GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT: U of T in the World

AN INTERCONNECTED WORLD

In December 2015, the Governing Council of the University of Toronto endorsed these three priorities:

1. Leverage our urban location(s) more fully, for the mutual benefit of University and City; and
2. Strengthen and deepen key international partnerships by means of a well-defined strategic focus; and
3. Re-imagine and reinvent undergraduate education.

In a world that is increasingly interconnected, an international perspective is a vital part of the academic mission. The International Strategic Plan complements all three priorities and supports U of T’s internationalization goals.

At U of T, we are committed to global engagement. We recruit students from 165 countries and regions and our alumni community spans the globe. Enhancing our global competitiveness means recruiting the best talent worldwide, including faculty, staff and students. It also means connecting our superlative talent to state-of-the-art facilities and research networks.

We infuse international and comparative perspectives throughout our teaching and research activities so that all of our students and research can contribute to the flourishing of arts, culture, and society, and have global impact on the world’s most pressing issues - health, social justice, economic growth, the environment, peace and security. U of T is a truly global university, one in which all students and faculty can engage a broad spectrum of challenges, ideas, cultures and bodies of knowledge.

The challenges we face are interconnected and demand global cooperation. Through intercultural learning experiences, our students are better equipped to appreciate diverse perspectives and cultures. They grow as globally-minded individuals that tackle universal problems. Our international students and research projects bring multiple, global points of view to the University, just as our Canadian diversity at home amplifies diversity and openness to the rest of the world.

U of T will cultivate the next generation of global leaders in industry, academia and the public service. Over 80% of employers value global fluency in their prospective employees [QS Survey 2011]. Our students need to succeed cross-culturally to gain meaningful future employment.

Global engagement shapes our institutional ethos and touches every aspect of our higher education enterprise.

A REFLECTION OF CANADIAN OPENNESS

In 2017, Canada reached its 150th year as a nation, one that celebrates and is strengthened by its openness to global engagement in migration, cultural exchange, and trade. U of T’s commitment to global engagement and academic exchange in an interconnected world is truly a reflection of these Canadian values.

U of T scholars do, and will continue to, engage with other thought leaders around the world. This Plan is not intended to limit any of the remarkable partnerships U of T’s brilliant minds are already leading, but instead to augment further and raise the profile of these partnerships.

The Eight Axes are the backbone of this International Strategic Plan and represent key dimensions for growth to position the University of Toronto for success on the international stage.

DELIVERING ON U OF T’S GLOBAL PROMISE

This International Strategic Plan aims to broaden and deepen U of T’s global activities with improved engagement opportunities for students, global research partnerships, and expanded alumni outreach.

Through discussions with key stakeholders and partners across the University, we identified major focus areas for growth and key global regions within which to expand our reach.

This plan will outline the University of Toronto’s current position within each focus area and follow with specific recommendations to strengthen this position.

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THE EIGHT AXES

STUDENTS
- RECRUITMENT
- MOBILITY
- INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE

PARTNERSHIPS
- ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS
- INNOVATION
- ENTREPRENEURSHIP

ADVANCEMENT AND REPUTATION
- ALUMNI AND FUNDRAISING
- REPUTATION AND BRAND