

Gaurav Harshe

Personal Pronouns: he/him/él/他/ते

Current Institution: Florida State University

Hometown: Mumbai, India.

Gaurav Harshe has been an international student for almost 5 years now and is currently a [Master of Science \(M.S.\) student in the Higher Education program](#) at Florida State University's Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies (ELPS). Over his first year in the program at FSU, he served in the capacity of the Graduate Teaching Assistant for the [Global Citizenship Certificate program at the Center for Global Engagement \(CGE\)](#). Through the assistantship, he was able to advance the global and intercultural competence of almost 500+ students that he advised, mentored, and helped graduate. His research interests focus broadly on how international students, scholars, and community members are a part of the larger Higher Education Institutional system in the U.S., and what challenges and opportunities are being navigated by them.

During the pandemic year where he stayed in Johnstown, Colorado, he supported the international student community at Colorado State University, as an international alumnus. His engagement at the [Fort Collins International Center \(FCIC\)](#), a globally-minded community-based organization has also been worthwhile to create symbiotic relations between the university and the wider community in Fort Collins, Colorado. In June 2021, he was awarded the 2020 [Max and Peggy Becker Lifetime Award](#) by the [Office of International Programs \(OIP\)](#), at CSU, recognizing significant lifetime volunteer acts that have helped promote international education and understanding within the larger CSU and Fort Collins community.

While the virtual world made it difficult to connect with the Florida State community, he pursued different ways to engage culturally and create a sense of belonging. Taking folks in the ELPS department on a one-hour tour of India, he led the monthly World Travels Social Hour, educating and chatting about the many ways of life in India, and the many cultures that have learned to coexist. He also serves in the Social Justice and Inclusion Coordinator role at the Higher Education Students Association (HESA) where he strives to curate an equitable and inclusive community within the department and college. As a Presidential Intern for the [American College Personnel Association \(ACPA\) - College Student Educators International](#), he is one of three individuals who assist the ACPA President Dr. Danielle Morgan Acosta selected to participate in a unique opportunity to advance the goals set forth by the association and the President. At the [Congress of Graduate Students \(COGS\)](#) at FSU, he serves as the International Student Advocate to improve and foster the welcoming environment of FSU towards graduate international students/scholars and the community.

Gaurav is multilingual and can fluently speak two South Asian Indic languages - Marathi (his mother tongue) and Hindi. He intends to learn Spanish and the American Sign Language, travel the world like a global nomad, and help build communities wherever he goes!