

# **International Elon**

## **A Plan for Elon's Comprehensive Internationalization - 2011-2016**

Elon has a strong tradition and record of international education, including recognition through NAFSA's Paul Simon Award. In support of Elon's unprecedented commitment to diversity and global engagement, we offer this plan to expand on Elon's history of integrating an appreciation and understanding of the world into the fabric of the campus. The motivation for this broad undertaking is to develop an international campus that graduates students who are globally aware and interculturally competent.

We use the term "comprehensive internationalization" (defined in the "Definitions" section) to describe this long-term effort. This document seeks to move towards comprehensive internationalization by providing coordination of ideas and accountability for outcomes. Needless to say this long-term undertaking will be successful only if it is an effort of the entire campus. Student mobility is a part of the plan, but must not be the entire plan. As the above definition suggests, we must encourage a global lens into all that faculty, staff and students do on campus. Internationalization ideally includes non-Western ideas and cannot reside on the margins of campus, in one office or in a few departments – it must be woven broadly into the fabric and ethos of all our teaching, research and service. Elon is well poised to be a leader in comprehensive internationalization.

We are all witness to the growing mobility across borders of ideas, people, talent, problems and solutions. This mobility is fueled by technology, ease of transportation and the emergence of new economic and political landscapes. We believe this plan prepares Elon graduates to contribute to and compete in this complicated world that is increasingly interdependent and shares common challenges.

### **Process of Developing the International Elon Plan**

The Isabella Cannon International Centre ("ICIC") Advisory Committee drafted this plan and presented it at a Numen Lumen in December 2010. A revised version, reflecting suggestions from that discussion, was presented to a group of students, including both international students and return study abroad participants. An open forum for staff resulted in more discussions and improvements. The plan was shared with all offices involved, with their involvement highlighted. In September and October the ICIC Advisory Committee again reviewed the plan to present a final version for final comment via facstaff in late October.

### **Implementation of the International Elon Plan**

The ICIC Advisory Committee will be charged with monitoring the progress on this International Elon plan, reviewing its status each Fall and ensuring that efforts to internationalize the campus are consistent with Elon's Commitments. Further this plan is flexible enough to complement domestic study away initiatives and other Elon Commitments.

### **Definitions**

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Comprehensive Internationalization | "Comprehensive Internationalization is a commitment, confirmed through action, to infuse international and comparative perspectives throughout the teaching, research and service missions of higher education. It shapes institutional ethos and values and touches the entire higher education enterprise." Comprehensive Internationalization – From Concept to Action, John Hudzik, NAFSA, 2011, p. 10. |
|------------------------------------|---|

Education abroad      Earning academic credit through study, internship, service learning, independent study, research, student teaching outside the United States.

International student      An Elon student who entered the USA on a non-immigrant visa.

## **Organization of the International Elon Plan**

The International Elon Plan below is organized in the following sections:

- I.      International Students, Scholars, Faculty and Alumni
- II.     Education Abroad
- III.    Faculty, Staff and Support for Internationalizing the Curriculum
- IV.    Programming, El Centro, and North Campus

### **I. International Students, Faculty, Scholars and Alumni**

#### **Students**

- Consistent with Elon’s goals of diversity and global engagement, triple the number of international students on non-immigrant visas from 57 in 2010 to 171 by 2020.
- Improve coordination between the Office of Admissions, the International Centre, and other relevant offices to assure consistent, helpful and seamless communication with prospective and entering students.
- Provide support, guidance and intercultural workshops for all offices, especially those that work directly with international students, as well as student organizations that might interact with international students.
- Develop workshops for faculty on teaching international students and other non-native speakers of English, collaborating with CATL and the Writing Center.
- Develop an easier way for international students to identify on-campus employment possibilities.
- Pilot a peer and/or faculty mentor program for international students. Coordinate with other mentor programs on campus.
- Evaluate resources to better coordinate various student services for incoming and returning international students, including: residence life placements, insurance, registration, orientation, and response to emergency situations.
- Provide additional support in English language for non-native speakers, including the possibility of offering credit-bearing Academic English for non-native speakers or hosting an Intensive English Language Program.
- In providing support to international students, assure that appropriate support is also provided to dual citizens and overseas Americans.
- Develop strategies to better integrate international students with domestic students.
- Create internationally- and intercultural-themed learning communities in the new North Campus “Global Neighborhood.” Move the International Pavilion concept to the North Campus with other internationally-themed communities.
- Seek additional funding for international student scholarships and for support structures for international students and scholars.

- Develop a transition course for first-semester international students.
- Monitor, assess, and revise the International Fellows Program as needed.
- Consider collaboration with South China Normal University to establish an English-medium undergraduate College in China.

### **International Faculty and Scholars**

- Support hiring offices with the review of foreign transcripts and processing of immigration applications necessary for hiring international faculty, staff, and scholars.
- Develop and fund an international visiting faculty program.
- Provide support for international faculty and scholars.
- Better communicate with the campus at large when a department or program is hosting an international scholar; provide more opportunities to international scholars to share their expertise in their discipline and background while on campus.
- Seek opportunities through Fulbright or other programs to bring more international guest scholars to Elon.
- Develop apartment space on campus for short-term and long-term international guest scholars.

### **International Alumni**

- Work with the Alumni Office to locate and strengthen relationships with international alumni.
- Involve alumni in international recruitment efforts.

## **II. Education Abroad**

### **Ensuring Accessibility to Programs Abroad**

- Provide 100% access to study abroad for Elon undergraduate students towards the goal of developing all Elon graduates as Global Citizens.
- Coordinate and integrate Elon-sponsored student activity outside of the country so that the ICIC is aware of all students who are abroad for academic credit or otherwise.
- Create a framework that will allow flexibility and creativity for programs abroad (e.g., Periclean Scholars, athletics, performing groups, embedded programs)
- Collaborate with academic departments and programs to select appropriate semester programs and to develop study abroad “road maps” for their majors and minors.
- Collaborate with offices on campus to develop opportunities overseas for internships, service learning, student teaching and research abroad.
- Develop new options for education abroad during the summer.
- Create opportunities for graduate students to study abroad.
- Based on analysis of students currently not studying abroad, develop strategies to increase the diversity of the student population that has experiences abroad.
- Eliminate current obstacles to education abroad such as:
  - Financial obstacles,
  - Academic/curricular challenges, and
  - Co-curricular conflicts (i.e., athletics, performing arts, Greek Life, organizations, etc.).

- Broaden offerings to include non-traditional locations, a wider variety of course offerings across disciplines, exposure to non-traditional languages, and multiple religions and cultures.
- Develop contacts with NGO's to provide more service learning opportunities abroad.
- Consider a program to assure all first year students have a valid passport.
- Promote external funding of study abroad through nationally-competitive grant programs (e.g., Gilman, Boren, and Fulbright).
- Track Elon alumni who end up overseas after graduation.

### **Infuse Education Abroad into the Curriculum**

- Collaborate with the appropriate groups and committees to assure that education abroad fits easily within the new General Studies curriculum; develop worksheets for academic departments and programs to simplify the process of studying abroad within the discipline and within General Studies.
- Assure that the education abroad offerings meet the goal of "Attaining the highest levels of achievement across our academic programs" by:
  - Evaluating the locally taught course offerings at the Elon Centers.
  - Reviewing faculty-led proposals and periodically evaluate existing faculty led programs.
- Expand intentional reentry opportunities for return study abroad students, including Celebrate Week presentations about experiences abroad and guidance towards career opportunities abroad.
- Develop a program or course for students before, during, and after an experience abroad so that students better appreciate and learn from their cultural interactions.
- Collaborate with Library to provide on-line support for research needs abroad, especially at the Centres.
- Support language acquisition through study abroad and support efforts by Foreign Languages to offer more variety in languages.
- Develop assessment tools for developmental outcomes expected from education abroad.
- Improve on the current program evaluations, including follow up based on the evaluations.

### **III. Faculty, Staff and Support for Internationalizing the Curriculum**

- Facilitate and promote faculty/staff opportunities abroad, including faculty/staff exchanges and opportunities with NGO's and/or associated with Burlington's sister-cities. Facilitate a climate more supportive of staff opportunities abroad.
- Collaborate with General Studies, Foreign Languages, other academic departments and programs to better integrate internationally-oriented academic programming.
- Internationalize the curriculum consistent with the vision of General Studies.
- Fund and develop a program to bring an international guest faculty person each Fall and Spring semester.
- Advocate for a common space for the growing number of International Studies majors and minors, as well as area studies minors.
- Develop opportunities for holding joint classes with exchange partners through video-conferencing
- Develop funds for faculty travel to new Winter Term sites and a process to make those awards.

- Look for opportunities to develop/utilize the skills of international faculty, staff, scholars and students locally.
- Advocate for recognition of international activity by faculty in the Promotion and Tenure process.
- Advocate for Faculty Research and Development funding for international endeavors other than Winter Term programs abroad.
- Create an award for faculty contribution to internationalizing the campus.
- Create an award for staff contribution to internationalizing the campus.
- Provide opportunities and incentives for staff abroad.

#### IV. Programming, El Centro, and North Campus

- Collaborate with campus offices and organizations (Liberal Arts Forum, Multicultural Center, Truitt Center) in developing and coordinating programming. The consensus is that we do not need additional programming, but rather better coordinated and co-sponsored programming.
- Collaborate with organizers of *CELEBRATE!* to introduce an international component.
- Look for external funding opportunities, such as the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, that can be used to bring guest lecturers, scholars, performers to campus. Do so in collaboration with other campus organizations.
- Seek opportunities to collaborate with multicultural individuals and organizations in the Piedmont region.
- Develop opportunities through El Centro and in collaboration with Foreign Languages to offer language tables in various languages.
- Develop International Education Week as a campus-wide, major annual event. Seek funding to allow for a marquis speaker to come to campus during International Education Week.
- Support language learning opportunities for staff and faculty in Spanish and other languages
- Develop the International Neighborhood in the North Campus including the move of the ICIC to North Campus.

#### Resources Consulted

- Global Brandeis, SYMPOSIA 2008 -2010  
<http://www.brandeis.edu/globalbrandeis/documents/globalbrandeissymposiumreport.pdf>
- Comprehensive Internationalization – From Concept to Action, John Hudzik, NAFSA, 2011
- Internationalizing the Campus – Profiles of Success at Colleges and Universities, NAFSA, 2010.
- Internationalizing the Campus – Profiles of Success at Colleges and Universities, NAFSA, 2009.
- A Handbook for Advancing Comprehensive Internationalization: What Institutions Can Do and What Students Should Learn, Olson, Green & Hill, American Council on Education, 2006.
- Internationalization in Higher education: The Student Perspective, Madeleine Green, American Council on Education, 2005.
- Study Abroad and Global Learning – Exploring Connections, Peer Review, Vol. 11, No.4, The Association of American Colleges and Universities, Fall 2009.
- External Evaluation of the Isabella Cannon International Centre, Lisa Donatelli, February 2011.