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A Letter from Provost Katherine Fleming

The GRI program was created for our faculty and graduate communities. We wanted our global sites to be a more readily accessible resource, and for that access to be provided through transparent and easy-to-understand guidelines. The GRI is wonderful in that it is a pure “give” -- its Fellows Program and Dissertation Workshops provide the resources for people to travel to the sites, underwrite their living costs while there, and provide them with office space and light administrative support. Its Faculty Initiatives Program provides funding for faculty conferences, colloquia, and seminars that don’t have other ready sources of funding at the university. And its Housing Program makes it possible to bring guests to the university to work on collaborations or spend time in residence in other capacities. All that GRI asks of its participants in return is that they use the resources provided to further their own work, deepen their collaborations, and expand their professional networks. At the same time, the GRI program has helped our sites build out their research capacity, and expand their ability to host important programming. We are thrilled over the past decade to have been able to support 1,434 faculty and graduate student research stays at our sites, 261 participants in our summer dissertation workshops, and have provided $2,659,321 in total funding for events through our Initiatives fund. I am extremely grateful to Provost Emeritus David McLaughlin for providing the resources to make this program a reality when I first pitched it to him in 2010. We look forward to another decade ahead of supporting excellent faculty and graduate research and programing.
When Katherine Fleming contacted me about working on the Global Research Initiatives, I was struck by the elegance of the concept. She had identified that while NYU had developed the incredible Global Network, there was not always a clear path for NYU scholars to take advantage of it. Enter GRI. Through the four components of the program, we have helped facilitate a myriad of international research and academic connections that may not have otherwise come to fruition.

In the spring of 2011 we began a pilot semester with three students in Berlin to prepare for our official launch in the fall. Even working on the inside as an administrator, I was a little awed as we expanded our fellowship program from the three initial locations (Berlin, Florence, and London) to our current span of ten. We increased our housing pool for international visitors from six to sixteen, and have increased our fund for Faculty Research Initiatives several times over, since our humble beginnings back in Academic Year 2011-2012. Throughout it all, we did this with a small staff, and with Provost Fleming’s unwavering support. It is important to mention that making all of this happen has only been possible due to the hard work of many NYU departments. From Global Programs, to Faculty Housing, to the Office of Global Services-- not to mention the wonderful staff at each NYU location-- and these are only some of the people with whom we collaborate in order to make this program happen. I feel grateful to our colleagues, and hope that GRI will continue to facilitate wonderful international collaborations for many more years to come.
The Global Research Initiatives consist of four programs.

**Faculty Research Initiatives** make funding available for international events.

**Washington Square Housing** allows faculty to host an international visitor with whom they are collaborating.

**GRI Research Institute** fellowships provide travel, office space, and a stipend to faculty and graduate students so that they can conduct research-in-residence at an NYU site.

**Summer Dissertation Writing Workshops** are multi-week, intensive working groups held at various GRI Institutes, providing housing, a workspace and support from an advisor to help students finish writing their dissertations.

The latter two programs are held at **GRI's Research Institutes**, which are located at NYU centers around the world.

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**GRI Research Institute Timeline**

- **Spring 2011**
  - NYU Berlin hosts GRI's first 3 fellows as a pre-launch pilot program.

- **Spring 2013**
  - The program doubles in size, adding Prague, Washington, DC, and Shanghai.

- **Spring 2015**
  - GRI adds NYU Paris, its largest site to date.

- **Summer 2019**
  - NYU Madrid becomes the 10th center for the GRI program.

- **Fall 2011**
  - GRI adds NYU Florence and NYU London for the official launch of the program.

- **Fall 2013**
  - GRI begins hosting scholars in Tel Aviv, later moving into NYU's academic center in fall 2018.

- **Summer 2017**
  - NYU Athens is added as GRI's first standalone site.

- **Spring 2022**
  - GRI marks its ten year anniversary, celebrating a decade of supporting international research.
Faculty Initiatives

A key part of GRI, this program supports international events, particularly those establishing research links with NYU’s Global Network and faculty. To date the program has disbursed almost $2.7 million to fund over **260 events**.

“**Provost's Global Research has been an indispensable support for Gallatin's Global Faculty Symposium** which annually takes place at one of NYU’s Global Academic Centers and brings faculty from Gallatin and NYU’s global academic centers together to exchange ideas and to foster research and curricular collaborations around a common theme... we have organized two symposia with the support of Provost’s Global Research Initiatives at NYU Berlin and NYU Accra, and we are most grateful for the funding opportunity from GRI that allowed us to foster these scholarly connections...”

- Mehmet Darakcioglu Assistant Dean of Global Programs, Gallatin

Washington Square Housing for International Visitors

Over the past 10 years, GRI has hosted over 600 visiting faculty in apartments on the Washington Square Campus.

Through this program, faculty and departments may request housing for an international faculty collaborator that they are working with. The apartments are fully-furnished and subsidized to give researchers an affordable option to work on campus for their international collaborations.
GRI Research Institutes Fellowships

By far our largest program, we host over two hundred and fifty GRI faculty and graduate student fellows at our ten NYU locations over the course of a typical academic year. Fellows are assigned an office, given a stipend and are flown to the location where they will be conducting research. There they are welcomed by the global center staff and become part of the local community.

“My experience as a GRI Fellow transformed me both academically and personally. When I was a Fellow at NYU Florence, I had time to think about a research problem more deeply than had been possible in NY, and now I find that I approach problems more analytically. I met an amazing group of students who were GRI Fellows with me, and those relationships and our discussions about our respective research interests continued after we all returned to Washington Square.”

- Keith Woerpel
Professor
Of Medicinal Chemistry

Learn more about our 10 GRI Institutes...

Berlin

Joined in Spring 2011

GRI’s longest-term partner, NYU Berlin was the location of our pre-launch pilot semester, allowing us to test out how the program would work.

“I had the immense pleasure to host the first GRI fellows at NYU Berlin in Spring 2011. The program was launched under the great care of our now provost, Katherine E. Fleming, who had envisioned it in all its details. In Berlin, the fourth floor of our Academic Center became a unique space of research and learning for NYU faculty and graduate students as well as their invited colleagues. At the GRI Research Institute, a large number of dissertations and book manuscripts were completed in the past decade; innovative new research projects were launched; international colloquia and workshops were held that resulted in book publications, new undergraduate courses, and a sustainable impact on a number of academic communities, including local universities, NGOs, highschools, and other initiatives. GRI-sponsored events were systematically integrated into our undergraduate academic programming as well and helped to further deepen a university-wide culture of inclusion, diversity, belonging, equity, and accessibility.”

- Gabriella Etmektsoglou
Director of NYU Berlin
London
Joined in Fall 2011
“It’s a great pleasure for me to write about the huge benefits that the GRI has brought to NYU’s academic mission. As a member of the English Department, I’ve seen the transformative effects a fellowship or a place in a GRI-sponsored dissertation writing workshop has brought to my PhD advisees. As site director of NYU London since 2017, I’ve had the wonderful opportunity to welcome each semester’s GRI fellows here at Bedford Square. GRI’s generous financial support enabled me to stage a joyful international conference at NYU Florence in the spring of 2017. And I was a GRI fellow at NYU Berlin in the fall of 2018. I like to say that I shall never have as beautiful an office as I had that semester up on the top floor of the Kulturbrauerei, but that was just one element of an exceptionally well-supported period of research. All in all, I’ve many reasons to thank the GRI, and to be convinced that it plays a key role in furthering NYU’s scholarly excellence!”
- Catherine Robson Director of NYU London

“NYU London was delighted to be involved in the early years of the GRI and continues to relish working with and supporting the fellows we welcome throughout the year. I have had the privilege of working with the GRI throughout its time in London, and have always loved working with the amazing fellows we are able to support. They are wonderful reminders of the incredible work that goes on throughout the University.”
- Ruth Tucker Associate Director of NYU London

Florence
Joined in Fall 2011
Beautiful and unique, GRI fellows in Florence get to enjoy being in residence at a Renaissance Villa.

“NYU Florence is proud to have welcomed graduate student and faculty researchers to the Florence campus from the inception of the GRI program. We continue to benefit from the presence of GRI fellows who come from an ever-increasing range of fields, and who enjoy our beautiful campus while taking advantage of the rich resources provided by local libraries, archives, museums and monuments.”
- Bruce Edelstein Coordinator of Graduate Programs at NYU Florence
Prague
Joined in Spring 2013

Located in a beautifully restored 15th-century building, Prague is a hub for GRI fellows studying Central Europe as well as the arts.

“Since GRI fellows first started coming to Prague, we’ve been delighted about how they’ve enriched the intellectual life of the site. GRI fellows in Prague have pursued a wide variety of topics, from Cold War history to the work of Italian Renaissance figures, from dance to poetry to psychology and music. They have completed not only Masters’ theses and PhD dissertations, but also novels, volumes of poetry and even a film. We look forward to seeing what interesting projects and subjects future fellows will work on and to broadening our circle of Prague GRI alumni.”

- Thea Favaloro Associate Director of NYU Prague

Shanghai
Joined in Spring 2013

In this dynamic city, GRI fellows enjoy all the benefits of being in-residence on a thriving campus. This year we congratulate our colleagues at NYU Shanghai as they mark their own 10th Anniversary!

“From one 10th Anniversary celebrant to another, congratulations from NYU Shanghai to the GRI program on a decade of promoting research and knitting closer NYU’s global network. Around 100 faculty and students have made their home at NYU Shanghai since the inception of the GRI fellows program, all of them helping to flourish the depth and breadth of intellectual discourse on campus.”

- Eric Mao Assistant Dean of Graduate and Advanced Education

Courtesy of NYU Shanghai
Washington, DC

A draw for those studying politics and the workings of government, NYU DC is also a wonderful venue for scholarly events.

“I believe the writing and resources there are a large reason I’m still able to focus on writing after COVID-19 and political changes nationally”

- Angelo Baca PhD Candidate

Program Spotlight: Summer Dissertation Writing Workshops

Our dissertation “bootcamps,” this program consists of small writing workshops for doctoral candidates in the final writing stages of their dissertation at various NYU sites. Participants are housed, receive a stipend, and meet regularly with an advisor to help them through the challenging final stages of this process.

Vicky Kiechel Washington, DC GRI Program Advisor

NYU’s summer dissertation workshop is a formidable support for those in the final stages of work on their dissertations. A key component of our NYU Washington, DC summer session is our weekly lunch meeting, where we collaboratively discuss and establish work goals for the session and for each week, collectively review each participant’s progress, discuss roadblocks and how to get around them, celebrate breakthroughs, and in general offer mutual advice. Peer wisdom is invaluable, and the camaraderie is heartening as it helps break the isolation of the dissertation process. The multiplicity of disciplines represented is intellectually refreshing and revitalizes us all. One of my roles as the onsite advisor is to function as an external reader, reviewing as much or as little as our program participants wish to share with me. I raise clarifying questions and make suggestions to take or leave. Based on my joyful experience of six summers in this role, let me say to the extraordinary scholars who have been and will be our program participants: I am proud of the transformative and influential nature of your work. It is a continuing pleasure to know you all.
Launched in fall 2013 at Tel Aviv University, we were thrilled to move the program to NYU Tel Aviv’s new academic center in fall 2018. There, GRI fellows enjoy the breadth of what Israel has to offer from ancient history to frontier technology.

“Ever since NYU Tel Aviv moved to its new academic center in 2018, the GRI has been a wonderful addition to our academic mission in the region. We have hosted a variety of scholars, from tenured faculty to PhD students, with interests in a variety of subjects -- Sports Innovation; Social Entrepreneurship; Classical Music Composition; LGBTQ+ communities in the Palestinian territories; and more. GRI has been a consistent supporter of academic events that NYU Tel Aviv has produced for both the NYU community and the local Israeli academic community.”

- Benjamin Hary Director of NYU Tel Aviv

Located in the lively Latin Quarter, we’re fortunate that the most popular GRI Institute is also the largest.

“Happy Anniversary GRI! I particularly enjoy meeting the Fellows every semester, and hearing about their projects, findings, and ventures. Whether they come to Paris to do archive work, to write a book, to collaborate with local scholars, or to complete their dissertation, their stay is always fulfilling. Heartfelt congratulations to the whole team who makes all this possible, in New York and here in Paris.”

- Alfred Galichon Director of NYU Paris
Athens
Joined in Summer 2017

GRI’s standalone institute, Athens hosts fellows in the spring and fall, and in the summer hosts dissertation writing workshops, as well as undergraduates.

“In the summer of 2017, New York University established its latest Global Research Institute in a beautifully renovated neoclassical building in the Kolonaki neighborhood in the center of Athens. It has organized a series of widely attended lectures and events that have brought together academics, politicians, artists, and writers from both Greece and the United States in order to promote a deeper understanding of our mutual concerns and interests. It has become an intellectual and social hub binding together different constituencies across Greece and establishing ties to many of the most important cultural resources in this wildly cosmopolitan city.”

- Liana Theodoratou Director of Program in Hellenic Studies & CAS Summer in Athens

Madrid
Joined in Summer 2019

The latest site to join the program, the inclusion of NYU Madrid to the GRI program offers scholars a much-needed Spanish-speaking location.

“The best part of being GRI Madrid is to meet and be able to support such a diverse group of people and to be exposed to such fabulous scope of research. I love to think that I can contribute a tiny bit to every fellow’s work by making their stay easy, productive and just happy… The best part is, by far, when I can help them make a local connection, or find a resource that they didn’t know about, or a funding call that they could apply to.”

- Gloria Rodriguez NYU Madrid GRI Program Coordinator
Meet the Team

Associate Director Maya Jex
Onboard since the founding of the program, Maya Jex is an NYU alum twice over. She is thrilled to be facilitating scholarly international experiences, like the life-changing travel she enjoyed as a student at NYU.

GRI Program Coordinator Tess von Kleist
Starting out as a student employee, Tess von Kleist has now been working with GRI for three years. She is proud to be able to support faculty and students in their research endeavors, and is constantly amazed by the ground-breaking research being done at NYU.

Housing Coordinator Omar Tarat
A member of the NYU graduating class of 2021, Omar joined GRI in January of 2022. He is excited to help facilitate faculty and visiting scholar housing at NYU and is proud to be part of the GRI team.

A special thank you to Karen Nercessian for thoughtful and supportive leadership and for inspiring us to mark our 10th year in operation!

Photos courtesy of NYU Photo Bureau and CMS unless otherwise noted.