

GLOCAL: A New Master's Degree Program

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, in keeping with its commitment to outreach, has launched a new master's degree program. Glocal Community-Development Studies, which is offered through the Faculty of Social Sciences, is designed for graduate students from Israel and other parts of the world. The MA program equips them to tackle a spectrum of problems associated with poverty and social inequality. Glocal sensitizes students to the intricacies of inter-cultural relationships, building bridges to mutual understanding between cultures and societies.

Glocal developed when an Israeli organization, *Tevel B'-Tsedek (The Earth In Justice)*, that operates in Nepal and Haiti, approached Hebrew University about professionalizing community outreach. Today's unique Glocal program hones students' skills in the realm of international community development, addressing substantive issues such as agriculture, local economics, public health, public education and advocacy.

Israeli students tend to be adventuresome, often traveling abroad after fulfilling their military service. This penchant for experiencing other cultures enables them to develop a globalized perspective. Primarily taught in English, Glocal offers students an opportunity to study such important topics as: Developing Countries in World Trading Systems, Gender and Development, and The Politics of International Health. After completing academic coursework, students apply for internships in locales throughout Africa, Asia and Central America. Their combined academic and on-site experience equips them to work for NGOs and other types of grassroots organizations devoted to international development.



Think Globally, Act Locally, Learn Glocally

Professor Steven Kaplan, the Academic Head of Glocal as well as the Academic Director of The Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace, emphasizes the value of Glocal. "Our students learn how local organizations deal with microproblems in their community," states Steve. He adds: "Glocal imparts a broader meaning to *Tikkun Olam* by having students go somewhere else in the world and make a difference in peoples' lives." In addition to practicing *Tikkun Olam* abroad, graduates of the Glocal program have the option of working within underserved communities in Israel.

Since the core curricula is taught in English, graduate students without a knowledge of Hebrew are welcome to apply. Interested prospective students should contact Sharon Ben-Arie at sharonba@savion.huji.ac. The Glocal program, which draws upon the talents of faculty members from numerous departments, also features guest lectures by professionals from international NGOs. In Glocal's first year, students met with representatives of OXFAM, the World Bank, the Israeli Foreign Ministry, the United Nations and recent Hebrew University Honorary Doctorate recipient, Sir James Wolfensohn.

In order to attract students from developing nations, Glocal welcomes scholarship donations from American Friends who would like to help subsidize a student's education. Aside from offering a world-class education, Glocal provides non-Israeli students the option of conducting their internships in Israel and learning about the Jewish state. This special opportunity enables them to return to their homes with new skills and insights.



Student internships may take place in Nepal, among other countries.