



2020

ANNUAL REPORT

Center for Global
Engagement

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



The COVID-19 pandemic greatly affected student mobility over the past 15 months, this is reflected in the enrollment of international students/scholars (page 6), and education abroad program participants (page 8). One of the positive outcomes of the pandemic on the field of international education is a renewed focus on accessibility of education abroad activities even when a student cannot travel. UNG faculty are engaged in virtual exchange activities across cultures and a few of those programs are highlighted on page 5 of this report. Another way for students to access cross-cultural, experiential learning is the newly implemented [UNG Study Away programs](#) that occur within the US. These new efforts will grow even as CGE continues to support future student participation in the myriad of in-person education abroad opportunities available at UNG.

As we draw closer to fall semester 2021, UNG is prepared to welcome a new cohort of international students to our campuses. As I write this report, the ability for students to get visa appointments in time for fall semester is still uncertain, but we are hopeful. These students from around the world help our US students learn new perspectives both in and outside of the classroom. One new program we are excited about is the Global Learning Community, a living/learning community where international students and US students interested in global issues will live together in the N. Georgia Suites and take a Contemporary Global Issues course together. This is a collaborative partnership between Residence Life, the Political Science and International Affairs department, and CGE.

We look forward to working closely with you in the coming year as we discover together the "new normal." Please feel free to reach out with your ideas, thoughts, and let us know how you are incorporating global learning into the UNG experience.

With deep appreciation,

Sheila Schulte
AVP International Programs
Center for Global Engagement



OUR MISSION

The Center for Global Engagement (CGE) facilitates international and cross-cultural experiences for students faculty, staff and the greater community in order to better integrate the University of North Georgia into the globalized world.

This mission is supported by the current [UNG Strategic Plan, Goal 1](#): The University of North Georgia will promote academic excellence and innovation by supporting academic rigor; trans-curricular learning; global engagement; and technological innovation.

ACE INTERNATIONALIZATION LAB

UNG completed its participation in the American Council on Education's Internationalization Lab this past year. Over 40 faculty and senior leaders came together around specific topics to evaluate the current internationalization efforts, gather and analyze data, and make recommendations for future efforts at UNG. There is a [final report](#) available on the CGE site outlining the roadmap for UNG's future internationalization efforts.

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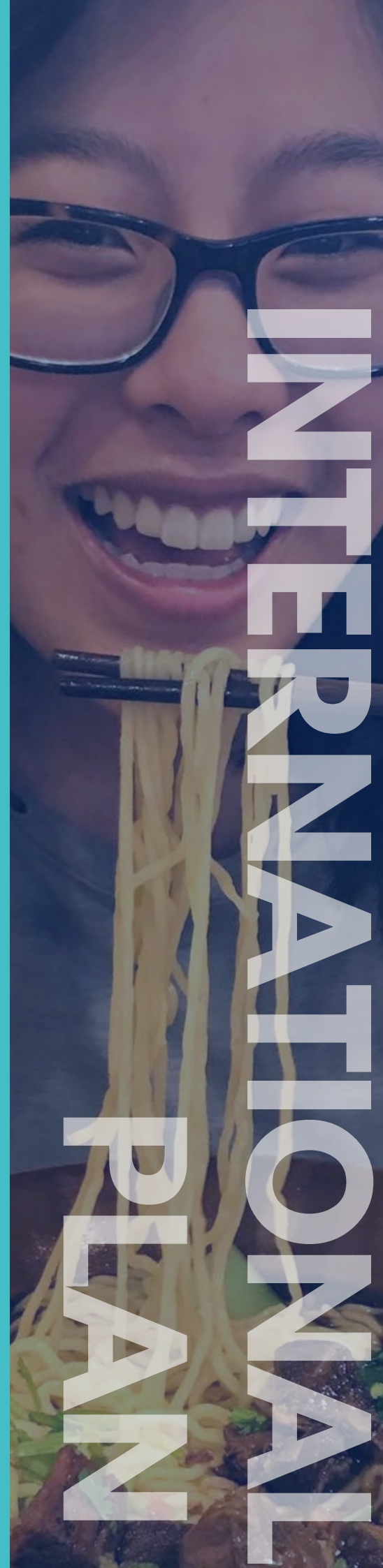


LOOKING FORWARD

Representatives from each College and the division of Leadership and Global Engagement met in spring, 2021, to review and prioritize the full list of recommendations from the ACE Internationalization Lab. Their work resulted in ranking the recommendations over the next three years. Below are the first year ranked recommendations that provides the foundation for CGE's 2021-22 operational goals.

YEAR 1

- Launch internationalization-related campaigns on social media on a regular basis toward better outreach to target audiences.
- Create a communications plan including social media that focuses on financial and academic accessibility of education abroad programs.
- Ensure that UNG internationalization efforts are apparent from the website.
- Develop an institutional definition of global competencies to guide curricular and co-curricular development and revisions.
- Provide information to academic departments on the benefits of global engagement, procedures for inviting visiting international faculty and scholars, and opportunities to participate in local cultural events.
- Use ACE Internationalization Lab final report as a marketing tool for both internal and external audiences.
- Review and assess the education abroad portfolio in concert with academic units.
- Increase the financial support for education abroad activities.
- Leverage the ACE Internationalization Lab final report to create a fundraising plan that builds upon current programs, goals, and successes to attract the interest of potential donors.
- Utilize the Market Expansion Task Force to explore and develop ideas for expanding the international student market in alignment with and toward implementation of the UNG 2020-2025 Strategic Enrollment Plan.
- Place all current policies related to global engagement and internationalization into the existing UNG Policy Database to facilitate access.
- Introduce UNG to Atlanta-based international consulates.
- Encourage international students to assume leadership roles within student organizations.
- CGE will provide a summary of progress towards the internationalization goals on a yearly basis.



NEW INITIATIVES

COLLABORATIVE ON-LINE INTERNATIONAL LEARNING (COIL)

CGE would like to highlight the innovative work of several faculty members and their virtual exchange activities.

- Faculty from the **College of Arts and Letters** have developed COIL projects with faculty from **Nanzan University** in Nagoya, Japan, for a number of years, and this past academic year activities were embedded into the following UNG courses:
 - JAPN 3001: Intermediate-Advanced Japanese I, **Dr. Tomoe Nishio**
 - JAPN 3002: Intermediate-Advanced Japanese II, **Dr. Tomoe Nishio**
 - JAPN 3990: Special Topics, **Dr. Tomoe Nishio**
 - ANTH 3610: Ethnography of East Asia: Popular Culture, **Dr. Robin O'Day**
 - HIST 4800: Japanese Anime, **Dr. Candice Wilson**
 - POLS 4295: Special Topics – Japan, **Dr. Laurel Wei**

The activities in the courses above ranged from collaborative video projects, synchronous course attendance, journaling and reflection papers, group discussions focused on specific themes, and the design of a scholarly web page.

- COIL activities with **Minzu University of China (MUC)**, Beijing, China led by **Yizhe Huang** from **Modern and Classical Languages**, included MUC students tutoring for a variety of Chinese language courses and an intercultural communication project with MUC business students and students in UNG's Chinese in the Workplace course.
- **Dr. Lauren Johnson**, Assistant Dean in the **College of Education (COE)**, participated in the **Steven's Institute's Virtual Exchange Academy**, and then implemented ideas and strategies from the Academy to develop a virtual exchange between UNG COE students and students in the Faculty of Education at the **University of Johannesburg (UJ)**. The virtual exchange project included undergraduate students who are pre-service teachers from both institutions and the content related to the larger topic of social justice issues in K-12 schooling and teacher education. According to Dr. Johnson, "The students who participated were engaged and passionate about the importance of equitable access to quality education in our distinct sociocultural contexts."

This list is far from exhaustive, but provides a glimpse into a few of the virtual global learning activities occurring at UNG. CGE would be interested in hearing from faculty who are involved in similar projects so we can better understand the scope of this type of educational activity at UNG and make connections between faculty interested in COIL.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & SCHOLARS

145

DAHLONEGA,
GAINESVILLE,
CUMMING,
OCONEE

INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS

7

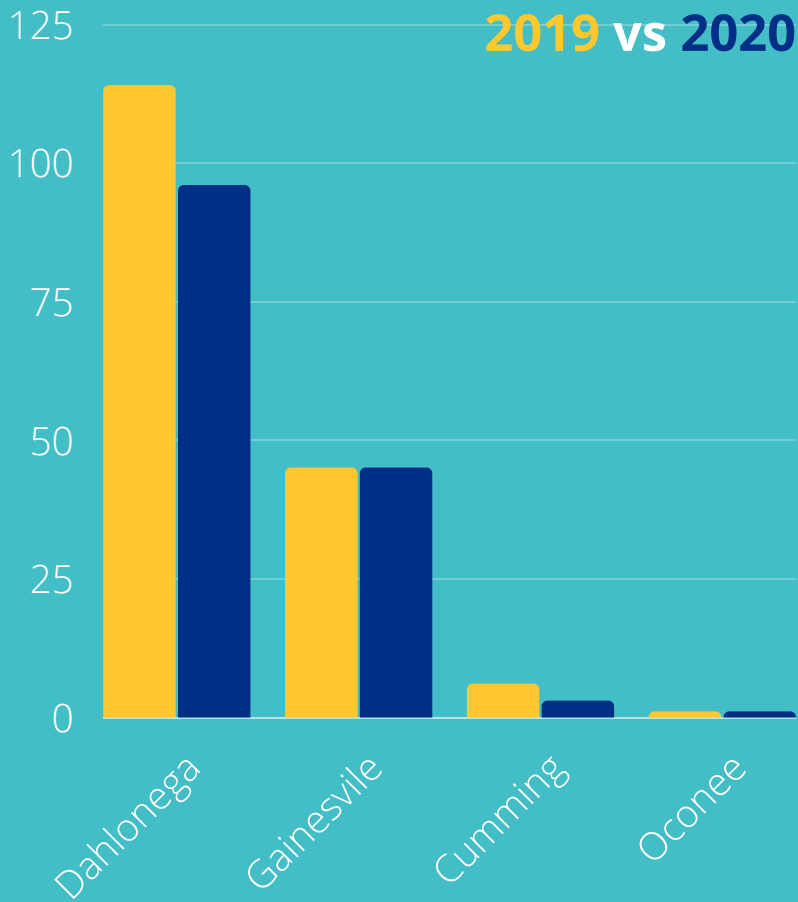
TEACHING,
RESEARCH,
H1-B

VISTING
SCHOLARS

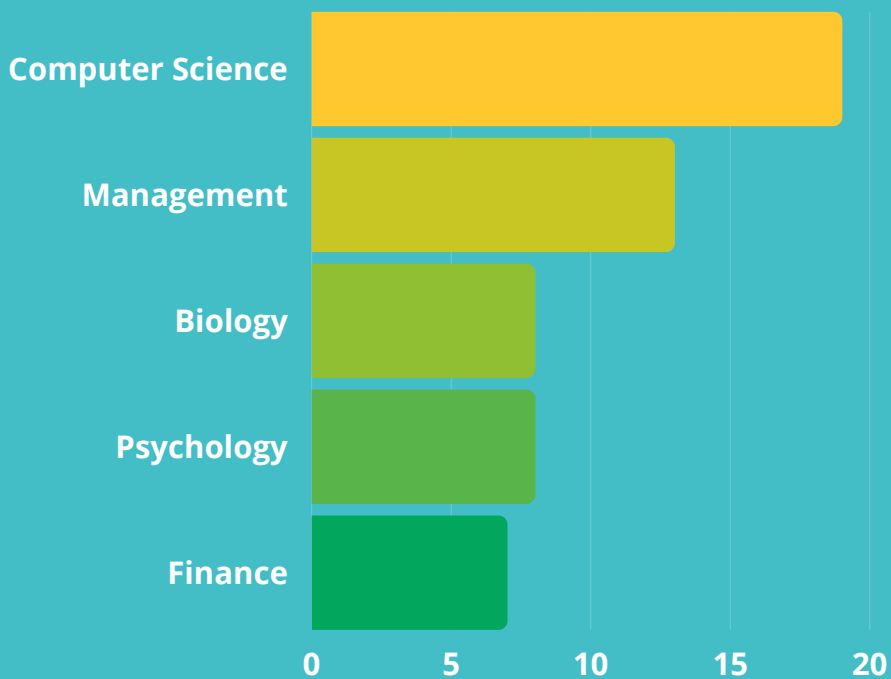
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COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY CAMPUS



TOP 5 MAJORS FOR 2020



EDUCATION ABROAD

24

MILITARY, STUDY,
INTERN,
VIRTUAL,
NON-CREDIT

**STUDENTS
ABROAD**

1,082

VIRTUAL EVENTS
CLASS VISITS
SOCIAL MEDIA

**STUDENTS
REACHED**

13

VIRTUAL &
IN-PERSON

**COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED**

FACULTY TRAINING

CGE launched the [Education Abroad](#) and [Study Away](#) Academies to support faculty throughout the development of faculty-led programs. Experienced study abroad faculty directors along with CGE staff shared their knowledge with Academy participants in a series of workshops.

Participants' site visits were postponed due to COVID-19 travel restrictions but are expected to be completed in the fall 2021. A new-combined Academy will be offered in Spring 2022.

ELEVATING STUDENT VOICES & DEI WORK

Education Abroad (EA) staff used a variety of virtual programs to amplify student voices and in particular, those from historically marginalized groups.

EA staff hosted a virtual series titled "Engaging Conversations" and [Instagram live interviews](#) highlighting their education abroad experiences and discussing topics important to students such as financing education abroad.

STUDY ABROAD MAJOR GUIDES

In collaboration with individual Academic Departments, CGE created major-specific study abroad guides. These guides are designed to provide students and advisors with a curated list of programs which offer major-specific courses abroad.

Guides are posted on the [Education Abroad website](#).

