Enabling Internationalization:
University of Illinois Global Academy

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Land grant mandate

Apply highest quality research, teaching, and extension to pressing social issues.

Issues are International, Transdisciplinary, and Span the Land Grant Missions

=> Barriers to Relevant Research and Engagement
Barriers and Friction

Identification of sponsors
Atypical sponsor processes
Atypical sponsor expectations (cross-mission)
Need for in-country expertise
Need for international partners
Need for interdisciplinary teams
Time, Travel and Stage of Life
Gestation periods
Illinois Context

Historical Engagement
- 19th Century in Brazil
- 1960s Africa, South Asia and Middle East
- 1990s Study abroad

By 1990-2005, research capacity focused more inward.
- More basic science
- More local relevance
  ("Locally Relevant and Globally Preeminent")

2005
- Big international alumni network
- Strong global reputation
- Relatively little international engagement
Global Academy
Launched in 2006 to internationalize faculty

Build Capacity of Faculty to Work Internationally
  Raise awareness of opportunities & programs
  Raise familiarity with agencies & institutions
  Raise awareness of services & partnerships
  Identify needs for services
  Facilitate collaboration within our campus
  Share experiences in partnerships to address costs

Build Institutional Capacity through Partnerships
  Raise awareness of ACES/Illinois with agencies etc.
  Increase understanding of/by partners
  Build more substantive and multidimensional partnerships across levels, themes and missions
Global Academy: Structure

Announce Theme and Partner Institutions

Solicit Applications to Participate
  Faculty at all stages of career are eligible
  Faculty from all 7 departments of College
  Representation from Extension
  Department Head’s endorsement required

Include “veterans” consistent with theme and institution
Global Academy: Activities

On Campus Workshops (fellows only)
- Campus resources for international work
- Internationalizing the syllabus & classroom
- Presenting research to interdisciplinary groups
- Conversations with sponsors and partner institutions

On Campus Seminars (open sessions)
- by sponsor representatives
- from relevant agencies (FAS, USAID, NIFA)
- by partner institution representatives

DC Trip, if needed (fellows only)
International Trip (fellows only)
Competitive internal funding for follow up
Global Academy: Activities

**International Immersion Experience**

Joint Symposium w/ host institution
or series of seminars

Individual meetings
Institutional orientations
Administrative meetings
  multilevel, multidimensional partnerships

**Follow up**

Matching grants/seed grants
Second year symposium
Open seminars
ACES’ IMPACT AROUND THE GLOBE


Brazil, 2008

GHANA: UDS, Univ of Ghana, Legon, 2012

EU, 2007

India: G.B. Pant Univ: ICAR, 2010

China, 2009

National Taiwan Univ, 2013

The Philippines: IRRI & UPLB, 2014

The image includes a world map highlighting various locations and years where ACES has had an impact.
Program Evolution

2006
Junior faculty in ACES
40% mechanics & landscape
20% internal relationships
20% external relationships
10% concepts
Discrete experience
Introducing international

2016
All faculty campus-wide (Restrictions on non-ACES)
20% mechanics & landscape
20% internal relationships
40% external relationships
20% concepts
Integrated into program
Intensifying international
Global Academy Outcomes

College Expenditures of USAID Funds (Indexed 2008 level= 1.0)

Poised to take advantage of opportunities
Global Academy: Outcomes

Testimonials

“The ACES Global Academy will have a long-term impact on my professional career. I have already been invited back to UPLB to teach a short course and I am working with colleagues at IRRI to...” (2014 cohort)

“As a result of the ACES Global Academy, I created a professional and social network with staff, students and alums from the National Taiwan University and have several sustained and emerging collaborations” (2013 cohort)
Global Academy Outcomes

External Funding
   – 40% of participants report receipt of funding attributable to Global Academy experience

Teaching
   – 1 undergraduate course influenced per participant

Research output
   – 40% of participants report that Global Academy contributed to at least one published paper.
Global Academy Outcomes

International Mainstreaming
   Integrated into annual performance reporting

Strengthened Partnerships for Institution
   IRRI, UASLP, UDS, etc
   USAID, USDA-FAS, World Bank, FAO etc

New Dimensions/Directions in Research
   Matching grants (IRRI)
   Faculty/scholar visits/exchanges (NTU, UPLB)
   Graduate student pipelines
   Joint symposia, research, and publications
   New research initiatives, often interdepartmental
What worked

• Strategic choices of partners and themes
  • To build substantive institutional ties

• Integrated programming
  • Preparation, travel, follow-up

• Multi-level teams
  • Inclusion of administration in travel

• Interdisciplinary teams
  • Build relationships and content awareness

• Intergenerational
  • Inclusion of experienced or senior members for social learning

• Endowment helps!
  • But not absolutely needed.
Challenges

• Strategic choices of partners and themes
  • Don’t have full information on starting point

• Multi-level teams
  • Hard to ensure “right” people are at the table or aware of priorities, activities and constraints (see above)
Challenges: Self Awareness

https://experts.illinois.edu/

https://intlprograms.aces.illinois.edu/oip-impacts-map-view
Challenges

• Institutional Self Awareness

• Integrated programming
  • Not consistent with band width and multiple objectives

• Interdisciplinary teams
  • Hard to move beyond the superficial
  • Impose “irrelevant” activity
  • Battle for recognition of “quality” output

• Intergenerational
  • Match both international experience and interest area constrained

• Funding
  • Must continuously make the case and continuously evolve
Know Thyself

What is Illinois good at and willing to apply internationally—non-exhaustive list

- Crop Genetics—Rice, Corn, Soybeans, Feedstock
- Animal Nutrition and Reproduction
- Development Economics
- Data Analytics
- Soybean Value Chain Development
- Postharvest loss prevention
- Extension Strengthening
- Food Safety
- Mechanization
- Water Quality