



“Lehigh University prepares graduates to engage with the world and lead lives of meaning.”

—Lehigh University Vision Statement

THIS IS GLOBAL LEHIGH

“Globalization is the movement of people, ideas, goods, capital, services, pollution, and diseases across borders. Internationalization is higher education’s engagement with that reality.”

—American Council on Education

In fall 2016, Lehigh University joined the American Council on Education’s Internationalization Laboratory, an invitational learning community that helps colleges and universities develop a strategy for comprehensive internationalization, where an international or intercultural dimension is infused in all aspects of teaching, research and service.

This plan is the work of the ACE Lab Steering Committee, which included staff and faculty from Lehigh’s four colleges (see full list on page 4). The plan is closely aligned with Lehigh’s mission and vision as well as the goals of the Path to Prominence. It is guided by these assumptions:

Interdisciplinarity is central to internationalization.

Lehigh’s significant experience with interdisciplinary programs should be a key driver of the strategic approach to internationalization.

Experiential learning is a signature part of the Lehigh experience. Facilitating learning from theory to practice is a core Lehigh tenet, with experiential learning opportunities further developing this connection.

We should “learn from ourselves.” Lehigh offers numerous distinctive international programs that we can scale and use as models for similar programs.

Partnerships play a key role in our work. Partnerships can deepen Lehigh’s curricular and co-curricular offerings, allow us to internationalize with fewer resources and make international experiences more accessible.

We need to be prepared to meet the needs of a changing student body. Lehigh’s ambitious targets to grow student enrollment by 20 percent over the next seven years will require the university to compete in new markets and respond to increasing student diversity.

International programs should not be constrained by the academic calendar. International experiences provide an opportunity for Lehigh to create programs that can cross perceived time restrictions.

Staff are an underutilized resource to support Lehigh’s international goals. Staff can, should and want to be valued resources in Lehigh’s internationalization efforts.

Our own community presents unique opportunities for connections. The Lehigh Valley is very diverse, and our international programs help Lehigh be an anchor institution. We can foster innovation, prepare the future workforce, and contribute to community development.

THIS IS HOW WE DO IT

Position: Strengthen the visibility of Lehigh as a globally influential university.

The Internationalization Strategic Plan affirms Lehigh's position as a distinctive, global institution. World-class universities are measured by the global nature of the problems that their faculty and students are prepared to address. This means that we must seek opportunities for students to learn about and become part of global networks. We also must be prepared to bring the best minds from around the globe to study, research, and teach at Lehigh. We must be nimble to respond to opportunities and challenges presented by rapid geopolitical changes.

We will advance leadership in local, national, and global communities on crucial questions facing world societies today, as related to the university's key areas of excellence in teaching and research and build on interdisciplinary programs that address critical global questions, including those related to entrepreneurship, global health, sustainable and resilient communities, religion, gender, race and identity, and global citizenship.

(Student) Population: Leverage international programs to ensure that Lehigh is a destination of choice for the best students in the world.



Making Education Abroad Open to All

The Office of International Affairs is partnering with LUSI (Lehigh University Student Scholars Institute), a program to help first-generation and low-income students succeed at Lehigh, and the Office of Equity and Community on LUSI: Passport to Success, a program to help students pursue international education opportunities.

Participants can get a free passport and apply for one of three \$2,500 study abroad scholarships supported by gifts from alumni. The year-long mentorship program will help students think about their study abroad as part of the academic career goals, and not just as an add-on to their time at Lehigh.

This year is a pilot with the expectation that the program will expand to more students at Lehigh as part of the Office of International Affairs' efforts to make international experiences accessible to all.

Develop programs that will help grow the student body, build visibility in diverse markets, and attract students with a global mindset.

Connect international education programs with Lehigh's goals for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Consider education abroad as a "high-impact learning practice" that can contribute to these goals.

Increase the diversity of the international student population and reduce dependency upon on single countries for student recruitment.

Build a robust academic advising infrastructure and redesign the International Center for Academic and Professional English to support international students' writing and communication skills and academic and social integration.

Design campus "creative spaces" with consideration of how these spaces reinforce the social and academic needs and integration of international students.

Expand university infrastructure and housing to support graduate students.

Programs: Invest in curricular and co-curricular programs that prepare graduates to engage with the world and live lives of meaning.

Invest in and scale Lehigh's already distinctive international education portfolio, which includes signature programs like the Iacocca Institute and experiential learning opportunities like the Iacocca International Internship Program and Mountaintop Initiative.

Cultivate Lehigh's expertise with experiential learning as a signature aspect of international engagement by building on programs such as the Iacocca International Internship Program and Mountaintop.

Create a framework that connects existing international programs to advance student learning goals and better align university resources. Articulate how Lehigh's interconnected international programs contribute to understanding issues in our own community.

Incentivize study of foreign language as related to intercultural learning outcomes.

Articulate the connection between internationalization, career development, and employability for domestic and international students.

Promote the Global Union as a high-profile campus organization that facilitates meaningful interaction between domestic and international students, graduate and undergraduate students, and students, staff, and faculty and contributes to a vibrant campus cultural life.

Partners: Strategically partner with institutions, organizations, and industry to advance teaching, research, and service in new directions.

Cultivate a few strategic institutional partnerships in key geographic regions that will enable Lehigh to activate a global network with industry, NGO, government, and alumni partners and enter the increasingly collaborative world of global higher education.

Leverage Lehigh's West Coast presence to advance initiatives in Asia and those related to entrepreneurship and innovation. Identify opportunities to work with international partners on programs through Lehigh@Nasdaq Center.

Integrate the Lehigh University-United Nations Partnership with teaching, research, and service, particularly related to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Expand Lehigh's Youth Representative Program as a global leadership development program.

People: Expand campus resources, services, and infrastructure to support Lehigh's goals to recruit and retain world class faculty and staff.

Stimulate and support international research collaborations between faculty and research groups at Lehigh and abroad.

Create programs to develop new faculty leaders for international initiatives, including study abroad, international internships, creative inquiry projects, and other project-based learning.

Cultivate and leverage staff expertise related to internationalization goals. Involve staff with programs for international students and scholars and ensure that staff can participate in programs incentivizing international initiatives.

Create opportunities for visiting international researchers and scholars to more fully contribute to Lehigh's academic programs.



Recognition for the Global Union

In fall 2017, the magazine *IENetworker*, a magazine from the Institute for International Education, highlighted the Global Union, an umbrella group of more than 45 students clubs and organizations with an international or cultural focus, as a model for social inclusion and leadership development.

The Global Union involves more than 3,000 students in 60 events every year. Its events contribute to a campus culture of inclusion, creating opportunities for interactions among diverse communities. The structure of the Global Union Executive Board also provides leadership opportunities for international and domestic students.

The organization is an important part of Lehigh's efforts to bring students from different backgrounds together and to provide an international experience without even leaving campus.



Lehigh Partners with Innovative Indian University

In 2017, Lehigh established a new partnership with Ashoka University of Haryana, India. Founded in 2011 by a group of leading Indian business leaders, Ashoka offers an innovative curriculum focused on foundational knowledge, research and hands-on learning opportunities.

The new agreement calls for Lehigh and Ashoka to create study-abroad and exchange opportunities for students at both schools; to open up Lehigh's Mountaintop program to Ashoka undergraduates; to facilitate faculty exchanges; and to create joint research programs between the two institutions.

Places: Develop multifaceted engagement in regions that strategically align with Lehigh's teaching, research, and service goals.

Develop models to assess opportunities for strategic geographic engagement based on Lehigh's teaching and research priorities, student recruitment goals, alumni activity, institutional partnerships, funding opportunities, and geopolitical opportunities.

Develop areas of geographic focus for strategic engagement over the next three to five years that align geopolitical opportunities with Lehigh academic strengths, recruiting targets and alumni presence.

Develop alumni networks to support engagement in world regions.



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