

UNC CHARLOTTE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Global Engagement through International Partnerships

*Establishing collaborative relationships
of reciprocity and trust with institutional
partners abroad*

UNC Charlotte's engagement with our Global Community

As North Carolina's urban research institution, UNC Charlotte is located in the heart of a globalizing city. Over the years, the city of Charlotte has attracted international businesses, artists, scholars, visitors, and residents. Charlotte is home to world-class financial institutions, a vibrant arts and culture scene, energizing sports teams, and research institutions on the cutting edge of innovation. Because of our strong community partnerships, UNC Charlotte benefits from and provides support to the area's international community and global connections.



We are educating 21st century leaders who are globally aware and inter-culturally competent. Whether they are studying to be teachers, doctors, engineers, computer scientists, journalist, or architects, our students must have a strong understanding of the global political, economic, and social landscape and the ways in which global process affect our everyday lives.

COUNTRIES WITH UNC CHARLOTTE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS	
Japan	Australia
Korea	Bosnia Herzegovina
Mexico	Brazil
Netherlands	Chile
Nigeria	China
Peru	Denmark
Poland	England
South Africa	France
Spain	Germany
Taiwan	Italy

International Engagement Locally



The UNC Charlotte **International Festival** welcomes over 20,000 students, faculty/staff, student family members, and Charlotte community members to celebrate the cultures of the world. More than 600 US domestic and international students volunteered to implement the program. Various faculty members include the International Festival as part of class assignments. OIP revised the International Festival Passport activity to offer faculty more intentional cultural engagement assignment options associated with the program.



Great Decisions is a national program of the Foreign Policy Association. The Office of International Programs at UNC Charlotte coordinates a local community lecture series annually based on topics chosen by the Foreign Policy Association. The Charlotte Great Decisions Lecture Series consists of six weekly sessions and is an opportunity for citizens to meet, discuss and learn about some of the issues facing our world while providing a platform to highlight the expertise of UNC Charlotte faculty members. Students and community members are invited to all of the lectures in the series.



Global Gateways is UNC Charlotte's international residential living community in which residents participate in organized social and educational experiences to increase intercultural competence and global awareness. As part of the program's community engagement initiatives, residents expand the University's connection with Charlotte's refugee community by tutoring refugee youth in OurBRIDGE, a local afterschool program for immigrant and refugee children in Charlotte. Global Gateways residents volunteer weekly with OurBRIDGE, and they meet monthly to create, implement, and review the curriculum.

Highlighted International Community Engagement Partnerships and Experiences

UNC Charlotte offers a number of faculty-led service-learning and community engagement courses abroad. These featured programs represent recent Spring Break and summer programs.

Cuba

Students participating in the program will have an opportunity to examine the Cuban health care system; compare this system to the United States' health care system; and improve their understanding of Latin American people, culture, and indigenous health care practices. Participants will visit a variety of health care and social service sites and attend presentations by practitioners and educators.



United Kingdom



This five-week program in Manchester will give students the opportunity to learn key theories and concepts in urban and community sociology; apply this knowledge to the study of contemporary Manchester; and participate in experiential learning with community organizations. In addition to weekly class meetings, part of the coursework consists of collaborating with a local community organization dedicated to the restoration of Manchester's Victoria Baths.

Ecuador

Students are assigned to a service project that is linked to one of four academic areas: environment & conservation; health; human rights; or education for 4 days or 20 hours of volunteering. In addition to the experience of volunteering, students also have the opportunity to engage with the host culture by living with host families and interacting with locals in Cuenca. The curriculum is a mixture of community service at local organizations, classroom guest lectures with local representatives, and cultural activities.



South Africa

The program focuses on the political, economic, and social aspects of food production, distribution, and consumption in the Western Cape region of South Africa. Students work with organizations that are embedded in local communities to understand the challenges and triumphs of food access work in context. They gain practical experience building urban gardens with limited resources, and explore the global, national, and local politics and policies effecting urban agricultural practices in the Cape Town region.



Malawi

Students perform hands-on work at two rural non-governmental organizations: one in the rare tropical rainforest area of Malawi, and the other on the shores of Lake Malawi. The program also visits a small, rural university, attends a class with local students, and presents a lecture to Malawian students at the Catholic University of Malawi. Students participate in cultural immersion activities.

