

Maryland in the World—Engaging the Global Community

Vision

The University of Maryland will be the public institution of choice for students, faculty, and staff committed to engagement in the global community. Teaching, scholarship, and outreach activities will reflect the reality of global interdependence, and will prepare our students and researchers to live, work, and thrive in the current and future world environment. World-class now means world-conscious, and the leading American research universities must be the international education leaders.

Success in our globalized world and marketplace requires transcending national borders and working in many cultures and languages. Travel, study, and work abroad will become a normal part of a student's University experience, involving combinations of academic courses, research activities, and experiential and service learning projects. Opportunities for international engagement will be available that complement and enhance academic majors, mesh with the learning goals of General Education, coordinate with institutional efforts towards the solution of significant global problems, and help fulfill the expectations for personal growth of the students involved. Every interested undergraduate and graduate student should be able to participate in an academically rich and personally rewarding experience abroad. In particular, through global service learning, students gain experiences that promote the importance of values, ethics, and social justice; diversity, culture and identity; civic engagement; science and technology; and globalization and interdependence. The University of Maryland recognizes that global service learning enriches students' educational experiences.

Higher education must produce skilled professionals who will engage in an international knowledge economy driven by information technology. Academic programs throughout the institution will be enriched with the global perspective. Much of the thrust of institutional research and scholarship will concern issues and problems of global scope. Taking advantage of its special location, the University will draw upon the resources of the Washington area to establish strong relationships and collaborative partnerships with governmental, non-governmental, social, and business entities that will facilitate its global reach, enrich its scholarly, academic, and special programs, and support its emergence as a vibrant and diverse community with a strong international character. Strong relationships with top-quality institutions throughout the world will enable ready exchange of students and scholars, allow sharing of expertise, and facilitate multinational approaches to problems with global import.

Goals

1. **Greatly increase participation of students in study/internship/research abroad programs.** In the 2006-07 academic year the University reported that 1270 undergraduate students received academic credit for study abroad, through programs on six continents. We will increase this number to at least 2000 in five years and to at least 3000 in ten years.
2. **Greatly increase participation in experiential and service learning abroad.** Participation is not currently tracked, but the numbers are small. We will initiate tracking and work towards an annual participation level of at least 500 in five years and to at least 1000 in ten years.
3. **Expand the global focus of academic programs.** We will develop new programs and expand the international emphasis and content of existing programs, through curricular

revision, enrollment of students from abroad, exchange of students and scholars, and the development of international program collaborations. Department should endeavor to integrate international experiences into their regular requirement structures, so as to enhance students' preparation for careers while not delaying graduation. In five years 25% of all undergraduate major programs will have elements of an international focus clearly visible in their curricula; in ten years 50%.

4. **Expand the global reach of University programs.** We will create additional focused training programs for international visitors. We will develop cooperative academic programs with selected institutions abroad where the synergies are compelling, the resources are available, and where high quality can be assured.
5. **Expand outreach to and collaboration with official and informal international communities in the D.C. area and expand the visibility of the University as a globally engaged institution.**

Strategies

1. The University will establish the Center for Global Engagement (CGE), succeeding the Office of International Programs as an institutional resource for international activities. The CGE will coordinate, encourage, develop, support, and provide oversight for the programs and activities of institutional units, will interface with institutions both in this country and abroad, and will be a visible face for international activities at the University. It will also provide a clearing house for these programs and assist with the logistics of travel and living abroad.
2. The University will develop a Global Studies Minor with tracks that take a global perspective across many disciplines. As appropriate, these may expand into major and/or masters level programs. We will work to greatly enrich these programs by engaging the participation of experts from the D.C. international community in their planning and execution. The CGE will work with the Office of Academic Affairs to identify the academic home and leadership for these programs.
3. The University will collaborate with the Peace Corps and with other professional and humanitarian organizations to develop experiential and service learning projects and opportunities abroad that will enhance our academic programs, mesh with institutional research and scholarly efforts, and attract students with aspirations for serious engagement with the great social, cultural, and scientific issues of our time.
4. The University will develop new and expanded exchange programs with top-quality universities abroad for both faculty and students. These will be deliberate and well focused, will have specific mechanisms and resources for implementation, and will include research exchanges and opportunities for students to work in local and regional projects across many disciplines.
5. University departments will develop, in-house or in collaboration with institutions abroad, additional summer- and winter-term courses and term or year-long programs abroad that address significant issues, engage students' interest, and enhance and fit seamlessly into academic majors and minors and General Education themes. The CGE will facilitate coordination with institutions abroad and will be a resource for arrangements for travel and living abroad.

6. The University will develop additional funding sources to support students who might not otherwise have the resources to participate in international experiences. No student should be denied such an experience because of costs. Foundations and private donors will be especially sought out for such support, in addition to other sources.
7. The University will develop and implement a plan to aggressively recruit academically talented students from abroad, as indicated in the recruitment goals set in the Undergraduate Education section of this Plan. We will solicit support from the official and informal D.C. international communities to help us reach these goals.
8. The University will develop innovative curricular and technical approaches to collaborative international education with universities and research institutes around the world. Advances in information technology, and in human-computer interaction in particular, can support the effective delivery of such programs.
9. We will develop a sequence of programs and activities to promote a strong international culture in the University. These programs include:
 - a. A Maryland International Festival to showcase approaches to international issues, scientific breakthroughs of international import, and cultural and artistic opportunities, similar to or in conjunction with the very successful annual Maryland Day.
 - b. We will also provide support for year-long thematic series of lectures, debates, performances, and visual arts presentations that will bring some of the best-known scholars and creative talent to campus, coordinating with the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center and the Art Department and Art Gallery. The lectures will draw upon the impressive resources of the Washington, D.C. international community to enhance such existing programs as the ambassadorial lecture series, *Maryland International*, and other outlets that showcase our international interests and achievements. We will add to current presentations of strong international interest by offering to host talks by distinguished world visitors when they come to Washington for official events.