Office of the Vice-President International Annual report to Business Board

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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

DEFY GRAVITY

International Strategic Plan (TISP)
Background

- VP International portfolio includes:
  - International academic/corporate partnerships
  - Internationalizing student experience/supporting int. students
  - Regional engagement and impact/philanthropic engagement
- Evolution of strategic planning:
  - TISP 1.0 (2017-2022) – establishing
  - TISP 2.0 (2022-2027) – consolidating and growing
  - TISP 3.0 (2027-2032) – sustaining and adapting

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TISP 2.0 Some Key Accomplishments to date

Students

- Collaborating across the university to increase the number of countries with student registrations (next slide)
- Funded a total of 129 Global Classrooms, surpassing goal of 104
- $3M International Student Experience Fund, supporting 36 initiatives inside and outside of the classroom
- Increased the number of international sponsored students through agreements with governments and foundations
- 22% of UG with at least one learning abroad experience

Partnerships

- Co-funded seed calls with 30 world class partner universities including top GRA partners NUS, CNRS, Manchester, Melbourne, UCL, HUJI
- Supported 274 PIs through grants, securing matched funding from partners
- Leveraged seed grants to secure external funding, including from Tri-Council, NIH, Singapore CREATE, Global Affairs Canada
- Increased framework-level corporate partners from 13 in 2022 (and 6 in 2017) to 15 in 2025
- Leadership in Alliances: CGLHEC, Canada Caribbean Institute, Global Humanities Alliance, U7+

TISP 2.0 Some Key Accomplishments

Advancement & Profile

Increase profile, and collaboration with PMO, GAC, such as the President's participation in the Prime Minister's India delegation

Philanthropy enabled regional engagement:

- Mastercard Foundation – African network growth and impact-driven collaborations ($94.6M) + new partnerships in development
- Tata Trusts – India-based research and innovation, and reputation strengthening (~$10M)
- DUA collaborations re. joint NUS fundraising, Korea Foundation, etc.

30K WeChat followers (up 50% from end of 2024) and 6,300 Weibo followers (up 9% from end of 2024)

Expert Engagement

- With DUA, 4 International Leadership Councils chaired by the President, to leverage expertise of alumni in key markets
- 7 Presidential International Councils to engage faculty in regional strategy development
- Region specific subcommittees: ASEAN, Japan, S. Korea, LAC, Arctic
- Specialist tables aligning across research and international portfolios: Horizon Europe Steering Committee & Research Security
- Blue Door Corporate partnerships community of practice
- International Student Experience Advisory Committee

International Student Diversification

Decreasing our reliance on a single citizenship

15, 40+ countries (up from 7 in 2016)

12, 70+ countries (up from 5 in 2016)

Countries of Citizenship	2025 Reg counts
China	2,546
Korea (South)	284
U.S.A.	284
India	210
Hong Kong	195
Indonesia	157
Japan	103
Taiwan	100
Pakistan	96
Turkiye	88
Vietnam	71
Saudi Arabia	71
Iran	69
Brazil	44
Nigeria	43
Mexico	34
Mongolia	33

Fall 2026 Outlook

Y-O-Y Comparison *as of late May*

Final registrant count not known until Nov. 1; current preliminary data (Ontario international students accept data not available yet):

- +14.5% increase in international applications
  - *59% of all international applicants to ON univs made U of T their 1st choice, vs 56% last year*
- Accepted offers of admission are up +4%
- Accepted offers of admission with required deposit are down -7.0%

Learning Experiences Abroad

Growth in research, internships & professional experiences

Summary of In-Person Activities			
Activity	**2024 UG**	**2025 UG**	**Change UG**
Courses	1,568	1,579	+0.7%
Research	214	219	**+2.3%**
Professional Experience	468	660	**+41.0%**

Key Growth Areas

Internships			
	2024 UG	**2025 UG**	**Change UG**
Internships	121	169	**+39.7%**

Summer Research			
	2024 UG	**2025 UG**	**Change UG**
Research	84	114	**+35.7%**

Global Classrooms (GCs)				
	GCs 2024	**GCs 2025**	**UG Student Change**	**G Student Change**
Participants	22	35	**+72.7%**	**+717.9%**

Leveraging Our Network

South America

- Agreements with organizations in Colombia and Mexico that provide Master's and Ph.D scholarships secured over past year
- Active discussion in Brazil re. scholarships
- Funding: $20,000-30,000/year USD per scholar

Singapore

- U of T’s Acceleration Consortium and the National University of Singapore secured a $10M grant to develop a self-driving lab that will train AI models to learn how to synthesize inorganic materials
- Potential for a CREATE Research Centre in S'pore being assessed

Horizon Europe

- The world's largest research and innovation funding program @ EU $95B
- U of T seed funding + leveraging partner network for investment in establishing proposal-ready teams
- Over $28M in funding requested in last two cycle. Two successful proposals in first cycle.

Alignment with Cnd Government

- U of T actively works with Global Affairs Canada and embassies internationally to support Canada's ties internationally in many parts of the world
- Prime Minister Carney travelled to India to reignite the Canada-India relationship, joined by President Woodin in March
- Recognition of academia’s role in track-two diplomacy, and U of T’s contributions in building relationships between nations; U of T now leading in shaping joint Talent and Innovation strategy for PMO

Corporate Highlights & Impact

Maintained 15 framework-level partners.

$19.6M in *international* corporate funding to support research at U of T in 2025

Bluedoor.utoronto.ca

Website growth from ~25 weekly visitors in 07/2024 to ~50 in 07/2025 to ~120 in 05/2025

Launch of the Blue Door Quarterly Newsletter to engage corporate partners

Onboarded new/renewed Strategic Corporate Partners over the past year including Nissan, Unilever, Ericsson, AMD, Konica Minolta, Siemans, Vanguard, BASF

+

Hanwha Ocean MOU signed

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Looking Forward

- Focused Diversification (leveraging international and Cnd government opportunities)
- Continued Regional Specialization
- Transnational Education opportunities
- Partnering in the Global South
- Internal coordination and collaboration across divisions
- Security/Safety
- New funding opportunities