

“Learning without Borders: Internationalizing the Gator Nation”, Quality Enhancement Plan at the University of Florida  
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### **Executive Summary**

*Learning without Borders: Internationalizing the Gator Nation* is a five-year Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) designed to further internationalize the undergraduate learning experience at the University of Florida (UF). Internationalization has been a university focus for many years. It is a component of the university mission and is addressed by several of the university’s Strategic Work Plan goals. However, recent data from various sources has shown that student engagement in international activities and courses has declined at UF since 2009. This plan directly addresses specific areas for improvement related to factors that impact student participation in international learning experiences.

An International Task Force (ITF) of faculty, administration, staff and students from across the university was appointed in January 2011 charged to develop a plan to improve student engagement in international learning experiences. The ITF set the following goals:

- Goal 1. Identify the factors that impede student participation in international learning experiences.
- Goal 2. Design initiatives to mitigate these factors, the student learning outcomes subsequent to these initiatives, and the measures to be used to assess student learning and the university’s progress toward successful implementation.
- Goal 3. Implement these initiatives, assess their effectiveness annually, analyze the results of these assessments, and revise the initiatives as needed based on this analysis.

The QEP represents the achievement of goals 1 and 2. Goal 3 will be annually assessed during plan implementation and its achievement determined at the end of year 5.

To focus the plan on student learning and the conditions that enhance student learning, the ITF selected two international competencies to develop and measure in UF undergraduate students - global awareness and intercultural competence. Three student learning outcomes (SLOs) were developed to measure these competencies. Next, the ITF engaged various stakeholder constituencies in the development of campus initiatives that enhance the learning environment to enable student learning and demonstration of the SLOs. The campus initiatives are briefly described here.

- Study Abroad. This initiative enables more students, especially those in underrepresented disciplines, to participate in study abroad, through scholarships and faculty professional development to stimulate and incentivize additional and improved offerings.
- Curriculum Enhancement. For this initiative, a faculty committee reviews the current course inventory to identify existing courses that address the QEP SLOs. Major components of this initiative include incentives for the development of new courses that address the SLOs and faculty professional development on international course development.
- Campus Life. This initiative enables and encourages increased interaction between international and domestic students through planned events.
- International Resources and Support. This initiative increases SLO-focused co-curricular experiences for students through support of international events (speakers, performances, etc.) and the development of an international calendar available to students through social media.
- International Scholars Program. This new program incentivizes students to engage in international learning activities by acknowledging their accomplishments with medallions presented at graduation.

This plan is the culmination of the work and contributions of hundreds of university constituents, and presents a cogent, detailed description of the plan elements.