

## “One College Initiative”

*To nurture future leaders in service to the world by providing high quality educational opportunities, which are based in the liberal arts and shaped by the faith and values of the Christian church, by the context of a vital metropolitan setting, and by an intentionally diverse campus community.*

### **How the Office of International Programs (OIP) supports and advances the mission of Augsburg College**

The Office of International Programs (OIP) was formed in 2000 to create an integrated and unified approach for all international programs at the college. The OIP mission statement was written to support the mission of the college and to provide focus and direction for four program and service areas within OIP:

*To provide outstanding international programs and services utilizing the best available resources to foster transformative learning experiences and responsible global citizenship and to enhance vocation in a multicultural world.*

OIP is perhaps the best department in the college in which to find a focus on the world beyond U.S. borders. Being a leader in the world demands that one begin to understand what it means to be a global citizen and within that understanding explore and attempt to understand one's own vocation in relation to both local and global diversity. No assumption is made that all international learning experiences are transformative in and of themselves, but that utilizing best practices in planning, preparation, orientation and pedagogy will promote a transformative learning experience for students. Not all OIP programs utilize an intentional experiential pedagogy, but all OIP programs are designed to support quality academics and the myriad opportunities for experiential learning, community engagement, culture learning, cross-cultural communication and personal development of students who have chosen to venture outside of their home country to learn with and from the people in another country and cultural context. This is operative for international students at Augsburg College, Augsburg students who study abroad and students from other colleges and universities who study in the Center for Global Education programs abroad.

Some specific ways (but not an exhaustive list) in which OIP works intentionally at fulfilling the critical components of the Augsburg mission:

#### ***Nurturing future leaders in service to the world...***

- Providing access to study abroad opportunity for academic and personal development, global learning and cross-cultural competency
- Supporting the leadership opportunities for international students in the International Student Organization
- Recruiting Norwegian students to study at Augsburg to maintain a connection to the historical cultural roots of the college
- Orienting and supporting international students to become global minded leaders

***Based in the liberal arts...***

- Providing a study abroad curriculum in which diversity and global awareness are fully integrated
- Advocating for and supporting study abroad as an opportunity for learning in the liberal arts and thinking critically about global citizenship
- Offering courses in a global context utilizing the lenses of multiple disciplines for better understanding the world

***Shaped by the faith and values of the Christian church...***

- Incorporating learning about vocation by providing students, faculty and staff with leadership for vocational reflection in an international context
- Learning about the role of the church in social change in Latin America and Southern Africa, cosmovision among indigenous people of Mexico and Central America and indigenous beliefs in Southern Africa,

***Shaped by the context of a vital metropolitan setting...***

- Providing students with the opportunity to move from a diverse metropolitan context to the rich opportunities for engaging and understanding global diversity and global interdependence
- Assisting study abroad students in transferring skills and attitudes acquired through global learning experiences to re-engage in a new, more vigorous way with the learning opportunities in the diverse metropolitan setting of the Twin Cities

***An intentionally diverse campus community...***

- Providing an F-1 student visa program, J-1 student and scholar exchange program, advising and orientation program for international students
- Establishing an initiative to recruit more students from historically disadvantaged groups to participate in CGE semester programs
- Committing to an anti-racism initiative that has action steps to achieve greater diversity in all staff groups of OIP
- Enriching the diversity of the campus community by encouraging and supporting international students to fully engage in campus life