The Office of International Programs & Services (OIPS) is responsible for the strategic execution of Georgia Southern’s internationalization process and provides oversight for the international activities of the campus. The OIPS aims to create a global awareness on campus and within the community. To prepare students with the global knowledge, attitudes and skills that will enable them to function as citizens of the world. We aim to infuse a global dimension throughout the University’s teaching, research, and service activities, and improve the breadth and depth of Georgia Southern’s global reach and engagement. These aspirations are achieved by managing international strategic partnerships; providing study abroad & exchange programming for students; offering professional development and service activities for faculty; maintaining high-quality, federally compliant international student and scholar services; and hosting programs and events to promote international awareness and an appreciation of global cultures. This infusion of internationalized educational activities extends beyond the scope of the University to support global learning, business, and economic development in Southeast Georgia.

**Study Abroad and Exchange Programs**

Studying abroad provides students with a trans-cultural experience that has many major benefits: discovering the culture and institutions of other lands, facilitating the development of relevant career skills, making important connections with overseas professionals, and enhancing language skills. In addition, studying abroad contributes to personal maturity, a sense of independence, self-knowledge, and self-confidence. Semester, and year-long exchange, summer, language immersion, and alternative break programs are available. All disciplines are eligible to participate, and programs are offered in more than 30 locations worldwide. For more information, visit www.georgiasouthern.edu/studyabroad or email stdyabrd@georgiasouthern.edu.

**International Student and Scholar Services**

There are nearly 500 international students and scholars in F-1 (student) and J-1 (exchange visitor) visa status from about 90 countries at the university. The Office of International Programs & Services helps international students acclimate to their new environment at Georgia Southern, provides support services, processes visa-related documents, educates students and scholars on the visa laws to help them maintain their status with U.S. Homeland Security, and maintains the university’s compliance with the visa laws. Services provided include: orientation (including academic advisement and registration), English proficiency testing/placement, assistance with health insurance coverage, and visa and cultural advisement.

**Intercultural Educational Programs**

The OIPS plans and coordinates programs which foster international understanding and cultural exchange, both on our campuses and within our surrounding communities. Some of the programs offered are: the Global Partner Zone program, yearly symposiums on different countries, weekly International Conversation Hours, the International Club, International Education Week, the International Festival, the Global Ambassadors Program, the Cross-Cultural Friendships Program, and the International Extended Families Program. Participation in these programs and events are open to both international and U.S. students, as well as the local community.