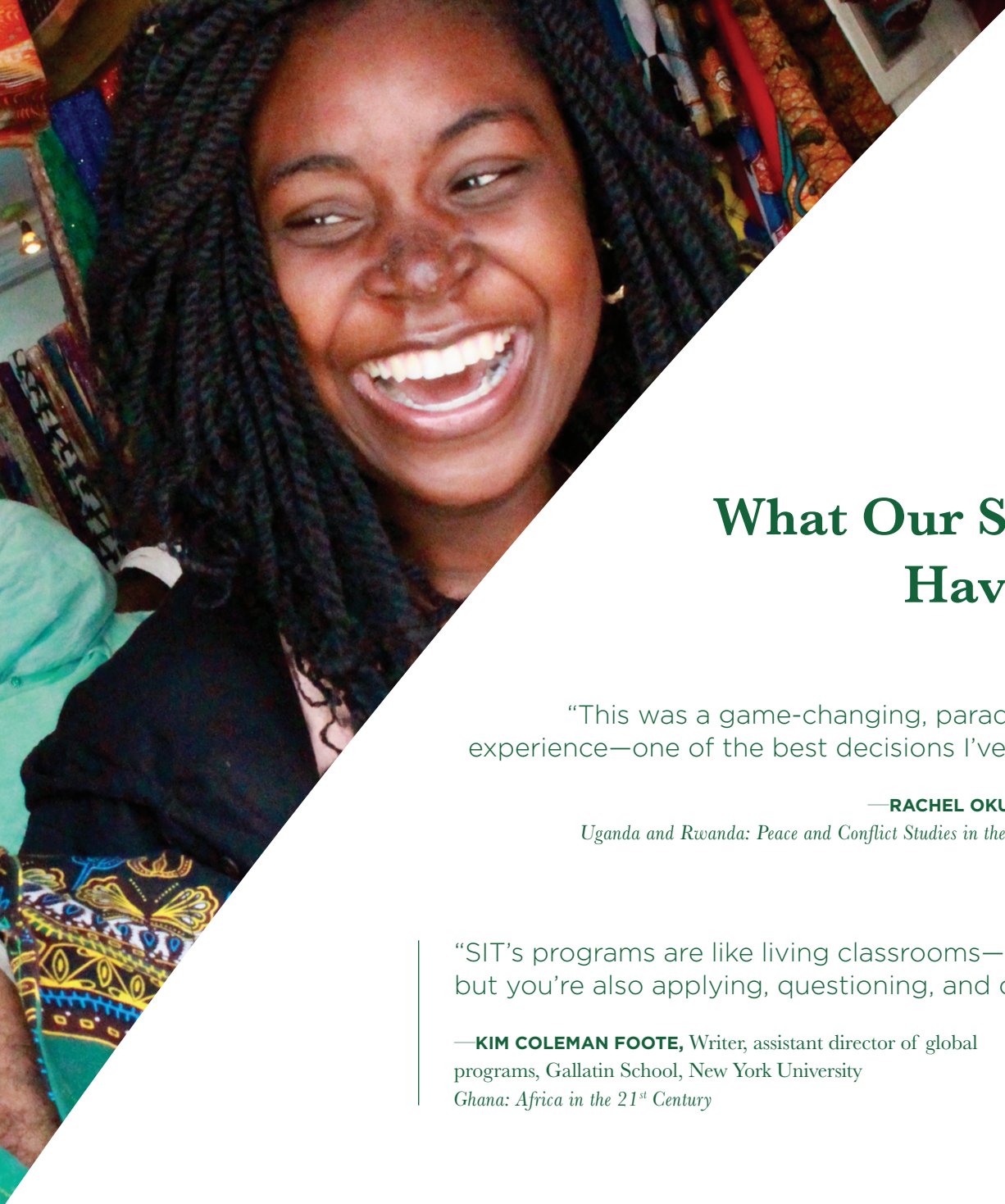
 **21%**
studied **Peace | Human Rights |
Social Movements**

 **20%**
of our students
studied **Global Health**

 **18%**
studied **Climate | Environment**

** Unless otherwise noted, data is
averaged from the past five years.*





What Our Students Have to Say

“This was a game-changing, paradigm-shifting experience—one of the best decisions I’ve ever made.”

—**RACHEL OKUN**, Yale University

Uganda and Rwanda: Peace and Conflict Studies in the Lake Victoria Basin

“SIT’s programs are like living classrooms—you’re learning, but you’re also applying, questioning, and challenging.”

—**KIM COLEMAN FOOTE**, Writer, assistant director of global programs, Gallatin School, New York University

Ghana: Africa in the 21st Century

“Going abroad with SIT [is] that intense cultural exchange moment where you’re outside your element. It made me feel like I was challenged and growing.”

—**KATY RUDDER**, NGO consultant, Zimbabwe

Nepal: Tibetan and Himalayan Peoples

“Every day . . . was filled with new friends, traditions, experiences, and skills. Every day, I improved my Arabic and felt more connected to the people and culture. I hope everyone gets the opportunity to have a summer like the one I had in Jordan because it wasn’t just a great experience, it has made my life more meaningful.”

—**SHANE EVANS**, Colorado State University

Jordan: Intensive Arabic Language Studies



STUDYABROAD.SIT.EDU

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