

Logan Tayler Pender

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign | College of Education |
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EDUCATION

University Of Illinois At Urbana-Champaign, IL, Illinois, USA **Anticipated, Spring 2026**
Ed.M Student in Education Policy, Organization & Leadership

Concentrations

Global Studies in Education

Faculty Advisor: Allison Witt, PhD, Director of College of Education International Programs

Graduate Certificates

Graduate College Mentoring Program

College of Education Sustainability Education

Faculty-Led College of Education Study Abroad Program

Multi-Location: Spain (Barcelona & Madrid)

Spring Break 2026

Multi-Location: (Hong Kong, Macau; Vietnam, & Bali)

Winter J-Term 2026

Multi-Location: Italy (Rome; Verona; Venice; Vatican City)

Spring Break 2025

University of Arizona, - Graduate College

Undergraduate Research Opportunities Consortium (UROC), Summer Research Institute

Summer 2023

Faculty Mentor: Heather Haeger, PhD, Research Director, STEM Learning Center & Assistant Professor,
Educational Policy Studies and Practice

Research Focus Areas: Decolonizing U.S. Higher Education & Education Abroad Systems,
Global Citizenship Culturally Responsive Pedagogy & Historical Perspectives

Winthrop University, Rock Hill, South Carolina

B.A. in Individualized Studies in International Education for Higher Education Administration **May 2024**

Faculty Advisor: Ginger Williams, Ph.D. | Ronald E. McNair Scholars Faculty Advisor: Leigh Poole, Ph.D,
Assistant Provost for Student Success – Executive Director for the International Center

Research Focus Areas: Socio-Culture & Socio-Economic Barriers Students Face in Education
Abroad, Decolonizing U.S. Education Abroad Systems

Korea University, Seoul, South Korea

Exchange Abroad Program | Fall 2022

WORK EXPERIENCE

NEXT LEVEL SKILLS FOR FOR STUDENT LEADERS: VIRTUAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Remote AY 2025 – 2026 | Global Facilitator

**Funded by the European Union through Erasmus+ & Administered by European Education and
Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Champaign, Illinois, USA

College Of Education – Department of Education Policy, Organization & Leadership

AY 2025 - Present | Graduate Teaching Assistant - EPOL 310: Race & Cultural Diversity

College of Education – Office of International Programs

Summer 2025 | Graduate Education Administrative Assistant

AY 2024 – 2025 | Graduate Research Assistant

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs – The Michael L. Jeffries, Sr. Center for Access and Academic Success

AY 2025 – 2026 | Graduate Tutor Mentor -TRIO Upward Bound

Summer 2025 | Summer Program Residential Assistant (SRPA), TRiO Upward Bounds

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)

Remote 2024 – 2025 | Benjamin A Gilman International Scholarship Alumni Ambassador

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY

Rock Hill, South Carolina, USA

Honors College

Remote AY 2025 – 2026 | Study Abroad Program Design Intern

Office of the President

2023 – 2024 | Presidential Intern & Student Liaison and Auditor for the Institution Steering Committee for Strategic Planning and Institution Search Committee for the Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs & Provost

Office of Student Success

TRiO Ronald E. McNair Program Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program

2023 – 2024 | Ronald E. McNair Program Ambassador

The International Center – Office of Study Abroad

2019 – 2022 | Peer Mentor / Administrative Assistant

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

2025

Global Respectful Disruption MiniSummit: *Blank Without Exception* – Virtual | Organizational Grant Funded

Shoresman Study Abroad Scholarship, College of Education, UIUC (\$1,000)

Youth Delegate, Partially Funded, Third Edition of the 2025 Global Youth Convention, hosted by the Headway Institute of Strategic Alliance - Milan, Italy

Youth Delegate, Partially Funded, 2nd Edition of the UN SDGs Forum 2025, organized by the Headway Institute of Strategic Alliance - Bangkok, Thailand

College of Education Dean Sponsored Travel Scholarship (\$500)

Wanda Taeschner Babcock Fellowship, College of Education, UIUC \$10,000 Fellowship + AY Graduate Teaching Assistantship & All Fees)

The Asia Foundation LeadNext Fellowship: Ambassador for a Global Future

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) USA Youth Advocacy Training Program

The Intercultural Relations Institute: Virtual Intercultural Leadership Academy | Organizational Funded Spot

Hardie International Scholarship, College of Education, UIUC (\$500)

College of Education Dean Sponsored Travel Scholarship, UIUC (\$2,000)

Point Foundation Point Persistence Scholarship (\$500)

2024

Wanda Taeschner Babcock Fellowship, College of Education, UIUC (\$10,000 Fellowship + AY Graduate Research Assistantship & All Fees)

University of Illinois at Urbana – Champaign, Summer Pre-Doctoral Institute Research Fellowship Participant, Community of Scholars, Graduate College, University of Illinois at Urbana – Champaign

University of Science and Technology Beijing - Summer School Short-Term Credit Program (Fully Funded)
Did not accept the award due to being awarded the U of I Summer Predoctoral Fellowship and Gilman Alumni Ambassadorship

Most Promising Future Work Designee, Black Doctoral Network Conference, Loyola Marymount University

1st Place Undergraduate Poster Award, BDN Western Regional Conference, Loyola Marymount University

Career Exposure Participant, Point Foundation x Victoria's Secret & Apollo Global Management Board of Directors, New York City, New York

Semi-Finalist, U.S. Congress–Republic of Korea National Assembly Exchange Program

Global Respectful Disruption Summit: *Listen, Act, Lead* – Virtual | Organizational Grant Funded

2023

ASPIRE Illinois Participant, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

ALUMNI TIES Alumni TIES: *Rural Engagement in Global Affairs* – Birmingham, Alabama, USA | U.S. Department of State Funded

The Institute on Teaching and Mentoring: *30th Anniversary: Looking Back, Moving Forward* – Tampa, Florida, USA | Winthrop McNair Grant Funded

Point Foundation LGBTQ BIPOC Scholarship (\$1,500)

2022

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship (\$4,000)

Fund for Education Abroad Scholarship (\$10,000)

Public Diplomacy Awardee, U.S. Embassy Seoul

Global Respectful Disruption Summit Grant: *Global Learning, Justice, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion* – Virtual | Organizational Grant Funded

Winthrop University Iva B. Gibson Study Abroad Scholarship (\$1,500)

TEAN Abroad University Affiliated Scholarship (\$500)

McNair Scholar, U.S. Department of Education TRIO Grant (2022–2024)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Pender, L. (2025) (*The University of Illinois at Urban–Champaign, College of Education*) *Reimagining the U.S. International Education in a Fractured World: Toward a National Strategy of Reciprocity and Resilience*

Pender, L. (2025) (*The University of Illinois at Urban–Champaign, College of Education*) *Decolonizing the U.S. Education Abroad: Lessons from Civil Rights and Democracy Education in the U.S.–ROK Relations*

Pender, L. (2025) (*The University of Illinois at Urban–Champaign, College of Education*) *From Grand Tour to Global Solidarity: Decolonizing Study Abroad to Build Resilient, Reciprocal, and Inclusive Educational Future*

Pender, L. Haggins, G., (2025) (*The University of Illinois at Urban–Champaign, College of Education*) *Tourist to Co-Learner: Reimagining Global Education Beyond the Brochure*

Pender, L. Haggins, G., (2025) (*The University of Illinois at Urban–Champaign, College of Education*) *Not Just "There to Learn": Reimagining Education Abroad Through Shared Power*

Logan T. Pender (2025). (The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign College of Education, Graduate Research) *People, Policy, and Possibility: Study Abroad as a Tool of the U.S. Educational Diplomacy.*

Logan T. Pender (2025). (The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign College of Education, Graduate Research) *Rewriting the Narrative: Decolonizing Education Abroad for Shared Humanity.*

- Witt, A., Ulker, N., Jangjou, P, & **Pender, L.** (2024). (The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign - Graduate College Summer Predoctoral Institute) *Matching Engineering Accreditation Criteria with Higher Education Practices: The Critical Place of Global Citizenship and Education for Sustainable Development*.
- Logan T. Pender**, Leigh A. Poole, Ph.D., & Heather Haeger, Ph.D. (Individualized Studies Cumulative Capstone, 2024). *Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: An Interdisciplinary Exploration of Equity and Inclusion in U.S. Education Abroad Programs for Historically Underrepresented Students*
- Logan T. Pender** & Heather Haeger, Ph.D. (The University of Arizona Graduate College - The University of Arizona Undergraduate Research Opportunities Consortium (UROC) Summer Research Institute (SRI), 2023). *Decolonizing Education Abroad: Unraveling Colonial Ideologies & Embracing Equitable Practices*.
- Logan T. Pender** & Leigh A. Poole, Ph.D. (McNair Summer Research Internship, 2022). *A Comparative Analysis of Higher Education Financial Initiatives for Historically Underserved Students Studying Abroad*.
- Logan T. Pender** (Individualized Studies Research Methodology, 2021). *Recognizing & Addressing Barriers Minority U.S. Students Face Studying Abroad*.

PUBLICATIONS AND CREATIVE WORKS

- Logan, T. (2025). Proof i was never meant to remain in the margin: “A poem of identity, resilience & the liminal spaces we call home.” *International Journal of Human Rights, Peace and Politics, (Issue 2025)*.
https://www.academia.edu/144600400/International_Journal_of_Human_Rights_Peace_and_Politics_Issue_2025_Cartographies_of_Conflict
- Logan, T. (2025, June). Guided By Grace: Reflections on Morality, Cultural Wisdom and The Journey of Life. *Intercultural Connector*, (12).
<https://mailchi.mp/iccglobal.org/intercultural-connector-june-2025-issue-12>
- Logan, T. (2025). Learning to Lead in the In-Between. *Chaalo*. Available at
<https://www.chaalo.org/impact-stories/taylor-pender>

PEER REVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

- Reviewed a manuscript for *the Journal of Global Higher Education* | Winter 2025
Review Board Member, Fund for Education Abroad Scholarship | AY 2026 - 2027
Review Board Member, Fund for Education Abroad Scholarship | AY 2025 - 2026
Reviewed a manuscript for *Frontiers: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Study Abroad* | Spring 2023

PRESENTATIONS

- Pender, L.**, Haggins, G., (2026, April 24) *Rewriting the Compact: The Identities We Carry and the Diplomacy of Learning*. (Oral Session) Presenting at the 2026 Global Respectful Disruption Summit by COMPEAR Global Education Network, Virtual ***Conference has Accepted Proposal***
- Pender, L.** (2026, May) Decolonizing the U.S. Education Abroad: Lessons from Civil Rights and Democracy Education in the U.S.–ROK Relations. (Virtual Oral Presentation) Presenting at the 2026 The International Academic Forum (IAFOR): The 17th Asian Conference On The Social Sciences (ACSS2026), Tokyo, Japan ***Pending Conference Approval***

- Pender, L.** Haggins, G., (2026, April) *Reimagining the U.S. International Education in a Fractured World: Toward a National Strategy of Reciprocity and Resilience*. (Oral Presentation) Presenting at the 2026 The International Academic Forum (IAFOR): The Washington DC Conference On Education (WCE2026), Washington, DC ***Conference has Accepted Proposal***
- Pender, L.** Haggins, G., (2026, February) *From Grand Tour to Global Solidarity: Decolonizing Study Abroad to Build Resilient, Reciprocal, and Inclusive Educational Future*. (Virtual Oral Presentation) Presenting at the 2026 The International Academic Forum (IAFOR): The Southeast Asian Conference On Education (SEACE 2026), Singapore ***Conference has Accepted Proposal***
- Pender, L.** Haggins, G., (2025, April 13) *Tourist to Co-Learner: Reimagining Global Education Beyond the Brochure*. (Poster Session) Presented at the 2026 The Forum on Education Abroad Annual Conference, Nashville, Tennessee ***Conference has Accepted Proposal***
- Pender, L.** Haggins, G., (2025, November 13) *Not Just "There to Learn": Reimagining Education Abroad Through Shared Power*. (Ideation Session) Presented at the 2025 The American Association of Colleges & Universities (AAC&U), Virtual
- Pender, L.** (2025, April 22). *Rewriting the Narrative: Decolonizing Education Abroad for Shared Humanity*. (Oral Presentation) Presented at the Intercultural Research Forum facilitated by the Graduate Student Working Group - 2025 Global Form by the World Council on Intercultural & Global Competence, Virtual
- Pender, L.**, Haggins, G. (2025, March 8). *Decolonizing U.S. Education Abroad System: A Call for Systemic Change in the U.S. Education Abroad Programs*. (Oral Presentation) Presented at 2025 16th Annual The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign College of Education Graduate Student Conference, Urbana, Illinois
- Witt, A., Ulker, N., Jangjou, P, & **Pender, L.** (2024, July 22). *Matching Engineering Accreditation Criteria with Higher Education Practices: The Critical Place of Global Citizenship and Education for Sustainable Development*. (Oral Presentation) Presented at the 2024 Illinois Summer Research Symposium (ISRS), Urbana, Illinois
- Pender, L.**, Poole, L., & Haeger, H. (2024, April 19). *Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: An Interdisciplinary Exploration of Equity and Inclusion in U.S. Education Abroad Programs for Historically Underrepresented Students*. (Poster Presentation) Presented at the 2024 Black Doctoral Network Western Regional Conference - Undergraduate Research Poster Competition, Los Angeles, California.
- Pender, L.**, Poole, L., & Haeger, H. (2024, April 12). *Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: An Interdisciplinary Exploration of Equity and Inclusion in U.S. Education Abroad Programs for Historically Underrepresented Students*. (Oral Presentation) Presented at Winthrop University Showcase of Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors (SOURCE), Rock Hill, South Carolina.
- Pender, L.**, Aguilar-Gaspar, M., Barrales, E., Carr, R., Choice, A., Vaughn, C., Walker, G., White, E., & Wineglass, T. (2023, September 21). *Conversation with Scholars* [Panel Discussion]. U.S. Department of Education Site Visit, Winthrop University Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program (P217A230073), Virtual.
- Pender, L.** & Haeger, H. (2023, October 6). *Decolonizing Education Abroad: Unraveling Colonial Ideologies & Embracing Equitable Practices*. Presented at Winthrop University Summer Undergraduate Research Experience Poster Showcase, Rock Hill, South Carolina
- Pender, L.** & Haeger, H. (2023, August 7). *Decolonizing Education Abroad: Unraveling Colonial Ideologies & Embracing Equitable Practices*. (Oral Presentation), Presented at The University of Arizona Undergraduate Research Opportunities Consortium (UROC) Colloquium, Tucson, Arizona

- Pender, L. & Haeger, H.** (2023, August 4). *Decolonizing Education Abroad: Unraveling Colonial Ideologies & Embracing Equitable Practices*. Presented at The 28th Annual University of Arizona Undergraduate Research Opportunities Consortium (UROC) Poster Session, Tucson, Arizona
- Pender, L. & Poole, L.** (2023, April 14). *Comparative Analysis of Higher Education Financial Initiatives for Historically Underserved Students Studying Abroad*. (Poster Presentation) Presented at Winthrop University Showcase of Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors (SOURCE), Rock Hill, SC
- Pender, L. & Poole, L.** (2023, February 24-25). *Comparative Analysis of Higher Education Financial Initiatives for Historically Underserved Students Studying Abroad*. (Poster Presentation), Presented at Winthrop University Movement(s) in a Dynamic World: Interdisciplinary Perspectives, Rock Hill, SC
- Pender, L. & Poole, L.** (2022, June 24). *Comparative Analysis of Higher Education Financial Initiatives for Historically Underserved Students Studying Abroad*. (Poster Presentation), Presented at 27th Annual SAEOPP National McNair/SSS Scholars Research Conference, Atlanta, GA
- Pender, L. & Poole, L.** (2022, June 20). *Comparative Analysis of Higher Education Financial Initiatives for Historically Underserved Students Studying Abroad*. (Poster Presentation), Presented at Winthrop University McNair Summer Research Symposium, Rock Hill, SC

INVITED TALKS AND PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

- 2025 | Invited Scholar - Alumni**, Fund for Education Abroad Scholarship Video Testimony
- Pre-recorded a video talking about my study abroad experience in South Korea and the meaning of being a FEA and Gilman Scholar. This was presented at the Global Respectful Disruption Summit by the COMPEAR Global Education Network The Block Party Fundraiser.
- 2025 | Invited Scholar Guest Speaker**, Fund for Education Abroad Scholarship Gala, New Zealand Embassy, Washington D.C.
- Presented the 2025 Fritz Kaufmann Champion Award to Marriott International for their commitment to global engagement and cultural exchange, which was accepted by Faith Colvin, Marriott's Vice President of Global Public Policy and International Affairs
- 2025 | Invited Video Guest**, Papua New Guinea Golden Jubilee – 50th Independence Day Celebration
- The invitation was extended through law student leaders at the University of Papua New Guinea to deliver a recorded message of congratulations and gave reflection on the themes of resilience, unity, cultural pride, and international solidarity, aligning with the national theme “Celebrate Our History, Inspire Our Future.”
- 2025 | Alumni Guest Speaker**, Winthrop McNair Scholars Fall Class – 2025 Cohort
- 2025 | Invited Guest Speaker**, Winthrop TRiO Student Support Services Freshman Orientation
- 2025 | Alumni Guest Speaker**, Winthrop McNair Scholars Summer Research Program – 2025 Cohort
- 2025 | Open Letter Contributor**, Fund for Education Abroad Board of Trustees Spring Meeting
- 2025 | Recommendation Letter Writer**, Institute on International Education Bid for U.S. Department of State Benjamin A Gilman International Scholarship Program
- Asked to write a Letter of Endorsement to Ms. Edith Cecil Senior Vice President, Government Program as a Gilman alumni and Gilman Alumni Ambassador on behalf of Institute of International Education (IIE) for their competitive bid to continue their administration of the Gilman Program for the U.S. Department of State.

2024 | Invited Guest Speaker, Winthrop University Spring Advancement Gala

2022 – 2024 | Presenter, Benjamin A Gilman International Scholarship Information Sessions

2023 | Invited Gilman Scholars Contributor (Pre-Recorded Video), The U.S. - Republic of Korea Alliance Summit 70th Anniversary for South Korea's President Yoon's visit to Washington, D.C.

- Collaborated with the U.S. Embassy Seoul to produce a concise five minute oral presentation video for the U.S. - Republic of Korea Alliance Summit, focusing on the "U.S.-ROK alliance" with an emphasis on education abroad exchanges for cultural exchange and the strategic use of education as a form of soft power diplomacy.

2022 | Invited Gilman Scholar, Public Diplomacy Section at American Diplomacy House Seoul in Seoul, South Korea

- Invited as a Gilman Scholar to meet with other department of state and department of defense awarded individuals to for a coffee and chat with American and Korean diplomats-foreign service officers to discuss and expand our knowledge of cultural diplomacy and learn more about their roles.

COMMUNITY AND ENGAGEMENT

Teens of Color Abroad (TOCA)

Mentor

Remote

October 2025 - Present

Chaalo – *A Nonprofit that expands access to youth in education abroad*

Remote

[Board of Directors Member](#)

August 2025 - Present

Activate the Village - Education Abroad Grassroot Group

Remote

Graduate Student Member

August 2025 – Present

World Economic Forum – Global Shaper Community

Chicago, Illinois, USA

Member, Global Shaper Chicago Hub

July 2025 – Present

The University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign – Graduate College

Champaign, Illinois, USA

Graduate Mentor, The Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program (URAP)

August 2025 – Present

- Mentoring an undergraduate College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Global Studies & Pre-Law James Scholar Honors student in building a strong foundation in research.

The University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign – College of Education

Graduate Student Representative, EPOL Departmental Awards Committee

AY 2025 – 2026

Student Coordinator, Disabled Student Accessibility & Inclusion Taskforce

Fall 2024 – Present

Lab Member, The Sustainable Futures Lab

Fall 2025 – Present

Master Student Representative, Faculty & Staff Awards Committee

AY 2024 – 2025

Graduate Member, Graduate Student Conference Committee

AY 2024 – 2025

World Council on Intercultural and Global Competence

Remote

Working Group Member

August 2024 – Present

LGBTQ Leaders in Higher Education

Remote

2025 Leadership Institute Planning Committee Member

January 2025 – October 2025

GLOBAL AND DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES

2025

Youth Delegate, DMUN Foundation, 2025 Social Forum of the United Nations Human Rights

Council, Office of the High Commissioner – Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland | Fall 2025

Delegate, Student Action for Refugees (STAR), Tertiary Refugee Student Network (TRSN), and the Global Student Forum (GSF) by The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) | Virtual

Delegate, Global Youth Consultation - Youth-led guide on UNESCO 2023 Recommendation on Education for Peace, Human Rights & Sustainable Development by The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) | Virtual

Delegate, Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) and the Launch of the Beijing+30 Action Agenda Global Webinar with Young Feminists | Remote

Delegate, 2025 Sustainable Development League: World Economic & Leadership Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign College of Education Funded

2024

Trainee, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), USA Youth Advocacy Training Program

2022

Invited Student Participant, CIEE Annual Conference: *75 Years of Pathways to Peace* – Seoul, South Korea | Organizational Grant Funded

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

IAFOR: International Academic Forum

Forum on Education Abroad

American Association of Colleges & Universities (AAC&U)

ALPFA: Association of Latino Professionals For America University of Illinois - Urbana Champaign

IIE Network: Institute of International Education

THE KOREA SOCIETY

AERA: American Educational Research Association

NCFDD: National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity

NAFSA: Association of International Educators