

# Global Projects Program

## WELCOME!

We are very excited to launch this year's newsletter which will inform and guide you through the process of finding an off-campus IQP, MQP or HUA project that is right for you. If you are a rising sophomore, a transfer student, or a junior or senior who has not yet completed an IQP or MQP project – this newsletter is for you. The Global Projects Program will recruit over 1000 students for more than 50 project centers around the globe and here in the U.S. for the 2024-2025 academic year. This newsletter will provide you with the information, tools, and resources that you will need to have a successful application.

## ON THE WEB

**The Global Projects Program** - Project centers in international and domestic locations where students participate in interdisciplinary and major capstone projects, and humanities and arts projects or exchange programs. Learn more on our [Global Project Program website](#).

**IQP** - The [Interactive Qualifying Project](#) is WPI's largest off-campus program offered through the Global Projects Program. It is an experiential general education requirement typically completed in the junior year. Students participate in a cohort of 24 students with 2 WPI faculty advisors, focused on projects at single project center.

**MQP** - The [Major Qualifying Project](#) is a team-based, professional-level design or research experience. A successful MQP demonstrates such learning outcomes as effective communication; understanding of the scientific, social, and ethical dimensions of the problem; and demonstrating knowledge appropriate to your specific major.

**HUA** – [Humanities and Arts Projects](#) is a general education requirement that allows students, freshmen through seniors, the opportunity to immerse themselves in the art, culture, and writings of a particular city or country.

**eProjects** — [eProjects](#) is our comprehensive system, developed in-house, to manage all project related data and processes. You will be using eProjects to explore Project Center opportunities, apply to the Global Projects Program, and complete forms required for your IQP. eProjects is the best tool to use to search for program information to help you make an informed decision when choosing which project centers are right for you.



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### IMPORTANT DATES

**Thursday, August 31**  
IQP Off-Campus Application Kick-off

**Friday, September 1**  
Off-Campus IQP Application Opens

**Wednesday, September 13**  
Global Fair in the Rec Center

**Thursday, October 5**  
Application Deadline

**Tuesday, December 19**  
IQP Placement Decisions Announced

**Tuesday, January 16**  
IQP Commitment Deadline



## GETTING STARTED

The Off-Campus IQP Application Process starts September 1, with the opening of the Off-Campus IQP Application 2024-2025 on eProjects. There's plenty of time to complete the application by the October 5th deadline, and many resources available to help you navigate the process.

The **Off-Campus IQP Application Kick Off** August 31, is a town hall style virtual introduction to the IQP application process. Global Experience Office (GEO) staff will present an overview of the application process, including application details, project center preferences and deadlines, with a Q&A session to follow.

The [Global Fair](#) is our in-person event

where students can interact with project center directors, students who have participated in the Global Projects Program in the prior year, GEO staff members, and campus partners to learn more about specific project centers. This year's event is September 13th, 2:00 – 4:00 PM in the Sports and Recreation Center. Sophomores are highly encouraged to attend.

GEO will be holding open advising sessions throughout the application period to meet with students and answer questions. Check out the schedule in the gray box below.

*You're on your way to beginning the exciting adventure of applying, preparing for, and completing an off-campus project!*

### GEO OPEN SESSIONS

Tuesday, September 5,

Noon—1:00

Thursday, September 7,

1:00—2:00

Tuesday, September 12,

1:00—2:00

Friday, September 15,

10:00—11:00

Monday, September 18,

2:00—3:00

Monday, September 25,

Noon—1:00

Thursday, September 28,

11:00— Noon

All sessions take place in the Laurie A. Leshin Global Project Center. Check in at the front desk in the first floor lobby.

## GLOBAL FAIR

Here's how you can make the most of your time at the [Global Fair](#):

- Develop a plan and attend as many tables as you can

Take into consideration types of projects, terms, costs, and any other questions you may have

- Make note of sites that you would like to learn more about on eProjects

More information about each site is available on WPI's eProjects portal at [eprojects.wpi.edu](http://eprojects.wpi.edu)

- Chat with campus partners

Financial Aid, Office of Accessibility Services, GEO, and SWEET will be available at tables throughout the fair.

- Get FREE passport photos

Even if you already have your passport, you may need extra photos for a visa and/or other preparatory materials. Save money and time and get them now!

- Have fun!



## FOCUS ON IQP

Whether or not you participate in the Global Projects Program, all students must complete an IQP to graduate. The projects are not intended to be related to a students' major, although you may be assigned to a project that draws upon the skills you may have learned in your major courses.

There are two ways to complete the IQP requirement. The Global Projects Program off campus option is designed to be completed in 1 term, with a preparatory Research Methods, or ID2050, course completed in the term prior. In addition to ID2050, students are also taking a 1/6 PQP, or project proposal course, which should not cause an overload, unless you overload with another course during the same semester.

When you apply to the Global Projects Program, it is important to think of it as applying to the program overall, and not specifically one project center or one project. Students will not be assigned to their exact project until right before the start of their prep term, so it's important to maintain a level of flexibility and open mindedness when considering a project center location.

Now is the time think about what kind of IQP experience you hope to have. It is still early in the process, but there is a lot to consider. Do you want to do an off-campus or on-campus IQP? Where will IQP fit in your schedule? To help you answer those questions view our [IQP Explained](#) video on YouTube.

### MQP, HUA, & EXCHANGE PROGRAMS AND ON-CAMPUS IQP

This issue of our newsletter focuses on the IQP and the Global Projects Program Off-Campus IQP Application Process starting in the beginning of A term.

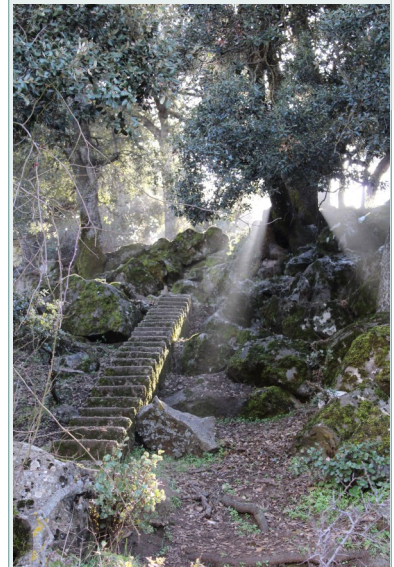
Additional information for MQP, HUA and Exchange programs will be released in a subsequent email newsletters.

The MQP application process opens October 2, 2022.

Applications for HUA programs are opened on a site by site basis and happen throughout the academic year.

Exchange Programs allow students to spend a semester studying at one of WPI's partner universities abroad. Applications open September 1.

On-Campus IQP – typically completed over the course of 3 terms, does not require you to apply through the Global Projects Program.





## PROGRAM BILLING

Students will be billed the following fees by WPI for the WPI semester they are away.

- WPI Tuition and Fees
- WPI Housing Fee (if applicable)
- WPI Meal Plan (if applicable, reduced for term away)
- Global Projects Program Housing and Program Fee (for applicable programs)

In addition to this, students should budget for the following while away:

- Local transportation
- Airfare (if applicable)
- Food
- Tourist activities and incidentals
- Project related incidentals

## GLOBAL SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship will come in the form of a credit that will appear on your bill for the academic period in which you'll be conducting project work, and is awarded to defray direct, billable costs (housing and program fees). Additional scholarship information can be found on the [Global Scholarship](#) page of the WPI website.

## EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS

Begin your IQP exploration by watching the [IQP Where to Begin](#) presentation video on YouTube. Then log on to [eProjects.wpi.edu](http://eProjects.wpi.edu) to start your project center search.

Browse Program Opportunities, watch project center videos, and read details regarding housing, transportation, climate, medical care, and travel risks.

Look at what type of projects have been completed at the Project Center.

Consider any personal health concerns (allergies, chronic conditions) that could impact where you travel based on climate and/or environmental factors.

Make sure to take any dietary restrictions (gluten intolerance, lactose intolerance etc.) or allergies (nuts in particular) into account as you consider potential IQP sites. Consulting with the Global Experience Office

about any health concerns in advance of your application will help you to make a more informed decision about whether a particular site is right for you.

Determine which term(s) you can feasibly go away.

Some programs may require applicants to have some level of specific language ability to effectively participate in the project center.

All programs require participation in an ID2050 course and PQP in terms preceding the project term. Some programs require additional preparation in the pre-prep term, 2 terms prior to the project. See gray box pg. 5.

Know what price range you are looking at for this experience. Discuss cost with your family.

## BUDGETING FOR TRAVEL

Program costs are posted on the eProjects program page for each project center. Program budgets are only estimates and are subject to change. GEO will inform students of significant increases to the billable program costs. See the billing schedule in the gray box left.

Program costs for participating in the Global Projects Program range from \$0 to \$8,900. More than 50% of our sites are less than \$5,500, and many sites fall between \$3-5,000. We encourage you to talk with parents or anyone who may be financially supporting you to discuss program costs and budgeting. If you have questions regarding the use of your Global Scholarship, please contact the [Office of Financial Aid](#).

While traveling for your project, you will still be responsible for paying for your on-campus housing. If you have questions about housing please contact the [Office of Residential Services](#).

# THE OFF-CAMPUS IQP APPLICATION

Sophomores and upperclassmen are eligible to apply to the Global Projects Program for IQP. If you are a first-year student but have sophomore status, which can be verified with the Registrar's office, you may apply. We strongly encourage first-year students with sophomore status to consider only C or D term off-campus programs. Students on academic warning are eligible to apply but should carefully consider the rigor of the program and speak with someone in [Academic Advising](#) about your specific situation.

The application process for the Global Projects Program (GPP) is competitive. Thoroughly completing the application on time is essential for a successful application. Every application is carefully reviewed and considered, however, no student is guaranteed placement at any project center.

A full preview of the 2023-2024 Off-Campus IQP Application can be found on the [Interactive Qualifying Project \(IQP\)](#) webpage.

Watch the [IQP How to Apply](#) Presentation video on YouTube for more detailed instructions.

## ID2050

ID2050 is a required preparatory Research Methods course completed in the term prior to an off-campus IQP. ID2050 classes meet on Monday and Thursday nights from 6:30 – 8:20.

## PQP

In addition to ID2050, students are also required to take a 1/6 PQP, or project proposal course, which should not cause an overload, unless you overload with another course during the same semester. PQP requires flexibility, as the meeting time is scheduled based on the group availability and the project advisors'.

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**To Apply: Click the *APPLY NOW* button on any eProjects IQP program page.**

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## CULTURAL HUBS

If you are interested in using your IQP as an opportunity to expand your knowledge and experience in a specific region or cultural area, you may choose to complete the Cultural Hub section of the application as an opportunity to express your academic and professional interest in one of the geographical hubs.

Latin America  
China/East Asia  
Africa  
Europe

Students choosing to complete this section should demonstrate a clear history of academic interest in the hub and will be required to list WPI language and cultural coursework relevant to the hub, share cultural learning experiences, and describe how an IQP in this hub would further their academic goals.

This section is optional. Participating in this section does not guarantee placement in any hub or project center.

## TOP APPLICATION TIPS

- Draft and review your essays in Word before copying into the application.
- Use the Academic History Section to discuss academic challenges you've faced.
- Understand how the Preference form works (See page 6 for important details)



# THE PREFERENCE FORM

**Within the 2024-2025 IQP Application you will find an IQP Project Center Preference Survey page.**

On this page, you will rate each offering as Very Interested, Interested, or Not Interested. You must select at least 6 choices in the categories of Very Interested and/or interested, at least 3 of which must be in the Very Interested category. While we require 6 choices, there is no limit to the number of offerings you can include in the categories of Very Interested or Interested.

We recommend that you explore all Project Center/Term opportunities and include as many as possible in the Very Interested and Interested categories. Not Interested should be reserved for site locations where you are not available to go or will not go. You will not be considered for these sites even if all of your other options are exhausted. |

It is important that you understand how the different categories on the preference form interact with your application score and the placement algorithm.

- 100% of your application score is applied to offerings you put in the Very Interested category
- Only 50% of your application score is applied to offerings you put in the Interested category
- Your application score will be zeroed out for all offerings in the Not Interested category

- For example, if your application score is 90, all 90 points will be considered in the algorithm for sites in the Very Interested category and only 45 points will be considered for sites you put in the Interested category. It is for this reason that we recommend selecting as many sites as are of interest to you and allocating them to the Very Interested category.
- Each year, some sites receive many more applicants than can be accommodated. These sites are considered higher-demand sites. These sites, along with new site locations, will likely have higher demand this year, as well. Sites to take into consideration are listed in the gray box to the right. On average, 35-60% of the total applicant pool include these sites on their preference form. If you include only higher-demand sites in your ratings, you risk not receiving any placement at all.

## HIGH DEMAND SITES

Copenhagen, Denmark

Berlin, Germany

Thessaloniki, Greece

Venice, Italy

Cadiz, Spain

Wellington, New Zealand

Melbourne, Australia

London, England

Kyoto, Japan

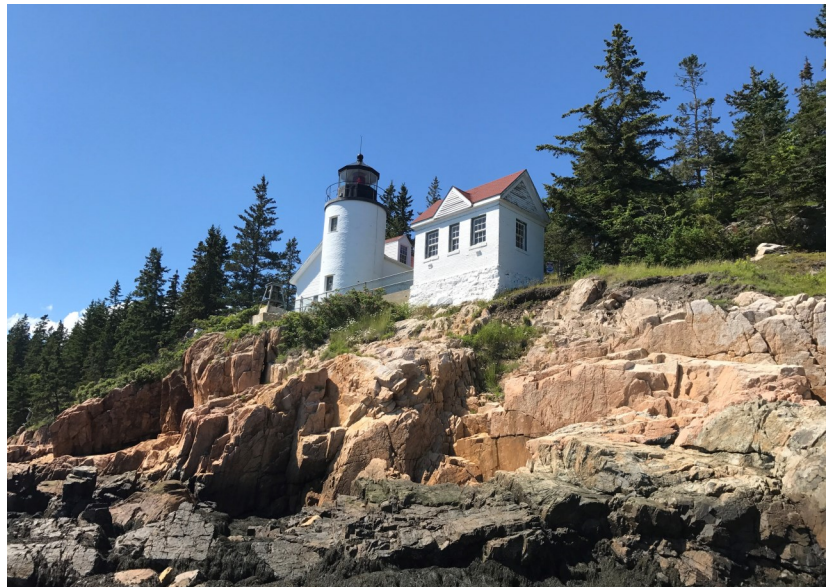
Zurich, Switzerland

Hawaii

Reykjavik, Iceland

Prague, Czech Republic

A full list of project centers and terms can be found on the [Interactive Qualifying Project \(IQP\) webpage](#)



## GLOBAL EXPERIENCE OFFICE

The Global Experience Office (GEO) within The Global School at WPI provides risk management, travel education and preparation, and administrative support to students, faculty, and staff participating in WPI-sponsored off-campus travel. This includes the Global Projects Program, faculty-led off-campus residential projects, athletic teams and student organizations traveling internationally, and support for employees who are traveling.

The GEO team strives to ensure that off-campus programs are safe, cost-effective, and accessible to all students while cultivating informed travelers and fostering global and intercultural competency as students engage with local and global communities.

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## HELPFUL RESOURCES

For narrowing project center options:

- [eProjects](http://eprojects.wpi.edu) (eprojects.wpi.edu) for program information
- [Academic Advising](#) to evaluate which terms are feasible for you to go off-campus
- Family to discuss financial and personal considerations

For your application:

- [Career Development Center](#) for help with updating your resume
- [Writing Center](#) for feedback and writing help on application responses
- [Global Experience Office](#) (GEO) for other questions on the application

For preparing to go off campus:

- [Financial Aid](#) for information on how off-campus projects may affect your aid package
- [Health Services](#) for health concerns related to travel
- [Residential Services](#) to learn more about term housing options
- [International Studies](#) to learn how off-campus projects can contribute to a major or minor
- Office of Accessibility Services for questions regarding accommodations during travel