

## Embedded Image



## President Thrasher Welcomes Iranian Doctoral Candidate Back to FSU's Campus

President Thrasher held a small reception in his office on Wednesday, February 22, to officially welcome Gholamreza Amirinia back to FSU's campus.

Amirinia, Civil and Environmental Engineering Doctoral Candidate with the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, was unable to renew his student visa because he was visiting his home country of Iran when the Executive Order impacting travel from seven countries was signed.

President Thrasher and the administration at FSU contacted various senators and Secretary John Kelly of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in attempts to have Amirinia's visa issued. Amirinia was able to get his visa at the U.S. Consulate in Dubai and returned to the U.S. on Friday, February 17.





*Pictured from left: Bhawish (Pakistan) and Rabeb (Tunisia)*

## Global UGRAD Students Contribute Diversity, New Perspectives to FSU

Florida State students Bhawish and Rabeb, from Pakistan and Tunisia respectively, bring unique perspectives to FSU. Here for only 1-2 semesters, Bhawish and Rabeb share their culture and life experiences with FSU students and people in the greater Tallahassee community.

Since 2009, Florida State University has hosted exceptional students from around the world through the Global Undergraduate Exchange Program (also known as the Global UGRAD Program), a U.S. government program administered by IREX. UGRAD increases the diversity of our undergraduate international student population by sending students from under-represented countries. Students in the program take classes as non-degree seeking students full time and participate in community service, cultural enrichment and professional development activities.

“Global UGRAD has given me an opportunity to stretch my boundaries, increase my intercultural competence and understanding, and has allowed me to make friends from all over the world,” said Bhawish. “This international exchange is making me more confident and grooming me as a leader.”

Bhawish and Rabeb recently attended the Florida International Leadership Conference where they and 150 domestic and international students from 15 different Florida colleges and universities engaged in a weekend of leadership learning activities.

“I really enjoyed the FILC experience,” said Rabeb. “The keynote speakers were really inspiring. I aim to become that kind of leader: one that changes peoples’ lives.”

Learn more about the UGRAD program administered by IREX here: <https://www.irex.org>.





## FSU Students Welcome Beyond Borders Germany Students to Campus

This week, 11 German students and their team leader were welcomed to campus by FSU students participating in the Beyond Borders program. This unique exchange program offers an alternative to traditional academic study abroad programs and provides students with short-term, cultural learning experiences through immersion.

Small groups of 10-12 FSU students spend three weeks in early May in Dresden, Germany at the Technical University – Dresden or one week at the University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica during FSU Spring Break. First, CGE hosts 12 students from the University of West Indies in Jamaica for one week in October and 11 students from the Technical University of Dresden, Germany for three weeks in March. FSU students selected for each program aid their respective group on excursions, events, and discussions as the guest students learn about both the academic and local culture in the U.S.

FSU students then travel to their host country institution to reunite with their international friends and experience their way of living through travel, relationship building, and academic enrichment. The Beyond Borders Germany group will travel to Dresden in May 2017 and the Beyond Borders Jamaica group will travel to Kingston during Spring Break.

Beyond Borders helps students develop cultural competencies needed to make a difference in today’s global society. Participation in the program fulfills the international requirement for the Global Citizenship Certificate and Garnet and Gold Scholar Society.

The deadline to participate in Beyond Borders Jamaica is mid-September and BB Germany is mid-October. If you are interested in the program [visit our website](#), or if you have any questions, please contact Lena Papadopoulos at [hpapadopoulos@fsu.edu](mailto:hpapadopoulos@fsu.edu).

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## More Upcoming Events

### International Coffee Hour – Every Friday | 5-6:30 p.m. | The Globe Lounge & Dining Room

U.S. students, scholars, and faculty gather for coffee and snacks every Friday. It's a great place to meet new people from various parts of the world, see old friends, and make plans for the weekend. **Note: No coffee hour March 10 and March 17 due to Spring Break.** 🍷

### English Conversation Club – Every Monday-Friday | 4-5 p.m. | The Globe Lounge

International students, scholars, and their families at all levels of speaking English as a second/other language are invited to meet in a relaxed atmosphere to practice conversational English. Groups are led by experienced English tutors.

### Global Citizenship Drop-In Advising – Tues. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. | Wed. 1-3 p.m. | Fri. 1-3 p.m. | The Globe Suite 1200

Drop-in advising hours are for any student who wants to learn about the Global Citizenship Certificate. This certificate prepares FSU students to succeed in a diverse and multicultural world. Learn more: [cge.fsu.edu/globalcitizen](http://cge.fsu.edu/globalcitizen).

### Global Exchanges Information Sessions – Every Tuesday 3:30 p.m. | Every Wednesday 12:30 p.m. | The Globe Room 2600

Find out how you can study at an international university while earning FSU credits, paying FSU tuition and using your



financial aid! Topics covered include: selecting the right program, application process, and course selection and financial aid. See the complete list of FSU's global exchange programs at: [global.fsu.edu/exchanges](https://global.fsu.edu/exchanges).

### **Tax Workshop – Fri., March 3 | 1-5 p.m. | The Globe Auditorium**

F-1 and J-1 students and scholars can attend our tax workshop to learn about filing taxes as residents and non-residents. GLACIER Tax Prep, tax preparatio software is provided by CGE for international students and scholars. Access is available now through your Glacier account.

### **Optional Practical Training (OPT) Workshop – Fri., March 10 | 2-4 p.m. | The Globe Room 2400**

All F-1 international students nearing graduation are required to attend an OPT workshop (in person or online) if you are interested in working in the U.S. after graduation to gain experience in your field of study. Registration is required. To register, visit [cge.fsu.edu/workshop](https://cge.fsu.edu/workshop). Multiple workshop dates are available: 3/10, 3/24, 4/21.

### **Engage Your World Event "Ukraine: Between East and West" – Thurs., March 30 | 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. | The Globe Auditorium**

The College of Social Science and Public Policy's Ruth K. and Shepard Broad International Lecture Series, in association with the Center for Global Engagement's Engage Your World series, presents a talk by Maryna Shkuropat, professor at the Horlivka State Pedagogical Institute of Foreign Languages in Ukraine. Currently in residence as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Southern California, Shkuropat will talk about the current political situation in Ukraine and give a broad historical context to discover the roots of the present circumstances. The event is free and open to the public. 🍷

### **Global Partner Certificate: Bridging Cultures IV (for Faculty, Staff & Grad Students) – Fri., March 31 | 10 a.m.-12 p.m. | The Globe Room 2300**

The Global Partner Certificate is a Center for Global Engagement professional development initiative for those interested in improving their intercultural communication, knowledge, skills, and awareness, as well as becoming more globally competent. This certificate recognizes an individual's commitment to understanding and appreciating cultural diversity at FSU. Participants must complete all four workshops (in order) and three intercultural events offered on campus and/or in the Tallahassee community. Visit the [CGE website](https://cge.fsu.edu) for details.

### **Global Café Featuring the Dominican Republic – Fri., March 31 | 11 a.m. until food runs out | The Globe Dining Room**

This week is co-hosted by the Dominican Student Association and Hispanic/Latino Student Union. \$7 cash or check only. 🍷



Denotes a [\*\*Global Citizenship Certificate\*\*](#) qualifying event.

The Global Citizenship Certificate is designed to help undergraduate students maximize the rich cultural learning experiences available to them on campus, in the community, and abroad. Learn more: [cge.fsu.edu/globalcitizen](https://cge.fsu.edu/globalcitizen).

If you did not receive the link to this newsletter via email, [\*\*join our mailing list\*\*](#) to have the newsletter delivered directly to your inbox each week. We hope to see you at one of our events soon!

 [Center for Global Engagement - Florida State University](https://cge.fsu.edu)

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