



HONORS

Honors Global Leadership Opportunities

Which Honors Requirements are Satisfied by each Trip?



Honors & Cal Poly in London, Summer 2026

The six-week summer program offers you 8 Cal Poly units with two general education courses. One of the courses, ISLA 316 (GE Upper D): London: From Roman Colony to World Capital, is taught by a Londoner instructor arranged through our long-time service provider, FIE: Foundation for International Education. This summer the second course will be taught by Dr. Thomas Bensky from Cal Poly's Physics Department. Dr. Bensky will teach, ASTR 324 (GE Upper B): Longitude, Navigation, and Timekeeping. In addition to these courses, you will have the opportunity to take part in community engagement experiences alongside the program's academic and cultural activities.

Honors Requirements Satisfied:

- Honors High Impact Practice
- 3 Semester units of Honors Elective (if select to complete the community engagement experience)

Applications due March 1, 2026. To learn more and find info session dates, link to [Cal Poly in London](#).



Honors & Cal Poly in Thailand, Summer 2026

The Cal Poly in Thailand program is a 6-week summer study abroad program based in Chiang Mai. It offers general education courses taught in English by Cal Poly faculty, Dr. Marni Goldenberg (Experience Industry Management Department) and Dr. James Keese (Social Science Department). The classes emphasize 'Learn by Doing' activities that include same-day and multiple-day excursions to destinations such as Bangkok, Koh Samui Island and Kao Sok National Park in the south, Chiang Rai and the hill tribe region of the north, and an elephant sanctuary. You will receive 8 units of academic credit and choose among GE courses focusing on Thai culture, global environmental issues, and environmental leadership.

Honors Requirements Satisfied:

- Honors High Impact Practice
- 4 Semester units of Honors Elective (if *complete HNRS 299: Leadership and Group Dynamics in Spring 2026* taught by Dr. Goldenberg in preparation for the 6-week program abroad.

Applications due March 1, 2026. To learn more and find info session dates, link to [Cal Poly in Thailand](#).



Honors & Alternative Breaks

The Center for Service in Action's Alternative Breaks program provides students the opportunity to serve their global community during spring and summer breaks. These collaborative volunteer excursions focus on humanitarian issues through strong direct service, global leadership workshops, and group reflection. Students are immersed in a local culture, which provides the opportunity to examine social issues and reflect on their own positions of power and privilege. Students who participate on the projects are required to attend 3-4 pre-departure orientation workshops that include logistics, team building, orientation, and *every* student receiving the **Center for Leadership's Global Leadership certificate**.

Spring Break: March 22 to 28, 2026: New Orleans

The New Orleans project was the inaugural Alternative Breaks program at Cal Poly in response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005. After more than a dozen trips to New Orleans—often referred to as the “Crescent City”—where deep relationships have been forged with a wide variety of agencies leading the ongoing recovery efforts from Katrina and several more storms since, students have an opportunity to serve this community in a substantive manner. Through historical and cultural excursions, students will be immersed in the rich culture and cuisine of this deeply historical and complex city with its glaring disparities between the privileged and underserved.

Honors Requirements Satisfied:

- Honors High Impact Practice
- 1 Semester units of Honors Elective (WN26: HNRS 299-09; W 10:10am to 11:00am Mardi Gras and Masquerades: The Politics of Global Carnival Culture)

Applications due February 2, 2026. To learn more and find info session dates, link to [Alternative Breaks 2026](#).

Summer Break: June 15 to 30, 2026, Cape Town, South Africa

Students will spend 13 days in South Africa working in collaboration with Film School Africa (FSA), a post-secondary education program, building students marketable skills for the burgeoning film industry. Historical and cultural excursions of the greater Cape Town area will be included to provide the appropriate context and framework for service and addressing community needs. Service activities will include peer learning projects, and repairs/light construction at the school site and/or service at one of FSA's community partner sites.

Honors Requirements Satisfied:

- Honors High Impact Practice
- 1 Semester units of Honors Elective (SP26: HNRS 299 TBA)

Applications due February 23, 2026. To learn more and find info session dates, link to [Alternative Breaks 2026](#).