

A&SRC Explorers



TRAVEL ABROAD PROGRAM

Description: *A&SRC Explorers* is a curricular program open to members of the Arts and Sciences Residential College (A&SRC). This competitive program is sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences, Center for Global Education, and Housing and Residence Life. Consideration for participation in this exclusive program requires the submission of this completed application and supporting materials by the November 1, 2025 deadline.

Selected students will enroll in the course **Encountering Global Cultures** (MLNG2000) for three (3) credit hours in the Spring 2026 semester. As part of the course curriculum, students will travel abroad during Spring Break week (from March 14-21). Our travel destination will be Mexico, with stays in the Yucatan peninsula, a region reflecting the country's rich history and cultural diversity. We will explore archaeological sites of a significant pre-Columbian civilization, consider the confluence of this culture with those of the European colonists that created the Mexican cultural identity, experience life in modern Mexico, and engage with students from the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán (UADY). Upon returning to UTC, students will channel their experiences abroad into their final projects consisting of a public presentation with visual aids (e.g., PowerPoint slideshow, cultural artifacts, video/audio samples, etc.).

Eligibility: Full-time students meeting the following requirements may apply for this competitive opportunity:

- Enrolled in at least 12 credit hours, including MLNG2000 (3 credit hrs.) during the Spring 2026 semester.
- Active participants in one of the A&SRC's RLCs (i.e., Helping Hands, Life Out Loud, MEDIC, Mocs in STEM, Music Row, POLIS, Sustainable Mocs, or Writers' Collective).
- Must be in good academic standing (a minimum 2.75 GPA is required for consideration).
- Demonstrated engagement by attending at least six A&SRC, RLC, Center for Global Education, and other campus and community service events by the time of the application deadline.
- Eligible and prepared to secure a passport.

Program Cost: Students will contribute \$750.00 of the program cost. Additionally, they are responsible for obtaining a valid passport. The Center for Global Education, College of Arts and Sciences, and Division of Access and Engagement will subsidize the remaining cost.

* Fundraising activities will be organized to help students needing financial assistance to participate in this program. For more information about fundraising opportunities, contact A&SRC Director Dr. Nikolasa Tejero (Nikolasa-Tejero@UTC.edu) / (423) 425-4621).

Submission Process: Upload this completed application form and essay as .doc or .pdf files to the Submission page linked on the [A&SRC Explorers website](#).

Deadlines: Application submission deadline is **November 1, 2025**. See the program website for other deadlines.

APPLICATION

Name: _____ UTC ID: _____

Email: _____ Cell Phone: _____

RLC Name: _____ Major: _____

Current GPA (first-year students, list your final high school GPA): _____

List any previous experience traveling abroad: _____

Demonstrated Engagement: Meeting the learning outcomes for this program requires your willingness to engage with the world around you; therefore, your application should reflect a clear interest in engagement. To do this, include a list of all the events you have attended since moving into the A&SRC. Eligible applications **MUST** contain AT LEAST SIX activities/events you participated in or attended.

Enter the events you participated in/attended (with event dates in parentheses) in the spaces provided:

1. Community Service activities, ***including*** IRONMAN Chattanooga (required) and at least two other activities):

☐ Volunteer service for the IRONMAN Chattanooga (Sunday, September 28, 2025).

☐ _____

☐ _____

2. Two activities sponsored by the Center for Global Education:

☐ Center for Global Education's *Introduction to Global Engagement* seminar

☐ Select at least one of the following:

☐ *International Tea Time* _____

☐ Global Spotlight _____

3. At least two co-curricular RLC events:

☐ _____

☐ _____

☐ _____

4. At least one RLC social event:

☐ _____

5. At least one campus community event:

☐ _____

Essay Portion: Compose an essay describing your interest in participating in a travel abroad program, explaining how you imagine the experience will impact you. Use these questions to help frame your essay: Why are you interested in traveling abroad? What are your goals for this experience? What do you hope to learn? What skills do you bring to the experience you anticipate will be helpful? What skills do you wish to develop or refine? Include a statement about your financial need. (Maximum essay length = 1000 words)

Program Participation Acknowledgment: By signing and submitting this application and supporting materials, I acknowledge my commitment, if selected, to fully participate in the Travel Abroad experience. I agree to be held liable for all fees associated with my participation in this program if I withdraw after the withdrawal deadline (January 6, 2026). I understand that incomplete applications will not be considered; moreover, I must maintain eligibility status throughout the time of travel.

Signature

Date