

The Office of Global Engagement

# Annual Report



BROWN  
Office of Global  
Engagement

2022-2023

# Letter from the Associate Provost for Global Engagement

It is with immense pleasure that I write to introduce the inaugural Annual Report from the Office of Global Engagement (OGE). This report not only celebrates new and expanded international initiatives from the past year but provides important updates on our unwavering commitment to fostering meaningful connections, collaborations and communities with international students, scholars and partners at Brown and beyond.

OGE is committed to actively engaging with individuals, organizations, and communities worldwide. By embracing diverse perspectives, knowledge sharing, and cultural exchange, we aim to create a vibrant global network that transcends geographical borders and disciplinary boundaries. This year, we are delighted to report that the number of international students and scholars at Brown, the number of Brown undergraduate students studying away in global locations, and the number of visiting and exchange students and scholars hosted at Brown have returned to or exceeded pre-pandemic levels.

To further strengthen our commitment to advancing global collaborative research, we partnered with organizations from around the world, including the Institute for Conservation and Environmental Training in Ecuador and UNESCO in Dakar, Senegal. These innovative partnerships – initiated and led by Brown faculty – allow us to leverage faculty expertise, institutional resources, and multidisciplinary networks in order to address pressing global challenges. Together, we aim to make a positive impact on society by fostering innovation and promoting cross-cultural understanding.

Global inclusion lies at the heart of our efforts. Over the past year, we have launched various programs and initiatives aimed at advancing global inclusion, and we have expanded our reach and deepened our impact in communities around the world, including the Brown Displaced Student and Scholar Initiative and the Global Brown Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan. As we navigate the complexities of our global landscape, we are reminded that progress often comes through cross-border collaboration and a willingness to learn from each other. Our office is committed to embracing these principles in our partnerships, programs and operations.

In conclusion, I invite you to explore this report, which provides a window into the diverse range of OGE's projects, partnerships, and initiatives that have defined our year. I hope it will inspire you and give you a deeper understanding of Brown's dedication to global engagement and inclusion. I am grateful for the ongoing support and vital contributions of our global community as we look forward to another productive year.

Stay connected with us via our [website](#) or [Instagram](#) to receive our latest updates, and feel free to reach out to our team with any ideas or suggestions for collaboration – we value your input!

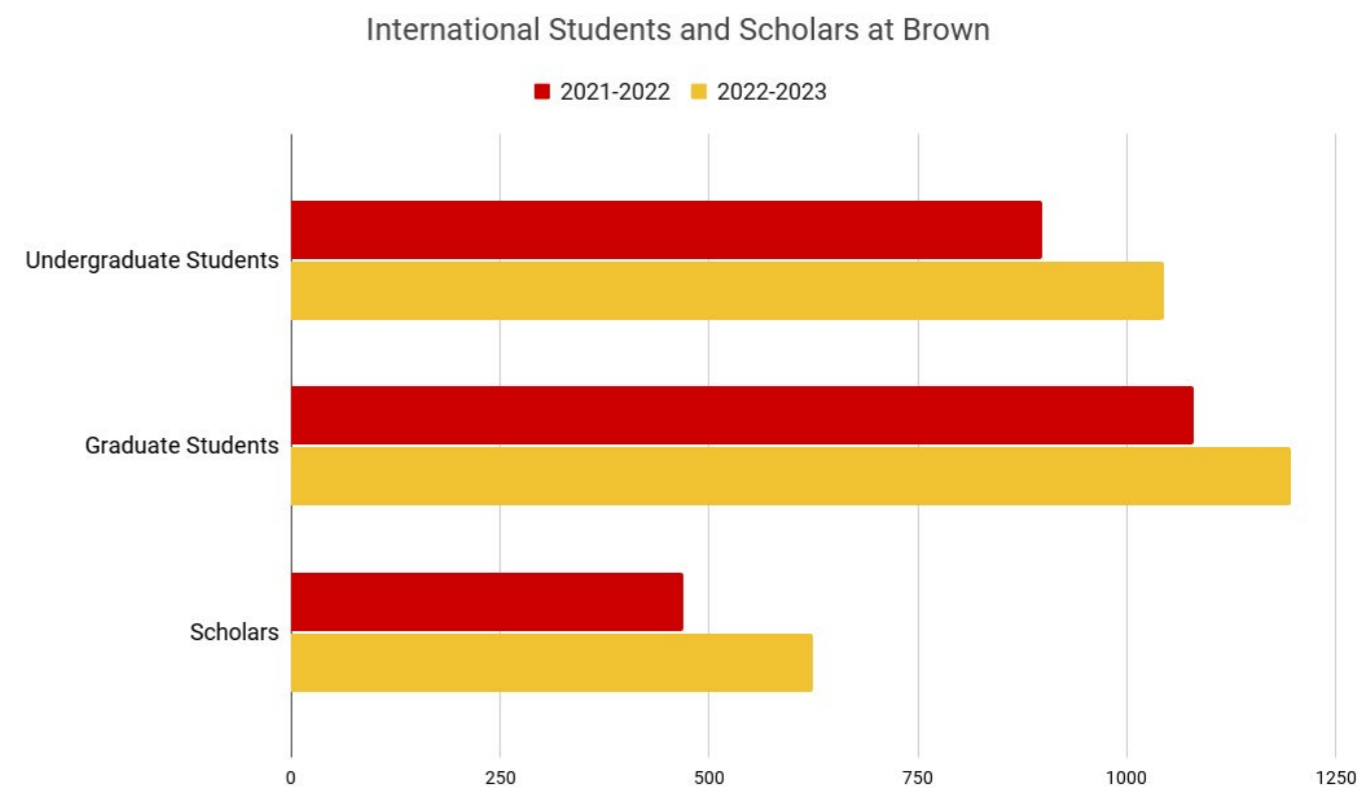
Thank you for being a part of our global community.

Sincerely,  
Asabe W. Poloma, Ph.D.  
Associate Provost for Global Engagement  
Senior International Officer

# Our Global Community

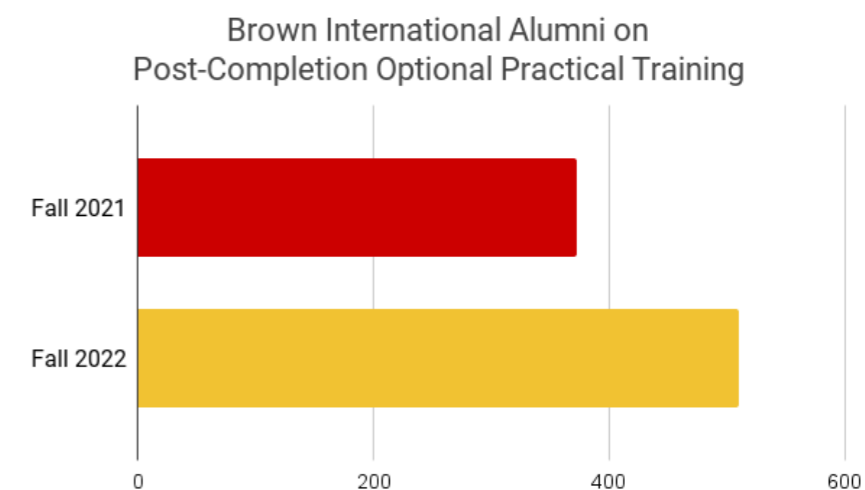
## International Students and Scholars at Brown

Following the global pandemic disruption, we were pleased to see the number of international students and scholars on campus return closer to pre-pandemic levels. The 2022-23 academic year saw a 16% increase in international undergraduate students (1,044), an 11% increase in international graduate students (1,197), and a 33% increase in international scholars (624) from the previous year.

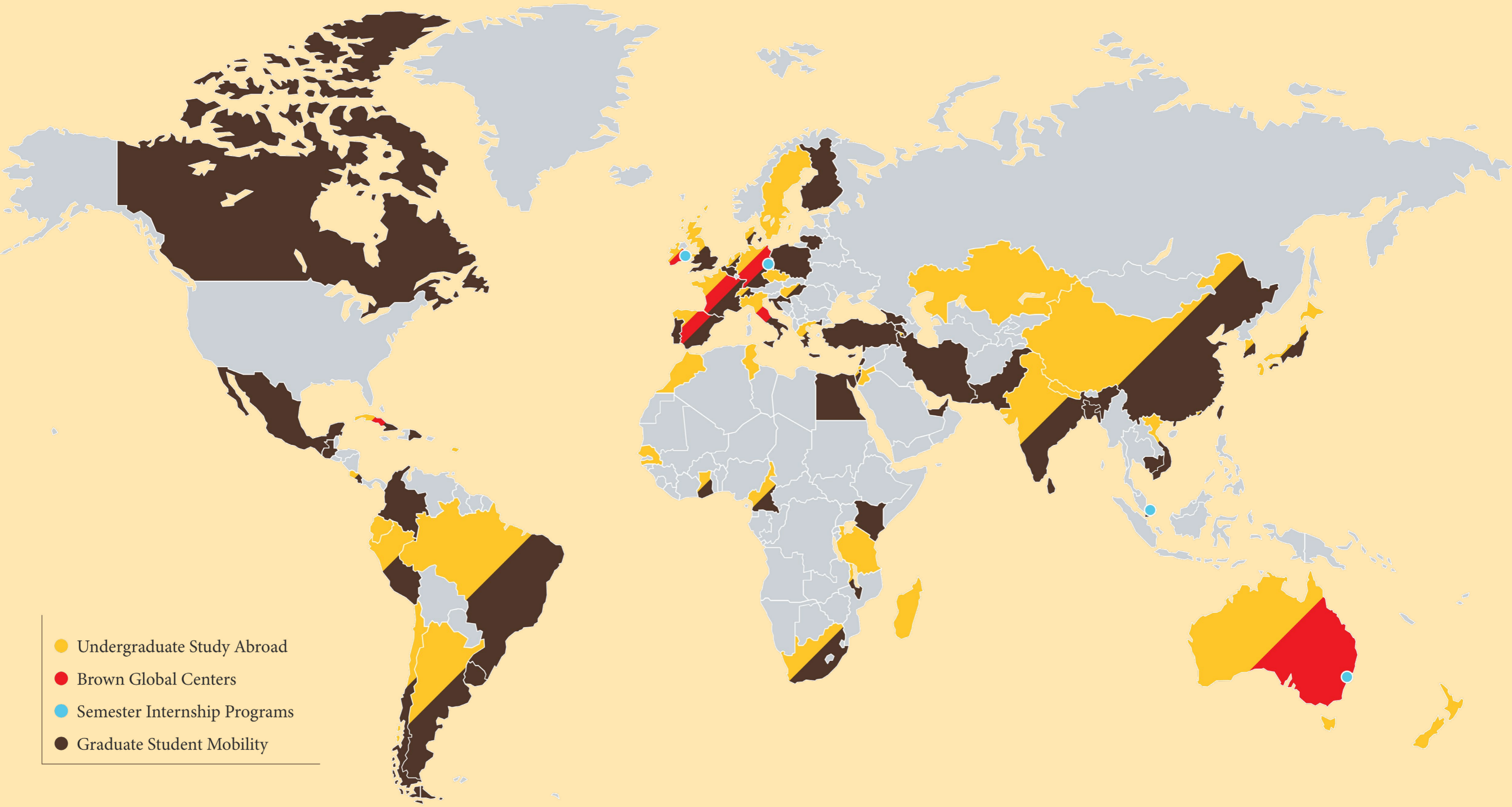


Data Source: Brown University's Office of Institutional Research Enrollment Factbook (undergraduate and graduate students) and IIE Open Doors Report 2022 and 2023 (scholars).

The Office of International Students and Scholar Services (OISSS) continues to provide immigration advising support to international Brown alumni on practical training in the U.S. for up to three years beyond graduation. During the fall 2022 semester, 510 international students pursued post-completion optional practical training (OPT) following their completion of studies. This marked a 37% increase from Fall 2021.



Data Source: Office of International Students and Scholar Services, Brown University



- Undergraduate Study Abroad
- Brown Global Centers
- Semester Internship Programs
- Graduate Student Mobility

## International Visitor Program

For many years, Brown has welcomed international visitors to foster research collaborations, engage in teaching and learning, and to create opportunities for the Brown campus community to learn from peers and partners from around the world. This year, Brown welcomed 13 international visiting students and scholars from Charles University, Keio University, the Stockholm School of Economics and the University of Bologna. The global visitors were warmly welcomed by faculty mentors and staff at the Welcome Luncheon held on October 25, 2022.



## Ukrainian Medical Oncologists Continue their Teaching and Research with the Legorreta Cancer Center

As a founding member of the New University in Exile Consortium, which supports scholars who are at risk due to war or political persecution, Brown is committed to bringing displaced scholars to campus so they can continue their teaching and research.

As part of this effort, Brown welcomed two Ukrainian medical oncologists to campus. In January and March 2023, physician-scientists Dinara Ryspayeva, MD, PhD, and Nataliia Verovkina, MD, PhD, joined Brown as visiting assistant professors in pathology and laboratory medicine and as Legorreta Cancer Center Scholars. Since their arrival, Dr. Ryspayeva and Dr. Verovkina have been involved in intensive research activities and longitudinal clinical experiences with Dr. Wafik El-Deiry, Director, Legorreta Cancer Center and Associate Dean for Oncologic Sciences. For more information on the impact these two visiting scholars are having at Brown, you can read Dr. El-Deiry's [guest editorial piece in \*The Cancer Letter\*](#).



(From left to Right) Nataliia Verovkina, Wafik El-Deiry, and Dinara Ryspayeva. Dr. Verovkina and Dr. Ryspayeva are Ukrainian medical oncologists and visiting assistant professors in pathology and laboratory medicine at Brown University. (Source: *The Cancer Letter*, June 2023)

## Curricular & Co-Curricular Innovations

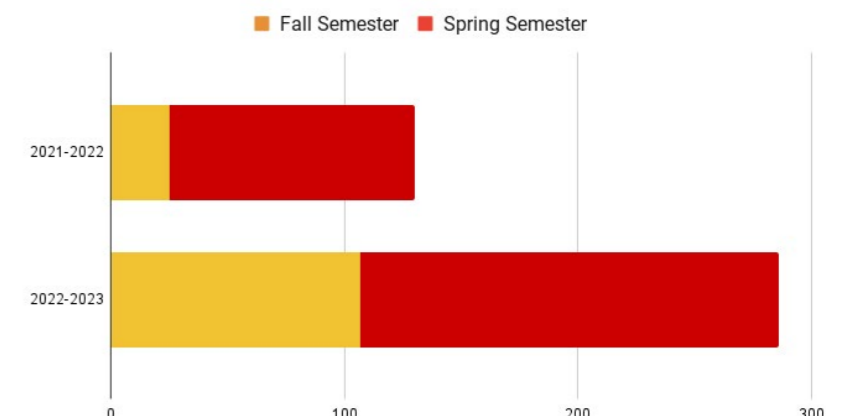
Brown administers seven Global Centers, including five Centers as part of the Consortium for Advanced Studies Abroad (CASA). The pandemic provided an unexpected opportunity to re-think curricular and operational offerings in each of the Global Centers. For example, emergent themes such as public health were added to the curriculum in CASA Havana, which included touring vaccination clinics and incorporating lectures on the evolution of a Cuban vaccine in the context of economic sanctions. As a result of pandemic travel restrictions, CASA Granada re-conceived its excursions to refocus on more regional field trips, with the happily unexpected outcome of creating a deeper sense of place and a much richer experience for students. Operationally, the Global Partnerships and Programs team within OGE piloted a new homestay review process that is currently in use in Cuba and Granada for Fall '23.



Spring '23 CASA Granada Excursions: Students enjoy a cooking class in Cádiz (Top Left); Releasing turtles in Cádiz (Top Right); Guided tour of Granada's Albaicin neighborhood (Bottom)

Student interest in global study continues to increase. From academic year '21-'22 to academic year '22-'23, student enrollment in Brown's Global Centers increased from 130 to 286, marking a 172% increase. These enrollment numbers include both Brown and visiting students across all sites.

Undergraduate Enrollment in Global Centers



# Advancing Intellectual Discovery through Partnership

## Diversifying and Strengthening Research Ties in South Africa

To help develop sustainable and deep research collaborations between the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) and Brown, the institutions signed a three year collaboration agreement. Beginning in the Spring of 2024, Brown will annually host four researchers from Wits for semester-long research stays. Wits researchers will be graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, or junior faculty members and will be hosted by Brown's Computer Science, Physics, Engineering, and Sociology departments.

Through this partnership, productive collaborations will generate novel research while laying the groundwork for a sustained pipeline of talented South African researchers coming to study at Brown and further diversifying South African academia.

## Mapping the Cost of Global Anti-Black Racism

Over the past year, Brown's Ruth J. Simmons Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice Center, led by Center Director, Asa Messer Professor of Humanities and Africana Studies Anthony Bogues, embarked on a collaborative international project with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). This project will contribute new knowledge about the contemporary contours of global anti-black racism and provide the empirical basis for policy makers to intervene.

Through an inclusive methodology that includes a series of interconnected workshops with scholars and civil society groups from across the world, the project explores the multidimensional nature of racism and discrimination in ways that will redefine the meaning of racism for the modern world. This project with UNESCO will culminate with a convening workshop in the Spring of 2024 at Brown, followed by the release of a published multi-disciplinary and multi-sited report in December 2024.

## Advancing Collaborative Research with the Cofán

In the fall of 2022, Scott AnderBois, Associate Professor of Linguistics at Brown University, partnered with the Institute for Conservation and Environmental Training (ICCA), an indigenous-led NGO under the direction of Hugo Lucitante '19, to establish the framework for sustained community-engaged research focusing on the Cofán (or A'i) people, language, culture, history, and territory. The collaboration involves building an Indigenous-led Field Station to facilitate research with A'i/Cofán community members; provide a safe, comfortable space to conduct research; engage the broader Cofán community in the research; and disseminate the results to educators and other community members. This collaboration builds upon prior and ongoing research collaborations between Brown researchers and Cofán community members, such as the A'ingae Language Documentation Project, and seeks to extend the relationship into the future in ways that empower indigenous leadership in research.

Members of the Brown-ICCA collaborative A'ingae Language Documentation Project from a workshop in Lago Agrio, Ecuador. July '23



Aerial picture of flooded streets caused by heavy rains across Italy's northern Emilia Romagna region, on May 18, 2023 in Lugo, Italy. Antonio Masiello | Getty Images

## Focus on Climate, Sustainability

Brown students and the global education team are motivated by the conversation on climate change and the urgent need to create more sustainable experiences, in terms of both academics and operations. Across Brown Global Centers, some actions have already been undertaken to infuse climate consciousness and action into our curriculum (such as tree-planting days in CASA Dublin's programming, or carbon emissions calculators for each student's independent travel planning). We are determined to do more – systematically and sustainably – to reduce and/or compensate for the carbon footprint of our global programming. The OGE Climate Action Working Group, which comprises representatives from our Global Centers (both CASA and Brown) and our Providence Global Partnerships and Programs (GPP) team, is working out a three-pronged approach: understanding our baseline emissions, re-thinking our curricular and co-curricular offerings, and changing operational practices to reflect our pledge towards climate action. Ultimately, we aim to advance a vision of education abroad that responsibly takes into account the impact of our travel and actions on the climate. As international educators, we have an opportunity to both model and promote student engagement with the global issue of environmental sustainability – but grounded in the rich and eminently local contexts of intercultural learning that have long been the hallmark of our programs.



CASA Dublin students learn about the rewilding of Irish farm lands, as part of Tree Day in Avoca, Wicklow.

## Prioritizing Academic and Experiential Learning

Having an Open Curriculum at Brown necessitates that we think about the entirety of the student learning experience abroad. Over the past year, Brown students have demonstrated a deep commitment to engage in experiential learning experiences abroad, and as a result, each of our Global Centers has found ways to integrate community engagement, internships, and learning in their programming. CASA Barcelona, for example, saw a dramatic increase in student participation in internships, with a record number of participants - 72% of the cohort - taking part in this initiative. In addition, we have also made progress in ensuring curricular integration between our sites and Brown's curriculum through the introduction of proseminars in Bologna and Paris, respectively, as Brown courses, taught by adjunct Brown faculty and delivered in ways consistent and approved by Brown's curricular expectations.

# Cultivating Global-Local Communities of Practice & Belonging

## Global Inclusion on Campus and Abroad

The Global Brown Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan seeks to support inclusive belonging and community for international students and scholars, promote opportunities for inter- and cross-cultural learning, and develop diverse and inclusive global programming.

Global Brown organized two workshops focused on equity-minded and inclusive approaches to supporting international students, including *Unpacking the Hidden Curriculum: Supporting Students in Navigating Life at Brown and Beyond* for academic department managers and staff, and *International Identifying Students at Brown: History, Experience, and Support* for staff and faculty of the School of Professional Studies.

In the past year, we have invited colleagues from across campus to engage our staff on key topics such as student accessibility, parent and family engagement, and LGBTQ identities – all of which have unique programming implications within an international context. The goal of these actions was to build up operational excellence and a shared sense of purpose across the team, around the world.

## Brown-Bologna Lecture Series

This year's annual Brown-University of Bologna Lecture Series was hosted by Brown University's Warren Alpert Medical School and featured a visit and lecture by Manuela Ferracin, PhD, Associate Professor at University of Bologna's Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences. Dr. Ferracin's lecture, which was presented as part of the 50 Years of Medicine at Brown event series, was titled *Cancers of Unknown Primary: A mystery to solve, a challenge to win*. Structured as an alternating series, the next lecture series event will take place at the University of Bologna in the Spring of 2024. [Watch Lecture Recording](#)



Dr. Manuela Ferracin, Associate Professor, University of Bologna

**“For four decades, this partnership has brought to Brown scores of senior researchers and doctoral students, across the major divisions of the University, from the humanities and the social sciences to STEM disciplines and the Medical School. It has greatly enriched both institutions and contributed to enduring collaborations.”**

~ Massimo Riva, Professor of Italian Studies and Coordinator for the Brown - Bologna exchange program.

## Welcome Reception for J-1 scholars

The Office of International Student and Scholar Services (OISSS) hosted its first welcome reception and ice cream social this year for international scholars and their families. The event was co-sponsored and hosted with the International House of Rhode Island, an independent non-profit multicultural organization founded to support and promote cultural exchange and awareness among local and global communities. With 60 international visitors affiliated with Brown and their dependents in attendance, the reception enabled the visiting scholars and their families to interact with and meet members of the Brown and surrounding Providence communities.

## Scholar Showcase Lecture Series

Engaging across borders and disciplinary boundaries, the Office of Global Engagement launched the annual international and multidisciplinary *Scholar Showcase Lecture Series*. The inaugural Scholar Showcase keynote was Jonathan Frassinetti, a visiting research fellow from the University of Bologna hosted by Professor Vesna Mitrovic's Condensed Matter Lab in the Department of Physics. Frassinetti's research examines the physical characterization of quantum material by utilizing the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR). He also shared his reflections on being a student at the University of Bologna with Brown undergraduate students who were preparing to study abroad with the Brown in Bologna program the following semester, as well as a first year student interested in Physics.



# Moving towards Operational Excellence & Optimal Staffing

## Brown Global Centers and OISSS Expand

Over the past two years, the Global Partnerships and Programs team welcomed new staff across several Brown-administered Global Centers including CASA Barcelona, CASA Dublin, CASA Melbourne, and Brown in Paris. This investment in staff allows the Centers to expand programming and to support students' needs. Additional changes include a newly launched communication strategy including a website, YouTube channel and additional social media to ensure regular communications to Brown and visiting students, as well as faculty and partners, about the Global Centers' activities and opportunities.

To support the needs of Brown's growing and increasingly diverse international student community, the University has also invested in additional OISSS staffing and other advising-related resources. New resources include an assistant director for student services, with particular a focus on supporting international Master's students, and an administrative coordinator with a focus on supporting international scholars.

## Electronic Issuance of Immigration Documents for F and J Visa Holders

In 2020, OISSS began to transition to a digital platform for immigration processing for international students. While the global pandemic accelerated the widespread adoption of electronic processing, and the resulting guidelines from the Department of Homeland Security's Student Exchange Visiting Program (SEVP) helped make the temporary exceptions to e-processing filings permanent in U.S. higher education, OISSS's early adoption greatly facilitated Brown's ability to support the immigration needs of international students and scholars during the pandemic-related disruption, while also contributing to Brown's operational sustainability goals. In the coming year, we hope to continue to expand the eProcessing system to international visiting faculty, scholars and researchers as we support academic departments at Brown that welcome and host international visitors from around the world.

# Brown in the World, the World at Brown

We invite you to learn more and stay in tune with all things global at Brown.



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



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

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