

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2025

CSUE

International Education
and Engagement
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



WELCOME

The Cal State Fullerton (CSUF) International Education and Engagement (IEE) team is proud to lead the university's efforts in fostering a vibrant and global community. Our mission is to empower students and faculty by facilitating transformative experiences abroad, welcoming international students to our Fullerton, California campus, and nurturing partnerships with esteemed colleagues and institutions worldwide. We are dedicated to cultivating leaders who drive innovation, systemic change, and collective well-being in both local and global communities. This vision informs our work and commitment to respecting and learning from each other's perspectives, building a community that promotes equity-minded practices and a sense of belonging.

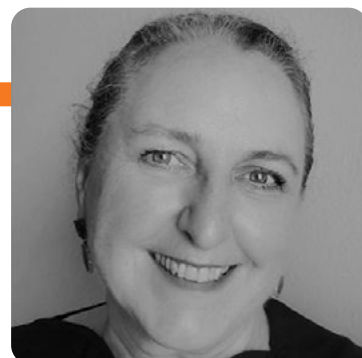
At Cal State Fullerton (CSUF), we are committed to remaining a premier destination for international learners and scholars, empowering them to thrive and become catalysts for positive change in their communities. Through high-impact study

abroad opportunities and robust international engagement initiatives, we prepare graduates for career readiness in a global marketplace, enabling them to create meaningful contributions within an interconnected society. Fosters access, belonging, and holistic well-being for international students and Global Titans, recognizing all of them as vital community members.

We champion cultural pluralism, appreciate all cultures and perspectives, and promote experiential learning that transcends borders at Cal State Fullerton. By expanding our global footprint through strategic partnerships, we enrich academic and social programs, facilitating student mobility and enhancing the overall educational experience. We are committed to learning and sharing perspectives, promoting belonging, and building connections that not only strengthen the campus community but also extend our reach and impact beyond our horizons.

Christine Pircher-Barnes

CSUF Senior International Officer



CSUF INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

International partnerships are a valuable asset that enrich the academic and cultural fabric of [Cal State Fullerton](#). For CSUF students, these partnerships open doors to diverse educational experiences, such as exchange programs and study abroad opportunities, allowing them to immerse themselves in different cultures and perspectives. It enhances their academic knowledge but also cultivates global awareness and adaptability, essential skills in today's interconnected world.

We value our partnerships and recognize how crucial they are in creating a vibrant and globally- minded campus and learning environment. They elevate our reputation, attract a diverse student body, and prepare all members of the university community to contribute meaningfully to the global society.

CSUF International Partnerships

CSUF values our partnerships. We hosted 8 visiting delegations this past academic year.



China

**Quzhou College of Technology and
Tianjin University of Commerce**



India

**MIT World Peace
University**



Korea

**Gachong University
and Korea University**



United Kingdom

**University of Wales
Trinity Saint David**



Germany

**Hochschule der
Medien**



Japan

**Kansai University of
International Studies**

We were honored to welcome the distinguished delegation from the University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD) to Cal State Fullerton. Their visit provided a wonderful opportunity to showcase the exceptional talent, creative excellence, and global perspective of CSUF's College of the Arts, particularly during the tour of our Department of

Theatre & Dance. As we celebrate the remarkable 25-year partnership between our institutions, we look forward to building on this legacy and fostering even deeper connections through innovative initiatives in global engagement. A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who contributed to making this visit so meaningful and impactful!



Dr. Kocherlakota and Dr. Mainkar from MIT World Peace University in Pune visited with the office of International Education and Engagement as well as Dr. Sri Sundaram, Dean of the [College of Business and Economics](#) and Aimee Nelson,

Executive Director of [Graduate Studies](#) to discuss future collaborations guided by the principles of holistic development, peace-based education, and international collaboration.

CSUF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

CSUF Global Titan Volunteers and Interns

The CSUF International Education and Engagement team relies on the invaluable contributions of dedicated student volunteers and interns, who have a passion for building community through helping fellow global Titans.



Global Titan Buddy Program:

Students who have completed at least one full semester at CSUF can join this program, whose volunteers help visiting international students adapt to CSUF campus life and American culture. It's a wonderful way to make an international friend, through cultural (and sometimes language) exchange.



Global Titan Leaders:

These students are committed to assisting international students with their continual cultural adjustment and exploration of CSUF's many opportunities and communities, through their support with IEE orientations, events, activities, and social media content creation.



Global Titan Ambassadors:

Study abroad alumni join this leadership development program for the opportunity to share their enthusiasm, experience, and expertise with the CSUF community by serving as peer mentors for fellow students interested in embarking on their own study abroad adventure.



GLOBAL TITAN BUDDIES

Two volunteers created friendships that spanned across countries. [Meet Tyler Leib and Bryan Morales](#), two of our volunteers, who developed global perspectives and interpersonal skills while fostering connections that enriched both their personal and professional lives.

GLOBAL TITAN LEADER

[Discover why a student-athlete embraced her family's legacy of global engagement](#) by participating in two study abroad programs in Italy and South Korea despite her demanding schedule. Inspired by her family's love for travel and her father's international business background, Paloma Villaneda actively promotes study abroad opportunities to fellow Titans and supports international students at CSUF as a student volunteer.



CSUF Global Titan Ambassadors (GTAs)

[Study Abroad](#) volunteers are essential to the success of the many programs and events the small, yet mighty team offers. They assist the staff with:



**Hosting
weekly info
sessions**



**Social media
content creation
and ideas**



Peer advising



**Lead Global Titan
Ambassadors support
project coordination**



Programming support

(IEW, Study Abroad Fair, Experience
CSUF, Orientation Resource Fairs, etc.)

The reason why study abroad volunteers are so important is because they share their lived experiences with prospective study abroad students. They provide general CSUF study abroad program information to inspire other Titans in seizing their chance at becoming global Titans. The volunteers provide authentic peer

insights into study abroad participation and help other students become more confident in pursuing their study abroad goals. In addition, they provide much needed staffing support for campus events and outreach and creative content for social media.

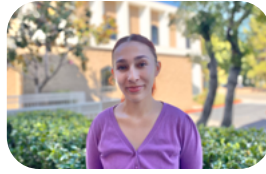
WE CELEBRATE OUR DEDICATED STUDY ABROAD GLOBAL TITAN AMBASSADORS.



Alexa Alvarez,
Junior, Business
Administration



Chan, Ellie, Senior,
Marketing



Samantha Dreyer,
Senior, Psychology



Beverly Gonzalez,
Senior, Graphic and
Interactive Design



Hugo Munoz,
Graduate Student,
M.S. Kinesiology



Camila Torres-Padilla,
Senior, Entertainment
Animation



**Bettina Marie
Calaquian, Senior,**
International
Business



Khoa Nguyen, Senior,
Japanese



Paloma Villaneda,
Junior, Business
Administration

GLOBAL TITAN INTERNS

Angelica Flores, Cynthia Beltran, and Bellar Naber supported international students through the creation of a welcoming environment and fostering cross-cultural understanding. These M.S. in Higher Education interns gained valuable insights into diverse cultures and solidified their career goals. [Read what they want to do upon graduation from the program.](#)



Here is what our Global Titan Volunteers have to say:

I chose to volunteer for IEE as I believe it would be a great opportunity to meet, engage, and learn from both CSUF and international students. I've been fortunate to travel myself, and those experiences have taught me so many things to be appreciative of. From gaining new perspectives, learning different languages, and forming life-long friendships. I want to share my experiences and encourage other students to pursue their education. Study abroad programs are a great way to do that. At the same time, I'd love to support international students as they adapt to life in the United States. California is a large and diverse state, it offers a wide variety of food, social activities, sightseeing spots, and beautiful nature. Adjusting to a new environment can be a challenge and, at times, lonely. I've gone through this and would like to be there. Overall, I want to be someone CSUF students and international students can rely on. This can range from talking about their goals, helping them adjust, or having daily conversations about any given subject.

I enjoy working with the IEE team because it feels like being part of a family that truly cares. Everyone brings so much warmth and positivity, which makes every event meaningful. It has also inspired me to become more involved on campus. Right now, I'm serving as AICA's Event Chair, and I carry forward the same spirit of inclusivity and community that I first experienced.

Thank you for letting me share this giving back to the community that helped me find my place here is something I'm very grateful for.

Audrey Ley

Sameer Nagar

Indrayani Bhosale

I volunteer for IEE activities because I know firsthand how challenging it can be to leave home and start a new life in another country. When I first came to CSUF, I was looking for a sense of belonging, and through IEE events. I found a welcoming space that made me feel supported and included.

Volunteering gives me the chance to offer that same support to new students who may be going through the same transition. I enjoy being there to answer questions, share experiences, and simply be a friendly face that helps them feel at home on our campus. For me, it's not just volunteering, it's about giving back to a community that has given me so much and making sure every student feels proud to call CSUF their home away from home.

CSUF International Students and Scholars

This past year, Cal State Fullerton served nearly 1,500 international students, who brought cultural richness to the learning environment on campus and the surrounding community.


79 Countries represented

1,500
International Students




CSUF International Event Participation

CSUF International Education and Engagement actively participates in campus life through hosting events and tabling at various events, such as orientation days and cultural fairs to promote global awareness and intercultural exchange among students, faculty, and staff. The office provides valuable resources and guidance on study abroad programs, international partnerships, and cross-cultural learning opportunities. These initiatives are

designed to foster a welcoming environment for international students and to encourage domestic students to broaden their horizons through global experiences. The office's presence at these events underscores its commitment to integrating international perspectives into the campus community, enhancing the university's mission of preparing students to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world.



More than 400 students attended:

over 45 social events that prioritized a sense of belonging for international students, from meet and greet or coffee and tea socials, collegiate sports events, cultural exploration through cooking demos,

to the end-of-semester celebration; 44 international student workshops supporting academic success, application success for Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and Optional Practical Training (OPT), ...and everything in between.

TOP TEN ACADEMIC PROGRAMS THAT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PURSUE.

Computer
Science

Business
Administration

Information
Systems

Computer
Engineering

Civil
Engineering

Mechanical
Engineering

Psychology

Kinesiology

Electrical
Engineering

Communications

International Education and Engagement is proud to have so many international students call Cal State Fullerton as their home for several years.

CSUF INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

The International Education and Engagement team is proud of all the Cal State Fullerton international students' accomplishments. It's not easy to pack your bags, leave your family and friends behind, and adjust to the American culture, university setting, and way of living. CSUF international students enhance the CSUF learning environment and community by bringing global and cultural awareness to the classroom and group engagement.



Learn how international student [Jiwon Park](#) won the state finals in the American String Teachers Association's competition and moved on to the national competition. She is collaborating with Bongshin Ko, professor of music, pursuing her artist diploma in music performance.

International computer science student from Vietnam, [Sally Dinh](#), enhanced her skills in artificial intelligence through a research internship at Stanford University's Computer Science LINXS Summer Research Program, which included industry tours and workshops. As a senior and member of CSUF's Women in Computer Science and Engineering program, Dinh encourages fellow students to seize similar opportunities and aims to pursue a career in AI-focused practical applications after completing her degree.



[Vui Nguyễn](#), originally from a humble farming background in Vietnam, overcame financial obstacles to pursue an MBA at Cal State Fullerton. Nguyễn set her sights on earning a Ph.D. and returning to Vietnam to nurture future generations and create job opportunities for disadvantaged communities, drawing on the values of hard work and perseverance she developed early in life.

[Keshav Daga and Kavil Jain](#), international graduate students, transformed their initial nervousness about studying abroad at Cal State Fullerton into a lasting legacy of leadership and inclusivity, by founding a new award-winning club and revitalizing an old one to support fellow international students. Their efforts in organizing pre-arrival sessions, hosting a student alumni mixer, and advocating for student needs have enriched the CSUF campus community.





Find out how [Abhay Suresh Patil](#), an international student from India, placed in a national business knowledge competition, leveraging his lifelong curiosity, deep understanding of global business news, and trusting his preparation. Patil co-founded a club and pursued machine learning research for healthcare, while encouraging fellow international students to embrace opportunities and build strong support networks during their CSUF experience.

[Mina Choi](#), an award-winning CSUF School of Music alum, released her debut album "Stories" featuring 12 CSUF alumni, jazz legends George Cables and Alex Acuña, and co-produced by Grammy Award-winning musician and faculty member Bill Cunliffe. Choi blends jazz and classical influences with her Korean heritage to create modern jazz compositions that reflect her personal journey. Recognized for her inventive arrangements and storytelling through music, Choi has performed at prestigious venues and teaches at Soka University and Concordia University.



CSUF has its first Schwarzman Scholar in [Galen Jiang](#), who earned a fully funded master's program in global affairs at Tsinghua University in Beijing, one of the world's top universities. Jiang aims to build stronger bridges between the U.S. and China, starting with civilian aviation, drawing on her professional industry experience coupled with her mechanical engineering and business background.

CSUF INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

CSUF hosted 56 incoming exchange students to promote cultural exchange and global engagement, providing students with a unique American learning and cultural experience for one or two semesters which may be quite different from their home education institution and respective culture.

Exchange students represented the following countries from our partners: Australia, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Japan, S. Korea, Mexico, Taiwan, United Kingdom.

With a lifelong goal of studying abroad and immersing herself in the vibrant cultural and academic environment at Cal State Fullerton, **Alba Turri** of Nice, France, explored Southern California's natural beauty and diverse gastronomy while enhancing her English and Spanish language skills. Fulfilling the goal was such an enriching experience, including participation in campus activities and overcoming homesickness, which have prepared her for further international adventures as she considers pursuing a master's degree in Paris. [See where her adventures took](#) her both in and out of California.





CSUF VISITING SCHOLARS

Through CSUF's visiting scholar program, global scholars have the opportunity to visit the university as they conduct research, teach, or consult with CSUF faculty members.

One of this past year's visiting professor was **Dong-Kwan Kim** (architectural engineering) from Cheongju University in South Korea. He conducted a collaborative research project aimed at [improving the design of earthquake-resistant buildings](#) with **Uksun Kim**, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at CSUF.

CSUF STUDY ABROAD AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

This past academic year, 677 students participated in study abroad programs across 28 countries, a 42% increase over last year. The programs include short-term, semester, and year-long study abroad experiences.



677
Students



28
Countries

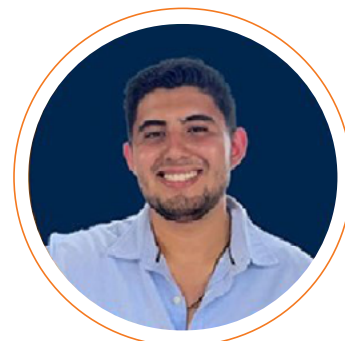


42%
Increase

CSUF Study Abroad Student Spotlights

Embarking on a transformative study abroad experience at Universidad Panamericana in Guadalajara, Mexico, **Arian Godinez**, an international business major at CSUF, reconnected with his family's cultural heritage while gaining a global perspective on international business practices. Through networking and cultural immersion, Godinez aims to inspire more male students to study abroad, emphasizing the personal and professional growth these experiences offer. Read where his plans take him after graduation.

<https://news.fullerton.edu/spotlight/business-student-embraces-heritage-expands-horizons-through-study-abroad-experience/>



Nicolas Hernandez, an international business major at CSUF, is studied at SKEMA Business School in France, thanks to the Deloitte Foundation Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities Scholarship, gaining invaluable insights into global economy and trade practices through coursework and consulting projects. Emphasizing cultural exchange, Hernandez encourages students to overcome financial barriers by applying for scholarships early, highlighting the transformative impact of study abroad experiences on personal growth and future careers.

<https://news.fullerton.edu/spotlight/international-business-major-takes-his-studies-to-france/>

Joseph Ortiz, a CSUF senior majoring in business administration with a minor in Japanese, is fulfilled his dream of studying abroad at Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan thanks to the Bridging Project Scholarship. Ortiz was focused on enhancing his Japanese language and comprehension skills, immersing himself in the culture, and exploring Japan's prefectures while improving his social and professional

<https://news.fullerton.edu/spotlight/business-student-explores-japan-through-bridging-project-scholarship/>





CSUF senior Lauren Heyden, a geography major with a concentration in environmental analysis, participated in the Tanzania Fellowship Program, where she engaged with grassroots community-driven development and explored issues like land grabbing, enriching her academic and professional perspectives. Inspired by her transformative study abroad experience, Heyden is considering further educational opportunities, while already contributing to community development and environmental consulting through internships.

<https://news.fullerton.edu/spotlight/geography-major-explores-environmental-challenges-through-tanzania-fellowship/>

CSUF communications student, Juli Avila, fulfilled her dream of studying abroad in South Korea at Yonsei University, supported by the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship and the CSU International Programs Scholarship, to explore Korean culture and art history while enhancing her career prospects in event planning or social media outreach for Korean art museums. Avila encourages fellow students to pursue study abroad opportunities with confidence, leveraging available resources and scholarships, while engaging with CSUF Study Abroad advisers to navigate the process successfully.

<https://news.fullerton.edu/spotlight/communications-student-studies-language-and-art-in-south-korea/>



CSUF Study Abroad Events

The Study Abroad team hosted events to spotlight the many study abroad and faculty-led programs CSUF offers to its students and faculty.



23

Info Sessions



10

Workshops



306

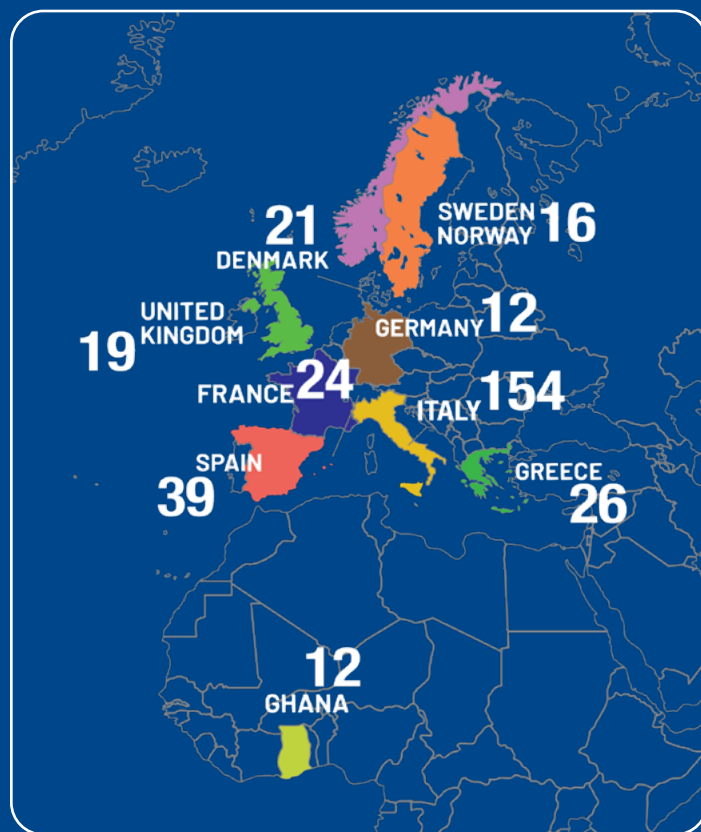
Attendees

CSUF Faculty-Led Study Abroad Programs

This academic year, students participated in 26 faculty-led study abroad programs, the overwhelming majority during Summer session. Winter session faculty-led programs increased by 2, which may not seem like much, but it represents a 100% increase in the number of Winter session faculty-led programs and a significant expansion of opportunities for CSUF students!

26 Study Abroad Programs

77% Occurring in Summer



CSUF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The team at Cal State Fullerton International Education and Engagement, together with the invaluable support from the campus community, offers their unwavering dedication to the success of international students' experiences at CSUF, Titans studying abroad, and global partnerships.

CSUF students studying abroad and international students studying at Cal State Fullerton have similar goals of:



PERSONAL GROWTH

Building self-confidence by living independently, away from family



PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS

Developing marketable skills and an international network, which translates into more employment opportunities at higher salaries



CULTURAL IMMERSION

Expanding intercultural understanding and appreciating diversity



ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITY

Learning through unique course options and educational styles while earning academic credit

CSUF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT THE FUTURE

As we close out the 2024-2025 academic year and look ahead, the CSUF International Education and Engagement team remains dedicated to enriching our university's cultural tapestry. In collaboration with our campus community and international partnerships, we will continue to foster an environment of global learning and understanding

that continues to make a profound impact both locally and around the world. We reaffirm our commitment to nurturing our global connections and advancing our mission to provide transformative international experiences at Cal State Fullerton. We look forward to another successful year of innovation, achievement, and engagement.



CSUF®

International Education
and Engagement
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS