

Northwestern

BUFFETT INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS

An Introduction & Overview



OUR PHILOSOPHY AND MISSION

The world is on the verge of a global reset in which traditionally analog paradigms, political alliances and modes of operation no longer hold. In today's global environment, innovation and change are coming from collaboration across disciplines, sectors and geographies. Addressing pressing issues like inequality, poverty and environmental degradation require breaking out of traditional modes of inquiry and problem solving.

Northwestern University's Roberta Buffett Institute for Global Affairs brings together the brightest minds from across Northwestern University and around the world to address critical global challenges that cannot be solved from a singular disciplinary or geographic perspective.

At our core, we are a catalyst, facilitating the growth and exchange of ideas and research that address global issues, and our mission is to foster meaningful engagement across borders of all kinds.

**“The new
genius is a
collaborative
genius.”**

—Annelise Riles,
Executive Director of
Northwestern Buffett



BUFFETT BY THE NUMBERS

Since 2019, we've supported more than

228 faculty across **10** Northwestern schools & **68** departments,

6,000 international students, scholars & dependents & **1,400** students through

142 global learning programs, **10** student groups & U7+ Alliance activities.

We've also hosted or sponsored

50+ events, engaging scholars & leaders across sectors in critical dialogue on pressing global issues.

OUR WORK

CATALYZING TRANSNATIONAL RESEARCH

OUR IDEA INCUBATION PROCESS

Northwestern Buffett's research collaboration model empowers researchers and thought leaders from all walks of life to tackle complex problems together in a multicultural context. A creative and iterative approach helps groups produce substantive solutions to shared global challenges as defined by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



OUR IDEA INCUBATION PROCESS

Our Idea Incubation Process helps groups produce research ideas and projects that generate substantive solutions, and it starts with dialogue.

IDEA DIALOGUES

Northwestern Buffett's Idea Incubation Process begins with Idea Dialogues that bring together scholars from across disciplines for informal conversations about a research question of global significance. The hope is that these discussions give rise to interdisciplinary global research projects that contribute to progress toward a United Nations Sustainable Development Goal.

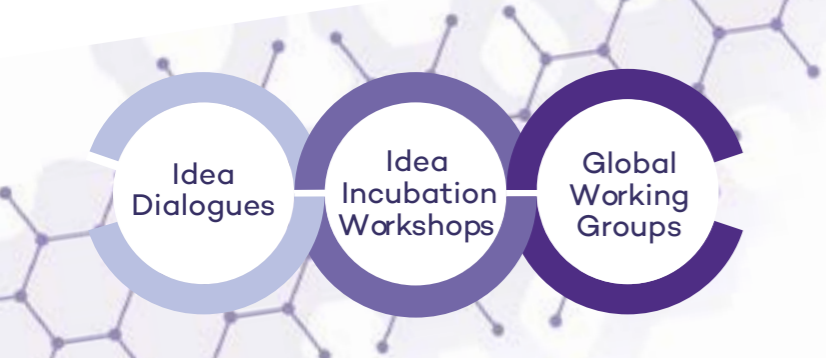
GLOBAL WORKING GROUPS

Selected by a panel of judges, Global Working Groups receive up to two years of Northwestern Buffett funding and support to conduct research aimed at addressing a global challenge and pursue active measures to mitigate its impact on citizens and communities worldwide.



IDEA INCUBATION WORKSHOPS

Our Idea Incubation Workshops bring together scholars and practitioners for a series of iterative work sessions designed to foster the development of research project proposals that address pressing global challenges through research, dialogue, strategic output and action.



IDEA INCUBATION PROCESS

“I’ve been thinking about how we do transdisciplinary research to solve global environmental problems, so I proposed an Idea Dialogue. It can be hard to figure out who are the people who would be your natural collaborators, so the Buffett Institute curated a list of people from all of the different units of the university... they did a great job of culling through and figuring out who might be interested in this kind of interdisciplinary work on global environmental change.”

—Kimberly R. Marion Suiseeya, Assistant Professor,
Northwestern Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences

“Though a lot of institutions tout the power of interdisciplinary research and learning, not a lot of institutions support it in this way. This is the first time I’ve had the freedom of time, the freedom of financial support and the freedom of connection with other humans on campus which have really allowed this project to flourish.”

—Sarah Bartolome, Associate Professor,
Northwestern Bienen School of Music

“This has really helped me change the way I prioritize research questions and to think not just about the abstract science questions, but also how to make it translatable so that it really has an impact.”

—Erica Hartmann, Assistant Professor,
Northwestern McCormick School of Engineering

IDEA DIALOGUES

Novel approaches to addressing pressing global challenges aren’t coming from one field or institution, one world leader or one small group of heroes, but rather “network hubs” working to harness expertise from across disciplines, sectors and geographies.

Northwestern Buffett’s Idea Dialogues have catalyzed collaborative, interdisciplinary and cross-sector approaches to addressing the many dimensions of global challenges:



ACADEMICS + ENTREPRENEURS

Northwestern Buffett connected the Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine and Computer Science Department with the Rheaply Asset Exchange Manager to foster the development of the Emergency Resource Exchange, an online marketplace that allows health care providers to quickly report their resource needs and suppliers to efficiently donate them.



“TRIBAL CONSTITUTIONS: CONSTRUCTING POWER BY DEVELOPING STRUCTURES OF SELF-GOVERNANCE”

Northwestern Professor of Law Erin Delaney and Northwestern Assistant Professor of Sociology Beth Redbird connected during a Northwestern Buffett Idea Dialogue and are now leading a project funded by the National Science Foundation to compile one of the largest collections of tribal constitutions and amendments ever assembled. The project will help researchers map how the processes of constitutional development and tribal self-determination have evolved over time.



CHICAGO → MEXICO

We convened faculty from Northwestern's McCormick School of Engineering and scholars stationed at Mexico's Universidad Panamericana for a virtual dialogue on personal

protective equipment (PPE) engineering challenges, which helped hatch a plan to pilot new smart face mask technology in Mexico. With a grant from the National Science Foundation, Northwestern computer scientist Josiah Hester led a team in developing smart face masks to combat COVID-19. Using energy-harvesting technology, researchers developed sensors that detect when mask wearers are vulnerable to exposure. With Universidad Panamericana in Mexico City, Hester's team piloted and deployed the technology in the U.S. and Mexico before releasing the designs and software to researchers worldwide.

IDEA INCUBATION WORKSHOPS



Our Idea Incubation Workshops bring together scholars from across Northwestern and beyond to develop plans for addressing pressing global challenges through collaborative research, dialogue and action.

Through a series of workshops, participants collaborate to:

- Identify a critical global challenge that they might contribute to effectively addressing through research and/or action
- Develop a concrete plan for collaborative research or action to address the challenge
- Identify additional stakeholders and expertise to include in the project going forward
- Agree upon target outputs and outcomes

At the conclusion of the workshopping process, each group pitches its proposal for research and action to an audience of peers and panel of esteemed judges. Judges assess proposals on the basis of their scholarly merit, potential for impact and international scope. Judges recommend the strongest proposals for funding and support as Northwestern Buffett Global Working Groups.





GLOBAL WORKING GROUPS

GLOBAL WORKING GROUPS



Antibiotic Resistance

The Antibiotic Resistance group is developing basic infrastructure to evaluate antimicrobial resistance (AMR) across two healthcare systems in different parts of the world and understand how health care providers make decisions around antibiotic prescribing.

Climate Crisis + Media Arts

The Climate Crisis + Media Arts group aims to influence cultural and political discourse on the climate emergency by creating new ways of depicting what it means to live and die within a changing climate.



AI and Social Movements

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Social Movements group is developing a robust understanding of how social movements evolve and what impacts they may have on communities worldwide.

Defusing Disasters

The Defusing Disasters Group is developing a community-centered approach to producing globally applicable but locally informed Hazardous Weather Vulnerability Indices that can be used to identify those most vulnerable to extreme weather phenomena.







Disproportionate Impacts of Environmental Challenges

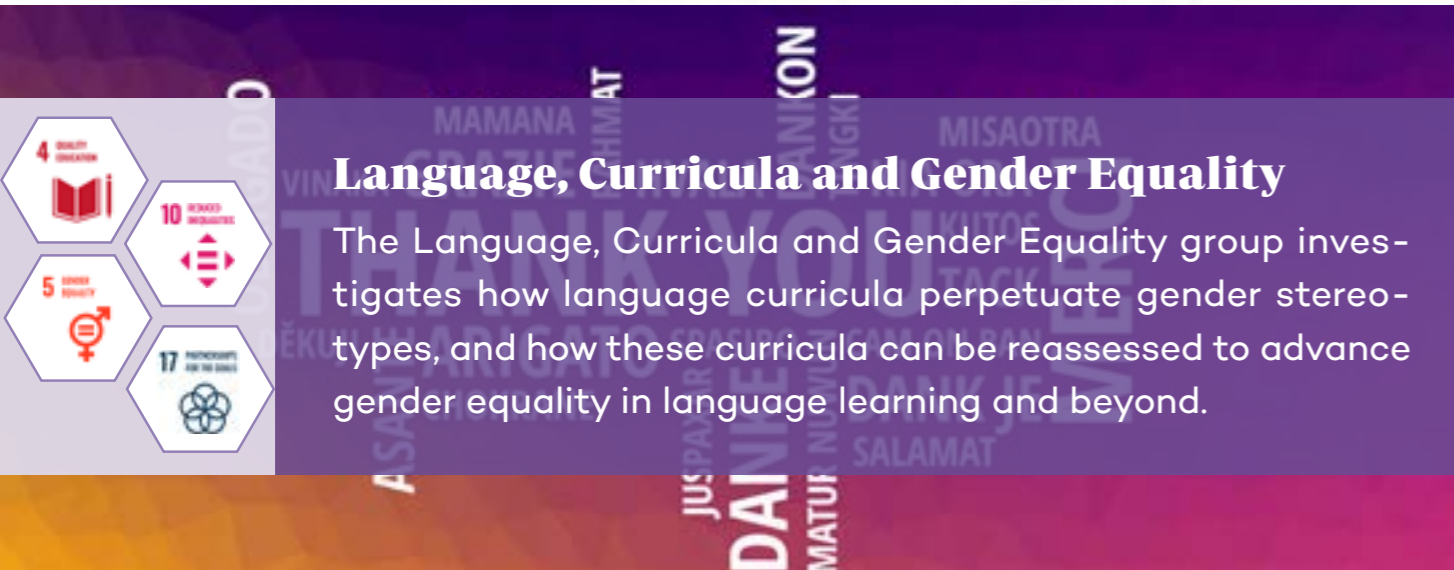
The Disproportionate Impacts of Environmental Challenges group is working in partnership with Indigenous communities to address the disproportionate impacts of climate change and environmental degradation.






Race, Caste, Colorism

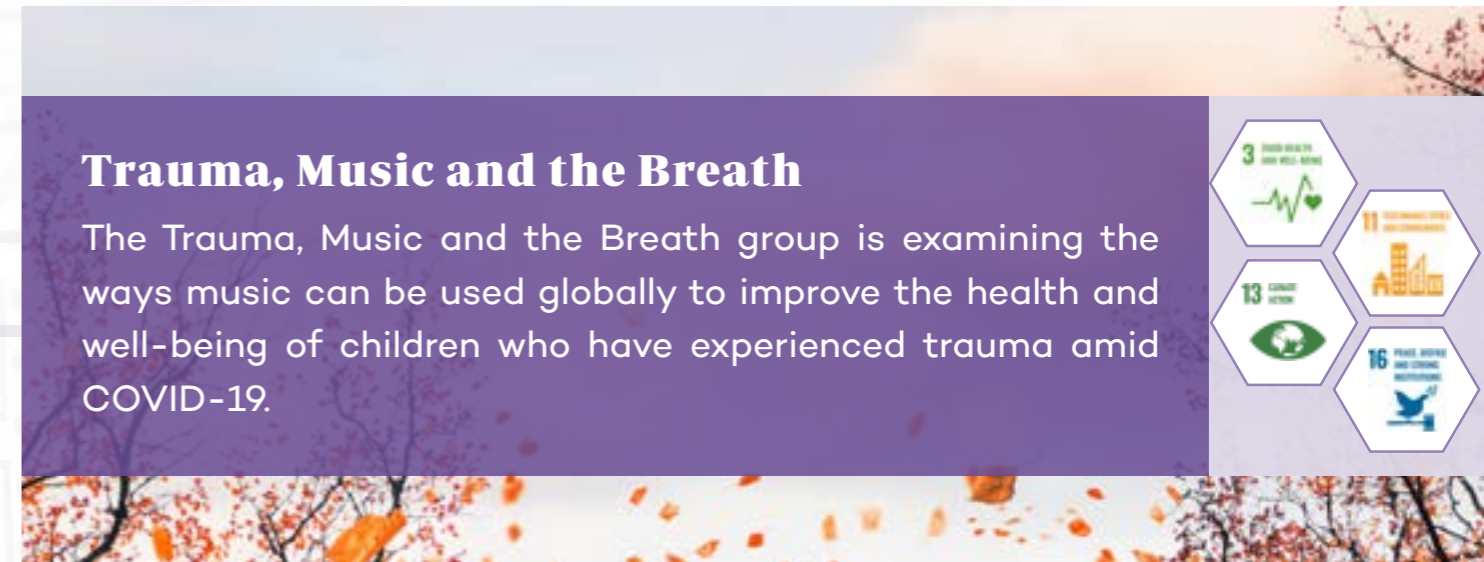
The Race, Caste, Colorism group is developing a network of scholars, artists, writers, translators and activists to illuminate cultural and social systems of race, caste and colorism worldwide.






Language, Curricula and Gender Equality

The Language, Curricula and Gender Equality group investigates how language curricula perpetuate gender stereotypes, and how these curricula can be reassessed to advance gender equality in language learning and beyond.





Trauma, Music and the Breath

The Trauma, Music and the Breath group is examining the ways music can be used globally to improve the health and well-being of children who have experienced trauma amid COVID-19.

2021-22 GLOBAL WORKING GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

The Disproportionate Impacts of Environmental Challenges group's work with Indigenous communities in the Great Lakes led to a **\$5 million grant** from the National Science Foundation for developing new methods to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The Race, Caste and Colorism group launched a **community arts space on Devon Avenue**, one of the most diverse streets in America and a cultural hub for Chicago's South Asian community. The space featured immersive exhibitions dedicated to illuminating the effects of race, caste and colorism on communities worldwide.

Our Trauma, Music and the Breath group collaborated with the John Rogers Biomedical Engineering Lab to **test the effects of musical interventions** on heart rate variability, respiration, movement, speech rate and speech amplitude using proprietary, wearable sensors.

The Antibiotic Resistance group received a **\$2.5 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** to study antimicrobial resistance patterns and develop a roadmap to coordinate responses to antimicrobial resistance across academic, political, pharmaceutical and medical institutions.

The **Climate Crisis + Media Arts** group showcased a range of exemplary media arts responses to climate crises through public screenings and discussions.

OUR WORK

FACILITATING INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION & CULTURAL EXCHANGE



GLOBAL LEARNING

Leaders in the 21st century must be agile thinkers and doers who can navigate ambiguity, embrace diverse viewpoints and rapidly adapt to new technologies. Northwestern Buffett's Global Learning Office prepares students to collaborate effectively across borders of all kinds.

We work with faculty and nongovernmental organizations to develop international learning experiences that foster cross-cultural communication, collaboration, empathy and humility. Students gain knowledge and experience in a diverse range of areas including global health, energy technology and policy, and political and economic development.

— Our Global Learning Office currently administers —

134

global experiential
learning programs
across...

54

countries

GLOBAL LEARNING

The Northwestern Buffett Institute for Global Affairs fosters global learning as a key component of undergraduate academic and co-curricular education. We are committed to preparing students with a critical skill set for our emerging global reality—empathy, risk-taking, collaboration, curiosity and challenging cynicism. Northwestern Buffett’s Global Learning Office (GLO) promotes undergraduate student leadership at Northwestern in a global context. We mentor, support and encourage globally-engaged student groups and programs.

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT COALITION

Our Global Learning Office recently launched a new Global Engagement Coalition, which offers mentorship and support to 10 registered Northwestern student organizations focused on global issues, including global health, gender equity and human rights.

GLOBAL CO-LAB

Our Global Learning Office’s GLObal Co-Lab is a new peer-to-peer, collaborative learning opportunity for students studying abroad. Participating students work in groups to create a visual project that connects their personal experiences to cultural, social and political issues in their host communities as they relate to one or more United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

GLOBAL LEARNING

Amid COVID-19, we also developed novel approaches to facilitating international exchange and global learning.

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT STUDIES INSTITUTE: VIRTUAL GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION

During the 2020-21 academic year, more than 100 undergraduate students from seven Northwestern University schools and 34 areas of academic study participated in a virtual Global Engagement Studies Institute (GESI) program involving a combination of online coursework and remote internships. Students explored critical questions related to the history, operation and structure of community development work, and interned with 26 community-based organizations across nine countries—Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ghana, Guatemala, Uganda, Vietnam, Peru and Ecuador. Internship work centered on a range of issues including microfinance, environmental sustainability, women’s empowerment, youth and education and human rights.



“Virtual GESI is a great window into the global sphere of NGOs and a great way to learn about, through first-hand involvement, another nation from your own.”

—Sebastian Gomez-Parra (McCormick, '21), *Alerta Verde*

“Virtual GESI gave students an unparalleled opportunity to aid in international development even amidst a global pandemic, proving that change can happen regardless of the circumstances.”

—Heather Birdsell (Weinberg, '23), *El Centro Explorativo*

“The virtual GESI program has been incredibly insightful and eye-opening. I got to learn about the complex web of power structures in the international development world, and how that can manifest in unexpected places...we get to see the innerworkings of a real-life, professional organization and how our work can help support them in their endeavors.”

—Quan Pham (Medill, '23), *Vun Art*

Through this integration of academic coursework and remote internship opportunities, the virtual GESI program has allowed students to put international development theory into practice and gain experience collaborating with international teams on project-based work. The program was awarded the National Association for Foreign Student Affairs' 2022 Senator Paul Simon Spotlight Award for Campus Internationalization and the Institute for International Education's Andrew Heiskell Award for Innovation in International Education.

GLOBAL CAMPUS COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS

In partnership with Northwestern's Office of the Vice President for International Relations, Northwestern Buffett supports Northwestern faculty members in developing Global Campus Collaborative Programs involving virtual international teaching and research activities that leverage the university's international partnerships.

Each Global Campus Collaborative is led by one or more faculty members and involves engagement with international scholars, practitioners or activists.


Hosting international visitors virtually

Northwestern Buffett supports faculty across the university in hosting international visitors from around the world for short-term virtual residencies. Each visitor gives a virtual public lecture and engages in a range of other virtual activities with Northwestern students and faculty. We hosted 31 visitors virtually in the 2021-22 academic year, which enabled a continuation of scholarly activity among Ukrainian scholars following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and other cross-cultural exchanges.



Collaborating with faculty at international institutions

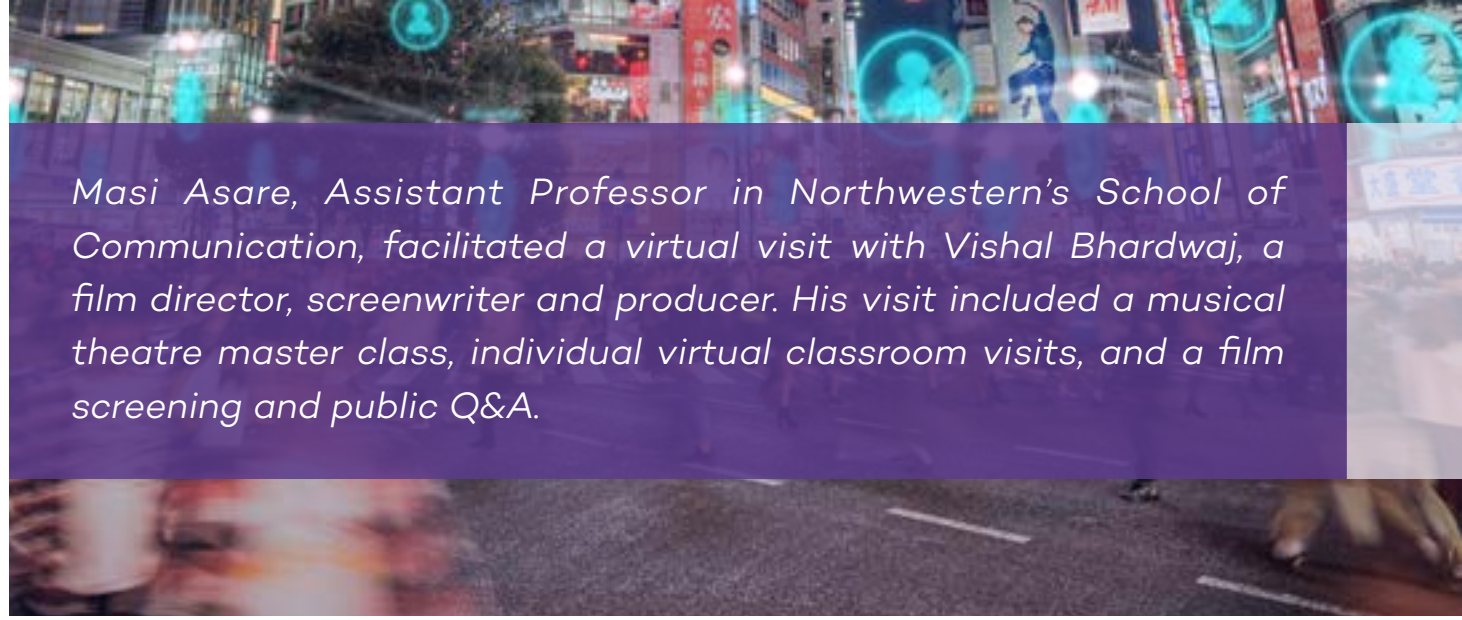
We're supporting Northwestern faculty in their efforts to collaborate with international partner institutions to provide students with virtual learning and engagement opportunities. Northwestern's students have the opportunity to engage in cross-cultural, curriculum-based experiences with their peers abroad and build the competencies necessary to become engaged global citizens "at home." This provides greater access to global learning for students lacking the financial means or the time in their programs to spend a quarter or more abroad.



Fadia Antabli, Assistant Professor in Northwestern's Middle East and North African Languages Program, partnered with faculty at La Sorbonne Nouvelle et l'Université in Paris to support shared language learning opportunities for students from both institutions enrolled in advanced Arabic language courses.

Engaging in virtual research activities

Northwestern Buffett supports faculty across the university in initiating or growing international research relationships with faculty at global partner universities. Northwestern Buffett staff work with faculty to virtually convene diverse groups of international scholars to discuss global challenges that require interdisciplinary research endeavors, especially those tied to learning, service or international development initiatives.



Masi Asare, Assistant Professor in Northwestern's School of Communication, facilitated a virtual visit with Vishal Bhardwaj, a film director, screenwriter and producer. His visit included a musical theatre master class, individual virtual classroom visits, and a film screening and public Q&A.

GLOBAL SAFETY & SECURITY

Northwestern Buffett's Office of Global Safety and Security (OGSS) supports students, faculty and staff who travel abroad under university support or sponsorship. OGSS collaborates with leaders across Northwestern, as well as partners in the U.S. and abroad, to develop and ensure compliance with international travel policies and establish best practices in travel risk management.

OGSS also serves as the first responder for all university-sponsored travelers experiencing an emergency abroad, offers security information and support services to Northwestern community members traveling to high-risk locations, develops specialized training materials and sessions related to travel health, safety and security, and contributes to the development of study abroad programming. OGSS also successfully facilitated a safe return to international travel as COVID-19 related travel restrictions eased, with more than 200 students participating in 45 study abroad programs across 18 countries in Fall 2021.

In addition, OGSS developed an International Travel Registry, which provides travelers with important health and safety resources prior to departure and allows OGSS to communicate with travelers while abroad. All graduate students, undergraduates not traveling on study abroad programs and faculty and staff trip leaders are required to register their university-affiliated international travel in the registry.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES

Northwestern Buffett supports a robust global community. Our Office of International Student & Scholar Services (OISS) advises, advocates on behalf of and develops cultural exchange programming for Northwestern's international populations.

OISS also provides professional support and advising services to international students and scholars at Northwestern University regarding their immigration and academic status in the United States.

In 2021-22, Northwestern welcomed

1,767

new international students,
and sponsors nearly...

7,200

visitors
from over...

130

different
countries

Northwestern's International Community

Over the past decade, Northwestern's international community has grown by nearly 40 percent and the diversity of Northwestern's community has grown by 26 percent, primarily due to a 60 percent increase in the diversity of our undergraduate students.



GLOBAL IMPACTS GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Northwestern Buffett's Global Impacts Graduate Fellowship Program provides an interdisciplinary cohort of graduate students with financial support and professional development opportunities for a full academic year. This includes dissertation research support, mentoring and opportunities to explore career paths in international affairs, policy and development. The program also includes a Global Careers Speaker Series open to all Northwestern graduate students, which connects students with alumni and leaders across sectors for conversations on a wide range of exciting career paths in international affairs, policy and development.



OUR WORK

FOSTERING TRANSNATIONAL DIALOGUE

MERIDIAN 180

As part of our mission to create new models of global collaboration, we're building a global community for multilingual dialogue. The community, Meridian 180, brings scholars and practitioners together for meaningful collaboration across cultural and linguistic borders, virtually and in-person. Meridian 180 community members cross the divide between the academy, industry and public sector to identify gaps in research and programming in areas where it is vitally needed to address global challenges.

Our members are scholars, lawyers, policymakers, activists and business professionals who convene for the kind of “free form” dialogue and intellectual risk taking that can surface novel approaches to addressing complex global challenges.

Meridian 180 forums explore issues ranging from political and military conflict to inequality and social justice to global environmental and public health crises, including COVID-19. Within each of these issue areas, Meridian 180 members identify key areas to prioritize for collaborative work.

In July 2022, Northwestern Buffett launched an e-publication in partnership with Ritsumeikan University in Japan. The e-book, titled *City, Public Value, and Capitalism*, stems from collaborative research among a diverse cross-section of Meridian 180 members and was published by Northwestern University Libraries in cooperation with Northwestern Buffett and The Asia-Japan Research Institute at Ritsumeikan University. A symposium commemorated the publication of the e-book and featured guests from Northwestern University reviewing and discussing the publication with authors and contributors.

Meridian 180 members at universities worldwide have also collaborated with policymakers, citizen activists and nuclear energy operators to explore compensation models and care for victims of nuclear accidents like the Great East Japan and Fukushima Nuclear Disaster of 2011. Their report, *Nuclear Disaster Compensation: Lessons from Fukushima*, illuminates the real costs of nuclear disasters and severe inadequacies of current public and private insurance mechanisms.

In a similar vein, Meridian 180 members came together to discuss the merits and risks associated with various policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. The conversations have shed light on approaches to combatting COVID-19 from Bogotá, Columbia to Taegu, South Korea: the role of central governments and health care providers, the limitations of basic welfare systems, how responses to COVID-19 are exacerbating inequalities and how to incentivize cooperation with public health recommendations, among other issues.



U7+ ALLIANCE OF WORLD UNIVERSITIES

The U7+ Alliance of World Universities is the first coalition of university presidents aimed at defining concrete actions universities can take to collectively address global challenges in coordination with government leaders in G7 countries and beyond. The Paris Institute of Political Studies (SciencesPo) hosted the first U7+ Summit in Paris as a precursor to the 2019 G7 Summit. The inaugural Summit included leaders from 20 countries and 47 universities representing more than 2 million students around the world.

In 2020, Northwestern University was the first U.S. university to host the U7+ Summit in partnership with Columbia University, Georgetown University and the University of California, Berkeley. Northwestern Buffett led the cross-university team hosting the Summit, which built on work initiated in France to develop commitments on key issues including climate and energy, inequality, technological transformation and preparation for global health crises, including COVID-19.

Northwestern Buffett also facilitated the first U7+ Worldwide Student Forum, which brought more than **85** students from **22** universities across **12** countries together for dialogue on how universities can best prepare them for leadership in today's world.

In 2021, Northwestern University was elected to serve as the first Secretariat of the U7+ Alliance for a three-year term. Northwestern Buffett leads the secretariat, which involves facilitating intergenerational dialogue on critical global issues, fulfilling commitments to climate action, developing students' inclusive leadership and global citizenship capacities, advocating for academic freedom amid the resurgence of autocracies worldwide and more.

CLIMATE ACTION

As a United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change observer organization, Northwestern sent a delegation led by Northwestern Buffett to the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in 2021. The delegation of faculty and graduate students conducted research on global governance and engaged in advocacy.

“Universities are in a unique position to provide intellectual and scientific leadership that advances initiatives to address shared global challenges.”

—Annelise Riles, Executive Director of Northwestern Buffett

EQUALITY DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBALIZATION STUDIES

Northwestern Buffett’s Equality Development and Globalization Studies (EDGS) program promotes intellectual engagement and public dialogue on issues confronting the post-colonial world, including democracy and equality; conflict, tolerance and rights; and growth and sustainability. Through conferences, workshops, research fellowships and other academic activities, EDGS seeks to create a lively intellectual environment that connects faculty and students, sparks ideas and insights and advances cutting-edge scholarship. EDGS also houses the Arryman Program, which trains emerging Indonesian scholars in the social sciences.

THE KEYMAN MODERN TURKISH STUDIES PROGRAM

The Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program at Northwestern Buffett promotes deep, interdisciplinary knowledge of contemporary Turkey in connection with global developments. Through seminars, conferences, fellowships, visiting scholar programs and more, the Keyman Program fosters critical dialogue on and understanding of Turkey in the context of global social challenges.

To learn more about
the Northwestern Roberta Buffett
Institute for Global Affairs, please visit
buffett.northwestern.edu

buffett.northwestern.edu

Northwestern University | BUFFETT INSTITUTE
FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS