

Studying the Refugee Crisis, Immigration, & Human Migration Around the World

A number of opportunities exist through Colorado College approved programs to study and learn about the current refugee crisis and issues of immigration, sanctuary, and human migration while studying on semester programs around the world.

*For students who are currently involved in the **CC Refugee Alliance**, for “third culture kid” students who grew up in a global context, or for anyone who is interested in exploring the concept of home and homelands across the world and how we can be involved, look into this partial listing of CC-approved off-campus study programs below.*

HECUA Norway: Globalization, National Identity, and the Politics of Belonging (+ internship)

In less than fifty years, Norway moved from being one of the poorest and most homogenous countries in Europe to one of the richest in the world with a population that is increasingly multicultural. The New Norway program investigates dramatic changes in Northern Europe by critically analyzing the development of the Norwegian welfare state through a wide range of topics such as globalization theories, nation-building and national identity, European integration, immigration, and international aid politics. All students complete an **internship** while on the HECUA Norway semester, in a variety of organizations working in areas related to human rights, globalization, national identity, mass migration, peace and justice, gender equality, and the politics of the welfare state. Some placement sites where students could work with newcomers to Norway include:

- **Red Cross** - working on immigrant / refugee youth programming, specifically social evening events for young immigrant girls and women. This was the placement site of recent CC student Emily Gardner, feel free to email her for more information.
- **BYMIF** (the Oslo Center for Unaccompanied Refugee Minors) - an organization that offers housing, financial aid, tutoring, meals and support for unaccompanied asylum seeker and refugee minors. Student volunteers run English language classes, offer tutoring, go on occasional field trips and just spend time with these young people over the foosball table and around the dinner table.
- **FRIGO** (Recreation Center in Old Oslo) – This outdoor education association partners with local schools in Oslo neighborhoods who have immigrant-heavy populations, to teach children through school field trips that nature (an integrally valued space in Norwegian culture) can be safe, fun, restorative, and beautiful. FRIGO interns teach students skills they need for the outdoors.
- **Likestilling, Inkluderings og Nettverk** (Equality, Inclusion and Networks) - An organization that works to offer language programs, vocational training, and support for women with immigrant backgrounds. Students work primarily with English language tutoring.
- **Nordic Black Theatre** – A multicultural performance space that provides a stage and support for writers, musicians, actors and others who primarily come from abroad or have a foreign background. Past students have contributed in writers' workshops, have done lighting design for performances or have just worked the door and or the café -- it is a fantastic environment to be a part of.
- **Introduction Program** - The two-year long program for refugees and asylum seekers to Norway, which provides housing, Norwegian language classes, vocational training and support. Students would primarily be working to offer English language classes or conversational practice for those who want it.
- **Skeiv verden** (Queer World), which focuses on advocacy and support for LGBTQ individuals with an immigrant background.

School for International Training (SIT)

All SIT programs offer experiential, thematic, field-based models of education in an interdisciplinary style, and all SIT semesters include either an independent study month at the end of the semester, or an internship. SIT divides their programs by “Critical Global Issues” and one area where they offer several very diverse ways of examining refugees and immigration is the **Migration – Identity – Resilience** programs. Some examples of semester programs offered through SIT (complete details on the SIT website):

- **SIT Morocco: Migration and Transnational Identity.** Learn Arabic (fulfill the CC Language Requirement), while learning about migration through discussions with asylum seekers, Syrian refugees, Moroccan immigrants in Europe, and the communities impacted by migration.
- **SIT Mexico: Migration, Borders, and Transnational Communities.** Discover the contemporary realities of international undocumented migration and border enforcement and their immense human impact and political and social tension in the context of Mexico, Central America, and the United States. For students with an intermediate level of Spanish or higher.
- **SIT Jordan: Refugees, Health & Humanitarian Action.** Learn Arabic (fulfill the CC Language Requirement if you select the 6-credit intensive language option). Witness the humanitarian response to the regional refugee crisis, focusing on refugee health, and explore the effects of the influx of refugees to Europe during a Switzerland excursion.
- **SIT/IHP multi-country (France, Italy, Senegal, and United States): New African Diasporas: Transnational Communities, Cultures, and Economies.** Across four countries in one semester, explore present-day factors prompting migration from Africa, the contemporary African migrant experience, and the economic vitality of African diaspora communities, using the Senegalese Murid brotherhood as the primary case study.
- **SIT Tunisia and Italy: Politics and Religious Integration in the Mediterranean.** In Tunisia and Italy, crossroads of the Mediterranean, study the interplay of regional politics, migration, and religion. Examine the ethics of solidarity, care, and resilience as you learn or advance your Modern Standard Arabic. Spend three weeks in Sicily, Italy, the crossroads of the Mediterranean and often the first port of call for immigrants.

HECUA Minneapolis: Inequality in America semester (+ internship)

Situated on the banks of the Mississippi River in the vibrant, artistic, progressive Twin Cities of Minneapolis & St. Paul, the Inequality in America semester experience actively delves into major challenges of our time: poverty, inequality and social change, exploring how these things often disproportionately affect immigrants and new arrivals. All students will complete a **20-hour per week internship** as part of this semester; two examples of recent internship sites that work with new immigrant communities organizing for their rights in various social systems are:

- **CTUL (Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en Lucha) Web Site: ctul.net**
CTUL organizes low-wage workers from across the Twin Cities to develop leadership and educate one another to build power and lead the struggle for fair wages, better working conditions, basic respect, and a voice in our workplaces. CTUL is an organization of workers and for workers, committed to securing fair working conditions for present and future generations
- **African Career Education & Resource, Inc. www.acerinc.org**
The African Career, Education and Resources, Inc (ACER) is an issue based, community driven organization founded in 2008 by a group of African Immigrants who were brought together by their common interest. Our mission is to close the resource, health and information gap within Minnesota's African Immigrant communities and help those communities achieve societal and economic independence.

Augsburg University -- Social Change in Central America: Exploring Peace, Justice, and Community Engagement (Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Costa Rica)

Much of the immigration and sanctuary discussion in the United States right now focuses on Central Americans, the ways the U.S. has been involved in their countries in recent decades, and the protections offered or removed by the current administration. This program offers a unique comparative opportunity to learn more deeply about social movements, community organizing, and issues of justice in the region. Improve your Spanish language skills while living with families in the Guatemalan highlands (5 weeks). Study the role of the church within the situation of political oppression and social injustice in Costa Rica (4 weeks). In Nicaragua, learn about the historical context of conflict and change through the eyes of Central American women and men, and examine citizen participation in policy formulation in a globalized economy (6 weeks). Learn with and from grassroots community organizations dedicated to work on issues related to conflict, foreign policy, gender, and economic and social justice.

ACM Chicago Program: Arts, Entrepreneurship & Social Justice

Chicago is designated as a "sanctuary city," and has a long history of offering welcome, protection, and access to services for people regardless of their immigration status. Recently, as this has come under attack by the current administration, the city leadership has continued to staunchly defend the sanctuary designation. Students participating in the ACM Chicago semester have the opportunity to engage in this legacy through their internship placement. Some examples of organizations where ACM students have interned for a semester include:

- **Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR):** ICIRR is dedicated to promoting the rights of immigrants and refugees to full and equal participation in the civic, cultural, social, and political life of our diverse society.
- **Pan-African Association:** The mission of Pan-African Association is to serve, empower, and promote the interests of all refugees and immigrants of African descent. A recent intern worked as an ESL Group Mentor/Instructor, a computer tutor, and a Marketing, Development, and Special Events Assistant.
- **Latinos Progresando** serves immigrants with the highest quality, low-cost legal immigration services, community education and engagement, and advocacy/organizing around policy that affects immigrants.
- **Chicago Commission of Human Relations: Immigrant & Refugee division** – This council works with CCHR to identify and address practices and actions that have a discriminatory impact on immigrant and refugee groups, serving as liaisons between City government and the community, and in designing educational and enforcement programs for CCHR.

Washington Semester Program: American University, D.C.

Students on this semester program have interned with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Catholic Charities Migration & Refugee Services, Ethiopian Community Development Council, immigration lawyers, Southeast Asia Resource Action Center, and the American Bar Association's Immigration Internship program. Depending on your major/interests, you would select a concentration for your seminars and academic coursework in Foreign Policy, Sustainable Development, or Public Health Policy, as they would all cover topics that would be relevant to issues concerning refugees.

DIS – Study Abroad in Scandinavia (Copenhagen or Stockholm)

DIS operates programs in Copenhagen or Stockholm, and both offer coursework of interest to students working with refugee and immigrant populations. Because several Scandinavian countries are known for their humanitarian views, fair and equal welfare states, and large inflows of immigrants from diverse cultural backgrounds, it is a fascinating place to study the current refugee situation in Europe. These courses investigate the social, cultural, and political mechanisms lying at the heart of cultural conflicts and integration issues. Some courses offer comparative field trip options to other European countries; see DIS website for details and course descriptions:

- Sociology of Migration
- Migrants, Minorities, and Belonging in Denmark
- Cultural Diversity and Integration
- Public Health & Migration
- Stolen Childhoods: Migrant & Refugee Children in Europe
- Humanitarian Law & Armed Conflict
- Fleeing Across Borders: International Refugee Law

To learn more about how you can participate in one of these programs, please visit www.coloradocollege.edu/international