

2020-2025

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS STRATEGIC PLAN



Preamble

The internal cohesion of the strategic plan for the Office of International Affairs (OIA) in its interaction with the Roadmap depends on several goals. The strategies chosen by OIA and made operational through various initiatives aim at achieving success in overarching internationalization strategy:

Thorough internationalization of the curriculum, enabling graduates to acquire defining skills for competing in a global knowledge society.

Reading it as a many-sided concept interfacing with the institutional objectives of the SGT University Roadmap, the strategic plan of the Office of International Affairs is based on the basic assumption that internationalization at The SGT University requires collaboration and coordination of the multifaceted dimensions of academic and services functions of the university. Consequently, OIA will facilitate efficient and effective collaboration between departments, units and programs across campus that focus on implementing SGT University's strategic internationalization goals.



Office of International Affairs Overview - WHAT

The Office of International Affairs (OIA) contributes to the internationalization of SGT University and broaden the global experiences of students, faculty and staff. The Office of International Affairs oversees Student Exchange, Faculty Exchange, Joint Research, Study Abroad, International Students and Scholars. OIA facilitates and manages agreements with international academic institutions, host international delegations, and initiate and coordinate international education outreach activities and special events.

As SGT University enhances its mission for high distinction in teaching, research and engagement, the Office of International Affairs provides leadership and innovation to facilitate international opportunities, and makes educational resources accessible for the campus, our international guests, and the community beyond. We also stimulate activities that celebrate diverse cultures, foster the exchange of ideas, serve as the central information hub for international activities, and support the growing international dimension of SGT University.

Vision

SGT University community relies on the expertise of the Office of International Affairs to provide it with information and access to premier opportunities in a global setting.

Mission

- Engage SGT University's students and faculty in educational and research experiences internationally
- Facilitate the integration of international students and scholars into SGT University's world of knowledge
- Provide information and access to SGT University's academic expertise for the benefit of communities all over the world

Values

- Serve the needs for international knowledge across SGT University
- Facilitate SGT University's engagement with partners worldwide
- Efficiency and effectiveness



Alignment with SGT University's Core Goals - **WHY**

The Office of International Affairs is uniquely positioned to contribute to the university's core goals:

Teaching and Learning: The Office of International Affairs understands that one of the chief goals of higher education is to graduate globally competent students and engage faculty in innovative teaching and research projects. It is with these goals in mind that the Office of International Affairs serves to facilitate projects and provide enhanced services so that students and faculty advance their critical thinking skills in global settings as well as on the SGT University campus.

Research and Innovation: Through our programs, services, scholarships/grants and collaborations across academic and service units, the Office of International Affairs facilitates the creation of distinctive and internationally recognized basic and applied research that advance knowledge toward the solution of the worlds' most pressing problems.

Outreach and Engagement: In cultivating international partnerships and educational opportunities, the Office of International Affairs is an active participant in the international research, collaboration and cooperation necessary to address the challenges faced by the world today.



Strategic Goals

Strategic Goal 1: Advance international experience and global knowledge of SGT University students

SGT University's commitment to internationalize student learning experience entails educating students to become global citizens who possess the knowledge, awareness and skills to function effectively in diverse global settings, one who is familiar with the world he or she lives in and is capable of connecting his or her study to the real world.

The Office of International Affairs facilitates the advancement of international experiences and the global knowledge of students through study abroad and integration of international students on campus.

Study abroad

- Provide support for steady growth of programs and participation in study abroad. With recent changes in study abroad funding model and registration process, the Office of International Affairs will work with colleges and faculty to sustain and expand existing programs.
- Facilitate curricular integration of study abroad. The Office of International Affairs will work with colleges and departments to integrate study abroad into the curriculum and degree requirements, allowing students to build study abroad into their degree timeline.
- Advocate for creating affordable and accessible study abroad programs. The Office of International Affairs will develop initiatives to sustain and expand the existing subsidy and other types of both need-based and merit-based financial support for students to study or research abroad.
- Promote efficiency and flexibility for programming and implementation. The Office of International Affairs will examine internal procedures and processes as well as the external environment for developing and executing study abroad programs in new and changing circumstances. Increased efficiency will allow program coordinators to manage a greater volume of programs.

Integration of international students

- Promote international student engagement. Develop and promote programs to support international students to fully integrate into the SGT University community.
- Facilitate interactions between international and domestic students. This involves creating intentional programs to facilitate cross-cultural communication between international students and domestic students. The Office of International Affairs will develop initiatives to collaborate with other colleges, departments and units to actively engage international students in campus programming.

ACHIEVEMENT:

AJMAN UNIVERSITY – UAE, UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH, TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY – CANADA, UNION YOGA-SINGAPORE, POLONIA UNIVERSITY, BHMS SWITZERLAND, PAID INTERNSHIPS IN USA, UAE, FRANCE

WORK IN PROGRESS:

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST



Strategic Goal 2: Promote international components in the curriculum

- Continue to support foreign language instruction and area studies courses.
- Initiate a new diploma designation, Global Option. The Global Option is a curriculum enhancement program through which SGT University students may acquire a documented international expertise integrated into participating majors without adding time to graduation.
- Engage with colleges and departments to review their curriculum in order to increase international components. Provide support for faculty to create courses with international content.

Strategic Goal 3: Promote international research and teaching opportunities

The Office of International Affairs facilitates the creation of distinctive and internationally recognized research and scholarship that advances knowledge toward the solution of the world's most pressing problems. This goal may be achieved through these initiatives:

- Promote scholarship on global issues and university Discovery Themes.
- Strengthen SGT University's ability to recruit and retain international scholars. This includes navigating an increasingly challenging regulatory environment and developing creative and flexible practices to facilitate recruitment and retention of international talent at SGT University. The Office of International Affairs will also facilitate housing arrangements for visiting international scholars and develop programs to help them adjust to life at SGT University.
- Expand grant opportunities for international research and teaching.

ACHIEVEMENT: BINAWAN UNIVERSITY-INDONESIA, UNIVERSITY OF STAVANGER-NORWAY, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI KANSAS CITY (UMKC)

WORK IN PROGRESS: LONDON SCHOOL OF HEALTH & TROPICAL MEDICINE, REGENT'S UNIVERSITY-UK, HARPER ADAMS UNIVERSITY-UK

Strategic Goal 4: Expand SGT University's global engagement

- Facilitate the expansion and support of Global Gateways. The Global Gateways provide SGT University with a physical presence in key locations of the world that map well with SGT University's current global engagement.
- Continue building upon international partnerships. The Office of International Affairs will continue to facilitate partnerships with institutions around the world in support of teaching, research and student engagement.



Strategic Goal 5: Increase efficiency and effectiveness

To achieve better resource alignment and utilization of shared services, the Office of International Affairs will invest aggressively over the next five years in creating a culture of collaboration that values diversity in people and ideas while promoting shared vision and responsibility across the key stewardship dimensions of leader and workforce development, maintaining and improving the physical environment, developing a secure and effective information technology infrastructure and fiscal resource sharing and fund raising.

- Engage the Office of International Affairs employees in a strategic internal planning and goal-setting process with the help of an outside facilitator to refine strategy, align structures and processes, create better governance, build leadership capacity, and enhance culture so that the people and the work of the organization flourish.
- Foster information sharing and service delivery through the use of technology. Effective use of information technology is necessary in expanding and improving services to students, scholars, alumni, and partners around the world in a responsive and time sensitive manner.



Internationalization at SGT University - HOW

SGT University is committed to becoming a pre-eminent global university – one which prepares its students and faculty to actively participate in knowledge-based collaborations around the world. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, universities across the nation are embracing the value of integrating international dimensions across their campuses and exploring opportunities around the world. As SGT University strives to enhance its teaching, research and engagement mission, it is committed to preparing its students to succeed in a global marketplace and to be nationally and globally informed and engaged citizens.

In order to fully internationalize the campus and its community, SGT University needs to:

- Increase the percentage of international faculty and students
- Promote scholarly pursuits on major global issues
- Create international degree programs
- Increase international experiences for undergraduate, graduate and professional students.

SGT University's two-pronged approach serves the university both internally and externally:

1) **Global Gateway Strategy**, which establishes strategic liaison co-operation/representation in strategic locations around the world that map well with SGT University's teaching, research and engagement mission; and

2) **Internationalization of the academic dimensions**, which focus on research enhancement and curriculum content, study abroad, international partnerships, dual degrees and a global option certificate to facilitate international experiences for students in any discipline.

The Office of International Affairs supports internationalization by

- attracting, recruiting and supporting international faculty and students;
- promoting research collaboration, on campus and around the world on major global issues such as health and wellness, food production and security, and energy and environment;
- facilitating the creation of international dual degree programs with international partner institutions;
- increasing the international experience for all members of SGT University community through study, research and collaboration abroad as well as expanding global knowledge in area studies and international security.

SPECIAL PROJECTS (WORK IN PROGRESS)

- Queens University Belfast (QUB) & SGTU have a consensus to explore setting up of an India Center for SDG facing agenda on account of substantial work conducted at respective ends.
- QUB will have necessary introductions done with 2 QUB Professors for joint work in the space of public health, policy research etc.
- QUB has expressed desire to send their students to participate in Synergy 2020.
- QUB & SGTU to explore faculty exchange opportunities.
- It was further agreed to explore setting up India Center for Research in partnership with Sanrachna and Faculties at SGTU
- University of York, Technical University Munich etc



GOING GRANULAR

Global Gateways

As SGT University builds a foundation that integrates international dimensions within every facet of the institution, the university will pursue Global Gateways in key parts of the world. The locations for the Gateways will capitalize on the strengths of SGT University's connections across the globe through study abroad programs, international students, faculty teaching and research, university partnerships and alumni.

Gateways are multi-faceted representative centers that allow the university to:

- Build upon faculty research/teaching and international partnerships
- Scout opportunities for study abroad locations
- Recruit international students
- Establish executive training programs
- Network with alumni and reconnect them to the university

Study Abroad

The Office of International Affairs administers SGT University study abroad programs and provides a wide variety of support services to those students opting to studying abroad at partner institutions, conducting field research and internships. These programs will give students an opportunity to become involved in cross-cultural interaction and enjoy a rewarding educational experience in many different fields. A variety of options will be formalized and subsequently organized to support and augment students' progress in their curriculum. These maybe short-term study programs in conjunction with an academic course to longer experiences such as 10 week to year-long stays in an international environment.

The Office of International Affairs provides support for campus internationalization initiatives and the development of study abroad opportunities.

International Students and Scholars

When international students and scholars first arrive at SGT University, the Office of International Affairs is one of their initial points of contact. We provide them with a warm welcome to the campus community and support their transition to help them comfortably adjust to their stay on campus as well as help to ensure they maintain current immigration status and they have the greatest opportunity to achieve their academic, personal and professional goals during their time at SGT University.

Area Studies Centers

The Area Studies Centers advance knowledge and awareness of international cultures and world regions. The centers work with departments to identify programmatic needs, sponsor a wide range of academic activities, including lectures, symposia, conferences and library resources, as well as conduct outreach to other postsecondary institutions, the K-16 sector, community, businesses and the general public.



NOTES

