



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY | International

2023 INTERNATIONAL IMPACT REPORT

Empowering global minds to excel in an interconnected world -
shaping a brighter future for everyone.



**UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY**

A MESSAGE FROM UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY INTERNATIONAL

At UCalgary, global engagement isn't just a goal; it's our foundation. By actively engaging with the global community, we immerse ourselves in diverse cultures, perspectives, and ideas, enriching our academic pursuits, research endeavors, and collaborative partnerships. This exchange of knowledge drives innovation and propels us toward groundbreaking discoveries.

In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, we're thrilled to share the progress we've made towards our Global Engagement Plan (GEP) in 2023. This report highlights our success stories and 31 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) meticulously aligned with our overarching goals, reflecting our dedication to UCalgary's strategic vision.

Global engagement continues to elevate our international reputation as a center of excellence. Through active participation in global research networks, forging partnerships with leading institutions worldwide, and attracting top talent, we reinforce our status as a premier destination for academic and research endeavors.

In today's interconnected world, global engagement isn't just beneficial; it's essential. It broadens our horizons, pushes boundaries, and empowers us to make a meaningful impact on the global stage. Through our unwavering dedication to global engagement, UCalgary remains at the forefront of shaping a brighter future for all.



The University of Calgary, located in the heart of Southern Alberta, both acknowledges and pays tribute to the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7, which include the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprised of the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3.

COVER IMAGE BY SOFIYA SOUHIL, HASKAYNE STUDENT, TAKEN IN KALBARRI WHILE ON EXCHANGE IN FALL 2023 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (PERTH).

Global Engagement Plan Goals

Our goals are to connect our campus community to the world. We help prepare students today for the world of tomorrow, and help faculty and staff engage in international research and learning that benefits local, national and international communities. We've made significant progress in internationalization over the years. In our continued commitment to internationalization, UCalgary's Global Engagement Plan focuses on three goals:

Goal 1

Increase diversity of the campus community

Goal 2

Improve global and intercultural capacity within our campus communities

Goal 3

Enhance global partnerships

2023 International impact highlights:

- Graduate international students: target 30%, actual **41%**.
- Undergraduate international students: target 15%, actual **12.8%**.
- A total of **899** undergraduate students and **301** graduate students engaged in global learning experience programs, with 88% being in-person.
- We received **\$37M** from international sponsoring organizations for research purposes, marking a \$5.5M increase from the previous year.
- We hosted **411** international postdoctoral scholars, constituting 50% of our total postdocs.
- We provided **\$916K** in financial support for global learning experiences to our undergraduate students.
- There has been a 5% increase in joint publications with international collaborators at UCalgary, rising from 49.3% to **54%**.
- We have **11** global development projects valued at over **\$6M**, with the participation of 61 academics and 34 students.
- We had **430** global academic agreements and **693** international research agreements.

GOAL 1

Increase diversity of the campus community

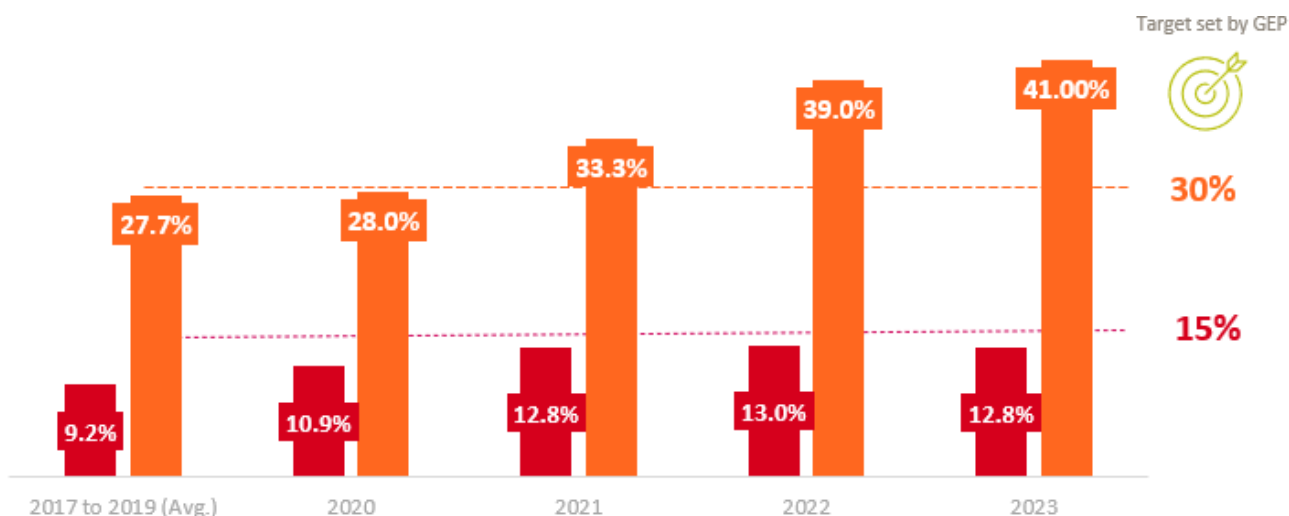
The ability to collaborate with and learn from students and faculty from various backgrounds, cultures, and life experiences fosters a dynamic learning environment that challenges monolithic perspectives and expands awareness, enriching our campus community with diverse viewpoints and values. Our goal is to cultivate intercultural experiences that enhance problem-solving capacity, critical thinking, and communication skills, preparing students for the complexities of a diverse world and contributing to a more inclusive and equitable society.



International graduate and undergraduate students

In 2023, UCalgary played host to a vibrant international student community, drawing students from an impressive array of 141 countries, a representation spanning 72% of the world's nations. Graduate international student enrollment exceeded the 30% target by 11%, reaching 41%.

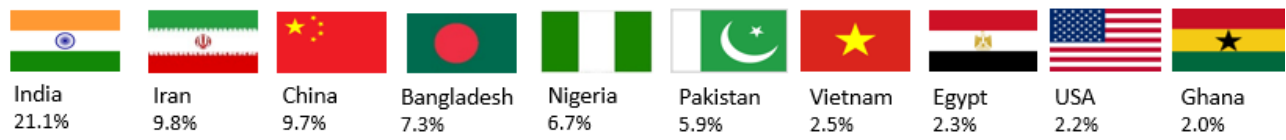
Undergraduate student enrollment fell 2.2% short of the 15% target. The closure of the Qatar campus resulted in approximately 400 less undergraduate enrollments. Domestic expansions funded by the Government of Alberta have boosted domestic enrollment figures, while international student numbers have continued to grow in actual numbers. Despite consistent international undergraduate enrollment levels over the years, international graduate student numbers continue to grow at a significant rate, from 28% in 2020 to 41% in 2023.



International **graduate** and **undergraduate** students

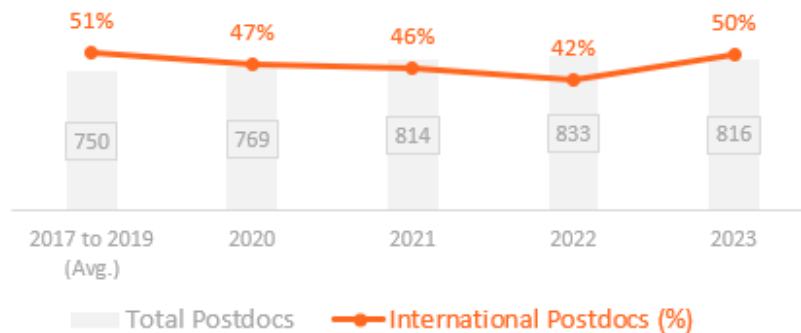
Top countries of origin for international students

India is the primary contributor to our international student body, constituting 21.1% of the total, followed by Iran at 9.8% and China at 9.7%. Notably, over the past two years, we have observed a consistent decline in the number of student enrollments from China. 70% of our international student population is from ten nations, India, Iran, China, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Pakistan, Vietnam, Egypt, USA and Ghana, while the remaining 30% of the international student body is comprised of an additional 131 nations. Our analysis covers full-time and part-time international students on visas and visiting international students.¹



International postdocs

UCalgary hosted a total of 411 international postdoctoral scholars, constituting 50% of our total postdocs. This increase from the previous year can be attributed to improved processing times for work visa applications, particularly from India and Iran, which led to a surge in international postdoc arrivals. Among the faculties, CSM, SSE, and Science stood out as the top three hosts for international postdocs. The top five countries of origin for these scholars were Iran, China, India, USA, and Brazil. Despite the rise in the percentage of international postdocs, the overall postdoc population remained relatively stable. National postdoc counts include individuals with Permanent Residency status.²

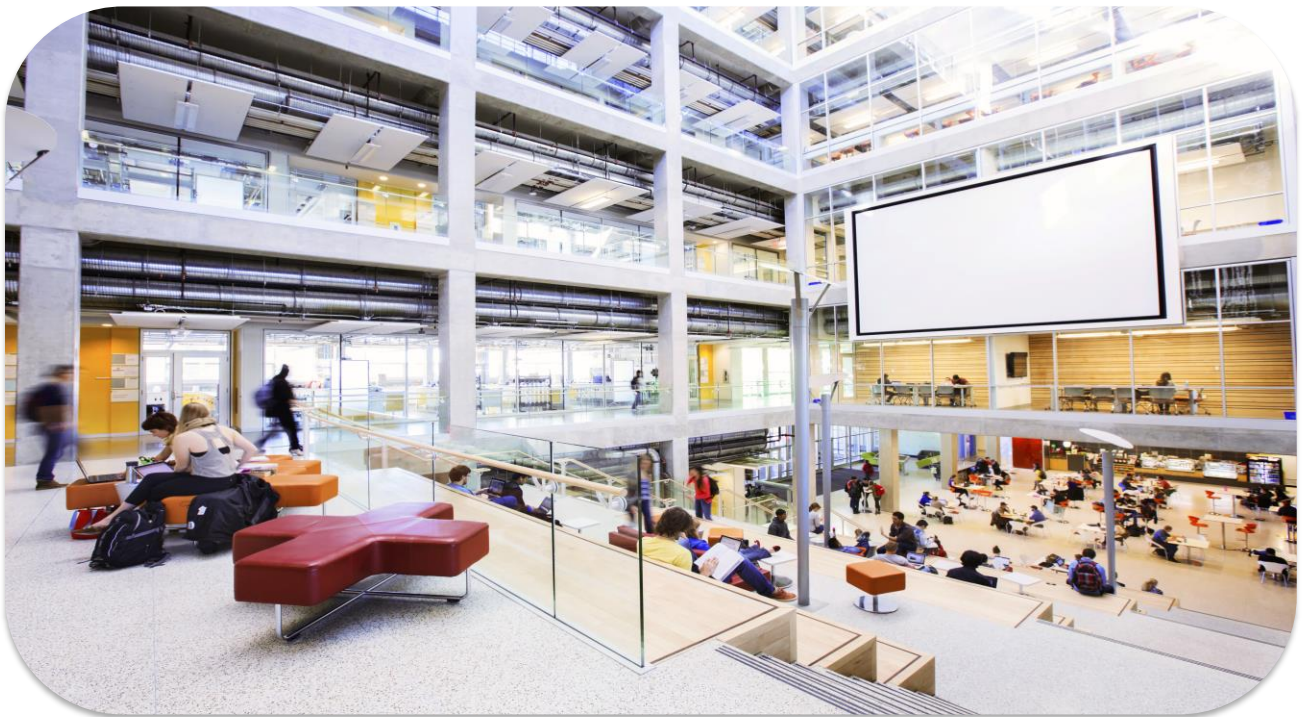
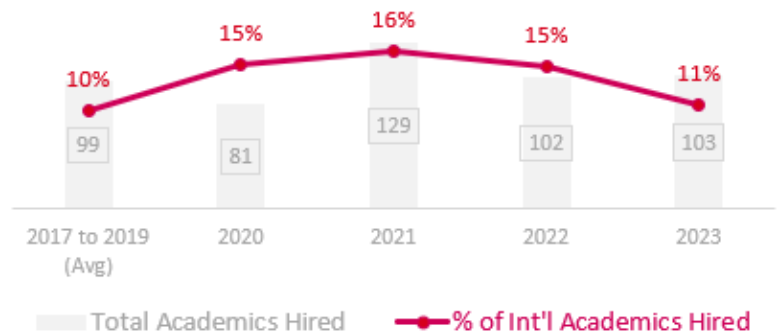


¹ Office of the Registrar, 2023.

² Postdoctoral Office, 2023.

International academics hired

UCalgary recruited a total of 11 international academics. In the last three years, on average, 14% of our newly hired Academics were international. CSM, SSE, Science, Vet Med, SAPL, and Werklund were the faculties responsible for hiring. Among the international academics hired, six were appointed as Assistant Professors, one as an Associate Professor, and four as Professors.³



³ Human Resources Team, PeopleSoft, 2023.

Continuing Education - English Language Programs

Continuing Education English as a Second Language (ESL) student enrollment has exhibited a consistent upward trajectory, rising from 1,269 in the 2020-21 fiscal year to 5,687 in the 2023-24 fiscal year. The notable surge in registrations can be attributed to the post-COVID rebound. Following a sharp decline in registrations during the 2020-21 academic year due to the pandemic's impact, UCalgary successfully returned to pre-COVID levels in 2022-23. An important point of clarification, the data represents student course enrolments, not unique students.



A full-time ESL program is offered for international students and landed immigrants who would like to participate in full-time immersion programs that focus on English language instruction and Canadian culture. Programs are for students at all skill levels and are designed for a variety of English language learning goals.



Student experience

Name: Anahi Bustamante

Nationality: Ecuadorian

Two years ago, Anahi Bustamante arrived in Calgary from Ecuador with limited English skills. She enrolled in the UCalgary English Language Program, starting at level two and progressing to achieve the Academic Communication Certificate. Reflecting on her journey, Anahi recalls the experience as challenging yet very rewarding.

Starting a new educational program is nerve-racking for anyone, but additionally for her, "it was another place and another language." Despite these obstacles, Anahi thrived, crediting her success to the incredible support from her instructors and the diverse community of students.

The Academic Communication Certificate provided Anahi with essential skills for completing her first year in the Bachelor of Science program at UCalgary. She attributes the certificate for giving her both the English and academic preparation skills to succeed in her classes, such as finding reliable sources on the internet and improving her ability to give presentations and communicate effectively.

Anahi's advice to others looking to study abroad is to "just go for it. If you are brave, you will be in that place that you want to be in the future."

Refugee students grateful for sense of belonging they feel at UCalgary

Faculty and peer support key to Schulich students' 1st-year success

It's been nearly a year since Malith Daniel Jimmy first stepped foot on Canadian soil and, looking back, he believes it was meant to be. Life has certainly changed for the SSE student, who finished his first year of studies this spring, after fleeing his home country of South Sudan, which has been embroiled in civil war. Thanks to the World University Service of Canada (WUSC), which sponsors refugee students hoping to head to Canada, Jimmy has adapted well in what he feels is his new home. Jimmy is one of two students supported by Schulich and the University of Calgary over the past year.

"It has been a nice opportunity," says the electrical engineering student. "There have been a lot of challenges along the way, but those challenges are starting to pay off."

Born in Pakistan, Rizwan (who requested his surname not be printed) says he never truly felt like he belonged. His parents originally came to that country as refugees from Afghanistan, so he was considered an Afghan citizen in the eyes of law in Pakistan. Always having to carry around a temporary resident card, Rizwan dreamed of being accepted somewhere else, which led him to UCalgary. Rizwan says he is energized by what he's learned and the support he has received in pursuing his dream of getting into software engineering.

"Destiny pulled me towards this opportunity and I'm really grateful for it," he says. "I've been able to learn so much and express myself with concepts and knowledge every day here at the university."

Since 1986, the University of Calgary Students' Union has worked with the WUSC to help students from several countries including Somalia, Kenya, Rwanda and Thailand through its Refugee Student Program. Following the Afghanistan crisis in the summer of 2021, UCalgary believed more needed to be done to help students in conflict zones. Dr. Cheryl Dueck, PhD, senior academic director (international), says she spoke with all faculties and the SSE was able to work with UCalgary International on finding a path forward for the two students.

"The support from the faculty and the peer support that happens with the Engineering Students Society has been fantastic," she says. "We have also been working with a core group of dedicated people from units across campus to ensure these students have a good landing and positive experience here. It's not just a place to study for them; it's life in a new place." Dueck says it can be a tough transition for any international student, especially refugees and students from war-torn nations, so providing them with financial and personal resources is paramount in giving them an avenue for success.⁴

⁴ UToday, Oct. 2, 2023.

Medical students from Saudi Arabia have positive experience at UCalgary

Summer 2023 UCalgary welcomed 11 students from Alfaisal University, College of Medicine in Saudi Arabia. The students arrived in Calgary in June for the Summer Program for International Research Internship and Training (SPIRIT), an intensive 10-week research program for undergraduate medical students, designed to provide international research experience and mentorship for students interested in basic or clinical research.



STUDENTS IN THE PHOTO ABOVE, FROM LEFT: SULTAN ALDABEK, SAMHAR ALOUCH, ABDULLAH JABRI, RASOUL TURKO, SANA BUTT, DIMA HAMZE, MARIAM MAHMOUD, MIRAL ATOUT, HADIL MAHMOUD, MYLIA ABU-SHAAR, AND FEHAM PEER ZADA.

“Cumming School of Medicine saw value in building a relationship with Alfaisal because of their high academic standards and UCalgary’s commitment to supporting global outreach,” says Dr. Gerald Zamponi, senior associate dean (research). “Our students and faculty benefit from having highly motivated international visitors in their research groups, and the experience was also a positive one for our visiting student cohort. This program offers a platform for student researchers to get hands on experience early in their career and establish connections within and beyond their chosen fields of expertise.”

Students participated in research projects that centered around evidence-based research practices and improved their intercultural capacity in the areas of cannabis use in Parkinson’s patients, enzymes to treat prostate cancer, devices to improve ankle joint movement, cardiac fat in atrial fibrillation patients, health and well-being of migrants in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, and the characteristics of the structural protein titin in muscle movement. SPIRIT is offered by Alfaisal University with 10 partner universities in Canada, the United States, and Europe. UCalgary’s participation in the program began in 2022 in a pilot project with four students working in various neuroscience labs. After a successful year, UCalgary signed an agreement to offer the program for the next three years.⁵

⁵ UToday, Sept. 1, 2023.

GOAL 2

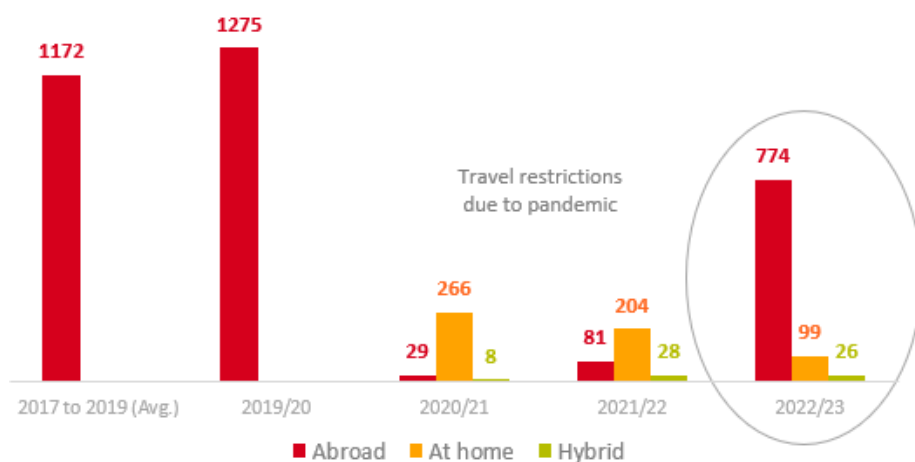
Improve global and intercultural capacity within our campus communities

Our diverse range of global learning programs empowers our campus community to bridge the gap between theory and action. They cultivate not just knowledge, but an intercultural mindset that enriches their thinking, skills, and outlook. By offering exposure to international citizens and varied learning landscapes, we propel our community towards a more global perspective.



ADAM KUCHARSKI STUDYING ABROAD IN PRAGUE,
CZECH REPUBLIC

Outgoing global learning for undergraduate students

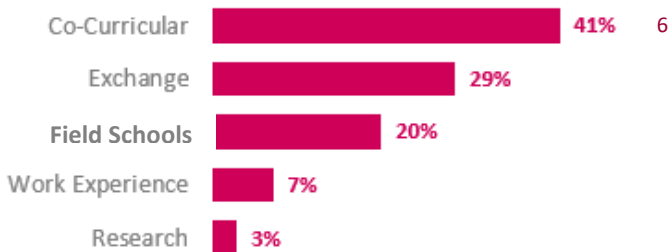


Global learning participation has seen a significant increase compared to the past two years. In the 2022-23 academic year, a total of 899 undergraduate students and 301 graduate students engaged in global learning experience programs, with 88% being in-person. This period marked a robust return to travel-based mobility, encompassing a variety of curricular and co-curricular activities such as exchanges, faculty-led field schools, research endeavors, and international service-learning projects.

There has been a shift in the top five global learning destination countries over the years: from Canada, India, Ecuador, USA, and Japan in 2020-21, to Canada, USA, Nepal, Spain, Greece, and Italy in 2021-22, and finally to USA, Canada, Japan, UK, Italy, and the Netherlands in 2022-23. Canada's representation on the list represents the numerous virtual and hybrid global learning experiences.

Virtual programs continued to be integral, offering opportunities like virtual exchanges and group study programs, along with co-curricular initiatives like the Global Community Challenge (GCC). The GCC is an 8-week virtual competition that facilitates cross-cultural and trans-disciplinary teamwork between students from our international partner universities and UCalgary students to address real-world challenges.

Outgoing undergraduate global learning opportunities by program type



ALEXANDRA GLOD, TEACHING ACROSS BORDERS
PROGRAM, PISA, ITALY, FALL 2022

Incoming exchange students

Over the past four years, we've welcomed over 870 undergraduate incoming exchange students to our campus. The distribution across years is as follows: 250+ in 2019-20, 70+ in 2020-21, 180+ in 2021-22, and 370 in 2022-23. This increase in participation reflects a growing engagement among students returning to travel-based global learning experiences. Our figures do not encompass ESL and graduate students.⁷

Global learning funding

In the past year, we provided \$916K in financial support for global learning experiences to our undergraduate students. This amount includes both internal and external funds. In 2019-20, which marked our last "regular" year, a total of 805 awards were granted to students, amounting to \$1,236,755 in internal and external funding. However, in 2022-23, there were 492 awards distributed, totaling \$916,490 in internal and external funding, reflecting a 25% decrease in total funding and a 39% decrease in the number of awards available. In winter 2023, we were successful in receiving funding through the Global Skills Opportunity program for the Building Bridges to Global Learning project and the Learner-Centred Global Learning project.

Global learning alumni initiative

In 2023 global learning undertook a new initiative to develop an alumni program. The intent of this program was to build an alumni network of past global learning participants, tell alumni stories to demonstrate the impact of global learning on students personal, academic and professional growth, and create mentorship connections that are beneficial for prospective, current, and past global learning students. To date, we have completed two alumni webpages featuring outstanding alumni and telling the success stories of alumni who received significant funding for their global learning experiences. Currently, we are building a UCalgary Mentorlink group online that will encourage mentorship and peer connection for our students and alumni. We intend to launch this program in August 2024 to best capitalize on enthusiasm of our recently returned spring and summer 2024 participants and engage our fall 2024 outgoing cohort of global learning students.

⁶ Global Learning Team, 2022-23

⁷ Global Learning Team, May 2023 – April 2024

Study abroad course in Spain 'unlike any school experience you can imagine'

Immersive experiential learning brings together students from across campus

Combining a love for travel with academics seems like a natural fit. After all, immersing yourself in a new place can be a rich learning experience. Study abroad programs offer students the opportunity to enrich their time in university with real experiential learning.

Recent graduate Jordan Christopher-Shah, BEng'23, delayed his own convocation to take part in one such study abroad program. Food Culture in Spain ran in the spring of 2023 and combined two communications studies courses into a month-long learning experience. As an engineering student, this was one of only a few courses that he took outside of his engineering program. "It was a completely different world from most of the classes I was used to. It was kind of cool to switch it up, especially at the end of my degree. It was almost refreshing to get a totally different taste to what I was studying," says Christopher-Shah.

He says that going through a course like this was invaluable in growing his ability to reflect on experiences and tie them to larger concepts — a practical skill for him both as an engineer and as a budding musician. "It made me more open to diving into things that are totally new and unknown to me. And helps give me the tools to actually take value out of those situations and learn from them as opposed to just being an observer, actually engaging with these new concepts and cultures and people. Just being able to really embrace learning from new experiences was an essential part of the trip and something I will carry forward into pretty much every aspect of my life."⁸



JORDAN CHRISTOPHER-SHAH, LEFT, AND DARBY LINK, CENTRE, IN PINK, WERE PART OF A SPRING STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM IN 2023 CALLED FOOD CULTURE IN SPAIN.

⁸ UToday, Jan. 10, 2024.

UCalgary students embark on inspiring global journey with Global Indigenous Skills fund

Cultural immersion and exploration in Japan, Mexico and Nepal

In a dynamic fusion of cultural exploration and global education, UCalgary students embarked on a transformative experiential learning journey this past spring and summer. A trio of group study programs, supported by the Global Indigenous Skills (GIS) fund, transported students to diverse corners of the world, from the vibrant streets of Mexico City to the enchanting landscapes of Hokkaido and virtually to the heartwarming communities of Nepal.



MEXICO CITY: PAST AND PRESENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS ENJOYING THE SIGHTS IN MEXICO CITY.

The GIS is funded by Global Skills Opportunity (GSO) — the Government of Canada's Outbound Student Mobility Pilot Program. Its aim is to invest in global skills for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, cultivating leadership, identity awareness, and global networks related to Indigenous ways of knowing, doing, connecting, and being.

The program enabled the 10 undergraduate students in Dr. Amelia Kiddle's group study program, Mexico City: Past and Present, to participate in this experiential learning opportunity.

"Several of the students might not have had the opportunity to study abroad were it not for this program, which provided them with scholarships that supported their tuition and

travel costs. As a result, students were able to learn about the history of Mexico City in Mexico City," says Kiddle, PhD, associate professor of history. "The intensive seminar-style class (HTST 410.02 Topics in Great Cities of the World: Mexico City) immersed students in the history and culture of one of the largest cities in the world, helping them to gain insights that were relevant to their programs, from history and international Indigenous studies to communications and computer science. It was an enriching learning experience and loads of fun."

Students who took part in the Community and Sustainable Development in Nepal were able to do so virtually. The online course offered an applied field study of the sustainable development goals in a Nepalese context. Using data and recordings from Nepal, they explored topics related to social justice, development, and change, through a social work lens. Virtual global experiences like these support students' growth in collaboration, communication across time zones, and professional development for the complex globalized career world.⁹

⁹ UToday, Sept. 25, 2023.

UCalgary Geomatics Engineering Students Gain Valuable Industry Insights on Denver Global Experience Trip

Schulich Global Engineering Experience trips, help with significant increase in co-curricular programs

In February 2023, the Geomatics Engineering Department at UCalgary organized a transformative global experience trip to Denver, Colorado, aimed at providing its students with unique opportunities to learn and grow both academically and professionally. This initiative was financially subsidized by the Schulich School of Engineering (SSE) and its supporters. The trip was led by two faculty advisors, Dr. Ivan Detchev and Dr. Sayeh Bayat, and two graduate student advisors, Kelly Long and Wade Zhang, along with a group of sixteen enthusiastic undergraduate and graduate students.

Denver is renowned for being the technological hub for the Mountain West states and is home to many geomatics engineering-related companies, some of which have close partnerships with the department. The group visited several of these companies, including Trimble Inc., Structure & Tangram Vision, Intermap Technologies Inc., ESRI, Lockheed Martin Space, and Propeller Aero. The companies provided the students with inspiring presentations and hands-on demonstrations of equipment while alumni and other company employees shared valuable insights into the industry.

The group also took some time to explore the city's cultural landmarks, including the Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre and Fiske Planetarium. Group discussions and written self-reflection activities provided the students with an opportunity to reflect on their learnings and experiences.

The trip provided the students with valuable insights into geomatics technology and its real-life applications. They had the opportunity to network with industry professionals and alumni, gaining valuable knowledge and making important connections for their future careers.¹⁰



THE GROUP GETTING HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE WITH TRIMBLE SURVEYING EQUIPMENT

¹⁰ UToday, March 8, 2023.

GOAL 3

Enhance Global Partnerships

UCalgary is committed to partnering with institutions that share our passion for innovation and entrepreneurship. These partners prioritize connecting academia, research, industry, government, and NGOs, just like us.



International research agreements

There was a decrease in international research agreements, dropping from 763 agreements in the previous year to 691. The top five countries for international research agreements in 2023-24 were the USA (77.8%), UK (3.1%), Switzerland (2.4%), Netherlands (2.3%), and Germany (2.1%).¹¹

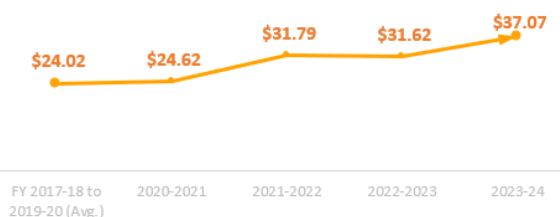
International research revenue

**International
Research Revenue**
(Millions)



\$5.5M

increase in international
research revenue since
FY 2022-23



UCalgary received \$37M from international sponsoring organizations for research purposes, marking a \$5.5M increase from the previous year. The top five contributing countries were the USA (80.2%), India (6.1%), Switzerland (2.6%), China (including funding from China - Hong Kong) (2%), and South Korea (1.5%). This international research revenue accounts for approximately 6.5% of the total revenue at UCalgary.¹²

¹¹ RSO Legal and CSM Legal SharePoint site, Fiscal year (April - March).

¹² Research Accounting System, Fiscal year (April - March), Funds reported from all international sources are included.

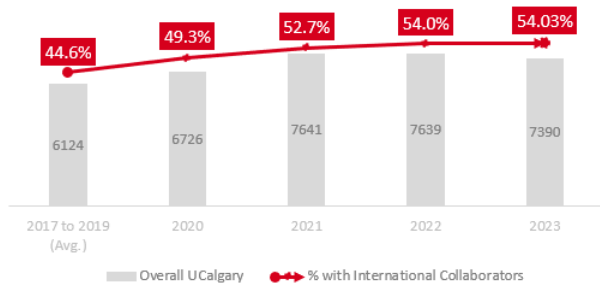
International research publications

**Internationally
Co-authored
Publications**



54%

of UCalgary's total
publications have an
international co-author in
2023



From 2020 to 2023, there has been a 5% increase in joint publications with international collaborators at UCalgary, rising from 49.3% to 54.0%.¹³

International partnership research workshop grant

The international research partnership workshop is a partnership between two universities that have faculty members with similar research interests or a history of collaboration. The grant allows researchers the opportunity to explore, identify and implement joint research interests and projects. Over the last three years, 29 proposals and \$293K were awarded.



93

Proposals Received



29

Proposals Awarded



\$293K

Total Awarded

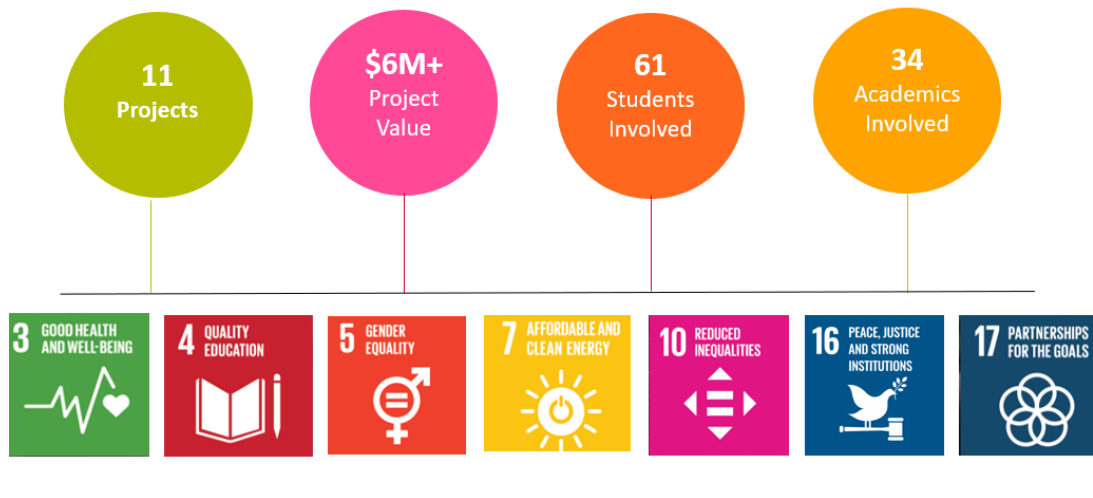


29

Partner Locations

Global development

UCalgary is among the top four active U15 universities in global development and has a 30-year history of engagement. We currently have 11 global development projects valued at over 6 million dollars, with the participation of 61 academics and 34 students. All projects align with UN Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on capacity building, knowledge sharing, and mobilization.



¹³ SciVal/Scopus database, 2023.

Global development and capacity-building projects

Scaling Up MamaToto for Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights in Uganda Funded by Global Affairs Canada with \$3.8M from 2020-24, the project aims to address gaps of un-met comprehensive sexual and reproductive health systems, services, and education in three districts in Southwest Uganda. The project scales up a successful and innovative model, the Mama Toto implementation model, which focuses on strengthening existing government and civil society structures, and district and community leadership. This project aims to strengthen the capacity of local health facilities to deliver sexual and reproductive health services to the local population, as well as strengthen the capacity of community and local leaders to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights and education.

World University Service Canada Student Refugee Program The SSE, in collaboration with UCalgary International, is sponsoring six refugee students from 2022 to 2025. The Student Refugee Program (SRP) is a unique initiative that combines refugee resettlement with opportunities for higher education. This project is managed and supported by the WUSC UCalgary - SSE Local Committee, which provides social and academic support for SRP students. The amount of funding is \$375K.

Queen Elizabeth Scholars Program The Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships aim to mobilize a dynamic community of young global leaders to create lasting impacts both at home and abroad through inter-cultural exchanges encompassing international education, discovery and inquiry, and professional experiences. UCalgary's 2023 projects included:

- **Queen Elizabeth Scholars Advanced Scholars West Africa: Partnering for innovation in women-led social work and social science in West Africa**, \$290K, 2021-25. This project supports research-focused exchanges between doctoral researchers, postdoctoral fellows, and early-career researchers at UCalgary and the University of Ghana. The anticipated research placement is 16. The Advanced Scholars West Africa phase of the QES Program is funded by the International Development Research Centre.
- **QES Young Leaders in International Development**, \$600K, 2018-23.

Canada's Global Skills Opportunity Program Funded by Employment and Social Development Canada and jointly administered by Colleges and Institutes Canada and Universities Canada, the programming is delivered to students via their post-secondary institutions (PSIs) through multi-year projects:

- **Global Indigenous Skills: Ways of Knowing, Ways of Doing, Ways of Connecting, Ways of Being** connects Indigenous and non-Indigenous students to international learning opportunities with an Indigenous focus. The program has received \$750K in funding for the period from 2021-25.
- **Building Bridges to Global Learning** provides students with funding prior to submitting a global learning application, allowing them to see the possibility of participating in global learning and choose the best program fit with the assurance of guaranteed financial support. The program has received \$385,000 for the period from 2022-25.

Academics Without Borders A non-profit organization that implements capacity-building projects in collaboration with higher education institutions in lower- and middle-income countries, faculty members and staff act as volunteers for the projects and provide in-kind support in the form of academic time, volunteering, etc. Two projects took place in 2023 with partnership institutions in Kazakhstan and Ecuador.

- **Building research capacity of education faculty and graduate students**, Shakarim University, Kazakhstan
- **Institutional Development in Ecuador to Achieve Sustainable Solid Waste Management**, Universidad Técnica de Ambato, Ecuador

Daughters for Life Scholarship Program This program is open to female students from the Middle East. The Daughters

for Life Foundation is committed to building a future in the Middle East, defined by women's empowerment across the region. One student received this scholarship and graduated from the Faculty of Arts. The program received \$46K in funding from 2019-23.

Government of Canada Scholarship Program for Non-Canadians This program supports international students from a range of designated countries studying or researching for short or medium term stays at UCalgary. The program received \$205K in funding from 2023-24.

Gender Response One Health This project seeks to accelerate the adoption of gender-responsive (GR) One Health (OH) approaches in regions affected by endemic zoonotic diseases (EZDs) and human-animal-environment interface-related illnesses. By focusing on enhancing community health and fostering equitable OH empowerment, particularly for impoverished, marginalized, and indigenous women and girls, our efforts are concentrated in two targeted regions: Jijiga, Somali Region, Ethiopia, and Meru County, Kenya, both of which experience high EZD prevalence. Global Affairs Canada has allocated a total of \$12 million to support this project, with Alinea International as the lead organization. Collaborating partners include Farmers Helping Farmers, One Health Institute, University of Guelph, University of Saskatchewan, Atlantic Veterinary College, and UCalgary. UCalgary's estimated budget allocation is \$450K from the overall grant. The project is scheduled to run from 2023 to 2028.

The Faculty Mobility for Partnership Building Program Part of Global Affairs Canada's International Scholarships Program, it enables professors at Canadian post-secondary institutions to pursue short-term research and/or teaching activities in Latin America and the Caribbean as a means of exploring, creating and advancing institutional partnerships in the areas of research, student mobility, joint programming, capacity building, and others. Two UCalgary professors received \$13K in funding in 2023.

The Association of Commonwealth Universities A global network of universities that aims to build a better world through international collaboration in higher education, the ACU has over 500 member universities in 50 countries across the Commonwealth. The ACU's strategic plan, "The Road to 2030, " reinforces the fundamental belief that global challenges can only be solved through international collaboration and our collective commitment to achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through higher education. In the last 7 years, UCalgary received 4 ACU awards and is among the top recipients' of ACU awards in Canada.

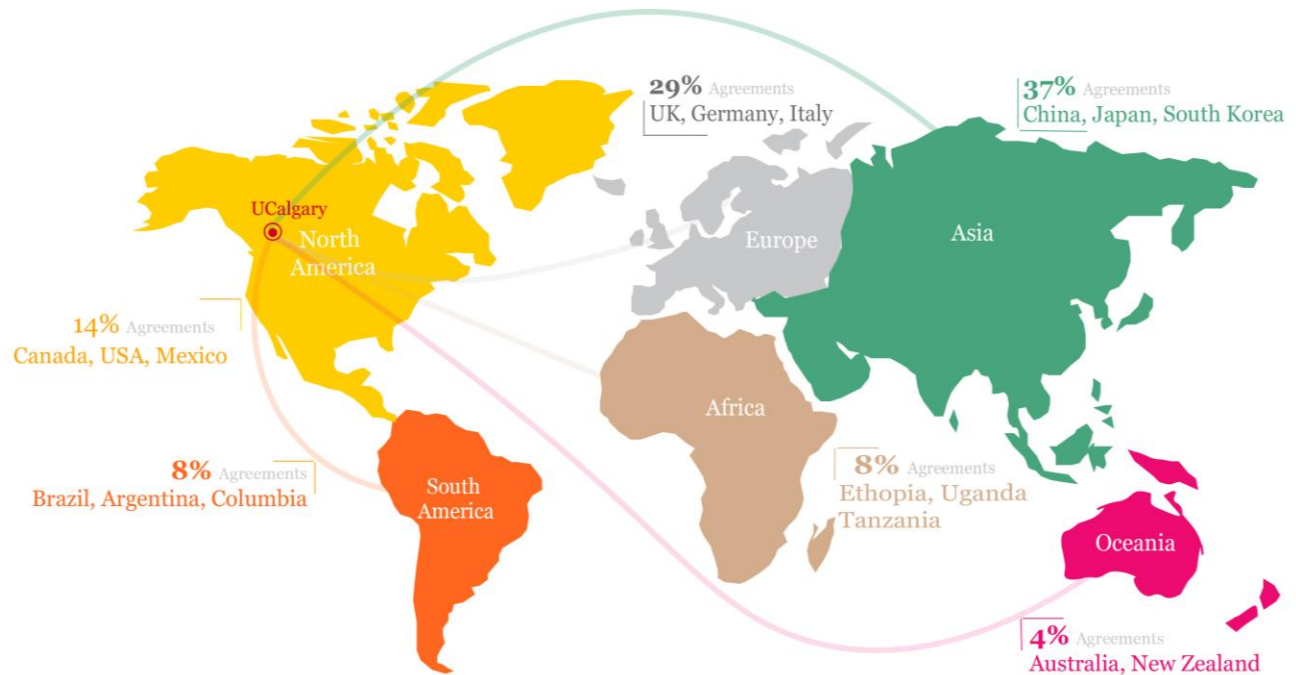
- **Commonwealth Peace & Reconciliation Challenge Grants**, \$4235, 2022-23. This grant is aimed at academic and professional staff at ACU universities, which can be used to support initiatives advancing peace, reconciliation, and indigenous knowledge.
- **ACU summer school**, \$2000, 2023. The ACU summer school was hosted at Stellenbosch University in July based on the theme of Truth and Reconciliation in South Africa. Students get to learn about the political, social and economic forces that shaped 20th Century South African politics, including apartheid, with their peers from around the Commonwealth.

Virtual programs like the **Global Community Challenge YYC** level the playing field for students from low-income countries to team up with students from Calgary and around the world to solve shared challenges. In 2023, we had 72 students from 12 universities in 18 countries work to solve 9 challenges set by local community organizations.

International Development Week (IDW) is a celebration of Canada's achievements in creating positive change around the world. In 2023, UCalgary International hosted the **World's Challenge Challenge** (WCC) during IDW, 24 students participated. The WCC is a competition where teams pick one of the UN's SDGs and propose a solution. The winning team won \$3,000 and competed against other schools at the International WCC held at Western University.

Academic agreements

In 2023, we had 430 global academic agreements, 89% were with educational institutions and 11% with organizations. The decrease from 478 agreements in 2022 was expected, as we've been monitoring and sunsetting inactive agreements and have been strategic about new agreements signed over the past five years. UCalgary International coordinates 42% of these agreements. In 2023, agreements with Iceland, Türkiye, Ukraine, and Ecuador were added.



Delegations and missions

In the past two years, we have had an increase in the number of delegations and missions. UCalgary International hosted 62 delegations in 2023, up from 56 visiting delegations in 2022, and participated in 9 missions, a slight decrease from the 10 missions in 2022.

All of our engagements, represent various academic, research, international government, and industrial interactions during missions and delegations. In 2023, there were over 240 engagements with 65% of these engagements involving consular corps partners.¹⁴



¹⁴ MoveOn active agreement database, Global Partnerships and Affairs Team, 2023.

University of Aberdeen and Curtin University Strategic Alliance update

UCalgary formed a Strategic Alliance with the University of Aberdeen and Curtin University in fall 2022. This tripartite alliance aims to provide innovative solutions to global problems by leveraging the research and academic strengths of all three institutions. Currently, the alliance is focused on research collaborations, connecting 80 researchers at UCalgary with individuals in Perth and Aberdeen since its launch.

A delegation from UCalgary recently visited Curtin University's campus to meet with leadership as well as individuals and faculties where there is current engagement. The exchange of ideas between Curtin's experts and UCalgary underscored the depth of collaboration within this alliance.



An example of this expanding partnership is evident in the recent joint initiative this past winter when Curtin sports scientists journeyed to Calgary, enduring minus 40-degree Celsius weather.

“There are several steps to building strategic partnerships, as we all know - defining goals, identifying necessary resources, discovering commonalities and differences, and crafting a future action plan,” says Dr. P.K. Doyle-Baker, Associate Dean Graduate, Faculty of Kinesiology. “However, nothing surpasses the value of in-person opportunities, experiencing the surrounding environment firsthand.

There's a certain trust that develops when driving through a snowstorm to Canmore.”

During their visit to Canmore, Curtin scientists had the opportunity to engage with Spirit North CEO Becky Scott, a former Olympic cross-country skier, who shared insights on empowering indigenous youth through physical activity. Additionally, they toured UCalgary facilities such as Active Living, Dinos Athletics, the Oval, and the Sport Medicine Centre; and met with program directors and researchers.

“UCalgary students also benefited from a lecture by Evan Coopes, Director of Professional Post-graduate Courses at the School of Physiotherapy, where they learned about Curtin's Allied Health programs. This presentation was well-received, particularly by our undergraduates and graduate students aspiring to pursue physiotherapy careers. The trip fostered a rich exchange of experiences that will pave the way for faculty and student mobility opportunities,” adds Dr. Doyle-Baker.

Training hosted for the Committee of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities delegation



Academic Director International provided opening remarks and an overview of UCalgary's Global Engagement at the CVC Nigeria opening session.

UCalgary International was pleased to host a training session on campus for CVC Nigeria, a delegation of vice-chancellors from public and private universities in Nigeria. The delegation also met with UCalgary international students from Nigeria/of Nigerian descent to discuss differences in post-secondary education and practices that can be benchmarked to be applied in Nigerian institutions. In addition to hosting this event, UCalgary Chancellor Jon Cornish and Dr. Cheryl Dueck, former Senior

UK Chief Science Advisor Roundtable

UCalgary International, in partnership with the British Consulate General in Calgary, hosted an energy-focused roundtable for the UK Government Chief Science Advisor Dr. Paul Monks. The roundtable brought together UCalgary energy researchers and Innovate Calgary to discuss energy research at UCalgary and potential opportunities for UCalgary-UK collaboration in the sector.



Looking beyond the 49th parallel – The Canada-Mexico relationship and a look forward at North American integration



UCalgary representatives met with the Honorable Graeme Clark, the Ambassador of Canada to Mexico, and Frederick Caldwell, Trade Policy Counsellor within the Embassy of Canada in Mexico. The meeting was followed by an interactive talk led by the Ambassador. The session was attended by faculty members, staff and students from the Haskayne School of Business.



For more information contact:

University of Calgary International
2500 University Drive NW
Calgary, AB T2N 1N4
ucalgary.ca/international