



HONORS

Honors Global Leadership Opportunities

A defining hallmark of the Honors Program is its commitment to cultivating the leadership skills students need to thrive in their careers and beyond. Central to this growth is preparing students to lead and collaborate effectively in a global workforce. To this end, Honors has partnered with Cal Poly's International Center and the Center for Service in Action to provide transformative leadership opportunities. Through these experiences, students develop the knowledge, agility, and vision to engage meaningfully and serve with purpose in an interconnected world. We encourage you consider taking advantage of one of these opportunities this year. *Note: Participation in one of these opportunities will fulfill the Honors Track Requirement or Honors High Impact Practice (new semester requirement).*



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. As honoree Londoners for the summer, this opportunity will give you the chance to connect with the city and its communities. Activities may include assisting at community events, participating in community-led walking tours, supporting environmental or sustainability initiatives, or other hands-on experiences that fit within the academic schedule. This sort of experiential education supports global citizenship by showing how local actions connect to wider communities and encouraging reflection on the ways you can make a positive impact. It provides insight into how communities function, highlights links between local and global issues, and demonstrates the meaningful role individuals can play in creating change.

Through workshops that will frame the experience, you will be able to make connections between civic responsibility, global learning, and their role as future leaders. Through these experiences, you gain a deeper understanding of London life while contributing to the communities you are part of, complementing the broader learning experience of the program.

- Applications open November 1, 2025
- Applications are due by March 1, 2026
- Cost ~ TBA (current info posted on link below not up to date)
- 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. In addition to these courses, you will take while in Thailand, *Honors will offer*

an Honors Seminar (HNRS 299): Leadership and Group Dynamics in Spring 2026 taught by Dr. Goldenberg in preparation for the 6-week program abroad.

- Applications open November 1, 2025.
- Applications are due by March 1, 2026
- Cost \$12,745.00
- 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**. *Honors will offer Honors Seminars in Winter 2026 and Spring 2026 to support each excursion.*

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.

- To learn more and find info session dates, link to [Alternative Breaks 2026](#).
- Applications due February 2, 2026
- Cost ~\$1410 + airfare
- Honors Seminar (HNRS 299-09); W 10:10am to 11:00am
Mardi Gras and Masquerades: The Politics of Global Carnival Culture
Dr. Dan Castillow, Ethnic Studies Department

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.

- To learn more and find info session dates, link to [Alternative Breaks 2026](#).
- Applications due February 23, 2026
- Cost~\$410 (includes airfare)
- Honors Seminar TBA