



Global | **Learning
Across
Borders**
EXPERIENCE MATTERS™

Participant & Partner Feedback

“This has certainly been the best semester that I have ever had. Every hour I spent here [in India] I learned a hundred times more than I would have if I had been in a traditional classroom. I never imagined that this experience would be so incredible and life changing. I can't wait to come back!”

--**Peter Bent**, India semester program participant

“I cannot tell you how much we have appreciated the program being so incredibly well run. It has given us great peace of mind to know that Leah has been in such good hands. Also, you have provided the students with the most amazing opportunities to truly be a part of the culture, and in doing so, have enriched their experience beyond what even they can realize. I have no doubt that Leah will see the world through new and wiser eyes because of this trip.”

--**Lynne Cox**, Parent of semester program student

“Go! Go forth to India and live! There's nothing that I've done that has been more expanding, more eye-opening, and more exciting all at once. I'd recommend this experience to anyone looking to learn a little about themselves and the world, but more about the vastness of all that there is to be learned, and the pleasure of learning it experientially.”

--**Julia Bloch**, India semester program participant

“I can't imagine spending the first half of my gap year anywhere else but Morocco. The country has a little bit of everything all in one, and Global LAB definitely shows the students the best of it. I loved that we really experienced the country as a whole—the cities and the countryside, the desert and the oceanfront, the mountains and the lowlands. I also really enjoyed the cultural focus of Global LAB's Morocco program. Learning about the country through *gnawa* musical performances, informal lectures on Islam, and tours of cities with locals gave us an inside perspective on an otherwise relatively closed culture. Instead of spending 3 months hiking in the middle of nowhere or a semester living in the same homestay, we got to switch it up a bit. Marrakech was an overwhelming and incredibly interesting bustling city, but it was great to take a break and hike in the High Atlas Mountains the following week. Another truly priceless aspect of Global LAB is the program's connections. In every place we visited there was a friendly face to greet us and show us the inside scoop on that area. Though the semester was definitely tough at times (yes, there are a few cold showers and squat toilets), I feel like I came out a more flexible and curious person, ready to take on college and the world beyond. Morocco will forever have a special place in my heart, and I can't wait to visit again!”

--**Ella Mitchell**, Morocco semester program participant

"I am very grateful to everyone for giving me such a great introduction to traveling and living in Asia. The two programs I have participated in have given me the confidence to travel independently in this part of the world, and have definitely been life-changing experiences. I would recommend this experience to anyone with an interest in alternative education. The things I learned from my time in Asia couldn't possibly be taught in a classroom."

--**Gaby Campagna**, Summer and semester program participant

"The depth of the transforming experience is immeasurable, I see with new eyes."

--**Lotus Do Brooks**, Educator Forum participant

"I learned more in the few months I spent over here in India than I have in all my years of high school."

--**Samantha Heydt**, India semester program participant

"My trip to India was a life-changing experience. I was able to test my limits, mentally and physically, and come to a realization of who I really am. I learned what is important to me and what I should hold dear to my heart. I made some incredible friends who taught me stuff that I could never learn in a classroom. I would never give up what I experienced and I am so grateful that I looked past my fears and decided to go. I strongly encourage a trip like this because it really does change who you are and makes you think about what you want to be."

--**Anushri Desai**, Summer program participant

"I just wanted to thank you for provided such an enriching experience (Brahma to Buddha, Fall Semester) for our son, Jesse and by maintaining such a wonderful blog so that we could read almost daily updates on where the kids were and what they were doing. It was incredible to be able to listen to the monks chanting just one day after Jesse was listening to them. I think that you have done an excellent job in providing such a program for these students and allowing parents to be apart of this while reading the blogs, seeing the pictures, watching the videos and listening to the audios. The leaders seemed to forge such strong friendships with each student and I was very impressed in how the trip evolved. I look forward to talking to Jesse first hand about this experience when he returns from the rest of his Asia travels but I know that he feels that this was a very wise decision to be a part of your program."

--**Betsy Chappelle**, Parent of India semester program participant

"It has been two years since my Brahma to Buddha experience, and reading the blogs—both mine and the new—bring me right back to the busy, beautiful, fragrant streets. The lessons I learned have been invaluable to my artistic career and experience at Cooper Union, the school I am currently attending. I have taken many new small adventures of my own although academic life has kept me mostly tied to this country. I know I will soon be back to the county I feel in love with—India is an amazing place. Thank you for allowing me the experience to open my eyes and heart to a new way of life."

--**Laura Miller**, India semester program participant

"Global LAB provides an unparalleled student trip to India. Global LAB has set up an itinerary that truly gets students out into the country and exposes them to issues that matter. Students have enjoyable learning experiences alongside their fellow American peers, but they learn an immense amount from the local on-site coordinators as well as from teachers, homestay families and friends. Global LAB has arranged some once in a lifetime experiences for students that allow for individual growth and exploration in three vastly different cultural ecosystems. Thanks Global LAB!"

--**James Galloway**, India semester program participant

"Thank you for creating this dynamic [Morocco semester] opportunity which allowed me to grab onto the world around me, to take control of my education, and to dig this life and this universe. My deepest gratitude and eternal respect goes out to Global LAB."

--**Lauren Rhode**, Morocco semester program participant

"I had a really incredible experience in India, and not only did I get to go to 'India-India', but also parts of India that no one ever talks about, like Ladakh and Amritsar. I saw many things and met many people that changed how I see myself and the world, and I'm very glad I decided to postpone my college years for a year of another kind of learning! Thank you!"

--**Natalie Panno**, India semester program participant

"Our Morocco study tour for educators was most exciting. The itinerary was rich with touristic as well as educational experiences. Global LAB's careful planning and attention to detail made for a smooth two weeks; everything—from visits to historical sites to hotels and restaurants—was chosen and planned with our needs, preferences, and comfort in-mind. We were impressed with the depth and breadth of knowledge of our tour leader and of the many people with whom he worked in the country. In all, it was a terrific experience filled with a lot of learning and some fun, too."

--**Zeina Seikaly**, Director of Educational Outreach, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies,
Georgetown University

"Thinking back on my Global LAB semester in Morocco, I want to travel again. Traveling has been a part of my life since I was only a few years old, but it is hard to find ways to travel as authentically as I did in Morocco. A small group of students, living with local families, learning about the language, arts, history, religion, and among people that make up a beautiful and welcoming country. Despite all of the classes and lectures we attended, all of the activities we participated in, and all of the places we explored, I learned the most simply by talking with people. Moroccans welcome you into their homes and lives with open arms like I have never experienced in another country. Morocco has inspired me to keep traveling and, if I am lucky, to incorporate traveling and living abroad into my career. I am truly lucky to have shared three months of my life with such an incredible people."

--**Catherine Dodd**, Morocco semester program participant

“From the earliest days of planning our cultural adventure in Morocco right up to the initial airport gathering, Global LAB prepared us (teachers and students) fully. And with each turn of the itinerary, we really did learn across the borders in a safe, enthusiastic, multi-faceted manner. Thanks to a wealth of local contacts and valuable hands-on personal experience, Global LAB tended to our every hope, query and need; our array of questions led us to an experiential answer that guided us to a wondrous foray deep into Moroccan life today. Global LAB knows how to balance the personal, cultural, linguistic and travel aspects of a journey. Leading us in a manner that was at once professional, open, caring, humored and fun, our guides acted as leaders and learners, a testament to the fact that the best educational experiences can and should be shared actively.”

--**Sarinda Parsons Wilson**, French Instructor, The Hotchkiss School, CT



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Global Learning Across Borders™, a non-profit 501(c)(3) based in New York, exists to educate and inspire new generations of young people and adults to become responsible and committed global citizens in their local communities and beyond. We do this through international cultural immersion and community service programs for young adults; global studies professional development programs for educators; partnering with schools to help design and launch experiential global education and service programs; and through global expeditions that offer exceptional cultural experiences for adults.

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