The Office of International Affairs enables members of the Lehigh community to contribute to the global community by fostering an understanding of the world and their place in it, cultivating an openminded approach and readiness to engage difference, and establishing a sense of civic responsibility to the world as a whole.

The Office of International Affairs drives Lehigh's international strategy. Our 10 offices and programs encompass inbound and outbound mobility, partnerships, fellowship advising and leadership education, and engage individuals from high school to post-graduate. This report outlines some of our recent work. To learn more, visit global.lehigh.edu.

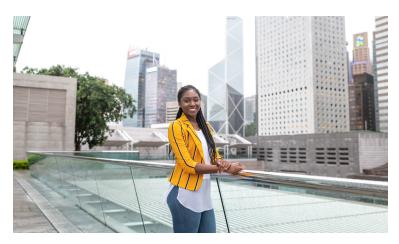
#### **SPRING 2023 INTERNATIONAL UPDATE**

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### **Education Abroad by the Numbers**

453

students completed 486 experiences in 40 countries in 2021-2022.

46%

of experiences included hands-on work like internships and research. 20%

of the students were Pell Grant recipients, an indication of financial need.



#### **EDUCATION ABROAD**

The Offi ce of International Affairs off ers a large variety of education abroad experiences, including the Global Citizenship Program and the lacocca International Internship Program. With more than 300 study abroad programs in 74 countries, from shorter programs led by Lehigh faculty or staff to semester or year-long programs offered by our partners, there's something for every student.

## IACOCCA INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

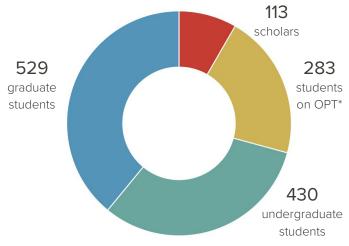
The lacocca International Internship Program (IIIP) provides fully funded internship opportunities for Lehigh students to work or do research overseas during the summer. This practical work experience, grounded in global context, enhances students' career readiness and intercultural competency.

#### **PASSPORT TO SUCCESS**

Passport to Success helps firstgeneration or low-income students succeed by connecting them to high-impact learning opportunities like study abroad, international internships, global experiences in the United States, research opportunities and service learning. The program is a partnership between the Office of International Affairs and the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Equity.

### **Our International Community**

Lehigh is home to 1,242 international students and recent alumni from more than 70 countries. The Office of International Students and Scholars supports them, with a focus on compliance, connection and engagement, and advocacy.



\* OPT, or Optional Practical Training, lets students work in the U.S. in their field of study for one to three years after graduation.









#### INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND

Thanks to the contributions of alumni, parents and friends, the Office of International Affairs is able to provide financial assistance to students who are experiencing unexpected expenses.

The International Student
Assistance Fund provides grants in amounts up to \$1,500 to students who demonstrate financial need due to sudden and unforeseen circumstances. Students are able to use the grants to cover their educational, living or health-related expenses.

In 2022, the fund has provided 34 grants totalling more than \$40,000.

#### International Scholar Spotlight: Willy Das Is Connecting Entrepreneurship Research and Practice



Lehigh's 113 international scholars include assistant professors, post-doctoral research associates, visiting scholars or research fellows and visiting pre-doctoral associates.

One of them is Willy Das, a post-doctoral researcher who came to Lehigh from India after completing a Ph.D. in entrepreneurial studies at the Indian Institute of Management Raipur. Das's doctoral research focused on entrepreneurial founding teams. At Lehigh, she works with the College of Business and Lehigh@

NasdaqCenter, developing and testing entrepreneurship theories.

While working on her Ph.D., Das travelled around India to speak with start-up founders. In her conversations, she often found a disconnect between academic research and entrepreneurial practice. That realization inspired her current research.

"The work that we're doing in academia is not always intuitive for entrepreneurs or relevant to them," Das says. "I hope to generate findings that practioners can use, with the ultimate goal of making entrepreneurship more equitable."

### **Students Awarded Nationally Competitive Fellowships**

In 2022, a record 44 students and recent alumni received 47 awards such as Boren, Gilman, Critical Language, Fulbright, NSF-REU and others. These scholarships are highly competitive, and awardees are students who excel academically as well as outside the classroom. The funding will enable them to pursue opportunities like study abroad, foreign language study, academic research and graduate study.

Read more about the fellowship recipients

# \$1 million

awarded to students in the five years that the Office of Fellowship Advising has been part of the Office of International Affairs.

# Two Lehigh Students Receive Fulbrights



John Kershner is a second-year Ph.D. student in mechanical engineering. He is researching owlinspired aeroacoustics to design mechanisms that may one day help planes fly more quietly. He received a Fulbright scholarship to continue his research in Germany.



Salma Elboute '22 is Lehigh's second student Fulbright this year. A management major with a concentration in entrepreneurship, Elboute traveled to the United Arab Emirates to conduct research on small, women-owned businesses and their barriers to success.

#### Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship – U.S. Department of State

Enables students of limited financial means to study or intern abroad

Georgia Becker '24, Spain Amber Bierly '25, France Samantha Cardenas '23, Netherlands Alexa Couto '25, United Kingdom Alejandro Del Valle Valdez '23, Switzerland Grace Enriquez '22, Switzerland Bryce Erdman '18, Germany Ishan Gauro '24, Spain Delaney Gemmel '24, Spain Erik Glasthal '19, Ireland Rachelle Huh '23, South Korea Sumin Lim '23, South Korea Jennifer Liu '23, Belgium Daisy Lopez '24, Spain Zena Meighan '24, Japan Rehan Naeem '23, Spain Amelie Pankov '24, France Annie Seong '24, Germany Michael Stevanovich '23, Colombia Sabrina Trabish '23, Netherlands Cindy Tran '24, South Korea Jingwen Wei '23, Japan John Whitall '24, Argentina Joshua Yang '22, South Korea Ada Zheng '25, Japan Tiffany Zhu '24, Italy

#### Boren Award – Defense Language and National Security Education Office

Provides funding for U.S. students to study less commonly taught languages in world regions critical to U.S. interests

Hiwot Demelash '22, Ethiopia Dan Rudiak '23, Morocco Emma Santini '22, Indonesia

### Critical Language Scholarship – U.S. Department of State

Encourages the study of languages essential to U.S. global engagement

Nicholas Masri '23, Chinese

## DAAD RISE Germany – German Academic Exchange Service, or DAAD

Offers research internships in Germany for undergraduate students from North America, Great Britain and Ireland

Nina Cialone '24 Muhammed Delen '24 Giavanna Gast '24 Lauryn Holgado '24 Josie Koelsch '23

### FAIT Fellowship – U.S. Department of State

Helps individuals pursue a career in the Foreign Service by funding IT education

Andy Wu '20

## Fulbright U.S. Student Program – U.S. Department of State

Funds graduate study, research or teaching English abroad

Salma Elboute '22, United Arab Emirates, Research John Kershner (Ph.D. candidate), Germany,

Research

National Science Foundation Research

# Experiences for Undergraduates (NSF-REU) – National Science Foundation Supports active research participation by

Supports active research participation by undergraduate students

Giavanna Gast '24 Cameron MacMahon '22 Eva Wolfe '23 Will Yaeger '24

#### Project GO – Defense Language and National Security Education Office

Provides full scholarships for ROTC cadets to study critical languages

Maura Campbell '24, Morocco (Arabic) Sacha Joseph '25, Jordan (Arabic)

Ruhr Fellowship – University Alliance Ruhr An intercultural and language immersion program in Germany

Maura Campbell '24 Xinyi Cui '18, G'22





# Lehigh Launch: A Unique Learning Experience

Eleven first-year students from five U.S. states and Vietnam. Four courses. Fifteen weeks in Ecuador. All tied together by one thematic thread: adaptation. This is Lehigh Launch Ecuador, a unique first semester for curious and independent-minded students, led by Lehigh faculty.

The program hosted its first cohort of students in 2022, after a two-year COVID delay. It's active and immersive – students live and learn together, with place at the center of the curriculum. Students are based in the capital city of Quito. They visit a cloud forest and a research station in the Amazon rainforest, and then head to the Galapagos Islands for the final three weeks. They live in homestays with local families, which allows for cultural immersion and language practice.

The faculty director of Lehigh Launch in Ecuador is David Casagrande, a professor of anthropology with a joint appointment with Lehigh's Environmental Initiative. An ecological anthropologist who studies how culture shapes the way humans interact with natural environments, Casagrande chose "adaptation" as the common theme, woven through the courses, field work and excursions.

"I'm combining pedagogy with social theory – how people interact with environments – to give students a way of generating meaning out of this incredibly complicated, and sometimes emotionally reactive, experience," he says. "How do you derive meaning from your experience? How do you develop good creative questions about it?"

Through the integrative seminar, Casagrande aims to help each student increase their capacity for creative inquiry, develop a deeper sense of place, and build emotional intelligence. The opportunity to explore issues from multiple perspectives and in a specific local context, learn to embrace contradiction and develop a sense of responsibility for others is part of what sets the Lehigh Launch experience apart.

Liz Matthews '26, a neuroscience major from New Jersey, says that Lehigh Launch has helped her see how academic theories become real and how they can shift depending on cultural and social contexts.

"I can take this back to campus and remember that the concepts I'm learning aren't simply what a professor says," Matthews says. "The world is bigger than what you're experiencing in one college in one town."

Read more about Lehigh Launch Ecuador



#### **LEHIGH IN THE NEWS**

Lehigh Launch Ecuador was featured in the article, "Teaching in an Age of Militant Apathy," published in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* in February 2023.

Read the article



Anuj Shresta for The Chronicle







### Virtual International Exchange Community of Practice Supports Teaching Innovation

In August 2022, the Office of International Affairs (OIA) and the LTS Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL) partnered to form the Virtual International Exchange (VIE) Community of Practice to develop and support innovations in teaching. It offers workshops, information sessions and mentoring for faculty and staff who want to use technology to facilitate virtual international collaborations.

The partnership between CITL and OIA developed from a shared interest in Collaborative Online International Learning, or COIL, a pedagogical approach to global learning in which instructors in different countries collaborate virtually to develop and teach a joint thematic unit. While COIL is one specific approach, the term Virtual International Exchange (VIE) is more broadly defined. It can include one-off collaborations or short-term projects with an international partner as well as long-term, multi-project initiatives.

"CITL always looks to build partnerships across the university to foster innovative teaching and learning environments," says Peggy Kane, the center's director. "This collaboration with OIA is very natural; it lets each organization contribute to instructors creating impactful global learning experiences for our students."

Staff in OIA's International Center for Academic and Professional English (ICAPE) first tried a COIL collaboration in 2020, pairing a class with an English club at a university in Kazakhstan. "It started with us because we already had experience in using virtual methods in creative and innovative ways to meet global learning objectives," says Mark Ouellette, the director of ICAPE.

In spring 2022, Teresa Cusumano, a language specialist in ICAPE, launched another COIL exchange, pairing ENGL 5 with a first-year composition course at Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ) in Quito, Ecuador. She says that COIL can

help both students and faculty increase their cultural awareness and competence. Faculty can also foster new partnerships and learn how to Learn more about the community of practice.

internationalize their curriculum, while students improve their digital literacy and learn how to work in virtual environments.

Stacy Burger, director of global partnerships and strategic initiatives in OIA, says that Virtual International Exchange is valuable tool for Lehigh's global portfolio. "By tapping into our extensive international network, Lehigh faculty can collaborate with others from around the world without the limitations of funding, time and travel," she says.

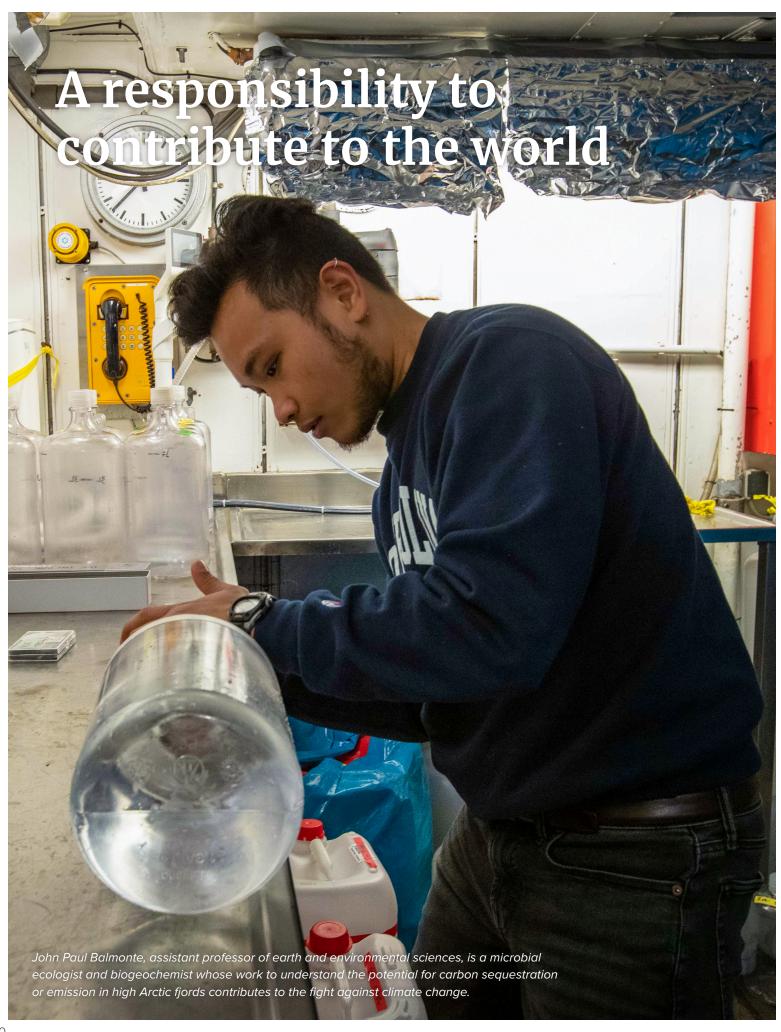
"I am excited by the innovative practices already being implemented by those who have attended our workshops, and there is a lot of interest from our partners to collaborate with others across campus."

So far, the community of practice has offered three workshops for staff and faculty, and they will present at CITL's annual Symposium on Teaching and Learning in April 2023. They're also planning an intensive workshop over the summer for people at any stage of knowledge about COIL. While Lehigh started with just the single virtual exchange — Cusumano's COIL with USFQ — there are now nine at different stages of development, from defining an idea to implementing a collaboration.

When asked about the benefits of COIL, Cusumano says that one of her students said it best: "My major takeaway is the value there is in working with others from different cultures, backgrounds, countries, etc. Your perspective gets widened and your worldview gets challenged. That is extremely valuable in any field."



In September, Lehigh's Virtual International Exchange (VIE) Community of Practice hosted a workshop with Claudia Tobar, chief innovation officer and professor at Universidad San Francisco de Quito in Ecuador, titled, "Lessons from the Pandemic: Globalization through Virtual Exchange and COIL as Strategy."



### **Global Village Celebrates 25 Years**

When Basel Al-Madhoun was 21 years old, he led a team that negotiated AT&T's entrance into China. The team comprised people from six nationalities and they had to engage with an equally diverse group representing the Chinese.

It was all part of the Global Village, the intensive program from the lacocca Institute that helps young professionals and college students from around the world hone their business, entrepreneurial and leadership skills. Top business experts mentor the Villagers who, like Al-Madhoun, a Palestinian from Gaza, learn how to live and work with people from scores of different countries and cultures.

"I was project-managing my group and I remember very well the mistakes I made," he says. "These experiences provide you a safe place to fail."

Al-Madhoun learned from his mistakes, and today he is chief of staff for Qima, a coffee company focused on improving the lives of coffee farmers in Yemen and Colombia. He lives in London, where he has been active in the World Economic Forum.

The life-changing lessons absorbed at the Global Village cannot be explained by a syllabus; they elude neat descriptions and defy easy encapsulation. The program was started in 1997 by the lacocca Institute – named for automotive icon Lee Iacocca '45. Iacocca and Roger Nagel, then the Institute's director, envisioned a program that would draw young leaders from around the world for innovative learning experiences. Over the last 25 years, it has brought together more than 2,450 leaders from 141 countries and equipped them with new mindsets of how to live and work and effect change.

The Global Village has enhanced Lehigh's expertise in international education and helped attract programs like the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, a program of the U.S. Department of State. In June, Lehigh hosted 25 emerging leaders from Sub-Saharan Africa for leadership training as one of 27 U.S. educational institutions to do so. It has also expanded to Global Village on the Move, which has taken its leadership training abroad. Now part of the Office of International Affairs, the Global Village helps Lehigh make an impact far beyond its campus.



Basel Al-Madhoun (left) at the Global Village in 2016. Today, Al-Madhoun is an activist and entrepreneur living in in London, where he has been active in the World Economic Forum.

2,450+

leaders from 141 countries belong to the Global Village alumni network.





Sylvia Acevedo (right) speaks with Richard Verma '90 (left) at the inaugural lacocca Leadership Speaker Series.

### Iacocca Leadership Speaker Series Launches with Sylvia Acevedo

In October 2022, the lacocca Institute welcomed Sylvia Acevedo to campus as the inaugural lacocca Leadership Speaker. Acevedo is a trailblazing entrepreneur, business leader and engineer who started her career working in NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and most recently served as CEO of the Girl Scouts of the USA.

The lacocca Leadership Speaker Series honors Lee lacocca's legacy of leadership, tenacity, and social responsibility, and his commitment to supporting international education. Supported by the lacocca Family Foundation and hosted by the lacocca Institute, it brings to Lehigh innovative leaders who are making an impact in the world.

Acevedo joined Richard Verma '90, former U.S. ambassador to India and Lehigh trustee, to share what she's learned as a leader in industries as varied as science, government, big tech and education; how she's working to increase access for women and those of diverse backgrounds, and what aspiring young leaders need to know to be successful in a rapidly changing world.

"We're proud to say that Lehigh produces leaders who are focused, pragmatic and equipped to take on the world's most challenging problems, and Lee lacocca was a wonderful example of all of that," Joseph J. Helble '82, president, said at the event. "This speaker series is another extension of his legacy. It's about growing the next generation of global leaders."

### 2022 Faculty Internationalization Grant Recipients

The Office of International Affairs awarded six Faculty Internationalization Grants to professors representing a wide range of academic disciplines and levels of experience. The grant supports Lehigh faculty members who want to pursue international research and teaching projects, such as developing shared research with colleagues at institutions overseas, designing a workshop or a course with faculty and students from foreign institutions, or planning an international conference. The recipients are:

- Ganesh Balasubramanian, associate professor of mechanical engineering and mechanics, to support research with a professor from IIT Bombay into materials for sustainable energy storage and with a graduate student from IIT Kharagpur in the predictive manufacturing of recycled plastic materials.
- John Paul Balmonte, assistant professor of earth and environmental sciences, to continue his collaboration with the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) in Goa, India, through fieldwork in Svalbard, Norway, and training at NCPOR's Marine Stable Isotope Laboratory.
- Alec Bodzin, professor of instructional technology and teacher education, to support a site visit to the University of Queensland, Australia, and explore a potential collaborative interdisciplinary research partnership to develop immersive learning experiences in environmental and sustainability education.
  - Global Citizenship Conference Focuses on Listening as a Skill for Collective Wellbeing

Lehigh's Global Citizenship Center for Self, Other and World Wellbeing hosted its third annual conference in February 2023. This year's theme was "Radical Listening to Ourselves, Others and the World." The event gathered academics, educators, activists, artists and others to examine the value of active listening on an international scale.

The conference included three sessions: Someone to Tell It To: Experiences Advocating for Listening, with Michael Gingerich and Tom Kaden, the co-founders of an NGO that trains people to listen both locally and internationally; Interfaith Listening in Professional Contexts, with Suzanne Watts Henderson, a consultant for Interfaith America; and Chardi Kala: Radical Optimism Through Deep Listening, with musician and social justice advocate Sonny Singh.

Angelina Rodríguez, the center's director, opened the conference by emphasizing the skill of listening, saying it's "necessary in any work aimed at our collective wellbeing."

"It is also pegged to a deep belief that others have something important to say, that stories matter, that we have things to learn from someone else outside of ourselves, and that listening is a way to support others."

- Michael Kramp, professor of English, to expand his work with Fathima Wakeel, associate professor in the College of Health, as part of the Global Social Impact Fellowship project, Mothers of Sierra Leone, using documentary film to encourage women in Sierra Leone to seek maternal healthcare.
- Nitzan Lebovic, professor of history, to collaborate with colleagues at Oxford University, Arava Institute and New York University to develop a regional framework to address climate change in the Jordan River Valley that is grounded in political ecology instead of national borders.
- Nik Nikolov, associate professor of architecture, to deepen
  his partnership with a company in Italy that specializes in the
  3D printing of building materials, as part of his research in
  integrative building technologies as a response to climate
  change, and to explore the potential of developing a student
  experience there.

#### Lehigh Joins Historic Visit to Greece

In November 2022, Lehigh joined the Pharos Summit 2022: Greek-U.S. Collaboration in Higher Education, which brought representatives of 30 U.S. universities and 24

Read more about the delegation visit.

Greek institutions together in Athens. The summit is an initiative spearheaded by Greece's Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs in collaboration with the Institute of International Education (IIE), the U.S. Embassy in Athens and Fulbright Greece. The 30 U.S. schools, including Lehigh, Yale, Columbia and Harvard, comprised the largest university delegation that IIE has sent to a single country.

Greece is among the top destinations for U.S. students studying abroad and the top countries of origin for research scholars who come to the U.S. The country's location at the nexus of three continents, historically excellent higher education and thriving entrepreneurial culture make it a promising location for partnerships, says Cheryl Matherly, vice president and vice provost for international affairs. Professors in Lehigh's colleges of arts and sciences, business, engineering and health have research interests there. Lehigh is seeking academic collaborations that advance scholarship in the areas of people in social contexts, human health, economic forces and sustainability and climate change.

# UN Youth Representative Advocates for Women's Rights on Global Stage

Rolake Tomoye '23 has interwoven her passions, experiences, identity and studies to gain the opportunity to advance female rights and demand change at the UN.

Tomoye has always felt strongly about social, political and economic empowerment of women in her home country of

Nigeria. She is in the IDEAS program – integrated degree in arts, engineering and science – majoring in computer science, economics and global studies, with a focus on technological and economic development in sub-Saharan Africa.

As a UN Youth Representative, Tomoye works on behalf of the Centre for Women Studies and Intervention (CWSI) in Nigeria. The CWSI is a non-governmental organization (NGO) that researches the root causes of gender-based violence in Nigeria and lobbies legislators to make laws addressing marginalization, oppression and violence against women and girls, influenced by culture and poverty.

Lehigh established the world's first UN Youth Representative Program in 2008. The program sends high-achieving students to represent their UN-accredited NGO at the United Nations. Tomoye says the UN Youth Reps work to advance the interest of their NGO and network with other NGOs and individuals at the UN. She says the experience has taught her how to effectively advocate for a cause.

In October, Tomoye participated in a UN conference in Utah on the Sustainable Development Goals. She was on a panel discussing the importance of gender parity in decision making. Later that month, she spoke at the UN as part of an event celebrating United Nations Day and highlighting academia's role in responding to global challenges. She described how she got involved with the UN and how other youth can follow her steps to speak on important issues on the platform.

If others can learn anything from Tomoye and other UN Youth Reps, it's that approaching people with alternate viewpoints can be a challenge, but these hard conversations are what create change.

"Just seeing youth such as Greta Thunberg or Malala Yousafzai use their platforms to impact such big change always reminds me that no matter how old you are, no matter what sex or gender or religion, or sexual orientation you are, that you should never stop speaking about what matters to you and what is important to you."





Rolake Tomoye '23, an IDEAS major from Nigeria, has spoken at the United Nations as part of her role as a UN Youth Representative.

30

students served as UN Youth Representatives in 2022, working with the United Nations on behalf of 11 NGOs from around the world.

### **Updates from Lehigh in India**

A Learn more about

Representative program.

the UN Youth

# New University Partners Expand Lehigh's Network in India

As part of the Global Lehigh internationalization strategic plan, Lehigh identified India as an area of geographic focus to deepen investment in student recruitment, alumni engagement, university partnerships and student programs. In 2017, Lehigh established a partnership with Ashoka University in Haryana, and in 2021, the university expanded its network with new partnerships with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay in Mumbai and the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur. Now Lehigh is adding O.P. Jindal Global University in Sonipat, just outside Delhi, and SRM Institute of Science and Technology in southern India as university partners.

#### Provost Faculty Fellows to Work on India Initiatives

The Provost Faculty Fellows Program enables faculty who want to foster institutional changes at Lehigh to work on a specific project and get experience in higher education leadership. Two

Learn more about the Faculty Fellows Program.

fellows in the first cohort will collaborate with the Office of International Affairs. Ganesh Balasubramanian, associate professor of mechanical engineering and mechanics, and Anand Ramamurthi, professor of bioengineering, will work with Cheryl Matherly, vice president and vice provost for international affairs, to elevate faculty collaborations in India.

### **Our Offices and Programs**

The Office of International Affairs (OIA) centralizes the activities that support international engagement. Our 10 offices and programs encompass inbound and outbound mobility, partnerships, fellowship advising and leadership education, and engage individuals from high school to post-graduate.

#### Fellowship Advising

The Office of Fellowship Advising helps Lehigh students and recent graduates apply for nationally competitive scholarships and fellowships.

#### Global Citizenship Center for Pedagogies of Self, Other and World Well-being

The center works to educate toward a stance of care and concern for others and the planet and in support of sustained action toward creating a more peaceful, just and sustainable world.

### Global Partnerships and Strategic Initiatives

GPSI coordinates Lehigh's international activities and external institutions that want to engage with the university.

#### **Global Union**

This coalition of student clubs with an international focus provides campus programs and leadership development.

#### lacocca Institute

The lacocca Institute creates transformative, hands-on leadership experiences that challenge and empower the next generation of global leaders.

#### lacocca International Internship Program

These fully funded summer internships send students to work or do research overseas, combining real-world experience and cultural immersion.

### International Center for Academic and Professional English

ICAPE provides non-credit and credit courses, workshops and tutoring for multilingual speakers of English.

### Office of International Students and Scholars

OISS offers immigration advising and support services to Lehigh's international students.

#### Study Abroad

Lehigh offers 200+ programs in nearly 70 countries, ranging from three weeks up to an academic year. Roughly 40 percent of undergrads have an international experience before graduating.

### Lehigh University-United Nations Partnership

Lehigh has Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) status with the UN, giving our students rare access to the world's largest intergovernmental organization.

