

**Rethinking International Programs**  
**Charge for the International Programs Major Initiative Committee**  
**November 14, 2007**

Prepare recommendations concerning the nature and scope of international programs at the University of Maryland. This should include a bold statement of our expanded vision of the future role of international programs in higher education in general and at Maryland in particular. At a minimum, there are two major areas to consider, each of which can also provide substantial support to the other.

1. Education at Maryland: The December 8, 2006 report of the Vice Presidents and Deans Study Group on International Programs (attached) stated:

“We recommend that the University launch a major initiative to expand the scope and enhance the quality of international programs. The primary goals of this initiative are: (i) to increase the general awareness and education of our students about cultural diversity, international issues and the global economy, (ii) to significantly increase the number of international undergraduate students on campus, (iii) to expand and formalize study abroad programs for our students, and (iv) to make the University known as a place that strongly promotes international experiences.”

Its recommended action items are: “Increase the number of undergraduate international students in the university” and “Increase the scope and sophistication of our international programs.”

Drawing on this report, on information about international programs at other institutions, on any other relevant information and advice, and on your bold vision of the future, formulate specific recommendations concerning the role of international issues, experiences, and international students and faculty in the educational and research programs of the University of Maryland. See also the April 2005 report of the International Program Review Committee (copy attached).

Your recommendations should be innovative, bold, and forward looking and should go well beyond traditional notions of study abroad or of recruiting international students into traditional programs. For example, international experiences might include working in businesses and laboratories abroad, participating in the Peace Corps or other international service organizations, interning in a US organization that is strongly focused on international issues, or participating in the exchange of staff, students, and/or faculty members as part of a research or educational collaboration or some other form of partnership. Furthermore, increasing the international presence at College Park might be accomplished through the creation of joint or cooperative programs with international institutions, of short courses or full degree programs targeted at professionals from abroad, or of extensive summer programs for international prospective students. In addition, major, minor, or certificate programs with an international focus might be developed, or the language requirement might be reinstated for some or all students.

2. Maryland Programs Offered at International Locations: A few University programs are currently offered in international locations, in each case with some form of collaboration with institutions in the host community. Consulting with units that do offer these programs, examining practices of other institutions, and drawing on other relevant information and advice and on your own bold vision of the future, formulate specific recommendations concerning this practice. In particular your recommendations should address at least the following issues:

- a. What objectives are fulfilled by offering programs in international locations? What role should such programs play in the future development of the University?
- b. How closely must programs offered abroad match the corresponding program on campus? What kinds of joint or collaborative programs should be undertaken and what is the proper role of the partner institution? Should rules concerning eligibility for admission be modified? How should program quality and effectiveness be evaluated?
- c. What principles should apply concerning who teaches in the program? What is an appropriate model for faculty use and pay in programs offered internationally? What are appropriate models for covering financial risk and distributing program revenues?