



Middlebury  
College

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Dear STARS

Middlebury's Global Partnerships for Sustainability program through its Schools Abroad program is an innovation in bringing sustainability into the programming of study abroad programs. Pilot projects are underway at three of Middlebury's 17 schools abroad. The program involves the formation of a long-term partnership with one or more in-country organizations working on sustainability issues faced by the country and long-term research, internship, studies and other work carried out by successive cohorts of students for the organization and its issues.

The program also pairs American students attending the schools abroad with counterpart students from the host country who work in teams. The program also involves changes in the curriculum of the study abroad program to help prepare students to do the high-level work needed by the partner organizations.

The School in Chile involves a partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society where students are working to help them develop plans a new national park in Tierra del Fuego. In China, the Middlebury School in Kunming is working with The Nature Conservancy of China and Yunnan University to help build the capacity of TNC to carry out environmental education and outreach related to wetland conservation. In Japan, the Middlebury School is working with the Town of Chizu and Tottori University of Environmental Studies to help them address issues related to the depopulation and graying of rural towns through sustainable economic redevelopment.

The program is aimed at not only providing rich and meaningful opportunities for students to deepen their language and cultural skills but to also leave an ongoing legacy of benefit for the country where the Middlebury Schools Abroad take place. Three more programs are under development at our schools in Russia, France, and Germany. This approach to study abroad is unique among study abroad programs especially in the depth to which it fully immerses students in cultural, linguistic, and sustainability learning and action in the countries they have chosen to study.

Jeff Stevenson

Director, Middlebury School Abroad in Chile