

# EdD in Global Education

## Welcome Letter 2023 - 2026

### DEAR INCOMING STUDENT:

Congratulations on your acceptance and decision to begin SIT's Doctoral Program in Global Education this summer! I would like to welcome you into the doctoral program—a significant next step in your academic, personal, and professional development and career. The International and Global Education (IGE) department looks forward to supporting you throughout this gratifying journey. I'd also like to take this opportunity to share some important information about the program and to answer some of your questions regarding what to expect. This letter and start-of-program website contain important information about your upcoming semester and subsequent studies and should prove useful as you prepare for the program.

### YOUR FACULTY

My name is Alla Korzh, and I am the Ed.D. Program Chair and Associate Professor of International and Global Education at SIT. Prior to joining SIT in 2015, I was a post-doctoral research scholar at Columbia Law School. I hold a doctorate in international educational development from Teachers College, Columbia University; an M.Ed. in Instructional Leadership from the University of Illinois at Chicago; and a B.A. in Teaching English as a Foreign Language from the Nizhyn State Pedagogical University in Ukraine. My research focuses on educational inequalities experienced by socio-economically disadvantaged children, youth, and adults. As an educator, researcher, and practitioner in the field of comparative and international education with a regional focus on Eastern Europe and education development, I have conducted qualitative research with orphans and incarcerated women in Ukraine, as well as formerly incarcerated women in New York City. My earlier collaborative research project examined transnational young adults' participation in social movements and informal citizenship education. My current research project investigates educational aspirations of incarcerated women in a minimum-security prison in Ukraine and barriers they face post-incarceration. I have been involved in nonprofit start-up, program design, implementation, and management with Sublimitas, where I serve on the board. I have also served on the American Association of University Women selection panel and am a member of the Comparative and International Education Society, where I mentor budding scholars as part of the New Scholars Committee. My publications are available [here](#).

**Dr. Sora Friedman, Ph.D.**, is Professor of International and Global Education and Chair of SIT's MA in International Education programs. She has worked in international education and development for 37 years, focusing on the preparation of new professionals in the education field, management training, exchange program management, public diplomacy, and international policy advocacy. She joined SIT as an adjunct faculty member in 2002 and became full-time faculty in 2005. Sora earned her Ph.D. in Cultural Studies from George Mason University; M.A. in International Management from SIT; and B.A. in Political Science from the University of Maryland. Currently, Sora is responsible for teaching and advising in our MA and EdD programs. In addition to her work at SIT, publications include *Careers in International Education: A Guide for New Professionals* (co-authored), a chapter exploring gender parity at the senior leadership level in international education (in *The Wiley Handbook of Gender Equity in Higher Education*, Niemi, N. and M. Weaver-Hightower, eds., 2021), and the bimonthly column *Practicing International Education, GlobalEd* (available via LinkedIn). Sora has lived and worked in Latin America, Europe, and Asia, and is fluent in Spanish.

**Dr. Melissa Whatley**, Assistant Professor of International and Global Education. Dr. Whatley's research applies advanced quantitative and mixed method approaches to improve the understanding of policies and practices that diversify both who is able to access international education and the outcomes of these opportunities, especially within the context of international education at U.S. community colleges. Some of her more recent work focuses on international virtual exchange. She teaches courses on quantitative research methods and theoretical foundations of comparative and international education in the doctoral program. Dr. Whatley is the author of *An Introduction to Quantitative Analysis for International Educators*, which was published with Springer this past year. She is an active researcher, writer, presenter, and contributor to various professional associations. She earned her Ph.D. in Higher Education from the University of Georgia's Institute of Higher Education, an M.A. in Romance Languages (with focus on Spanish and French Linguistics), and B.A.s in Romance Languages (focus on French and Italian), Spanish, and Linguistics, all from the University of Georgia. She has worked in Spain and France, and studied abroad in Argentina, France, Ireland, Morocco, and Spain.

We are also delighted to work with various adjunct faculty each year and more updates about them will be forthcoming soon.

## GET TO KNOW YOUR COHORT

Because of privacy laws, SIT is unable to share personal information about future students with other future students. However, we will soon set up a LinkedIn page just for the group so that you all can start to get to know each other. We will send this information once available; please note that it is not intended to duplicate or replace official information and is for personal purposes only.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO PREPARE?

Prior to the start of the summer courses, we will offer a virtual orientation, followed by a face-to-face seminar on the Vermont campus. The three required summer courses are Theoretical Foundations I, Research Methods I, and Reflective Practice Doctoral Seminar, which will be taught asynchronously online and face-to-face in Brattleboro, VT, during June 19-30, and then will continue asynchronously online. **The semester begins officially Monday, May 22, 2023, and will end on August 11, 2023.** Here are more details:

- SIT will hold a synchronous virtual orientation to SIT on Monday, **May 22nd, from 9:30 am to 11 am EDT**, for new students in all of SIT's hybrid programs. Please join the faculty, dean, associate dean, and president to learn more about the institution and your classmates. Call-in details will be provided in advance and for those of you unable to join in, we will record the session and forward the link to you afterwards.
- An additional orientation with SIT staff will be held on Tuesday, **May 23rd, from 9:30 am to 11 am EDT**, for new students in all of SIT's hybrid programs. Please join SIT staff to learn more about the services provided to support our students. Call-in details will be provided in advance and for those of you unable to join in, we will record the session and forward the link to you afterwards.
- The International and Global Education department will hold an additional synchronous virtual orientation to the GE hybrid program on Wednesday, **May 24th, from 9:30 am to 11 am EDT**. Because our students' locations span various time zones, this timing will hopefully allow everyone to be able to call in. However, if you are unable to do so for any reason, don't worry. We understand and will record each session and forward each link to you shortly after. We do ask that if you are unable to call in, you plan to watch the recording that evening or early the next day so that you are prepared for the following day's work.

## Background Readings on General SIT Philosophy

Become familiar with the following people and their ideas, as they are the basis of SIT's educational philosophy. Note that these are places to start, and you will have the opportunity to develop your knowledge by reading the authors' original works later on:

- [John Dewey](#)
- [Paolo Freire](#)
- [David Kolb](#)
- [Kurt Lewin](#)

Following is information about books to purchase and readings to complete prior to the start of the semester. Further updates on each of the required courses' readings will be shared closer to the start of the semester. Books can be purchased or rented online from sellers such as Amazon.com.

## Readings for Theoretical Foundations I course (taught by Dr. Melissa Whatley):

- Wilson, D. (1994). Comparative and international education: Fraternal or Siamese twins? *Comparative Education Review*, 38(4), 449-486.
- Takayama, K., Sriprakash, A., Connell, R. (2017). Toward a postcolonial comparative and international education. *Comparative Education Review*, 61(S1), S1-S24.
- Jules, T.D., Shields, R., & Thomas, M.A.M. (2021). *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Theory in Comparative and International Education*. Bloomsbury. This textbook will be used in both Theoretical Foundations I and II courses. A full e-text for free is available in the library.
- You will find a number of resources in the Lib-guide. The link and password will be provided soon to begin perusing the readings to get situated in the field.

## Readings for Research Methods I course (taught by Dr. Alla Korzh):

- American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000165-000>
- Cohen, L., Manion, L. & Morrison, K. (2018). *Research methods in education* (8th ed.). London, UK: Routledge.
- Denzin, N. & Lincoln, Y. (2013). *Collecting and interpreting qualitative materials* (4th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- Please note these textbooks are required and will be used in several research methods courses in the program. Additional readings will be made available on Canvas.

## **Recommended (not required) Readings for Reflective Practice Doctoral Seminar 1 course (taught by your primary advisor):**

- Bloomberg, L. D. & Volpe, M. (2008). Completing your qualitative dissertations. Sage.
- Foss, S. & Waters, W. (2007). Destination dissertation. A traveler's guide to a done dissertation. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers.
- Kelsky, K. (2015). The professor is in: The essential guide to turning your Ph.D. into a job. Crown Publishing Group.

## **HOW WILL ADVISING WORK?**

You will learn who your adviser is prior to the start of the summer semester and will have the chance to set up a one-on-one virtual advising session with them in the Reflective Practice Doctoral Seminar 1 course.

## **HOW WILL TRANSFER CREDITS WORK?**

You will meet with your primary advisor to discuss possible transfer credits in the first semester of your studies (summer 2023). You will need to supply your course syllabi for course review when meeting with your advisor and filling out the transfer credit form to be submitted for final review and endorsement by the Ed.D. Program Chair. To facilitate this process, we suggest that you start now to collect those syllabi, even if you are a graduate of an SIT master's program 😊 By the end of the summer 2023 semester, your transfer credits will be confirmed by the Program Chair.

## **WHAT ELSE CAN I EXPECT?**

Our second residency is scheduled to take place at SIT's Brattleboro, Vermont, campus during the last two weeks of June 2024. Details will be confirmed later in the year.

Dear doctoral students, we are pleased that you are joining us to embark on this exhilarating doctoral journey. We know that this format is not what you were originally planning for, but we are confident that you will still be able to achieve your learning goals well. On behalf of the international and global education faculty and SIT administration, congratulations, again! We very much look forward to meeting you soon online and getting started.

Sincerely,



Alla Korzh, EdD  
Associate Professor of International and Global Education  
[alla.korzh@sit.edu](mailto:alla.korzh@sit.edu)  
[SIT Graduate Institute](https://www.sit.edu/graduate)