



University
of Regina
International 

2021-2022

UNIVERSITY OF REGINA INTERNATIONAL
OPERATIONAL PLAN





The University of Regina International (URI) Operational Plan 2021-2022 contributes to achieving the goals outlined in the University of Regina's Strategic Plan 2020 -2025 All Our Relations – *kahkiyaw kiwâhkômâkaninawak*.

The unprecedented situation brought by the COVID-19 pandemic has presented unique challenges in all areas of international education. To maneuver within this fluid environment efficiently and effectively, collaborative and internationalization efforts are the foundation of our 2-year operational plan.

The plan outlines, within the two pillars of our operations (Service Excellence and Organizational Excellence), actions, initiatives, and ongoing work that strengthen and support the University's vision of reflecting the world in which we want to live. Our mandate is to lead the continued growth and execution of strategic initiatives designed to achieve the University's international objectives. URI provides assertive leadership and vision to direct internationalization by establishing reciprocal, strategic relationships with clients,

partners, and stakeholders, and fostering exceptional global education and research opportunities.

Through times of celebration as well as hardship, our commitment remains to offer the highest standard of service and guide our stakeholders towards a path of academic achievement. Through these ever-challenging times, URI reaffirms its dedication to the campus community to foster an institutional culture of internationalization - where cross-sharing global experiences, values, and beliefs create a community of learning for all students, faculty, and staff.

Haron Chaudhry
Acting Associate Vice-President
UR International



URI Values



Respect:
We value considerations for self and others, seeing different viewpoints, and understanding diverse beliefs and personalities.



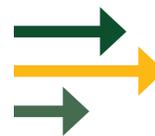
Professionalism:
We value professionalism based on commitment, perspective, accountability, and direction.



Accountable:
We value an accountable environment where everyone takes responsibility for their actions.



Collaborative:
We value working together through idea sharing and thinking to accomplish a common goal.



Proactive:
We value goal-oriented behaviours and actions intended to get things done.



Innovation:
We value excellence that comes from re-evaluating current practices and developing new and improved ways to deliver programs and services.

URI PRIORITY STRATEGIES:

Actions and Contributions

All elements of URI’s operational planning are built on All Our Relations – *kahkiyaw kiwâhkômâkaninawak*, its five areas of focus and the five specific goals related to each area. Our plan aims to contribute to achieve the goals by identifying and completing key actions that will strengthen and enhance the two pillars of our operations:

SERVICE EXCELLENCE	WE WILL	ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE
<p>A culture of service where URI provides an environment where all stakeholders¹ feel valued and supported in meeting their educational goals.</p>		<p>Leadership and staff team dedicated to effective and efficient operations, continuous improvement, capacity-building and collaboration.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Global Skills Opportunity Scholarship program. • Prioritize scholarship funding allocation to support Indigenous students, students with disabilities and low-income students to access international experiential learning opportunities. • Expand existing international internship/practicum/fieldwork opportunities in virtual and in-person modalities. • Enhance and engage inclusivity and multiculturalism in all program designs and facilitation. • Continue to offer general guidance regarding immigration and travel policies, including opportunities and post-graduation pathways. 	<p>DISCOVERY: Strengthen our connections among students, faculty, and staff.</p> <p>GOAL: All students will participate in experiential learning opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue working with faculties in the areas of research, academics, mobility, and recruitment to strengthen and expand institutional and international collaboration and cooperation. • Diversification: increase recruitment activities and events in existing countries, and expand the agent portfolio in new markets. • Foster and enhance international research collaboration by welcoming, hosting and serving the visiting researchers/professors/staff. • Facilitate international conferences to create opportunities to advance international education experiences for students, faculty, and staff. • Facilitate intercultural competency and cross-cultural communication workshops to program participants, UofR students, and staff. • Grow intercultural programming through collaboration with on-campus units/departments/faculties. • Focus on faster response and application processing time by implementing the Student Relations Management system. • Promote professional development opportunities within the International Peer Advisor Program that align with students’ educational, career, and personal goals.

¹ UR International stakeholders include students (present, future, and alumni), faculty, staff, University Leadership Team, government, funding agencies, and international agents.

URI PRIORITY STRATEGIES: ACTIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS (CONTINUED)

SERVICE EXCELLENCE	WE WILL	ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue promoting the First Nations University of Canada as a study option for international students. • Collaborate with the First Nations University of Canada, ta-tawâw Student Centre, and the Office of Indigenous Engagement to ensure that Indigenous students who participate in mobility programs have access to nuanced and cultural-affirmative support, and access to elder and knowledge keeper support before, during, and after their program. • Expand the current workshop series dedicated to bridging the gap between international students and Indigenous students through education and culture. • Incorporate Indigenous materials in URI short-term program design and offerings. 	<p>TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION: Strengthen connections with our past, present, and future.</p> <p>GOAL: Take significant action on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action relevant to post-secondary education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host the annual International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples event. • Broaden our Indigenous ways of knowing by promoting international collaboration with institutions and organizations that exhibit a focus on Indigenous programs, ways of knowing, and lived experiences. • Incorporate "Four Seasons of Reconciliation Program" into the short-term training program curriculum, when possible, to create Indigenous awareness in the international community. • Promote knowledge of Truth and Reconciliation to staff (e.g., "Four Seasons or Reconciliation," blanket exercise). • Continue to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Committee's (TRC) Calls to Action, as outlined by the U of R Reconciliation Action Committee, in responsible and meaningful ways.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the 24/7 emergency telephone line and support students who require immediate assistance. • Continue to offer the Mental Health & Wellness Series in collaboration with Social Work Practicum Students. • Enhance learning opportunities for students through collaborative, immersive workshops delivered through the Global Learning Centre. • Expand the current workshop series that discusses equity, inclusion, and diversity and promotes discussions regarding anti-racism and student empowerment. • Offer engagement opportunities in socially diverse settings that allow for exposure to numerous worldviews. 	<p>WELL-BEING AND BELONGING: Strengthen connections with ourselves.</p> <p>GOAL: Assess, adopt, implement, and improve student thriving metrics.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand collaboration with the Student Wellness Centre and Mental Health Hub, and promote the services among international students. • Continue to connect with student groups and associations on campus to host cultural events, showcasing the commitment to global diversity and inclusion. • Participate in the 2021 CBIE International Student Survey to assess current international students' thriving metrics. • Develop and implement our international student survey in order to assess feedback. • Promote daily wellness breaks. • Use of sit-stand stations to promote health and wellness. • Strive for workplace and home-life balance.

URI PRIORITY STRATEGIES: ACTIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS (CONTINUED)

SERVICE EXCELLENCE	WE WILL	ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to facilitate the Government of Canada's Canada- ASEAN Scholarships and Educational Exchanges for Development (SEED) scholarship program - supports incoming research initiatives and faculty engagement that aim to reduce poverty in developing countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. • Support climate change mitigation and adaptation projects through Mitacs and the undergraduate and graduate visiting research student programs. • Develop and offer short-term programs and capacity-building programs focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals through the Global Training Initiative's programming. • Continue to offer the highest standard of academic support services through a hybrid model to ensure increased accessibility for students and other stakeholders. • Continue providing electronic materials and resources to students. 	<p>ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION: Strengthen connections with our environment.</p> <p>GOAL: 25% reduction in our ecological footprint.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on technology by applying a long-term blended recruitment engagement model combining virtual and in-person recruitment. • Research the use of international electronic credentials through international clearing houses to reduce footprint. • Continue to reduce environmental impact by using digital filing methods and encouraging e-approval/e-signature procedures. • Coordinate and participate in hybrid-delivery meetings, agreement signing ceremonies, and recruitment activities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to offer entrance scholarships and develop country-specific scholarships to establish our brand and boost our presence in new and emerging countries. • Enhance student confidence in the University of Regina through continuous effective communication. • Provide tailored assistance to customized program stakeholders to ensure success and continuation. • Establish the URI Alumni Network. • Continue offering community outreach programs in Southern Saskatchewan. 	<p>IMPACT AND IDENTITY: Strengthen connections with communities.</p> <p>GOAL: Measure and improve recognized comprehensive impact of University of Regina activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue collaboration with the Ministry of Advanced Education and Ministry of Trade and Export Development to promote the University of Regina in the global market. • Maintain vigorous engagement and relationships with global partners to attract quality degree-seeking students and short-term fee-paying students. • Forge faculty-led partnerships that lead to attracting quality students. • Research additional country credentials to broaden our international admission criteria. • Research global institutes to establish successful articulation agreements. • Support the University's establishment of identity through branding and social media use. • Improve URI's online presence through digital platforms and social media.