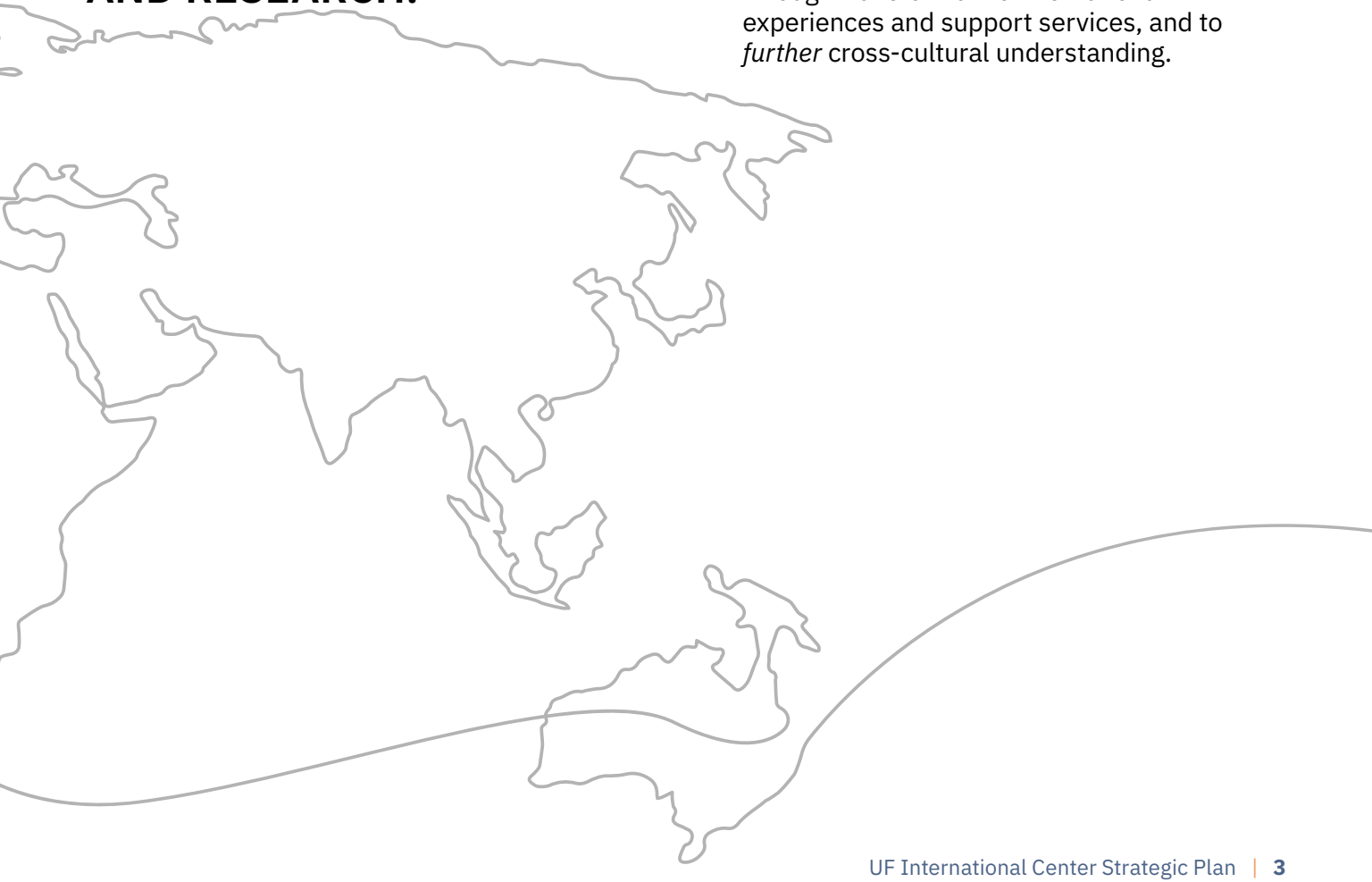
UF | International Center
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2027

THE UF INTERNATIONAL CENTER WORKS TO POSITION THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA TO BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH.

Our **VISION** is for *all* members of the UF community to have the opportunities, skills, and support to be global citizens who contribute to a positive and sustainable future for local communities and the world. To achieve that vision, our **MISSION** is to *forge* new paths in international education and engagement, to *facilitate* global collaboration through transformative international experiences and support services, and to *further* cross-cultural understanding.



TACKLING OUR WORLD'S MOST PRESSING ISSUES.

To name only a few, whether we are feeding the world, confronting climate change, predicting potential impacts of AI, dealing with supply chain disruption, or protecting people from the next pandemic, there are few challenges that can be solved by one country acting alone. Cooperation and partnerships are essential to understand and solve the world's most important problems.

CAMPUSWIDE INTERNATIONALIZATION.

Students, staff and faculty contribute to the UF mission. We work with all three groups to facilitate the internationalization of the entire UF community.

STRATEGIES:

- Host a biennial conference bringing together UF stakeholders (students, staff, and faculty) from across campus to discuss specific aspects of campus internationalization, including keynote speaker(s), submitted short talks, and themed breakout sessions. An executive summary of opportunities related to the conference topics will be presented to the UF President, Cabinet, and Faculty Senate.
- UFIC Campus Roadshows visit academic units such as college chairs' & directors' meetings, staff retreats, departmental faculty meetings, etc. to present a general overview of our services and/or targeted offerings as requested (F-1 immigration 101, best practices in international pedagogy, international research opportunities for UF, etc.).
- A more effective utilization and/or re-visioning of the UF International Council. In addition to providing critical timely information on topics related to internationalization, we request presentations by college representatives to showcase their best global activities.
- Broaden participation by staff in internationalization, such as offering Virtual Exchange, Fulbright, and short-term Study Abroad programs created especially for those seeking to expand their professional expertise and bring new internationalization ideas to UF.

ELEVATE UF'S INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROFILE.

Facilitate global research by helping the UF community identify potential research collaborators and mentors already working in the same country or region, promoting grants for international research, and helping navigate the international regulatory landscape. Communicate UF policies and promote best practices and compliance in collaboration with the UF Office of Research to help faculty accomplish scholarly and research goals safely and legally. Train researchers in next-generation international engagement, including local capacity building, co-creation of knowledge, and more.

STRATEGIES:

- Engage stakeholders from across campus (Council of Research Associate Deans, Area Studies Directors, etc.) to help identify Strategic Partners. These new international partnerships complement and build upon, rather than replace, existing faculty-faculty agreements. Strategic Partnerships include not just research, but also mobility and virtual exchange programs to facilitate long-lasting, comprehensive engagement.
- Develop, annually review, and update modules for a new online Best Practices in International Research Badge for faculty, postdocs, and graduate students in collaboration with the Office of Research and Research Integrity, Security, and Compliance (RISC).
- Fund annual series of seminars around topics proposed by faculty and Area Studies Centers (African, European, Latin American) to discuss current topics related to international research. Seminars are modeled after our successful Helicopter Science/Just Science pilot series.
- Develop and host an International Research Learning Community in collaboration with the Office of Research, RISC, and the Council of Research Associate Deans, including alumni and mentors of our Global Fellows Program. The future is now.

THE FUTURE IS NOW.

A university is devoted to training students for the future: the workforce of the future, the citizens of the future. But students are here at UF right now. By providing meaningful experiential learning and opportunities for intercultural exchange throughout the student experience, we promote success and satisfaction for domestic and international students alike. We also lay the groundwork—and provide opportunities—for a lifetime of learning and successful global engagement.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES FOR *EVERY* STUDENT.

Create a culture wherein an international experience is anticipated by and expected for all students.

STRATEGIES:

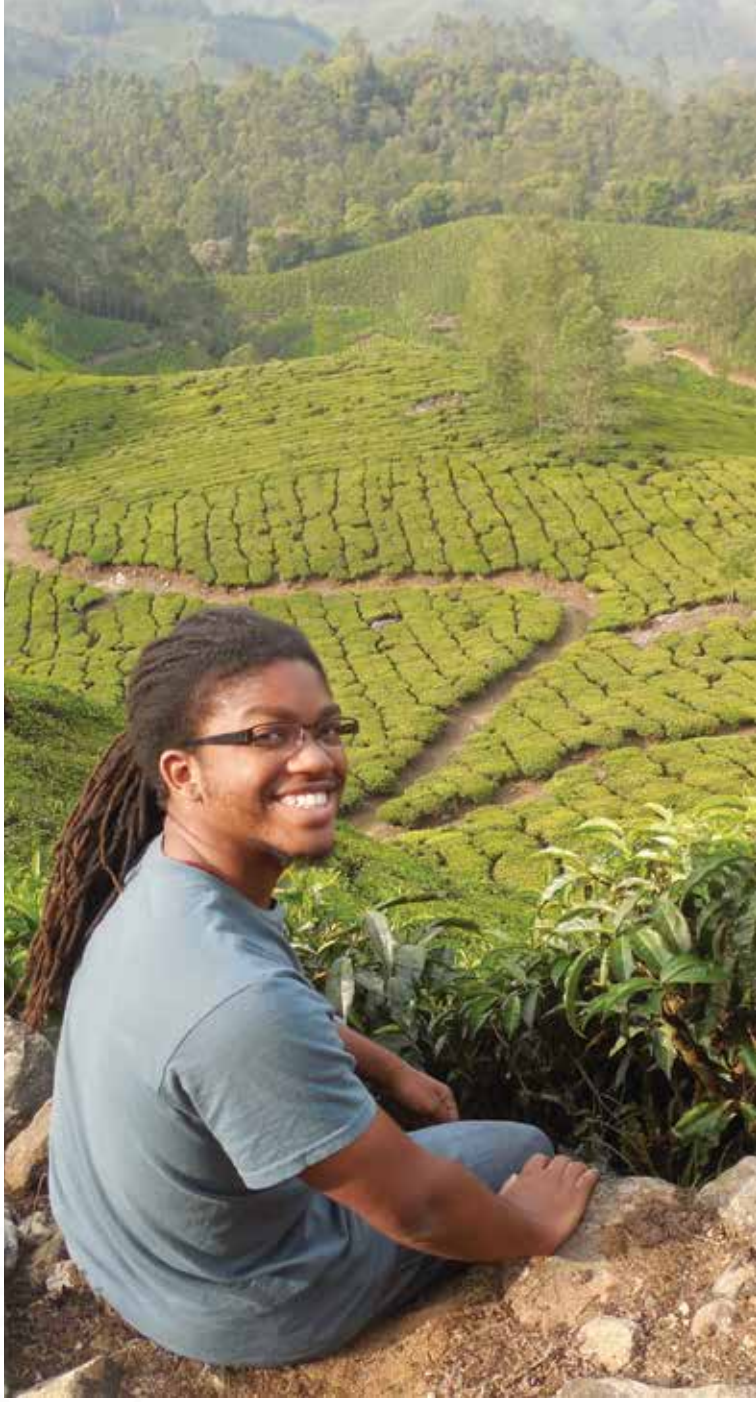
- Engage more students in global experiential learning and career development through the International Scholars Program (ISP). This graduation medallion program helps students develop intercultural proficiency and improve their employability via the completion of international coursework, experiences on or off campus, and the creation of an e-portfolio to showcase their skills to employers.
- Create semester by semester plan for undergraduate students, starting with UF Preview, to identify the best international opportunity to meet their individual needs and goals, including how to finance their Study Abroad experience.
- Collaboration between Student Financial Aid & Scholarships, UFIC Fiscal, and Study Abroad Services to ensure that we are using best practices to promote opportunities, assess need, and allocate scholarships.
- Explore peer-reviewed literature on Study Abroad to learn about and implement best practices to market to and recruit students from underserved groups; contrast with our data to understand at a local level why some students choose not to Study Abroad so that gaps can be better addressed.

ACCELERATE STUDY ABROAD.

Promote data-driven continuous improvement and innovation to simultaneously increase the capacity and quality of offerings. Transform our Study Abroad Services center into one that is nationally recognized for its excellence.

STRATEGIES:

- Radically increase capacity without compromising quality in Study Abroad by a combination of increasing the number of programs, increasing capacity within existing programs, and partnering with peer universities.
- Support Study Abroad staff professional development and satisfaction by learning best practices for streamlining student communication, opting into technological solutions such as Salesforce, and funding staff participation in external training and conferences.
- Create a Study Abroad Faculty Advisory Council to advise on the selection of Study Abroad programs, ensuring academic quality. This Council also assists in revising faculty training and practices, and advises on faculty needs to increase quality offerings and faculty engagement.
- Engage UFIC Fiscal and UFIC HR to comprehensively reevaluate how Study Abroad is delivered at UF in partnership with General Counsel, Enrollment Management, UFHR, and others to optimize accessibility and ensure best practices.



INTERNATIONALIZATION AT HOME.

International opportunities are not limited to studying abroad. We will bring the world to UF by elevating practices such as online international engagement, as well as providing more opportunities for our international students and visitors to interact with our domestic community members.

STRATEGIES:

- Integrate Virtual Exchange as part of university-wide internationalization efforts to strengthen international partnerships, deepen global learning outcomes, facilitate study abroad participation, and otherwise accelerate comprehensive internationalization at UF.
- Expand Virtual Exchange facilitation and participation opportunities for faculty, staff, and students to foster real-world experience in developing and utilizing intercultural communication and collaboration skills, without the requirement of physical mobility.
- Increase the visibility of the International Living and Learning Community in Weaver Hall by partnering with Student Life and UF's Area Studies Centers. We will build on the synergy between UF's campus internationalization goals and the outreach requirements for our Area Studies Centers to increase dynamic programming for students, as well as participation opportunities for students completing the International Scholars Program.

OUTSTANDING INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR SUPPORT.

Our international students and scholars bring the world to UF. We give them the opportunity to experience life in the US, as well as lifetime membership in the Gator Nation. We will continue to elevate international student and scholar success by bringing our specialists in international student and scholar services together with representatives of the international student community and stakeholders at UF and in Gainesville.

STRATEGIES:

- Continue to grow social engagement opportunities for our international population to ensure that we are serving the whole visitor, not just their federal compliance needs, via collaboration with our Area Studies Centers, Student Life, the Greater Gainesville International Center, the city of Gainesville, etc.
- Collaborate with the Dean of Students and Student Life via regular check-ins to ensure that the unique needs of international students are being met. Our International Student Council keeps us informed of student needs and concerns.
- Promote our new abbreviated Immigration 101 training through UF HR and other channels. This training is specially designed for faculty and staff who are advising international students, to familiarize them with the special requirements of our international population, including physical presence, employment, etc.

INTERNATIONAL FOR LIFE.

Lifelong learning brings professional and personal growth opportunities. The creation of a suite of global educational offerings for the Gator Nation fosters multigenerational life and career mentoring between current students and alumni.

STRATEGIES:

- Request feedback from UF alumni to learn what continuing education opportunities would be most appealing, study best practices for multigenerational learning at other universities, and work with experienced partners to develop offerings.
- Collaborate with academic units and the UF Alumni Association to create outstanding interdisciplinary offerings for alumni and students.

ACCESSIBLE INTERNATIONALIZATION.

Our goal is to bring international experiences to the entire UF community, and we work to make sure that those opportunities are available and accessible to everyone.

STRATEGIES:

- Continue to grow communications and outreach, to ensure that the whole campus is aware of the opportunities we offer, particularly scholarships.
- Leverage our existing partnership with the Disability Resource Center and create additional opportunities for students, staff, and faculty with disabilities. Explore ways for students who are also caretakers and/or parents to participate in Study Abroad.
- Work with UF Advancement to create a Leadership Circle to continue to grow and broaden student access to international opportunities for internships, scholarships, and mentoring.
- Identify and cultivate the UFIC alumni community, which includes both international alumni and alumni who participated in Study Abroad, to create an ecosystem of giving.

COMPREHENSIVE INTERNATIONAL SERVICES.

Imagine one building where you can access a wide range of resources to support and enhance your international activities. Our role is to foster global partnerships, facilitate access to international education, and unlock opportunities for success for every member of the Gator Nation.

SERVICES:

- Renew your passport (or get your first one!)
- Chat with F and J visa experts
- Learn about education abroad opportunities as a participant or as an instructor
- Explore Peace Corps
- Learn about Fulbright programs for students, scholars, and faculty
- Participate in “internationalization at home” programs
- Find funding for your international program and campus activity ideas
- Get training on curriculum internationalization
- Apply to become a Global Fellow
- Partner with academic institutions around the world

Get support to elevate your global objectives at our central campus location in the Hub, the UF International Center is here to help the UF community meet all its international goals. Your satisfaction is our top priority, and we welcome your questions, inquiries, and feedback. Feel free to reach out to us with any queries, requests, and compliments!
Email us at UFInternationalCenter@ufic.ufl.edu.

UF | International Center
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

https://internationalcenter.ufl.edu