

ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT Policy Statement - International Programs

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This Memorandum sets forth the general policies of The University of North Carolina in regard to International Programs. These policies should be viewed and implemented consistent with all other policies and administrative procedures of The University.

The University of North Carolina, in fulfilling its mission in research, teaching, and service to the people of North Carolina, recognizes the existence of common global concerns and acknowledges the interdependence of nations and peoples throughout the world. The degree to which America's destiny is now being shaped by external forces has never been greater. The University has a responsibility to provide its students with the knowledge, skills and understanding to become productive citizens of the state, the nation and the world. The universality of the educational enterprise is affirmed in the appellation "university", and The University's commitment to the free exchange of ideas must not be limited by national or regional boundaries. Moreover, The University believes that international education serves to advance understanding and peace.

The rationale for an explicit policy in regard to international programs may be expressed in terms of economic, cultural, social and political benefits and service to university and world interests.

Economic Benefits--The interdependence of the United States and the rest of the world and the impact of world events on the United States have increased dramatically in the last few decades. Within this context, North Carolina and its leaders, including The University System, have aggressively promoted international involvement. The state's economic life is increasingly dependent on the international movement of capital, goods and technology. Currently, North Carolina has 267 foreign-owned firms with 318 facilities (187 of them manufacturing plants) that represent a \$4 billion capital investment and employ about 40,000 workers. The estimated value of manufactured and agricultural exports from this state approaches \$9 billion, and close to 100,000 jobs in North Carolina are attributed to export and import activities.

Cultural - Social Benefits--Historically, The University has served as the primary center of enlightenment in many communities. The frequent exposure of North Carolina's citizenry to the traditions and thought

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of other races, religions, and nationalities enhances communications and understanding. When people are living and learning in close proximity, as in The University setting, the opportunity to share beauty and truth, discover commonalities, and negotiate differences is most likely to be realized.

Political Benefits--At a time of complicated global negotiations, with the threat of nuclear confrontation, the reality of conflicting absolutes, the acceleration of change, and the unprecedented instant communications, international exchange programs are critical to the security and competence of the United States in world affairs. These programs, as supported by The University, impress upon men and women throughout the world a clearer image of the United States and its ideals. They establish constructive, rather than destructive, means by which people may communicate to solve political problems and demonstrate a national and statewide willingness to contribute to a peaceful future.

University and World Interests Served --The University as an educational institution realizes direct benefits from international activity. Foreign scholars coming to our campuses bring fresh viewpoints to our departments and broaden the horizons of faculty and students. Both the faculty and students who work and study abroad return to The University with greater understanding of global interrelatedness and new perspectives of their professional fields. Foreign students and scholars are afforded the privilege of being part of a world renowned educational system. Such exchange of ideas and technologies is a cornerstone of The University System and represents a most significant, though not readily quantifiable, gain for the institution. The mix of people from different social and cultural backgrounds is of inestimable value.


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The University supports the efforts of its sixteen constituent institutions to apply capital and human resources to worthwhile programs that are international in character. The vitality and effectiveness of these efforts lie partly in their variety. Broadly conceived, international education is a multifaceted enterprise. Without suggesting priorities or exclusions, The University recognizes the following dimensions of international education and programs as essential to its mission:

- Offering courses of study at all academic levels -- undergraduate, graduate and professional -- to involve participants in a variety of cultures and to inform them of the contributions of their people to human development; to present forums for the discussion of world issues; and to introduce an international dimension into general education courses.
- Maintaining vigorous foreign language programs to train students to communicate more effectively in other cultures and to enhance their understanding of other nations' values.

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- Providing opportunities for students to have direct contact with other cultures in overseas study and travel programs sponsored by The University to give these students broadened personal experience as well as special academic training.
- Enrolling qualified students from other countries at the undergraduate, graduate and professional levels in sufficient numbers and geographic diversity to inspire in all students an appreciation for differences among cultures; providing support services to meet the special needs of international students; and integrating them into the life and academic processes of our institutions so as to gain maximum benefit from their presence on campus.
- Presenting a broad range of intercultural programs on campus, such as festivals, film and lecture series and performing arts events, to highlight the values and contributions of other cultures.
- Encouraging and supporting the development of an international dimension to the teaching - research - service functions of the faculty by incorporating the recognition of such activities in the regular reward systems of The University and through the allocation of resources whenever feasible; also establishing faculty exchange and collaborative arrangements with overseas institutions.
- Operating overseas programs that draw upon the expertise and international experience of faculty to help developing countries meet some of their critical needs.
- Recognizing and reaffirming that international education, like other forms of learning, is a lifelong process that takes place outside The University as well as within, and that The University has a special obligation to make its expertise available to state agencies, public schools and diverse segments of the North Carolina public in promoting greater understanding of global issues and events.
- Reviewing and updating periodically international education programs, realizing that they must function within the scope of The University's overall mission.



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