

The Office of Global Engagement

# Annual Report

## 2024-2025



**BROWN**  
Office of Global Engagement

# Letter from Leadership

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

This past year has been a testament to resilience. Amidst unprecedented change and challenges, the Office of Global Engagement has steadfastly upheld our core values to advance “Brown in the World and the World at Brown” because we recognize that the fundamental mission of integrative scholarship, intellectual inquiry, and creative and scientific innovation through research is made possible through a global workforce and community of learners.

The international students, scholars, and faculty, as well as foreign nationals engaged in various essential roles—from support staff in facilities, to groundbreaking research staff, and insightful advisors—are **vital and valued members of the Brown University community**. Their diverse perspectives, cultural contributions, and unwavering dedication are not merely additions; they are intrinsic to the very fabric and excellence of our educational mission. While this past year has brought numerous changes that have challenged our international community - from travel restrictions to U.S. visa policy changes - the Office of Global Engagement (OGE) has made significant strides in expanding Brown’s global footprint while enhancing support services for our international community.

Our Global Summer Programs for 2025 saw remarkable growth of 200% in student applications, extending to new international locations, introducing innovative faculty-led courses, and achieving increased enrollment. This initiative reflects our enduring commitment to diverse and accessible global learning opportunities for all Brown students.

Semester study abroad programs also flourished, offering new academic courses and integrating impactful seminars and co-curricular initiatives focused on sustainability and climate across our Global Centers. These enhancements deepen students’ academic preparation to tackle real-world problems with rigor and from a cross-cultural perspective.

Concurrently, our Office of International Student and Scholar Services (OISSS) continues to adeptly navigate complex federal immigration changes. Through expanded advising hours, new resources (such as the [Emergency Fund for International Staff and Faculty](#), [International Travel Assistance Program](#), [Status Inquiry FAQs](#) and monthly webinar series), and a vigilant focus on compliance, we provided critical visa support services, ensuring our international students and scholars remain informed and well supported amidst an uncertain landscape.

Finally, I want to express my deepest gratitude to the dedicated members of the **Office of Global Engagement**. Their tireless work, unwavering commitment, and compassionate approach have been truly exceptional. I also extend sincere thanks to all our **campus partners**—departments, faculty, and administrative offices—whose collaboration and understanding have been instrumental in supporting our international community throughout this demanding year.

I am proud and honored to be part of our global community.

Ever true,

Asabe Poloma, Ph.D.  
Associate Provost for Global Engagement



# Our Global Community

As the 2024-2025 academic year concludes, we reflect on the invaluable contributions of Brown's international community. This past year brought unprecedented federal immigration changes, creating a complex and uncertain environment for our international students, staff, faculty, postdocs, scholars, and visitors. New visa procedures, travel restrictions, and evolving regulations significantly impacted international life and work at Brown and across U.S. higher education.

In response, the Office of International Student and Scholar Services (OISSS) worked diligently to enhance our support. We prioritized clear, accurate, and timely information, along with vigilant monitoring. This led to new resources, including a bimonthly webinar series with Iandoli Desai LLC, designed to clarify legal and policy changes and offer practical guidance. We also expanded advising hours, offering both in-person and online appointments to ensure personalized support. Underlying these efforts was a renewed focus on compliance, keeping our community informed and adherent to federal regulations while minimizing disruption to their academic, research, and professional pursuits.

Looking ahead, we eagerly anticipate welcoming new and returning international students, scholars, and faculty. We are committed to supporting their vital contributions to Brown's academic excellence.



*International visiting students, researchers, and scholars gather for the fall semester welcoming event in the Global Brown Lounge.*

## IN 2024-25

500+ undergraduate students participated in global study away and experiential learning programs across 40+ countries

160+ graduate students traveled to 58 different countries for research and other academic activities

35% of faculty are engaged in global research and teaching collaborations in 100+ countries

## GLOBAL DIVERSITY

14% of undergraduates are international students

40% of graduate students are international students

5,000+ course enrollments each year in area studies and language courses

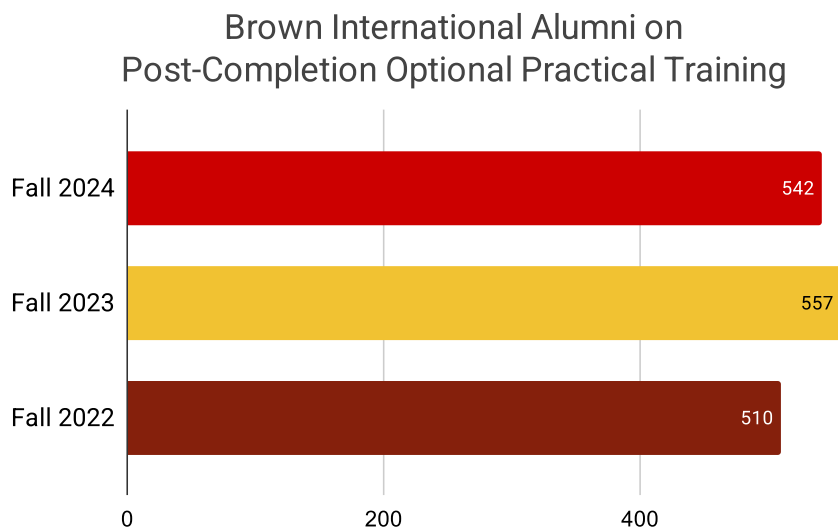
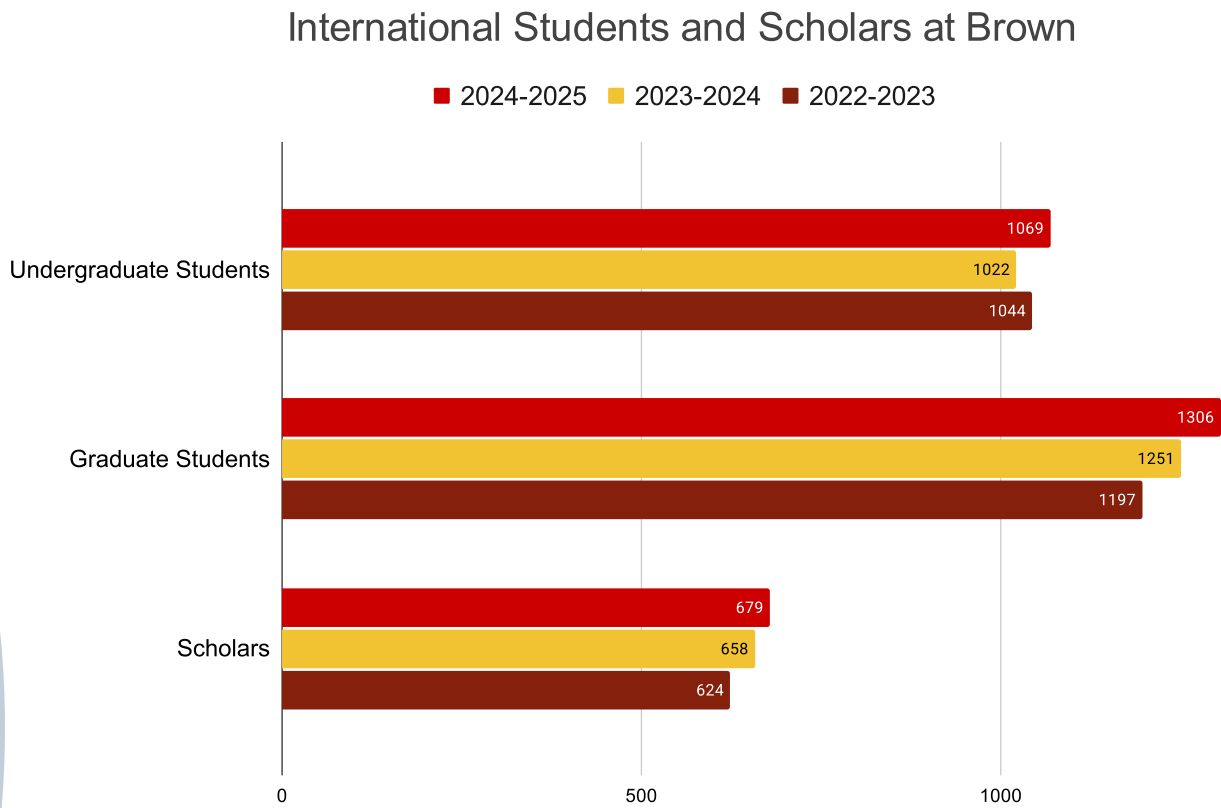
## PARTNERSHIPS

58 institutional collaborations across 31 countries facilitating student and faculty mobility, joint research, medical training, and experiential learning

# International Students and Scholars at Brown

The 2024-25 academic year marked another increase in enrolled international students and scholars at Brown. The number of international undergraduate students at Brown increased by 4.5%, while international graduate student enrollment increased by 4.4%. The number of international scholars sponsored by Brown also increased from the previous year by 3.2%.

The Office of International Students and Scholar Services (OISSS) continues to provide guidance and support to Brown international alumni on post completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) for up to 3 years after graduation. During fall 2024 semester, 542 international students pursued OPT, which marked a slight 2.7% decrease from fall 2023.



## International Visitor Program

The International Visitor Program continues to be an invaluable cornerstone of our global community here at Brown. Our international visitors include exchange undergraduates from partner universities, visiting non-degree student interns, graduate students engaged in coursework or research, and visiting faculty and postdoctoral scholars.

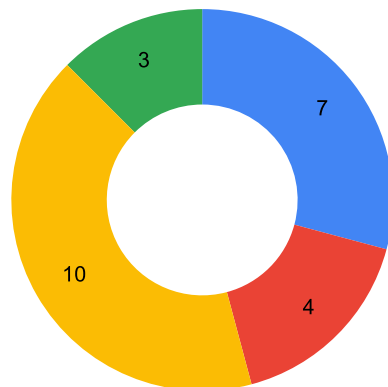
This year, Brown welcomed 7 international visiting undergraduate students from The City University of Hong Kong (CUHK), École Polytechnique, Keio University, and Stockholm University. Our Office also provided comprehensive application and advising support for 17 international visitors which included:

- **4 Student Interns** (University of Cantabria and Churchill College - Cambridge University)
- **10 Visiting Research Fellows** (Charles University, University of the Witwatersrand, and The Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro)
- **3 Short Term Scholars** (Beijing Normal University, and University of the Witwatersrand)

Our office also hosted a showcase that highlights the diverse research and creative work of Brown's visiting international students and scholars. The event aims to celebrate international scholarship, spotlight the real-world impact of global research in local contexts, and foster meaningful connections across the Brown community.

International Visitors Program 2024-25

● Visiting Non-Degree Undergraduates ● Student Interns  
● Visiting Research Fellows ● Short Term Scholars



## “Globally Local” Global Brown Scholar Showcase 2024-25 Presentations

### AI & Cave Exploration in the Cradle of Humankind

**Alexandra Barry** - Visiting Research Fellow from The University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa)

### The International as Understood Through the Contributions of Diasporic and Atlantic Authors

**Fernanda Cardoso Fonseca** - Visiting Research Fellows from PUC-Rio (Brazil)

### Spiritual Ecology in the Atlantic Forest: Candomblé, Pentecostalism, and the Politics of Sacred Groves

**Alexandro Solórzano**, Visiting Research Fellow from PUC-Rio (Brazil)



*Alexandra Barry, a Visiting Research Fellow from the University of the Witwatersrand, presents her research during the Global Brown Scholar Showcase.*





*Brown Library's East Asian Collection grew out of the Gardner Collection when in 1961 the noted Harvard Sinologist, Charles Sidney Gardner donated to Brown University approximately 30,000 volumes, the majority in Chinese, covering language, literature, history, philosophy, religion, art, archaeology, and social sciences. The essential part of the Gardner Collection is located on the third floor of the Rockefeller Library where traditional Chinese styled bookcases built in 1969 surrounding three sides of the Gardner Room. The bookcases are designed perfectly match the size and style of volumes inside.*

## Brown Launches Scholar Exchange Program with Beijing Normal University

This year marks the successful launch of the inaugural Brown-BNU Scholar Exchange Program, a distinctive visiting scholar program between the Brown University Library and Beijing Normal University's (BNU) School of Chinese Language and Literature. The program is designed to promote mutual academic enrichment through the sharing of unique library resources and scholarly expertise at both institutions.

What sets the Brown-BNU Scholar Exchange Program apart is its foundation in library-based research. The program leverages the specialized and often exclusive holdings at each university, facilitating high-impact, cross-cultural academic work. This year, two scholars—one from each institution—are participating and currently engaged in full-time research at their respective host universities.

Brown's Ph.D. student is conducting research at BNU, utilizing Chinese-language databases inaccessible in the U.S., working with native informants in their natural linguistic and cultural settings, and supported by local research assistants. This immersion offers unparalleled access to primary data critical for the student's dissertation research.

At Brown University's Rockefeller Library, the visiting scholar from BNU—an early-career professor—is spending three uninterrupted months immersed in the study of Charles Sidney Gardner, the donor of Brown's foundational Gardner Collection. Through Gardner's papers and the materials he collected, she is tracing the outlines of early American sinology, a field in which Gardner played a role that remains largely overlooked. Her research is both archival and interpretive: she is not only reconstructing Gardner's intellectual world but also reflecting on how collections like his shape the study of China from abroad. For her, the time at Brown has offered something rare—a period free from teaching obligations and the bureaucratic duties required at home. The freedom to read, think, and follow questions where they lead has been, in her words, "invaluable." While this experience will no doubt further her own scholarly path, she sees it as part of something larger: a commitment to intellectual exchange, and to keeping alive a channel through which scholars can access not only collections but also the freedom and breadth of perspective that make new research possible.

# Immersive Global Learning

## Brown’s Global Summer Programs Expand to New Destinations

Building on a successful launch in Summer 2024, the Brown Global Summer Programs (GSPs) continued to grow in its reach and capacity in Summer 2025. The number of programs increased from three to four, while, geographically, the GSPs expanded into four new program destinations – China, Mexico, South Korea, and the United Kingdom. The GSPs also diversified their faculty representation by welcoming four new faculty leaders, including first-time representatives from the Department of East Asian Studies and the Department of American Studies. The overall enrollments in the GSPs increased by 73% from 26 total students in Summer 2024 to 45 total students in Summer 2025. During the Global Summer Program to London and South Korea, participating students and faculty had a chance to meet up with Brown alumni for engaging, intergenerational conversation!



## 2025 Summer Programs

### CHINA

#### Chinese Languages, Arts, and Culture

Prof. Liwei Jiao (East Asian Studies)

### LONDON

#### Reading and Writing its Past, Present, and Future

Profs. Ravit Reichman and Jonathan Readey (English)

### MEXICO CITY

#### Sex, Sports, and Urban Space

Prof. Elena Shih (American Studies)

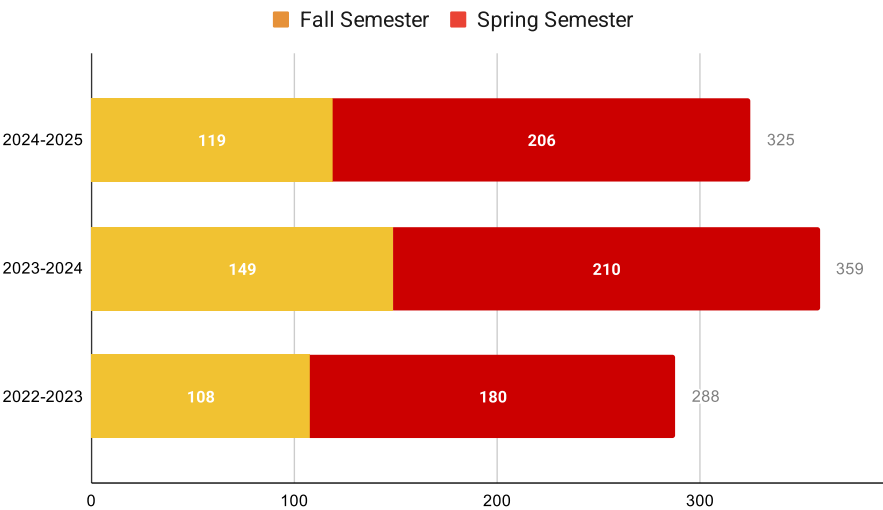
### SOUTH KOREA

#### A Deep Dive Into the Energy Industry

Prof. Sueyon Seo (East Asian Studies)

*Students on the London GSP visit with Brown alumna Maithili Parekh '02, an art historian and independent curator who helped launch Brown's longstanding International Mentorship Program as a student in 1999 and now serves on Brown's Dean of the College Advisory Council.*

## Undergraduate Student Enrollment in Brown Global Centers





# Exposure to Global Healthcare Systems through Cross-Cultural Clinical Learning

The International Medical Exchange Program at The Warren Alpert Medical School provides fourth-year medical students with the opportunity to participate in clinical rotations at one of Brown's international partner institutions. These rotations offer students valuable exposure to global healthcare systems and the opportunity to engage in cross-cultural clinical learning. Students are fully integrated into the host institutions and participate in clinical activities alongside local medical students. Each exchange site is overseen by a designated Brown faculty liaison who facilitates the application process, provides academic oversight, and ensures the quality and consistency of the experience. Upon acceptance, students are enrolled under an elective course number specific to their exchange site.

The program supports partnerships in 14 countries: Austria, Brazil, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Germany, Ghana, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Pakistan, South Korea, and Taiwan. In addition to sending Brown students abroad, the program also hosts students from these partner institutions, providing them with clinical learning experiences at Brown and fostering mutual academic exchange. One of the program's most enduring and robust partnerships is with Moi University in Kenya, developed through the Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (AMPATH) consortium. This long-standing collaboration has facilitated significant research and academic engagement between faculty at both institutions. Additionally, international opportunities are available to undergraduate students in the Program in Liberal Medical Education (PLME), with established programs in Germany, Taiwan, and China that explore the intersection of medicine and culture.



*University of Kyoto and University of Bologna medical exchange students at Brown outside of Rhode Island Hospital. March 2026.*



*Sara Enos (Brown medical student Class of 2026) participating in the Ghana exchange at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). January 2025*



# Stay in Tune

## with all things Global at Brown



[oge.brown.edu](http://oge.brown.edu)



[@brownglobal](https://www.instagram.com/brownglobal)

### Office of Global Engagement

Brown University, Box 2016, Providence, RI 02912

Email: [globalbrown@brown.edu](mailto:globalbrown@brown.edu) | Phone: 401-863-9720

*Below Image: Painting of Havana, Cuba on display at the Office of Global Engagement - 4th Floor of Page-Robinson Hall*

