Global Thought Experience (GTE) is an experiential learning initiative sponsored by the Committee on Global Thought at Columbia University. This program enables Columbia undergraduate students to apply knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to pressing global issues affecting our local community.

Program Goal: Students contribute meaningfully to the work of participating organizations and become globally-minded problem solvers by engaging with the community beyond the classroom.

Program Schedule: Student placements for the upcoming fall semester (September-December 2017) will be made by late September.

The Committee on Global Thought at Columbia University consists of faculty drawn from across campus dedicated to developing cross-disciplinary and transnational approaches in their research and teaching in order to address the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century world.

For Organizations:

Volunteers Who are Both Skilled and Passionate
- GTE participants are Columbia University students who are dedicated, compassionate, and ready to apply their particular intellectual and practical skills in service to the organization’s mission.
- Most students are members of the Undergraduate Committee on Global Thought, bringing a global outlook, foreign language capability, and skills in research, computers, and social media management.

Flexibility
- Most students commit between 4-6 hours per week; hours are negotiable with organization.
- Students commit to one semester of service, but in some cases choose to continue for a second.

Limited Administrative Requirements
- As a non-credit-bearing experience, reporting requirements are minimal.
- The Committee on Global Thought manages the application process with option of organizations’ involvement.

For Students:

Experience Beyond the Classroom
- The opportunity to assist organizations that work with NYC’s immigrant communities provides insight into the texture of global interactions in a way that studying issues and ideas in the classroom cannot.

Networking
- Students participating in GTE meet regularly on campus to discuss their experiences. An end-of-year symposium provides them the opportunity to share their experiences with the larger Columbia University community.

“Not only was I given a chance to bring my classroom knowledge to work with professionals on global issues, the program has also tremendously informed my future research by exposing me to real-life experience and practice.”

— Hung Le Quoc Nguyen,
GTE Spring 2017 Student Participant