

Report: International Education

Strategic Goals for International Education
at the University of Mary Washington

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Introduction

International education seeks to build a community of students, faculty, and staff that can engage effectively, knowledgeably and responsibly to a rapidly changing global community. The goal of International Education at UMW is to create, sustain, and assess intercultural engagement through informative and transformative programs and experiences. Through the pervasiveness of intercultural issues across the curriculum and in co-curricular activities, all students and faculty are obliged to be international participants at some point in their academic career.

Internationalization begins at home. By integrating international education throughout the university, students and faculty develop the conceptual constructs necessary to interpret and discuss global issues. International education is in keeping with the UMW mission which states that the university is an institution “responsive to the changing needs of the student populations and the communities in which it thrives,” that expects all members of its community “to participate in service to the institution and ... engage in service to the larger community and to society.”

http://www.umw.edu/bov/umw_mission_statement/default.php

Goals of International Education

To promote and support diverse intellectual and experiential opportunities that expand teaching, research and learning;

To promote the ability of students and faculty to adopt multiple perspectives of complex issues through cultural understanding;

To instill an understanding and appreciation for the interconnectedness and diversity of the environment, cultures, and peoples;

To broaden the definition of diversity by making the campus and community more reflective of the global population;

To meet the global demands of the workforce by integrating students in an international context;

To collaborate with local and global communities in the creation and dissemination of knowledge that sustains economic development;

and to promote international study as an essential component of our General Education experiential learning requirement.

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

The work of the center is envisioned as both administrative and academic. The center would serve as a liaison between the UMW internal and external communities and international constituents to encourage, promote, and facilitate international and intercultural understanding and exchange.

See: Elon University's Isabella Cannon Centre for International Study

http://www.elon.edu/e-web/academics/international_studies/default.xhtml

Goals for the Center for International Education

To build sustainable study abroad programs through the creation of self-funded programs, leveraging institutional funding and grant writing [for example, establishing transatlantic dual degree programs with European universities through the Atlantis granting program (undergraduate level)];

To advise and process students and faculty on immigration regulations related to international education [example: F, J, H, LPR, I-9 regulations, etc.];

To facilitate the use of technology in international initiatives by working with faculty, student, administrative and local leaders; [example: broadcasting speakers from abroad into classrooms, blogs on shared responsive readings by students from UMW and abroad, etc.]

To promote the value of study abroad for every discipline, major, and department in the University and to encourage and facilitate international study across undergraduate & graduate disciplines and major programs [example: study abroad advising "road maps" by major];

To explore opportunities and recommend implementation of exchanges of students/faculty from around the world;

To work with UMW communities to strengthen and expand current partnerships and explore new relationships with underrepresented areas of the world and to develop trilateral exchange agreements; [examples: University of Education, Winneba, Ghana and Sungshin University, South Korea];

To work with the faculty to explore and recommend new partnerships with institutions abroad (Western and non-Western);

To facilitate development of service projects and learning opportunities abroad for students, faculty and community members which promote UMW as a global citizen;

To identify work, service and volunteer opportunities abroad for recent graduates;

To work with the faculty in conceptualizing and organizing international summer institutes [examples: development of international faculty and administrators by offering programs in leadership, education, and management at the graduate level, language intensive programs for students across the country;

Bring together university faculty and business leaders in the Fredericksburg region to participate in institutes to build economic competitiveness and sustainability [example: develop summer programs along the lines of a World Affairs Council].

IMMEDIATE STEPS

There are policies at the University that present difficulties for students, faculty, and staff in carrying out administrative details involved in international exchange, study, and transferring of credits. Below are some suggestions for improvement according to the offices most likely to facilitate the changes needed.

Academic Departments

Create advising “Road Maps” which outline best semesters for specific majors to study abroad and which identify 2-3 possible institutions abroad from which UMW equivalents or major electives can be taken.

Identify partner institutions abroad through which dual degrees can be created;

Create departmental or an institution-wide course(s) for students to obtain the experiential credit from study abroad [MDFL model, Span 301].

Office of International Programs

Assist UMW faculty in setting up a cooperative consortia of schools from which students can apply for faculty-led study abroad programs.

Create transportation between campuses to accommodate the needs of international and undergraduate students taking courses on the Stafford campus who live on the Fredericksburg campus;

Work with Academic Services to ease administrative barriers;

- Facilitate enrollment, transfer credit and transfer grades for non-UMW students utilizing study abroad through UMW programs;
- Streamline advising and registration process for non-degree seeking exchange students;
- Investigate the use of technology in promoting the internationalization of the curriculum;
- Research the cost and staffing needs to market UMW programs off-campus in an effort to increase enrollment to sustain programs;

- Improve the database used by students to register for study abroad, the ability to generate reports, electronic approval of courses taken abroad, a library of approved courses by program;
- Work with faculty to create an ESL support program with the goal of developing a full ESL program to attract and retain international students in the future.

Work with the Office of Admissions to

- Review requirements for international student admissions (e.g. English proficiency testing upon arrival, removing SAT requirement for international students)
- Discuss possible “rolling admissions” process for international students
- Review current outreach and marketing of UMW to international students and secure funding for international marketing and recruitment

Work with the Office of the Registrar to

- Facilitate administrative implementation of transfer credit;
- Create clearer mechanisms for non-UMW students to register for UMW study abroad programs

Create a campus culture that welcomes international scholars and exchanges

- Provide housing for international visitors at Eagle Village

INTERMEDIATE STEPS

Create M.A. in International Education

Create M.A. in International Business

Create interdisciplinary major in International Human Rights (see 2007 proposal for the creation of a James Farmer-Jean Donovan Center)

Make all institutional financial aid transportable to study abroad.

Create endowments for study abroad and international student scholarships (scholarships that work)

DISTAL GOALS

Create Visiting International Scholars Program;

Establish a Summer Institute in International Development for Education, Leadership, and Management in consultation with graduate faculty in the Colleges of Business and Education (could be housed on the campus of CGPS);

Promote curricular change that allows all UMW students to spend at least one semester abroad.

Establish an ESL program in cooperation with Germanna Community College which serves the needs of UMW, Germanna and local immigrants.

Create multiple opportunities in several academic areas for UMW students to earn transatlantic dual degrees (in partnership with EU universities).

Increase international student enrollment to 10 percent.

Increase study abroad enrollment to 100%.