Global Engagement

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Welcome to ASU

As a New American University, Arizona State University is committed to expanding educational access, achieving excellence in teaching and research, and making a positive social, economic and cultural impact in the communities we serve — both locally and internationally.

One of the core design aspirations that has guided ASU’s transformation is to engage globally by reaching learners and communities around the world and by taking responsibility for grand global challenges. This commitment is reflected in everything we do. We carry out use-inspired research that addresses issues of international significance, develop impactful international partnerships around the world, and create unique opportunities for our students to engage globally. For four consecutive years, we have led U.S. public universities in admitting international students and developed pathways to promote their thriving and success.

ASU is touching the lives of learners and working to solve the most pressing challenges of our time. We are mobilizing our resources, intellectual capital, and global reach to set a new standard for how universities engage globally to promote educational access and inclusion, human well-being, and social impact.

Michael M. Crow
President
Arizona State University
Research rankings, expenditures

National Science Foundation research rankings:

Arizona State University ranks seventh out of 760 universities in the U.S. for research expenditures for institutions of higher education without a medical school, up one spot from last year, in the National Science Foundation’s Higher Education Research and Development rankings.

This ranking puts ASU ahead of Virginia Tech, Carnegie Mellon, Princeton and Notre Dame for institutions without a medical school. In NSF ranking on research expenditures in anthropology, ASU ranked first among all institutions, ahead of Harvard, Stanford and Emory.

With $640M in total research expenditures, ASU ranks as one of the fastest-growing research universities among all institutions with research enterprises exceeding $100 million in annual research expenditures.

Mission and goals

Demonstrate leadership in academic excellence and accessibility

Establish national standing in academic quality and impact of colleges and schools in every field

Establish ASU as a leading global center for interdisciplinary research, discovery and development by 2025

Enhance our local impact and social embeddedness

ASU charter

ASU is a comprehensive public research university, measured not by whom it excludes, but by whom it includes and how they succeed; advancing research and discovery of public value; and assuming fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the communities it serves.

10-year research expenditure growth

Data reported FY09 to FY18

Featured student stories
ASU engages its students globally though the creation of purposeful programs that deliver top-notch, diverse learning experiences. ASU’s student-facing global engagement opportunities are based upon human connection, allowing students to expand their intercultural competencies and transform their understanding of the world. The impact of these experiences reaches far beyond the programs themselves, as our students continue to engage with and shape our global future.

Susan Dacosta
International program: Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program, from Gambia
ASU academic area: Center for Advanced Studies in Global Education and KED

The experience:
“Being a Mastercard Foundation Scholar is more of a responsibility than a privilege to me. I believe I have been chosen to be part of a family with a common vision to spearhead the changes we want to see in our mother continent Africa.”

Student mobility at ASU

Inbound students
As part of ASU’s effort to internationalize its campus, the university provides both undergraduate and graduate international students pathways to a variety of learning opportunities. Students are fully integrated into ASU’s community, gaining a global academic experience at a top research university.

International Accelerated Degree Programs (IADP)
In partnership with leading international universities, IADPs allow students to combine study at their home university with an accelerated master’s degree from ASU. Common IADP formats are 3+1+1 and 1+1. IADP benefits include the waiver of all GRE/GMAT requirements and less time and cost to earn a master’s degree.

International Dual Degree Program (IDDP)
A dual degree program at the undergraduate level, the 2+2 allows students to earn two undergraduate degrees, one from ASU and the other from their home institution.

Leadership Development
ASU trains future leaders through high-profile programs that include the International Leaders in Education Program, Young African Leaders Initiative, Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative, Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program, the Humphrey Fellowship, and the McCain Institute Next Generation.

Short Term Study@ASU
ASU offers students from partner institutions the opportunity to spend an academic semester or year as visiting undergraduate international students. Students are fully integrated into ASU’s community and receive course credit from their home institutions.

Global Innovators Alliance
These innovative ASU-based programs integrate lectures, cultural and educational activities, and hands-on workshops designed to enrich learning for students from global partners. With programs offered out of multiple ASU academic homes, Global Innovators brings diverse global perspectives to the innovative culture at ASU.

Global Launch
Global Launch provides English-language training, cultural immersion and academic support for international students who wish to succeed at any American university. Many Global Launch programs also provide proof of English proficiency for admission to most Arizona State University undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

International students
As of fall 2020, there were 8,875 total international students enrolled at ASU:

- 47.41% undergraduate
- 52.59% graduate
Unique international engagement opportunities

Global Intensive Experiences
An innovative, short-term study abroad model that expands access to a wide and diverse student demographic with low-cost international experiences directly connected to ASU credit-bearing courses.

Global Resolve
Global Resolve, a service abroad program at Barrett, The Honors College, mobilizes ASU students to design project-based solutions to challenges in the developing world and creates collaborative opportunities for ASU colleges with external partners. The program exposes ASU students to life-changing experiences that allow them to make an impact in underserved communities throughout the Global South.

Social Entrepreneurship
ASU students work with faculty to develop entrepreneurial products and services that improve the quality of life around the world. For example, SolarSPELL is a ruggedized, portable digital learning library co-designed by ASU students and faculty that provides relevant, localized content to resource-constrained communities around the world.

Global Development Research Scholars
In partnership with USAID’s Research and Innovation Fellows Program, ASU deploys top graduate students to countries around the world to design and implement projects in health, education, economic growth, biodiversity, gender equality, supply chain management, energy, water, and innovation and entrepreneurship.

Peace Corps
ASU offers several ways for students to explore, engage and prepare for Peace Corps service after graduation, including Peace Corps Club, Campus Ambassadors, Peace Corps Prep Certificate Program, a Peace Corps class and Study Abroad program, and Coverdell Fellowships for returning Peace Corps volunteers.

Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)
Though Barrett, The Honors College’s Global Classroom and other initiatives across ASU, COIL promotes interactive shared coursework across cultures, developed jointly by faculty members from ASU and global partner institutions. Online communication technologies allow students and faculty to build global competencies without leaving their campuses.

Courtney Bayer
International program:
Global Resolve: St. Lucia Project
ASU academic area:
Global Resolve, Barrett, The Honors College
The experience:
"It was truly amazing to be able to experience the St. Lucia culture that I learned so much about during the semester. It was also great to be able to implement what my team and I had planned during the semester and to travel to St. Lucia over semester break. I was very grateful to be able to represent both ASU and Global Resolve during my time abroad."

Kelly Anderson
International program:
KED and Global Resolve in Maasailand, Kenya
ASU academic area: Engineering
The experience:
"Helping the community engineer local, sustainable solutions to real problems opened my eyes to the power of Peace Engineering. As a result, I have been inspired to pursue this path in my engineering career, applying my strengths to foster positive, lasting change in our global community."
Featured student stories

Daniel Weekes
International program: Korea University Business School, South Korea
Major: Economics and international business
The experience:
“Studying abroad taught me to take risks in areas I was unfamiliar with — from visiting new cities to eating new foods to meeting new people. Being in South Korea, I had the opportunity to learn through a whole new world of perspectives that I began to adopt into my own life. Making friends from all over the world, the opportunities created from one semester will last a lifetime.”

Godfred Naah
International program: Global Challenge Lab in Ecuador
Major: Global management
The experience:
“My experience with Heifer International exposed me to something unique and fulfilling that cannot be taught in the classroom, but only comes with working in the field to help design business solutions. I think every Thunderbird should get the opportunity to experience this.”

Student mobility at ASU

Outbound students

Study abroad

Sending ASU students on study abroad to all 7 continents

99% increase in study abroad participation over the last decade.

#1 in the U.S. Top 5 in the world for global impact in research, outreach and stewardship — Times Higher Education

$1.4M earned in scholarships and grants for study abroad in 2018–19
Margaret Zheng

International program:
SCETL Leadership and Service in India

Major:
Biological sciences and Chinese language

The experience:
"Going to India helped me gain a perspective on how privileged I am by being born in the United States. I gained a new understanding of the philosophy that stands behind non-profit work. This trip solidified my future goal of wanting to work in the non-profit sector."

Gelila Tesfu

International program:
Global Intensive Experience: Business in Costa Rica

Major:
Psychology and minor in applied business data analytics

The experience:
"Being from Ethiopia, I was inspired to take all that I have learned and teach/implement my people. The cultural exposure itself has helped me become a well-rounded person. Thank you, ASU."

Number of Students
- 1-10
- 11-50
- 51-100
- 101-200
- 201-300

330 study abroad programs in 76 countries
#9 in the nation for students studying abroad
2,651 students studied abroad in 2018–19

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Students and degrees

ASU combines the vast resources of one of the nation’s largest research universities with programs that are unique to students’ needs. The university offers a variety of groundbreaking opportunities for personalized learning, undergraduate research, unique campus life experiences, and entrepreneurship.

ASU’s colleges and schools:
- Arts and Sciences
- Business
- Design and the Arts
- Education
- Engineering
- Global Futures
- Graduate College
- Health Solutions
- Honors College
- Journalism
- Law
- Nursing and Health Innovation
- Public Service and Community Solutions
- Thunderbird School of Global Management
- University College

ASU has
17 colleges and schools

ASU has
160+ centers and institutes

ASU: The New American University

Eight design aspirations guide ASU’s ongoing evolution as a New American University. ASU integrates these institutional objectives in innovative ways to demonstrate excellence, access and impact.

1. Leverage our place
ASU embraces its cultural, socioeconomic and physical setting.

2. Transform society
ASU catalyzes social change by being connected to social needs.

3. Value entrepreneurship
ASU uses its knowledge and encourages innovation.

4. Conduct use-inspired research
ASU research has purpose and impact.

5. Enable student success
ASU is committed to the success of each unique student.

6. Fuse intellectual disciplines
ASU creates knowledge by transcending academic disciplines.

7. Be socially embedded
ASU connects with communities through mutually beneficial partnerships.

8. Engage globally
ASU engages with people and issues locally, nationally and internationally.
Student and faculty awards and rankings

Top producer of the world’s elite scholars
ASU joins the ranks of an elite group of universities with Rhodes, Marshall and Churchill scholarship winners. Three students from Barrett, The Honors College put ASU in the company of Harvard, Stanford and the University of Chicago as the only U.S. institutions with all “Big 3” scholars.

A top producer of Fulbright faculty and student scholars
ASU is one of only 16 institutions to be a top performer for the past decade. For 2019–20, ASU has 19 students in the U.S. government’s flagship international educational exchange program — more than University of Pennsylvania, University of Notre Dame and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Among public universities, ASU ranks third in student Fulbright awards and, among all institutions, ASU is 11th.

150+ international academic partnerships
8,875 international students
51,447 international alum

Global partnerships
Partnerships are central to the success of ASU global activities. Our global partners work with the university on large scale student mobility activities, collaborative research and strategic project coordination focused on access, excellence and education transformation.

Cintana Education
Cintana Education was conceived through a collaboration between ASU president Michael Crow and former CEO of Laureate Education, Doug Becker, to help universities outside of the U.S. break through to the next level of scale and quality, so they can thrive in today’s increasingly competitive global market.

PLuS Alliance
Arizona State University, King’s College London and the University of New South Wales in Australia established the PLuS Alliance, a tri-continental partnership to help find research-led solutions to global challenges and expand access to world-class learning.

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A global learning experience

921 student organizations located on each of the four campuses

582 cultural programs annually to celebrate diversity

800+ international scholars and faculty members for 2019–2020
Four distinctive campuses across metro Phoenix

Each ASU campus is a unique learning environment that offers contemporary classrooms and laboratory space, state-of-the-art libraries, fitness and dining facilities, and student support services. All share the same commitment to excellence in academics. campus.asu.edu

Where we are

Arizona State University is located in the Phoenix metropolitan area. As the fifth largest city in the United States, Phoenix offers big-city amenities like sports venues, cultural attractions, restaurants and shopping in the breathtaking Sonoran Desert region.

Phoenix is ranked among the 10 best cities for new graduates because of its well-paying jobs, affordable lifestyle and active social scene, according to Kiplinger. And Forbes ranks Arizona the best in the nation for future job growth.