ARIVENTURES ABROAD

501(c)(3) · First annual report · Published July 2026

Impact report *2025-2026.*

We don't just send students abroad.
We make sure their first time isn't their last.

PREPARED BY

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PREPARED FOR

Our donors, board, university partners, and the students who came first.

ACM 2024-25 Fellows in London during fellowship retreat

ARIVENTURES ABROAD

What's inside

ARIVENTURES ABROAD · ANNUAL REPORT 2025

This is our first annual report, published two years into the work. Since our 2024 launch we've funded five Ambrose Conrad McAuley (ACM) Fellows, two of them in the 2025–26 cohort, delivered fifteen workshops in the 2025–26 school year alone, and completed a pilot mentorship cohort.

Mykia, 2025-26 ACM Fellow in San Jose, Costa Rica

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A letter from the founder

Dear friends, partners, and supporters,

Two years ago, Ariventures Abroad was an idea and a small group of people willing to stake something real on it. Today it is five ACM Fellows funded across two cohorts and three continents, every Fellowship completed. It is fifteen workshops delivered this year across five campuses, a pilot mentorship cohort, and our first outcome surveys, in hand as of this spring.

I won't dress that up. We are a young 501(c)(3). The dollars moving through this report are modest. What sits underneath them is not. Every Fellow, every workshop room, every mentor pairing started with the same idea: that the students who weren't sure study abroad was for them deserve to be walked through the door, not gestured toward it.

Our 2024–25 cohort, Khadijah, Jamie-Lukas, and Kenneth, set the bar for what this looks like done right. Our 2025–26 Fellows, Lauren and Mykia, completed Fellowships in Egypt and Costa Rica. Their work in peacebuilding, displaced-persons policy, indigenous science, and environmental justice is already shaping fields they entered convinced they didn't belong in. About 150 more students sat in our workshops this year. Three undergraduates from Princeton, William and Mary, and Université Lumière de Bujumbura began a six-month mentorship arc with professionals doing the work they're aiming at.

What I want you to take from this report is not that we are large. We are not. It is that the model works at this scale, and that two cohorts in, the structure now exists to grow it. Next year, more Fellows. More campuses. More mentors. A more visible bench of donors and university partners standing beside us.

Thank you for being one of them. The students you'll meet in these pages are the protagonists of this work. We just hold the door.

With gratitude,

Ariana McAuley

Founder & Executive Director

FROM THE FOUNDER

“The goal was never just to send students abroad. It was to make sure their first time wasn't their last.”

TWO YEARS IN

5
Fellows since launch

2
in 2025–26 cohort

~150
workshop students

5+
campuses this year

Year two, in summary

OUR MISSION

Ariventures Abroad equips American students to thrive abroad and to keep going back. We open the door to those who weren't sure study abroad was for them, and we walk through it with them by way of workshops, the ACM Fellowship, and mentorship.

OUR VISION

A generation of Americans whose first global experience becomes a lifetime of global engagement.

KEY 2025 ACHIEVEMENTS

5

Fellows funded to date

Three in our 2024–25 cohort (Khadijah, Jamie-Lukas, Kenneth). Two in 2025–26 (Lauren and Mykia, in Egypt and Costa Rica).

$4,000

in 2025 awards distributed

$2,000 per Fellow this cycle. Every donor dollar deployed to programs and delivery.

15+

Global Ready Workshops

Roughly 150 students this year across five partners. First outcome surveys piloted with UNC Chapel Hill's Thailand cohort.

3

Mentees, three institutions

Princeton University, College of William & Mary, and Université Lumière de Bujumbura.

The three gaps we close

Every program at Ariventures Abroad answers at least one of these three barriers between an American student and a first global experience. The first one is the one most programs forget.

01

The cost gap

Study abroad is financially out of reach for many of the students we serve.

43% of pre-departure students surveyed said scholarships or fellowships are essential to studying abroad at all.

HOW WE CLOSE IT

The ACM Fellowship funds graduate study directly. University partnerships drive down the price for everyone else.

02

The prep gap

Even when funding is solved, first-time travelers often arrive underprepared.

9% called themselves very familiar with financial planning for study abroad. Barely 1 in 5 felt fully confident in the visa process.

HOW WE CLOSE IT

Global Ready Workshops cover funding, visas, identity abroad, cross-cultural adjustment, and real student life in a new country.

03

The mindset gap

Before cost and prep, there's the belief that study abroad isn't for me.

57% of students already enrolled to go were still only somewhat confident navigating new cultural environments.

HOW WE CLOSE IT

Mentorship, Ariventures Abroad content, and our voice exist to dismantle this. It's the gap that decides whether a student ever begins.

Source: Ariventures Abroad pre-departure survey, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Thailand cohort

Who we serve, and how

Ariventures Abroad's audience is psychographic, not demographic. We serve students who weren't sure study abroad was for them. The ACM Fellowship sits inside that audience as a named, demographic-specific program for Black American graduate students.

AUDIENCE ONE

Black American graduate students.

Served through the ACM Global Fellowship: a named, demographic-specific program.

HOW WE SHOW UP

- Direct financial fellowship awards
- Cultural and identity preparation
- Mid-program mentorship & reflection
- Sustainability and stewardship training

AUDIENCE TWO

Students who weren't sure it was for them.

Served through Global Ready Workshops and mentorship: preparation programs open to any student at the threshold.

HOW WE SHOW UP

- Global Ready Workshops (15+ this year)
- 1:1 and small-group mentorship
- Study abroad advising and prep tools
- Identity, belonging, and post-trip support

The ACM Global Fellowship

Named for the students it serves, the ACM Global Fellowship funds Black American graduate students studying abroad, and stays with them through cultural preparation, mid-program mentorship, and post-program reflection. Five Fellows funded since 2024.

2025–26 COHORT OUTCOMES

2
Fellows this cohort

$4K
in 2025 awards

5
Funded since 2024

THE 2024–25 COHORT

Jamie-Lukas · 2024–25 Fellow
Queen's University Belfast
Belfast, Northern Ireland

Khadijah · 2024–25 Fellow
Johns Hopkins University SAIS Europe
Bologna, Italy

Kenneth · 2024–25 Fellow
Guildford School of Acting
Surrey, England

WHERE THE 2025–26 FELLOWS STUDIED

Mykia, University for Peace
San José, Costa Rica
Indigenous science, peace studies, environmental justice.

Lauren, The American University in Cairo
Cairo, Egypt
Middle East policy, displaced persons, peacebuilding.

FELLOW VOICES

"Travel as much as you can, and speak to people in the local language, even if you're not fluent."

Lauren · 2025–26 Fellow, Egypt

"I find myself embracing authentic opportunities to collaborate and communicate with my peers in ways that celebrate diversity."

Mykia · 2025–26 Fellow, Costa Rica

Global Ready Workshops

Our workshops prepare undergraduates for the academic, cultural, financial, and emotional realities of studying abroad. They are open to any student at the threshold, and delivered in partnership with universities including East Carolina University and UNC Chapel Hill.

15+

workshops delivered

~150

students reached

5+

university partners

TOPICS WE COVERED

Funding & budgeting

Real costs, scholarships, FAFSA-abroad strategy

Identity, belonging, anti-bias

Being yourself in a new country, on purpose

Sustainable travel practices

Stewardship, not extraction

International career pathways

From semester abroad to a global career

Visa & logistical planning

Step-by-step from acceptance to arrival

Cross-cultural adjustment

First-month realities, not glossy ones

Mental wellness abroad

Homesickness, isolation, what works

SPRING 2026 PILOT · MEASURED OUTCOMES

"I was able to talk to the rest of my cohort through the practice scenarios and start building community."

Participant, University of North Carolina Thailand cohort

PARTNER VOICE · EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

"This was more than a workshop. It was a call to dream bigger and think globally."

Aisha P. · Assistant Director, College of Business Undergraduate Programs
East Carolina University

Mentorship & leadership development

Our mentorship pairs undergraduates with professionals working in global education, diplomacy, public policy, sustainability, and international affairs. Six months. Structured curriculum. One student, one mentor, real time.

2025 – 2026 PILOT COHORT

Three mentees.
Three mentors.
Six months together.

FROM THREE INSTITUTIONS

- *Princeton University*
- *The College of William & Mary*
- *Université Lumière de Bujumbura*

FOCUS AREAS

Academic preparation

Course selection, application strategy, and how to set up year one to set up year four.

International career mapping

From semester abroad to a global career. What roles exist, and how to position for them.

Identity and leadership

Showing up as yourself in rooms where you may be the only one. Building leadership posture without performing it.

Global citizenship

Stewardship and engagement that doesn't end when the program does.

Mentees reported increased readiness and clarity around global opportunities.

The people behind the work

Ariventures Abroad is built by people who have lived the questions we ask our students to answer. Our board and advisor brings academic, professional, and global experience to the work, and independently reviews all related-party support.

Ariana McAuley

FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ariana founded Ariventures Abroad after her own first time abroad, building what she needed so no one else navigates it alone. With more than 50 countries behind her and years living and working across the U.S., France, and the U.K., she leads strategy, partnerships, and the founder voice. BA, East Carolina University; MA in International Relations and Diplomacy, Schiller International University.

Rashida Elbourne

BOARD MEMBER

Raised across Japan, Panama, Germany, and the U.S., Rashida is a senior consultant at Deloitte in financial services strategy and operations. She holds a dual Executive MBA from Columbia Business School and London Business School, and is a two-time HBCU graduate (Livingstone College, summa cum laude; Norfolk State University) and member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Adame Frances

BOARD MEMBER

Adame studied in France, left fluent, and never stopped believing in what cultural exchange does. He works in Technology Governance, Risk, and Compliance and co-founded Uncommonwealth Properties, LLC. BA in Political Science and International Relations, Virginia Commonwealth University; MA in Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh, where he was a K. Leroy Irvis Fellow.

Hobinirina “Eva” Littell

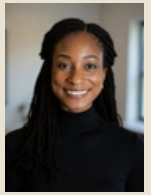
BOARD MEMBER

Born in Madagascar, raised in Benin, and educated in France from age 17, Eva has built a career across Madagascar, France, England, and the U.S. A travel advisor by profession, she holds a BA in Foreign Languages and an MA in International Relations and Diplomacy, and advocates for students expanding their world the way she did.

Dr. Patsy Polston

BOARD MEMBER

Associate Professor of Health Behavior at UNC Chapel Hill, with a PhD and MSPH from the Gillings School of Global Public Health. A Tuskegee University graduate whose work has taken her from fellowships in Paris to postdoctoral research in Madagascar, she also served on the inaugural selection committee for the ACM Fellowship.



Joy Donnelly

STRATEGIC ADVISOR

Joy founded Joy Worldwide, a 501(c)(3) funding scholarships for students studying abroad, after a semester in Milan and an International MBA in Paris reshaped her own path. Now at American Express Global Business Travel, she received the 2024 CEO Purpose Award and was named a 2025 Top 50 Women in Travel rising leader by WINiT.

2025, in numbers

Our resources in 2025 came from three places: donor dollars, in-kind support, and corporate sponsorship from Ariventures LLC. Every donor dollar went to programs and the tools that deliver them. Numbers below reflect the current fiscal year only.

DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS DEPLOYED

$3,455

in cash donations, every dollar deployed to programs and program delivery. Donor dollars funded $2,000 of the $4,000 awarded in 2025; Ariventures LLC sponsorship covered the balance.

HOW DONOR DOLLARS WERE ALLOCATED

- **ACM Fellowships** — $2,000 · 58%
- **Workshop delivery** — $1,000 · 29%
- **Program delivery tools** — $455 · 13%

THE FULL RESOURCE PICTURE

Cash isn't the whole story.

01 Donor contributions

$3,455 from individual donors in 2025, deployed entirely to programs and delivery tools.

02 Pro bono & in-kind support

Donated space, professional services, and volunteer hours — the operational backbone of a young 501(c)(3).

03 Ariventures LLC sponsorship

Legal, technology, core systems, and award gaps underwritten as corporate sponsorship, so donor dollars stayed on programs.

Ariventures Abroad Incorporated is an independent 501(c)(3). Ariventures LLC is a legally separate for-profit entity; its sponsorship is board-disclosed, arm's length, and receives nothing in return.

Equity for the world, too

Equitable access to the world has to respect the world. Sustainability sits inside every program, built into Fellow pledges, workshop curriculum, and the partnerships we choose. 2025 set the structure. Measurement began in spring 2026.

2025 ACHIEVEMENTS

What we got done.

- Every Fellow signed a sustainability pledge.
- Fellows completed reflection logs.
- Workshops included responsible-travel training.
- Partnerships prioritized aligned values.
- Travel minimized or offset where feasible.

OUR FRAMEWORK

What it covers.

- Sustainable travel education
- Local community engagement practices
- Environmental and cultural stewardship
- Partnership values alignment
- Annual sustainability review

WHY THIS MATTERS

Stewardship, not extraction.

Sending students abroad without naming stewardship treats other people's countries as backdrops. Our Fellows and workshop students leave knowing they're guests in communities, not collectors of experiences.

DATA NOTE

Measurement began spring 2026: in our first post-workshop pilot, every respondent agreed the session increased their readiness to participate respectfully in the host country. Year-over-year tracking begins FY27.

Where we go from here

Our 2026–2028 strategy: scale program impact, build financial sustainability, strengthen organizational systems, and deepen community and legacy. Every number below is a public commitment.

5+

ACM Fellows funded annually

500+

students reached per year

$50K

in awards distributed by 2028

5+

institutional partnerships

01

Scale program impact

Expand the ACM Fellowship to 5+ funded Fellows annually. Broaden Global Ready Workshops to 10+ institutions, 500+ students.

02

Build financial sustainability

The staircase: $15K in 2026, $30K in 2027, $50K in 2028. Driven by corporate giving, institutional grants, and co-funded university partnerships.

03

Strengthen systems

Build donor-lifecycle tracking. Grow board and advisory by 30% in global education, sustainability, and philanthropy expertise.

04

Deepen community & legacy

Already underway: every Fellow volunteered to mentor the next cohort. Publish a three-year longitudinal impact report by 2028.

Thank you, and how to help

Two years in, this work is still built by people who believed before the proof. We owe specific debts to specific people.

To our Fellows

Your leadership across borders is the work.

To our students

Your curiosity and willingness to begin is what we exist for.

To our donors

Year-one dollars are the hardest dollars. You made them possible.

To our mentors & volunteers

You widened pathways that students believed were closed.

To our board & partners

Your guidance is the reason we grow with integrity.

PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS SINCE 2024

East Carolina University · University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill · Barclays · Deloitte · United Way · Joy Worldwide

SIX WAYS TO STAND BESIDE US

How to help, specifically.

01 **Sponsor a Fellow**

$2K funds a full Fellowship. $1.2K covers airfare. $5K names the award.

02 **Become a Sustainer**

$25, $50, or $100 a month. Workshops, stipends, prep materials.

03 **Host a campus workshop**

$2K funds a complete three-hour Pathways Abroad workshop for up to 50.

04 **Provide in-kind support**

Pro bono legal, design, financial, tech, or donated space.

05 **Recruit your institution**

Universities and corporates can co-fund cohorts and underwrite workshops.

06 **Amplify the mission**

Introduce a donor, board candidate, or partner. Share a Fellow's story.

STUDENTS: APPLY HERE FOR ACM FELLOWSHIP

DONATE HERE TO SUPPORT ARIVENTURES ABROAD PROGRAMMING

We don't just send students abroad.
We make sure their first time isn't their last.

"To become more worldly is to become more empathetic."
Khadijah, 2024–25 ACM Fellow

Do not measure success through the lens of the academy.
Jamie-Lukas, 2024–25 ACM Fellow

The classroom teaches the framework. The country teaches the stakes.
Lauren, 2025–26 ACM Fellow

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