

Welcome from the Associate Vice President

Welcome to the Office of Global Engagement's (OGE) second annual newsletter. OGE came into being on September 1, 2015. Our mission is to advance knowledge, research, and learning that promote the common good. We contribute to the academic and cultural environments of UTRGV through the movement of people and ideas across borders. We support our faculty, staff, and students to become effective global leaders who will create a more just global society.

This past year was a busy one for everyone involved in globalization at UTRGV. Among our many activities, we have continued to promote student mobility by expanding study abroad programs to new places around the world. OGE helped international students join the UTRGV community so that they can learn about our cultures, and teach us about theirs. We continue to provide critical support to UTRGV's international partnerships by overseeing the signing of new Agreements of Cooperation between our school and international partners. OGE supports faculty as they internationalize our campus and community through our Faculty Research Grants and Global Opportunity Grants. These grants provide faculty members with the means to travel abroad for research, bring in speakers, conduct outreach events, internationalize their classes, and nurture international partnerships. OGE will again offer world-class classes in English as a Second Language, which prepares community members for professional careers and allows prospective UTRGV students to prepare for academic success at UTRGV.

Recent News

- OGE is particularly pleased to announce that we were awarded an Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Grant (UISFL) from the US Department of Education. The grant is worth more than \$170,000 for a two-year period. The grant will be coordinated and lead by the Office of Global Engagement and over twenty UTRGV faculty members. The final result will be an integrated and coordinated structure of programs that provide support for and promotion of international studies, foreign languages, and international outreach at UTRGV.
- International Programs and Partnerships received a federal grant to help UTRGV students study abroad. Working with UTRGV faculty, IPP received a Department of State and Chevron Corporation grant worth \$25,000. This grant will help UTRGV students study abroad in Argentina.
- To better help our students learn more and gain first hand experiences through travel, the Office of International Partnerships and Programs will offer study away programs starting this academic year.

OGE Leadership and Staff



Dr. Dennis Hart

Associate Vice President



Rachel Berner

Administrative Associate



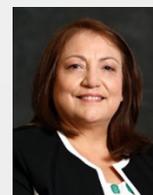
Alan Earhart

Director of International Programs & Partnerships



Samantha Lopez

Director of International Admissions & Students Services



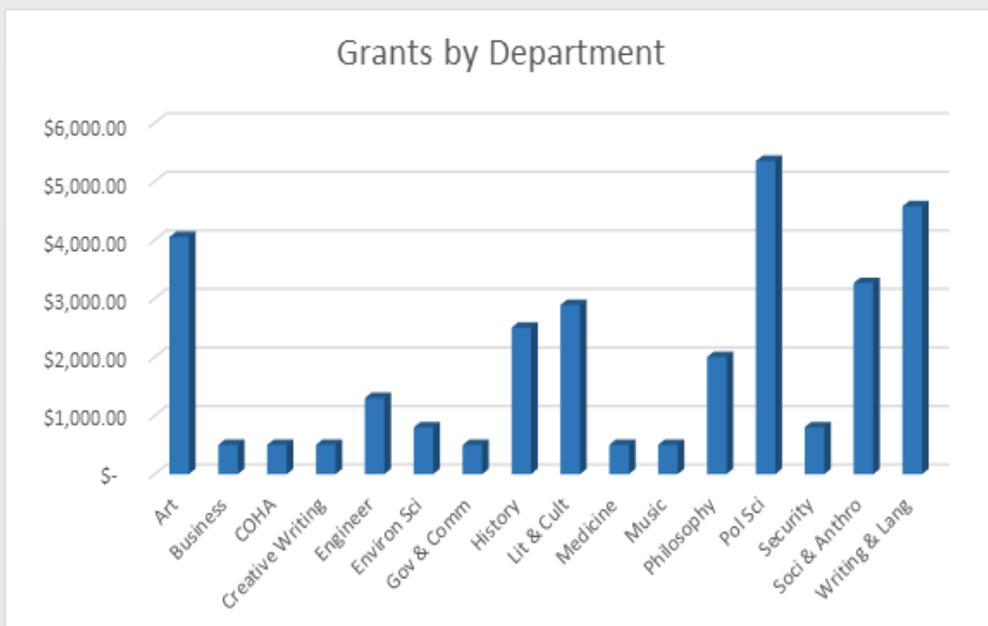
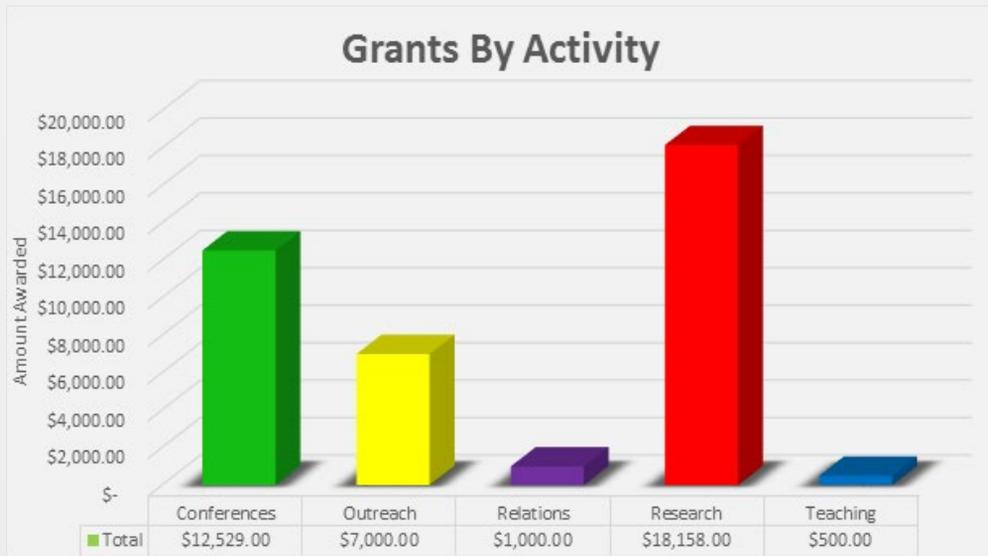
Norma Ramos

Director of Language Institute

- OGE's Office of International Admissions and Student Services is helping UTRGV greatly expand its recruiting efforts. Last year, and again this fall, OGE participated in the Sino-American Conference in Beijing as well as the recruiting expo in Beijing and Nanjing. OGE joined over 50 other universities from around the world in meeting university partners and potential students in China who wish to study in the United States.
- In October, IASS & OGE, with the Graduate College and Strategic Enrollment Office, joined in a virtual recruiting fair in India to recruit graduate students. Through the two-day fair UTRGV staff "virtually" met with prospective students from across India. Over 25 of these students applied to UTRGV in the first week following the event and we had 105 visitors to the UTRGV virtual booth.
- Further expanding UTRGV's recruitment efforts, OGE's Language Institute, the Graduate College, and The Strategic Enrollment Office will join a series of recruiting fairs in Mexico, Peru, Argentina, Columbia, and Chile. We will visit over a dozen cities in Latin America and meet thousands of potential future Vaqueros.
- OGE is collaborating with University of Texas Austin area studies centers for Latin American Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, European Studies, and South Asian Studies on their Department of Education Title VI NRC grants. Those centers will provide funding to UTRGV faculty for research and to internationalize our university.

Office of Global Engagement

Faculty Grants Awarded by OGE 2017-2018



Office of Global Engagement

Recent Faculty Activities Funded and Supported by OGE

- Creative Writing Professor **Steven Schneider**, traveled to Hengyang Normal University in China for an exhibition of paintings, titled *Magic of Mariachi*.
- Assistant Professor **Mi-Son Kim**, Political Science, traveled to Korea to conduct research on “Political Parties as Brands.”
- Dr. **Micheal Abebe**, Associate Professor of Management, presented his paper titled: “Entrepreneurship tied to Sub-Saharan Africa” in Ethiopia, Africa.
- Research Assistant Dr. **Xi Yang**, Business College, traveled to China to present her research paper on Family Business in China and the RGV.
- Assistant Professor **Ping Xu**, Art department, displayed an exhibition of international photography while teaching an art class in Taiwan to young innovative UTRGV students.
- Dr. **Jose Martinez**, Literatures and Cultural Studies, traveled to Spain to present his research paper titled, “Las Fuerzas Extrañas.”
- Engineering Professors **Anil Srivastava** and **Jianzhi Li**, traveled to Shenzhen, China to build relationships with the Southern University of Science and Technology.
- Sociology & Anthropology Assistant Professor **Sarah Rowe** presented her research paper in Canada titled, “Archaeological Activism for the 21st Century.”
- Dr. **Yong-Kang Wei** of the Writing and Language Studies Department journeyed abroad to deliver his research paper: “What is the Right Thing to Do? : A Survey of Students on Business Communication Ethics” at the 82nd Association for Business Communication Annual Convention in Ireland.
- Associate Professor **Frank Dirrigl** from the School of Earth Environment & Marine Sciences, presented his research paper on bird bone taphonomy over seas in the United Kingdom.
- Sociology & Anthropology’s Assistant Professor **Rosalynn Vega**, presented her research paper, “The ‘Destination Birth’ Industry in Mexico” at the XXXVI International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association in Barcelona, Spain.

Events sponsored by OGE

- International Meet and Greet
- International Education Week
- Multi Lingua Fest, **Dr. Minhee Eom**
- 3rd Annual Conference of Border Studies in Edinburg and Matamoros, Mexico
- Border Health Conference in Edinburg, **Dr. Caroline Miles**
- Lunar New Year, **Professor Mijin Oh**
- Asian Cultural Show, **Professor Mijin Oh**
- Community of Scholars, J1 Scholar Orientation & Farewell Events
- Global Latin America Lecture Series
- Model United Nations trip to NYC & UN, **Dr. Michelle Keck**
- Sahmyook University Program on Drug Addiction, **Dr. Eunkyung Park**
- Agreement of Cooperation signings with: Hunan Normal University of China, Nepal Chitwan University, and Tecnologico de Matamoros, Mexico



International Admissions & Student Services

Welcome by IASS Director



Samantha Lopez
Director

"International students are an essential part of the community and culture of our institution.

Their background, goals, perspective, dreams, and experiences strengthen our university as a whole and make everyone's learning experience richer."

IASS Vision

Our vision is to nurture and develop international students by providing a top-quality education and enhance their personal and professional development skills in a diverse and safe environment.

Our aim is for our international students to become transformative agents of change throughout the world.

Testimonials

Roshni Manwani, Nigeria



"This University has provided me with a family away from home"

Dauren Dossymbek, Kazakhstan



"Highly professional professors, like all the staff of this university, provides great perspective for students who are interested in productive work"

Md Ruhul Amin, Bangladesh



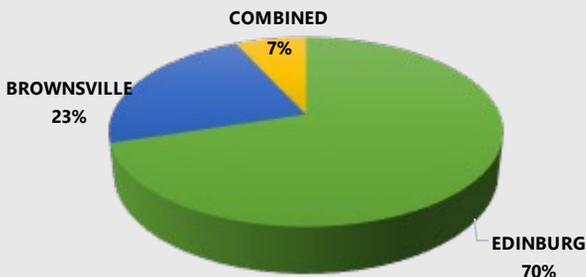
"I firmly believe that this university is a place for a transformation of one's desire to the accomplishment. I am very happy to be a part of this transformation"

Xi Yang, China



"People here are friendly and helpful. There are abundant events you can participate to get familiar with American culture and make friends"

Enrollment by Campus



IASS Team



Carlos Rios
Assistant Director



Erika Carrizales
Administrative Coordinator



Jessica Cantu
International Admissions Specialist



Nora Cruz Dole
Senior International Student Advisor



Nellie Leyva
International Student Advisor



Grisel Portilla
International Student Advisor

Recruitment Efforts

MEXICO 2017

IASS represented UTRGV and coordinated recruitment efforts during the month of October at the "Instituto Politécnico Nacional (National Polytechnic Institute) international conference "10 Años Impulsando la Cooperación y la Internacionalización".

CHINA 2017

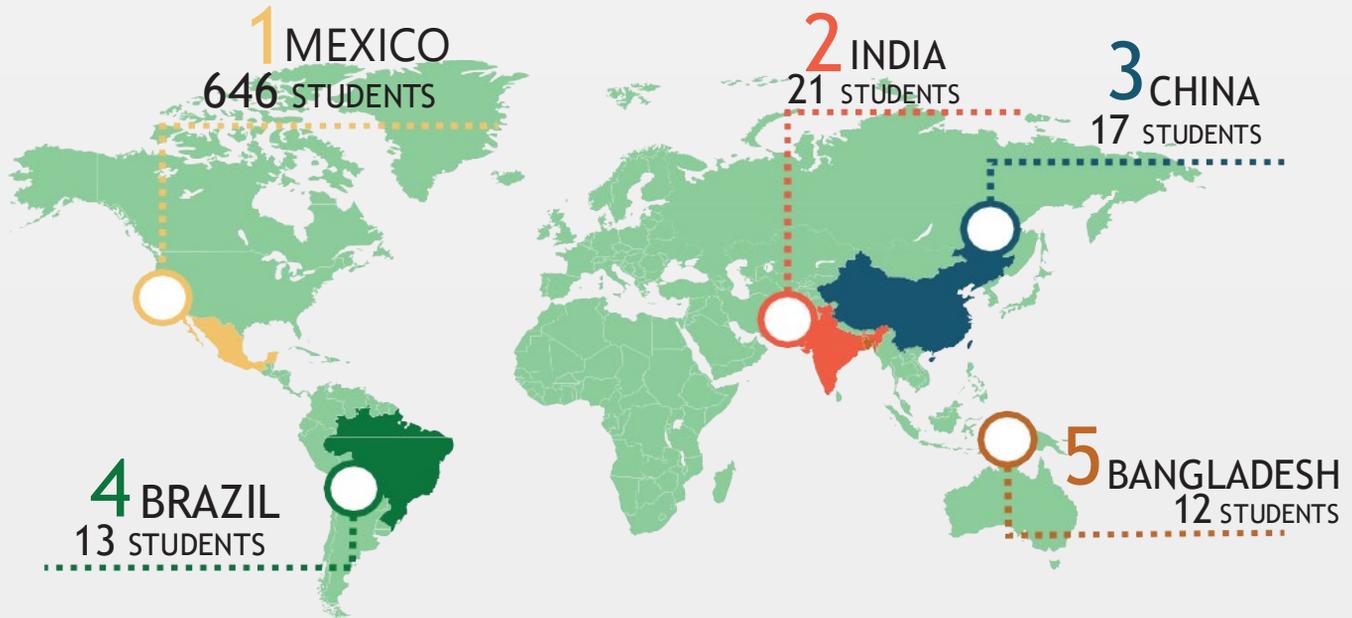
IASS participated at the China Education EXPO attracting more than 50,000 Chinese students interested in graduate and undergraduate education abroad. Additionally, visited several high schools and universities for possible collaborations with UTRGV.

MEXICO 2018

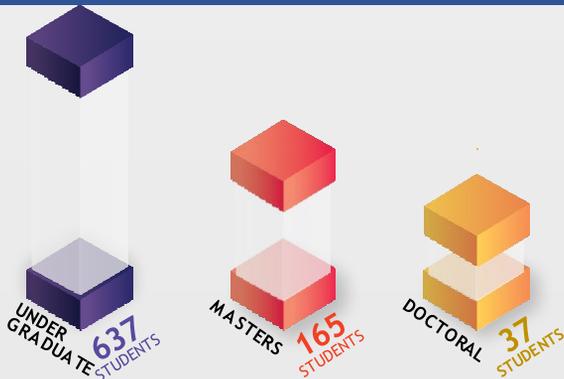
IASS visited Querétaro, México City, Guadalajara, Monterrey, and Cancún recruiting international students by sharing the endless educational opportunities that UTRGV has to offer.

International Admissions & Student Services

Top 5 Places of Origin



Enrollment by Education Level



IASS Team Achievements

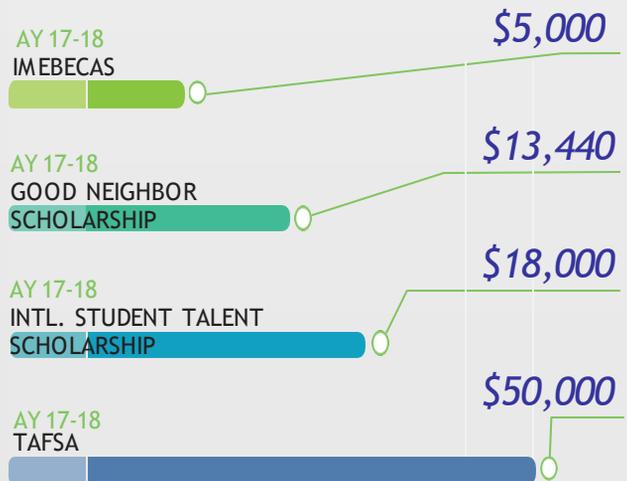
Conducted top quality cultural events, and provided support services as needed to help our international students integrate into the academic, cultural, and social life at UTRGV.

IASS has increased international student engagement activities sponsored by IASS and successful collaboration with faculty, departments, and campus and external organizations.



Scholarships

IASS secured \$86,440 in funding for international student scholarships by working in collaboration with other agencies, grants, and UTRGV internal student funding.



IASS Signature Events



International Food Festival: Sa bor de Mexico



International Food Festival: A Taste of the Middle East



Thanksgiving Luncheon

International Programs & Partnerships

Welcome by IPP Director



Alan Earhart
Director

This year has been one of growth and expansion for International Programs and Partnerships. Our team successfully moved through its second year together by capitalizing on our strengths and leveraging the experience we had gained in our first year together. IPP partnered with faculty from the College of Science and the College of Engineering and Computer Science to win a grant from the Department of State and the Chevron Corporation. This \$25,000 grant will directly benefit study abroad students this summer as they

travel to Argentina and work on projects with a cohort of students from our partner institution, Universidad de Ciencias Empresariales y Sociales in Buenos Aires. This grant is emblematic of the mission of IPP to internationalize the campus by working directly with faculty.

For more information on this grant please visit:

<http://www.100kstrongamericas.org/el-fondo-de-innovacion-100-000-strong-in-the-americas-anuncia-nuevas-instituciones-ganadoras-de-subsvenciones/>

IPP Services

The mission of International Programs and Partnerships enhances the internationalization of the UTRGV community.

STUDY ABROAD

UTRGV students enroll in Vaqueros Study Abroad programs led by our own UTRGV faculty. These programs are a few weeks in length and offer students the chance to experience a new culture with the close support of fellow UTRGV students and a faculty member. Through exchange agreements with partner institutions abroad UTRGV students also enroll directly in courses at a university abroad for a semester or longer. Finally, UTRGV participants in the student exchange program of the consortium of North American Higher Education Collaboration which provides access to countless institutions in 17 countries.

AGREEMENTS OF COOPERATION

Schools and Departments conducting research or academic exchanges with institutions abroad rely on International Programs and Partnerships to provide support and guidance on the establishment of Agreements of Cooperation. We have the experience and knowledge to complete this process in compliance with established institutional norms.

VISITING SCHOLARS

International Programs and Partnerships provides US immigration leadership for obtaining J1 visas for international scholars conducting research with Schools and Departments at UTRGV. We also facilitate the integration of these scholars into the campus community through logistics support and event planning.

IPP Team



Luis Alcocer
International
Programs Specialist



Andres Altamirano
Administrative
Coordinator



Gaspar Garcia
International
Programs Specialist

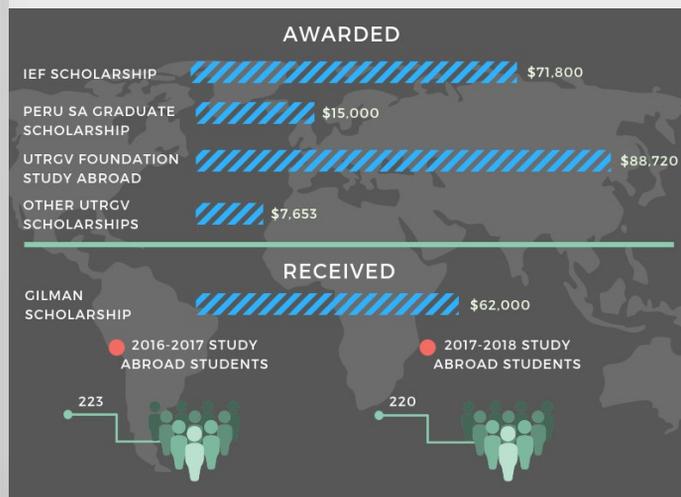


Lizette Leal
International
Programs Specialist

IPP Mission

The vision of International Programs and Partnerships is to serve the UTRGV community in its internationalization efforts through developing exchanges with partner institutions overseas. We create high-impact learning opportunities abroad for UTRGV students and faculty. We also serve visiting scholars and researchers by providing assistance for immigration and integration into the campus community.

Scholarships



International Programs & Partnerships

Study Abroad 2018

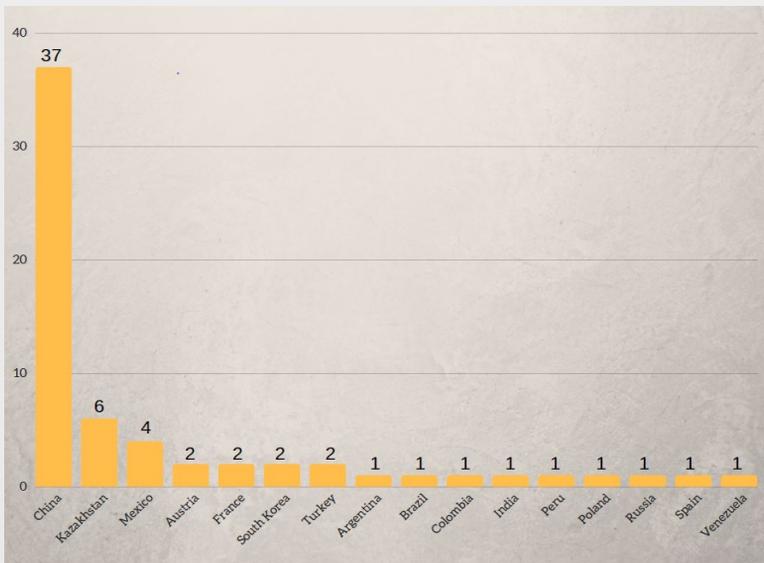


Sri Ramachandra MOU

On October 29, 2018, the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley hosted a signing ceremony for a Memorandum of Understanding between UTRGV and the Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research. UTRGV has had a long-standing collaborative relationship with the SRIHER, which has been ranked 10th among all medical colleges in India. Dr. Ravi Duggirala, a Professor in our Department of Human Genetics, initiated this collaboration in 2012 and since that time has fostered significant scientific exchanges with the SRIHER. Most recently, Dr. Duggirala led the development of a new US-India bilateral collaborative research partnership focused on assessing the genetic determinants of risk for type 2 diabetes in Indian populations. This unique collaborative venture is funded by both the US National Institutes of Health and the Indian Council of Medical Research.



Visiting Scholars



Agreements by Country

Country	Number of Agreements
Australia	1
Austria	3
Brazil	2
Canada	1
Chile	4
China	4
Colombia	1
Costa Rica	1
Cuba	1
France	6
Germany	2
Ireland	1
Kazakhstan	1
Mexico	8
Morocco	2
Poland	1
Romania	2
Russia	2
South Korea	2
Spain	4
Switzerland	1
Thailand	1
Turkey	1
United Kingdom	1
Uruguay	1
Total	54



Language Institute

Welcome by LI Director



Norma Ramos
Director

The Language Institute at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) offers the international community a unique experience in language learning. With two locations in the tropical South Texas region, The Language Institute (LI) offers excellence, affordability, and convenience. Drawing on the expertise of dedicated instructors, The LI provides excellent instruction coupled with state of the art technology classrooms and language labs. The Language Institute offers high quality education at a lower cost than other language programs

throughout the country. Our two locations offer more options to reside, sightsee, engage in extracurricular activities and enjoy the beautiful South Texas climate.

LI Mission

The Language Institute provides English and other language instruction to students, professionals, and the community; enhances students' ability to participate and integrate successfully in the American culture; and academically prepares students to pursue a degree at an American university. The Language Institute is committed to achieve this mission by continuously enhancing the quality of our service and constantly innovating teaching methodologies. We are dedicated to helping students fulfill academic, professional and personal goals.

LI Programs

Intensive Program:

The Language Institute offers five intensive (eight week) English programs every year at our Edinburg and Brownsville sites. Ten levels of English are available from Basic to Advanced.

Saturday Program:

The Language Institute offers four semi-intensive (twelve week) English programs, on Saturdays, every year at our Edinburg and Brownsville sites. Ten levels of English are available from Basic to High Advanced. The semi-intensive program also offers several elective levels in TOEFL Preparation, Listening/Speaking, Conversation, Reading & Writing, Pronunciation and Business English.

Special Summer Program:

The Language Institute offers a Special 3 week Summer Program for students 15 years or older.

LI Team



Lorena Carrizales
Office
Assistant



Monica Arguello
Office
Assistant



Erika T. Garcia
Administrative
Assistant



Luis G. Garcia
Administrative
Assistant



Roman R. Sanchez
Systems
Analyst



Hilda Tamen
Learning Instruction
Specialist



Blanca E. Duarte
Learning Instruction
Specialist

LI Accomplishments

Saturday
Students

479

Intensive
Students

295

- Enrolled **774** international students in 2018.
- Served over **1,764** international students.
- Held **9** New Student Orientations
- Processed **130** Visas
- Advised **247** Students.

Language Institute

Places of Origin

- USA
- Mexico
- Korea
- Turkey
- Colombia
- Venezuela
- Ukraine
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Cuba
- Panamá
- Spain
- India
- China
- Peru
- Burkina Faso
- Ghana
- Vietnam
- El Salvador
- Lebanon
- Puerto Rico
- Japan



LI Student Testimonials

“I work in Human Resources for [a maquiladora in] Mexico [and have a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration]. My experience at the Language Institute began in October 2016 in the Beginning Level. My first teacher was Ms. Nunes, who is a beautiful person who had great patience with me. I decided to take classes here because it is a professional school. Saturday is the best day of the week for me because I don’t work on Saturdays and there is more time for me to learn. I am grateful to my teachers for the skills taught to me. I have learned many things that benefit me professionally, namely that I understand more English at my job, and personally, in that I try to learn something new in English every day.”
Cynthia; Reynosa

“I [made] the decision to improve my English communication skills, because I am looking for a promotion [at] my job. When I started at UTRGV LI it was a wonderful surprise to discover the capabilities of the professors. They are really prepared for their classes. Now I can say that my English level has improved [and] am ready to look for new opportunities in my current company or try to explore new horizons. After a year and a half of classes, I have grown both in knowledge and as a [person]. I can say that this was a great investment. I am now encouraging my colleagues to take advantage of this great institution. I hope that they have the same opportunities that I have had.”
Jorge; Tamaulipas

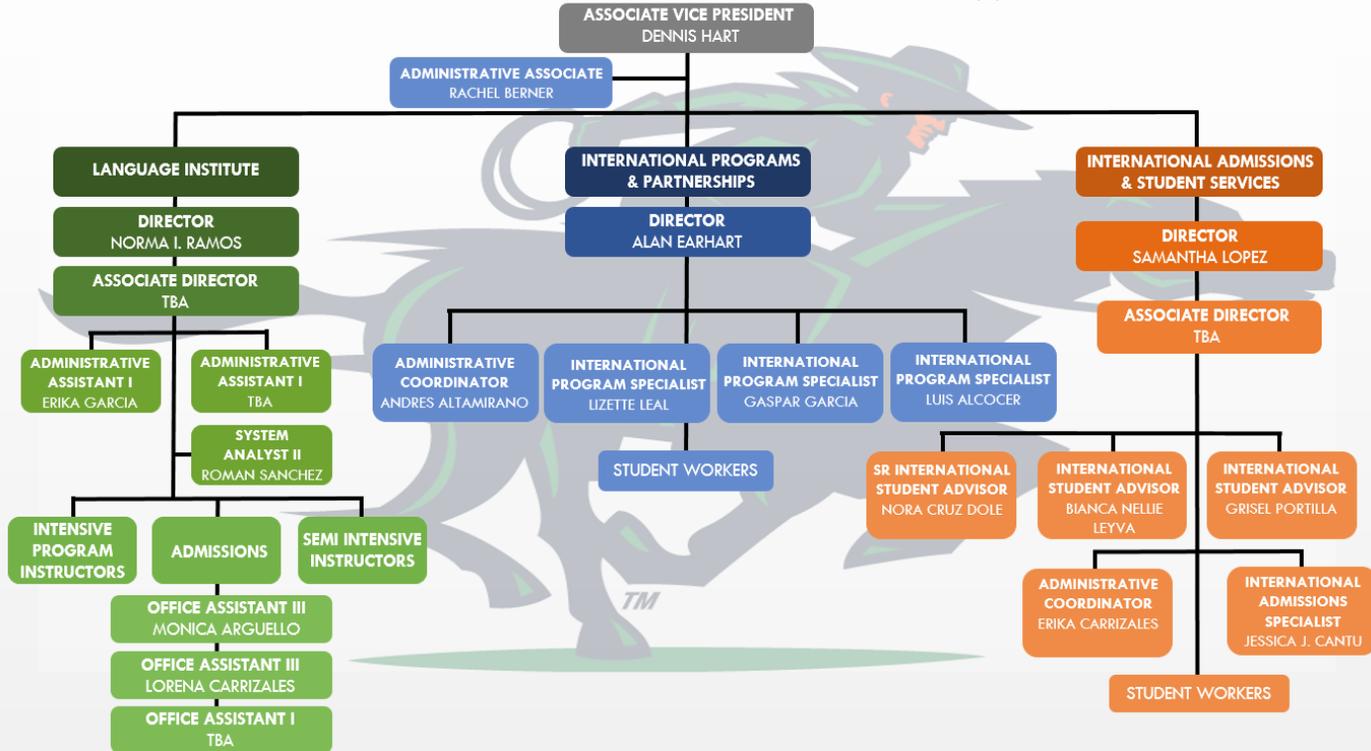
“I decided to take classes here for my professional goals. For the two and a half years that I have studied here, I’ve gotten good opportunities in my current job by participating in global projects. . . . The facilities [at] LI are comfortable and the teachers are very well prepared. . . . I have learned a lot of structure and I am aware of how to use [it]. I [also] understand the majority of the conversations with [English] speakers. For my personal life, these classes are very useful as well. For example, when we went to New Orleans, I ended up speaking English all day long. I am so happy and blessed to have the opportunity to continue studying at [the] UTRGV Language Institute.”
Paloma; Reynosa

“I work for a factory in Reynosa. I arrived at UTRGV in March 2017 in the Low Advanced course. . . . I decided to take classes [at] UTRGV [since the company where I work was] providing the opportunity to improve the skills of each worker. It is also because the company is on the border and the English language is indispensable. . . . Personally, . . . I obtained different benefits because now I can speak fluently with more vocabulary, and I can listen to and recognize the words when other people are speaking to me[.] . . . [I]n my job, I can [also process] documents more easily.”
Bernardo; Tamaulipas



OGE Organizational Chart

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY
OFFICE OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 11/05/2018



Contact us

Office of Global Engagement

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Language Institute

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