IN BRIEF

**Menlo Abroad** travel develops global competencies, engagement, and self-knowledge. Through facilitated curricula, service-learning, and homestay, students immerse themselves in foreign cultures, make friends, connect with communities, and use their skills to address common problems. They emerge with a better understanding of themselves and their world.¹

**Menlo Abroad: Senegal** immerses students in Senegalese culture, endlessly fascinating and renowned for *terranga*, the Wolof word for hospitality. We visit the bustling capital Dakar, including Ile de Gorée, the historic island where slaves first departed for the New World, the fascinating French colonial city of St. Louis, located on the Mauritanian border, and the beautiful Saloum Delta. The heart of the program is in Thiès, where students engage with homestays and complete service work. Students develop French language skills, learn minimal Wolof, and gain new or sustained interests for further study at Menlo and beyond. Menlo Abroad: Senegal is offered in association with Global Citizen Year.

**Dates:** May 19 - June 7, 2020
(Note that participants will be out of the country and unable to return for Commencement or related activities. June 7 is a day of reflection and celebration on campus.)

**Enrollment Limits:** 16 students

**Enrollment Eligibility:** Menlo students in grades 9-11

**Trip Leaders:** Menlo History Teacher Matthew Nelson; Dorothy Wills, Professor Emeritus California Polytechnic University. An additional trip leader will be provided by Global Citizen Year, our associate in Senegal.

**All-Inclusive Fee**²: $5500. Financial aid may be available. Current financial aid recipients should contact Rose Garza regarding financial aid (rgarza@menloschool.org).

Menlo Abroad service participation earns students 8 community engagement credits. Participation in Menlo Abroad is recommended for Menlo IP: Global Scholars.

¹ Menlo Abroad is an elective option for M Term and is considered and assessed as an M Term course. But while other M Term courses will end the first week of June, Menlo Abroad courses complete on the evening of June 7.

² Fee includes all flights • hotel accommodation • all meals • all surface transportation • museum, park, and temple entrance fees • course preparation manual and reading materials • donations to charitable causes in the host country • comprehensive risk management systems and administrative support 24/7 • The fee does not include trip cancellation insurance or expenses for petty cash expenditures (est. at $100), travel medicine and immunization, or obtaining passports and visas.

Interested in applying? **Apply online today!**
Menlo Abroad: Senegal

two sides of a river

May 19 - June 7, 2020

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Menlo Abroad: Senegal has three phases: orientation, homestay and service, and transference. Orientation begins with pre-trip meetings on the Menlo campus and continues in the capital city of Dakar, where we meet our local associates with Global Citizen Year. In orientation, we clarify objectives, build group cohesion, familiarize ourselves with local culture and geography, and visit notable landmarks including the haunting Ile de Gorée. We travel through the picturesque fishing village of Mboro on our way to the second and main part of our adventure in the city of Thiès. Here, students meet their homestay families and engage with local community members by participating in service work options and other activities, such as informal sport in the afternoons. The group gathers most days for checking in, debriefing, and blogging as well as for lessons and activities with a local organization. After an overnight field trip to St. Louis, a diverse and fascinating French colonial city on the Mauritanian border, students complete their homestay period and service projects in Thiès and begin the third and final part of the program, re-entry and transference activities at a retreat in the Sine-Saloum Delta and back on the Menlo campus.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Note that the itinerary described and itemized below is subject to change.

Our program begins in Dakar with visits to sites including the modern Museum of Black Civilizations, where students see icons of African (including African American) culture and politics portrayed in a global context, as well as the famed Ile de Gorée, the original port of departure for American-bound slaves, which is now a national monument depicting the African diaspora. We visit the beach of Mboro, one of many areas known for fishing, a staple of the Senegalese economy, carried out with ancestral and elaborately decorated pirogues. In Thiès, we begin the heart of our program, meeting homestay families and engaging in projects with a local organization dedicated to supporting children. Resplendent with balconies and bougainvillea, St. Louis is a small island city in the north of Senegal that we will visit between the first and second parts of our homestay. The streets here radiate Senegal’s French colonial past as well as its dynamic and diverse present with influences from nearby Mauritania and Morocco, and provide a microcosm to witness and study a host of local and global problems. At the end of our trip, we visit the Sine-Saloum Delta, a spectacular natural setting, replete with wetlands, gnarled baobabs (the country’s iconic tree), shell islands, mangrove forests, and incredible varieties of birds and fish.

Interested in applying? Apply online today!
ITINERARY
(Note: Itinerary is subject to change.)

May 19  Flight from SFO to DSS
May 20  Dakar
Transfer to hotel, orientation activities, lighthouse and monument hike, African drumming lessons, early dinner and sleep to recover from long flight.
May 21  Dakar
Language-culture lesson; orientation to Eid al Fetir; tour Dakar, including visit to the Musee des Civilizations Noires; dinner at Centre Culturel Francaise.
May 22  Ile de Goreé
Ferry visit to Ile de Goreé, tour, return, and debrief.
May 23  Mboro and Thiès
Transfer to Thiès via Mboro; guided visit with NGO expert around Mboro; lesson on cultural competency and preparation for homestay; hotel stay in Thiès.
May 24  Thiès
Lessons on Senegalese etiquette, visit to market for experiential activity on bartering and shopping, meet homestay families, and settle in for the first night in homestay.
May 25-28  Thiès - homestay and service
Language-cultural lessons (cond.); visit Centre de Ressources Educationnelles et de Promotion des Enfants (CREPE); engage in daily service work options. Afternoon activities at Centre National d’Education Populaire et Sportive (CNEPS) for athletics with local students. Evenings with homestay.
May 29-30  St. Louis
Transfer to St. Louis; extended debrief and discussions on homestays and service; guided walks; discussion regarding the culture, ecology, and economy of St. Louis.
May 31-June 3  Thiès
Transfer back to Thiès; continue routine of homestay, service, and afternoon activities, culminating in presentations and ceremony of gratitude on the final night of homestay.
June 4-5  Sine Saloum Delta
Say goodbye to homestay families, transfer to Sine Saloum, transference and re-entry activities and discussions.
June 6  DSS - SFO
Transfer from Sine Saloum to DSS and return flight
June 7  Menlo Campus\(^3\)
Afternoon discussions and activities; evening celebration.

\(^3\) Students must attend the final day to receive full credit for the course. The time and nature of the celebration is to be determined.
TIMELINE OF APPLICATION AND ENROLLMENT PROCESS

November 12  Announcement of Menlo Abroad programs
December 3   Applications due
December 11  Participants notified
December 18  Forms and payment due by 3:00 pm
February 25  Additional forms due
February-April  Flight arrangements finalized
April 13, 6:00 pm  Menlo Abroad mandatory meeting for participants and their parent(s) in Martin Family Hall
May 19 - June 6  Menlo Abroad (in country)
June 7        Final day reflection and celebration (on campus)

4 Students must attend the final day to receive full credit for the course. The time and nature of the celebration is to be determined.

Interested in applying? Apply online today!
PROGRAM COMPONENTS

**Menlo Abroad: Senegal** is built around interrelated academic and experiential program components intended to create the most holistic experiential immersion possible. Below is a list of these components as they relate to this program.

1. **Survey of Development Issues:** Our program explores a range of development issues, ranging from resource management and environmental impact to market-oriented reform. Through meetings with local experts and hands-on experiential education, students learn about efforts of community leaders to positively impact their world.

2. **Introduction to Local Spirituality and Worldview:** Beginning in Dakar and throughout our journey in the communities around Thiès, we learn and experience the local religious beliefs, primarily a form of Sufi Islam, relationships to land, and practices of our host culture through direct exchange with community members.

3. **Independent or Small-Group Study:** Menlo students will have the opportunity to investigate in small groups a topic and project of particular interest, availing themselves of local knowledge and resources.

4. **Language Study:** We do not expect or require participants to come with French language skills, let alone Wolof, although facility with French language will be a definite asset in this Francophone country. Because we expect that students will want to interact with locals as closely as they can and because few things do more to empower participants and facilitate an ease of cultural understanding than frequent language lessons with supportive instructors, we will conduct language activities in French and Wolof, as needed.

5. **Immersive Travel:** Traveling to communities in developing countries requires students to get out of their comfort zones. In Menlo Abroad, students are travelers rather than tourists. They travel in a style that enables them to genuinely know the people of the countries they visit and offers the most authentic experience and profound learning adventure. We will use private coach transportation for longer travel in Senegal. Students should expect to cope with cold-water showers and primitive infrastructure.

6. **Homestay:** Often the most challenging and fulfilling component, homestays take students to the core of their experiences. Homestays are carefully arranged with each student’s health and safety needs in mind and student preferences, where possible, to create the best experience in cultural and language immersion possible. In Thiès, homestays are coordinated through our associates at Global Citizen Year, who know the homestay families well and have been arranging homestays for many years. Each student will be placed in an individual or double homestay. The cohort will gather daily for check-ins, lessons, and activities.

7. **Community Engagement:** Students learn about communities, themselves, and one another through direct experience, activities, discussion, as well as talks and visits with local experts.

8. **Apprenticeship:** During our time in Thiès, students will have the opportunity to participate in extended work and apprenticeship with Centre de Ressources Educationnelles et de Promotion des Enfants (CREPE).

9. **Guided Reflection:** Students will regularly meet with trip leaders to investigate, monitor, problem solve, and reflect on events or issues particular to the individual students. Students will journal and blog frequently.

Interested in applying? [Apply online today!](#)
MENLO ABROAD ASPIRATIONS

1. Knowledge and Global Competency: Menlo Abroad programs advance students’ self-knowledge and global competencies, including intercultural capabilities, historical perspectives, and attentiveness to diversity. Through direct experience, students develop awareness of global systems and issues impacting host communities.

2. Dispositions of Global Engagement: Menlo Abroad programs cultivate internationally minded students who recognize their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet and strive to create a better and more peaceful world. Among the many positive dispositions they develop are agency, leadership, confidence, empathy, compassion, humility, feelings of interconnection, and respect.

3. Relationships: Menlo Abroad programs build sustaining relationships between students and diverse, underserved foreign communities and individuals through shared common experiences of everyday life.

4. Learning Service: Menlo Abroad programs contribute to solutions based on mutually beneficial work, apprenticeship, or study, in activities that at the same time support students’ knowledge of and appreciation for local cultures and issues at hand.

5. Connections: Menlo Abroad programs generate sustaining interest and connections with Menlo curricula and program.

---

5 Global competency includes the ability to investigate the world beyond the immediate environment, the recognition of one’s own and other perspectives, and the ability to communicate ideas effectively with diverse audiences.

6 By Global engagement we mean the dispositions necessary to be connected and of service to others, including those beyond national borders.

Interested in applying? Apply online today!

May 19-June 7, 2020
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This program is being offered by Menlo School. In cases of programs offered in conjunction with other organizations, participants are expected to complete registration, waivers, and medical forms provided by both Menlo School and the third party organization.

By December 18: To secure a place in the program, each of the following must be submitted.

1. A check payment payable to Menlo School for $5500. Financial aid recipients will be contacted by the financial aid office with a revised program fee.
2. Completed and signed Parent Permission and Waiver, Medical Release, Emergency and Medical Information Form - Overnight
3. Completed and signed Waiver and Release for Foreign Program
4. Completed and signed Menlo School Trip Contract
5. Copy of the participating student's current passport, if possible. The passport should have an expiration date after August 20, 2020.

By February 25: The following additional forms must be submitted.

1. If not submitted earlier, a copy of the participant's current passport. The passport must have three blank pages and expire three months or more after entry into Senegal, or after August 20, 2020.
2. A signed and notarized Parent Authorization Letter for Minor Traveller

Disclaimer:

Our intention is to address the goals and program elements listed in the program description, but all participants are advised that course itineraries will likely change to incorporate participant goals and interests, to adjust to the health of members of the group, or in response to weather conditions, problems with transportation, political unrest or other unforeseen problems. Regardless of such changes, we will always work to structure and implement the course so that it stays true to the original intent.

REFUND POLICY: If the participant or participant's family delivers a written message of intent to withdraw from the program to Menlo School 30 days or more prior to departure, Menlo will refund all recoupable fees minus a $1,000 non-refundable application-processing charge. If notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of departure, the participant will forfeit the entire program fee. Any participant who returns home early will not receive a refund.

MEDICAL AND EVACUATION EXPENSES: It is the responsibility of the student and the student's family to understand the limits of any medical and evacuation policy, and to provide up-front payment of emergency services when required.

CELL PHONES: In order to maintain the integrity of the immersive experience Menlo Abroad requires students to relinquish cell phones to trip leaders upon entry into the target country.

VIOLATION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS: If a participant acts in a way that is injurious to himself or herself, people of the host country, or other participants on the trip, or generally conducts himself or herself in a way that is disruptive to the trip, Menlo reserves the right to send the participant home without refund. Underage use of alcohol and the use of illegal drugs are cause for dismissal. Participants sent home early or who choose to return for any reason, including sickness, personal emergencies or injury, will be responsible for all medical costs and will absorb travel and related costs associated with an unscheduled departure.

CANCELED TRIPS: A full refund will be made for canceled trips that arise out of insufficient registration, though Menlo is not responsible for other costs incurred by the student or family preparing for the trip. For trips canceled due to any other circumstance that is beyond Menlo’s control, Menlo will refund all recoupable tuition.

Please contact Peter Brown with any questions at 650.330.2001 ext. 2238 or email pbrown@menloschool.org.

READ THIS DESCRIPTION CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING FORMS.