



Office of International Affairs
Impact Report 2023-2024





Welcome



The activities documented in this impact report highlight the vibrant and globally engaged community we continue to build

here at McMaster University. Our dedication to strengthening and expanding our global connections remains a cornerstone of our mission, and your involvement is crucial to this endeavor.

Amidst changing international geopolitical contexts, McMaster is steadfast in boosting its international engagements. The Office of International Affairs plays a vital role in achieving our strategic internationalization goals and supporting our collective efforts to navigate the complex international landscape.

Our values-based internationalization strategy is deeply rooted in principles of global social responsibility. We strive to create a brighter world through collaborative international partnerships that address global challenges. This

approach is about more than building relationships; it is about fostering trust, equity, sustainability, and reciprocity.

McMaster's model of transformation is grounded in mutual cooperation, sharing of expertise, and a profound commitment to the values of global citizenship.

One of our notable achievements is the Student and Faculty Mobility Grants. Through the International Youth Internship Program (IYIP) grant, funded by Global Affairs Canada in collaboration with local non-profit organizations, we empower our students to build cultural competency, resilience, and positive character development through international development experiences. These opportunities enhance their employment prospects and long-term career success.

Our commitment to global engagement is also reflected in our partnerships with esteemed institutions and consortiums. In June 2023, we hosted the U21 Educational Innovation Symposium, welcoming members of the U21 Consortium — a global network of 29 world-leading, research-intensive

universities. This event showcased our dedication to educational innovation and international collaboration.

Moreover, the Office of International Affairs has been instrumental in advocating for policies that support international students. Our global engagement strategy ensures that McMaster's voice is influential in shaping Canada's policy on international students, reflecting our commitment to their success and well-being.

I encourage all members of the McMaster community to actively participate in our international initiatives and to continue fostering an inclusive and globally connected campus. Together, we can build a brighter future through meaningful international collaborations.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to McMaster's global mission.

Dr. Bonnie Ibhawoh
Vice-Provost International Affairs



The Office of International Affairs works collaboratively to facilitate, coordinate, and communicate with all stakeholders across the University to develop and enact a holistic inclusive internationalization approach through integrating international, intercultural, and global dimensions into McMaster’s teaching, research, and service mission.

Strategic Vision

- Global engagement strategy & action plan
- Intentional & purposeful holistic internationalization approach

International Partnerships

- Partnership development & management
- Design of mobility programs
- Coordination of key international research/scholarship opportunities

Strategic Internationalization Projects

- Institution-wide innovative programs
- External funding grant applications

Consultation

- Internationalization advice
- Alignment of internationalization with institutional priorities

Communication

- Representative at key international education venues
- Communication with internal & external stakeholders



Our strategic pillars

The Office of International Affairs (OIA) presents its first impact report. We present this report following the institutional priorities set in the McMaster Strategy celebrating the impact of internationalization and global engagement initiatives led and/or supported by the OIA in collaboration and coordination with Faculties and offices across the University. While most of the initiatives address multiple pillars, for the purposes of this report, we place each initiative in the most relevant pillar.



Inclusive excellence

- Internationalization and Global Engagement Strategy
- Scholars at Risk
- International Youth Internship Program
- International Initiatives Micro-Fund (IIMF)
- Daughters for Life Scholarship
- Global Ambassadors Program

Teaching and learning

- Virtual Learning Program
- Summer/ International Programs
- U21 Educational Symposium
- McMaster second annual SDG pitch competition

Research and scholarship

- OIA's support for the Caribbean Institute
- Research Focused Seed Funds
- Cotutelle and Policy Flowcharts
- Horizon Europe and Next Generation Internet (NGI) Enrichers project
- U21 Mid-Career Research Program

Engaging local, national, Indigenous, and global communities

- Partnerships
- Advocacy
- Conferences
- Delegations
- Universitas 21 events

Operational excellence

- Engagement
- Partnership management
- Enhanced Communication
- Funding Opportunities



Inclusive excellence

The OIA is committed to a collaborative, inclusive, and value-based approach to inform McMaster's vision of strengthening our global engagements.

Internationalization and Global Engagement Strategy

In 2023, the OIA initiated the process of updating the University's Internationalization and Global Engagement Strategy, guided by the principles and practices of Inclusive Excellence, and informed by [McMaster Model for Global Engagement](#). The OIA conducted comprehensive environmental and institutional scans to gain comprehensive insights into the University's landscape, provide a summary of available data on McMaster's internationalization activities, and benchmark them to other institutional peers to understand the current status of internationalization and global education initiatives. The OIA consulted extensively with the McMaster community through two town halls and presented at the leadership tables of Faculties and departments. Furthermore, the OIA convened the [International Strategy Advisory Committee \(ISAC\)](#) as an advisory Group to collaboratively provide strategic direction and coordination of McMaster's global engagement initiatives. The first Draft of the Strategy was shared with ISAC and currently, the OIA is working on updating the draft based on feedback received, aiming to share for further consultations in the fall of 2024.



Scholars at Risk Program (SARP)

The OIA manages the [Scholars at Risk Program \(SARP\)](#) which represents McMaster's commitment to support forcibly displaced scholars from conflict-driven zones. In 2022, McMaster's Faculties and Provost Office allocated \$600,000 and OIA managed to generate more funds through a partnership with Carleton University (\$37,500) and charitable donations (\$570), raising the allocated funds to \$638,070. The SARP program is supported by the SARP committee which provides general counsel and adjudication of applications. To date, McMaster has hosted seven scholars at risk committing \$283,813.

seven

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\$283,813

"Moving to Canada and leaving my home country was one of the most challenging decisions ever. I left my hometown to pursue my career dream, which I couldn't achieve there. My opinions, ideas, efforts, and achievements were no longer valued, and there was no freedom to live and speak up. All doors were closed to me. However, the SARP gave me hope, and the opportunity to stand up, fight, and pursue my dreams for myself and my community. Being actively involved in academic institutions has helped me contribute to knowledge, embrace challenges, learn from mistakes, and work towards broader goals. Thanks to SARP for safe scholars and for keeping the light of knowledge shining."

SARP Scholar

"As a supervisor for the SARP Program, I have witnessed firsthand the profound impact it can have on scholars at risk. Working with [the SARP Scholar] from Afghanistan, I saw her flourish in an academic environment that values their knowledges and life experiences. At a time when women's rights and opportunities are severely restricted in Afghanistan, the financial and strategic support provided by SARP and its partnership network, provided [the scholar] a pathway to come to McMaster University safely. Here, she has contributed generatively to the global network [of our research team] and is currently working on ethics approved research"

SARP Supervisor

The International Youth Internship Program

The [International Youth Internship Program \(IYIP\)](#) is a unique collaboration between McMaster University and Empowerment Squared (E2). This exciting program will place 100 youths from equity-deserving groups aged 18 to 30 in structured four-month internship placements in Liberia and Ghana through funding of 4.9 million over 4 years from Global Affairs Canada. IYIP is perfectly aligned with McMaster's [Institutional Priorities and Strategic Framework](#) and [Model for Global Engagement](#), both of which strongly emphasize a values-based global social responsibility approach.



Inclusive Excellence

- The IYIP provides diverse, equity-deserving youth with fully funded global internship experiences.



Teaching and Learning

- IYIP provides students with unique international experiential education experiences.



Research and Scholarship

- The IYIP interns will collaborate across borders to develop knowledge and tackle global issues, including mental health and access to education.



Engaging local, national, Indigenous, and global communities

- The IYIP expands current partnerships and creates new ones with local and global (Ghana and Liberia) communities.



Operational excellence

- The IYIP project involves close collaboration between the OIA, SSC, BSSC and ACFAM.

International Initiatives Micro Fund (IIMF)

The OIA continues to lead the International Initiatives Micro Fund (IIMF) which is intended to reduce the threshold to international research activities, serve as seed funding to faculty members' first-time international research contacts or initiatives, and, ideally, lead to joint projects and international partnerships. To date, this fund benefited 57 faculty members for a total funds of \$285,000.

57

57 faculty members
benefitted from
International
Initiatives Micro Fund
totalling \$285,000

\$285,000



"This funding has been very valuable for advancing specific research relationships and for providing opportunities to

promote our research in respected academic and professional fora. The funding directly led to the opportunity to participate in a conference, which led to me and others on my research team developing and strengthening relationships with other leading researchers internationally, and to us sharing our research findings with audiences with the potential to influence policy and programs that could improve the population health of people who experience incarceration. The funding also indirectly contributed to the opportunity to guest edit a special issue of a journal and to an invitation to be a Visiting Scholar with a leading research group in Australia."

Dr. Fiona Kouyoumdjian

International Collaboration on Linked Health Administrative Data to Advance Population Health for People Who Experience Incarceration Project, Health Sciences, McMaster University



"The IIMF is helpful in exploring new collaborations which can potentially lead to high-impact projects. This award has supported the

beginning of what I hope will be an ongoing collaboration with a renowned scientist based in the US with experience in translating basic research into practical applications. To date, we have developed a paradigm for assessing the efficacy of auditory alerts for tracking vehicle movements which holds a wide range of potential implications for improving human computer interactions in transportation contexts."

Michael Schutz, Ph.D.

The Power of Percussive Sounds Project, Professor of Music Cognition/Percussion, Humanities, McMaster University



"The award has allowed me to establish a close collaboration with multiple groups in the University of Havana, where we are looking

at the use of our in vitro 3D printed lung models for the evaluation of a lung cancer vaccine effectiveness, we are developing and characterizing nanoparticles that could be used as adjuvants for vaccine delivery and are exploring the use of carbon nano dots for cell labeling. The award has not only resulted in one of my students and I traveling to Cuba to visit the University of Havana and discuss these scientific projects with the PIs and students there but has already resulted in a few publications. The highlight was the flexibility to use the funds to enable traveling by a trainee and to generate preliminary data that can be leveraged for future funding. The uniqueness of this award was the opportunity to use it with a country that is not typically in the list of beneficiaries from the most joint grant applications with Canada. The ability to visit the University of Havana and discuss with students, has also opened the opportunity to recruit top talent from one of the most rigorous chemistry programs."

Jose Moran-Mirabal, Ph.D.,

Evaluation of Cancer Targeting Treatments on Lung Biomimetic Constructs Project, Professor and Associate Chair Research, Biomedical Engineering, McMaster University

Daughters for Life Scholarship

The OIA celebrated the graduation of its Daughter for Life scholarship recipient, Sara Saad, completing her undergraduate degree with a major in Electrical Engineering and minor in Mathematics. Under this partnership with the Daughters for Life Foundation and as part of OIA's commitment to supporting global talent and capacity building for higher education at an international level, Sarah was chosen as a beneficiary on the basis of academic merit, her ability to make a contribution to improving the lives of girls and young women through extra-curricular activities, work, or volunteer experiences, as well as her financial need.



"My experience at McMaster has been truly wonderful. The university's supportive and nurturing environment is like a rare gem, and I consider myself incredibly fortunate to be a part of it. Throughout my journey, I have received invaluable help and guidance from the faculty, professors, and dedicated individuals who have all played an essential role in my academic and personal growth. During my first academic year, I encountered challenges that I was able to overcome thanks to the support from the University's faculty and teaching assistants. Their encouragement and commitment to fostering a positive learning environment made all the difference. Amidst the COVID pandemic during the third-year winter semester, I faced a personal loss that deeply affected me. However, the unwavering support from my family, friends, coworkers, and members of the McMaster community proved to be invaluable during that challenging time."

Sara Saad

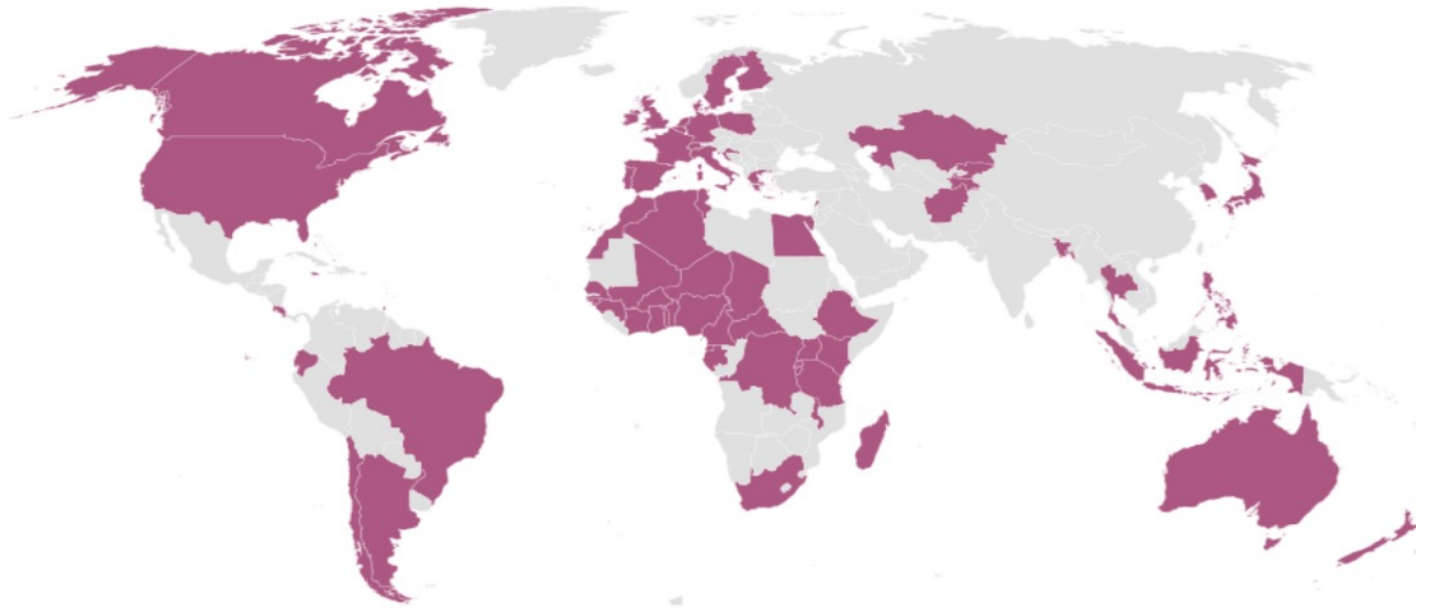
Global Ambassadors Program

Complementing existing global expertise and activities at OIA, in March 2023, the OIA launched the [Global Ambassador Program](#) to support the university's global engagement, visibility, and presence by leveraging

faculty and staff's international knowledge and expertise. McMaster Faculties and departments nominated 14 faculty/staff to be the first cohort of global ambassadors with global expertise/connections in over 80 countries. The McMaster Global Ambassadors engage in welcoming

delegations on campus, recruitment events and the High School Lecturer Program (in collaboration with the International Recruitment Team in the Registrar's Office), as well as, hosting international alumni events (in collaboration with the Alumni Office).

Our MGAs have global expertise in over 80 countries



McMaster's Delegation visit in Saudi Arabia, May 2024.



Global Ambassadors Program event in Nairobi, June 2024.

Teaching and Learning

To further advance and support innovation in teaching and learning, the OIA continues to develop virtual exchange opportunities and global engagement through numerous activities.



Virtual Global Learning

Through piloting partnerships with faculty on a Virtual Global Learning (VGL, aka "COIL") pilot program, the OIA has been promoting this program across Faculties and building resources, including a faculty implementation guide to support faculty members to learn about best practices and to ease the process of starting their own VGL program.



"The virtual exchange has allowed my students to further develop their intercultural awareness, especially in terms of their

recognition of Western and English dominance. This realization has enabled many of them to see the importance of creating inclusive spaces and opportunities for others to contribute."

Dr. Mike Wong

Assistant Professor, Psychiatry & Behavioural Neurosciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University

U21 Educational Innovation Symposium

In collaboration with MacPherson Institute, the OIA hosted the U21 Educational Innovation Symposium presenting the theme: **"Scoping the Future in Higher Education: Transition or Transformation?"**

50

More than 50 attendees from across the globe



over three days

100%

100% of the international delegates strongly agreed/ agreed that the U21 Education Innovation Symposium at McMaster University was well organized (84.2% and 15.7%, respectively).

94.7% of the international delegates strongly agreed/ agreed that the venues and technology of the event were convenient (68% and 26.3%, respectively).

94.7%

100%

100% of the international delegates strongly agreed/ agreed that the McMaster staff and volunteers were attentive and helpful (94.7% and 5.3%, respectively).

PANEL: SCOPING THE FUTURE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
TRANSITION OR TRANSFORMATION?
 STUDENT ASSESSMENT, ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & LEARNING ANALYTICS
 CHAIRED BY DR. KIM DEJ
 PROF. SIMON BUCKINGHAM SHUM, PROF. JOAQUIN GUERRA ACHEM, JOVAN POPOVIC & ZACHARY GAN

WALK ALONG-SIDE
FACULTY AS MENTORS
CAN WE INSULATE PARTS OF THE UNIVERSITY FROM AI?
WHILE DEVELOPING CORE SKILLS
SCAFFOLDING
THE JOY OF THE BLANK PAGE... IT'S UP TO YOU
HOW DO WE CHANGE ASSESSMENT? AND SCALE IT?
DOES EVERYTHING NEED TO BE ASSESSED?
WHAT DO I LEARN BY DOING THIS ASSIGNMENT? HOW INVESTED AM I?
HOW DO STUDENTS USE AI?
HOW DOES FACULTY USE AI?
AI PROMPTS US TO RECONSIDER TRADITIONAL PEDAGOGY
WHAT FEARS DO STUDENTS HAVE PRECEDING AI?
 • LEARNING • STANDARDIZATION
 • JUSTIFYING OURSELVES TO THE WORKFORCE • CLASS SIZE
 • MENTORSHIP
WE DON'T WANT TO SQUASH CURIOSITY
TRANSPARENCY & CLARITY
MAKE POLICIES EASY TO UNDERSTAND

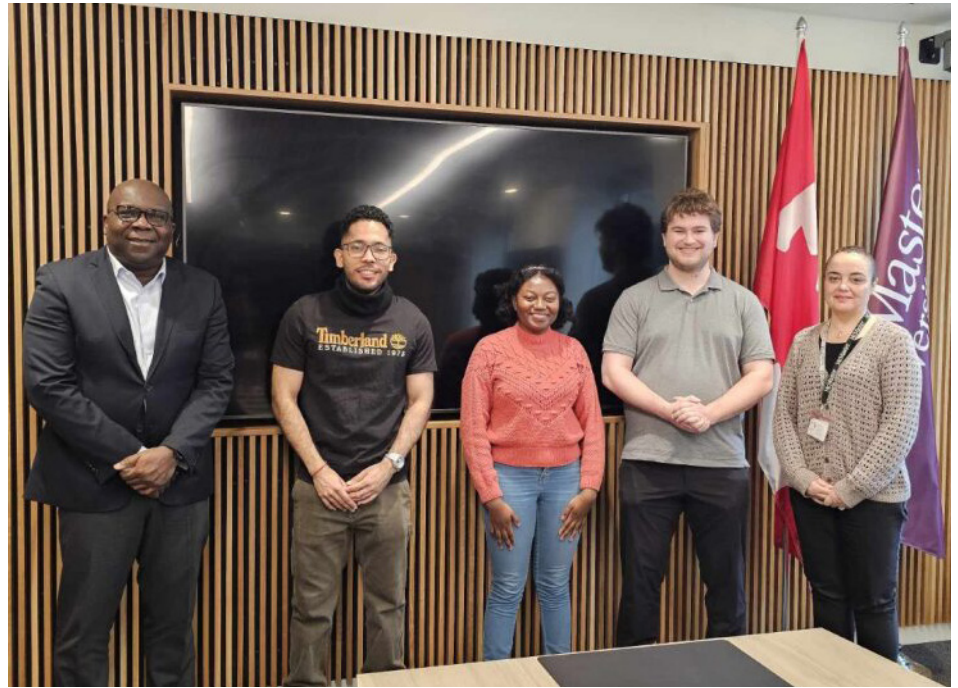
GROWING LIKE MOSS THERE IS INTELLIGENCE IN THE SYSTEM
STUDENTS CAN MOVE US FORWARD
WE NEED SOME SAFEGUARDS
HOW DO WE USE TECHNOLOGY for human flourishing?
WE NEED OPPORTUNITIES TO FAIL
AND TO HAVE FUN

U21 UNIVERSITAS 21
McMaster University
 2023 EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM: WORKING TOGETHER, INSPIRING THE FUTURE
 29 JUNE 2023
 LIVE GRAPHIC RECORDING BY emma richard

Graphic summary for one of U21 Educational Innovation Symposium Panels, June 2023.

McMaster Second Annual Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Pitch Competition

The OIA collaborated with the Academic Sustainability Programs Office to host the second annual SDG pitch competition as part of the SDG Week celebrations across Canada. The competition aimed to enhance active and sustainable transportation within McMaster's campus, in the City of Hamilton through engagement with local schools, and in international collaborations and global engagement. As part of this competition, the OIA led the international portion of the competition challenging students to come up with creative ideas to address the question: "How do we enhance international collaboration and global engagement in a sustainable and equitable way?" Five student teams from 5 Faculties prepared presentations in response to this challenge.



Winners of the OIA led international portion of SDG competition, Feb 2024.

"We pitched a set of SDG-focused standards and policies that all universities and event organizers can implement when organizing conferences and large

international collaborative events. For example, increasing collaboration and reducing conference redundancy, therefore reducing transportation-related emissions."

Mercy Budu, Graduate student, Mechanical Engineering, International Challenge - Collaborative Sustainability: A Global Perspective SDG Pitch Winner.

Summer/International Programs

Since 2015, the OIA hosted 1,880 international students, providing courses ranging from e-Health, Entrepreneurship & Innovation and Problem-Based Learning (with Introduction to Evidence-Based Medicine) to English and Cultural Studies for students (high school or undergraduate), enhancing relationships with partner institutions by offering tailored programs to the need of their students as well as motivate talented students to attend McMaster for further studies or research collaboration. We re-launched programs after COVID-19 and, despite the challenges with increased student visa rejections and travel costs, managed to successfully deliver a combination of in-person and online classes. In the 2023 and 2024 fiscal year, we welcomed approximately 231 students from 13 partner institutions.

231 In the 2023 and 2024 fiscal year, we welcomed approximately 231 students from 13 partner institutions.

thirteen

"I truly appreciated the professors' lectures from various fields and their kind encouragement. I am thankful for this opportunity to challenge myself and to get to know more peers from different schools. I felt greatly impacted by their knowledge, research experience and ways of thinking. The program also showed me new customs and culture and grew my interest in medical systems. I will always remember this precious experience at McMaster campus."

Zitang ZHOU, Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine

"My dream of going to a North American university came true by going to McMaster for a summer program. The dorms on campus were great and the teachers and students of McMaster were really nice. All the activities made it a lot of fun. I would recommend McMaster to anyone who wants to study in Canada."

Tessa DeVrand, University of Amsterdam

"This learning experience had a profound impact on my personal growth. Through interactions with international peers, I identified my shortcomings and became clearer about the direction of my efforts. I also deeply realized the importance of cross-cultural communication, learning to respect and understand academic viewpoints and ways of thinking from different cultural backgrounds. This growth not only made me more confident professionally but also made me more resilient in the face of challenges. Through a series of course learning, academic discussions, and practical exercises, I gained a comprehensive understanding of the PBL methods in medical field. I learned how to design studies more scientifically, collect and analyze data, and effectively apply research findings to clinical practice and teaching. This not only enriched my professional knowledge but also broadened my academic horizons."

Wei Bu, Department of Neurosurgery, Third Hospital of Hebei Medical University



Research and scholarship

The OIA is committed to facilitate connections, create opportunities for researchers to build capacity through hosting delegations, developing/maintaining partnerships with key international partners, identifying and promoting international mobility (funding) opportunities, and supporting partnerships focused on enhancing international research collaborations.

Horizon Europe AND Next Generation Internet (NGI) Enrichers project

With Canada being the newest partner to Horizon Europe, the OIA continues to coordinate with and support ROADS and faculty members to identify, connect and partner with European universities to support McMaster's HORIZON applications. Some of our initiatives include:

- The OIA provided support to ROADS to organize an **Information Session on Canada-Europe Research Funding** for McMaster faculty members, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate research students across the disciplinary spectrum.

During this event, a group of guest speakers from DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service), delegation of the European Union to Canada and EURAXESS North America provided an overview of the German research landscape and details on opportunities & funding programs in support of research collaborations with Germany.

- **Next Generation Internet Transatlantic Fellowship Program (NGI Enrichers):** The OIA provided support to DeGroote School of Business to establish an agreement that would allow students and faculty to participate in the Next Generation Internet Transatlantic Fellowship

Program (NGI Enrichers). NGI is an EU Commission initiative funded under Horizon Europe that organizes 3-6 months fellowships for participant organizations in the EU and North America.

- **German Research Foundation (DFG) Delegation visit.** The OIA hosted a 17-member delegation from DFG to support the internationalization of research at Germany Universities of Applied Sciences. Participants had an opportunity to network with McMaster faculty and present innovative materials and chemical engineering research as well as learning about funding opportunities available to Canada-Germany research collaboration.



Above, top and bottom: German Research Foundation Delegation, Sept 2023.

Cotutelle Policy and Process Chart

In collaboration with SGS as well as various Faculties, the [Cotutelle Policy and flow chart](#) were developed to streamline and clarify the process for full-time doctoral students and their supervisors to take advantage of the collaborative benefits of joint PhD degrees while also strengthening connections with our international partners.

Research-Focused Seed Funds

The OIA supported the VPR office establish and run seed funds to support collaborative research projects with key international partner institutions. Designed to identify complementary strengths, leverage synergy, and new outstanding research across all disciplines, the seed funds enable the development of deep partnerships through intensive academic research and/or education initiatives leading to strengthening our long-term collaborations.

BIRMAC - The University of Birmingham and McMaster University Project and Ideas Fund

- Launched in October 2021, Birmingham and McMaster signed a formal agreement to create a framework for collaboration and partnership between institutions.
- Project and Ideas Fund launched in October 2022.
- 2 number of calls to date.
- 15 awarded projects to date (9 in round 1, 6 in round 2).
- \$114,344 allocated to date (\$56,904 in round 1, \$57,440 in round 2).

McMaster - University of Liverpool: Partnership Fund to Support University-Wide Initiatives - Research & Innovation

- Launched in 2023.
- 2 number of calls to date.
- 10 awarded projects to date (1 in round 1, 9 in round 2).
- \$120,258 allocated to date (\$14,481 in round 1, \$105,777 in round 2).

In addition, [KU Leuven](#) selected McMaster as a key priority partner institution for their Global Seed funding scheme fostering pilot projects that set the stage for joint applications for substantial follow-up funding from prominent international programs (e.g. Horizon Europe, NIH) that envisage world-class research output.



McMasters with the High Commission Delegation of Canada in Barbados and the Caribbean Development Bank, Jan 2024.



The Caribbean Development Bank and the Ontario Regional Office of the Trade Commissioner Service delegation with McMaster Faculty and the OIA, June 2024.

Supporting McMaster's engagement in the Caribbean

As part of our engagement with the Caribbean, the OIA hosted two delegations from the [Caribbean Development Bank](#). Both meetings focused on identifying multiple areas for potential collaboration and further discussions of research, education, and funding opportunities, especially in priority areas of interest for the Caribbean Development Bank related to higher education partnership, public policy and governance, sustainability, and clean energy.

It is worth noting that McMaster has a long history of partnership with the Caribbean including the University of West Indies.

In 2023, McMaster became the host of the Canadian Caribbean Institute (CCI). Currently made up of 12 member institutions, the CCI supports research on a range of key policy areas including health; climate change; advancing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals; trade and investment; Caribbean culture and the diaspora; and government and foreign relations, among other areas. McMaster is scheduled to host the next CCI Research Symposium in October 2024. The theme will be Climate Change, Climate Resilience, and Alternative Energy Sources.

U21 Mid-Career Research Program "Reset, Reimagine, Reframe"

The OIA facilitated the nomination of 6 McMaster researchers to participate in the U21 Mid-Career Research program intended for researchers at the level of senior lecturer/associate professor (or equivalent), from any discipline, who aim to enhance the quality and reach of their research through expanding their global research networks.



"MCR programme was career transforming, offering a safe space to talk about the challenges that we face as mid-career researchers and also learn from the experiences of others. The program touched on a number of issues that are critical to the success of MCRs as they attempt to make the leap to the next phase of their career."

Dr. Abel Chikanda, Associate Professor, School of Earth Environment and Society, Faculty of Science



"Working through the development of a personal strategy for collaboration as a reflective process was helpful."

Dr. Tara La Rose, Chair, McMaster Research Ethics Board, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, Faculty of Social Sciences



Engaging local, national, indigenous and global communities

The OIA continues to play an important role in strengthening longstanding partnerships and expanding the network to establish new relationships with many external stakeholders and partners nationally and internationally. The OIA serves as the key point of contact with many external stakeholders and partners nationally (e.g., Universities Canada, Council of Ontario Universities, U15, CBIE) and internationally (e.g., U21, Academics without Borders, CALDO, IAU, WUSC, and CONAHEC).

Partnerships

The OIA conducted an internal assessment of its partnership operations and initiated a process to reach out to internal and external partners to renew expired agreements as needed.

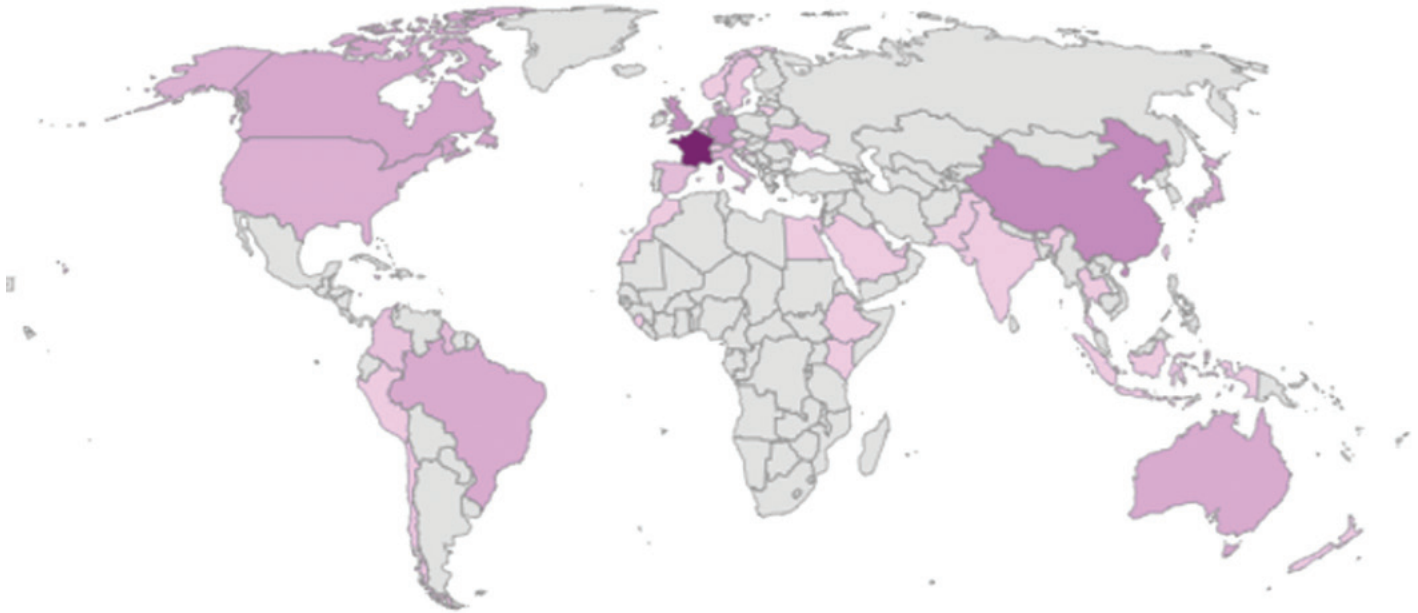
196

196 active agreements (including 78 student exchange agreements) with **180** institutions in **46** countries.

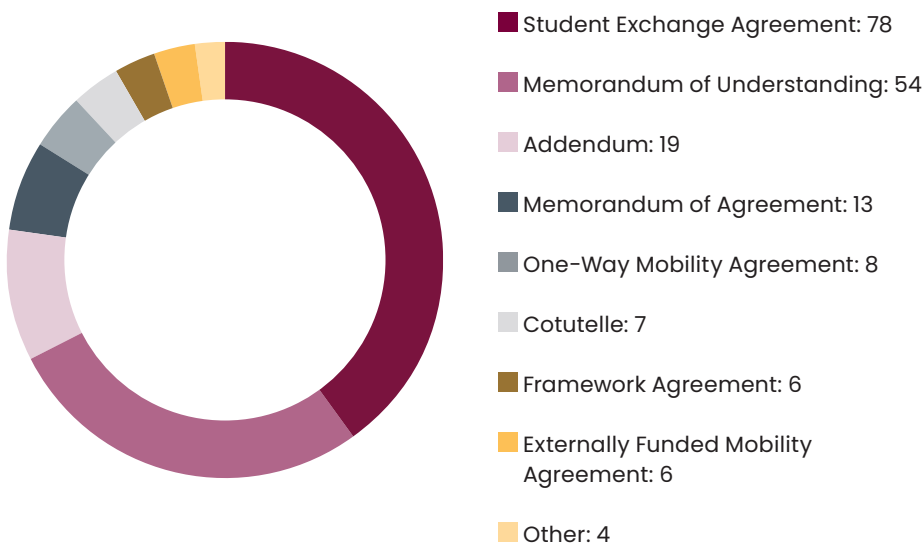
83

83 renewal and new agreements in progress

Number of current agreements by country (as of July 2024)



McMaster current agreement type (as of July 11, 2024)



Through the above agreements, and in collaboration with SSC and SGS who oversee student mobility, our student mobility numbers (excluding mobility that is handled by individual Faculties without coordination with SSC, SGS, and ROADS) are as follows:

- Inbound exchange: Total for UG and G = 239
- Outbound exchange: Total for UG and G = 190 outbound.
- 107 MITACS students.
- 3 scholars through the Erasmus+ mobility agreements.
- 5 Study in Canada scholarship/ Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program (ELAP) scholarship
- 1 Canada-ASEAN Scholarships and Educational Exchanges for Development (SEED)

Conferences

The OIA convened the International Conferences Working Group to ensure a more coordinated approach to conference participation between McMaster central offices. The Working Group identified key international engagement and partnership building and developed plans to facilitate and coordinate engagement. This collaboration resulted in plans to participate in the EduCanada pavilions at NAFSA 2024, EAIE 2024 and APAIE 2025. In May, we had our first McMaster booth within the EduCanada pavilion at NAFSA with representation from OIA, SSC, and CMPA.

The Vice-Provost (International), Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh, led the McMaster delegation to the UN Climate Conference (COP28) in Dubai in December 2023.

The OIA convened and led a panel to present on “Integrating the UN-SDGs & Indigenous Worldviews in the International Engagement of Higher Education Institutions” at the CAEI conference. The panel included representatives from the Indigenous Education Council and the Sustainability Office.

The OIA represented McMaster in 22 national and international conferences and venues, participating and collaborating with various institutions such as U2I, AIEA, APAIE, IVES, AGM, NAFSA and CBIE regional and national meetings.

Advocacy

- The OIA advocated for international education and international students through 3 co-authored op-eds on: Curbing international students not the answer to Canada’s housing crisis (The Hill Times, 4 July 2024); It is not too late to shift gears to a more visionary International Education Strategy for Canada (The PIE News, 6 Nov 2023), and The good, the back and the ugly: who is to blame when policy lacks clarity, coordination, and is contradictory (The PIE News, 31 Jan 2024).

- In a statement to the McMaster Community on Canada-Indian relations in McMaster’s Daily News, Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh highlights McMaster’s commitment to create a safe and welcoming environment for international students from India or from Indian descent following political turmoil between governments of Canada and India in 2023.
- The OIA continues to lead, coordinate, and support consultations for the following initiatives all of which focus on advocating for a holistic, comprehensive and ethical international education strategies, programs, and practices:
 - Global Affairs Canada’s upcoming International Education Strategy
 - Immigration, Refugees, Citizenship Canada (IRCC)’s Recognized Institution Framework.
 - IRCC’s enforced cap on the number of international students to study in Canada and the Impact of the IRCC cap survey
 - IRCC’s International Student Program
- The OIA continues to support the University’s international recruitment efforts:
 - Member of the Enrollment Management Team (EMT),
 - Member of the International Recruitment Strategy committee (Chaired by the Deputy Provost) tasked with drafting the University’s international recruitment strategy
 - Member of the Task and Finish Group - International Student Recruitment (Chaired by the Provost) tasked with overseeing the development and implementation of strategy and action plans to strengthen international student recruitment and conversion activities and drive informed and evidence-based decision making
 - Lead the development of agreements with international governments to facilitate hosting of their scholarship students.

Delegations

The OIA receives many requests to host international delegations at McMaster and to coordinate McMaster visits to international partners.



OIA led six international visits in 2023.

Hosted **62** international delegations from **33** different countries

62



Supported faculties with hosting visiting staff members from numerous universities.

Indigenous collaborations

The OIA, in coordination with the Indigenous Education Council, is engaged in ongoing discussions to establish a Canada-New Zealand Indigenous University Alliance for Reconciliation and Empowerment with the University of Calgary and other Canadian universities.

The OIA supported a visit of the Royal Society to McMaster to discuss and learn about the Ohneganos project: a profound and novel approach to impactful research that is not just interdisciplinary in nature, but that integrates Indigenous knowledge and Western Science.

Universitas 21

The OIA serves as the main contact point for the Universitas 21 consortia. Read about McMaster's engagement in U21 for this year [here](#). In addition to U21 Educational Innovation Symposium and U21 Mid-Career Research Program, below are some key initiatives that McMaster engaged in with U21:

U21 Chief Operating/Registrar event.

Led by the Deputy Provost Office, McMaster hosted the 2024 U21 Chief Operating Officer/Registrar network meeting over two days.

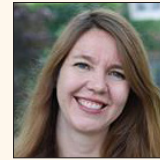
U21 Global Leadership program. The OIA facilitated the nomination of four individuals from McMaster University to attend the Global Leadership program, in collaboration with Faculties. This program was an exclusive opportunity for emerging and high potential leaders from academic and professional disciplines, specially selected from the world leading universities in the U21 membership. The theme for 2024 was *Inclusive leadership in Higher Education*.



"This program was an amazing opportunity to meet, collaborate, and share experiences with university

representatives from around the globe. It was a unique experience to hear how other universities are tackling challenges we also face at McMaster, while sharing knowledge and best practice. I am thankful to have been able to participate and look forward to connecting with participants I met through this program on future projects."

Ben O'Connor
Acting Assistant Dean,
Undergraduate Studies,
Faculty of Science,
McMaster University



"I feel that the benefits will differ depending upon the culture and institution that the leader is from. I

notice that those from Europe and parts of North America share very different perspectives on race, colonization (and the importance of decolonization as a strategy in leadership) than leaders from other institutions. Everyone is at a different stage/position in their leadership journey, which in itself is interesting, but it makes it difficult, at times, to move forward as we spend a lot of time learning/teaching each other about our own cultural differences."

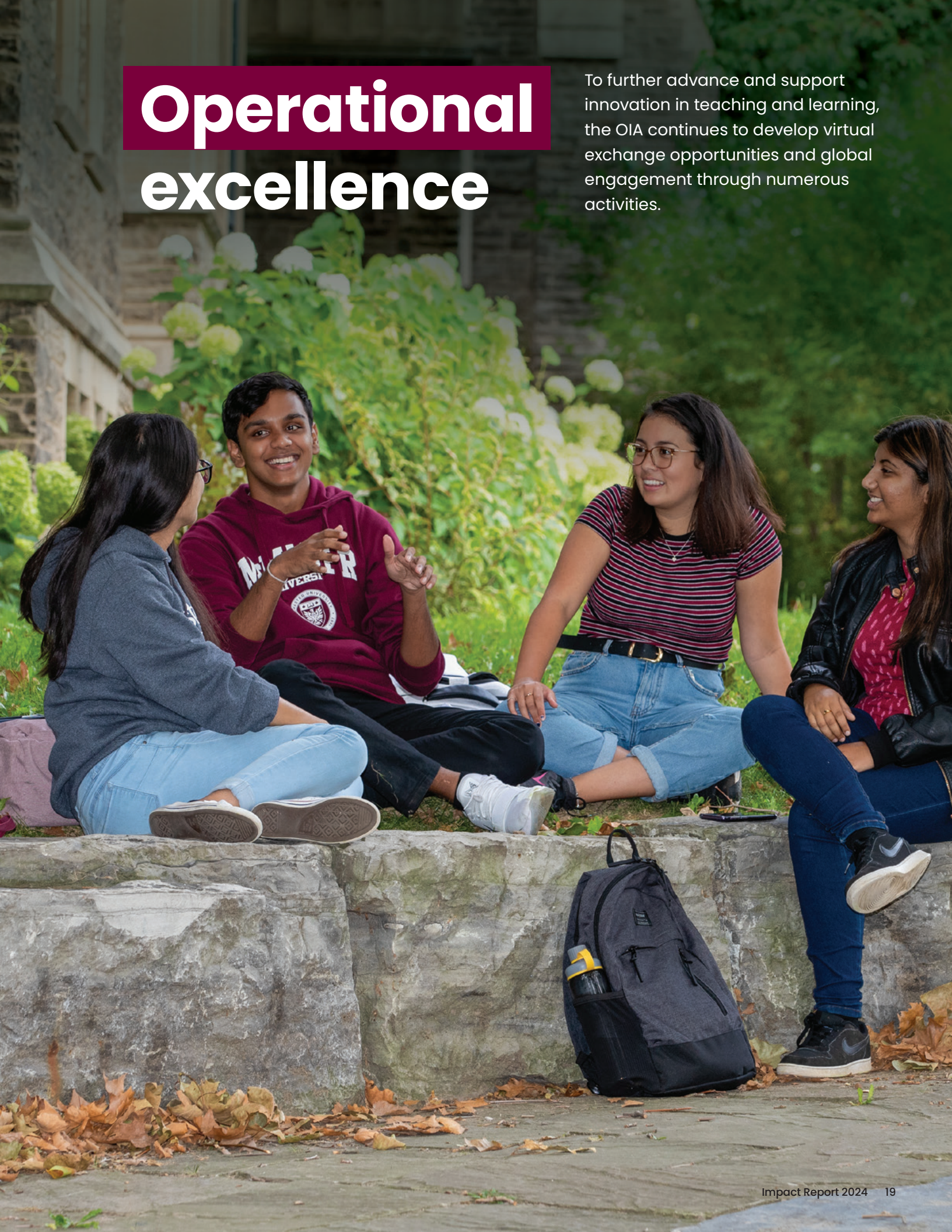
Karen McGarry
Associate Dean,
Faculty of Social Sciences,
McMaster University



Attendees of the U21 Chief Operating Officer / Registrar Network Meeting 2024.

Operational excellence

To further advance and support innovation in teaching and learning, the OIA continues to develop virtual exchange opportunities and global engagement through numerous activities.



Partnership management

The OIA has reached out to concerned Faculties/departments to ensure that we have a centralized and comprehensive list of international academic partnerships. **All partnership agreements at the OIA have been digitalized and logged in a SharePoint site accessible to interested faculty and staff.** This is a step towards the implementation of an international partnership and mobility management software in collaboration with SSC, currently in the beta testing phase.

Engagement

The OIA has revitalized the approach to engagement with internal partners leading to a renewed spirit of cooperation, collaboration, and synergy. Specifically, it has hosted 2 Town Hall meetings, strengthened relationships with the faculties and departments, and presented at various academic and administrative leadership tables across the university. The OIA staff lead/participate in 19 committees and working groups.

Enhanced communication

With Communication being the core of OIA's global engagement strategy, our team takes pride in collaboratively facilitating, coordinating, and communicating with all stakeholders across the University to develop and enact a holistic inclusive internationalization approach through integrating international, intercultural, and global dimensions into McMaster's teaching, research, and service mission. Several initiatives led by OIA during the reporting period include:

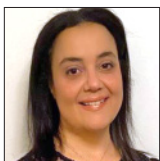
- Launching the [McMaster Global Bulletin](#) (five issues, accessible in OIA's website page) which serves as an information tool on international related activities.
- Regularly updating the McMaster Global Hub to ensure that it provides a one-stop-shop for anything international and ensure that it meets accessibility standards.

Funding opportunities

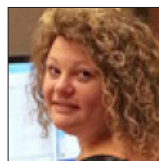
The OIA is working towards a more strategic to international opportunities that fall outside of traditional funded research opportunities through identifying and promoting funding opportunities, supporting faculty members develop their applications as needed, and overseeing institutional applications. The OIA supported/led applications to:

- Global Affairs Canada International Youth Internship Program, successful application worth \$4.9 million.
- EduCanada Faculty Mobility for Partnership Building Program, two successful applications worth \$14,000.
- Supported submissions to Queen Elizabeth Scholarship (2023) and Association of Commonwealth Universities Supporting Research Community Training Grant, unsuccessful
- Adjudicated internal applications and supported submissions to BCDI 2030 Canadian International Development Scholarships and Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee.
- Continue to support the Global Skills Opportunity Program: MACLeads and Global Health Forum as/when needed.

Meet our people



Dr. Amira El Masri
Director



Joanne Squires
Executive Assistant



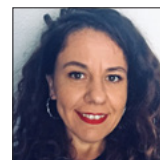
Mahmoud Mouselli
Project Coordinator



May Zhai
Program Manager



Tania Hakim
Project Officer



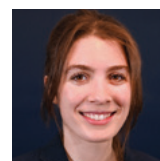
Adelina Sylaj
Grants and Projects Officer



Paul Leegsma
Manager,
Strategic Initiatives
and Special Projects



**Yuka Kawano
McPhee**
Project Officer



**Maia
Lepingwell-Tardieu**
Intern







Office of International Affairs

McMaster University, 1280 Main St. W., Hamilton ON L8S 4L8
uia@mcmaster.ca | uia.mcmaster.ca

