

Global Scholars Evaluation Report

December 9, 2014

The MU [Global Scholars Program](#) is a [national award-winning](#) project initiated in 1998 by the campus [Council on International Initiatives](#). This program is designed to support MU faculty members who seek to internationalize their teaching and research. Its objectives are to: 1) expand faculty involvement in MU's strategic international relationships; and 2) foster tangible new international collaborations for participants, including research grants or papers and/or teaching innovations.

Each year, Global Scholars organizes at least one international itinerary for 10-15 MU faculty members across academic divisions. MU Deans/Directors nominate faculty to participate. The program accepts these nominations until size limits are reached. Deans' offices contribute \$2,500 towards the costs of travel and accommodations. This amount is matched by the Office of the Provost. The funding model and amounts have not changed since the program's inception. All funds are used solely to cover direct travel costs.

The program is managed by the MU [International Center](#). It has organized 25 international itineraries. Some countries (China, India, Brazil, Korea and Costa Rica) have been destinations more than once. Each year, the Center asks faculty participants to provide a brief report about how the experience affected their scholarship. Since 2010, the program has generated several new formal agreements (Memoranda of Understanding) with universities visited. It has also led to faculty exchange visits, research grants and publications, and research conferences. The Center also conducts occasional program assessments. In November, 2014, we issued an online survey of all program participants. This report summarizes findings of the survey, including respondents' recommendations for the future of Global Scholars.

Since its inception, Global Scholars has had 225 MU faculty participants. Out of this group, 177 individuals remain at MU. (Nineteen of these individuals were involved in more than one itinerary). We contacted each of these individuals by email, and asked them to respond to a brief web-based survey instrument. All answers were anonymous. According to announced schedule, the survey remained open for three weeks, with two reminder messages to non-responders. We received 87 responses, yielding a 49 percent response rate.¹

SURVEY FINDINGS

Results from this survey suggest that Global Scholars view the program very positively. After respondents identified the program(s) in which they participated, they were asked five yes/no questions, with opportunities to provide further comments for each question. The questions and responses to these questions are summarized below.

¹ The response rate for participants since 2010 was 68 percent.

	Yes	No
Has participation in the Global Scholars Program affected your teaching?	62	24
Has participation in the Global Scholars Program affected your research?	50	35
Has participation in the Global Scholars Program affected your collaborations or connections with other MU faculty members	67	20
Would you recommend participation in the Global Scholars Program to another MU colleague?	85	1
Do you support continuation of this program?	85	2

TEACHING EFFECTS

71 percent of respondents (62) reported that Global Scholars enhanced their teaching at MU. Those who responded affirmatively were invited to elaborate. Their comments were analyzed and grouped in the following (non-mutually exclusive) categories.

New Courses	10
New Content	33
New Perspective	21
Other	10
Total	74

Ten respondents indicated that their Global Scholars experience helped them develop a new course offered at MU. Thirty-three respondents indicated that the program generated new or modified content in their existing course materials. Twenty-one indicated that their experience changed their perspective on teaching in general.

Some sample comments are listed below:

Teaching Effects

Novel cultural experiences change a person's basic assumptions about humanity, which in turn, shape how a person interprets all knowledge within an educational setting.

I now incorporate my experiences abroad in my classes. I've expanded the course content to include things I've learned in GSP and discuss how other countries view the United States. Because of my experiences, I now actively encourage undergrads to study abroad.

I visited several Asian universities, not just one in Korea, but also a few in Taiwan, a few in Hong Kong, and a few in China during my trip. My focus was how these universities teach their Senior Capstone Design course. I found out what was our strength, and what were our limitations. I did what we could, with our resources limitations, to improve our teaching.

I have more cultural awareness ... the program got me closer to my own culture. It has improved my perspective.

RESEARCH EFFECTS

Fifty out of 87 respondents report that Global Scholars appreciably affected their research. Those who responded affirmatively were asked to elaborate on the effects. These comments were grouped in the following categories.

New Collaborators	19
New Topics	10
Publications	8
Other	20
Total	57

Nineteen of these responses (33 percent) indicated that Global Scholars led them to establish new research collaborators. Ten responses (18 percent) reported new research topics. Eight referred to publications as direct results of the program. Twenty other comments reported other kinds of effects, such as research techniques, access to data, or revitalized interests.

Some of these comments are listed below:

Research Effects

I was able to meet potential collaborators on the GSP and gained an interest in doing international and comparative research.

Broader collaborations with colleagues in other countries. This experience also made it possible for me to get a Fulbright Scholarship in 2008.

It shows what and how people in your field do research; what do they do differently, what is useful in their experience; you share your experience, which could be helpful to your colleagues. It sparkles new ideas.

MU CROSS-DISCIPLINARY EFFECTS

The survey suggests that the strongest effects of Global Scholars have been in establishing or enhancing cross-campus faculty relationships. More than 75% of respondents reported such effects. This program provides one of the rare opportunities for faculty members across academic divisions to spend extended time living and working together.

Some of these comments are listed below

MU cross-disciplinary effects

A faculty member that I met on the trip (11years ago) is now a co-investigator on a grant proposal that I just submitted.

This was probably the biggest impact Global Scholars had for me personally. I have stayed in touch with all of our fellow MU participants (and a couple non-MU ones!), and have become

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good friends with four of them. I've collaborated on a course and a couple projects with GS folks. And my interactions with one member was directly responsible for getting involved in Faculty Council.

Improved general sense of community, relationships with faculty in departments with which I typically would not interact. I've invited some of my colleagues to speak in our department's seminar series.

I have embarked on two research programs that resulted from making contacts with faculty across campus in the global scholars program. Both projects have resulted in obtaining Mizzou Advantage grants, in several conference presentations, one peer-review publication, and data collection efforts. These projects are multidisciplinary projects that are designed to obtain external funding.

Spending such an amount of time with colleagues from other Dept/Colleges open the door for interaction and bonding at a personal level. Very often professional relationships build up based on personal trust and closeness. Getting to know colleagues at a personal level facilitated the development of new collaborations.

I now commonly do internationally-based collaborative work with other Global Scholars participants. For instance, I was part of a \$3 million NSF grant application for international education in 2014, which was chosen as one or two NSF grants to go forward by the University.

GENERAL PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

Respondents were asked if they would recommend participation to another MU colleague. 99 percent indicated that they would do so.

They were also asked if they recommended program continuation. 98 percent answered affirmatively. Two people did not recommend continuation.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Finally, all respondents were invited to make recommendations for future program improvements.

A sample of these recommendations is listed below:

Recommendations

Groups need to be led by faculty members who have research interests and knowledge related to the country visited.

Consider making it a requirement to do a research project, and to get involved with other program participants.

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For me, this was the greatest professional development activity I've had yet. Since we want students to have a global mindset and international experiences, it is critical that we can talk from the standpoint of having international learning experiences ourselves.

Getting outside the bubble of Columbia to see how other universities in the world are serving their students, communities, and countries is essential to both remaining flexible and adaptive to our own changing academic environment, and to partnering with other institutions across the globe to foster understanding, research, and collaboration.

Every professor should have greater on-the-ground international experiences to share with their students.

Consider having separate trips that focus on broad topic areas, such as health or public policy, environment, etc. This may help the program have more immediate impact. Smaller groups. More topical focus.

More opportunities for GSP participants to interact before and after their participation. For example, have a panel of past GSP participants present to those preparing to go – to advise them on how to best use the experience. Need more orientation sessions in advance of the trip. Also need more follow up after the trip.

Require faculty participants to report back to campus colleagues.

Allow faculty participants more free time, and more independence in seeking collaborations.

More background and learning about the culture that GSP is visiting.

More input from the Provost, IC Director, Deans and Mizzou Advantage about the selection of GSP sites – to maximize benefits.

Push for more scholarly outputs from the program

More focus and opportunities on humanities.

GSP participants would like better understanding of how MU uses (and approves) MOUs – to aid more practical discussion of collaboration with hosts.

Secure more funding – perhaps external sources.

For further information, contact:

Jim Scott
Director – MU International Center
email: scottj@missouri.edu
phone: 573.882.6008.

Appendix 1: Global Scholars Program Participation (by Academic Division)

Year	Type/Location	A&S	TCOB	CAFNR	ED	ENG	GRAD/TSPA	HES	JOURN	LAW	LIBRARIES	MEDICINE	NURSING	SHIP	OTHER	Total Participants
1998	Seminar - Bulgaria		1	-	1			1	2	-	-	-	1	1		7
1998	Seminar - South Korea	1	1			2		1					1	1		7
1998	Individual	2	2		-	2		1	2	-	-	-	2	2		13
1999	Seminar - Brazil	1	1	1		1		1	1		1		1	1		9
1999	Seminar - China	2	1	1		1			1		1		1	1		9
1999	Individual	1	2	1		2			1	-	-		1	2		10
2000	Seminar - Costa Rica	1	1	1		2		2	1				1	1		10
2000	Seminar - South Korea		1						3		1		1	1		7
2000	Individual	1	2	2		1		2					2	2		12
2001	Seminar - Ireland	1	1	1		1			1	1	1		1	1		9
2001	Seminar - South Africa	1		1		1		2	1		1		1	1		9
2001	Individual					1		1						2		4
2002	Seminar - EU	1				2			1		1					5
2002	Seminar - Thailand	2	1		1			1	1		1		1		1	9
2003	Seminar - Brazil	2			1			1	1				1			6
2004	Seminar - Russia	3			1		2		2		2		1			11
2005	Seminar - Spain	1		1	1				1					1		5
2006	Seminar - Cambodia/Vietnam	1		1		1			1							4
2006	Seminar - South Africa								1					1		2
2007	Seminar - Chile/Argentina	2		1					1							4
2007	Seminar - India		1			1	1	1	1		1					6
2008	Seminar - Mongolia	3				1			1		1			1		7
2008	Seminar - Peru	1		1					1		1					4
2010	Seminar - Belgium	3.5		1		1	1	3.5	1		2			1		14
2011	Seminar - South Africa	5		3	1	2			1	1	1	1	1	2	7	25
2012	Seminar - Costa Rica/Panama	4		3	2	2		1	1	1						13
2013	Seminar - China	4	1		2	2					2					11
2014	Seminar - India	2	1		1		1		2	1		2			1	10
2014	Seminar - Turkey	2.5		2		2	1.5	1	2		1					12
	Total	48	17	21	11	28	6.5	19.5	32	4	18	3	17	22	9	254
																<i>unique participants</i> 225

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Appendix 2: Survey Instrument

Dear Global Scholars Program participant,

We are reviewing the design, implementation and effects of the MU Global Scholars Program. Please help us by completing the brief survey below. We pose seven questions, which you should be able to complete in approximately ten minutes.

Your responses are very important and your confidentiality is assured. **Please complete the survey by Friday, Nov. 21.**

Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James K. Scott, PhD
Director, International Center

Global Scholars Program Participant Survey

November, 2014

1. Please check the Global Scholars Program seminar(s) in which you have participated.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1998: Bulgaria | <input type="checkbox"/> 2006: Cambodia/Vietnam |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1998: Korea | <input type="checkbox"/> 2006: South Africa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1999: China | <input type="checkbox"/> 2007: Chile/Argentina |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1999: Brazil | <input type="checkbox"/> 2007: India |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2000: Costa Rica | <input type="checkbox"/> 2008: Mongolia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2000: Korea | <input type="checkbox"/> 2008: Peru |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2001: Ireland | <input type="checkbox"/> 2010: Belgium |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2001: South Africa | <input type="checkbox"/> 2011: South Africa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2002: European Union | <input type="checkbox"/> 2012: Costa Rica/Panama |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2002: Thailand | <input type="checkbox"/> 2013: China |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2003: Brazil | <input type="checkbox"/> 2014: India |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2004: Russia | <input type="checkbox"/> 2014: Turkey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2005: Spain | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual award (year: country) <input type="text"/> |

2. Has participation in the Global Scholars Program affected your teaching (e.g. course offerings, course content, curriculum development, teaching methods)?

- Yes
- No

If yes, how? (Please write as much as you need, there is no maximum character/word length.)

3. Has participation in the Global Scholars Program affected your research (e.g. topics of interest, collaborations, publications, grant applications, research techniques)?

- Yes
- No

If yes, how? (Please write as much as you need, there is no maximum character/word length.)

4. Has participation in the Global Scholars Program affected your collaborations or connections with MU faculty members?

- Yes
- No

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If yes, how? (Please write as much as you need, there is no maximum character/word length.)

5. Would you recommend participation in the Global Scholars Program to another MU colleague?

- Yes
- No

If yes, why? (Please write as much as you need, there is no maximum character/word length.)

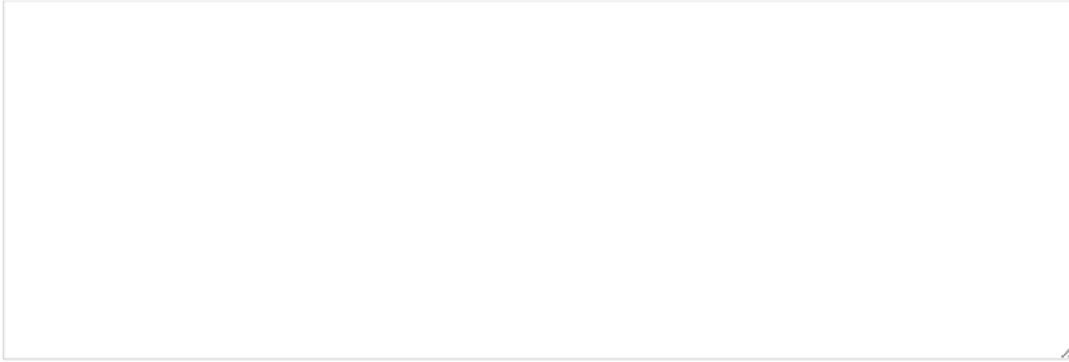
6. Do you support continuation of this program?

- Yes
- No

If not, please elaborate. (Please write as much as you need, there is no maximum character/word length.)

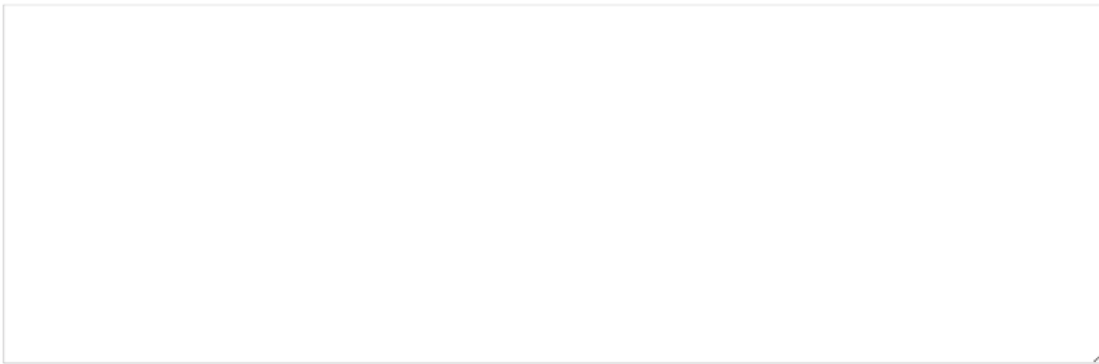
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7. How can we enhance/improve the Global Scholars Program?

(Please write as much as you need, there is no maximum character/word length.)

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