

FCS Internationalization Strategy

FOOTPRINTS AND PATHWAYS TO GLOBAL COMMUNITIES

Footprints create pathways.
Pathways foster connections.
Connections build communities.



Introduction

The Faculty of Community Services (FCS) seeks to build healthy communities locally and globally. We recognize healthy communities as sources of inspiration and spaces for transformation.

Internationalization is an important, mutually benefitting pathway toward this end. At FCS, this means creating educational opportunities that are supportive, sustainable and accessible. It also means opening up channels for new, transformative global partnerships.

In order to achieve this, we set priorities and actions that reflect our community-focused values and equity-driven considerations.



Our Approach: Inclusive and Responsive

Due to globalization pressures and westernized ideologies, “internationalization” is often presented as a competitive and strategic initiative within the global knowledge economy.

However, there’s now an increasing push toward inclusive and responsive approaches to internationalization — approaches that reflect our social responsibility to prepare students for a globalized world and to empower global communities.

At FCS, we take an inclusive approach to internationalization by intentionally centering equity and social justice considerations into our initiatives. This means being mindful of our global responsibility to educational equity and providing support for international students. It also means building international collaborations that centre principles of global ethics and that reflect equity-focused decisions and actions.

As we cement our footprints in international collaborations and forge new pathways for innovations in internationalization, we are committed to honouring diverse epistemologies and ways of knowing across cultures and contexts.



Our Values: Health Equity, Social Justice and Community Empowerment

The values of health equity, social justice and community empowerment guide our efforts to influence social change for diverse groups — and they differentiate our contribution to the work of internationalization.

We recognize that the international ecosystem is becoming increasingly political — and that internationalization efforts will naturally extend across both political and sociocultural spheres. Amid this climate, FCS can make meaningful impacts by pursuing objectives that support health equity values and by continually reflecting equity in our international contributions.

FCS Schools

- Child and Youth Care
- Disability Studies
- Early Childhood Studies
- Midwifery
- Nursing
- Nutrition
- Occupational and Public Health
- Social Work
- Urban and Regional Planning

Guiding Themes

The following themes help to frame our approaches to internationalization:

Health and Health Systems

- Health equity
- Public health and health promotion
- International health systems
- Maternal and child health
- Health/mental health promotion
- Social/structural determinants of health
- Capacity building/empowerment

Education, Epistemology, Global Learning

- Global education
- International education
- Partnership in education
- Curricula innovations in global learning
- Diasporic knowledge (intercultural competencies)
- Epistemologies
- Student engagement
- Intellectual rights
- Indigeneity/anti-colonial education

Climate Change and Urbanization

- Globalization
- Built environment/urban health
- Climate justice/planetary health
- Sustainable development

Human Rights

- Social justice
- Epistemic justice
- Gender equity
- Race and access
- Disability
- Youth
- Aging
- LGBTQ+ rights

Our Priorities

FCS is well positioned for the work of internationalization. Several faculty members are already engaged in international research collaborations, and global learning discourses are integral in teaching engagements. International students also continue to be an important aspect of our teaching and learning ethos. However, we recognize our potential to carve out a unique niche in the ever-expanding internationalized environment.

We've identified the following key priority areas for our internationalization work at home and abroad.

1. Build a culture of internationalization

Our objective:	Establish and enhance events, initiatives, and communication to promote understanding and interactions in internationalization education and practices.
What we envision:	An FCS community that's immersed in the principles and traditions of internationalization; one that builds new connections and communities globally by engaging, networking and learning with — and from — each other.
What it will require:	Intentionally moving “internationalization” from a conversation to enriching experiences for learners and educators.
How we'll make the culture grow:	Special events, guest speakers, collaborations with universities, and other initiatives that are diverse, progressive, and that bring together FCS with the global community.



2. Strengthen international student recruitment strategies

Our objective:	Expand/innovate strategies for international student recruitment across FCS undergraduate and graduate programs.
Why it's critical:	International student recruitment is an essential aspect of the TMU International Strategy . For FCS, making it possible for international students to access education is also one of the ways we contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG #10) of reducing global inequity.
Why we value it:	We recognize the richness of diversity, culture, knowledge and vibrancy that international students bring to the TMU community.
How we'll make it grow:	By expanding on existing strategies — and innovating new ones — for international student recruitment across FCS undergraduate and graduate programs.

3. Enhance international students' experience and success

Our objective:	Increase opportunities that support the engagement, attainment, and flourishing of international students.
Our commitment:	Building a structure to support the overall success and retention of our international students. As we create pathways for their success, they in turn, can create pathways beyond.
How we'll make it grow:	By increasing opportunities that support international students to integrate, engage academically and flourish.
What this means:	While there are unique needs among students in general, international students often experience additional challenges. By providing specialized assessment of their needs, we can provide unique supports, using both existing and new resources.

Our partners

We work with internal stakeholders, including TMU Global, International Student Services, and the International Student Enrolment, Education and Inclusion office. We also collaborate with industry partners nationally and internationally.

4. Expand innovations in global health education and experience

Our objective:	Improve capacities in global health scholarship and resources in existing curriculum/pedagogy, and in new and innovative program development.
Why it's important:	FCS's nine schools are distinct in health foci — each with relevance to global health equity. Innovations that expand knowledge and experiences in global health will equip our students to contribute to improvements beyond the Canadian context.
How we'll make it grow:	Through curricula and program innovations that support global learning experiences. We will enhance these innovations within existing structures. We also plan to use strategic partnerships to co-create new initiatives — ones that use technology and design thinking to make global learning more accessible to domestic and international students.

5. Cultivate mutually transformative international partnerships

Our objective:	Create networks of collaborations that can lead to innovations and exchanges in research, curricula/pedagogical expansion, student engagement and experiential learning in various sectors across international borders.
Why this is a priority:	By fostering partnerships that contribute to developments across societies, we make an important contribution to global equity. This aligns well with the Government of Canada's International Education Strategy to increase outbound mobility for Canadian students to non-traditional destinations.
How we'll make it grow:	Several FCS faculty members have established research-level partnership agreements with institutions and individuals internationally — some of which involve student exchange and visiting scholars' opportunities. We plan to advance these existing partnerships, and to also build more strategic partnerships — both transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary, including partnerships with industry.

Appendix

Internationalization Model: Footprints and Pathways to Global Communities

