

# Annual Report



## UNT International Affairs

# 2021-22

Enrollment.  
Accomplishments.  
Global Research.

# A letter from the Vice Provost & Dean

## Colleagues and Friends,

The 2021-22 academic year saw a full return to campus life and activities and International Affairs responded with a full array of services and programs. Collaboration is key to our successes, and we would like to thank the faculty, staff, students, and administrators who worked with us throughout the year.

Highlights from the 2021-22 year include:

- Record-breaking international student enrollment (5000)
- Launch of Community Respect Workshops
- 4 UNT Professors Completed Fulbright Scholar Programs
- \$142,000 Awarded through Grants and Scholarships
- 331 Students Studied Abroad in 19 Countries
- Selection of Dr. Ram Dantu as the recipient of the 2021 Citation for Distinguished Service to International Education

We look forward to working together with our many colleagues to strengthen international opportunities for the UNT community.

Sincerely,

Pia Wood, Ph.D.  
Dean & Vice Provost for International Affairs



# International Student Enrollment

University of North Texas welcomed its largest ever cohort of international students to campus in Fall of 2021, and then again in Spring 2022!

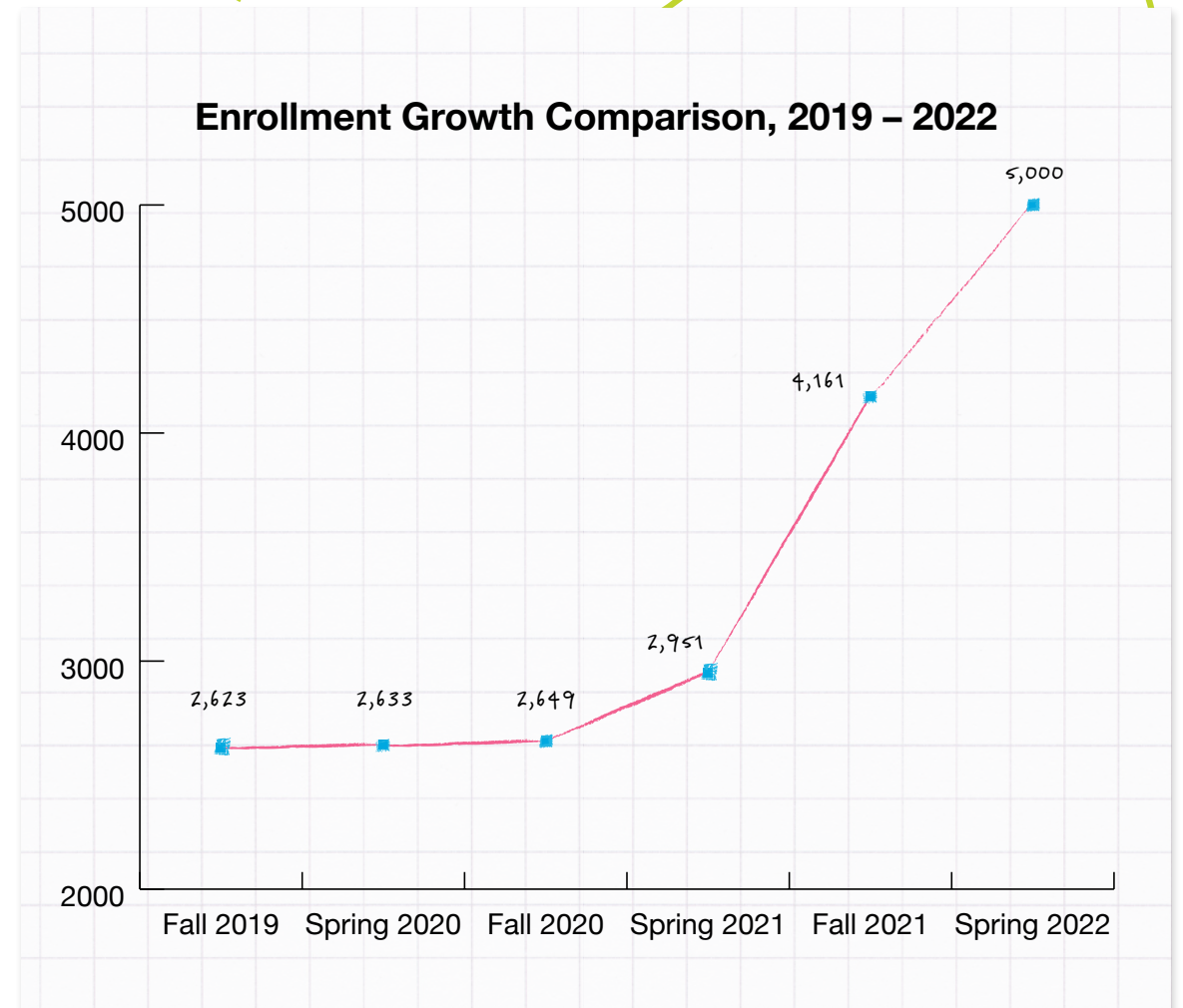
International student enrollment has almost doubled since pre-pandemic levels.

**1 IN 3** graduate students is an international student

**56%** of international students enroll in the College of Engineering

**64%** of UNT's international students are from India

Students come to UNT from **131 countries** around the world



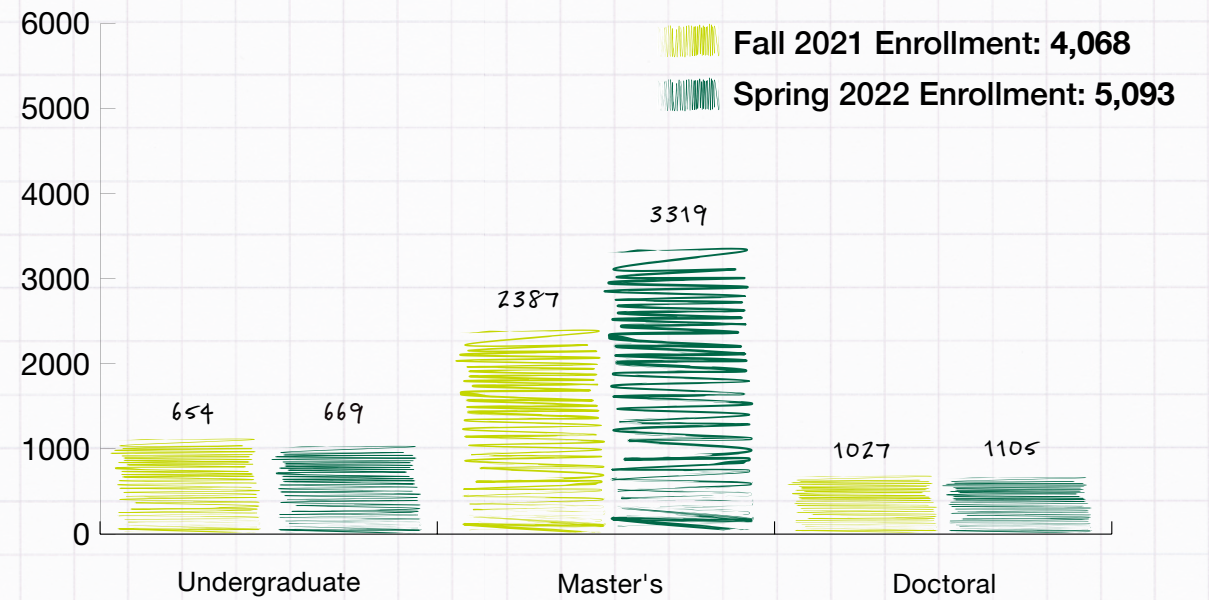
\*growth includes undergraduate and graduate students

## International Recruitment

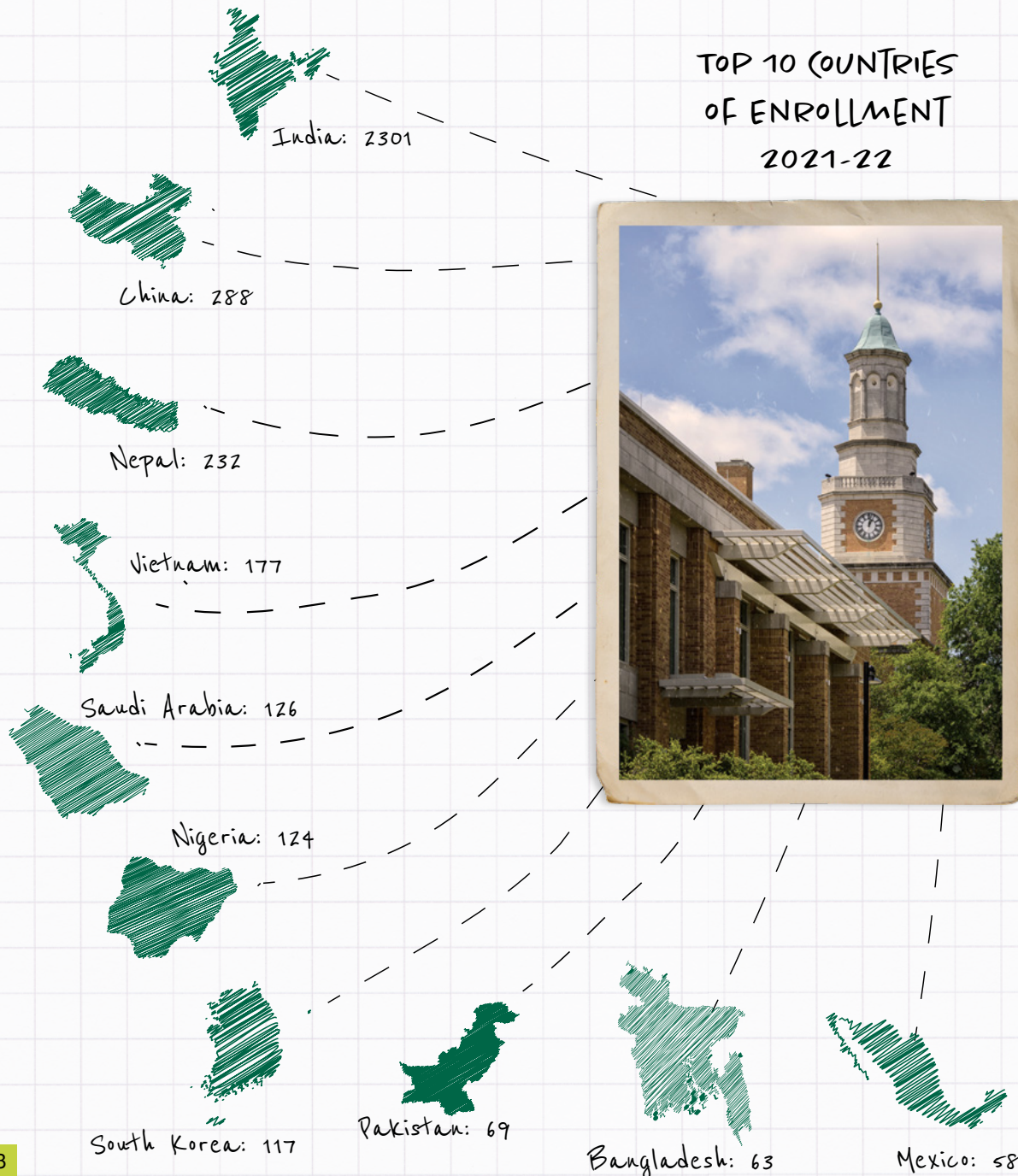
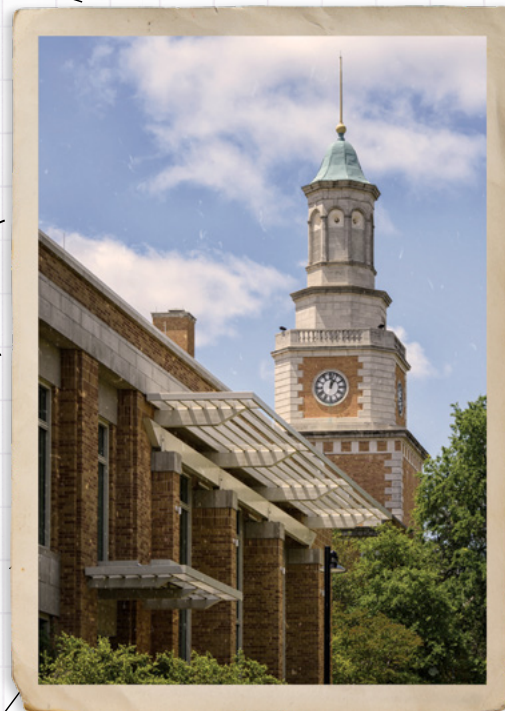


The office of **International Recruitment**, led by Director **Pieter Vermuelen**, collaborated with colleges and departments across campus to achieve record growth in enrollment for the third year in a row.

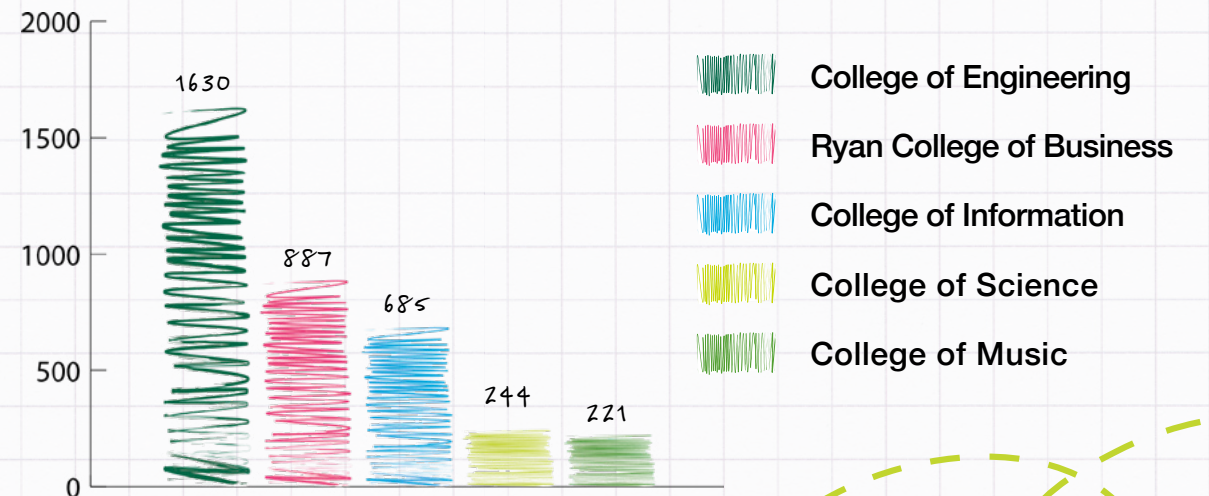
## International Student Enrollment, 2021-2022



### TOP 10 COUNTRIES OF ENROLLMENT 2021-22



## Top 5 Colleges for International Enrollment



**International Student & Scholar Services**, led by Director **Lauren Jacobsen-Bridges**, is responsible for providing immigration support to incoming and continuing international students, faculty and staff, and exchange visitors and scholars. The office also supports recent grads participating in Optional Practical Training (OPT).

**1,000+ students participated in OPT during 2021-22.**

## UNT Global Grants and Awards

UNT extends its reach around the world via graduate scholarship and faculty research. International Affairs' **Global Engagement Office** provides faculty and graduate students numerous grant and award opportunities with the goal of internationalizing campus. Some internationalization initiatives include international research and collaboration, curriculum internationalization, and experiences abroad.

10 graduate students were awarded **GREAT Grants** to travel abroad for research. Graduate Research Experiences Abroad Travel Grants supported travel to countries including Canada, the Czech Republic, Ghana, Iceland, India, Nepal, Spain, Sweden and Taiwan.

Faculty pursued campus internationalization and global engagement activities with grants from the **Charn Fund** and **Global Venture Fund** in countries including Brazil, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, Slovenia, Spain, and Thailand.

**UNT faculty, graduate students, and recent graduates received global grants and awards to engage in scholarship involving 24 countries around the world**

## Curriculum Internationalization

UNT faculty participated in short-term seminars to improve their understanding and knowledge of peoples and cultures of other countries for the purpose of internationalizing their courses and curriculum.

### Japan Studies Institute

**Dr. Newly Paul**, Assistant Professor in the Mayborn School of Journalism  
**Binod Shrestha**, Associate Professor of Studio Art, Director of the Foundations Program

### Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad in Norway

**Dr. Sarah Moore**, Assistant Professor of Social Work  
**Dr. Cindy Watson**, Senior Lecturer/Master in the Teach North Texas Program



## Community of Respect Workshops

In collaboration with the Office for Faculty Success, International Affairs initiated a series of Community of Respect workshops. Based on a nationally recognized program, the Community of Respect Workshops aim to provide a more welcoming and inclusive environment for UNT's international community of students, faculty, staff, and visiting scholars. **Directors Amanda Bennett, International Affairs Global Engagement Office and Amy Shenberger, International Affairs Study Abroad Office** spearheaded the workshops along with two faculty associates.

*Participants:*  
 30 Staff  
 + 22 Faculty  
 + 62 Students  
 124 TOTAL

### Community of Respect Faculty Associates

**Brian Lain, PhD**, Professor & Director of Debate, Department of Communication Studies, College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences

**Rachita Sharma, PhD**, Interim Chair, Clinical Assistant Professor & UNTWell Clinic Director, Department of Rehabilitation & Health Services, College of Health & Public Service.



## Partnerships, collaborations, & visiting delegations

### Global Partnerships

UNT partners with institutions around the world on research, teaching, and exchange. Partnership institutions include universities, industries and government organizations. Partnerships include study abroad exchange programs, collaborative academic programs, and other agreements/contracts with international objectives.

### Erasmus+ Program at Universitatea Politehnica Timisoara in Romania

**Julie Smith**, Doctoral Student in Learning Technologies, College of Information

*New partnerships include the Al Hussein Technical University in Jordan and Karachi Institute of Economics & Technology in Pakistan*

**139 Global partnerships in 27 countries around the world**



### 2021-22 Citation for Distinguished Service to International Education

Since 1985, International Affairs has recognized faculty for exemplary records of distinguished, meritorious, and longstanding service to international education and campus internationalization at UNT with the Citation for Distinguished Service to International Education. The 2021-22 Citation was awarded to Dr. Ram Dantu, Professor of Computer Science and Engineering and Director of the Center for Information and Cyber Security in UNT's College of Engineering.



# FULBRIGHT AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES AT UNT

### UNT Faculty Completed Fulbright Scholar Programs in South Africa, Egypt, India and Romania

- Dr. Daniel Alemneh, Supervisor of the Digital Curation Unit, UNT Libraries, **South Africa**
- Dave Meder, Assistant Professor of Jazz Piano, College of Music, **Egypt**
- Dr. Shobhana Chelliah, Associate Dean of Research & Development and Distinguished Research Professor, College of Information, **India**
- Dr. Julie Leventhal, Principal Lecturer, Honors College, **Romania**

### Inaugural Fulbright Weeks at UNT

International Affairs hosted its first UNT Faculty and Student Fulbright Weeks in Spring 2022.

The goal of these week-long events was to create a Fulbright culture and connect faculty and students to information and campus resources to support their fullbright applications.

**Faculty Fulbright Week** included a recognition ceremony for UNT faculty who received a Fulbright award, presentations, and opportunities to meet with UNT's Fulbright Scholar Liaisons.

**Student Fulbright Week** included a recognition lunch for UNT's students selected as 2022-23 semi-finalists, college and department presentations, info and advising sessions.

### UNT Students and Alumni Completed Fulbright Programs in Czech Republic, Germany, and Taiwan.

International Affairs is proud to report that 50% of UNT's student/alumni semi-finalists were selected to receive a Fulbright U.S. Student Program award for 2021-22. Three UNT alumni completed their programs during the 2021-22 academic year.

- Dr. Bree Nichols, Vocal Performance, College of Music, **Study/Research Award to Czech Republic**
- Jenna Reid, Interdisciplinary Studies, Colleges of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences and Education, **English Teaching Assistant Award to Germany**
- Kylee Whitworth, International Studies, College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences, **English Teaching Assistant Award to Taiwan**

## J-1 Exchange Visitors and Scholars

As pandemic travel restrictions eased, UNT faculty and departments once again opened their doors to researchers and scholars from around the world.

College and research center and institute hosts included:

- **G. Brint Ryan College of Business**
- **College of Education**
- **College of Engineering**
- **College of Health & Public Service**
- **College of Information**
- **College of Merchandising, Hospitality & Tourism**
- **College of Science**
- **BioDiscovery Institute**
- **Center for Agile & Adaptive Additive Manufacturing**



### International Scholar Reception

In November 2021, we celebrated International Education Week with a reception hosted by Dr. Jennifer Cowley, **Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs**. The event recognized the value and contributions that international exchange visitors and scholars bring to UNT's standing as a Tier 1 research university.



*UNT welcomed more than 70 J-1 Exchange Visitors and Scholars to campus in 2021-22.*

### Quick Facts about UNT Fulbright:

- **UNT's Fulbright Program is GROWING.**
- **In Fall 2022, 19 UNT students/alumni applied for 2022-23 awards.**
- **About 50% of UNT's semi-finalists receive a Fulbright Award.**

*Dr. Amanda Bennett  
Program Advisor and  
Scholar Liaison*



*Dr. Carol Anne  
Costabile-Heming  
Faculty Associate for  
Fulbright Programs*



# International Programs and Events

In Fall 2021, we were thrilled to welcome the return of in-person events to campus. Student attendance and participation did not disappoint! Students were so excited to once again participate in our annual **Thanksgiving Dinner**, a partner event with the Division of Student Affairs, to walk across campus in the semesterly **Parade of Nations**, and to take the stage at the **International Sash Ceremony** to celebrate graduating international students.



World Echoes Cultural Night

## International Student Support Programs

Orientation, International Student Support Circle, and Tax Workshops each saw record attendance as the international student population at UNT doubled in size since pre-pandemic levels. **More than 3,500 students participated in international student orientation alone!**

**2,030 students participated in 50+ campus internationalization programs and events**



Interested in keeping up with our programs? Follow us on social media!

 @UNTInternational

 @GlobalUNT

 UNT International Affairs

# International Affairs Scholarships and Grants

International Education Scholarship	10	\$10,000
Pakistan Student Scholarship	2	\$1,000
TPEG International	109	\$102,636
Special Circumstances Funding	14	\$27,364
Mexican Waiver	11	Tuition Waiver
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>\$141,000</b>

The **International Education Scholarship** is awarded to students that actively participate in and contribute to campus internationalization at UNT. Recipients of the International Education scholarship are interested in sharing their culture with the campus community and learning about other cultures from around the world.

The **Pakistan Student Scholarship** awards students with a demonstrated interest in Pakistan. Recipients are active members of the Pakistani Student Association and/or conducting research related to the country of Pakistan.

The **Texas Public Education Grant-International** is a need-based grant for eligible continuing international students at UNT.

**Special Circumstances Funding** supports continuing international students facing financial emergencies.

The **Mexican Waiver** provides eligible undergraduate and graduate students from Mexico with a non-resident tuition waiver that allows students to be charged the resident tuition rate.

The **Institute of International Education (IIE)** supported 5 UNT international students nominated by International Affairs with grants from its **Emergency Student Fund (ESF)**. 2021-22 ESF awardees are nationals of Afghanistan and Ukraine.

## International Affairs Pilots Global Tech Experience Program

The Global Tech Experience is a digital academic program in which students earn 6 transfer credit hours in one of three tracks: Global Digital Marketing, Global Introduction to Coding, or Global Data Analytics.

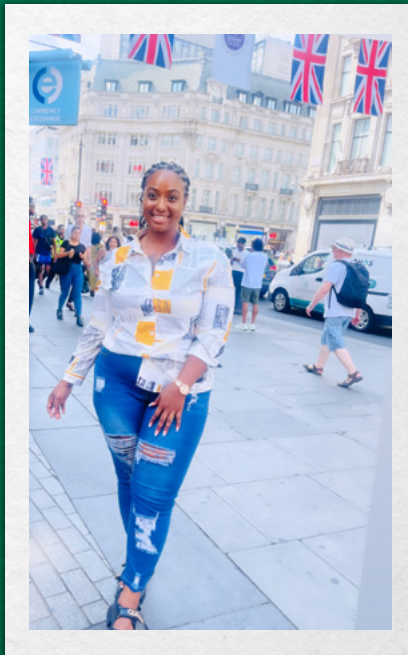
The program combines experiential learning with global components to provide students with intercultural and technical skills to excel in today's global workforce. **More than 180 students enrolled in the pilot program.**

## Study Abroad at UNT

- 248 Faculty Led Program Participants
- 7 Exchange Program Participants
- 76 Affiliate Program Participants
- 18 students held internships abroad
- 75% studied during the summer months

It's been interesting exploring and seeing the differences comparing Italy and back home. Experiencing everything in Italy in-person with my own eyes is very different than seeing it in pictures.

-Dylan M.



## Top 5 Study Abroad Destinations

1. United Kingdom
2. Italy
3. Ireland
4. Spain
5. France



**331 students studied in 19 countries around the world**

MY TIME STUDYING ABROAD HAS BEEN THE BEST EXPERIENCE OF MY LIFE. I HAVE NOT JUST GROWN ACADEMICALLY BUT ALSO SO MUCH AS A PERSON. I HAVE MADE SO MANY FRIENDSHIPS AND CONNECTIONS HERE ...WILL LAST A LIFETIME

-AMY M.



Study Abroad Study  
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## Study Abroad Scholarships

The UNT Study Abroad Office supports students participating in study abroad with generous scholarships. This year, **UNT study abroad participants were awarded \$538,750 in Study Abroad Office scholarships.**

The **Gilman Scholarship Program**, administered by the Institute for International Education, awarded 6 UNT Students scholarship of \$4000-\$5000 each. The Gilman Scholarship Program is nationally competitive and open only to students receiving a Federal Pell Grant.

UNT students also received **Affiliate Program Scholarships.**

- 233 UNT Students received \$474,250 in UNT International Education Fee Scholarships
- 131 UNT Students received \$64,500 in UNT Study Abroad Travel Grants
- 6 UNT Students received \$26,500 in Gilman Awards
- 12 UNT Students received \$16,650 in Affiliate Program Scholarships

**UNT students received more than \$581,000 in study abroad scholarships**

# Intensive English Language Institute

While the start of the academic year saw lower enrollment due to COVID-19, IELI at UNT provided English language learning in-person and virtually to more than 260 students from 37 countries around the world. The pandemic proved especially challenging in Japan, but the English language program at Kansai Gaidai University persevered. Nine English language instructors and one program director provided instruction to more than 200 English language learners onsite in Hirakata, Japan.

As part of a university initiative, IELI welcomed 5 student refugees from Afghanistan. Upon arrival to Denton, students were placed with local families, set up with bicycles, and enrolled in IELI coursework. In addition to covering tuition and associated expenses with IELI, the university has agreed to provide these students with four years of tuition and fees, room and board, and international student health insurance so that they may earn their undergraduate degrees at UNT.

**261 students from 37 countries enrolled in the Intensive English Language Institute during AY 2021-22**

## Ten professors from Chiang Mai Rajabat University in Thailand enrolled in an IELI teacher training program in March and April of 2022

In April, the visiting professors hosted a Thai Songkran Spring Festival event for the greater campus community. The professors were here for four weeks to participate in higher education professional development and english communication skills training.



15 out of 23 students enrolled in UNT degree programs upon completion of IELI level 6 coursework



# International Affairs Administration & Staff

2021-22

## Office of the Vice Provost & Dean

**Dr. Pia Wood** Vice Provost & Dean

**Tracie Frey** Executive Assistant to the Vice Provost & Dean

**Yulun (Jade) Lu** Academic Finance Officer

## Global Engagement Office

**Dr. Amanda Bennett** Director of Global Partnerships and Engagement

## International Programs & Communication Office

**Nicole Conant** Associate Director

**Yunju Langran** Sr. Student Success Coordinator

## International Student & Scholar Services Office

**Lauren Jacobsen-Bridges** Director

**Elizabeth Ford** Associate Director

**Terry Copeland** Cross Functional IT Support Analyst

**Timothy Schmidt** Assistant Director, International Student Services

**Judson Sexton** Assistant Director, International Programs

**Rekha Gopalakrishnan** Assistant Director, Scholar Services

**Stacey Benton** Senior Immigration Advisor

**Justin Permenter** Senior Immigration Advisor

**Kori Farley** Senior Immigration Advisor

**Adriana Santiago Rivera** ISSS Advisor

**Marcos Torres** ISSS Advisor

## International Recruitment Office

**Pieter Vermeulen** Director

**Joe Knight** Assistant Director

**Tiara Franklin** International College Recruiter

## Study Abroad Office

**Amy Shenberger** Director

**Kathryn Conrad** Assistant Director

**Kylie Dixon** Study Abroad Advisor

**Sesalee Harris** Study Abroad Advisor

**Natalie Nunez** Business Services Specialist

## Intensive English Language Institute

**Gordon Clark** Director & Assistant Dean

**Donna Obenda** Assistant Director

**Randall Bryan** Administrative Specialist

**Alex Harris** Program Director, KGU

### *English Language Instructors*

Carla Bamatraf, Karlene Bannister, Nada Cohadzic, Chris Davis,

Shannon Geary, Jill Harold, Nicholaz Lameza, Cleyera Martin, Laura

Martinez, Megan O'Connell, Laura Rios, Adam Stein, Michael Ziegenfuss