



INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT SERVICES

International
Education
Week

Engaged • Resilient • Global

“A Walk Around the Globe” TinyTalks

Alejandra Gonzalez, Romy Griep-McRee

Susan Henry & Kofi Peprah

Please help yourself to lunch!



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Please check in for the event:



***Bridging Worlds:
Migration, Education, and
Belonging from Ghana to America***
Kofi Peprah



***A First-Gen's Guide to
Studying Abroad***
Alejandra Gonzalez





A First-Gen's Guide to Studying Abroad

Turning Global Dreams into Reality

You're standing at the threshold of an incredible opportunity. As a first-generation college student, studying abroad might seem like an impossible dream—but it's more achievable than you think. This guide will walk you through the scholarships, resources, and practical steps that can make your international education a reality. Your unique perspective and resilience are exactly what make you an ideal candidate for global learning experiences.

Why Go Global? A First-Generation Perspective

Studying abroad as a first-generation student isn't just about traveling—it's about unlocking opportunities that can transform your entire future. You already possess the determination and adaptability that got you to college. Now, imagine channeling those same qualities into navigating a new country, mastering a foreign language, and building connections across continents.



Build Global Networks

Connect with peers, professors, and mentors from around the world who can open doors throughout your career. These relationships often lead to internships, job opportunities, and lifelong friendships that span continents.



Gain Career Advantages

Employers actively seek candidates with international experience. You'll develop in-demand skills like cross-cultural communication, adaptability, problem-solving, and resilience—all while proving you can thrive outside your comfort zone.



Personal Growth

Living independently in a new country accelerates your personal development. You'll discover strengths you didn't know you had, gain fresh perspectives on both the world and yourself, and return home with newfound confidence.



Pave the Way

By studying abroad, you're not just changing your own trajectory—you're inspiring your family and community. You become a trailblazer, showing younger siblings, cousins, and neighbors what's possible when you dare to dream big.

Funding Your Journey: Key Scholarships

Money is often the biggest concern for first-gen students considering study abroad—but here's the good news: there are scholarships specifically designed for students like you. These aren't just financial awards; they're investments in your potential and recognition that diverse perspectives enrich global education.

1

Gilman Scholarship

This is **the** scholarship for first-gen students. Specifically designed for Pell Grant recipients, the Gilman program awards up to \$5,000 for semester programs and \$8,000 if you're studying a critical language. The application process is straightforward, and the program actively encourages applications from underrepresented students. With thousands of awards given annually, your chances are better than you might think.

2

Fund for Education Abroad (FEA)

FEA exists to break down barriers for students who are underrepresented in study abroad. They have a strong preference for first-generation and community college students. Awards typically range from \$1,250 to \$10,000, depending on the program length and destination. FEA partners with hundreds of study abroad programs worldwide, giving you incredible flexibility in where and how you study.


3

College/University Scholarships for Study Abroad

[UC Education Abroad Program Scholarships](#)

[California State University International Programs Scholarships](#)

Your local University/College Ex. [San Diego State](#) Associated Student Body Scholarship for Study Abroad

 **Pro Tip:** Start your scholarship applications early—many have deadlines 4–6 months before your program begins. Your study abroad office can help you identify additional scholarships specific to your institution or destination country.

Funding: Specialized Programs

Beyond general scholarships, there are prestigious programs that combine study abroad with specific academic or career goals. These competitive opportunities can fully fund your experience while connecting you to national networks of scholars and professionals. While they require more from you, they also give back exponentially more.

Boren Awards

If you're interested in critical languages—like Arabic, Mandarin, Russian, Swahili, or Portuguese—Boren Awards offer generous funding for immersive language study in regions vital to U.S. national security. Undergraduate awards provide up to \$25,000 for a full academic year. The catch? You'll commit to one year of federal service after graduation, which can actually launch an exciting career in government, international affairs, or national security.

These programs look for motivated students with clear goals and genuine interest in cultural exchange. Start building relationships with professors who can write strong recommendation letters, and connect with your campus's Fulbright or fellowship advisor early in your college career.

Fulbright U.S. Student Program

The Fulbright is one of the most prestigious international exchange programs in the world. Important note: this is a *post-graduate* opportunity, meaning you apply during your senior year for a full year abroad after you graduate. You can conduct research, pursue graduate study, or teach English in over 140 countries. It's fully funded and includes health insurance, travel costs, and a living stipend. First-gen students have successfully earned Fulbrights—your unique background is an asset, not a barrier.

What to Know Before You Go

Preparation is key to a successful study abroad experience. These practical steps will help you navigate the logistics and emotional challenges of going global. Remember: being well-prepared doesn't mean everything will be perfect, but it does mean you'll be ready to handle whatever comes your way.

01

Passport & Visas: Start NOW

This is your first and most time-sensitive task. Passport applications can take 10–12 weeks during busy seasons, and student visas require even more time. Don't let paperwork be the reason you miss out. Visit your local post office or passport acceptance facility, gather the required documents (birth certificate, ID, passport photo), and submit your application at least six months before your departure date.

03

Culture Shock is Real—and That's OK

Even the most adventurous travelers experience culture shock. You might feel overwhelmed, homesick, frustrated, or out of place during your first few weeks. This is completely normal and temporary. Most students report that these feelings peak around week three and then improve dramatically. Give yourself permission to feel uncomfortable while you adjust. It's part of the growth process.

02

Financial Planning: Talk to Financial Aid

Schedule an appointment with your financial aid office as soon as you're considering study abroad. Ask specific questions: Does my aid package transfer to study abroad programs? Can I use loans for program costs? What about additional expenses like flights and visas? Many schools allow your existing aid to apply, and some even have emergency funds for unexpected costs. Get everything in writing.

04

Find Your Support System

You don't have to figure this out alone. Connect with your university's study abroad office—they're there to help you. Seek out other first-gen students who have studied abroad and ask about their experiences. Join online communities and social media groups for students going to your destination. Build a network of support both at home and abroad. These connections will be invaluable when challenges arise.

Remember: You've already overcome incredible obstacles to get to college. Studying abroad is just the next chapter in your journey. You have everything you need to succeed—and an entire community ready to support you. Your global adventure awaits!

If you are interested in Study Abroad but want to stay a little closer to home, check out the National Student Exchange Program. Study in a University across the country or in Canada. [NSF](#)

"The Sweet Tooth About Agra Hadig: A Joyful Tradition

Susan Henry



Agra = tooth

Hadig = grains



















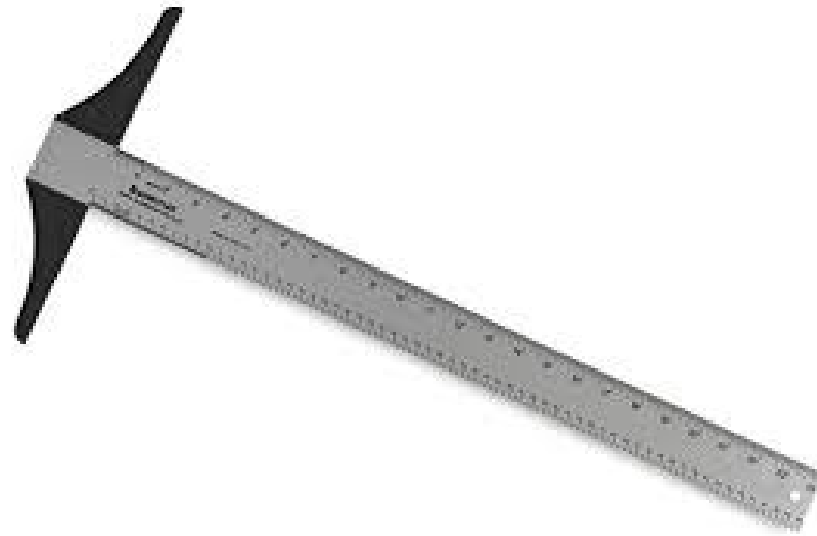
















Sweetness and Prosperity!

***Carmilla:
The Forgotten Vampire
Romy Griep-McRee***



AGENDA

1. Introduction
2. Who is Carmilla?
3. Why does her story matter?
4. What does her story mean for us?
5. Conclusion

CARMILLA

- ❖ Irish author Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu's Gothic novella published in 1872
- ❖ Predates Bram Stoker's *Dracula* by 25 years
- ❖ Themes of romance, eroticism, predatory desires, supernatural violence, innocence and corruption...

AND LESBIANISM!!!

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WHY DOES HER STORY MATTER?

- ❖ Female representation in male-dominated world
- ❖ Female empowerment in Victorian era—beliefs that with women were hysterical possessions
- ❖ Emotional and physical mutual connection
- ❖ Duality of human nature (i.e. Madonna and whore)

Image alt text: Illustration by Michael Fitzgerald for Carmilla (1872), electrotype after wood-engraving



WHAT DOES HER STORY MEAN FOR US?



BREAKING NEWS:

**THE SUPREME COURT DECLINES
TO TAKE UP A CHALLENGE
TO SAME-SEX MARRIAGE.
KEEPING OBERGEFELL
V. HODGES IN PLACE.**



gpa NEWS
●●●

Image alt text: color photo of the Pride flag in front of the U.S. Supreme Court building

CARMILLA IN 2025

- ❖ queerness as contagion
- ❖ avoidance and persecution of marginalized populations (i.e. ICE raids and “innocent” vs. “corrupted” or “corruptive” populations)

THANK YOU!

Romy Griep

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Thank you for attending!

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(www.glendale.edu/iew)**

**Be entered for a chance to win a \$50
Amazon giftcard**

