Scale up!
It’s not what you think. That’s a command from my yellow lab Ginger. When we’re out for a walk, she wants to scale up to a run; when we run, she strains for a full gallop. At the end of it all, we’re breathless and exhausted. She’s dreaming of a nap; I’m wondering about endurance and yes, at that point, my own mortality.

What is it that drives us to do more? What exactly is it that we do now that would be worth doing more?

Access and excellence drive development at the University of Washington Tacoma. Excellence in the Global Honors Program, one of just a handful in the nation with a curriculum focused on global issues, is demonstrated in consistently high standards for academic performance, student-community experience, quality of instruction, and advising.

“Scale up” has also been a challenge thrown at me throughout my six years as director. One approach would be to think in terms of numbers and resources, which we have. We have doubled the number of core seminars, established pathways in global leadership and global citizenship, introduced a Minor in Global Engagement, and are expanding to a four-year curriculum.

Access is where the Institute for Global Engagement (IGE) comes in. It is where we take the best of what we do in Global Honors and scale up to serve the campus as a whole.

This brings me to another approach that ensures endurance beyond material resources: being mindful and deliberate about our core values of cultural understanding, innovation, and collaboration. These values drive the expansion of opportunities for all UWT students to gain that global edge critical to success in their careers and further studies.

While the IGE is home to the Global Honors Program, it includes two more components: Research and Experiential Learning and Community Engagement. Under the first, students and faculty are financially supported in their global research and travel; research competitions will soon be open campus wide. Under the second, partnerships with community and business leaders benefit all students through guest speaker series, mentorships, and globally-focused internships and externships.

How far we go depends on how strong we are at the core. Our new Program Coordinator Alexis Wheeler (JD Harvard Law School) brings considerable experience in study abroad. She joins our incredibly resourceful Program Administrator Paul Carrington, our highly motivated Student Leadership Council and our extremely hard-working Global Honors Council, to assist me in delivering on the Institute’s mission. While structural features may get us out the door for a good run, what inspires us (and Ginger) through the long-haul is our curiosity about the world and excitement in discovery.

And that’s the best part. When it comes to what drives us, there are no limits to scaling up.

Divya McMillin, IGE Director
Student Profiles: Study Abroad 2014

The Institute for Global Engagement encourages all students to consider the benefits of cross-cultural opportunities, not least those offered by the UWT Office of International Programs. Every year, Global Honors students are among those who enjoy such enriching experiences and are keen to share their adventures...

Mi Familia Española

Last March, I was lucky enough to study abroad in León, Spain, where I anticipated learning more about the Spanish language and culture. Initially, I was equal parts terrified and excited; I had never been overseas and was going to be gone for the duration of the quarter. To an extent, I knew this was going to be the opportunity of a lifetime, but I didn’t truly realize this until the moment I met my host family.

It was raining when the nine of us UW students arrived in León. We were all hungry, irritated, and exhausted, having spent the last two hours trying to find the meeting spot, all while dragging our luggage and struggling to decipher directions given to us in a foreign language. I started having doubts—had I made the right decision coming here? Just ten minutes earlier, I had thoroughly embarrassed myself by trying to order food from a nearby restaurant. Fun fact: there is a significant difference between asking, “¿Tienes hombres?” (Do you have men?) when you really mean to say, “Tengo hambre” (I have hunger). Apparently incapable of feeding myself, was I going to survive?

All at once, my doubts left as the host families arrived. I looked around as each family greeted its new member with a loving embrace, and mine was no exception. The warmth and safety I found in the embrace of these complete strangers transcended the language barrier and was like nothing I had ever experienced before. They welcomed me into their house, which quickly became my home.

Over the course of the next three months, I was able to explore the culture of northern Spain via tapas, Gaudí, discotecas, siestas, volunteering at a local elementary school, and, most importantly, my host family. They called me daughter and provided me with some of the most amazing memories I will ever have, as well as with an incredible amount of patience as I struggled with the language (for which I will be eternally indebted). By embarking on this adventure, I was able to step out of my comfort zone and into the best experience of my life (so far).

Ashley Douthett, Global Studies & Global Honors, 2013-15

Ready to embark on your own study abroad adventure?

UWT International Programs

Find out more about UW study abroad programs at: tacoma.uw.edu/international-programs/international-programs

Fantastic options offered in 2015 include:

AUSTRIA
Exploring Psychology


Further Information: tacoma.uw.edu/international-programs/austria-exploring-psychology
A few of years ago, NPR did a piece on human trafficking. At the time, the issue was nowhere on my radar; I honestly didn’t realize such horrific things happened. When I heard about the Bamford Fellowship in Global Engagement*, I saw it as a chance to really explore this topic in depth, examining its local and global impact. It was important for me to study this topic abroad, so I enrolled in SIT’s “Netherlands: International Perspectives on Sexuality and Gender.” I chose this program because of its relation to my Bamford topic and because the Netherlands approaches prostitution very differently from the United States. Much of the discourse surrounding trafficking has made it synonymous with prostitution. I wanted to explore this connection in a different cultural context.

I arrived in the Netherlands with a completely different attitude than that with which I left. I brought with me an American perspective on prostitution and its role in perpetuating sex trafficking. This was certainly not the perspective of those I encountered in the Netherlands, where prostitution is legal and regulated. I was fortunate enough to meet former sex workers and researchers who opened my eyes to other ways of viewing the industry. These interactions prompted a total shift in my research approach, and I’m now very excited to complete the project and share what I’ve learned with everyone back home.

In regards to studying abroad, there are so many stories I could tell, but couldn’t possibly begin in this small space. I know everyone has heard this so many times, but it’s an experience like no other and an opportunity to learn in a way only attainable through the challenge of acclimating to a new culture and seeing it firsthand. I know I have come back a different person and a better person and am overwhelmingly grateful to have had this opportunity. I can’t encourage you enough to do the same. It’s something you will never forget.

Amy Blanchard, Psychology & Global Honors, 2013-15

*The Bamford Fellowship in Global Engagement is the IGE’s unique undergraduate research initiative, and includes a $2000 student award to help fund research expenses. Find out more at tacoma.uw.edu/global-honors/bamford-fellowship-global-engagement.
Global Honors admits up to forty new students each Autumn, with limited admissions in Winter. All majors are welcome, and students who will be of sophomore or junior standing in Autumn 2015 are encouraged to apply as early as possible. Applications may be submitted at any time, and will be formally processed beginning March 2015. Successful candidates have:

- A minimum 3.5 GPA (contact us to explore your options if you have less than this)
- Potential to make an exceptional contribution to our interdisciplinary community
- Demonstrated interest in global themes

Apply at tacoma.uw.edu/global-honors/admissions

Benefits include...

Academics

- Interdisciplinary enrichment for all UWT majors
- Small class sizes, supportive faculty, and friendly cohort of engaged classmates
- Flexible pathways to Program completion including:
  - Minor in Global Engagement (25+ credits)
  - Global Scholar (with prestigious Global Honors distinction, 21-24 credits)
  - Global Leadership certification (17-22 credits)
  - Global Citizenship certification (12-17 credits)
- Scholarships and funded opportunities including:
  - Global Scholar merit award for all members (typically $500)
  - Bamford Fellowship in Global Engagement with $2000 award for research expenses
  - Enhanced candidacy for UW and national scholarships
- Excellent preparation for postgraduate education and professional opportunities

Community, Leadership & Service

The Global Honors student community represents an inspiring and inclusive microcosm of the UWT student body. All members may participate in the Global Honors Student Leadership Council (SLC), which organizes co-curricular, social and service activities. Many of these are held in our comfortable reading room, exclusively available to Global Honors students.

“The Global Honors Program allows me to study and discuss real issues that are present in any field, so I believe this may be one of the most valuable forms of education at UW Tacoma.”

Kate Drohman
Accounting & Global Honors, 2014-16

The highly supportive IGE office offers specialized honors and study abroad advising, including custom referrals to UW resources and opportunities. Our UWT staff and faculty partners are similarly invested in our students’ success.

Externally, our South Sound community partners are drawn from a range of industries and organizations. They regularly share their expertise as guest speakers, mentors, and course instructors.

This newsletter was produced by Amy Blanchard, Paul Carrington, Ashley Douthett, Divya McMillin and Alexis Wheeler. Special thanks to UWT International Programs for input on pages 2-3. The banner photo at the top of page 1 was taken by Alexis Wheeler in October 2009, and features Annapurna South, part of the Himalayan range running through north-central Nepal. At 23,684 feet, it’s slightly taller than Washington state’s Mt. Rainier and Mt. St. Helens combined, but it’s the shortest of the six mountains forming the Annapurna Massif. IGE, MMXV.