

# **UTRGV Transforming Our World Strategic Plan**

## **Action Planning Template for Institutional Goals**

### **Section 1**

#### **1.1 Initiative Title:**

Increasing student learning through the expansion of study abroad opportunities.

#### **1.2 Short Description & Justification:**

UTRGV has designated student success as the central tenet of its strategic plan. Numerous studies show that study abroad is a defining moment for a young person's life and continues to impact them for years after the experience, and the Association of American Colleges & Universities (AACU) and others define study abroad as a High Impact Practice (HIP). To that end, UTRGV through the Office of Global Engagement strongly supports study abroad opportunities for our students.

Study abroad as a HIP is particularly important since UTRGV is a Hispanic Serving Institution (89%) and serves one of the most economically disadvantaged areas in the US. Of the 400,000 K-12 students in the Rio Grande Valley, 363,408 of them (85%) are "economically disadvantaged". UTRGV estimates that less than 3% of its students have studied abroad (US average is 10%) and less than 15% of its students have ever traveled by airplane (US average is 82%). Study abroad will work to greatly increase awareness, education, and opportunities for our students to experience the world and bring back those experiences and help in "Transforming Our World."

#### **1.3 Initiative Lead and contact information:**

Alan Earhart, Director of International Partnerships and Programs (IPP)

[alan.earhart@utrgv.edu](mailto:alan.earhart@utrgv.edu)

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UTRGV Office of Global Engagement

### **Section 2.**

#### **2.1 Identify core priority(ies) or other area(s) of focus (CPOAF):**

Globalization

#### **2.2 Identify principal CPOAF subgoals and objectives:**

**Sub-goal 1:** Stimulate student learning through the expansion of study abroad opportunities, both programmatically and geographically.

**Objective 1.1:** Increase study abroad programming.

**Objective 1.2:** Increase long-term (semester or year) study abroad programming.

**Objective 1.3:** Expand study abroad programming geographically.

## 2.3 Identify related CPOAF subgoals and objectives:

### Community Engagement:

**Sub-goal 3:** Leverage community engagement and outreach resources/assets across the institution

**Objective 3.3:** Expand outreach to increase UTRGV's visibility across the Rio Grande Valley and beyond.

### Student Success:

**Sub-goal 2:** Expand high impact practices and on campus involvement to promote student academic achievement.

### Expanding Educational Opportunity:

**Sub-goal 2:** Increase access to educational programs through the development and implementation of innovative pedagogies, technologies and open educational resources that address distance, language, culture, socioeconomic and scheduling barriers.

**Objective 2.1:** Increase the number of programs and courses using traditional and non-traditional course delivery methods, including online courses, hybrid, ITV, community-based learning, etc.

### Becoming a B3 Institution:

**Sub-goal 1:** Coursework Development

**Objective 1.1:** Support development of coursework/programs that incorporate bilingual, bicultural and biliterate initiatives.

### Sustainability:

**Sub-goal 2:** Education for sustainable development.

**Objective 2.2:** Integration of sustainability in educational programs

## Section 3

### 3.1 Key Metrics:

Metric	Metric Leader(s) (Contact Info)	Baseline 2017–2018	Benchmark 1 2018–2019	Benchmark 2 2019–2020	Final Target 2021–2022
1. Number of short-term study abroad programs and number of students participating.	Director Alan Earhart	<b>17 short-term programs. 203 student participants</b>	<b>15 short-term programs. 170 student participants</b>	<b>18 short-term programs. 220 student participants</b>	<b>19 short-term programs. 240 student participants</b>
2. Number of new short-term, Summer study abroad programs in STEM.	Director Alan Earhart	<b>3 programs with STEM course(s)</b>	<b>3 programs with STEM course(s)</b>	<b>4 programs with STEM course(s)</b>	<b>5 programs with STEM course(s)</b>
3. Number of long-term participants and programs.	Director Alan Earhart	<b>10 students on 5 programs</b>	<b>12 students on 5 programs</b>	<b>14 students on 6 programs</b>	<b>16 students on 6 programs</b>

4. Number of regions and locations in which study abroad programs take place.	Director Alan Earhart	<b>Three:</b> Western Europe, Latin America, East Asia	<b>Three:</b> Western Europe, Latin America, East Asia	<b>Four:</b> Western Europe, Latin America, East Asia, Africa	<b>Four:</b> Western Europe, Latin America, East Asia, Africa
5. Increase scholarships for students.	Director Alan Earhart	<b>\$292,000</b> (\$95,000 extramural funding, \$100,000 UTRGV Foundation Board, \$97,000 Intl Ed Fee Scholarship)	<b>\$297,000</b> (\$100,000 extramural funding, \$100,000 UTRGV Foundation Board, \$97,000 Intl Ed Fee Scholarship)	<b>\$317,000</b> (\$120,000 extramural funding, \$100,000 UTRGV Foundation Board, \$97,000 Intl Ed Fee Scholarship)	<b>\$337,000</b> (\$140,000 extramural funding, \$100,000 UTRGV Foundation Board, \$97,000 Intl Ed Fee Scholarship)

### 3.2 Stories of transformation

[AY 16-17 UTRGV news release for Gilman Scholarship Awards](#)

[AY 17-18 UTRGV news release for Gilman Scholarship Awards](#)

[AY 18-19 UTRGV news release for Gilman Scholarship Awards](#)

[AY 18-19 UTRGV news release about summer study abroad](#)

## Section 4

### 4.1 Activities

Activity	Activity Status (proposed, in-progress, implemented)	Timeline for Implementation	Lead responsible (include contact info)
<b>Updated Application Software for Study Abroad:</b> Switch from current platform to a modern one to streamline study abroad application process and remove barriers for students. <b>(Contributes to Metric 1 &amp; 3)</b>	Proposed	Sign a new vendor contract in <b>Fall 2019</b> . Test and implement new software in <b>Oct and Nov 2019</b> .	Alan Earhart, lan.earhart@utrgv.edu
<b>Promote Study Abroad:</b> Work with Javier Salinas to send a targeted message through CRM to all eligible students. <b>(Contributes to Metric 1 &amp; 3)</b>	Proposed	Submit information in <b>Fall 2019</b> . Send message via CRM to all students in early <b>January 2020</b> .	Lizette Galvan, lizette.leal01@utrgv.edu
<b>Study Abroad for STEM majors:</b> Identify UTRGV faculty within STEM that can lead study abroad programs. <b>(Contributes to Metric 2)</b>	In-progress	Faculty leader has submitted a proposal for Computer Science study abroad to UK <b>Summer 2019</b> . Program creation and promotion <b>Fall 2019</b> .	Luis Alcocer, luis.alcocer@utrgv.edu

		Students participate in program <b>Summer 2020</b> .	
<b>Study Abroad in Africa or Middle East:</b> Identify UTRGV faculty with experience and expertise in Africa or Middle East that can lead study abroad programs. <b>(Contributes to Metric 4)</b>	In-progress	Faculty leader has submitted a proposal for study abroad to Morocco <b>Summer 2019</b> . Program creation and promotion <b>Fall 2019</b> . Students participate in program in Morocco <b>Summer 2020</b> .	Stephanie Vazquez, stephanie.vasquez01@utrgv.edu
<b>Promote Gilman Scholarship:</b> Work with Javier Salinas to send a targeted message through CRM to all eligible students. <b>(Contributes to Metric 5)</b>	Proposed	Submit information in <b>August 2019</b> . Send message via CRM to all qualified students in early <b>September 2019</b> .	Lizette Galvan, lizette.leal01@utrgv.edu

## Section 5

### 5.1 Key institutional actors

Unit/department	Justification	Key contact or position
International Partnerships and Programs	This unit leads all study abroad initiatives at UTRGV.	Alan Earhart, IPP Director Alan.earhart@utrgv.edu

### 5.2 Other supportive institutional actors

Unit/department	Justification	Key contact or position
N/A		

## Section 6

### 6.1 Fiscal impacts: Estimated costs and/or investments required for initiative implementation (net increase from current activity) and estimated net revenue gain or loss.

All costs associated with these initiatives are part of the routine operating expenses of UTRGV. No additional funds are required to implement them.

### 6.2 Projected Outcomes

#### 6.2a Short-term (by September 2018)

Increases in the number of students involved in study abroad (both long term and short term faculty lead); increase in number of study abroad programs; and, greater opportunities/diversity in geographic areas targeted by study abroad programs. Greater cultural competency and global awareness are expected outcomes. Increased student outcomes among participants on key metrics: retention, time to graduation, and employability.

### **6.2b Mid-range (by September 2020)**

AY 2019-20: Further increases in the number of students involved in study abroad (both long term and short term faculty lead); increase in number of study abroad programs; and, greater opportunities/diversity in geographic areas targeted by study abroad programs. Greater cultural competency and global awareness are expected outcomes. Increased student outcomes among participants on key metrics: retention, time to graduation, and employability.

### **6.2c Five-year impact (by September 2022)**

As more students gain intercultural competence by taking study abroad courses that emphasize intercultural competencies. Students will gain a greater understanding of, and experience in, global diversity, world cultures, as they experience cultural differences related national identity, racial, ethnic, and gender inequality, or continuing struggles around the globe for human rights, freedom, and power. Increased student outcomes among participants on key metrics: retention, time to graduation, and employability.