

Office of International Education: Selected Contributions to 2025 OIE Objectives

Background

In November 2021, Dr. Bernard Kippelen, Vice Provost of International Initiatives, convened VPPII staff for a virtual retreat. One of our goals was to create a Strategic Plan for VPPII. Out of that retreat, VPPII now has goals that align with the GT Strategic Plan. OIE was charged with developing Objectives that support the VPPII goals.

Our OIE Objectives are meant to be broad so that all of us can 'see ourselves' and some aspects of our work in one or more of the Objectives. Everyone will not contribute to each Objective; however, everyone can contribute to more than one Objective. We align our individual performance goals to the OIE Objectives.

OIE Objectives 2025

1. Increase awareness and provide intercultural and international learning opportunities, on- and off-campus, to connect and expand our global network, and to act on the UN SDGs.
2. Expand access and holistic success initiatives to support international learners.
3. Develop processes, programs, training, and resources to support removal of systemic and individual barriers that learners face.
4. Intentionally identify and leverage opportunities to support the holistic needs of OIE staff to support wellbeing and a culture of care in OIE.
5. Continually strengthen existing partnerships, develop new partnerships, and foster connections, internally and externally, to support global opportunities for learners.

Objective #1: Increase awareness of and provide intercultural and international learning opportunities, on- and off-campus, to connect and expand our global network, and to act on the UN SDGs.

- Education Abroad Fair - Over 600 students attended (EA)
- 15 new FLSA/Exchange/Intern Abroad programs offered in 2025 (EA)
- Hosted 177+ events reaching over 6,035 students (EA)
- Hosted and participated in 163+ events for programs like Global Leadership, I-House, I-Lead, TECHsplore, intercultural workshops, and supported campuspartner events (OCI)
- International Education Week (moved from the national dates in November to earlier in the semester, September 29 to October 3, 2025) was great success with 27 events that included 1,690+ participants (OCI, EA, ISSS, Admin)
- Sponsored 5 peer advisor panels in 2025 where returned students shared their experiences. (EA)
- Taught GT1000 (EA, ISSS, OCI)
- UN SDG 17 was supported via the bilateral exchange programs with international partner institutions (EA, ISSS, Admin)
- Hosted a formal celebration of 30 years of EA at GT featuring President Emeritus Clough and Alumni! (EA)
- Record number of students abroad in 2024-2025 translating to a 9% Increase in overall participation from the 2023-2024 academic year (EA)
- Read Milton Bennett's "Basic Concepts of Intercultural Communication" as a team to support our education and intercultural programming (OCI)

Continued, Objective#1: Increase awareness of and provide intercultural and international learning opportunities, on- and off-campus, to connect and expand our global network, and to act on the UN SDGs.

- Partnered with other USG institutions to provide NAFSA CEP Intermediate trainings (ISSS)
- Launched newsletter to actively engage BridgeUSA Exchange Visitors participants (ISSS)
- Hosted Mid-Semester Luncheon for first-year international students to support well-being in the first semester of studies (ISSS)
- 22 Student orientation and engagement events with 3,680 participants total (ISSS)
- Provided out-of-country tuition waivers to 105 undergrads and 23 graduate students (first year with graduate student waivers!) (ISSS)
- Supported 20 students with admission-based scholarships and 36 with need-based funding (ISSS)

Objective #2: Expand access and holistic success initiatives to support international learners.

- 7 Gilman Study Abroad Scholarships Awarded! (EA)
- Essay Writing Workshop and Financial Planning Sessions (EA)
- Offered several events with focus areas to promote access, such as Tech Promise Workshop and Clarke Scholars Session (EA)
- Global Leadership Living Learning Community offered an international student-specific session as part of the Week of Welcome to help incoming first-year international students adjust to life at GA Tech and maintain their immigration status (OCI, ISSS)
- Hosted an Academic Training for I-House residents (ISSS, OCI)
- Live webinars with immigration attorney to support international students (ISSS)
- International Students' Welcome Series to support new students (ISSS)
- Webinars for incoming, Bilateral Exchange students (ISSS)
- Monthly orientations for Exchange Visitors (ISSS)
- Collaborated with Global HR and the Social Security Administration to host on-campus social security application support (ISSS)

Objective #3: Develop processes, programs, training, and resources to support removal of systemic and individual barriers that learners face.

- Serve on various committees to assist with selection and review of applications for awards such as Fulbright, Gilman, Critical Language Scholarships, Stamps President's Scholarships, etc.(EA)
- Institute Strategic Plan's Global Student Experience funds distributed following request of proposals submitted by faculty (EA, Admin)
- Launched student driven grad process to request I-20s, including a step-by-step guide for new students (ISSS)
- Collaborated with Global HR to provide Academic units' HR Administrators with in-person trainings (ISSS)
- Redesigned online training video for faculty members who host exchange visitors (ISSS)

Objective #4: Intentionally identify and leverage opportunities to support the holistic needs of OIE staff to support wellbeing and a culture of care in OIE.

- Support professional development, each staff encouraged to participate (ALL)
- OIE Staff participated in ILA, Leading Women at Tech, MentorTech, HR courses, Won Awards from NAFSA and held volunteer leader roles, attended NAFSA and NAFSA Academy, Forum on Ed Abroad, AIEA, etc. (ALL)
- EA hosted a Kick-off fall meeting for the team and also hosted the 30th anniversary event to celebrate success and build community (EA)
- OIE Hiring Managers met regularly throughout the fall to address needs and concerns as the Return to Office went into effect (ALL)
- Developed student health resources to support team members when dealing with students' needs (ISSS)
- Developed mental health resources to support GT's non-employee Exchange Visitor population (ISSS)
- Hired Tech Temps to help with balance of DSO/ARO workload in peak seasons (ISSS, Admin)
- Reclassified student advisor and coordinator positions, resulting in title changes and upgrades (ISSS, Admin)

Objective #5: Continually strengthen existing partnerships, develop new partnerships, and foster connections, internally and externally, to support global opportunities for learners.

- Staff held volunteer leadership positions and participated as follows: Fulbright Campus Interview Panel, Critical Language Scholarships Committee, Gilman Scholarship Committee, Commencement volunteers, ISP-GSE fund committee, Multiple search Committees for campus colleagues, USG SCIE Representative, GE3 Executive Committee, FASET 31 presentations, 1st Gen Symposium, Family Weekend, Staff Council, Drupal Users' Group, Graduate Directors' Group, ISP Transformative Teaching and Learning group, Leaders in Progress and Service Advisory Council, etc. (ALL)
- New exchanges in Costa Rica, Colombia, Australia, potential new GE3 options in Vietnam, Turkey, Italy, and South Korea, and multiple renewals in process for exchanges (EA, ISSS, Admin)
- Worked with Cultura Go and the First Year Semester Abroad program to implement the Global ROI pre/post-assessment (OCI)
- Strengthened partnerships with Fulbright (incoming) advisors to better support Fulbright student population (ISSS)
- Met with more than a dozen partner institutions at NAFSA 2025 Annual Conference (ISSS, EA)