



BROWN
Office of Global Engagement

Annual Report

2025-2026



Letter from Leadership

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

Every annual report tells a story of the year that shaped it. This year's story is one of community — tested, and made stronger for the testing.

The team in the Office of Global Engagement began the academic year navigating the most volatile federal immigration landscape in recent memory. Travel bans announced in June 2025 and December 2025 brought new uncertainty to students, scholars, and visitors from across the globe. Pauses on immigrant benefits processing left impacted members of our community waiting, sometimes for months, for clarity on important benefits that impacted their lives. Through all of it, our International Student and Scholar Services team showed up — advising, translating policy into plain language and expert guidance for the many international students, employees, visitors, and recent alumni who depend on them. Their resilience and contributions was deservedly recognized by the university with a commendable Service Award in June 2026.

For the Global Partnerships and Programs team, geopolitics asked something similar of us abroad. Shifting conditions required us to adapt our CASA Cuba programming in real time, and to closely monitor and adjust support for Brown students and faculty engaged in the Middle East. In each case, our approach was the same: prioritize safety, stay in close contact with our partners on the ground, and adapt - rather than abandon - our academic mission of global education, a mission more vital now than ever.

And then, on December 13, 2025, the world seemed to stop. A shooting on our own campus took the lives of two beloved students and left others injured and a community in grief. What has continued to carry us through the recovery from this tragedy is community: the outpouring of support from partners, local and global, who reached out to offer words of comfort and resources. That outreach reminded us, in the most meaningful way, that partnership is all about connection and community.

It would have been reasonable for a year like this to be defined only by what was hard. Instead, it is also defined by what we built. Our international collaborations deepened. Global exchanges — from our Brown Global Summer Programs in Vietnam, Paris and Japan to the continued strength of our Brown International Visiting Program — connected students and faculty in ways that remind us why this work matters.

To every partner — on campus, across Providence, and around the world — thank you for staying engaged with us this year, in the hard moments and the hopeful ones. We're glad to share our reflections on the pages that follow, and we look forward to the work still ahead of us together.

Ever true,

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

Our Global Community

ISSS Team Receives Excellence Award for Service

The International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) team within the Office of Global Engagement, which supports over 3,400 international students, scholars, faculty, and staff at Brown, received the 2025 Excellence Award for Service during this year's BEAR Day celebration. What makes this team truly "excellent" is how they navigated unprecedented federal immigration shifts and global travel disruptions this year in addition to their normal high caseload and complex immigration advising.

In April 2025, when the federal government suddenly terminated the records of thousands of students nationwide with no warning, and in May 2025, when visa issues were suddenly paused indefinitely for hundreds of new admitted international students, the ISSS team experienced a significant increase in their workload as students and scholars reached out to seek information and assurance regarding the government's actions. Amid these challenges, the team rose to the occasion in remarkable fashion, making an extra effort to be available to students and scholars, monitoring for unexpected developments, networking with other international education and legal professionals to discuss institutional responses and strategies, and quickly developing new advising guidelines and practices.

In the face of widespread anxiety and uncertainty, this team remained informed, agile, and available. They did not just provide a service; they provided stability, expertise, and compassionate care vital to our community.



ISSS Director, Andrew Shiotani receives one of the team's Excellence Awards during BEAR Day 2026. ISSS Award Recipients not pictured include: Kelsey Dennis, Jennifer Dressen, Benjamin Kemp, Laura Beth Montague, Sonja Paulson, and Brian Williamson

IN 2025-26

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

310 Undergraduate Students enrolled in Brown Global Centers

230+ graduate students traveled to **68** different countries for research and other academic activities

GLOBAL DIVERSITY

14% of undergraduates are international students

41% of graduate students are international students

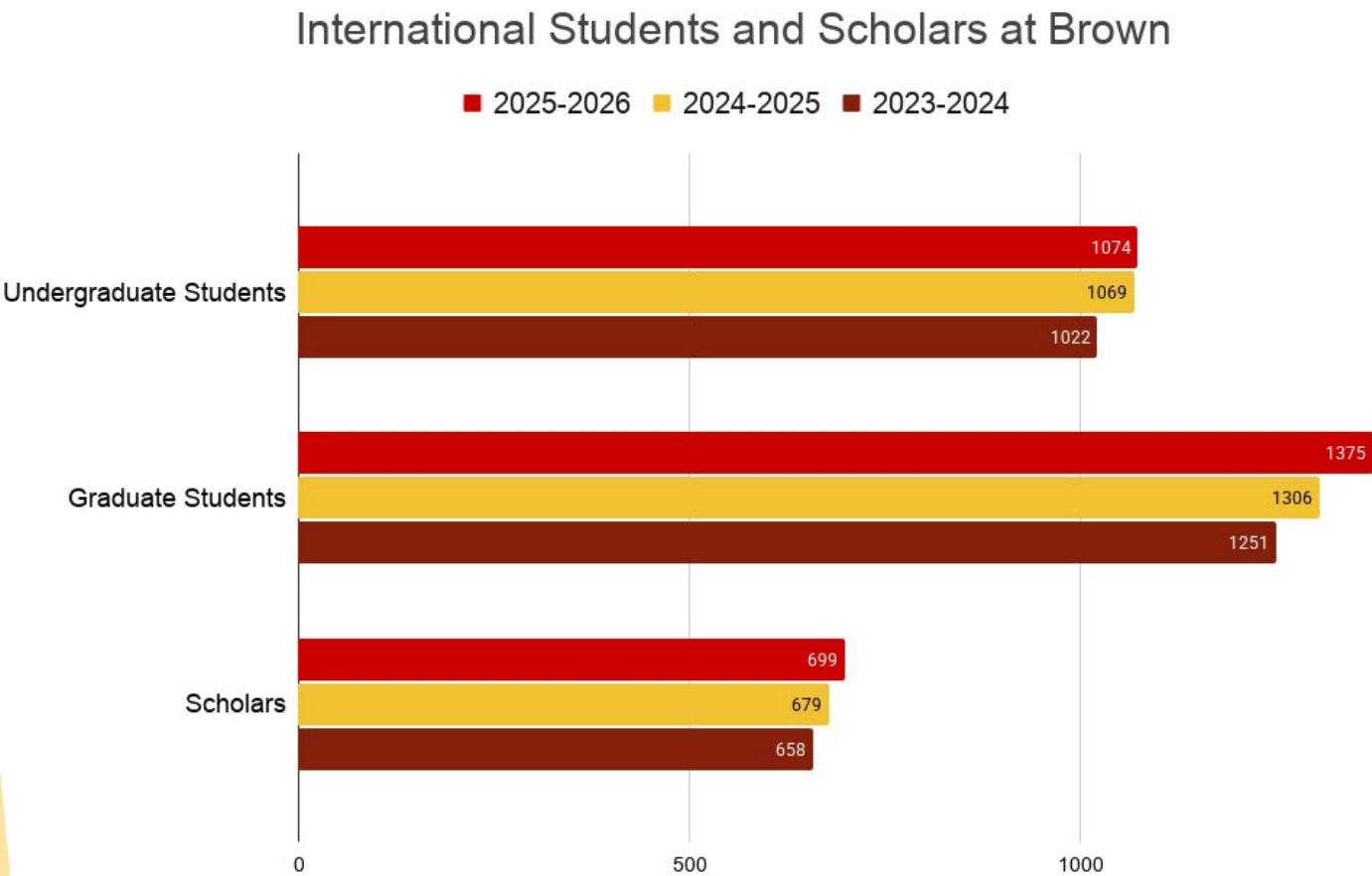
4,800+ course enrollments each year in area studies and language courses

PARTNERSHIPS

56 active institutional collaborations across **29** countries facilitating student and faculty mobility, joint research, medical training, and experiential learning

International Students and Scholars at Brown

International student enrollment remained largely the same in the 2025-26 academic year, while the number of international scholars sponsored by Brown increased from the previous year by 2.9%. International Students and Scholar Services (ISSS) 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 the fall 2025 semester, 625 international students pursued OPT, which marked a significant 15% increase from fall 2024.



International Visitor Program

Our international visitor program includes exchange undergraduates and graduate students 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 École Polytechnique, Keio University, and Kyiv School of Economics as well as **2 international visiting graduate students** from Humboldt University and Sorbonne 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)

5 Visiting Research Fellows (CentraleSupélec and Charles University)

4 Visiting Scholars (Keio University and University of the Witwatersrand)

In addition to our administrative and advising support, our office collaborated with the Global Brown Center to host a showcase that highlights the diverse research and creative work of Brown's visiting international students and scholars. The event provides our visiting scholars, fellows, and students to share insights and experiences from their home countries and showcase their research.

To foster meaningful connections across the Brown community our office hosted an inaugural *Global Mingle* during International Education Week. During this gathering, visiting scholars provided insight about their countries and institutions with Brown undergraduates participating in upcoming study abroad programs to those regions and specific institutions.

International Visitors Program 2025-26

● Visiting Undergraduates ● Visiting Graduate Students ● Student Interns
● Visiting Research Fellows ● Short Term Scholars



“Globally Local” Global Brown Scholar Showcase 2025-26 Presentations

**Genre and Violence in Kříž u Potoka by
Karolíny Světlé**

By Anna Schubertová

Visiting Research Fellow from
Charles University (Czech Republic)

**Life of a Student in Prague: Tips and
Tricks OR Czech Universities Explained**

By Konstantin Sulimenko

Visiting Research Fellow from
Charles University (Czech Republic)

Studying Humanities in France

By Baptiste Chapus

Masters Student in Philosophy from
Sorbonne Université (France)



Visiting Scholars engage with Brown undergraduates preparing for study abroad during the Global Mingle event

Brown Enters Into Student Exchange Partnership with Kyiv School of Economics

The 2025-2026 academic year marked the first year of partnership between Brown and the Kyiv School of Economics (KSE), opening a pathway for KSE undergraduate students to study at Brown as visiting non-degree students for a semester through the [International Visiting Undergraduate Exchange Program](#). Brown welcomed an inaugural cohort of 4 KSE students this year with academic disciplines ranging from Economics and Computer Science to Applied Mathematics.

As with all of Brown's visiting undergraduate students, they have the ability to immerse themselves in the Open Curriculum and extracurricular activities on campus, expanding not only their own academic experience but also having an out-sized impact on the Brown community. By sharing their unique insights and different perspectives our visiting exchange students enrich classroom discussions and leave a memorable impression on our campus each year. Our office is excited to support the next cohort of KSE students who will come to Brown during the spring 2027 semester.



Yeva Yarova, the first visiting exchange student from KSE, outside of the Rockefeller Library during the fall '25 semester.

Reaffirming Brown's Longest-Standing Global Partnership

In September of 2025, Brown welcomed Keio University's President, Kohei Itoh, as part of a delegation visit aimed at strengthening and expanding collaborations between Brown and Keio University. Keio University is among Brown's oldest international collaborating partners, dating as far back as 1860. This historical connection between institutions continues to thrive today through an active exchange of undergraduate students, research fellows, and faculty. Over the past 10 years, through this exchange program, 29 Brown undergraduate students have studied abroad at Keio and 16 exchange students from Keio have studied at Brown. This exchange program is made possible through generous funding from Anthony Miller '79, P'22.



President Christina Paxson with Keio University President Kohei Itoh during his visit to Brown in September 2025.

Strengthening Communities of Practice at Brown and Beyond

Masako Fidler Receives Award for Partnership with Charles University

In February 2026, Masako Fidler, Professor of Slavic Studies and Linguistics, received a gold medal award from Charles University in the Czech Republic for her exceptional contribution to the development of Czech studies, the teaching of Czech in the USA, and in particular for her merits in cultivating the comprehensive cooperation between Charles University and Brown. Professor Fidler has championed the ongoing bilateral partnership between Charles University and Brown since 2017 and has been instrumental in the growth of the collaboration which now spans 15 Brown academic departments and over 20 departments and institutes at Charles University.



Masako Fidler receives a gold medal award from Charles University's Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Eva Lehečková



Danny Warshay leading a workshop session in January 2026 at The British College in Kathmandu, Nepal

Entrepreneurship Workshop in Nepal

Danny Warshay, Executive Director of the Nelson Center for Entrepreneurship and Professor of the Practice of Engineering, received a Fulbright Specialist Program award to lead a series of workshops at The British College in Nepal focusing on how entrepreneurship education can be taught, experienced, and re-imagined. Participants included faculty members from The British College as well as local entrepreneurs.

“Prof Danny Warshay’s Fulbright backed workshop created a valuable bridge between Brown University and The British College through Fulbright Nepal by offering world class workshops for Nepali students.”

- **Sunita Basnet** - Sr Faculty, The British College

Brown-Bologna Lecture Series

Founded in 2017 to commemorate Brown’s long-standing partnership with the University of Bologna, which now marks 45 years, the Brown-Bologna Lecture Series celebrates the enduring collaboration between our institutions in advancing innovative research, impactful teaching and learning, and immersive cultural exchange. This year’s event celebrated the interdisciplinary strengths of the partnership, bringing together Brown’s Department of History, Center for Middle East Studies, and the Center for Global Antiquity to host a lecture on the on the development and evolution of alchemy by University of Bologna Professor of Philosophy Matteo Martelli.

Brown - University of Bologna Annual Lecture Series

ALCHEMY IN THE MAKING

Ancient Practices, Theories
and Experiments

Matteo Martelli

Full Professor
Department of Philosophy
University of Bologna



Immersive Global Learning

Brown in Paris Program Pilots New Experiential Learning Opportunities

As part of an ongoing effort to expand students' contexts for French language immersion, the Brown in Paris program launched two new experiential learning opportunities: Embedded Field Study and Spring+ Internships. Both of these programs were piloted during the spring 2026 semester.

Embedded Field Study

Embedded field study experiences give Brown in Paris students the opportunity to earn Brown course credit while participating in supervised research or field study in their discipline at a local partner institution in Paris. As an “embedded” semester experience, these field study opportunities are completed during and throughout the semester in Paris and form an integral part of the participants' academic program in-country.

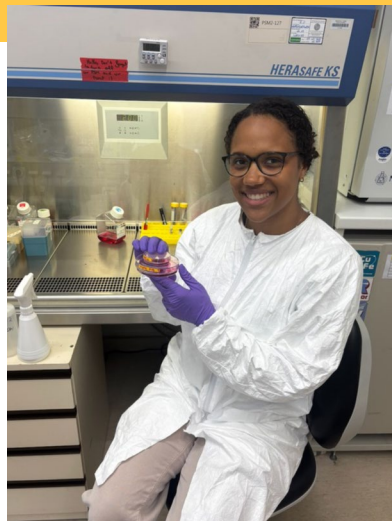
The Brown in Paris team developed a pilot embedded field study opportunity in collaboration with the Brown University Department of Neuroscience and the Center for Neuroscience at Sorbonne Université. This opportunity allows selected students to earn an independent study credit in neuroscience at Brown while spending one day per week studying synaptic and network plasticity in the lab of Dr. Rebecca Piskorowski at Sciences Sorbonne. The program was thrilled to welcome inaugural participant, Lorine Makokha, during the spring 2026 semester.



Brown in Paris student, Lorine Makokha (Cognitive Neuroscience), in the lab, preparing brain slices for immunohistochemistry experiments.



Aimee Zheng (IAPA and Classics) completed a Spring+ internship with the Ministry of Justice



Tai Pettiford-Rowan (Health & Human Biology Concentrator) completed a Spring+ internship in Carsten Janke's microtubule lab at the Institut Curie.

Spring+ Internships

Spring+ internships enable Brown in Paris students to extend their stay in Paris for six to seven weeks to complete an internship following the end of coursework for the Spring semester. For the spring 2026 semester, Spring+ internships were available to Brown in Paris students with three organizations: The Ministry of Justice, The Institut Curie, and Solidarité Roquette.

The Brown in Paris team were delighted to have two students placed into Spring+ internships for the Spring 2026 semester.

2026 GLOBAL SUMMER PROGRAMS

JAPAN: Multicultural/Ethnic Communities Prof. Naemi McPherson (East Asian Studies)



During a 3-day visit with the Ainu indigenous community in Nibutani, students spent time learning traditional cooking methods, the Ainu language and history and culture including dancing and chanting.

PARIS: Capital of Fashion Prof. Stéphanie Ravillon (French & Francophone Studies)



A visit with Brown alum and Artistic Director of Hermès, Pierre-Alexis Dumas '91.

VIETNAM: The Story of Vietnamese Food Across Regions & Time Prof. Trang Tran (East Asian Studies)



Students participate in a hands-on cooking demonstration in Vietnam.

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Below Image: CASA Granada Center's memorial gathering in honor of the victims of the December 13th tragic events that took place on the campus of Brown University. Attended by students from Brown and other CASA schools. In addition to reflections and remarks by the CASA Granada Director, Christine Kelly-Vereda, the students also heard from psychologist Dr. Demi (Demetria) Rhine, Class of '98.

