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### Global Ambassadors Program

Office of International and Transnational Affairs, University of Massachusetts Boston

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# Global Ambassadors Program

## Office of International and Transnational Affairs

### Summary

UMass Boston students are a force for driving the shape, structure, and scope of the international programs that are offered at UMass Boston and beyond campus borders.

The Office of International and Transnational Affairs offers outstanding UMass Boston students the opportunity to further their experiences in international leadership through the Global Ambassadors Program. Each semester, a select group of UMass Boston students is accepted to the year-long certificate program through which they spread the understanding and appreciation of different cultures, backgrounds, and viewpoints.

### Approaches and Methods

Global Ambassadors participate in biweekly workshops that focus on the observational and analytical skills taught in anthropology, including ethnography and social network analysis. Their research contributes to a holistic understanding of the UMass Boston global community; culture, ethnocentrism, and identity are a few of the topics that are explored through an international lens. Global Ambassadors keep journals throughout the program to capture their observations and reflections.



### Goals and Objectives

Global Ambassadors are encouraged to think creatively and engage passionately as they develop international activities, lead workshops, and participate in a variety of events on campus and within the Boston community. These initiatives are designed to be reflective of the specific needs and interests of the individual student and scholar as these perspectives and experiences are contextualized within local and global networks. The goals of the program are to:

- Develop new programs to facilitate the cultural adjustment of international students and scholars while promoting purposeful community engagement.
- Create a supportive environment for returned study abroad students to share their experiences and apply their global skill sets to programming on the UMass Boston campus.
- Foster the collaboration of domestic and international students on projects related to international education, facilitating the exploration of cultural diversity and multicultural perspective.

### Results/Impacts

During 2013-2014, Global Ambassadors were actively involved in a variety of international programs on campus and in the community:

- International Education Week;
- Student peer advising hours;
- Monthly International Conversation Hours;
- Writing for the UMass Boston International Newsletter;
- Pre-departure Orientations and Study Abroad Fairs;
- International Student Orientations;
- Ethnic Enclaves of Boston Walking Tour;
- UMass Boston trip to the UN Headquarters in New York City;
- Massachusetts Maritime Heritage Excursion to Gloucester, Massachusetts.



Above: UMass Boston students discuss presentations given during International Education Week; Left: UMass Boston students explore Boston during the Ethnic Enclaves of Boston Walking Tour.

### Conclusions/Next Steps

- Global Ambassadors serve as a student advisory board to the office.
- In an effort to best serve the UMass Boston community, their reflections and opinions will be incorporated into the international programs and services offered in the next academic year.

### Contact

Kimberly Montoni,  
Coordinator, International Education and Scholarly Programs  
Office of International and Transnational Affairs  
[Kimberly.Montoni@umb.edu](mailto:Kimberly.Montoni@umb.edu)