

The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Global Advancement Program (GAP) is an exciting program that offers the opportunity for participants from around the world to participate in seminars in many areas of interest, and improve their communication skills, while enjoying and experiencing the culture of the “Windy City,” Chicago.

GAP is a customized program held on the UIC campus providing participants the chance to experience the American education system at a large, multicultural, university in the third largest city in the U.S. Since UIC is located in the heart of Chicago, participants have ample opportunities to learn in and out of the classroom through seminars and visits to institutions and events to enhance their experience. The program especially suits undergraduate/graduate students who wish to hone their skills in both academic subjects and professional communication in an international setting, or those who have plans to pursue full-time study in the U.S. in the near future. The program is flexible and can be designed to suit a group’s specialized needs, interests, and length of time. GAP can be held on the UIC campus throughout the year.



PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The program is divided into morning and afternoon sessions.

The morning sessions include: (1) academic seminars with a different topic each day to further your learning on the predetermined subject; (2) professional communication seminars to provide the skills to improve your language ability in and out of the classroom.

The afternoon sessions include visits to institutions or events that match topics presented in these morning sessions, as well as a chance to explore the variety of cultures that make up Chicago and give you a better international understanding.

Weekend activities will take program participants on fun excursions that provide more cultural immersion experience.

ACADEMIC SEMINAR

While a wide variety of subjects can be made available for the academic seminar, the planned offerings for this year are (1) Architecture and Arts, (2) Money and Banking, (3) Climate Change Studies, and (4) Professional Communication. Instructors in the program include experienced UIC faculty, as well as seasoned practitioners in their fields. By teaching the seminar topics with a solid academic foundation that is closely and strongly connected to real world practices, the instructors effectively further participants' interests and development, as well as help them with long term academic and career goals.

Please note that the program is not limited to these topics. As a comprehensive university located in a global city like Chicago, UIC can design a customized program that will meet the specific interests of a group. Please feel free to contact us if you have a particular program in mind.



ARCHITECTURE AND THE ARTS

Photography: Photographs tell the story of our lives and the world around us. This seminar will include a discussion on photojournalism, the role of photography in the past and present, and current trends in photography, including film-based and digital.

Moving Image: Did you know that Chicago has been a location for many films, including Hollywood blockbusters? We will examine the history and impact of the moving image in entertainment, social change, and what makes a film “great”.

Graphic Design: Graphic design is everywhere. A simple logo or color can have a meaning that is known around the world. We’ll explore how graphic design has played a role in successful identity campaigns, as well as those that were not so successful.

Industrial Design: Often overlooked, Industrial Design plays an important role in our everyday lives. Learn how this field is applied to the creation of common, and some not so common, items.

Digital Media: From YouTube and TikTok, to flashing advertisements in the subway, digital media is everywhere and here to stay. In this seminar we’ll look at examples of past and present digital media, as well as discuss what we think the future holds.

Fine Art in the USA: When we think of fine art, we often think of the masters from history. The USA also has its masters that are well-known in impressionism, modern, and sculptural art. We’ll discuss a few of these works and see how they were influenced and who they will influence.

Chicago Architecture: No visit to Chicago is complete without a discussion about Chicago and its influence and contributions to architecture around the world. We’ll examine some noticeable architects and their work, including what the future looks like for architecture.

Handicraft in the USA: Every country and culture has its own folkcraft, including the USA. While handicraft in America has been on the downslide for a number of years, there has been a resurgence in the last decade. We’ll look at why this is taking place and meet Chicago crafters.



MONEY AND BANKING

Innovations in Banking: This seminar explores the changes and innovations in banking in the U.S. and abroad, including financial technology and its impact on the banking sector, business incubators, and navigating financial markets.

Business and Government Relations in the USA:

During this seminar, we take a look at how government and business must work together to be successful. We'll examine the politics of business, especially as it applies to a large financial market, like Chicago.

Corporate Finance: This topic examines the various topics in today's ever-changing environment of corporate finance, as well as its fundamentals. Case studies will be presented to demonstrate the knowledge.

Green Finance: With the growing call for corporate responsibility, the public is often looking for financial institutions that take proactive steps towards protecting the environment. You will be introduced to local companies and organizations that work with business to become more "green".

Marketing: Corporate financial success often depends on a company's marketing ability. This seminar investigates how marketing is used to identify and meet human and social needs.

Microfinance: Not everyone who wants to start their own small business can obtain loans or credit from a large financial institution. This is where microfinance comes in. We'll study this category of financial services that targets and serves individuals and small businesses.

Trading: NASDAQ, DJIA, and S&P are all abbreviations for stock indexes that influence trade and financial markets around the world. In this seminar, you will be introduced to the stock market in the USA, and how to examine market information and stock history.



CLIMATE CHANGE STUDIES


State and Local Policy: In the US Federal System, policies regarding the actions of the local and state governments are often made at the local level. This seminar will look at how these two institutions work together, and sometimes at conflict with each other, to introduce climate-related policies that affect the everyday lives and futures of their citizens. A comparative discussion of policies from the participants' home countries/cities is encouraged.

Green Economics and Finance: With the growing call for corporate responsibility, the public is often looking for businesses and financial institutions that take proactive steps towards protecting the environment. You will be introduced to local companies and organizations that work with business to become "greener".

Grassroots Movements: Sometimes, all it takes is the actions of a small group of people to make a big change. A grassroots movement is one that uses the people in a given, district, region, or community as the basis for a political, social or economic movement. Grassroots movements and organizations use collective action from the local level to effect change at the local, regional, national, or international level. Here we will study the changes made due to grassroots organizations affecting climate policy and the environment.

Green Technology: Technology has the possibility of being either positive or negative for the environment. A great deal of the technology that we currently use to make our lives comfortable and our communities viable may come with a cost. Changes and innovation are being made at all levels of technology. This seminar will examine how climate change has encouraged development of more responsible technology at all levels of industry. The sharing of examples from the participants' homes is welcome to encourage debate.

PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION



The professional Communication Global Advancement Program includes modules designed to develop participants' ability to communicate in a global economy while helping them improve networking, discussion, and presentation skills. Program participants work towards completing a project that is specifically designed for their field of study while gaining skills to communicate effectively. Lessons combine instruction with real-world practice and activities that cover cultural norms and conversational expressions needed for effective communication.

The Professional Communication program can be customized to any field of study or it can incorporate a multitude of disciplines to support a mixed group.

EXCURSIONS

Part of the excitement of studying in a foreign country is the chance to explore and see new things. GAP will provide a number of opportunities that will enhance the topics from the morning seminars, as well as discover new things, and have fun!

Possible excursions include visits to:

ARCHITECTURE AND THE ARTS PROGRAM

Museum of Contemporary Photography
Chicago Architectural River Tour
Museum of Contemporary Art
Willis Tower
Frank Lloyd Wright Studio and Home
Art Institute of Chicago
Gene Siskel Film Center

MONEY AND BANKING PROGRAM

Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
Chicago City Hall
Chase Bank
Citibank
Credit Union 1
Green Choice Bank
Chicago Board Options Exchange



PROGRAM APPLICATION

The Global Advancement Program is open to international participants who are eligible for a B-1/B-2, F-1, or an ESTA visa. Please contact Programs for International Partnerships at pip@uic.edu for information on the application procedure.

PROGRAM FEE

The program fee for the Global Advancement Program is based on the individual. Due to the customizable nature of the GAP, we can work with you to design a program that fits your needs and budget. This fee includes program instruction, campus housing, course materials, entrance fees to excursions, classroom access, UIC identification cards, campus WiFiservice, local transportation, and other logistics to support the program.

Meals, and any personal expenses are not included in the program fee.





HOUSING

During your program, you will stay in University Housing on the UIC Campus. Housing includes a shared room (two people per room), shared bathroom space, and a small kitchen in the common area. Housing allows for easy access to your classrooms, is a short walk to downtown Chicago, and offers nearby public transportation options.

MEDICAL INSURANCE

GAP participants are required to purchase medical/travel insurance that covers the entire time that they are in the USA. Minimum coverage should include visits to the emergency room, evacuation, and repatriation of remains.

CERTIFICATE

Upon completion of the program, participants will receive a Certificate of Completion, a letter listing the titles of the seminars attended during the GAP, and a UIC transcript.

PROGRAM CUSTOMIZATION

We welcome existing and prospective partner institutions to work with us to develop a Global Advancement Program with customized lengths and content that better suit the needs of the participants from these institutions. Once the minimum number of participants is met, a discounted group rate will apply. Please consult the program contact for specifics.

DISCLAIMER

Information provided in this document is subject to change. Please consult the program contact for more up-to-date program information.

For additional information about the UIC Global Advancement Program, please contact UIC Programs for International Partnerships at pip@uic.edu.