

Office of International Affairs
Summary of Strategic Plan—August 30, 2007

The Office of International Affairs (IA) is a service organization. As a result of a merger that took place in 2002, IA's mission is linked directly to City Campus and to East Campus. Our mission is to support students, faculty, and administrators in all academic units as these engage in international education. Through partnerships and collaborative projects, we aim to position UNL as a leading global campus and to enhance its visibility around the world.

The relation of International Affairs to the core values of the University is clear. IA prepares students for work, citizenship, and life in a complex and fast-changing world through experiences that integrate new ideas and cultural perspectives. The work of the office engages communities on campus and around the state and contributes directly to creating a culture at the University that values diversity of ideas and people.

The Office carries out these core values through three, basic operations:

- International Students and Scholars Services: Provides advice on immigration regulations to 1751 international students, visiting scholars and their dependents, supplemented by cross-cultural counseling and co-curricular programming such as the English Conversation Partners Program.
- Study Abroad Services: Assists more than 600 each year students to engage in academic experiences abroad; works closely with faculty to develop and direct short-term programs; provides advice to exchange students from partner institutions overseas.
- Campus and Community Services: IA serves all campus units re hiring of foreign faculty, researchers and professional staff; administers the student Fulbright program; assists faculty in gaining grants and contracts, engages in new initiatives in international education and participates in forums, organizations, and speakers bureaus around the state.

Strategic Priorities

IA's strategic priorities necessarily involve current world events, partnerships with foreign institutions, and collaborations, campus-wide, particularly with the Office of Admissions, Undergraduate Studies, Graduate Studies, and the Intensive English Program. Collaboration with deans, chairs, and faculty is critical to success.

IA's priorities are the following:

- I. Enrich the experiences of students and scholars who participate in international educational exchanges.

IA accomplishes this priority by promoting programs of study abroad, internships, and opportunities for service learning, and by providing to international students and scholars a variety of services and programs; these include orientations, cross-cultural advising, and co-curricular activities.

II. Increase global and cross-cultural awareness, on campus and around the world.

IA promotes the scope of UNL's international involvement through media and electronic communication, administration of the Fulbright Fellowship Program, sponsorship of the Fulbright Gateway Orientation Program, as well as co-sponsorship of visiting Fulbright Scholars and of delegations from the U.S. and abroad. IA facilitates international linkages and initiates lectureships, promotes the award of grants that bring to campus researchers and scholars from other countries. IA also co-sponsors and supports the "Global Classroom," coordinates Phi Beta Delta, the honor society that recognizes the international contributions of faculty and students, monitors UNL as a member of the Fulbright Academy of Science and Technology and drafts plans for proposals for training grants.

III. Generate modest income to support the mission of International Affairs.

The office no longer has state-based funds for operating costs, which depend wholly on fees generated, and which, in turn, are vulnerable to further cuts. Projects to generate income include grants and contracts appropriate to IA's resources and mission, such as a proposal to design a summer cultural tour for students from Zhejiang University in China and to NAFSA (Association of International Educators).

Metrics:International Students and Scholars:

In October, conduct a survey to determine the perceived needs of international students and scholars; analyze results and refine services and programs over the year. In September and January, evaluate orientations of new international students and make appropriate adjustments. Offer two or more co-curricular activities each year, assess these re participation and the response of the staff, and decide whether to retain, discontinue or modify.

Study Abroad:

Conduct a series of surveys within the cycle of pre-departure, the experience abroad, and re-entry. A Ph.D. student will analyze results, which will be incorporated into the refinement of programs and services. Set a new benchmark for the percentage (23%) of the number of undergraduate students who, upon receiving a degree, have studied abroad.

International Education:

Outcomes by surveys and by periodic comparison of data to peer institutions, national data, and to qualitative comparative information solicited from students, faculty, and colleagues. Collaborate with the new International Programs Advisory Council (2007-2008). Implement and assess the results of these surveys, reporting to the Advisory Committees on International Student Affairs and for Study Abroad. Projects that IA generates involve such measures as numbers of participants in each program, acquisition of funding over a specific period of time, and the results of evaluations.