Learning is back in the World!

LITW's core mission is to provide all students the opportunity to develop global and intercultural competencies through immersive learning experiences around the world. New this year, we are striking up partnerships with academic departments, internal organizations and student groups, and outside affiliates to design and deliver world-facing and place-based programming throughout the academic year, wherever we are—abroad, in the U.S., nearby, or even on campus and at home. We hope these innovations lead to broader involvement in LITW and that they help everyone see themselves and the world in new ways.

Frequently Asked Questions

Answers provided by Mark Cutler, director of Learning in the World.

Q: Will Andover offer domestic and international Learning in the World programs this school year?
Yes! Specific application-based programs were announced in mid-October. We will offer immersive learning opportunities abroad, in the United States, nearby, and through the academic and co-curricular programs this year. Most LITW programs are designed and led by experienced, dedicated Phillips Academy faculty and staff—and we are offering opportunities through our affiliates as well.

Q: What kinds of experiences can students expect?
LITW provides students the opportunity to engage directly with diverse cultural practices and perspectives and a variety of academic disciplines in ways that are likely to surprise, inspire, and enlighten them. Experiential learning opportunities of this nature, when absorbed during formative adolescent years, have an impact not only on how young people think about the world, but also on life choices, civic activity, and career aspirations. With programs in a broad and growing number of domestic and international locations, students may choose from a range of possibilities that enrich their other pursuits on campus.

Q: When do LITW programs take place?
Most LITW programs take place over spring break (March 5–21, 2022) and in early summer 2022. In addition, LITW is partnering with classroom instructors and student groups to deliver immersive world-facing learning opportunities through the academic and co-curricular experience.

Q: What effect has the COVID-19 pandemic had on LITW programming?
While the pandemic has changed the ways in which we engage with the world, it has not altered LITW's core mission to provide all students the opportunity to develop global and intercultural competencies through immersive learning experiences around the world. We will take precautions to avoid exposing ourselves, and the communities we engage with, to disease and develop contingency plans with our medical director and risk management team that we can enact in the event of an outbreak or another emergency while in the field.

Q: Is financial aid available?
Yes! Email litw@andover.edu for more information.

Q: Can any student participate in any program?
Students can apply for any LITW program that takes place while they are still enrolled at Phillips Academy. Students are not eligible for programs that will take place after their graduation from Phillips Academy. Each program requires an application and has an enrollment limit—as well as a waitlist.

Q: What are the deadlines for students to apply for LITW programs?
Thursday, December 2, 2021, is the deadline for March break programs
Tuesday, January 4, 2022, is the deadline for summer programs.

Mark Cutler, LITW director and instructor in Spanish and Interdisciplinary Studies, is also co-director of LITW's HUACA (Human Understanding through Archeology and Cultural Awareness) Project, currently on hiatus. He and colleague Donald Slater, instructor in history and social science, have guided multiple student cohorts on an in-depth immersion in modern and ancient Andean cultures, featuring a cultural exchange in the Q'eros Nation and a multiday trek on ancestral pathways culminating in the Inca citadel Machu Picchu.

Further questions? Please visit andover.edu/litw or email litw@andover.edu.