



# GLOBAL THOUGHT EXPERIENCE

## About

**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:** Students participate in the program at their assigned organization during the fall semester (October-December 2019). With the approval of their organization, students may continue into the spring semester (January-May 2020). The deadline for students to apply is September 16, 2019, and placements will be made by Committee on Global Thought staff shortly afterwards.

**The Committee on Global Thought at Columbia University** is dedicated to developing cross-disciplinary and transnational approaches in research and teaching to address the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century world.



*"Through GTE I had the opportunity to work with Immigration Equality, a nonprofit legal aid organization that helps members of the LGBTQ community seek asylum in the United States. Not only was I exposed to the ways in which the law can aid those who are fleeing persecution abroad, but I was also able to contribute to specific cases by researching country conditions. I am so grateful to the Immigration Equality team and the immigrants they serve for this incredible experience."*

— Alida Pitcher-Murray (pictured above, second from left)

## Benefits of Participation

### 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. These qualities include: 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 the organization.
- Students commit to one semester of service. Should their organization choose, students may be offered the opportunity to continue for a second semester. In previous program cycles, most students completed two semesters.

#### Limited Administrative Requirements

- As a non-credit-bearing experience, organizational reporting requirements are minimal. Committee on Global Thought staff will check in with organizations to ensure student performance meets expectations.
- Committee on Global Thought staff 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 have access to unique opportunities to discuss their experiences in GTE with peers and to engage further with the theme of immigration. These opportunities have included attending a citizenship naturalization ceremony and networking with immigrant activists and non-profit leaders.

For more information, please visit  
[CGT.COLUMBIA.EDU/GTE](http://CGT.COLUMBIA.EDU/GTE)

COMMITTEE ON GLOBAL THOUGHT  
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