



BOSTON COLLEGE
GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT ON CAMPUS

Recent and current initiatives

2019

Boston College has recently embarked on a strategic effort to define its institutional approach to global engagement, in line with its Strategic Plan—in which the University commits itself to *“increasing its presence and impact through increased outreach to international students, recruitment of faculty with international backgrounds, and the development of programs that promote global cooperation.”*

A significant part of our internationalization effort has to happen on campus, to make sure that all students—not only those participating in study, service, or formation abroad programs—graduate with an open mind and a heightened sense of being global citizens. The curriculum and co-curriculum should integrate culturally diverse perspectives, and the university community as a whole should act in a culturally sensitive, welcoming, and inclusive manner toward international students and scholars on campus.

The overview below lists recent and current initiatives that contribute to making Boston College's curriculum and co-curriculum, classrooms, and campus more aware and inclusive of global perspectives. It has been compiled by the Office of Global Engagement (OGE) in cooperation with the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS), the Office of International Programs (OIP), the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE), and other units.

Supporting Faculty

Enhancing faculty's awareness of the international dimension of their research, teaching, and service activities.

- Training groups of faculty through seminars abroad, for instance Turkey or Chile (OIP)
- Preparation and support for faculty teaching abroad, summer and semester (e.g. Venice International University) (OIP)
- Seminar on "Internationalization and Diversity" at the Lynch School of Education and Human Development (LSEHD) in 2016 (OIP/LSEHD)
- [Intercultural Competence resource](#) (teaching with and for intercultural competence), on the website of the CTE
- Workshops open to all faculty and graduate student instructors on "Intercultural Competence in the Classroom" as part of August 2017 and August 2018 [Back-to-School Boot Camp](#) (CTE)
- Consultations for faculty on the Intercultural Development Inventory and its implications for the classroom (CTE)
- Seminars for smaller groups of faculty at schools/colleges on "Inclusion of International Students in the Classroom" (OISS)
- Content related to intercultural competence incorporated into the [faculty cohorts](#) on "Teaching for Inclusion and Social Justice" and "Called to Serve: Preparing Students for Careers Working With and For Others" (CTE). Likely in 2020–2021: a CTE "faculty cohort" around the theme of "internationalizing/decolonizing the classroom" (CTE)

- [Excellence in Teaching Day](#) 2019 with sessions on "Making Learning Visible in Culturally Diverse Classrooms" and "Decolonizing the Curriculum" (CTE, Center for International Higher Education [CIHE])
- "Experiences of International Instructors" panel offered as part of the annual [Graduate Student Teaching Conference](#) (CTE)
- Summer Reading Group on *Teaching across Cultural Strengths* by Chavez and Longerbeam (CTE).

Curriculum and Classroom

Emphasizing multiple perspectives in the curriculum, and engaging culturally diverse and international students in the classroom.

- [Language and area studies](#) (Morrissey College of Arts & Sciences, MCAS)
- Global and intercultural curriculum in the [International Studies Program](#) (MCAS)
- Renting an "[Immersive Portal](#)" from Shared_Studios for direct exchanges between BC students and communities in far-away locations, for interactive sessions in a wide range of courses in the fall semesters of 2017, 2018, and 2019
- Curriculum in other languages: the [Latinx Leadership Initiative](#) at the School of Social Work/SSW, or [graduate and undergraduate programs in Spanish](#) for Latin American women religious at the Woods College for Advancing Studies/WCAS.
- [Training teachers for bilingual education](#) at LSEHD, and training pastoral leaders, scholars, and other professionals for

[service and leadership among Hispanic communities](#) at the School of Theology and Ministry.

- Leadership programs with international components, in tandem with on-campus reflections, e.g. McGillycuddy-Logue Fellows Program (OIP)

- "Teaching in the U.S. Classroom" workshop, offered each fall for international graduate students as part of the [Apprenticeship in College Teaching](#) program (CTE)

- Workshops on "Race in the US" for international exchange students and graduate students (to expand to undergraduate level) (OISS)

- Fall 2019: One-credit Freshman Topic Seminar to help international freshmen better integrate on campus—academically, socially, and personally (OISS)

- Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) pilots with Sophia University, Japan (LSEHD, MCAS). Students at both universities will be collaborating and interacting on the same assignments (OIP).

Co-Curriculum

Enriching and broadening the students' learning and formation experiences outside the classroom: "Local Is Global."

- [Significant OISS programming](#) for international students including, among others, conversation partners, Thanksgiving host family program, and the international assistant program (OISS)

- [Multicultural student associations](#)

- Preparation and follow-up of immersion, service, internships, and study programs abroad

- Volunteer and Service learning programs:

- Among immigrant communities
- Preparation to international postgraduate service
- Catholic Relief Services Student Ambassadors (advocacy training)
- English language learners tutoring

Campus Awareness

Among the whole campus community, heightening the sense of belonging to, and having a responsibility for, a larger world.

The [Center for International Higher Education](#) (CIHE) at LSEHD is home to world-renowned experts on international higher education, and is a resource center for BC as it implements its global engagement strategy. CIHE runs an open seminar program presented by visiting scholars and regularly participates in events and initiatives on campus run by other units such as the CTE and OISS. Students registered in CIHE's [Master's](#) and [Certificate in International Higher Education](#)—among them a number of BC staff—often do their fieldwork at various BC units.

- [Intercultural Development Inventory](#) (IDI)

- [International Education Week](#) (OISS, OIP, OGE, and associated units)

- [Language Lab](#), 60 years of commitment to promoting and facilitating the acquisition and enhancement of language skills and cultural competency by providing the University community efficient access to multimedia resources and instructional technology

- [BC Global Website](#) (OGE) featuring units, services, and programs enhancing “global engagement at home”
- Initiatives contributing to internationalizing the curriculum can be reported on [CTE’s Newsletter](#) (CTE)
- Interactive Global Engagement Activity Map (under construction). Will contribute to increased external visibility and internal collaborations between faculty (Provost’s Office, ITS, OGE)
- Yearly [Boston Intercultural Skills Conference](#) (OIP)
- [Thea Bowman AHANA and Intercultural Center](#) (BAIC) programming on race and racism
- “Learn to Pronounce Chinese Names” session (OISS)
- BC [Kaleidoscope International Journal](#) (undergraduate students)
- Services and resources for international students, to facilitate their integration on campus and make them feel more at home ([Campus Recreation](#), [BC Dining](#)). In particular, at the “International Tailgate” in October, 30 BC international first-year students are invited to experience a BC football game tailgate.
- Student satisfaction surveys, including international students (Institutional Research and Planning, CIHE).