

Beyond Local

UFV Internationalization Goals, 2017-2022

Approved by University of the Fraser Valley Board of Governors, June 2017



Background

In these times of increasing complexities around globalization, more than ever, institutions and communities need to be prepared to work within an international context. Indeed, both the Government of Canada and the Government of BC have released international education strategies. (See sidebar.) To formalize and provide strategic direction to UFV's current internationalization efforts, in 2016, UFV formed a Strategic Planning for Internationalization (SPI) committee — a *think tank* working group — made up of key stakeholders from within the university. The members included students and representatives from academic, service, and administrative units. A full list of the committee members is captured on the final page of this document.

- [Canada's International Education Strategy](#)
- [British Columbia's International Education Strategy](#)

To guide its understanding of UFV's current position on the internationalization spectrum, the committee worked from a prominent and current definition of internationalization put forth by Hans De Wit and Fiona Hunter as "...the intentional process of integrating an international, intercultural or global dimension into the purpose, functions and delivery of post-secondary education..."¹. After an initial overview of internationalization efforts undertaken by UFV International, the group conducted a preliminary analysis of key UFV documents and plans – Strategic Directions, Education Plan, Strategic Enrolment Management Plan – to identify current internationalization priorities.

Strategic Directions:

"...provide the knowledge and foster the development of the critical-thinking, leadership, and practical skills that students require for employment, entrepreneurship, further education, and responsible citizenship—locally and globally..."

"...is inclusive, welcoming, and engaging for all..."

"...embraces diversity, supports cross-cultural exchange, and promotes the respectful debate of ideas and views..."

Education Plan:

"Collaborate across boundaries"

"Develop local and global citizenship"

Strategic Enrolment Management Plan:

"By 2019 International Student Headcount should increase by 38%."

"...expanding international aspects within the curriculum, professional development for faculty and staff, and opportunities for student mobility, including Study Abroad and international internships."

With these as guiding principles, the committee then discussed a number of topics related to internationalization at UFV and developed five goals that the university should pursue. Throughout these conversations, the role of UFV India — and the incredible opportunity that presents — was considered as an important factor in aiding the internationalization efforts of the UFV community. It is, therefore, important to note that these are pan-university goals, not goals limited to a specific location of UFV.

¹De Wit, H., & Hunter, F. (2015). The future of internationalization of higher education in Europe. *International Higher Education*, number 83 (Special Issue 2015). Retrieved from <https://ejournals.bc.edu/ojs/index.php/ihe/article/view/9073/8180>

Goals

#1: Increase access to and participation in international mobility experiences.

Recognizing the value of an immersive international experience, UFV will strive to promote international mobility – both semester-long exchanges and shorter-term programming. We will do this by raising the awareness of the opportunities available, streamlining the process of credit recognition, and striving to remove financial barriers to studying abroad. UFV will encourage and support our faculty in developing collaborative relationships with faculty from partner institutions as a means of strengthening partnerships and increasing student mobility. We will also continue to support faculty members who wish to organize study tours or other international learning experiences.



#2: Expand the cultural diversity of the UFV community.

UFV will continue to be a welcoming place for students, faculty, and staff of diverse backgrounds. We will aim to broaden the scope of current recruitment activities and promote the acquisition of intercultural competencies. With the student population, we will continue to promote events and activities that attract attendees from diverse backgrounds.



*As of January, 2017,
number of countries
represented in UFV's
student body:*

70+



Goals

According to the AUCC's 2014 Internationalization Survey, percentage of Canadian universities "...engaged in activities to internationalize the curriculum."

72%

#3: Design and deliver programs for a rapidly evolving global context.

Throughout its history, UFV has become accustomed to change. The institution has changed, the community has changed, and the type of students we attract has changed. UFV will ensure that its programs — both at the curricular and co-curricular levels — are relevant in developing global citizenship. This could mean the inclusion of an intercultural element in programs. It could involve a modification of program structure to accommodate international learning experiences. It could also be achieved through the inclusion of international and intercultural content within specific course material.

#4: Provide services and an environment that foster a sense of belonging.

UFV recognizes and honours the contribution that Aboriginal people have made – and continue to make – to our community. Just as the Stó:lō people welcome us, we must ensure that UFV's services and spaces are welcoming to people from a variety of backgrounds. With that in mind, UFV will strive to foster a sense of belonging in everything that we do — from the development of our teams, to the design of physical spaces, to the creation of our policies.



#5: Support the development of strategic partnerships.

UFV has the good fortune to have partnerships with a variety of institutions the world over. These agreements may involve student mobility, credit transfer, research interests, or other joint initiatives. Going forward, we will work toward an inventory of these partnerships and a database of opportunities so that departments can promote the relationships that best align with their goals. On both the local and international level, we will collaborate across boundaries.



Consultation and Approval

Given the wide-ranging impact that international activities have across the institution, the committee felt that similarly wide-ranging consultation should take place. With that in mind, the draft internationalization goals were distributed and/or presented in the following areas between February and May 2017:

- College of Arts Council
- Science Faculty Council
- Applied & Technical Studies Faculty Council
- Professional Studies Faculty Council
- Health Sciences Faculty Council
- Access & Continuing Education Faculty Council
- Academic Planning and Priorities Committee
- Deans' Council
- UFV Administrative Council (Admin-Co)
- 2017-18 UFV Student Union Society Executive
- UFV India

Feedback during the consultation process was overwhelmingly positive. While the goals resonated well with all audiences, the conversations often focussed on the development of strategies and tactics needed to achieve the goals. For example, with respect to goal #3 (*Design and deliver programs for a rapidly evolving global context*), the idea of using technology to collaborate across boundaries was discussed. This could mean, for example, student interactions between participants in UFV International's Global Lounge and students at UFV India. The same could be said of faculty and staff collaboration. Once successful with our own international campus, this approach could be expanded to include other international partner institutions.

Following the consultation process, these Internationalization Goals were reviewed by UFV's Senate, which recommended approval to UFV's Board of Governors. UFV's Board approved the Internationalization Goals at its June 2017 meeting.

Next Steps

As is the case with other institutional plans, the goals represent just the starting point. With this Strategic Planning for Internationalization process, the committee felt that next steps would involve the development of strategies and tactics within both UFV International and at the wider institutional level. One vehicle for accomplishing this is through the development of a standing committee on internationalization.

Strategic Planning for Internationalization Committee

Special thanks to the following committee members who contributed their ideas and time to this important initiative:

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Audra Toews (UFV Student, Bachelor of Science)
Betty Poettcker (Director, Finance)
Bobby Jaswal (Academic Advisor, Advising Centre)
Caleb Zimmerman (Director, Marketing & Student Recruitment)
Chelsey Laird (Coordinator, Global Engagement Programming, UFV International)
Cherie Enns (Associate Professor, Geography & the Environment, College of Arts)
David McGuire (Executive Director, UFV International)
Dea Freschi (Director, UFV International)
Diane Griffiths (Associate Vice President, Human Resources— retired)
Dianne Hicks (Director, Human Resources & Staff Relations)
Edward Lo (Associate Professor, Computer Information Systems, Faculty of Professional Studies)
Garry Fehr (Director, Agriculture Centre of Excellence)
Jacqueline Nolte (Dean, College of Arts)
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