

CLEARANCE  
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# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2024

**CSUF**

International Education  
and Engagement  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



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# WELCOME TO CSUF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Welcome to International Education and Engagement at Cal State Fullerton!

CSUF's International Education and Engagement (IEE) serves as a vital gateway for fostering educational access and engagement for students and scholars from around the world. In line with our mission, we have rebranded, transitioning from International Programs to International Education and Engagement. This new name reflects our deep commitment to collaborating with [CSUF's Academic Colleges](#) to expand global educational opportunities, both by welcoming learners from diverse backgrounds and by sending our students into the world to enrich their educational experiences. The new name also signifies our dedication to building strategic partnerships across borders, engaging with global communities to create new opportunities for Titans and international learners.

In the past year, as part of our commitment to educational access, we are proud to have welcomed 1,585 new Global Titans from 75 countries. Each student brings unique perspectives that enrich our classrooms and campus community. We are also deeply committed to fostering an environment that celebrates and supports the diversity of perspectives and cultures from around the globe. Our dedication to inclusion and belonging is stronger than ever. We've expanded our cultural programs, ensuring that all students feel embraced by the diverse tapestry of cultures that make up our international community.

Additionally, we've established a more central support center for international students within the [CSUF Pollak Library](#), creating a hub for resources, workshops, advising, stories, and connections. We warmly invite you to visit the International Education and Engagement Office, explore the inspiring stories of our Global Titans showcased on our Wall of Fame, and immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere of our common space.

We are very proud of the contributions and accomplishments of our CSUF Global Titan Alumni. In the past year, we partnered with the [CSUF Office of Alumni Engagement](#) for a vibrant International Alumni Mixer. We have also been able to hear the stories and experience the successful career

ventures of our alumni during visits to our partners in Vietnam and look forward to expanding this reach to other Global Titan Alumni and tell their stories as part of the worldwide Titan reach.

We are also committed to sending Titans out into the world! We firmly believe that students excel when they develop critical cultural competencies. That's why we're proud to have sent 475 students abroad this past year. Their journeys across a wide range of countries have not only broadened their horizons but also enriched their mindsets, career paths, and sense of self in the world. The stories they've brought back are a testament to the transformative power of global experiences.

This year, we've also had the privilege of hosting eight international delegations from South Korea, Stockholm and Lulea in Sweden, Germany, and Vietnam. These visits have sparked exciting new initiatives, benefiting both our Global Titans here at [CSUF](#) and those studying at our partner institutions. Additionally, a CSUF Delegation Team traveled to Buenos Aires to establish an Academic Linkage Agreement, creating opportunities for qualified CSUF students to pursue a Ph.D in Argentina. These partnerships are our way of bringing CSUF to the world and bringing the world to CSUF!



**Dr. Debra Leahy**  
Associate Vice President,  
International Education and Engagement

# CSUF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

## Mission

As a leader in access and social mobility, Cal State Fullerton (CSUF) educates students from across the globe and prepares graduates for social and global awareness. International Education and Engagement at CSUF serves as a pivotal gateway for cultivating enrollment pathways for learners and scholars from around the world and nurturing a sense of inclusion and belonging by embracing the rich cultures within our international community. By offering transformative study abroad experiences and other impactful international and intercultural programs, International Education and Engagement engenders cultural awareness and prepares students to succeed in an interconnected world.

## Vision

International Education and Engagement at CSUF envisions Cal State Fullerton (CSUF) as a premiere destination for international learners and scholars worldwide. We aim to empower international students to thrive and become catalysts for positive change in their local and global communities. By offering high-impact study abroad opportunities and fostering robust international and intercultural engagement, we will empower CSUF graduates for career readiness in a global marketplace and to make meaningful contributions within an interconnected society.

## Core Values

**Access and Sense of Belonging:** We are committed to creating an environment that strategically opens access for international students and Global Titans, fostering a sense of belonging and holistic well-being, recognizing them as vital members of our community.

**Cultural Inclusion and Pluralism:** We champion an inclusive environment that engenders inclusion, equity, and cultural awareness and appreciation for people, ideas, and experiences from diverse cultures and perspectives.

**International and Intercultural Experiential Learning:** We promote experience-based learning coupled with the expansiveness that arises with high-impact practices that transcend borders and elevate intercultural experience and engagement.

**Global Partnerships and Engagement:** We commit to expanding the university's global footprint through targeted, strategic partnerships worldwide. These collaborations pave the way for student mobility and foster reciprocal engagement across borders that enrich academic and social programs and pursuits.

# INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

## International Partnerships

Over the past year, International Education and Engagement hosted seven international delegations from Korea, Vietnam, Sweden, and Germany.

During a recent visit from [Gachon University](#), leaders from the South Korean institution met with leadership from CSUF to explore exciting new study abroad and exchange programs. Gachon University, based in Seongnam—a sister city to Fullerton—has now opened its doors to CSUF students. Thanks to this vibrant partnership, 19 students from CSUF experienced a life-changing summer studying in Seongnam in 2024.



Dr. Hyejee Kim, Dean of the Department of Music and Dance at [Woosong University's Sol International Popular Arts College](#) based in Daejeon, Korea, led a group of talented dance students to CSUF's [College of Arts](#). The students dazzled audiences with captivating performances, showcasing their artistic skills. In a promising move for both institutions, President Fram Virjee and Dean Kim signed an agreement to explore new partnership opportunities for the future in August 2023.

In October 2023, the [World Korean Business Convention](#) was held for the first time in the U.S. Both President Oh and Dean Park from our partner institution, Woosong University, [Solbridge International School of Business](#), partnered with CSUF at the World Korean Business Convention and California Pavilion to explore both institutional and regional partnerships.





[Fulbright University Vietnam \(FUV\)](#) is one of Vietnam's first private, non-profit universities and was founded on the promise of Vietnamese-American partnerships. At CSUF, we deeply value FUV's mission, and it was an honor to welcome their new President, Dr. Scott Fritzen. In October 2023, Dr. Fritzen met with CSUF leaders and shared an inspiring vision for FUV's impactful work in Vietnam and the exciting potential for cross-border collaborations, including cooperation with CSUF.

[KTH University](#), Sweden's largest technical research institution, sent a delegation team to CSUF in October 2023. During their visit, the CSUF and KTH teams collaborated closely, laying the groundwork for exciting new student exchange agreements and creating transformative study abroad opportunities that may open a world of possibilities for CSUF students.



CSUF and [Lulea University](#) in Sweden are united by a shared mission to provide holistic education and comprehensive support for all students. During a visit to CSUF in February 2024, leaders and faculty from Lulea University participated in dynamic meetings, exchanging insights and best practices on advising and delivering high-impact student support. This collaboration promises to enhance the student experience at both institutions.



In June 2024, CSUF was pleased to host President and Principal Tran Duc Huyen from [Hoang Viet School](#) based in Vietnam for an enriching visit with our leaders and faculty. Provost Dabirian engaged the delegation with a forward-thinking presentation on the impact of AI on education and student support. In the afternoon, faculty from CSUF's [Center of Computational and Applied Mathematics \(CCAM\)](#) engaged in insightful discussions with the delegation team, exploring innovative ways to inspire and deepen students' passion for mathematics as they continue their educational journeys.



# UNIVERSITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS

## Extended Partnership with Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Buenos Aires, Argentina

In 2017, CSUF forged a dynamic partnership with [Universidad Nacional de San Martín \(UNSAM\)](#) in Buenos Aires, Argentina. This linkage agreement allows CSUF biology and chemistry graduate students to smoothly transition into UNSAM's Ph.D. program, offering them a transformative path to advanced research and prestigious academic credentials. Although the pandemic temporarily paused this opportunity, in July 2024, Provost Dabirian, Associate Vice President Leahy, and Professor Marcelo Tomalsky reignited the initiative with a visit to UNSAM, where they renewed the agreement. During the visit, UNSAM President Carlos Greco and Provost Dabirian underscored the commitment of both institutions to expanding this vital partnership. Additionally, Professor Tomalsky led the delegation in touring and engaging with two prominent labs where CSU students engage in cutting-edge research through the Minority Health and Health Disparities International Research Training (MHIRT) program.



## New and Promising Partnership with KTH Royal Institute of Technology



In July 2023, a Cal State Fullerton delegation visited the [KTH Royal Institute of Technology \(KTH\)](#) in Stockholm, Sweden. The delegation team had the tremendous opportunity to explore the campus and learn about KTH's academic programs and KTH Innovation where regional businesses partner with faculty and students on business ventures. Then, in October 2023, CSUF had the opportunity to reciprocate this visit, warmly welcoming three representatives from KTH to explore potential partnerships that would benefit students from both institutions. KTH, known as the largest technical education and research institution in Sweden, unites a global community of students, researchers, and educators. With a shared commitment to transformative, cross-border learning experiences, CSUF and KTH are now working on exchange agreements and a trilateral partnership that will enable CSUF students to

study in The Arctic. These agreements and initiatives aim to offer students unique study opportunities across both campuses and in specially designed study abroad programs in very unique locations that will undoubtedly expand and transform students' mindsets.

# INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

## International Education Scholarship

A Scholarship That Honors a Legacy and Invests in the Future



In the past year, International Education and Engagement was honored to launch the inaugural Minh Tâm Nguyễn Endowment Fund for International Education at Cal State Fullerton. This scholarship was established by CSUF alumni and Board Member Tâm Nguyễn, '05 (MBA), Chairman of [Advance Beauty College](#), and Linh Nguyễn, '98 and '17 (B.A. business administration-management, MBA), President of Advance Beauty College. The scholarship honors their late father, Minh Tâm Nguyễn, who was an entrepreneur and a believer in the power of education. "As a family, we believe in education," said Linh. "This fund will help keep my father's legacy alive, and allow students to experience the meaningful educational opportunities we had ourselves at CSUF." Tâm Nguyễn also shared, "he took pride in his children being graduates of Cal State Fullerton, and he had the opportunity to meet every president from President Gordon to President Virjee." The goal of the scholarship is to support students who want to study abroad and

international students who want to study at CSUF. Therefore, the scholarship looks back to honor a legacy and looks to the future and supports the dreams of international students wishing to study at CSUF or students wishing to explore the world through study abroad.



(From left to right: Linh Nguyễn; Thu Pham, inaugural scholarship recipient; Tâm Nguyễn)



**Thu Pham**  
Vietnam  
Finance Major

Thu Pham became the first recipient of the Minh Tâm Nguyễn Endowment Fund for International Education in Summer 2024. From applying to receiving this scholarship, Thu has always focused on giving back to others. As Pham shared, "I made a commitment to myself that if I did receive the scholarship, I would donate 10% to an orphanage in Central Highlands, Vietnam, which is where I come from."

# International Students and Scholars

**1,585**  
International Students

**75**  
Countries

## TOP TEN ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

In the past academic year, 1,585 international students studied at CSUF from 75 countries. CSUF benefits from the diverse cultures, perspectives, and stories that our international students bring to their classrooms and the campus community.

**356**

Computer Science,  
M.S.

**143**

Business  
Administration, B.A.

**122**

Information  
Systems, M.S.

**47**

Computer Science,  
B.S.

**37**

Computer  
Engineering, M.S.

**29**

Business  
Administration, MBA

**25**

Software  
Engineering, M.S.

**24**

Civil Engineering,  
M.S.

**20**

Communications,  
B.A.

**17**

Kinesiology, B.S.

## TOP TEN COUNTRIES



**India**  
**535**



**Kuwait**  
**15**



**South Korea**  
**38**



**United Arab  
Emirates**  
**13**



**Vietnam**  
**130**



**Taiwan**  
**14**



**Japan**  
**29**



**Saudi Arabia**  
**4**



**China**  
**76**



**Indonesia**  
**13**

# CURRENT INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

The [International Student Services and Scholars \(ISS\)](#) Team provides advising to students from the point of acceptance to post-graduation. The ISS Team delivers immigration advising to international students studying on an F1 and J1 visa. The Team also cultivates a sense of belonging and inclusion for international students through holistic advising, orientations, workshops, and cultural programming.

The Student Services and Scholars Team increased the number and types of events, workshops, celebrations to further welcome our international students and imbue the CSUF community with global awareness and appreciation.

The ISS Team plays a vital role in ensuring that international students have the resources and support they need to successfully secure and complete internships. This past year, the ISS Team provided advising support to 48 international students who were engaged in academic internships. Internships are a valuable bridge between academic learning and professional work, providing students a comprehensive learning experience that can significantly enhance their career prospects.

Mariia, a talented tennis player from Ukraine, received a scholarship to play for the women's team at Cal State Fullerton. Amid all the uncertainty in Ukraine, Nikitash found a shoulder to lean on from CSUF's Associate Professor of Computer Science and the Director of the Center for Cybersecurity, Mikhail Gofman. Born in eastern Ukraine and raised in the city of Artemovsk, Gofman can empathize with the student-athlete and has been a steady friend, counselor, and mentor during the crisis. Despite the challenges of watching war wage in her home country, Mariia has persevered, and she is grateful to CSUF for all its support.



**Mariia Nikitash**

Ukraine

Computer Science Major



**Lyda Im**

Cambodia

Double Major in Accounting and Information Systems Majors

First-generation student Lyda Im has been actively involved at Cal State Fullerton, from serving as President of the [Cambodian Student Association](#) in the U.S.A. to working as a student assistant in the International Student Services office. Im will attend Cal State Fullerton for a few more years, complete an internship during the summer, and she already has clear goals set in place after she returns to Cambodia. She plans to work as an IT auditor in Cambodia for three to five years while also volunteering, teaching accounting and information systems, utilizing what she learned during her time at CSUF. "After that," she continues, "I think that I'll have enough financial resources and working experience. That's when I plan to start my own business."

In addition to orientation and onboarding webinars for newly admitted students, the ISS Team offered 21 Career and OPT workshops to current students and recent graduates. This academic year, 1,171 international recent alumni worked full-time through OPT (Optional Practical Training), gaining valuable experience and contributing to the U.S. economy.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS



**Aimanehi "Aima"  
Osime**  
Nigeria  
Master of Science  
in Information  
Systems

Aimanehi "Aima" Osime was an international student from Lagos, Nigeria, and a Cal State Fullerton Class of 2024 grad. From earning her master's degree to founding an empowering campus organization for women, Osime went above and beyond during her time at CSUF. Aima was a standout student at CSUF, advocating for gender equality and helping women overcome challenges in male-dominated fields. She founded [Women in Business & STEM](#), a student-run organization at CSUF that has grown to over 300 members. Following the completion of her master's in information systems, Aima has gone on to work as an analyst for [BlackRock investment management](#).

Ryutaro "Rio" Ichihara was part of a soccer program at his high school in Japan. He became determined to pursue a career as a professional soccer player and sought new opportunities abroad, applying to various universities in America. This led him to Cal State Fullerton in 2016, where he began his journey as a Titan playing for the men's soccer team. After facing burnout a few years into soccer, he explored other paths and discovered a new passion for kinesiology, phenomenology, and sports research. He went on to receive the Giles T. Brown Excellence Award, [Alumni Association's](#) 2024 Outstanding Graduate Student award, and 1st place in the 2024 Titan Grand Slam for his master's thesis.



**Ryutaro "Rio"  
Ichihara**  
Japan  
Master of Science  
in Kinesiology

## INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

CSUF hosted 47 incoming exchange students to promote cultural exchange and global engagement, giving students a unique American experience, potentially vastly different from their home education institution and respective culture. Exchange partners around the world hosted 52 CSUF exchange students on their campuses.

Exchange students represented the following countries from our 23 bilateral exchange partners: (infographics) Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Spain, Sweden, and the UK.

## VISITING SCHOLARS



**Yanan Feng**  
China  
Assistant Professor

Through CSUF's J-1 Scholar Program, scholars from around the world have the opportunity to visit the university as they conduct research, teach, or consult with CSUF faculty members.

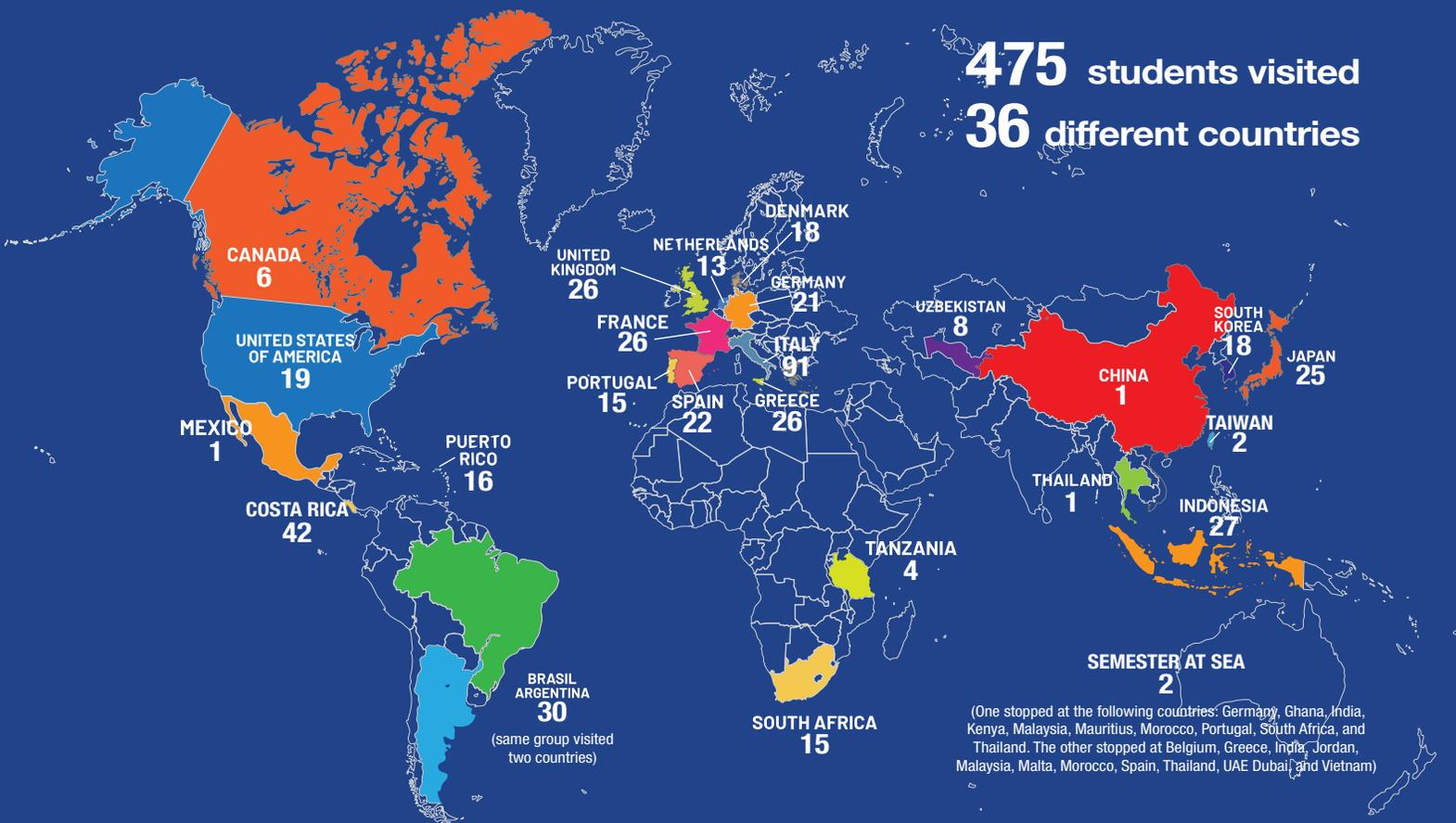
Dr. Yanan Feng is an assistant professor at [Guangzhou Sport University](#). She is currently at CSUF as a Visiting Scholar, conducting research on the [Olympics](#) games and Olympics movement. She is guided by her host faculty, Dr. Matthew Lewellyn, who was inspired to host visiting scholars after his own experience studying abroad.

Beyond Dr. Feng, CSUF hosted 14 total J-1 Visiting Scholars during the 2023-24 academic year.

Countries represented: South Korea, China, Turkey, Panama, Italy, Argentina, Spain

# STUDY ABROAD AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

**475** students visited  
**36** different countries



Why do CSUF students study abroad? Beyond traveling and exploring new places and cultural immersion that enriches lives by broadening perspectives, there are many academic, personal, and professional benefits.

- Academic Opportunities: Students have access to unique courses and learning experiences and activities that may not be available at their university.
- Personal Growth and Independence: Titans develop important adult life skills such as self-reliance, problem-solving, adaptability, and intercultural communication.
- Global Networking and Career Opportunities: Students build a network of contacts and enhance their resume with international experience.

Top destinations:

**Italy, Costa Rica, and the UK**

Top semester programs:

**Japan, South Korea, and France**

Study abroad students:

**475**

nearly 30% increase

Faculty-led programs:

**19**

58% increase

Countries visited:

**36**

As we celebrate these achievements, CSUF International Education and Engagement remains committed to fostering global awareness and cross-cultural understanding through our study abroad and faculty-led programs. The future looks bright as we continue to expand and enrich the experiences we offer to our students.

## Study Abroad Student Spotlights

Here are some highlights of students who studied abroad this past year.



**Lauren Heyden**

Junior

**Major:** Geography, Environmental Analysis Concentration

**Minor:** Geographic Information Systems Program: Tanzania Fellowship Program

“My name is Lauren, and I am currently finishing up my junior year in Geography at CSUF. I was lucky enough to be chosen to represent CSUF and Global Partners for Development (GPDF) as one of three fellows in Tanzania, Africa. The overall objective of this immersive trip was to meet with people in different villages and tribes, see different projects that have been funded by GPDF, and listen to the current challenges that each individual group of people are facing.

When I applied for the fellowship, I didn't think I had a chance in being chosen. This experience was fully funded, 3 units towards my degree, and you get to have the most authentic immersive learning experience. I have traveled quite a bit, and every trip changes you in a way, but this experience was powerful. When spending time with Alias (an elder in his village and an educated man) and varying groups in the Pastoralist Women's Council (PWC helps empower young girls, rescue them from arranged marriages, and help provide them with the opportunities of getting an education and more.), they welcomed us with open arms, danced with us, and provided gifts despite what little they had. I wish that everyone could experience what myself, Domonique and Ainsly got lucky enough to. This fellowship changed my perspective on life and frankly was kind of difficult to come back into our society filled with constant

stimulation and over consumption. I know that I put the work in when applying for this fellowship, but I feel so grateful to have gotten chosen and to be this different version of myself because of it. I hope that whoever gets chosen in the future gets as much out of this experience as I did and is as motivated as I am to create something that can benefit the people that welcomed us with open arms.”



**Rebecca Jauregui**  
Senior | Theatre Major

**Study Abroad Program:**  
CSUF Exchange United Kingdom:  
University of Wales Trinity St.  
David

**Location:** Wales, United Kingdom  
Scholarship: The Gilman-Global  
Wales Award

The Gilman-Global Wales Award is a prestigious scholarship program for high-achieving U.S. students wishing to study in Wales. The Global Wales program is a partnership consisting of Universities Wales, the Welsh Government, the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, and the British Council. The scholarship opportunity supports American undergraduate students of limited financial means for short-term, credit-bearing study at a Welsh university.

“My name is Rebecca Jauregui. I am a fourth-year theatre major at CSUF. I studied acting at the University of Wales Trinity St. David. I chose to study abroad after being in school for five years at various CCs and needing a chance of pace and environment.

My top priority when choosing a CSU was the possibility of studying abroad as a theatre student. Part of the reason I chose CSUF was for the Wales program! UWTSD provided me with an acting conservatory with independent study at a slower pace. The Welsh take time to live and appreciate the little things in life, which is exactly what I needed to learn. This life-changing experience was made possible by The Gilman Scholarship and FAFSA covering my CSUF tuition, and it being transferred abroad.”



**Hugo Muñoz**  
Kinesiology Major  
YMCA Youth Instructor

Hugo Muñoz participated in the Summer 2023 Kinesiology study abroad program in Greece, led by Professors of Kinesiology in the College of Health and Human Development, Dr. John Gleaves, Dr. Matthew Llewellyn, Dr. Toby Rider. “To be in such an enriching environment, it allows students to think like the ancient Greeks,” he shared. How does the human body move? Which characteristics do we still carry in modern times? This trip allows us to expand our minds beyond just reading from a textbook.

# Faculty-Led Study Abroad Programs

This year marked a significant milestone for our CSUF study abroad and faculty-led programs, highlighting growth and an expansion of our global footprint. This surge in participation displays the growing enthusiasm among students to explore and learn from diverse cultures around the world.

## STUDY ABROAD FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Professor Alison Marzocchi was awarded the 2023-2024 Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award, which allowed her to study abroad in Brazil. During her study, she partnered with the mathematics department at the University of São Paulo to address inequitable outcomes in degree completion.



**Alison Marzocchi**  
Associate Professor,  
CSUF Department of Mathematics  
Fulbright Awardee

## FACULTY-LED STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS



Public Health 350, Italy, Summer 2023

Associate Professors of Public Health, Dr. Laura Chandler and Dr. Lilia Espinoza, traveled to Southern Italy with 26 students in Public Health 350 - Nutrition. They traveled through Naples, Capri, Sorrento, Pompeii, the Amalfi Coast, and Ischia and explored the influences of culture, environment and history on eating and wellness practices, gaining first-hand experience with concepts they had learned about in the classroom and developing awareness and appreciation of different people, their traditions and way of life.

Dr. Kate Burlingham, Associate Professor of History in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and 15 students traveled to Portugal in summer 2023. The study abroad program's two courses, Humanities and Social Sciences 350 - Life and Culture Abroad and History 331 - History of Science, used the city's abundant cultural resources to explore not only the history of Portugal and its influence on global history, but also to ask deeper questions about technology, imperialism, global trade, access to affordable housing, and the relationship of the G7 and NATO to the rest of the world.



Humanities and Social Sciences 530 and  
History 331, Portugal, Summer 2023

# Study Abroad Scholarships

12

Gilman Scholarships

## Study Abroad in Japan: Bridging Scholarships

2

Khoa Nguyen (CSUF Exchange Japan: Okayama University, AY 2023-2024)  
Joseph Ortiz (CSU IP Japan: Waseda University, AY 2024-2025)

4

## Fund for Education Abroad (FEA) Scholarship

Khoa Nguyen (CSUF Exchange Japan: Okayama University, AY 2023-2024)  
Madalyn Hernandez (CSUF Exchange South Korea: Korea University, Fall 2023)  
Edward Hernandez (CSUF Exchange Japan: Nanzan University, Fall 2024)  
Aaron Orellana (CSUF: MGMT 340 in France, Summer 2024)

## CSUIP Scholarship

1

Juliann Avila (CSU IP South Korea: Yonsei University, AY 2024-2025)

1

## Diverse International Women of Color Scholarship

Elise Gonzalez (CSUF: MGMT 340 in France, Summer 2023)

## Semester at Sea Scholarships

3

Kasie Rushing (Semester at Sea, Fall 2023)  
Houston Santillan (Semester at Sea, Spring 2024)  
Melina Ceja (Semester at Sea, Fall 2024)

# Study Abroad Events

To highlight the many study abroad and faculty-led programs CSUF offers to its students and faculty, International Education and Engagement offered 72 events this year including the Study Abroad Fair, info sessions, tabling at CSUF events, workshops, guest speaker events, scholarship info sessions, and more.

## FALL 2023 STUDY ABROAD FAIR

Total attendees

**315**

Student attendees

**215**

Student volunteers

**22**

Session attendees

**35**

Vendors

**14**

CSUF partners  
tabling / attendees

**9**

Faculty

**12**

EIP staff

**8**

## Study Abroad Volunteers

We love our volunteers! Our four International Education and Engagement volunteers, known as Global Titan Ambassadors, assist our staff with:



Hosting monthly  
Study Abroad  
Information  
Sessions



Setting up at the  
Fall Study Abroad  
Fair



Tabling at various  
CSUF events



Creating engaging  
social media  
content

# Why do they volunteer?



**Kathy Bui**

Senior | Business Administration,  
Entertainment and Hospitality  
Management Concentration

"I have been part of the SAGE program since being a buddy in Spring 2022, and being in this program has allowed me to be more open and build so many personal connections that I still keep in contact with. When I applied to go study abroad, I reached out to most of the GTAs at the time and they offered so much advice. I would love to return the favor to new students interested in applying."

"I hope to be a Global Titans Ambassador because international education is something I am quite passionate about and hope to build a career in. I believe studying abroad can positively and largely impact one's life and worldview. This is something I, luckily, have experienced several times after living in 3 different countries, spread across 3 continents (i.e., the USA, the Philippines, and Germany). These particular moments have easily been the best experiences of my life. They have allowed me to grow in many ways and become the person I am today. Given this, I want to share this experience with others-- encourage fellow students to be courageous to go and see what life is like beyond the US. Personally, I know quite a few students at CSUF who are interested in going abroad but do not know how to start that journey. If given the chance, I hope to be one of the people to help get them on track toward this goal."



**Bettina Marie Calaquian**

Junior | International Business,  
Concentration in Intercultural Management,  
Marketing Minor



**Beverly Gonzalez**

Junior  
Art, Graphic and Interactive Design  
Concentration

"I am eager to assist Global Titans in exploring study abroad and global engagement opportunities. I understand that some departments on campus may not heavily promote such programs. However, there are still numerous ways to support students in these pursuits, such as doing internships, post-grad, minor courses, major courses, or GE abroad/virtually. My goal is to help students spread their wings and pursue international experiences, whether in-person or virtual."

I also wish to continue helping to create content for the Social Media Page, boosting student engagement, and promoting the SAGE office. As well as helping to guide the new Global Titan Ambassadors in giving their info sessions, providing peer advising, and other training like creating the two mandatory Instagram posts."

"I am a Gilman Scholarship recipient, and for my Follow-on service project proposal, I mentioned that I would do a Titan takeover to share my experience while I was abroad and share my experience among CSUF students within the international department and program in CSUF. Also, it was my first time abroad, and I was immensely overwhelmed and nervous but also excited. I want to help students in the same dilemma or share similar situations and offer what I can regarding questions and overall experiences."



**Grecia Portugal**

Senior

Art, Studio

# OUR CSUF IEE FUTURE

In alignment with our commitment to impact, we will continue to focus on, measure and articulate the effects of our work in the coming year. More importantly, we are eager to share the stories of our learners, partners, and communities, as they are the true reflections of our impact.

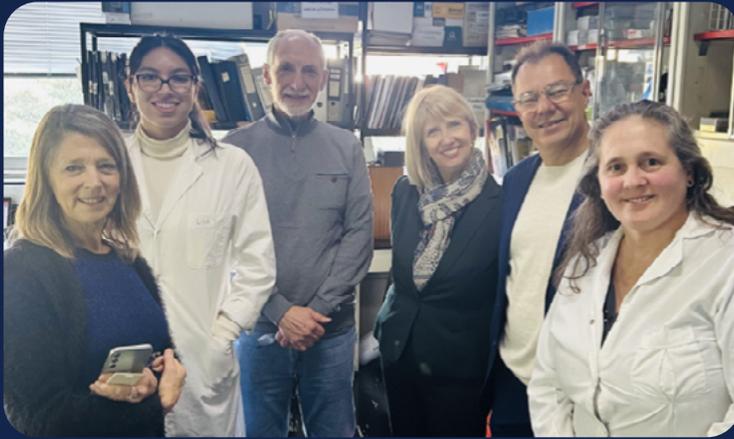
Embodying the CSUF spirit of social mobility, we will further broaden access to our degree programs and diverse collaborative engagements for international learners. Our reach will extend to new regions, enriching our international community with greater diversity. We plan to introduce new programs and cultural appreciation events, ensuring that the perspectives and stories of our international students are well-represented and preserved. Together, we are building the CSUF international community of learners, leaders, researchers, and educators.

We remain dedicated to supporting our international students throughout their academic journey, honoring them as Titans from their first day at CSUF until they join the ranks of our Global Titan alumni. We will engage with alumni worldwide to understand the impact they have had in their careers and communities. Their stories will serve as inspiration for future generations of Titans.

Our goal is to establish CSUF as a global brand through international partnerships, expanding the university's influence. We will celebrate our global partners and explore new collaborative opportunities that benefit both our Titans and the students at partner institutions. Moreover, we will seek to connect the local with the global, forging ties between Orange County and various cities, regions, and countries, recognizing that life, business, and community are inherently global.

We are committed to sending more Titans abroad through study programs and global engagement initiatives. Our aim is to increase the number of students participating in impactful international experiences while also diversifying the regions they explore. The skills and mindsets that they acquire during these experiences are a testament to our impact, and we will develop new methods to measure and highlight the stories, lessons, and cultural insights gained by our returning students.

In summary, we will bring CSUF to the world and the world to CSUF. We thrive in an interconnected world, and together, we are stronger.



(Left to right: Dr. Angeles Zorreguieta, Head of Molecular and Cellular Microbiology Laboratory, Fundación Instituto Leloir based in Buenos Aires, Argentina; Briea Gasca, CSUF Undergraduate Researcher and Research Intern, Fundación Instituto Leloir; Dr. Marcelo Tomalsky, CSUF Professor and Director, International Research Training Program for the LA Basin (MHIRT); Dr. Debra Leahy, CSUF Associate Vice President for International Programs; Dr. Amir Dabirian, CSUF Provost; Dr. Daniela Russo, Assistant Researcher Molecular and Cellular Microbiology, Fundación Instituto Leloir)

(From left to right: Christine Pircher-Barnes, CSUF Director of Strategic International Recruitment and Enrollment Management; Dr. Debra Leahy, Associate Vice President for International Programs; Dr. Shankar Raman, Executive Director of International Affairs at California State University, Office of the Chancellor; Dr. Stephen Schuster, Professor, Hochschule der Medien based in Stuttgart, German; Dr. Burkard Miche, HdM, Professor; Dr. Martina Schumacher, Head of International Office, HdM)



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