

Global *Lehigh*

2024-2025
Partnerships
Activity Report



LEHIGH
UNIVERSITY

Office of International Affairs

INTRODUCTION

This year's Partnerships Activity Report offers an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many ways Lehigh faculty and staff are advancing the university's global engagement. Across campus, colleagues are leveraging internationalization grants, forging innovative research collaborations, and creating transformative opportunities for students abroad. Collectively, these efforts strengthen Lehigh's partnerships around the world while also enriching the academic and cultural life of our campus.

The report highlights the breadth of research and teaching initiatives that connect Lehigh to global challenges and perspectives. From groundbreaking collaborations in STEM and the social sciences to new work in creative arts and policy studies, faculty are pursuing projects that expand our reach and impact. At the same time, students benefit from these partnerships through experiential learning, research exchanges, and pathways that prepare them to thrive as global citizens.

This report is also a chance to express our gratitude—to the faculty and staff who make international engagement a priority and inspire others through their work. We encourage both new and returning faculty to explore

opportunities to get involved, whether by applying for a grant, partnering with colleagues abroad, or mentoring students as they embark on international experiences.

We are also pleased to introduce Betzy Sandoval, our new Program Manager for Global Partnerships. Betzy will serve as an additional point of contact for international activities and a resource for faculty and staff interested in expanding their global work.

Together, these efforts demonstrate Lehigh's ongoing commitment to building strong, diverse, and impactful international partnerships. We look forward to supporting even more innovative collaborations in the year ahead.



Stacy Burger

*Director of Global Partnerships
and Strategic Initiatives
Lehigh University's Office
of International Affairs (OIA)*

ABOUT *Global Lehigh & GPSI*

Lehigh's Office of International Affairs (OIA) prepares students and other stakeholders to engage the world, address global challenges and live lives of meaning. It does so by fostering an understanding of one's individual and interconnected positions in the world, and cultivating an open-minded approach to the world that encourages respect, curiosity, and engagement with diverse perspectives.

Global Partnerships and Strategic Initiatives (GPSI) is the central point of contact and coordination at OIA for international activities undertaken by Lehigh's colleges and units, and for external institutions that want to engage with Lehigh University. It advises at all stages of partnership development, including identifying funding opportunities; developing custom programs; hosting in-bound exchange students, visitors and delegations; and coordinating with internal and external stakeholders.

LEHIGH'S *International Partnerships (2024-2025)*

Below is a map and table of all the global partnership institutions with which Lehigh University has a signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) or student exchange agreement (SEA). It does not include educational institutions with which we've had discussions or collaborations without having a formal MOU in place.



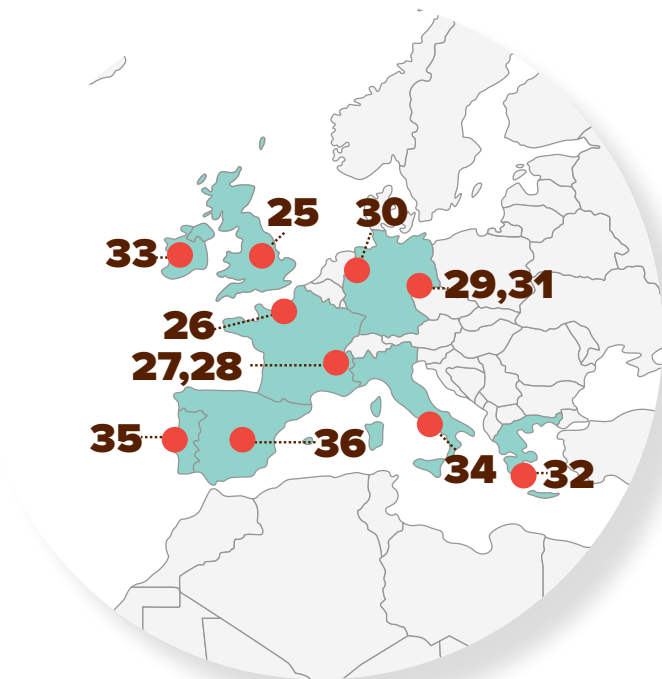
- 1 Donghua University**
China (MOU 2020)
- 2 East China Normal University**
China (MOU 2013)
- 3 East China University of Science and Technology**
China (MOU 2013)
- 4 Tongji University**
China (MOU, SEA 2011)
- 5 Chinese University of Hong Kong**
Hong Kong (MOU, SEA 2004)
- 6 Hong Kong University of Science & Technology**
Hong Kong (MOU, SEA 2004)
- *7 Agastya International Foundation**
India (MOU 2025)
- 8 Ashoka University**
India (MOU, SEA Articulation Agreement 2018)

- 9 IIT Bombay**
India (MOU, SEA 2020)
- 10 IIT Kharagpur**
India (MOU 2020)
- 11 OP Jindal (Jindal Global)**
India (MOU 2023)
- 12 SRM Institute of Science & Technology**
India (MOU, SEA 2024)
- 13 Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), Bhopal University**
India (MOU, SEA 2024)
- 14 Kanazawa University**
Japan (MOU 2015)
- 15 Nagoya Institute of Technology**
Japan (MOU, SEA 2020)
- 16 Nara Women's University**
Japan (MOU, SEA 2022)

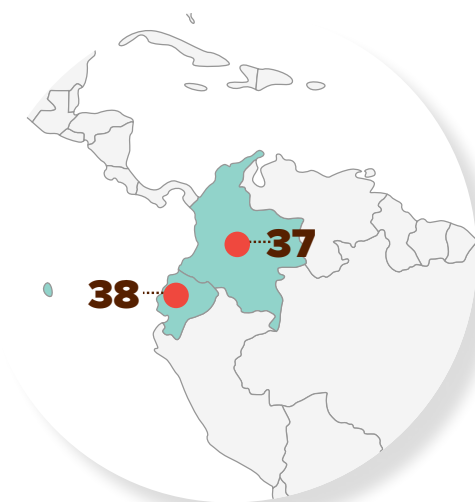
- 17 Waseda University**
Japan (MOU, SEA 2017)
- 18 Almaty University**
Kazakhstan (MOU, SEA 2022)
- 19 SDU**
Kazakhstan (MOU, SEA 2020)
- 20 Universitas Teknologi Petronas**
Malaysia (MOU, SEA 2013)
- 21 Forman Christian College**
Pakistan (MOU 2020)
- 22 Sogang University**
South Korea (MOU, SEA 2019)
- 23 Singapore University of Technology and Design**
Singapore (MOU, SEA 2018)
- 24 University of Taipei**
Taiwan (MOU 2020)

* = See following pages for more details

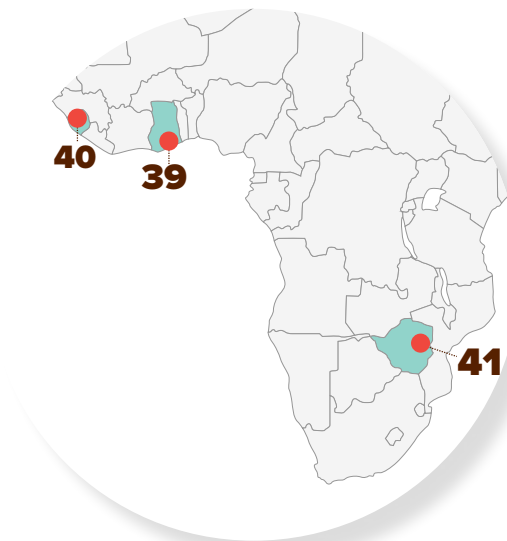
LEHIGH'S *International Partnerships (2024-2025)*



- 25** University of Nottingham
England (MOU, SEA 2012)
- 26** ESIGELEC
France (MOU 2012)
- 27** Grenoble INP
France (MOU, SEA 2016)
- 28** INSA Lyon
France (MOU, SEA 2024)
- *29** Technical University Bergakademie Freiberg
Germany (MOU 2025)
- *30** Technical University of Dortmund
Germany (MOU, SEA 1998)
- 31** Technical University of Dresden
Germany (MOU, SEA 2023)
- 32** Harokopio University
Greece (MOU 2025)
- 33** University of Galway
(previously NUI Galway)
Ireland (MOU, SEA 2010)
- *34** University of Naples Federico II
Italy (MOU 2025)
- 35** FLAD
Portugal (MOU, SEA 2023)
- 36** Universidad Pontificia Comillas
Spain (MOU, SEA 2024)



- 37** Universidad de la Sabana
Colombia (MOU 2020)
- 38** Universidad San Francisco de Quito
Ecuador (MOU, SEA 2020)



- *39** The African Center for Governance
and Economic Management
Ghana (MOU 2024)
- 40** World Hope International Makeni
Sierra Leone (MOU 2018)
- 41** Africa University
Zimbabwe (MOU 2024)

** = See following pages for more details*



RESEARCH

Through global partnerships, Lehigh faculty and international colleagues collaborate on research that drives innovation, shares knowledge across borders, and addresses pressing global challenges.



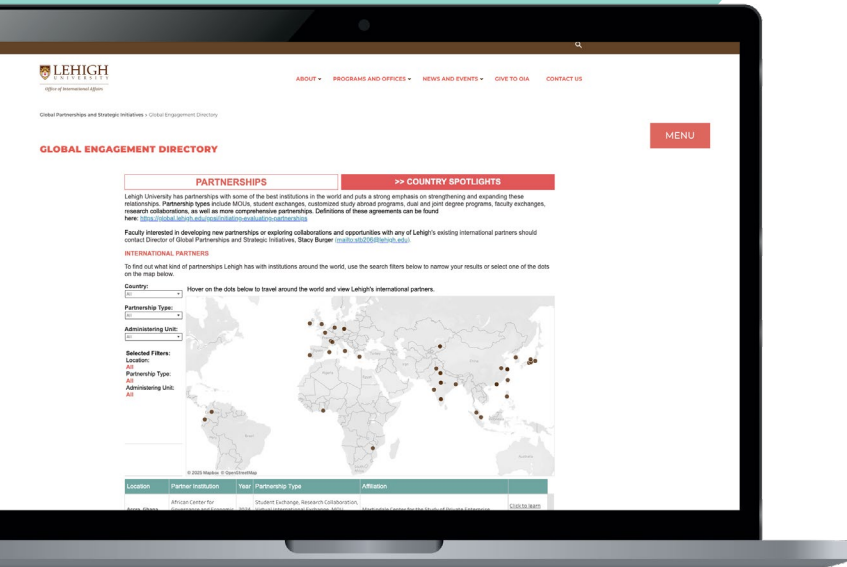
RESEARCH

Lehigh launches new Global Engagement Directory

Lehigh University has launched a new Global Engagement Directory, an interactive digital platform showcasing the university's international partnerships and global activity.

Designed to support Lehigh's global engagement strategy, the user-friendly directory features a searchable map of institutional collaborations, sortable by country, partnership type, and college or department. It also includes spotlight pages for nearly two dozen countries—such as China, India, France, Japan, the UK, and Zimbabwe—highlighting how Lehigh faculty and staff are engaged around the world.

"This tool enables us to tell our story, highlight our global connections, and reinforce our leadership in international engagement and innovation," said Cheryl Matherly, Vice President and Vice Provost for International Affairs. The directory reflects Lehigh's commitment to internationalization and positions the university at the forefront of global higher education innovation.



Faculty Internationalization Grant Winners

These are the 2024–2025 recipients of Faculty Internationalization Grants, which support Lehigh faculty seeking to engage or enhance international research and teaching experiences.

Fall 2024

- **Michael S. Lehman**, Professor of Practice, M.Eng. in Technical Entrepreneurship (TE) at P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science, to support an expanded 2025 international exchange between Lehigh and TU Dortmund graduate students during TE Week at Lehigh
- **Jong Cheol Shin**, Assistant Professor, Department of Population Health at Lehigh's College of Health, conducted research promoting physical activity in older adults in South Korea through health technology
- **Dhruv Seshadri**, Assistant Professor, Department of Bioengineering at P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science, conducted research for "Breaking the Silence: Empowering Menstrual Hygiene Management Through Education, Research, and Service in India"

Spring 2025

- **Christina Chi Zhang**, Assistant Professor, Department of Art, Architecture and Design at Lehigh's College of Education, conducted research on "Storytelling and Memory Justice in the Face of War and Conflict: Exhibition, Speech, and Panel Discussion at Young Humanitarian Summit in Zürich"
- **Dork L. Sahagian**, Professor of Earth & Environmental Sciences at Lehigh's College of Arts & Sciences, conducted research on "Enhancing Research and Exchange of Pedagogical Approaches and Students between Lehigh and Armenia"
- **Ed Whitley**, Professor of English with Lehigh's College of Arts & Sciences, partnered with TU Dortmund in Germany for student research in American Literature and Culture



2024-2025 PARTNERSHIP *Highlights*



University of Naples Federico II *Italy*

A partnership with the University of Naples Federico II is advancing fusion science and training the next generation of researchers. Led by Eugenio Schuster, Professor of Mechanical Engineering & Mechanics at Lehigh, the collaboration explores new plasma control systems while engaging graduate students through joint lectures, seminars, and mentoring. The initiative positions Lehigh at the forefront of international research on sustainable energy.



Technical University Bergakademie Freiberg *Germany*

Through its partnership with TU Freiberg, Lehigh is pioneering circular carbon technologies to tackle urgent climate challenges. Led by Carlos Romero, Director of Lehigh's Energy Research Center, the collaboration advances solutions for carbon capture and recycling while strengthening international research ties. This work supports global efforts toward sustainable energy systems.

African Center for Governance and Economic Management *Ghana*

Lehigh placed its first international intern in Africa through a new partnership with the African Center for Governance and Economic Management (ACGEM) in Ghana, marking a milestone in expanding the university's global footprint.

The internship gave a Lehigh student hands-on experience contributing to ACGEM's mission of economic research and policy development. The placement was organized in collaboration with the Martindale Center for the Study of Private Enterprise and facilitated by Martindale Executive Director Todd Watkins, Study Abroad Director Katie Radande, and Scott Koerwer, Executive Director of the Lee Iacocca Institute for Global Leadership.

This partnership underscores Lehigh's growing commitment to experiential learning and cross-continental collaboration, while laying the groundwork for deeper institutional ties in Africa.





STUDENT MOBILITY

Partnerships with universities and organizations worldwide create opportunities for Lehigh students and their peers abroad to learn together, exchange perspectives, and build skills through immersive international experiences.



STUDENT MOBILITY



New Graduate Pathways Strengthen Lehigh's Ties to India

Lehigh has launched new graduate pathway programs with Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) and SRM University in India to strengthen pipelines for international students. These programs give students early exposure to research opportunities at Lehigh, preparing them to contribute to advanced projects in engineering, health, and other disciplines. The initiative is already showing promising enrollment growth and is expanding Lehigh's connections with two of India's leading universities.

2024-2025 PARTNERSHIP *Highlights*

Transatlantic Ruhr Fellowship *Germany*



In summer 2024, Lehigh hosted 12 top students from the three UA Ruhr universities* in Germany through the Transatlantic Ruhr Fellowship, strengthening a flagship transatlantic partnership. The fellows gained cross-cultural and professional experience through leadership workshops and New York-area internships, supported by faculty and staff across the Lee Iacocca Institute for Global Leadership, International Center for Academic and Professional English (ICAPE), and the Office of Global Education. The program underscores Lehigh's role as a hub for international collaboration and student development.

* = University of Duisburg-Essen, Ruhr University Bochum, and TU Dortmund

Agastya International Foundation *India*

Lehigh deepened its partnership with India's Agastya International Foundation in 2025 by sending five student-faculty teams for joint fieldwork through the Global Social Impact Fellowship. Their projects addressed AI in STEAM education, climate change learning centers, and design thinking in classrooms, giving students real-world experience in innovation-focused learning. Agastya's mission to reach 100 million children by 2032 aligns with Lehigh's values of experiential education, global engagement, and cross-campus collaboration.





2024-2025 FACULTY & STAFF *Highlights*



Dimitrios Vavylonis
Professor of Physics

Dimitrios Vavylonis led Lehigh’s partnership with the Nagoya Institute of Technology (NiTECH) in Japan. He led the first group of Iacocca International interns to NiTECH in 2016, and is leading his sixth team this year. A total of 26 students have participated. Since 2022, Lehigh has also welcomed NiTECH students into research labs across several departments. An official exchange agreement was signed in 2020 and renewed in 2025. In addition to his work with Japan, Vavylonis co-organizes an international biophysics summer school at the University of Crete in Greece, demonstrating his broader commitment to global academic exchange.



Katy Rene & Vincent Munley

Lehigh’s research placement program in Galway, Ireland, was revitalized through the collaborative efforts of Katy Rene, Assistant Director of Study Abroad, and Vincent Munley, Professor Emeritus of Economics in the College of Business. After a decline in faculty participation abroad, Munley traveled to Ireland in spring 2024 to personally reconnect with academic contacts, advocating for Lehigh students as valuable research assistants. His outreach helped restore faculty participation numbers to pre-COVID levels. Working in tandem, Rene coordinated the placement process, ensuring strong student-faculty matches. Their joint efforts reflect the impact of faculty and staff collaboration in expanding global opportunities and strengthening Lehigh’s long-standing partnerships in Ireland.

GLOBAL EXCHANGE *Numbers*

The following table highlights 2024-25 student exchange activity with Lehigh University’s global partner institutions, showing inbound and outbound participation by university.

	OUTBOUND	INBOUND
Hong Kong University of Science & Technology Hong Kong	1	3
IIT Bombay India	1	0
INSA Lyon France	3	1
Singapore University of Technology and Design Singapore	2	0
Technical University of Dresden Germany	3	0
Technical University of Dortmund Germany	1	0
Universidad Pontifica Comillas Spain	2	1
Universidad San Francisco de Quito Ecuador	0	2
University of Galway Ireland	2	0
Waseda University Japan	1	0



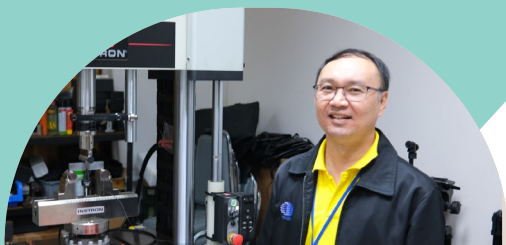
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Sustained collaborations with leading global institutions strengthen Lehigh's academic mission while advancing shared priorities in research, teaching, and student engagement.



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

SENIOR LEADER DELEGATION *Visits*



High-level institutional visits by Lehigh senior leaders are an essential part of sustaining and expanding global partnerships. During the 2024–25 academic year, delegations led by Vice President & Vice Provost for International Affairs Cheryl Matherly and academic deans advanced collaborations across Asia and Central Asia, reinforcing Lehigh's visibility with key institutions, securing new partners, and opening pathways for research, teaching, and student mobility.

Singapore and Thailand (January 2025):

Cheryl Matherly and Stephen DeWeerth, Dean of the P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science, visited the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), building on existing collaborations in engineering and design. The delegation also explored new opportunities for partnership in Thailand connected to Lehigh's upcoming participation in the IAPP Thailand 2025 program.

India (March 2025):

Matherly and Lehigh College of Business Dean Manoj Malhotra visited multiple partner institutions in India, combining relationship-building with student yield and alumni events. These activities strengthened Lehigh's academic ties in one of the university's most important international markets.

Kazakhstan (September & October 2024):

Cheryl Matherly and Stacy Burger joined the inaugural Kazakhstan-U.S. University Consortium, connecting 60+ institutions. The delegation reinforced ties with Almaty Management University, established a partnership with SDU, and met with leading universities and scholarship organizations in Almaty and Astana, advancing Lehigh's strategic engagement in Central Asia.

Japan (August 2025):

Matherly visited Nagoya Institute of Technology, meeting with senior leadership, faculty, and students to meet with students completing summer research internships through the Iacocca International Internship Program. They also explored ways to expand collaborations for student and research programs. This partnership was first launched by Lehigh's Office of Creative Inquiry.



2024-2025 PARTNERSHIP *Highlights*

Technical University of Dortmund Germany

Lehigh University and TU Dortmund have maintained one of Lehigh's longest-standing global partnerships since 1998, built on shared regional characteristics and common priorities in innovation and economic development.

In December 2024, a Lehigh delegation visited TU Dortmund to deepen this collaboration through a series of sessions focused on entrepreneurship, innovation, and international partnership. A highlight of the visit was a roundtable discussion exploring how universities, government agencies, and industry leaders can jointly foster startup ecosystems and drive economic growth.

Delegates also participated in workshops to assess recent joint projects, address shared challenges, and identify new opportunities for cooperation. This long-running partnership continues to exemplify the value of sustained international engagement, showing how universities can connect with external stakeholders to advance innovation and regional development on both sides of the Atlantic.

Also this year, Daniela Gimenez Jimenez, Junior Professor of Entrepreneurship at TU Dortmund, collaborated with Willy Das, Senior Research Scientist at Lehigh@NasdaqCenter, on a study developing solutions to support the well-being of entrepreneurs. Their work was featured in Fortune magazine. Additionally, students from TU Dortmund's TLab visited Lehigh in March to participate in Technical Entrepreneurship Week.



Office of International Affairs

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