



***VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY***  
***CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES***  
***HANDBOOK of PROGRAMS and FOCUS AREAS***



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# VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY

## CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

### About the Center

Center for International Studies (CFIS) at Virginia Union University (VUU) will provide the means whereby the institution can use its academic and service resources to fulfill a major mission, which is to “develop scholars, leaders, and lifelong learners of a global society.” The Center will promote and implement various global initiatives that support and enhance VUU’s strategic priorities. The Center will continually advance faculty and students’ interests in national and international issues in order to become aware of global opportunities that might positively enrich them socially, culturally, and academically.

### Introduction

The new millennium requires international expertise and competencies to navigate the ever-increasing complexities of an interdependent “global village.” Initiatives to increase the United States’ investment in international education have the support of both the legislative and executive arms of government. This vision is embraced by VUU in its **Mission Statement and Strategic Priorities**. Four of the eight strategic priorities of VUU are directly addressed by the establishment of CFIS. The priorities are: Quality of academic programs; Student engagement/empowerment; Image enhancement; and Civic engagement. Engaging VUU students and faculty in international academic and cultural programs is one of the most effective ways to acquire global awareness and experience that will change the way students and faculty see the world and themselves. In keeping with the mission of VUU, CFIS will promote the education of students and the experiential knowledge of faculty to become outstanding contributors to society through global learning and experiencing the cultures of other countries.

### Mission Statement

The mission of CFIS at Virginia Union University is to provide leadership and support for internationally oriented and interdisciplinary teaching and research; local, national, and international business; and other creative work and services. In a world of increasing interdependence, VUU strategically seeks to interact with businesses, intellectual and educational cultures throughout the world. CFIS will strive to develop a global competence for students, faculty and the university community as a whole. CFIS will promote study abroad programs for VUU students and faculty as well as bring students and faculty from abroad to VUU campus and the local community. The Center will also encourage integrating international education into undergraduate, graduate and professional curricular across departments and disciplines at VUU. International scholarship and educational exchange will be encouraged to further internationalize knowledge and activities

in the university, and to help create a community and society that will be responsive to the increasing international needs and obligations of citizenship. The mission of The Center for International Studies will be achieved through active collaboration with several other organs of the university.

### **Focus Areas of the Center**

▲ CFIS will collaborate with the Sydney Lewis School of Business at VUU in order to prepare students for leadership positions in business and government organizations and to equip them to be competitive in the global economy through a management program that promotes intellectual, technical, professional and ethical development. The objectives of CFIS/SLSB collaborative are:

- To develop local, regional, national and international business activities that promote global engagement through teaching, research, and faculty exchange between VUU and the international community in order to achieve national prosperity and international development.
- To create a focus, a Concentration in International Business for business students who may wish to broaden their learning experiences and to enhance their professional opportunities in a highly competitive global work place.
- To create a second focus, an International Business minor for non-business students who may wish to benefit from learning the global view of worldwide markets and the role of business in these growing markets.
- To collaborate with scholars, experts in the international area to conduct research and analysis and develop policy initiatives grouped under three themes: business trends, global trends, and world regions.

▲ CFIS will collaborate with other schools and departments:

- To provide central coordination for a comprehensive range of services and activities and offer inter-cultural programs, which appeal to a variety of audiences, thereby sensitizing the university community to the importance of diversity and foster a better understanding and appreciation of world cultures.
- To arrange study abroad and student exchange programs between VUU and other institutions around the world.
- To accommodate international students' needs and to help them acclimatize to their new environment on their admission to VUU.
- To organize seminars and workshops for faculty on the internationalization of their curriculum so that

their courses will have international focus.

▲ CFIS will be actively involved in promoting the academic and cultural development of VUU's faculty by encouraging and assisting them:

- To participate in Fulbright Scholar Program offered by Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES).
- To participate in faculty exchange programs with other institutions around the world.
- To participate in teaching courses in various study abroad programs.

▲ CFIS will tirelessly work with the students at VUU:

- To encourage and assist them to have valid passports.
- To encourage and assist them to participate in various study abroad programs.
- To encourage and assist them to participate in Camp Adventure program.
- To be members of various clubs and sororities and resuscitate the International Student Association.
- To loan curriculum and learning materials from the Center to students.

▲ CFIS will promote collaboration with other national and international institutions and organizations:

- To jointly and singly write grant proposals for the promotion and execution of CFIS projects.
- To enter into Memoranda of Understanding with many institutions and organizations with similar mission and interests around the world.
- To promote the activities of the African Educational Research Network (AERN) as a veritable vehicle for dissemination of research on educational and human development issues in and about Africa.

## **Broad Goals, Objectives, and Action Plans for the Center**

**Goal # 1: Build an infrastructure that enables CFIS to promote and support international relationships in the Cosmopolitan Richmond communities through research, technical assistance, training, seminars, electronic services and international business joint ventures.**

## **Objectives:**

1. Establish well-defined goals and mission statement for the CFIS.
2. Identify personnel requirements for the Center.
3. Hire, train and place personnel.
4. Create a virtual learning environment by automating programs to support e-commerce, e-agriculture, e-trade, e-learning and satellite transmission.

## **Action Plans:**

1. CFIS will collaborate with The Sydney Lewis School of Business and other units of VUU to develop, interpret, package, and make available information about global markets, import and exports. Additionally, investment opportunities in which our stakeholders will have comparative advantage will be available.
2. Identify niche markets for agricultural products and their value-added derivatives in new overseas markets.
3. Formulate and analyze the impact of public policy on stakeholders especially the importance of broad-based policy instruments such as the GATT and NAFTA on options available to Cosmopolitan Richmond business.

## **Goal # 2: Support and encourage an international focus in teaching, research and service to the University community.**

### **Objectives:**

1. Develop an International Business Resource Center (IBRC) to display materials designed to educate and reinforce an understanding of international business issues in a variety of interest areas.
2. Provide network resources, e-resources, and technical assistance and research databases for such areas as exporting and importing, international economic forecasting, e-learning, e-commerce, and international trade.
3. Support and encourage opportunities to stimulate market-oriented information and research.
4. Provide policy research on national and international business opportunities.
5. Benefit from participating in collaborative research and services for VUU, Richmond and surrounding counties, and the United States.

### **Action Plans**

1. The Center for International Studies will solicit grant funds to develop IBRC.
2. Employ a technology expert to set up and maintain electronic databases for areas of interest in international trade.
3. Encourage interdisciplinary research by VUU faculty in international trade and business.
4. Organize periodic workshops and seminars on international trade and business.

5. Establish and maintain strong linkages with other institutions in the United States and abroad.
6. Disseminate the results of collaborative research to as many audiences as possible; including students through teaching; in academia through conferences and scholarly publications; to government officials and business leaders through reports, workshops, consultation, and testimony; and the general public through open lectures and material for the media.
7. Support economic policy reform programs and training in developing a transitional economy in other countries.
8. Provide academic and technical training, research and technical assistance in support of sound economic policy and sustainable economic growth in Richmond area and developing economies around the world.
9. Provide technical assistance and training in the areas of fiscal policy, tax administration, budget management, intergovernmental fiscal relations, and economic and fiscal analysis.

**Goal # 3: Develop a diverse International University component dedicated to enhancing global programs and the international culture of VUU.**

**Objectives:**

1. Build learning platforms that allow students residing worldwide to participate in VUU degree programs and special learning activities.
2. Establish an International Student Referral Service.
3. Create an international student webpage.
4. Offer distance-learning opportunities for VUU and international students.

**Action Plans:**

1. CFIS will plan and coordinate programs and services that foster international understanding and cultural exchanges on campus. Some of these services will include international freshmen orientation and English proficiency testing and placement; academic advisement and registration; personal counseling; international clubs; international coffee hours; friendship family program; student mentor program; international student week; day and overnight trips; health insurance coverage; socials and cookouts; and assistance in processing of visa documents.
2. CFIS will sponsor workshops, prepare a quarterly newsletter, and also create and maintain a website to keep international students informed of any changes in immigration regulations, of upcoming programs and activities of particular interest to them and of any recent happenings in the local international community.

3. Utilize two-way video-conferencing capabilities for distance learning ventures.
4. Sponsor participants to attend Model United Nations activities.

**Goal # 4: Enrich the international composition and character of the University's immediate service area and Richmond communities.**

**Objectives:**

1. Support cultural, economic, social, health and environmental activities that will collectively shape and appeal to the local community.
2. Create programs that allow VUU international students to interact and contribute to the Richmond community.

**Action Plans:**

1. CFIS will increase the diversity of the student population at VUU through planned recruitment of students at undergraduate, graduate, and professional levels from various countries of the world.
2. CFIS will offer immigration advisement to those on the F-1 and J-1 visas in order to keep them in status with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).
3. CFIS serves as a liaison between the international students at VUU and all those with whom these individuals come into contact, representing the students' best interest and advising them accordingly.

**Goal # 5: Expand campus and community international collaborative.**

**Objectives:**

1. Sponsor exchange and study abroad programs to bring the University's international resources to communities throughout Richmond areas.
2. Conduct joint international faculty research activities through study abroad programs.
3. Establish a faculty exchange program.
4. Develop an international student exchange program.
5. Collaborate with international institutions/organizations to develop joint degree programs.

**Action Plans:**

1. Solicit travel grants to allow international faculty teaching opportunities.
2. Solicit travel grants for international graduate and undergraduate student research and teaching.

3. Host international exhibits, conferences, forums, workshops, seminars and publications.
4. Publish International Students' Handbook.

**Goal # 6: Develop, support and cultivate the internationalization of VUU curriculum.**

**Objectives:**

1. Strengthen the international dimension of the curriculum.
2. Work with other institutions both within the United States and abroad in order to enrich the international dimension of the co-curricular content.
3. Encourage the involvement of international students and scholars in the life of the University.
4. Heighten global awareness and understanding in Richmond and surrounding counties.

**Action Plans:**

1. Ensure that international issues, problems, and perspectives are adequately represented in course syllabi at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional levels.
2. Develop courses with an international focus.
4. Provide comprehensive support services for the international students and faculty and promote VUU as a welcoming environment for foreign students and scholars.
5. Develop courses with other institutions on multicultural issues in today's interdependent world.

**Goal # 7: Facilitate the development of a minor in International Affairs that would be applicable across several majors at VUU.**

**Objectives:**

1. To establish an interdisciplinary committee to establish program guidelines and purpose.
2. To support the development of course syllabi necessary to meet the requirements of the minor.
3. Provide for faculty development necessary for program implementation.

**Action Plans:**

1. Set up an Interdisciplinary Committee to interface with various Schools and Departments to develop purpose and guidelines for the Minor in International Affairs.
2. Develop course syllabi to meet the requirements of the Minor program.
3. Advertise the Minor in International Affairs program through brochures and hand bills that will be sent to institutions within the U.S. and abroad.

**Goal # 8: Facilitate program agreements with foreign institutions to support Fulbright Scholars, program specific activities in various academic disciplines and study groups.**

**Objectives:**

1. To collaborate with foreign universities to support health, education, business and related activities to improve human condition.
2. To share resources with foreign universities to address issues and problems of mutual interest.

**Action Plans:**

1. Solicit for funds to travel to some foreign universities to establish and contract Faculty and Student Exchange programs.
2. Encourage prospective Fulbright scholars to choose VUU as a friendly institution to carry out their scholarly work through brochures and bills.

**Key Program Staff and Qualification**

CFIS will operate under the direction of Dr. David A. Adewuyi, Associate Professor and Coordinator of International Studies Program & Secondary Education, and with the assistance of an Advisory Board. The Advisory Board will be responsible for the establishment of broad policies, guidelines and for overseeing the operation of the program. This group will consist of:

- Dr. H.P. Singh-Sandhu, Sydney Lewis School of Business
- Mrs. Bynetta Wiggins, School of Education, Psychology and IDS
- Dr. Elizabeth Garbrah-Aidoo, School of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Stephanie White, Financial Affairs
- Dr. Anthony Thompson, Institutional Advancement.
- Dr. Dorothy Eseonu, School of Math, Sciences and Technology.
- Dr. John W. Kinney, Dean, SDP School of Theology.
- Ms. Shena Crittendon, Director of Public Relations
- Mr. Eugene Evans, President, Student Government Authority.
- Mrs. Areclia Jackson, Financial Aid Office.
- Mrs. Penni Sweetenburg-Lee, Career Services Office
- Glenda H. Nelson, Administrative Assistant

## **Summary of Programs, Activities and Launch Date**

- Programs of the CFIS are designed to develop a global competence for students, faculty and the university community as a whole. CFIS promotes study abroad for VUU students and faculty as well as bring students and faculty from abroad to VUU campus and the local community.
- The Center also encourages integrating international education into undergraduate, graduate and professional curricular across departments and disciplines at VUU by offering training for faculty and workshop for deans and department chairs.
- Beginning in April 2010, CFIS will commence plans to conduct workshops for deans, and department heads about curriculum development such as internationalizing their curriculum, and training for faculty on educational exchange and partnerships with countries for instance, in the Middle East, where a number of countries are expanding education, including launching new campuses, supporting branch campuses of institutions based in other countries.
- The Center will operate year-round. Starting in 2010, twice yearly, CFIS will conduct a community wide global network workshop for registered participants. The intention of the workshop is to target corporate sponsors and major civic groups in the community. With corporate sponsorship, scholarships will be offered to individuals without the financial resources to register for the workshop.

## **Location**

CFIS is located next to the Office of Career Services in Henderson Center.

## **Evaluation Plan**

Evaluation will be an integral part of the program to determine if goals are being met. The procedure for evaluation involves gauging:

- (a) The number of participants involved in the training and workshop sessions.
- (b) Feedback received from the seminar and workshop participants, and the CFIS users.
- (c) Number of scheduled local, regional, national and international business activities that promote global engagement through teaching, research, and faculty exchange between VUU and other participants.
- (d) The number of exchange programs between VUU and its collaborating partners.

The program of the Center will be evaluated formally and informally to ensure that planned progress is accomplished.

### **Formal Evaluation**

#### Anticipated Outcomes

To increase the number of CFIS sponsored business development activities in the Cosmopolitan Richmond, U.S., and with other international countries.

To increase the number of organized Study Abroad and Exchange Programs

To develop internationalized curricular programs at VUU and with other institutions within the U.S. and in other countries.

#### Measures to be Used

Use charts and tables to track number of sponsored business development events.

Use tables and charts to track the number of sponsored Study Abroad and Exchange programs.

Will coordinate VUU program and activities with participating schools in other countries. Periodically assess the degree of progress achieved.

### **Informal Evaluation**

Informal evaluation will take the form of:

- (a) Open-ended periodic reports from the CFIS Advisory Board.
- (b) Progress reports and period status reports from Coordinator of CFIS. These reports provide indication of program effectiveness and identify areas needing attention.

### **Dissemination of Information**

Copies of periodic reports are made available to VUU President, division heads, and participating institutions.

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