

Virginia Tech's International Mission

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University is committed to fostering a community that values all cultures, languages, lands, and people. The university seeks to enrich its international competencies and to enhance the quality of life throughout the world with scholarly engagement in education, research, and outreach.

Virginia Tech's International Vision

Our faculty, students, staff and alumni have a responsibility for engagement with the Commonwealth, the nation, and the world. That engagement is reflected in who we are, who we aspire to be, and our impact on the global community.

1) Who we are

The members of the Virginia Tech community have a responsibility to understand global affairs and respect all cultures. This understanding and respect leads us to constantly challenge our assumptions, thereby improving the depth and breadth of our scholarly endeavors.

We are committed to applying Virginia Tech's core values to our international activities. Furthermore, we hold the following values to have special significance for the university's international mission:

- *Cross-cultural understanding* that recognizes the dignity of all humans
- *Critical reflection* that seeks alternative perspectives to illuminate and challenge our own
- *Rigorous engagement in the learning process* that measures our scholarly activities against international standards of excellence.

2) Who We Aspire to Be

Because we hold these values, we seek to nurture competencies in:

- Language skills, which facilitate communication with partners in learning and scholarship from across the globe, and enable a nuanced understanding of ideas from various cultures.
- Personal cross-cultural experiences, which provide a working knowledge of the ideas and customs of the world's societies.
- Understanding and appreciation of various cultures and traditions, which provide a foundation for cooperation and engagement with people from around the world.

Achieving these broad competencies requires specific actions in the following areas:

Education

- We develop language skills that facilitate interaction with many cultures.
- We maintain a curriculum that is current and relevant to the global community.
- Our students develop communication and problem-solving skills that bridge individual perspectives.
- Study abroad opportunities enrich cross-cultural understanding and dialogue.
- Students are provided with international experiences that are relevant to their disciplinary and career path.
- We provide learning opportunities that transcend international boundaries.
- We promote lifelong learning in cooperation with partner institutions.
- Our students and alumni are ambassadors for life.

Scholarship:

- Scholarly engagement within the international community is achieved through an understanding of the best ideas from around the globe, and internationally recognized contributions.

- International engagement is expected of faculty, and that engagement is rewarded through the university's hiring, promotion, and evaluation processes.
- International scholarly engagement is interpreted in a way that is meaningful to specific disciplines.
- The depth of scholarly activity is enhanced through language, experience and understanding of our colleagues from around the globe.

Institutional Arrangements

- Our classrooms, research laboratories, and curriculum reflect the diversity of cultures and peoples.
- We provide our faculty with opportunities for research, teaching and outreach within the global community.
- We promote equal partnerships with educational institutions from around the world.
- We use technology to transcend the limitations of distance and language.
- We make strategic investments of resources to realize the objectives of this vision.
- Individual academic units have a responsibility to define and implement international engagement for relevant components of this strategic plan.

3) What We Do

Virginia Tech enriches quality of life by:

- Applying our expertise to problems of global concern.
- Ensuring the economic competitiveness of our constituents by access to the best ideas and experience within the global marketplace.
- Enhancing global security through dialogue and action that aims to avoid and resolve conflict.
- Caring for our shared planet by developing solutions for environmental problems.
- Developing markets and human potential in areas of global need.
- Improving the quality of human and animal health.
- Appreciating the richness of human endeavor.

In these ways, Virginia Tech is a global university.