The Ohio State University is committed to becoming a preeminent global university – one which prepares its students and faculty to actively participate in knowledge-based collaborations around the world. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, Ohio State has embraced the value of integrating international dimensions across our campuses, pursuing international partnerships, and preparing our students to excel in the global marketplace.

The university plans to expand its global reach by:

- Developing an international experience for undergraduate, graduate and professional students
- Promoting scholarship on major global issues
- Increasing the percentage of international faculty and students
- Creating international dual degree programs
- Promoting collaboration with Ohio’s international business ventures

As part of Ohio State’s international strategy, the Office of International Affairs is responsible for cultivating and nurturing the growth of global perspectives at Ohio State.
Our Resources

The Office of International Affairs helps facilitate the development and growth of the Global Gateways and oversees Study Abroad, International Students and Scholars, the Mershon Center for International Security Studies, and five Area Studies Centers. We sponsor and administer grants for faculty and graduate student research and independent study, develop agreements with international academic institutions, host international delegations, and initiate and coordinate international education outreach activities and special events. Additionally, we support the International Affairs Scholars Program, which provides opportunities for students from all majors who are interested in global themes.

Study Abroad

The Office of International Affairs administers Ohio State study abroad programs, and provides a wide variety of support services to those students studying abroad independently, conducting field research, or participating in a service learning program or internships. Students at Ohio State participate in over 100 study abroad programs in more than 40 different countries and on all five continents. These programs give students an opportunity to become involved in cross-cultural interaction and enjoy a rewarding educational experience in many different fields. A variety of options are available to support and augment students’ progress in their curriculum. There are short-term study programs in conjunction with an academic course to longer experiences such as 10 week to year-long stays in an international environment. Study abroad coordinators and faculty resident directors help students learn about what programs are available around the world, how to earn college credit, how to affordably finance their study abroad program, and what to expect when they arrive in another country and when they return home to Ohio State.

International Students and Scholars

When international students and scholars first arrive at Ohio State, the Office of International Affairs is one of their initial points of contact. We provide them with a warm welcome to the campus community and support their transition to help them comfortably adjust to their new life on campus and in Columbus.

Students meet one-on-one with a representative from International Students and Scholars to get answers to questions about immigration regulations, cultural differences, and financial matters. Through oia.osu.edu, students can find information about the types of visas needed for their stay in the United States, links to academic programs, how to pay their tuition, housing options, an overview of the campus and life in Columbus, and much more. Immigration coordinators facilitate orientation sessions and administer social, cultural, and educational programming. All of these services help ensure that international students, scholars, and their families meet their personal and professional goals during their time at Ohio State.
Mershon Center for International Security Studies

The mission of the Mershon Center for International Security Studies is to advance the understanding of national security in a global context. The center focuses on three core dimensions of national security:

- Use of force and diplomacy
- Ideas, identities and decisional processes that affect security
- Institutions that manage violent conflict

Some ways the Mershon Center accomplishes its mission include:

- Hiring world-class faculty members in collaboration with their home departments
- Contributing to the university’s distinctive presence by funding interdisciplinary faculty and student research
- Enhancing the student experience by hosting an array of speakers, conferences, and workshops on national security issues

The Mershon Center is the fulfillment of a bequest by Col. Ralph D. Mershon to The Ohio State University for the civilian study of matters pertaining to national security. It is also supported by community gifts and grant money.

Area Studies Centers

Area Studies Centers advance knowledge and awareness of international cultures and world regions. The centers work with departments to identify programmatic needs, expand instructional initiatives, stimulate new research opportunities, sponsor a wide range of academic activities, including lectures, symposia, conferences, and library resources, as well as conduct outreach activities for P-12 students and teachers. Area Studies Centers are funded through the U.S. Department of Education’s Title VI Natural Resource Center and Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships.

Ohio State has five Area Studies Centers, four with full Title VI and FLAS funding*:

- Center for African Studies
- Center for Latin American Studies*
- Center for Slavic and East European Studies*
- East Asian Studies Center*
- Institute for Chinese Studies
- Institute for Japanese Studies
- Institute for Korean Studies
- Middle East Studies Center*
Global Gateways

As Ohio State builds a foundation that integrates international dimensions within every facet of the institution, the university is pursuing opening offices - Global Gateways - in key parts of the world. The locations for the Gateways will capitalize on the strengths of Ohio State’s connections across the globe through study abroad programs, international students, faculty teaching and research, university partnerships, alumni and Ohio businesses.

The China Gateway exploratory office is located in the downtown business district of Shanghai, China, and Ohio State is in the process of examining additional opportunities in India, Brazil, Turkey, sub-Saharan Africa and Europe. In the future, Ohio State’s Gateways will be multifaceted centers that provide the university with a:

- Base of operations for faculty research, teaching and international partnerships
- Portal for study abroad opportunities
- Location for international student recruitment
- Center for executive and corporate training and a new way to partner with Ohio-based businesses operating in global markets
- Point of contact for alumni to strengthen their connection to Ohio State

Grants and Scholarships

The Office of International Affairs supports and administers grants for faculty research on international themes and scholarships for students to study abroad either as part of a group or independently, or to conduct research or pursue internships in other parts of the world. We also administer the U.S. Department of Education’s Fulbright-Hays grants and serve as the campus representative for the Fulbright Scholar program.

These grant programs serve to promote international educational opportunities that will have a lasting impact on increasing global awareness and understanding.

The Fulbright-Hays program provides grants for graduate students and faculty to travel for specific research, study opportunities, or dissertation research in modern languages and specific area studies that must be conducted in another country. The Fulbright Scholars program is designed to increase mutual understanding between the United States and other countries and promote collaboration and the exchange of ideas among faculty, professionals, students, and teachers.

These grant programs serve to promote international educational opportunities that will have a lasting impact on increasing global awareness and understanding.
International Agreements and Delegations

The Office of International Affairs helps facilitate the development of formalized Memoranda of Agreement and coordinates the visit of international delegations to Ohio State. Formal agreements with international institutions are critical tools to enhance collaborative instruction, scholarship, and research for faculty and students. Frequently an outcome of individual faculty initiatives, such agreements help build a strong alliance and collaborative spirit among Ohio State and its academic departments with universities and other learning institutions around the world.

International Education Outreach

Engaging P-12 teachers and students in learning more about international cultures plays a vital role in broadening global perspectives. Outreach programming that focuses on language, culture, and interactive themes are tailor-made to teach a wide variety of audiences about life in another country. A host of global education resources is available for teachers, including in-service workshops, study abroad opportunities to experience the language and culture firsthand, video loan libraries, as well as exhibits that can be used in the classroom.

Special Events

Special events held throughout the year support the international dimension of the Ohio State campus. The Office of International Affairs coordinates events such as:

- Taste of OSU
- International Education Week
- Thanksgiving
- International Photography Exhibition
- International Scholar Research Exposition
- Study Abroad Expo

These enable the campus community to experience different cultures, learn more about international opportunities, and make new friends in a fun and inviting atmosphere.

CONTACT US:

The Office of International Affairs is committed to providing international educational experiences to students, faculty, and staff, sharing global opportunities whenever and wherever we can, and learning through the exchange of ideas. If you would like more information about the international activities on the Ohio State campus and the services that we provide, please contact us at (614) 688-5482, oia@osu.edu, or visit oia.osu.edu.
International at a Glance

- More than 4,000 international students attend Ohio State each year
- Ohio State students come from more than 100 countries around the world
- Close to 20% of undergraduates have a study abroad experience before they graduate
- 1,600 international scholars visit Ohio State each year
- More than two-thirds of Ohio State faculty have been involved in international professional activities
- Over 30 languages are offered in more than 600 courses
- More than 800 courses are offered with international content