

Janet Dudley-Eshbach Center
for International Education

ANNUAL REPORT

AY 2023-24

Salisbury
UNIVERSITY





On the cover: Angelica is a molecular biology major from the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, and was SU's first incoming exchange student from Puerto Rico through the National Student Exchange in fall 2023

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At Salisbury University, tomorrow is on the horizon. Following the interruption to student and faculty global mobility caused by the global pandemic, global learning is slowly but surely returning to SU. AY 2023-24 saw great new initiatives and strong steps forward to expand global learning to all SU students.

▶ **Global Learning Off Campus: Study Abroad and Study Away**

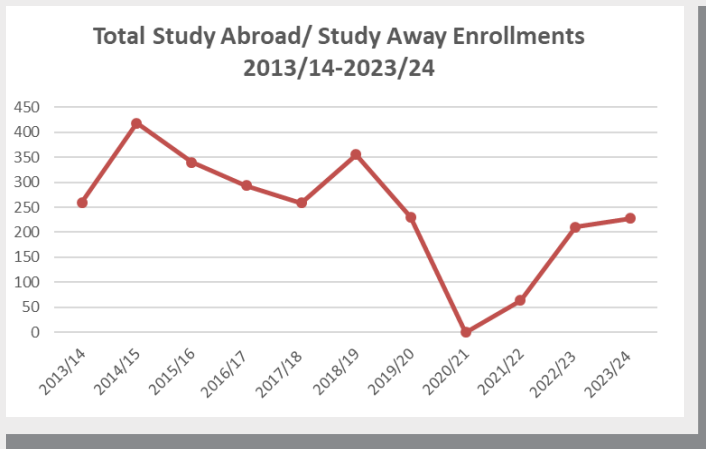
One of the best indicators of the recovery of study abroad during AY 23-24 is the percentage of students participating. The U.S. Department of Education calculates study abroad participation rates among four-year colleges and universities by dividing the number of students studying abroad each year by the size of the graduating senior class resulting in a percentage. This figure is shared nationwide in an annual report by the Department of Education called the Open Doors Report. Study abroad participation rates during AY 2023/24 were comparable to AY 2016/17 and in excess of 2013/14 and 2010/11. Participation rates in AY 2023/24 are not as high as AY 2018/19; 2017/18; 2015/16; 2014/15; 2012/13; 2011/12. While there is more room for growth, the recovery is clearly on its way.

The great standout in study abroad participation during AY 2023-24 was the Clarke Honors College (CHC). Participation rates in study abroad among CHC students exceeded 50% for the second year in a row. The CHC is positioned to attract an increasing number of high school students to SU from our region who are looking for this particular kind of high-impact practice by having participation rates that compete with popular private liberal arts colleges in the Mid-Atlantic

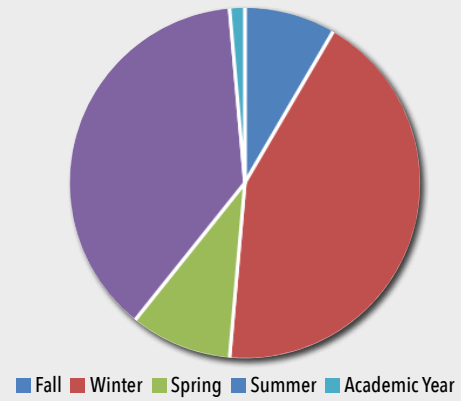
**10-Year Average Study Abroad
PARTICIPATION RATE 16.12%**

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**AY 2023-24 Study Abroad/ Study Away
PARTICIPATION RATE 15.53%**



Study Abroad and Study Away AY 23-24 Academic Term (N=214)



region with national reputations for study abroad. CHC students studied abroad or away during AY 2023-24 in Austria, Canada, Costa Rica, Estonia, France, Italy, Japan, Martinique, Scotland, and Washington, DC.

Summer 2024 was the third highest enrolled summer term for study abroad enrollments ever. Only summer 2015 and summer 2019 enrolled more students studying abroad or studying away than summer 2024. During those previous summers, total enrollments at SU were higher than during AY 2023-24. Enrollments in programs during summer 2024 nearly equaled enrollments in winter 2024. The indications from summer 2024 suggest that in the post-pandemic era, summer term study abroad may hold stronger enrollments than in the pre-pandemic era.



Nikki was one of a record-setting number of students from the Clarke Honors College to study abroad during AY 2023-24.

Global Learning on Campus: International Students

A critical strategy to provide access to global learning for all SU students is to maintain an active community of international students from around the world in residence on the main campus in Salisbury. SU hosts international students through the management of two separate federal government programs that allow SU to sponsor student visas to bring students from around the world to study in Salisbury.

Led by Dr. Susan Mahoney, who took over international admissions at SU in the post-pandemic era, staff in the JDE Center for International Education processed over 350 applications and admitted 135 international students to the undergraduate, exchange, and English Language Institute full-time academic programs for fall 2024. An additional 133 applications for SU graduate programs flowed through the Graduate School, which manages all graduate school applications, resulting in 23 admissions. Following a year of yield work, 28 new international students enrolled at SU in the fall 2024, making it the best new fall or spring term for international student enrollment in the post-pandemic era. The new students will join the existing community of international students thanks to SU's management of the two federal programs.

28

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new international students joined SU for fall 2024

USCIS F-1 Visa Program

The U.S. Customs and Immigration Service (USCIS) regulates the F-1 visa program. SU has been authorized to sponsor F-1 visas without interruption since 1977. American universities use the F-1 visa to sponsor degree-seeking students in undergraduate and graduate programs and for full-time university-based English language study. American universities also sponsor foreign students for one to three years post-graduation from a degree program in the Optional Practical

Training (OPT) program. Students on OPT are no longer registered as degree-seeking students, but they remain the responsibility of the American university for the purposes of the management of their non-immigrant student visa status.

Every two years, SU must file bi-annual reports to USCIS and pay a fee of several thousand dollars to the federal government to be re-authorized for this program. For the 23rd time, SU successfully applied and was re-approved by the USCIS to continue sponsoring the F-1 visa program for two more years during spring 2024.

Undergraduate and graduate students from around the world engage with American students in many ways throughout their time in their academic programs and bring valuable new perspectives from their cultures, traditions, and language groups.

In January 2024, Nnaemeka Eke-Okocha (“Phil”), a graduate student from Nigeria in the Conflict Analysis and Dispute Resolution (CADR) Program, represented SU at a summit on the topic of support for international students with the chancellor of the University System of Maryland (USM), Dr. Jay Perman, held at the USM Foundation conference center, Hidden Waters. Phil shared with the chancellor and other



Phil graduated with the M.A. in CADR in May 2024 and will begin a doctoral program in the U.S.A. in the fall 2024



Peter expects to graduate with the M.Ed. in education leadership in spring 2025 and is a graduate assistant in Technical and Support Services

international students from around the USM some of the orientation activities that SU runs for newly arrived international students in its Global Orientation (GO) Week.

Staff members from the JDE Center, led by Chandra Yesiltas, hold a pre-arrival orientation process for newly admitted international students with two virtual pre-arrival online orientation sessions and a vigorous communication plan months before the start of a new term. The week before all other new SU students arrive to start the new semester in August and January, JDE Center staff offer free pickups from BWI Airport for new international students. The new international students then have four days of orientation called GO Week. Following GO Week, JDE staff continue to support new international students throughout the semester, including free excursions to Washington, DC, and Ocean City, and on-campus activities including a Halloween party in the fall and an ice cream social in the spring.

Peter Jabal, a graduate student from Ghana in the Educational Leadership Program, wrote a thoughtful research paper for his graduate seminar in Educational Policy with Dr. Diana Wagner during spring term 2024. The paper, titled “How Do University

Housing Policies for Graduate Students Impact International Students,” included a specific recommendation for a new policy for international graduate student housing at SU. Housing for international students whether in the undergraduate, graduate, ELI, or exchange programs is a historic challenge at SU. As SU enrollments for traditional first year students expand in the post-pandemic era, accessibility to housing for international students has become tighter than ever. Peter’s study of best practices at other universities provided helpful new evidence and specific recommendations for SU.

USDOS BridgeUSA Program

A second major federal program that SU uses to bring students and professors from around the world is sponsored not by USCIS but by the U.S. Department of State (USDOS). The BridgeUSA program is designed to allow American universities to bring visiting students and professors to have cultural immersion experiences – an American study abroad – on American university campuses. The BridgeUSA program authorizes American universities to sponsor the J-1 visa in the Student and Professor categories. SU is designated to sponsor visitors in both categories. International students are only eligible to participate in the BridgeUSA program with SU if they are studying through an institution that has a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SU that supports such global exchange programs. SU academic and administrative units can propose to the JDE Center for International Education specific opportunities to sponsor global scholars as visiting researchers, artists, teachers, consultants, and scholars through the

BRIDGE USA PROGRAM
5th time

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the university received re-authorization to continue to operate the BridgeUSA program at SU for two more years



Hajin Cho used her residency in Salisbury to travel throughout the U.S.A. and to improve her understanding of American culture. She visited Washington, DC, with other international students and JDE Center staff in fall 2023

BRIDGE USA PROGRAM

School of Nursing

welcomed the first incoming exchange student
from UCC using the BridgeUSA program

BridgeUSA program. SU makes annual reports to the U.S. Department of State to describe how it used the BridgeUSA program during the past year to strengthen partnerships around the world, support bilateral mobility of students and professors in both directions, and build mutual understanding between SU and foreign institutions and communities.

In alternating years from the F-1 program with USCIS, SU must file an application, pay a fee of several thousand dollars, and provide reports of successful management of the BridgeUSA program in order to be re-authorized for an additional two years. SU was first authorized in 2010 to participate in the BridgeUSA program. During AY 2022-23, the university successfully applied for and received re-authorization for the fifth time to continue to operate the BridgeUSA program at SU for two more years.

Hajin Cho was the second visiting Korean instructor to come from SU's strategic partner in South Korea, Chonnam National University (CNU), during AY 2023-24. Hajin had completed her coursework in the doctoral program in Korean Education at CNU prior to her year-long teaching residency at SU. She taught Korean language 101 and 102 in the Department of Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies throughout the year. She also advised SU students interested in studying abroad through exchange at CNU and hosted small Korean cultural events each semester for SU students with funding from the JDE Center for International Education. SU used the BridgeUSA program to sponsor Hajin's visa. Her work throughout the year resulted in more SU students studying abroad in Korea during AY 2023-24 and more students preparing to study abroad in Korea during AY 2024-25.

During the global pandemic, SU finalized its first bilateral university partnership with an African university, the University of Cape Coast (UCC), Cape Coast, Ghana. During AY 2022-23, the School of Nursing hosted a Fulbright Scholar-In-Residence from UCC thanks to a grant



application written by the JDE Center for International Education. During AY 2023-24, the School of Nursing continued its leadership by welcoming the first incoming exchange student from UCC using the BridgeUSA program. Mary Ofori Mensah took classes in nursing and in other areas during her semester studying abroad on SU's main campus during fall 2023.

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Division of USCIS monitors the online Student Exchange Visitor System (SEVIS). All American universities designate staff to manage SEVIS on behalf of their universities and to keep careful records at all times of students and professors both in the F-1 and the BridgeUSA programs. The ability of any American university to host visiting international students and faculty in the F-1 or BridgeUSA programs is dependent on the university carefully managing the SEVIS system on a daily basis year-round. Agata Liszkowska has been SU's Primary Designated School Official (DSO) to the USCIS F-1 Visa Program for three decades and Responsible Officer (RO) for the USDOS BridgeUSA program since its arrival at SU in 2010.

Mary was the first student from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, to study abroad at SU during fall 2024. She plans to graduate with a nursing degree from UCC and begin her career in Ghana

Global Partnerships: Highlights

Rebuilding global learning in the post-pandemic era at SU is unlike building global learning the first time in the early 21st century, because today the university has a well-developed network of institutional partnerships around the world. SU's global partners provide the spinal cord for global learning at SU through a diversity of engagements from bilateral student exchange to bilateral faculty exchange to virtual global learning projects to one-way global mobility projects for incoming and/ or outgoing students, to collaborative research and creative activities.

Semester-long exchange can be the most affordable way for students to study abroad or study away, with costs always nearly the same as a semester in Salisbury and sometimes less. SU's partners are key to growing enrollment in semester-long study abroad and study away. From the re-organization of today's portfolio of global partners in 2012 through AY 2023-24, more than 200 SU students have studied abroad for full semesters on bilateral exchange. More than 130 students from our exchange partners have in return studied abroad on the main campus in Salisbury, bringing global perspectives to all corners of the main campus. Some of SU's most popular outgoing sites for semester-long study abroad on bilateral exchange during AY 2023-24 included the University of Málaga, Spain; the University of Stirling, Scotland; Chonnam National University, South Korea; Grenoble Ecole de Management, France; and Aoyama Gakuin University, Japan.

A growth in enrollment in short-term study abroad has been a trend in U.S. higher education for the past two decades. Nationwide averages of 80% of students studying abroad on experiences shorter than four weeks and 20% of students studying abroad for longer than

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

300+ students

.....
have studied as visiting exchange students for full semesters through SU's portfolio of global partnerships

four weeks have been consistent for over nearly two decades, with the exception of the global pandemic years. Prior to the pandemic, SU's study abroad enrollment mirrored those national trends. However, in the post-pandemic era, the goal of achieving greater access for as many students as possible to study abroad experiences makes increasing semester-long study abroad, particularly bilateral exchanges, a key priority in the restoration of study abroad at SU. SU's partnerships will be critical to this effort. Below are just a few representative highlights of AY 2023-24 from SU's worldwide network of institutional partners.

provided global learning to hundreds of students, faculty, staff, and visitors to campus.

The bilateral exchange of students continued to recover post-pandemic with UMA students studying at SU and SU students studying Spanish in Spain in both



▶ **University of Málaga, Spain**

The historic partnership between SU and the University of Málaga (UMA), Spain, flourished in 2023-24. The year began in August and September with an art exhibit by Prof. Blanca Montalvo from the University of Málaga on display at the Fulton School of Liberal Arts Art gallery. The show, titled *Las Reinas*, followed Prof. Montalvo's two-week summer residency on SU's main campus along with 60 undergraduate students from UMA who joined her in her residency. The exhibit

Professor Blanca Montalvo from the Department of Art at the University of Málaga shared her vision of women empowerment through her art with the SU campus



Brandon joined classmates at the thrilling playoff game of the Málaga professional soccer team during the summer 2024 SU In Spain program

the fall and spring terms. SU Junior Brandon Curry, a double major in Spanish and psychology, studied intensive Spanish at UMA during spring 2024. “Bingo” as he is known to his friends, spent three days helping SU professor Dr. David Phillips, meeting SU students at the airport for the SU In Spain Global Campus summer program and escorting students to their housing upon their arrival. Bingo’s linguistic and cultural competency helped the SU In Spain Global Campus in summer 2024 get off to a successful start for his classmates.

The SU In Spain Global Campus summer 2024 was another record-setting success of AY 2023-24. Now in its 24th year, the SU In Spain Global Campus summer 2024 edition featured the

most SU courses ever offered in Spain with the most students enrolled. Dr. Ryan Habermeyer, English; Dr. Nitya Sing, Management; and Dr. Eric Liebgold, Biological Science, taught courses in English in their respective disciplines.

At the end of only his second year on the SU faculty, Dr. Ricardo Vazquez, Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies, inherited the mantle of many SU Spanish professors before him who have taken SU students to study Spanish language, culture, and literature in Málaga during the summer over the past two decades.

Dr. Habermeyer taught at both the SU In Scotland Global Campus in January term at the University of Stirling and at the SU In Spain Global Campus in June. Dr. Habermeyer topped off his year of global learning by winning a Fulbright Fellowship to be in residence during AY 2024-25 in Poland.

In addition to enrolling more than 30 students, the SU In Spain Global Campus summer program was one of the most diverse study abroad programs for the second year in a row. This year, 38% of students studying at the SU In Global Campus during the summer self-identified as either African American or Latinx. The international business course taught by faculty from the Perdue School of Business during both summer 2023 and summer 2024 attracted strong diversity in its enrollment both years. Dr. Singh taught abroad for SU for the first time in 2024, applying a wealth of previous experience teaching, traveling, and living in Italy and Spain to his teaching experience in Spain.

UNIVERSITY OF MÁLAGA

38%

.....
percentage of students enrolled at the SU In Spain Global Campus that self identified as African American or Latinx

Dr. Vazquez's advanced Spanish language and culture course added an upper-level course in Spanish to the SU In Spain Global Campus that enrolled a majority of students who self-identified as Latinx.

Dr. Eric Liebgold (Biological Sciences) had taught an upper-level course on biodiversity in Costa Rica six times previously. Dr. Liebgold also provides key faculty leadership to SU's decade-long partnership with the School for Field Studies (SFS). Dr. Liebgold conducted a site visit to the SFS research site in Kenya during 2023-24, strengthening his ability to advise students on that world-renowned program. Dr. Liebgold brought his expertise in biodiversity to southern Spain to offer the first natural science course at SU In Spain during its 24-year history.



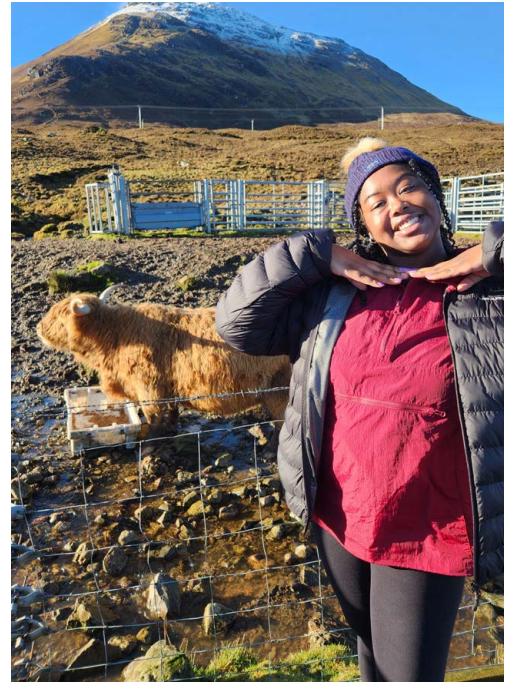
One of the many highlights of the SU In Spain summer program was the opportunity for SU students to hang out with UMA students who had studied abroad at SU during summer 2023



Dr. Aaron Johnson taught SU students in France for years, and he has been instrumental in building the new SU In Scotland Global Campus since the pandemic



Dr. David Phillips supported students with many of their needs outside the classroom while designing new assessments for measuring global learning in the co-curriculum



Cameron (Class of 2027) spent the spring of her sophomore year as an exchange student at the University of Stirling



University of Stirling students of nursing and paramedics visited Washington, DC, with staff from the JDE Center for International Education during their residence at the Henson Medical Simulation Center in SU's College of Health and Human Services



The large number of students studying at SU In Scotland global campus during winter term 2024 used the extensive ScotRail system to travel to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, and even to London

► **University of Stirling, Scotland**

Dr. Ryan Habermeyer (English), Dr. Aaron Johnson (Marketing), and Emeritus Professor of the Practice Julie Gittelman (Accounting and Legal Studies) all taught SU courses in their fields at the SU In Scotland Global Campus in January 2024. Dr. Johnson and Prof. Gittelman brought years of experience teaching SU students in France to their teaching in Scotland. Dr. Johnson had piloted the first SU In Global Campus in Scotland during summer 2023 and reprised his course for winter 2024.

Dr. David Phillips (Secondary and Physical Education) helped to invent a new faculty role of on-site faculty director at both the SU In Scotland and SU In Spain Global Campuses. Dr. Phillips' scholarly expertise in coaching and group activities in the Seidel School of Education was critical to the success of both SU In Spain and SU In Scotland. While he did not teach a course at either

site, his presence at both sites coordinating and supporting students and assessing co-curricular global learning opened an entire new possibility for global learning. Dr. Phillips curated images submitted by students of their experiential learning and prompted students through self-reflection videos posted through the free FLIP app on the students' global learning outcomes. Dr. Phillips designed prompts for the self-assessment FLIP videos based on global learning outcomes defined by the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) Global Learning Rubric.

While the January term hosted the largest enrollment of SU students at the University of Stirling during AY 2023-24, SU students continued to study year-round in Stirling through exchange in fall and spring terms and through the SU In Scotland Global Campus during summer 2024.

The SU In Scotland study abroad program inspired an exciting new initiative in spring 2025. The University of Stirling reciprocated the residency of the SU students in Scotland in January by sending a group of their students from the Nursing and Emergency Medical Technician programs for a week of residency in the Henson Medical Simulation Center in the College of Health and Human Services at SU. The visiting Scottish (and one Irish) students met lots of American students in the SU School of Nursing and chatted with a number of SU students who had spent time studying in Stirling.

The Campus Recreation Office worked with the JDE Center for International Education during AY 2023-24 to design a new SU In Scotland study abroad program to be held during summer term called the SU In Scotland Summer Sea Gull Sport Experience. The new study abroad program, which will debut in summer 2025, offers all students who are interested in exercise, sport, and wellness to train at the world-class athletic facilities at the University of Stirling while earning credits in a variety of courses towards many degree programs. The University of Stirling, the Scottish University of Sporting Excellence, serves as the home for the Scottish national teams in swimming, triathlon, and tennis. The new initiative will be the first credit-bearing study abroad program created to enhance SU's historic co-curricular culture of excellence in sport, health, and wellness.

American Institute for Foreign Studies, Worldwide

The American Institute for Foreign Studies (AIFS Abroad) is SU's oldest study abroad partner. Since the mid 1990s, hundreds of SU students have studied abroad and completed credit-bearing international internships with AIFS Abroad. AIFS adds valuable sites of instruction in locations where SU does not maintain its own bilateral exchange partnerships. A few of the most popular AIFS Abroad sites for SU students include Dublin and Galway, Ireland, London, England, and Rome and Florence, Italy.

AY 2023-24 was a record-setting year for AIFS Abroad at SU, with 33 students earning credits through study abroad or international internship through the SU/AIFS partnership. The previous record had been set back in 2014-15 when enrollments at SU were larger than they are today, making this year's new record even more impressive.

Dr. Sherry Maykrantz (Public Health) was an important part of this year's success, teaching a course for SU resident credit at the inaugural SU In Austria Global Campus hosted at the AIFS Academic Center in Salzburg, Austria, during winter term 2024. During the spring term 2024, Dr. Maykrantz

AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN STUDIES

33

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students earned credits through the SU/AIFS partnership



Dr. Maykrantz applied years of experience teaching abroad in Portugal to help launch the SU in Austria Global Campus

AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN STUDIES

100

.....
students earned academic credit through the AIFS Abroad partnership



Dr. Cox visited SU students at their internship sites in Florence, Rome, and London with SU’s oldest study abroad partner, American Institute for Foreign Studies (AIFS)

set up a guest lecture via Zoom back in Salisbury with an Austrian colleague who had lectured to her students in Austria. The students in her health course on campus not only were excited by the engagement with the Austrian health educator, they were motivated to learn more about how they could go to Austria to study abroad. Dr. Maykrantz is poised to provide leadership both for SU In Austria during winter term, as well as expansion to spring and summer terms.

Dr. Jennifer Cox (Communication) posted a second AIFS Abroad milestone with her work during AY 2023-24. During the summer 2024, SU sent its 100th student to earn academic credit in a full-time global internship through the AIFS Abroad partnership. The Global Internship program with AIFS Abroad began in 2012 with leadership from Dr. Darrell Mullins (Communication, retired). Dr. Cox has taken the lead in the post-pandemic era and has been instrumental in re-building the Global Internship program leading to the 100th student milestone this summer.

The Fulton Global Internship is another key opportunity through which SU can diversify study abroad and study away. During AY 2023-24, more than 50% of the

students enrolled in a Fulton Global Internship were Pell eligible, far exceeding the on-campus rate of Pell eligibility among the student body. Moreover, pre-pandemic data also indicated that the Fulton Global Internship program could outperform the general SU student body in enrolling under-represented minority students. Despite the high percentage of Pell Grant participants, underrepresented minority students have not returned to this program in the post-pandemic era but the opportunity is clearly there.

CHONNAM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

75%

.....
of outgoing exchange students to South Korea self-identified as Latinx or African American in AY 2023-24

► Chonnam National University, South Korea

Global engagement with SU's most active bilateral university partner in Asia, Chonnam National University (CNU), has helped to lead the recovery in global mobility during the post-pandemic era. Bilateral exchange is at the heart of the SU/CNU partnership. Student exchange was vigorous once again in 2023-24. CNU students studied on exchange in the undergraduate program at SU and improved their English language skills in SU's English Language Institute throughout the year. On the outbound side of the ledger, the partnership with CNU has been successful for many years in attracting a diverse student body to SU's outbound exchange student cohort. During AY 2023-24, 75% of SU's outgoing exchange students to CNU self-identified as Latinx or African American. In order to aggressively pursue goals of diversity and inclusion in global mobility, SU must continue to prioritize those programs that contribute most to the diversity goals.

Faculty exchange is also a central component to the SU/CNU partnership. SU used the BridgeUSA program with the U.S. Department of State to bring Hajin Cho, a doctoral student from the Ph.D. program in Korean education, to teach SU's curriculum in Korean language in the Department of Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies. Dr. Art Lembo, chair of



Dr. Lembo lectured at universities in Seoul as well as teaching classes at CNU and working with colleagues on GIS research with the funding from Fulbright.



Nia (Class of 2027) spent the spring of her sophomore year at Chonnam National University, South Korea



Sohee from CNU had never carved a pumpkin before the annual Halloween Party sponsored by the Janet Dudley-Eshbach Center for International Education

SU's Department of Geography and Geosciences, spent the fall 2024 as a visiting Fulbright Scholar at CNU. Lembo's textbook on GIS is used regularly in the geosciences program at CNU. Lembo's residency provided a global perspective to the CNU geosciences program and further strengthened the bilateral partnership.

Study Away

The post-pandemic era has opened up new opportunities for students to have immersive study away experiences within the U.S.A. The Fulton School of Liberal Art's long-term relationship with The Washington Center (TWC) continues to be a jewel in the crown of domestic study away. Dr. Joshua Bolton, Communication, has created a new study away opportunity by teaching a winter term course at TWC. Fulton students now have the opportunity to study with an SU professor during January in addition to the chance to spend fall or spring semesters or a summer term studying and interning in the nation's capital.

Masha spent her entire junior year at the University of St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands



SU's new partnership with the National Student Exchange (NSE) continued to grow in its second full year during AY 2023-24. SU students spent full semesters or full years studying away in Florida, Utah, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. SU welcomed its first incoming NSE exchange student to the main campus in Salisbury from San Juan, Puerto Rico.

SU students are already registered for AY 2024-25 to study away in California, New Jersey, and Florida, and new incoming NSE exchange students will join the SU community on exchange next year from

Indiana, Wisconsin, and California.

Dr. Ryan Sporer, Sociology, piloted a new summer study away faculty-led course in Taos, NM, hosted at the educational center at Earthship Biotecture. Students learned how to build and maintain a sustainable residential community living off-grid with natural and recycled materials in the high desert of the U.S. southwest.



Students in Dr. Sporer's sociology class at Earthship Biotecture in Taos, NM, learned about off-grid and sustainable construction and worked on sustainable building projects



Dr. Cooper met with the Ambassador of Japan, the Hon. Shigeo Yamada, at the Japanese Ambassador's Residence during spring 2024 in advance of signing the new MOU with JSAF

► **Growing Partnerships for Incoming International Students**

SU's network of bilateral international and national exchange partners are valuable for global learning at SU for the incoming exchange students they bring to the main campus in Salisbury as well as for the study abroad and study away opportunities they bring to SU students. Still, SU continues to pursue other new global partnerships to continue to grow the numbers of international students on the SU main campus.

The Center for Advanced Studies (CAS) has been one of SU's most productive partners for more than a decade bringing degree-seeking transfer students from around East and South

Asia. Based in Tokyo, the CAS International Studies Program (ISP) is licensed by the Japanese Ministry of Education and transcribed by Kanda Institute for Foreign Studies (KIFL) in Tokyo. In addition to Tokyo, the ISP curriculum is offered at sites of instruction in Yangon, Myanmar, and Colombo, Sri Lanka. SU has enrolled dozens of degree-seeking transfer students from the partnership. SU renewed the five-year CAS MOU for the third time in AY 2023-24 and in so doing picked up a new site of instruction for the ISP curriculum in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. An additional site in Guayaquil, Ecuador, is also under development.

During the pandemic, SU added a new bilateral exchange in Tokyo at Aoyama Gakuin University. The new partnership not only provides new semester-long study abroad opportunities for SU students, it also recognizes the growing market for non-degree-seeking study abroad for Japanese students to gain global perspective by studying abroad in the U.S.A.

SU made a critical decision to expand its efforts to welcome more Japanese students to campus with a new partnership with the Japan Study Abroad Foundation (JSAF) during AY 2023-24. Following the leadership

**GROWING
PARTNERSHIPS
FOR INCOMING
INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS**

3rd time

.....
five-year CAS MOU renewed



SU President Carolyn Ringer Lepre and NAAC President Joseph Isaac hope the first NAAC students will begin to transfer to SU in 2025

of Dr. Sean Cooper in the JDE Center for International Education, SU President Carolyn Ringer Lepre signed the MOU in early summer 2024 with the first non-degree-seeking visiting Japanese study abroad students from JSAF arriving in Salisbury for fall 2024. Dr. Cooper, who teaches Japanese language and culture in the SU Department of Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies, has been actively promoting Japanese study abroad in the post-pandemic era, while building support for Japanese students studying abroad in Salisbury.

SU President Lepre brought AY 2023-24 to a close with yet another historical first for SU's international portfolio. Recognizing the growth in the higher education marketplace in Nigeria, one of Africa's most thriving higher education spaces, SU signed its first 2+2 transfer degree memorandum of understanding with an African community college.

Nubian American Advanced College (NAAC) was founded during the global pandemic to meet the needs of the growing Nigerian middle class eager for an American higher education experience. The president of NAAC, Dr. Joseph Isaac, a graduate from Morgan State University, helped to design the American-style associate degree curriculum in Lagos. President Lepre signed the new agreement with President Isaac on SU's main campus in Salisbury during President Isaac's site visit to NAAC's new partner in Maryland, creating new opportunities for global learning for Nigerian students as well as SU students.

STUDY AWAY **first**

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**2+2 transfer degree memorandum of
understanding with an African community college**

Conclusions

As SU pushes forward to AY 2024-25 and further development of its mature international program, leadership from the University System of Maryland (USM) during AY 2023-24 is providing insight on the way forward for USM institutions. Dr. Allison Wrynn, USM vice chancellor for academic affairs, published an article in Maryland Matters during AY 2023-24 calling for the renewal of global learning on USM campuses in the post-pandemic era. Vice-Chancellor Wrynn recognizes that global learning is more than study abroad and involves multiple strategies that engage as many students as possible.

“Transformative global experiences must be opened to all students – including those for whom studying abroad was never an option,” wrote Wrynn. “Because now more than ever, globalization affects us all.”

SU is doing its share to bring such global learning to all SU students through a comprehensive strategy that brings students from around the world to study on the main campus in Salisbury, creates more accessible study abroad programs with an eye towards diversity and inclusion for more students, increases domestic study away programming to help students better engage with the vast diversity of American cultures, histories, economies, and geographies, and expands an already powerful portfolio of global partnerships providing global faculty exchange, virtual global collaborations, and more.





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