

A large group of people, including students and faculty, are gathered outdoors, holding up numerous national flags. The flags are waving in the air, and the people are smiling and looking towards the camera. The scene is festive and celebratory, with a clear blue sky in the background.



4
LOCAL TO GLOBAL

The Ripple Effect of Community Outreach

14
FULBRIGHT

Fulbright Day at Texas Tech University &
A Global Network of Trailblazers Exhibition

18
STUDY ABROAD DIARIES

The Power of Two:
Dual Faculty Efforts & Global Education

Texas Tech Center in Sevilla, Spain

Exploring the Melodies of Spain:
A Journey Through Music and Culture

27
**GLOBAL IMPACT
FACULTY & STUDENT
RESEARCH & ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP**

Embracing Global Research:
Insight From Collaborative Endeavors

Marine Research:
Diving into a Journey of Discovery

33
SIGNATURE PROGRAMS & EVENTS
Global Vision Awards

The Central American Research Symposium

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Dear Red Raiders, Colleagues, and Friends:

We just wrapped up the 2023-2024 school year with lots of exciting accomplishments and news to share. Enjoy reading about internationalization outreach and engagement efforts, international student life programming, study abroad faculty and students' experiences including the TTU Sevilla Center, faculty and students' global research impact, and other International Affairs programs and events (e.g., Fulbright Day, Global Vision Awards, The Central American Research Symposium) in this new issue.

As we venture into summer activities and continue our internationalization efforts, we would like to congratulate all graduating international students and wish them all the best in their new endeavors.

At International Affairs we are always excited to hear from you, so, let's stay connected.

We wish you all a joyful summer!

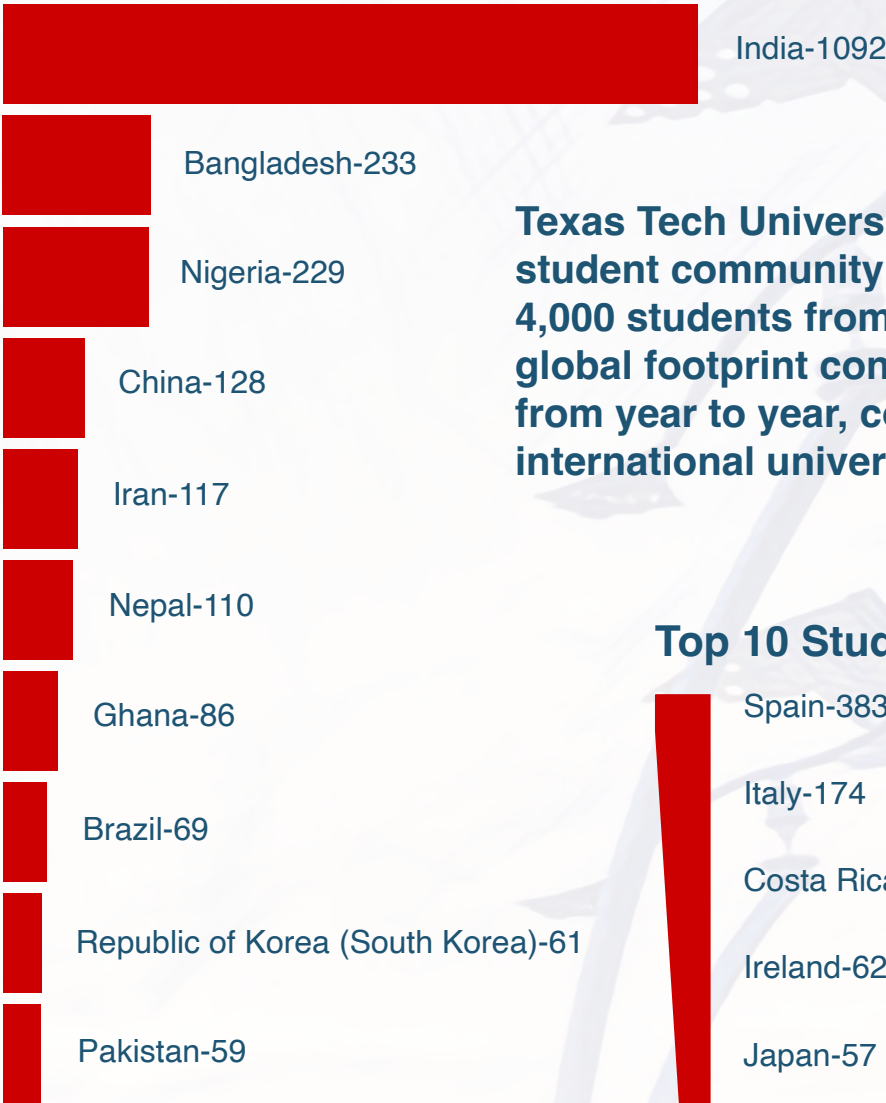
Dr. Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo
Vice Provost for International Affairs

FROM HERE, IT'S POSSIBLE.™



TOP 10

Countries for International Enrollment for FY2023



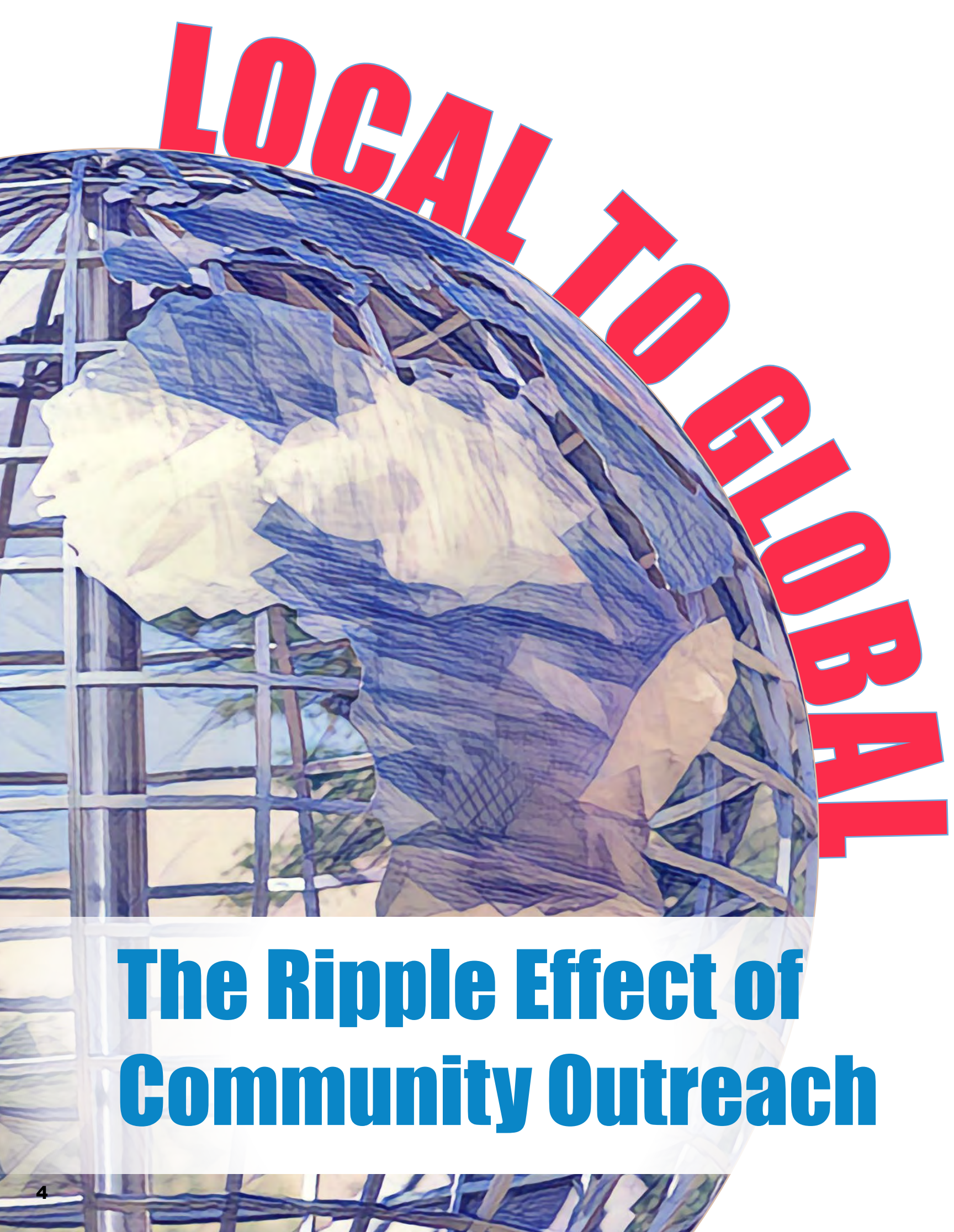
Texas Tech University's international student community is made up of nearly 4,000 students from 245 countries. Its global footprint continues to expand from year to year, contributing to its international university status.

Top 10 Study Abroad Destinations



Texas Tech University proudly supports a vibrant international community of 184 faculty and staff members on the H-1B visa, alongside 78 distinguished professors and research scholars on the J-1 visa.

Learn more about
International Affairs



The Ripple Effect of Community Outreach

At the heart of Texas Tech University's push for a globally-connected campus, International Affairs is a pivotal force. Committed to expanding the university's global influence, this office spearheads various initiatives that encompass academic, cultural, and community involvement. Its study abroad programs transport students to diverse academic and cultural environments, providing them with opportunities to immerse in new experiences that enhance their global awareness. The office's role in fostering international research and collaboration among faculty is equally significant, supported in part by grants that nurture innovative global projects. The office's commitment to community outreach is exemplified by two exceptional programs: The **K-12 Global Education Outreach** program and the **International Student Life** division.

The K-12 Global Education Outreach ignites a passion for global cultures among young learners, effectively planting the seeds for a future generation of global citizens. On the collegiate front, the International Student Life program provides robust support to international students, aiding their cultural and social integration while fostering an engaging academic experience at Texas Tech University.

Together, these programs enhance the university's commitment to internationalization and enrich the campus culture at large. By promoting a tapestry of perspectives, Texas Tech University cultivates a community that values and celebrates diversity, thus cementing its status as a leader in global education.

These efforts by International Affairs not only enhance cultural understanding and appreciation among students but also strengthen the entire community by promoting inclusivity and mutual respect.

— Charles Olivier
Assistant Director, K-12 Global Education Outreach

”

Photos courtesy of the K-12 Global Education Outreach and International Student Life.



The K-12 Global Education Outreach (GEO) program at Texas Tech University is making strides promoting global awareness and cultural diversity among young students in Lubbock and its surrounding areas. By offering a range of dynamic educational experiences, GEO helps K-12 students and educators step beyond local boundaries and embrace lessons in our interconnected world.

Specifically, GEO provides three innovative ways for teachers to incorporate international curriculum into their classrooms: onsite cultural experiences at the TTU International Cultural Center, our mobile programs that bring global education directly to schools, and a virtual option complete with selected materials and educational videos. These methods cater to varying educational needs and resources, ensuring that students have opportunities to learn about diverse cultures and perspectives.

Through professional development workshops and direct engagement activities, GEO enhances educators' abilities to integrate global competence into their teaching. The preparation is essential for fostering a generation of culturally aware and globally prepared individuals.

Community partnerships play a crucial role in amplifying the impact of GEO's initiatives. For example, the collaboration with the Lubbock Arts Festival and local schools like Ramirez Elementary during events such as the Festival of Nations Day enriches cultural programming, providing students with authentic and immersive experiences.



Charles Olivier
Assistant Director



Total Attendance by Location

6,853
International
Cultural Center

4,174
Virtual

17,310
On the Road

GLOBAL Education
Programs HERE, THERE,
and EVERYWHERE!

27,670

Attendance for All K-12
GEO Activities, Including
Internal Programs, and
Sponsored Events



“*The most rewarding aspect of leading this incredible program is witnessing firsthand the profound impact it has on students and our community. Every day, I see how our programs ignite a sense of wonder and curiosity about the world in K-12 students. It's truly inspiring to see how we're changing lives and broadening horizons. Through working closely with the community and students, I've come to understand that the motto -*

From here, it's possible ...

*Is more than just a slogan;
It's a reality for everyone involved.*

— Charles Olivier
Assistant Director, K-12 Global Education Outreach

K-12 GLOBAL EDUCATION OUTREACH

SERVED
65 AREA
CAMPUSES

Elementary

Abernathy
Akin
All Saints
Bayless
Bean
Chris Waters
Christ the King
Floydada
Hardwick
Harwell
LISD Reach
Lubbock Cooper East
Lubbock Cooper South
Lubbock Cooper North
Lubbock Cooper West
Lubbock Cooper Central
Maedgen
Meadow
Miller
New Deal
North Ridge
Oak Ridge
Parsons
Post
Ramirez
Rise
Roberts
Ropes
Roscoe
Shallowater Intermediate
Sharp Academy
Smith
Stewart
Upland Heights
Wheelock
Whiteside
Wilson
Wolfforth

Middle School

All Saints
Christ the King
Dunbar
Harmony
Hutch
Irons
Kingdom Prep
Laura Bush
Lubbock Christian
Lubbock Cooper
Rise
Sharp Academy
Terra Vista

High School

All Saints
Christ the King
Coronado
Dimmitt
Estacado
Lockney
Lubbock High
Lubbock Cooper
Monterey
Talkington
Sharp Academy
Slaton
Stanton

**Total LISD Population
Participants 10,713**

**7,781
Elementary**

**1,786
Middle School**

**886
High School**

**260
Teacher
Training**

93 PARTNERSHIP
PROGRAMS
PRESENTED

21 TOTAL
PARTNERSHIPS

Learn more
about K-12
Global Education
Outreach Program



At Bayless Elementary the K-12 Global Education Outreach (GEO) program from Texas Tech University has significantly enriched student understanding and appreciation of global cultures. As the school's librarian and media specialist, I've seen firsthand how GEO's dynamic workshops and activities ignite curiosity and foster a deep appreciation for the diverse traditions and perspectives that shape our world.

Through engaging in GEO's diverse programs, students at Bayless have explored a vast array of cultures, from Mexican celebrations during Hispanic Heritage Month to Japanese cultural events for Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month. These experiences are seamlessly integrated into our curriculum, making global education a fundamental part of our learning environment.

One of the most memorable moments came during a GEO virtual event amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Students paraded around the classroom with lanterns they had made, celebrating light with joy and engagement. It was a vivid demonstration of how hands-on culturally immersive activities can transform educational experiences.

In communities similar to ours, where 93% of students come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, opportunities for cultural exposure can be limited. However, GEO's accessible programming and the tangible creations our students take home make a lasting impact, broadening their horizons and fostering inclusivity.



Kimberly Troutman
Librarian / Media Specialist
Bayless Elementary

“Through its initiatives and outreach efforts, the K-12 Global Education Outreach program contributes to building a more culturally competent and inclusive community in Lubbock and surrounding areas. By raising awareness of cultural diversity, promoting respect for different perspectives, and challenging stereotypes and biases, the program helps create a more welcoming and inclusive environment for all residents.”

Photos courtesy of K-12 Global Education Outreach.



At Texas Tech University, the **International Student Life** unit has been making strides with innovative initiatives to enhance the experience of its diverse international student body.

This spring, the unit introduced two unique day trips that immersed students in authentic Texan culture. One excursion took students on a horseback ride through the picturesque Palo Duro Canyon, while another allowed them to experience the excitement of the ABC Pro Rodeo in Levelland. These adventures not only created unforgettable moments but also helped deepen the students' connection with local traditions.

The start of each semester at Texas Tech marks an important period of adjustment, particularly for new and transferred international students. To facilitate this transition, International Affairs launched the **Global Guides** program. The initiative pairs new students with experienced peers who share similar majors, countries of origin, or languages. This matching is done thoughtfully, considering shared backgrounds to foster relatability, though it is not strictly limited to these factors.



Worldwide Showcase 2023



International Students at Homecoming Parade

The Global Guides program at Texas Tech University has experienced significant growth, particularly with its strategic extension to include graduate students. In the spring of 2023, the initiative broadened its impact, welcoming over 600 additional students into its fold. Now, every incoming international student is assured of personalized support from a peer mentor throughout their crucial first year, significantly easing their transition and fostering deeper community ties.

For many international students, the Global Guides are their first friends and their first connection to life in the United States. The success of this program highlights the importance of empathy and shared experiences in creating a supportive educational environment. Through the dedication of its Global Guides, Texas Tech is making a profound difference in the lives of international students.

Learn more about
International Student Life

Global Guides serve as vital links not only to the university culture but also to the broader aspects of life in America. Each guide brings their own firsthand experiences of adapting to a new country and academic environment, positioning them as ideal supporters for new students. Their insights and personal journeys are invaluable, helping newcomers acclimate and integrate into their new settings with greater ease.

The selection process for prospective Global Guides is rigorously comprehensive, involving meticulous screenings and interviews to ascertain candidates' commitment and enthusiasm for assisting others. Only those who exhibit a profound dedication to campus life and a heartfelt desire to aid their peers are selected. This stringent vetting process ensures that all guides are not only knowledgeable but also passionately committed to enriching the experiences of new international students at Texas Tech.

The program not only enhances the academic and social experiences of international students but also strengthens the fabric of the university community, making Texas Tech a more welcoming and inclusive environment for students from around the globe.



Global Guides at Palo Duro Canyon

“

The support and funding from the Provost's Office have been crucial in expanding the Global Guide program. Thanks to their support, the program has increased the number of students participating as mentors, enabling us to support all first-year international students. Without this assistance, our team would still consist of only ten students, and we would struggle to offer the comprehensive support we currently provide to all incoming international students.

— Beth Mora
Assistant Director, International Student Life

At Texas Tech University, the **Global Guide** (GG) program is more than just a mentorship initiative—it’s a thriving community where international students find a sense of belonging and empowerment. This year, the program witnessed a 50% increase in applications, which is a testament to its profound impact on students. Many participants apply to become Global Guides themselves, inspired by the support they received.

The success of the program is largely driven by the enthusiasm of its participants. Guides often recruit their peers, having experienced firsthand the benefits and joy of being part of this supportive network. These student-leaders go above and beyond, whether it’s picking up new students at the airport, hosting them during closed-dorm periods of time, or connecting them with future roommates and friends. They also collaborate closely with Texas Tech international recruitment teams to promote the university in various cultural contexts.

All incoming international students are paired with a Global Guide, whose role extends the supportive arm of the International Student Life (ISL) team. Guides facilitate connections with other students and university resources. From conducting pre-arrival virtual sessions to running orientation programs and social hangouts, they are pivotal in supporting new student integration.

Photo courtesy of Kathleen Cade-Gerzon | Student Life Coordinator



Global Guides at Main Event



Beth Mora
Assistant Director
International Student Life

Despite incredibly enriching experiences, international students face challenges like cultural adjustment, securing on-campus employment, and navigating life in the U.S. without a vehicle. To address these issues, Global Guides host informational sessions, and the ISL team has developed valuable resources. Additionally, initiatives like the Reels and Wheels program help students learn local bus routes while integrating fun activities such as movie outings.

Texas Tech also encourages cultural exchange through several programs that allow students to share their heritage with the Lubbock community and celebrate diversity on campus. These include the Cultural Exchange and Cultural Ambassadors programs, as well as events like the TTU Homecoming Parade and International Week.

The Global Guide program supports international students academically and socially, and it encourages students to immerse themselves in a wide array of available resources. From attending sports events and outdoor pursuits to engaging in arts and theater, opportunities for personal growth and cultural integration are boundless.

The growth of our international student population presents exciting opportunities and challenges. Building relationships with these motivated, impactful students inspires the ISL staff daily, fueling their commitment to enhancing student experiences. Through creativity, dedication, and a focus on fostering connections, the Global Guide program at Texas Tech University continues to be a beacon of support and engagement for international students, helping them navigate and succeed in their journey here and beyond.

Adjusting to life at Texas Tech University can be a daunting experience, especially for those hailing from far-off places like India. Transitioning from familiar surroundings to the vast campus in Lubbock—with its distinctive Southern drawls and friendly “howdy’s”—presents its own set of challenges. However, the Red Raider family provides a warm welcome, and the university’s Global Guides program plays a vital role in easing this transition.

As a Global Guide, my responsibilities extend beyond mere campus tours. My role is about fostering a sense of belonging and helping international students feel at home. Reflecting on my own initial experiences of adapting to American financial systems and overcoming homesickness, I now assist others in navigating these early challenges. Whether it’s help in balancing straightforward yet amiable communication styles or adapting to academic expectations many international students are accustomed to, the hurdles are significant but not insurmountable.

Our efforts are particularly crucial at the semester’s start, ensuring that every new Red Raider feels settled and connected. Our tasks range from aiding students with job applications at the University Career Center to familiarizing them with the local bus system. Each small step we take is designed to build their confidence in their new environment.



Participating in the Global Guides program is more than a job; it’s a commitment to the personal growth and well-being of our international community. It’s about being there for one another, sharing in learning and laughter, and making Texas Tech not just a place of study, but a thriving community.



Atharva Lade
Global Guide
Computer Science and Mathematics



Photo courtesy of Atharva Lade.

The Global Guides program also places a strong emphasis on emotional support. For instance, when a student struggles with homesickness, we help navigate practical matters like shopping at Wal-Mart and understanding campus safety while encouraging participation in sports and social events to build deeper connections.

For those considering becoming a Global Guide, the role requires creativity, initiative, and a deep passion for helping others. And the rewards are substantial—encompassing personal, academic, and communal growth. If you’re ready to embark on this rewarding adventure, don’t hesitate. Texas Tech is eager to welcome you into an enriching and unforgettable journey.



Fulbright Day at Texas Tech

A Global Network of Trailblazers

Texas Tech University's International Affairs office was delighted to unveil the inaugural Fulbright Exhibit, "A Global Network of Trailblazers: Texas Tech University U.S. Fulbright Program Alumni."

Coinciding with Fulbright Day, this compelling exhibit honored the longstanding tradition of global exchange and deepened cultural understanding championed by the Fulbright Program. It showcased the achievements and experiences of 23 distinguished scholars and five exceptional students from Texas Tech, all alumni of the U.S. Fulbright Program.

The exhibit provided an immersive journey into the cross-cultural engagements and significant contributions of these Texas Tech Fulbright alumni. In celebration of Fulbright Day, the event provided attendees with the opportunity to participate in informational sessions about various aspects of the Fulbright experience, including the Fulbright Scholars, Fulbright Specialists, Fulbright International Education Administrators Program, and the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

Additionally, a panel discussion featuring Fulbright alumni from the university's faculty, staff, and student body provided valuable perspectives and insights, drawing from their personal experiences with the program. The event was a profound celebration of international scholarship and collaborative achievement.

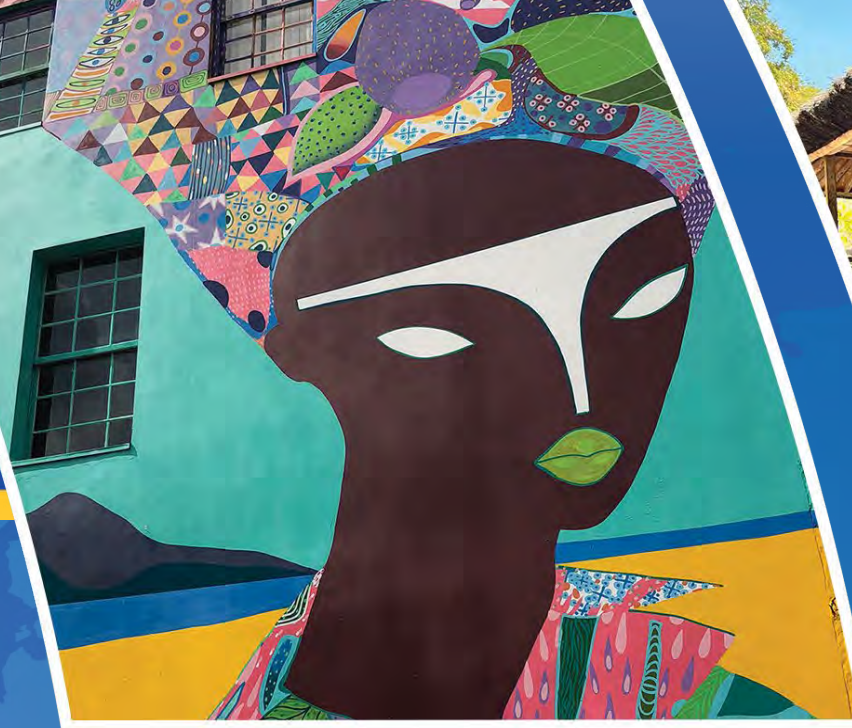


Photo courtesy of Dr. Ivette Noriega.



Photo courtesy of Professor Joseph Aranha.



"Beyond the individual benefit that Fulbright students and faculty gain, our Fulbrighters carry the Texas Tech brand around the world, serving as exceptional ambassadors for the university as well as the U.S. We could not be prouder of their accomplishments."

— **Dr. Lawrence Schovanec**
President of Texas Tech University



Photos courtesy of Paul Tubbs



Texas Tech's designation as a Fulbright Top Producing Institution underscores its unwavering commitment to fostering global connections and promoting international engagement.

Through the dedication of its faculty and administrators, the university has earned acclaim for its robust participation in the Fulbright Program, exemplifying its ethos of embracing diverse perspectives and pursuing excellence on the world stage.

The Fulbright Scholar's Top Producer award recognizes institutions that have produced a significant number of Fulbright Scholars in any given year. It acknowledges institutional commitment to promoting international education and fostering cultural exchange through the Fulbright Program.

Winning the Fulbright Scholar's Top Producer award is a notable achievement for the institution because the award reflects Texas Tech's dedication to supporting scholars in pursuing research, teaching, and other academic endeavors abroad through the Fulbright Program. The award serves to highlight our institution's impact on global education and collaboration.

Learn more about the
U.S. Fulbright Program
at Texas Tech University



Photo Courtesy of the Prestigious External Student Awards Office, Texas Tech University

Texas Tech University Fulbright Scholars and Students Participation by Country

TEXAS TECH SCHOLARS GLOBAL IMPACT

TEXAS TECH STUDENTS GLOBAL IMPACT

Argentina
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Belgium
Botswana
Brazil
Chile
Costa Rica
Czech Republic
Denmark
Ecuador
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Hungary
India
Italy
Japan
Jordan
Kosovo
Lithuania
Malaysia
Mexico
Morocco
Norway
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Poland
Romania
Russia
Singapore
Slovak Republic
Slovenia
South Africa
South Korea
Spain
Sri Lanka
Taiwan
Tajikistan
Tanzania
Thailand
Turkey (Türkiye)
United Kingdom
Vietnam
Zimbabwe

Argentina
Australia
Austria
Brazil
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Denmark
Ecuador
France
Germany
Iceland
India
Ireland
Italy
Malaysia
Mexico
Mongolia
New Zealand
Norway
Paraguay
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Russia
Spain
Switzerland
Thailand
Trinidad & Tobago
Turkey (Türkiye)
United Kingdom
Uzbekistan
Vietnam
West Germany



STUDY ABROAD DIARIES

Texas Tech University is redefining international education through its unique overseas centers in Sevilla, Spain, and Costa Rica. Unlike many institutions, Texas Tech's in-country presence in these locations fosters robust partnerships with local communities, enhancing both student and faculty experiences through high-quality programming.

Study Abroad at Texas Tech is a proactive journey—what students gain is directly proportional to what they invest. The university doesn't just send students abroad; it prepares them through intentional advising and orientation to embrace their experiences with open minds and hearts.

In an exciting development, the Study Abroad office announced the American Passport Project, an initiative fueled by a grant from the Institute of International Education. Starting in the 2024-2025 academic year, this project will provide free passports to many students, alleviating some financial burden that can deter studying abroad.

The work is so important because studying abroad offers more than just a change of scenery; it is a life-changing and career-enhancing experience. According to IES Abroad, students who study internationally enjoy higher starting salaries, faster job placements, and better graduate school acceptance rates.

Texas Tech University alumni emphasize that their time overseas was crucial for developing essential skills like language proficiency, cultural understanding, and intercultural communication. It's often during these experiences that students gain a newfound sense of self-confidence and independence, marking their true transition into adulthood.

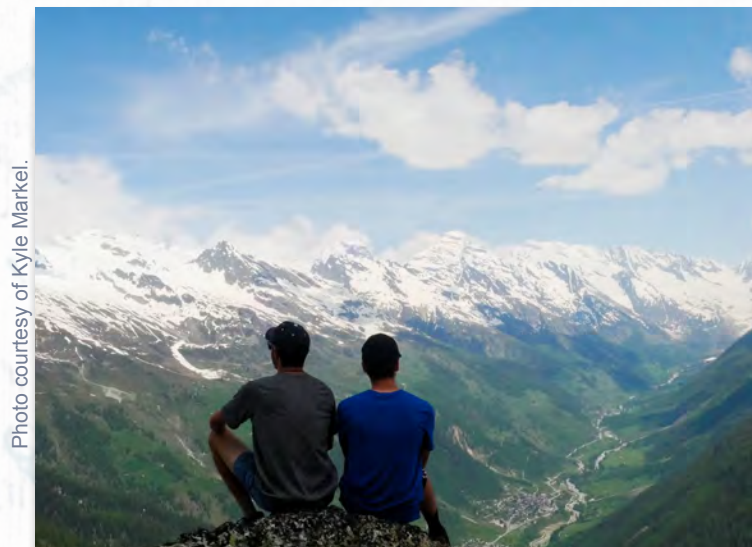


Photo courtesy of Kyle Markel.



Whitney Longnecker
Director, Study Abroad

Texas Tech's faculty-led study abroad programs, which occur mainly over the summer, are the most popular option among students. The university is a strong advocate for these programs, understanding that in today's globalized world, the skills acquired from international study are invaluable.

With Texas Tech committed to try to remove financial and informational barriers, now is an opportune time for students to embark on this transformative journey. By leveraging the extensive study abroad opportunities Texas Tech offers, students are well-positioned to enhance their educational experiences and prepare for successful global careers.

“GO! All students should take part in a study abroad experience. We truly live in a global society and students need to be prepared to work and live in this environment. College is the best time to begin gaining these important skills for the future.”

Whitney Longnecker
Director, Study Abroad

1,158

students participated in study abroad in 2023

Learn more about Study Abroad

DRAKE KIMBALL

Destination: Costa Rica

Fulfilling a study abroad requirement, I chose Costa Rica for its affordability and the presence of a Texas Tech University (TTU) campus. With an eagerness to practice Spanish and explore a new culture, Costa Rica's allure was irresistible.

My time there was marked by vibrant experiences, from the bustling Central Market to serene weekend excursions to Tamarindo and Monte Verde. The diverse landscapes—from azure oceans to lush, wildlife-rich forests—captivated me, embodying the Costa Rican mantra “Pura Vida” (Pure Life). The phrase took on deeper meaning as I interacted with locals, their warmth and openness enhancing my understanding of their cohesive culture.

Photos courtesy of Drake Kimball.



“If you are someone that wants adventure, to meet new people, to practice inclusivity, to embrace diversity definitely go abroad. If you get a little homesick or are just unsure about traveling, PUSH YOURSELF AND GO ABROAD!”

FATIMA PALACIOS

Study Abroad: TTU Center in Sevilla, Spain

Destinations: Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Czech Republic, United Kingdom

My motivation for choosing these places was to explore new places. Every destination taught me a lesson and gave me a beautiful memory to go with it. Affordability and easy means of transportation was critical.

The economy in many places like these is not like ours. My flight to London was \$90, roundtrip. My entire trip to Italy, not including food and Uber to and from airport, but ferries, flights, activities, and places I stay came out to \$180. I tried to make the most of every trip, and I think that is a very important thing to remember when traveling.

“Every destination taught me a lesson and gave me a beautiful memory to go with it.”



Photos courtesy of Fatima Palacios.

UPPOWER IT F



Dual Faculty Efforts & Global Education

Dr. Robert Peaslee and Dr. Jerod W. Foster embarked on a transformative journey, bridging academia with real-world experiences to create a study abroad program that breaks traditional learning boundaries. Drawing from Dr. Peaslee's expertise in media tourism and Dr. Foster's background in photography and film-making, the duo crafted a program seamlessly blending theoretical exploration with hands-on fieldwork.

Their brainchild, a study abroad program based in New Zealand, immerses students in an environment where they become creative professionals and cultural anthropologists. The program's unique blend of conceptual coursework and practical photography assignments mirrors the experience of working on assignments for prestigious organizations like National Geographic.

Beyond professional growth, the program instills a profound sense of global citizenship.

Students are challenged to comprehend and navigate diverse cultures, languages, and perspectives, broadening their worldview and unlocking international opportunities.

At the heart of the program's success lies its emphasis on inclusivity and equity. Dr. Peaslee and Dr. Foster ensure that every participant feels valued and respected, fostering a nurturing environment for learning and development.



left to right:
Dr. Jerod W. Foster
Associate Professor of Practice
College of Media & Communication

Dr. Robert Peaslee
Associate Dean, Honors College
Associate Professor
College of Media & Communication

Their collaboration enhances their teaching methods and inspires future interdisciplinary partnerships. Together, they showcase the transformative potential of study abroad experiences, shaping the next generation of global citizens and professionals. Dr. Peaslee and Dr. Foster highlight the transformative potential of collaborative efforts in academia. Their collaboration underscores how innovative educational approaches can profoundly influence students' lives.



Photos courtesy of Dr. Peaslee and Dr. Foster.



“

Beyond professional growth, the program instills a profound sense of global citizenship.

A highlight of their achievements is Garrett Menichini, whose compelling portfolio, crafted during the New Zealand program, garnered him a bespoke internship with Southwest Airlines, exemplifying the substantial benefits of this immersive educational experience.

Students are inspired to seize each fleeting moment, their cameras perpetually poised to distill the quintessence of their environments. Immersed in exhilarating outdoor pursuits such as hiking and biking, the students hone their photographic prowess while nurturing resilience and empowerment, culminating in personal victories like summiting daunting peaks.

BRIDGES: BUILDING

HOW BHUTAN'S HAPPINESS MODEL INSPIRED MY ENGINEERING JOURNEY

My journey to Bhutan as part of the School for Field Studies was transformative, both personally and professionally. As an aspiring civil engineer, **the experience deepened my understanding of sustainable development and its profound impact on communities.**

Bhutan, a nation known for its dedication to the happiness of its citizens and its unique status as the world's only carbon-negative country, offered a living classroom on balancing modernity with tradition. The concept of Gross National Happiness, which guides Bhutan's development policies, was particularly eye-opening. It showed me the power of government policies that prioritize sustainable and equitable growth over mere economic expansion.



Derek Luna
Water Resource Project Engineer
at AECOM | Chicago
Alumni | Texas Tech University
College of Civil Engineering

During my travels, especially in the western regions, I observed a dual-edged sword of tourism. While it brings economic opportunities, unmanaged growth can strain the very beauty and heritage it seeks to showcase. **My travels underscored the importance of sustainable infrastructure projects that respect and integrate the community's needs and values.**



Challenge yourself. Don't go to a place simply because it sounds fun. Be intentional and recognize the profound privilege that studying abroad can be.... Very few people in this world get the opportunity to travel to a new country... and even fewer get the chance to do so as apart of a program created to change you, to help you grow into a higher version of yourself.

The perspective was further reinforced through my hands-on project in Paro, where I led a water quality and quantity study. The project, which began as a solo endeavor, carried a significant learning curve and taught me the value of resilience and independent problem-solving. Presenting my findings to local stakeholders, I felt a profound connection to the community, appreciating their trust and openness.

Returning to the U.S., I was inspired to join AECOM, where I now contribute to diverse projects that aim for long-term community benefits. My work is driven by the principles of equity and sustainability I embraced in Bhutan—principles that I believe are essential for practicing responsible engineering.

In Bhutan I learned that effective communication and stakeholder engagement are as crucial as technical skills in engineering. Such understanding shapes how I approach projects, ensuring that community voices are heard and integrated into the development process. My time in Bhutan taught me that engineering is not just about constructing physical structures but also about building community resilience and trust.



Reflecting on my experience, I realize that studying abroad provided me with more than just engineering skills. It enriched my life with new perspectives, a deeper sense of purpose, and a commitment to fostering positive change. Bhutan was more than a trip; it was a pivotal chapter in my life that shaped the engineer and person I am today.

Photos courtesy of Derek Luna.



Sevilla



The Texas Tech University Center in Sevilla offers learning opportunities for the Texas Tech community in Spain and is committed to ensuring a welcoming, inclusive, safe and collaborative community. We are dedicated to providing cross-cultural learning experiences and unique opportunities for participants to excel in their academic and personal goals as part of their preparation to become leaders in a diverse and globally competitive world.

As a Biochemistry and Spanish major at Texas Tech University, my spring semester abroad in Seville, Spain was a transformative journey. It wasn't just about mastering Spanish; it was an in-depth exploration of Spain's healthcare system through a pre-health internship. The opportunity allowed me to rapidly improve my conversational Spanish and learn medical terminology crucial for my future career in medicine.

Experiencing healthcare in Spain highlighted significant cultural differences, underscoring the importance of cultural sensitivity in medical practice. The support from Texas Tech faculty and the camaraderie with fellow students made navigating this new environment much smoother. The Seville Center provided a comforting base for cultural excursions, enriching my understanding of Spanish life and traditions.

“

This study abroad experience has been pivotal, not only in preparing me for a career in healthcare but also in becoming a more empathetic and culturally aware individual. For anyone considering studying abroad, embrace the challenge, be curious, and savor every moment. These experiences are invaluable, extending far beyond conventional education.



Photo courtesy of Dylan Lewis.

Dylan Lewis
Biochemistry and Spanish Major

Academically, courses were immersive, from discussing controversial topics entirely in Spanish to delving into nuances of Spanish dialects. My internship at a private hospital was particularly impactful, allowing me to aid in performing examinations, help assist with surgeries, and engage daily in medical Spanish. TTU Study Abroad is definitely worth considering!



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY®
Center in Sevilla, Spain

Exploring the Melodies of Spain:

A Journey Through Music & Culture



Dr. Eric Fried
Associate Professor | School of Music
Talkington College of Visual and Performing Arts

My deep-rooted passion for Spanish music and enthusiasm for cultural exploration fueled the creation of the Music of Spain program. Launched independently at the Texas Tech University Center in Seville in the spring of 2007, the program formed a fruitful collaboration with study abroad through the College of Engineering. Students from various disciplines enrolled in at least one major-specific course, often opting to complement their studies with a creative arts course like Music of Spain. Integration allows students to immerse themselves fully in Spain’s rich cultural heritage, thereby enriching their educational journey.

Through this initiative, I have had the joy of introducing students to the captivating world of flamenco, an integral part of Spanish cultural identity, born in Seville’s Triana district. Our explorations have extended from the vibrant streets of Seville to the enigmatic caves above Granada, where flamenco’s profound melodies resonate. Moreover, the program features late-night concerts in the verdant gardens of the Real Alcazar, celebrating the musical legacy of Las Tres Culturas—Christian, Jewish, and Islamic—once intertwined in Spain’s history.



The program not only marks a significant chapter in my 47-year academic career but also continues to fuel my appreciation for Spain’s artistic and historical contributions. My commitment to promoting international education was recognized when in 2022 I was awarded the Donald R. Haragan Study Abroad Award by the Office of International Affairs, an honor that underscores the profound impact of these cross-cultural endeavors.



Having led the Music of Spain program 13 times, I’ve seen how study abroad significantly benefits all participants, fostering a broader, more inclusive worldview. Echoing Mark Twain’s sentiment that travel is “fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness,” I’ve observed the transformative effects of such experiences. Students invariably return with a richer understanding of diverse cultures and a refreshed appreciation for their own.

“

Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one’s lifetime.

— Mark Twain
The Innocents Abroad, Roughing It



**GLOBAL
IMPACT**

**FACULTY &
STUDENT**

**RESEARCH &
ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP**

RESEARCH: INSIGHTS FROM COLLABORATIVE ENDEAVORS

Throughout my career, I've had the privilege of collaborating with local and international researchers on pivotal studies ranging from HIV/AIDS prevention among youth in Uganda and Kenya to innovative agribusiness solutions to combat youth unemployment in Kenya while enhancing technical and vocational education to cultivate skilled workers.

These partnerships have advanced research while offering profound personal and professional growth opportunities. Working with international colleagues provides a refreshing change of scenery and perspective, reminding us of privileges we often overlook. Despite challenging work conditions, my collaborators' resilience and productivity are truly inspiring.

Born and raised in Kenya, where I completed my formative education, I moved to North America as an adult to further my studies. My background instills a deep sense of responsibility to contribute back to the region of my youth, mainly through knowledge transfer and enhancing publication opportunities for partners.



Dr. Faith Maina
Professor | Curriculum & Instruction
College of Education

Friendships and professional networks that emerged from these collaborations are invaluable. Regular invitations to participate in grant writing, workshops, and guest lectures are just some of the many benefits.

The impact of our research is immediate and tangible. For instance, our study on HIV/AIDS in Kenya led to community-led initiatives that use relatable imagery, like a healthy growing tree, to educate youth on HIV prevention. The approach has proven more effective and engaging than traditional methods, illustrating the unique benefits of context-driven research.

Working internationally pushes one out of one's comfort zone through immersion in diverse cultural settings, enhancing adaptability and cultural competence. Supported by prestigious grants and fellowships such as the Fulbright Scholar and Carnegie African Diaspora fellowship, these experiences, for me, were not just about conducting research; **they are adventures that challenge and expand horizons.**



“

Get ready for an adventure. You will be taken out of your comfort zone and challenged beyond your imagination.



The demographic landscape in Africa, with its significant youth population, presents endless research opportunities—from entrepreneurship and agribusiness to workforce development. These young minds are poised to solve global challenges as the workforce demographics shift worldwide.

The support for international research at Texas Tech University enables significant travel and time for in-depth study that can lead to groundbreaking findings. For example, our agribusiness research introduced cost-effective, locally-sourced chicken feed alternatives, significantly boosting profitability for young entrepreneurs.

The joy of seeing the real-time impact of your work, the exchange of knowledge, and the professional bonds that form make international research not just a career but a passion. As someone who has seen both the immediate benefits and the lasting change these projects foster, I am a staunch advocate for the power of global academic collaboration.

MARINE RESEARCH:

Diving into A Journey of Discovery

For many, the allure of the ocean's mysteries beckons like a siren's song. The call led to a remarkable journey of scientific exploration and a newfound passion for Annie Mowry, a nontraditional student.

Initially pursuing a degree in nursing, Annie Mowry unexpectedly found herself captivated by scientific research during a Biology II class presentation. The newfound passion led to a shift in focus, diving deep into marine biology.

Enrolling in a Tropical Marine Biology course, Mowry discovered a profound connection to the coral reefs of Roatán. Inspired by the experience, she embarked on a research path, culminating in participation in the Texas Integrated Diving and Ecological Studies (TIDES) Laboratory—an immersive undergraduate research initiative partnering with Texas Tech Waco and McLennan Community College with the Roatán Institute for Marine Sciences.

Annie Mowry
Undergraduate Researcher | Biology
Texas Tech Waco and
McLennan Community College

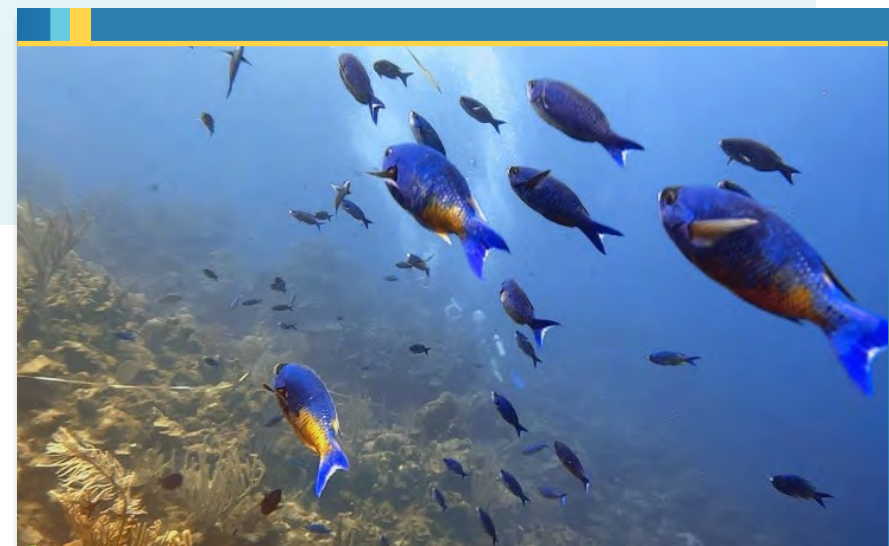


The Texas Integrated Diving & Ecological Studies (TIDES) Laboratory, a pioneering undergraduate research initiative, bridges expertise from McLennan Community College and Texas Tech University to focus on the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System. Since its inception in 2016, the laboratory has been at the forefront of student-driven research, led by Dr. Stephanie Lockwood of Texas Tech University and Professor Stephanie Randell of McLennan Community College.

The collaborative program harnesses the enthusiasm and investigative spirit of undergraduate students, providing them with hands-on research opportunities in one of the world's most vital and vibrant marine ecosystems. The TIDES Laboratory not only contributes valuable insights into ecological studies but also equips students with crucial skills in scientific diving and marine research. Through this innovative partnership, the program has grown to become a model of academic collaboration and student engagement in environmental science.



Despite setbacks due to COVID-19, Mowry seized the opportunity to study micro-plastics in local river sediment, laying the groundwork for future marine research endeavors. Undeterred, they eagerly anticipated their chance to explore marine ecosystems in Honduras.



The TIDES program provided invaluable hands-on experience, allowing Mowry to research fish diversity and sea urchin populations. Through challenging dives and meticulous data collection, they gained insight into the delicate balance of marine ecosystems.

Reflecting on her journey, Mowry emphasizes the importance of passion and collaboration in scientific endeavors. With aspirations of pursuing a PhD in Marine Biology focusing on coral restoration, she is poised to make a meaningful impact on conservation efforts.

As Mowry prepares to return to Roatán as a Research Assistant with TIDES, her journey is a testament to the transformative power of curiosity and dedication. With each dive into the realm of scientific discovery, fueled by a passion for preserving the ocean's wonders for generations to come.

Photos courtesy of Annie Mowry.



The Global Vision Awards

The Global Vision Awards stand as a prestigious accolade, bestowed upon the esteemed faculty, staff, and community partners of Texas Tech University who demonstrate unparalleled dedication to elevating the institution's global stature and engagement. Initiated in 2003, these awards are a testament to the exceptional commitment and enduring support of the honorees in propelling Texas Tech's mission forward, enriching its international linkages, and reinforcing its reputation on the world stage. Each award serves as a resounding recognition of the transformative efforts that drive the university's ambitions to a global horizon.



From Left to Right:
 Francisco Ortega, Ph.D.
 Jorgelina Orfila, Ph.D.
 Andrew Stetson, D.M.A.
 (accepting on behalf of TTU School of Music)
 Dr. Idris Traylor, Jr.
 Martha Smithey, Ph.D.
 Yehia Mechref, Ph.D.
 Gloria Agyapong
 Calvin Davis,
 (Board Member accepting on behalf of CGU)
 Kerk Kee, Ph.D.



Miziki Rhythm Africa Group



Idris Traylor, Ph.D.
*First Executive Director of the
 Office of International Affairs
 Founding Executive Director of the
 International Cultural Center*

Global Vision Lifetime Achievement Award

International Affairs at Texas Tech University presents the Global Citizen Award to a distinguished individual who has made significant contributions to the internationalization of higher education.

Dr. Idris Traylor's career at Texas Tech University is marked by distinguished service and visionary leadership. He served as a history professor, shaping future generations with his knowledge. His strategic direction was instrumental as Deputy Director and later Director of the International Center for Arid and Semiarid Land Studies (ICASALS) between 1967 and 1994. Further pioneering efforts were evident in his role as the inaugural Executive Director of the Office of International Affairs from 1988 to 2003. His expertise also moved beyond academic circles, contributing significantly to international, national, and Texas state initiatives. Dr. Traylor's enduring legacy is a beacon of commitment to education, leadership, and active civic participation, amplifying Texas Tech's global stature.

Global Engagement Award

The award honors a Texas Tech University individual or group that has contributed to promoting international understanding and engagement within the broader Lubbock community.

Dr. Kerk Kee is the Virginia and Choc Hutcheson professor of Mass Communication at Texas Tech. He is also the first non-native Chinese president of the Texas Tech Chinese Faculty and Staff Association.



Kerk Kee, Ph.D.
*Virginia and Choc Hutcheson Professor
 College of Media & Communication*



Martha Smithey, Ph.D.
*Associate Professor of Sociology
 College of Arts & Sciences*

Donald R. Haragan Study Abroad Award

The award acknowledges the creation and execution of study abroad programs that align with Texas Tech's dedication to offering exceptional international educational opportunities.

Dr. Martha Smithey (M.A., Texas Tech, 1985; Ph.D., Texas A & M., 1994) researches violence against women and children. She recently completed a global study on female murder victims by intimate partners and family members.



Yehia Mechref, Ph.D.
*Paul W. Horn Distinguished Professor
 Robert A Welch Chair in Chemistry
 Associate Vice President of Research and Innovation*

Global Citizen Award

The award is presented to an exceptional individual whose enduring commitment to advancing international scholarship and teaching has profoundly contributed to Texas Tech's global presence over the course of many years.

Dr. Yehia Mechref is a globally renowned expert in biomolecular mass spectrometry, having spearheaded over 300 collaborations impacting the fields of chemistry, biochemistry, and cancer research internationally. Dr. Mechref's work exemplifies the power of dedicated research and collaboration in advancing scientific understanding and improving global health outcomes.

Faculty International Scholarship Award

The award recognizes a faculty member for excellence and sustained international scholarship.

Dr. Francisco Ortega, Professor of Graphic Design, and Dr. Jorgelina Orfila, Professor of Art History, are Associate Professors at the School of Art. Known as "animationDuo," they are pioneering researchers in animation studies, historical context, theory and practical methodologies.



left to right:
Francisco Ortega, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Graphic Design
Jorgelina Orfila, Ph.D.
*Associate Professor,
 20th/21st Century Art History & Critical Theory
 School of Art*



Texas Tech School of Music

Campus Internationalization Award

The award recognizes a college, department, office, or unit within the Texas Tech University System committed to fostering global partnerships that embody the spirit of cooperation and dedication to create a more interconnected world in alignment with Texas Tech's vision of international excellence.

The School of Music has been part of Texas Tech University's fabric since its founding. Music ensemble programs were available to the first class of students entering in 1925. Students and faculty from the School of Music present hundreds of concerts, clinics, and research presentations worldwide each year. Dr. Andrew J. Stetson, the esteemed Director of the School of Music, graciously accepted the award on behalf of the institution.



Center for Global Understanding

Global Community Award

The award recognizes community individuals or groups who have significantly contributed to expanding international awareness, enhancing cultural diversity, and promoting global engagement in partnership with Texas Tech University.

The Center for Global Understanding (CGU), originally founded as the Lubbock International Cultural Center, Inc. in 1986 by Thomas “Jay” Harris and team, fosters cultural awareness within the community and beyond. Its core mission is to bridge cultural divides and nurture global connections. Mr. Calvin Davis, who has served as a key board member for sixteen years and is the current president of the Center for Global Understanding, had the honor of accepting this award on behalf of the organization.

Student International Research Award

The award recognizes international scholarship by a graduate student at Texas Tech University.

Gloria Agyapong is a graduate student at Texas Tech, pursuing a Master of Science in Atmospheric Science. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Meteorology and Climate Science from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana, where she was a recipient of the Mastercard Foundation Scholars program.



Gloria Agyapong
Department of Geosciences

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

The proceeds from the Global Vision Awards event are dedicated to supporting the International Emergency Student Relief Fund.

In 2023, Texas Tech University served nearly 4,000 international students from over 245 countries. Texas Tech’s global footprint continues to expand yearly, truly making it an international university.

- Office of the President
- Office of the Provost
- College of Arts and Sciences
- Graduate School
- College of Human Sciences
- J. T. & Margaret Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts
- Rawls College of Business Administration
- Campus Access & Engagement
- Center for Global Understanding
- Edward E. Whitacre Jr. College of Engineering
- Davis College Ag Sciences and Natural Resources
- Breedlove Foods, Inc.
- Lubbock Arts Alliance
- Honors College



left to right: Dr. Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo, Vice Provost for International Affairs; Dr. Idris Traylor, Founding Executive Director of the International Cultural Center; Dr. Ron Hendrick, Provost and Senior Vice President at Texas Tech University



School of Music receiving award

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Office of the Provost
International Affairs™

CARS

Central American Research Symposium

Texas Tech University's International Affairs recently secured a USDA Higher Education Challenge Grant to inaugurate the Central American Research Symposium (CARS). The initiative, led by Dr. Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo from the College of Human Sciences and Dr. Amy Boren from the Davis College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, aims to bolster international collaborations.

CARS focuses on fostering partnerships between TTU faculty and Central American institutions such as CATIE, UCR, and UNIVO, promoting discussions on multidisciplinary research projects and awarding seed grants to selected TTU faculty members.

Backed by the USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture's Higher Education Challenge Grants Program, CARS is a collaborative effort involving TTU's International Affairs, the Davis College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, and the College of Human Sciences, aiming to strengthen international academic ties and research collaboration.

CENTRAL AMERICAN PARTNERS

Costa Rica



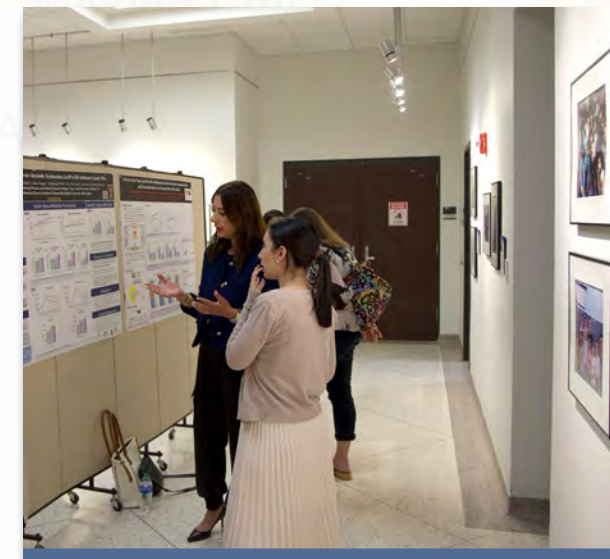
El Salvador



Internacionalización UNIVO



left to right:
Jessica Rivera, Dean of Agronomic Sciences Faculty, El Salvador; Herbert Chavez, Academic Secretary of The Engineering and Architecture Faculty UNIVO; Dr. Leida Mercado Professor, University of Costa Rica; Dr. Lawrence Schovanec, President of Texas Tech University; Dr. Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo, Vice Provost for International Affairs; Dr. Ron Hendrick, Provost and Senior Vice President of Texas Tech University; Ricardo Padrón, Innovation Specialist, CATIE; Dr. Ana Gabriela Murillo, Biochemistry Professor, University of Costa Rica



The event attracted faculty and students from multiple departments, with a student poster fair featuring 18 graduate students. The symposium's success, highlighted by the high quality of seed grant proposals and the funding of four projects, suggests a bright future. The organizers hope to expand CARS, aiming to significantly increase its scope and impact in the coming years.



Logo graphic courtesy of Javi Lopez.
Photos courtesy of Javi Lopez and Paul Tubbs.

FROM HERE, IT'S POSSIBLE.™

OUR MISSION: International Affairs advances the global vision of Texas Tech University by promoting international leadership, awareness, education, scholarship, and outreach for the university and the greater community.

OUR VISION: International Affairs will broaden the global reputation of the university by integrating international education, scholarship, and engagement with global issues, and by strengthening intercultural understanding for students, faculty, staff, and the greater community.

international.ttu.edu

