International Programs at the University of Iowa

Study Abroad

UI students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of learning abroad options, including UI faculty-led programs or through affiliated providers, as well as experiential learning experiences such as internships abroad, international service programs, or international research.

- Helped 1,316 students study abroad in 69 different countries in 2018-19.
- More than $1,140,000 was awarded to students for study abroad in 2018-19, including academic, diversity, and need-based awards.
- Received the prestigious Heiskell Award for its innovative India Winterim program; the largest U.S. study abroad program in India. More than 1,300 students and faculty from all 11 UI colleges have participated since the program’s inception in 2006.

Top 10 Study Abroad Destinations for UI Students

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<td>1.</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>6.</td>
<td>India</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>10.</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
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“Study abroad has made me a better person – a more empathetic person – I’m becoming a global citizen of this world.”

- José, studied abroad in the U.K.

International Students

As a top-ranked, public research university with a global reputation, the UI values the benefits that come from a diverse student population. In 2019, over 3,100 international students studied or conducted post-graduate research at the UI from 108 foreign countries and territories. International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) provides leadership in international education and intercultural learning through services to international students and scholars, their dependents, the university, and the surrounding community.

Top 10 Home Countries of UI International Students

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<td>2.</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>7.</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>South Korea</td>
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<td>Bangladesh</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Iran</td>
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<td>Nigeria</td>
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“I flew 9,000 miles to study at the University of Iowa and I’ve never regretted it.”

- Wendy, international student from Singapore

Economic Impact of International Students

According to NAFSA: The Association of International Educators, international students studying at U.S. colleges and universities contribute $41.0 billion to the U.S. economy and support 458,290 jobs.

International students at the UI and other schools in Iowa’s 2nd congressional district contributed over $189 million to the local economy during the 2018-19 school year and supported approximately 1,750 jobs, according to NAFSA. The same report estimates the economic impact of international students and their families for the entire state of Iowa in excess of $409 million.

Fulbright U.S. Student Program

A record number of 23 students were awarded Fulbright U.S. Student Program grants for 2020-21. The UI has been named a ‘top producer’ of Fulbright students in each of the last five years by the Chronicle of Higher Education.
Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization

The University of Iowa was recognized in 2017 with the Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization by NAFSA: Association of International Educators, one of only four institutions nationwide. The award recognizes colleges and universities that are making significant, well-planned, well-executed, and well-documented progress toward comprehensive internationalization—especially those using innovative and creative approaches.

Grant-Writing Assistance

The International Programs Grants Office assists faculty and staff in the development of grant proposals for external funding in support of their research, teaching, and service goals.

In recent years UI faculty received funding for a range of international programming and research activities. Such funding has been awarded from various sponsors, including the Korea Foundation, the Max Kade Foundation, the Fulbright U.S. Scholars Program, the Knight Foundation, United States-India Educational Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Education.

Academic Centers and Programs

Our academic centers and programs create opportunities for faculty to contribute to the global mission of the UI; advance research and teaching through a focus on trans-collegiate issues and perspectives; provide opportunities for faculty and students across disciplines to interact and collaborate; and develop public engagement projects to benefit communities in Iowa and abroad. We currently have eight such entities, two of which are currently funded via endowments or external grants.

Creation and Discovery

The UI maintains 177 formal linkages with 150 external organizations around the globe to foster coordination of international research and partnerships, promote networking and collaboration, and celebrate global partnerships.

These relationships, as well as innumerable informal partnerships, enhance the education of our students and offer rich international experiences and professional connections.

Faculty Funding Spotlight:
Global Curriculum Development Award

The Global Curriculum Development Award is given to faculty creating a new undergraduate course, or substantially revising an existing course, in order to integrate international or global perspectives into an undergraduate major.

The Global Curriculum Development Award allowed UI Associate Professor of Instruction Irina Kostina to create a new course, “The North Caucasus as a Crossroad of Civilization,” designed to explore past and present global issues in the North Caucasus region. It covered threats to peace, such as terrorism, the export of the North Caucasus jihad, and women’s rights violations. Kostina not only wanted students to come away with an understanding of these issues, but also to propose solutions.