Minerva Students Convene Catalyst Workshops Across Europe To Discuss the Refugee Education Challenge

San Francisco, Calif. – January 18, 2016 – Students in the Founding Class at the Minerva Schools at KGI today in London host the first in a series of workshops for high school and college students that will analyze the refugee education challenge. Workshops will take place in ten cities across Europe over the next four weeks and are part of a tour called ‘Catalyst’ to encourage student discussion around the instrumental role of education in our changing global context. The Catalyst journey will make stops in London, Brussels, Amsterdam, Berlin, Warsaw, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Bucharest and Istanbul.

Rana Abu Diab from Jerusalem and Or Segal from Tel Aviv, two Founding Class students, will lead the Catalyst tour. They will draw upon the core competencies taught at Minerva: critical thinking, creative thinking, effective communication and effective interaction to host interactive sessions that encourage attendees to discuss, analyze, and use problem solving skills to dig deeply into the complex issue of providing access to education for refugees.

“Education brought us together at Minerva, and it is our shared conviction in the importance of education that inspires this Catalyst journey,” said Rana Abu Diab. “Attendees at our Catalyst workshops will get a glimpse at how Minerva equips its students with the skills necessary to analyze complex challenges and develop solutions. We look forward to interactive sessions that give attendees a taste of the Minerva experience, while we discuss an urgent issue.”

“It is our hope that this Catalyst tour will move beyond discussion,” said Or Segal. “We want to make a real difference, and that’s why as part of this effort we have launched a fundraising appeal to build a learning space for refugees in Berlin.”

Rana and Or hope to raise €9,000 in order to equip a learning space for refugees at Berlin-based Sharehaus, a community initiative that aims to integrate refugees within the German community by housing them under one roof – sharing knowledge, space, skills, and stories. This fall, Minerva’s sophomore class will live and study in Berlin as part of the global immersion experience at Minerva that enables students to live in seven countries during their four years of study.

To learn more about the tour, visit https://europecatalyst.wordpress.com/ or join the Facebook group. To donate to the project, visit https://www.betterplace.org/en/projects/37817.

To learn more about the student experience at Minerva, or to apply, visit http://minerva.kgi.edu.
About Minerva Schools at KGI
The Minerva Schools at KGI offer a reinvented university experience for the brightest, most motivated students from around the world. Combining an interdisciplinary curriculum and rigorous academic standards, an accomplished faculty versed in the science of learning, an advanced interactive learning platform leveraging cutting-edge technology, and four years of immersive global experience, Minerva delivers an exceptional liberal arts and sciences education for future leaders and innovators in every discipline. [http://minerva.kgi.edu](http://minerva.kgi.edu).