The International Plan: A Presentation to the Academic Senate February 1, 2005

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What is it?

- New initiative to help achieve GT’s strategic goal that 50% of undergraduates will graduate with international experience

- An academic option for undergraduates seeking to integrate substantive and challenging international preparation into their studies

- Addresses what many students are looking for – a coherent and meaningful way to incorporate international education and experience into their major
Who has been involved in plan development?

- An International Plan Coordinating Committee with representation from all six colleges:
  - Kent Barefield (Science)
  - Richard Barke (Ivan Allen)
  - Rich LeBlanc (Computing)
  - Paul Griffin (Engineering)
  - Joe Hughes (Engineering)
  - Chris Jarrett (Architecture)
  - Bill Long (International Affairs)
  - Phil McKnight (Modern Languages)
  - Chuck Parsons (Management)

- Undergraduate Coordinators from 12 academic units
- Coordination with each college’s administration
What is involved?

- A degree-long program that develops the international competence of students by integrating:
  - study of core international subjects
  - second language proficiency
  - overseas study and/or work experience

... within the student’s major, and completed in a timely fashion.

- Successful completion earns designator “International Plan” on student’s diploma and transcript
International Coursework

- Curricular component of the International Plan. Provides both an academic foundation and a context to complement the international experience.

- 3 foundation courses - one from each category
  - Comparative International Relations
  - Global Economics
  - Study of a particular world region or country
  - Courses for each category available from a variety of disciplines
  - Courses chosen for each category to be approved by IUCC

- Culminating course that integrates knowledge of the discipline and international experience
  - Integrates international coursework and experience with student's major
  - Offered within specific disciplines or in multi-disciplinary context
Second Language Proficiency

- Equivalent to proficiency following two years of college coursework in the language
  - Many students will enter Georgia Tech with some second language preparation and need fewer courses to meet this requirement

- Students whose international experience is in a language other than English must demonstrate a higher level of second language proficiency by the time of graduation
  - Overseas coursework and/or internship experience using language will make reaching this higher standard very likely
International Experience

- Two terms of residential foreign experience
  - Living among and immersed within local academic, research, or work community
  - Total of 26 weeks of active engagement is required
- Two Terms may be any combination of full-time academic study, internship or research
  - Academic study at Georgia Tech overseas campuses, overseas academic partner universities, or faculty-led residential study abroad program
Some key points

- It is an option within existing undergraduate degrees
  - Not a new degree
  - Not a minor
  - No BOR approval required
- IUCC approved overall plan and authority to offer “International Plan” designator at its January meeting
- Each academic unit elects to participate and controls program for that unit
  - Must obtain IUCC approval for specific implementation of the plan for each major offered (5-7 academic units ready to submit plans in March; another 4-5 later in the spring)
  - A faculty committee will coordinate the International Plan across colleges/schools – consists of undergraduate coordinators of participating units
- Support and day-to-day operations facilitated by Office of International Affairs and Division of Professional Practice
- 12 academic units have participated actively in the planning; 5-7 are ready to submit specific plans to the IUCC this spring
A Signature Program

A demanding program for Georgia Tech’s best students

- Participation levels across all majors
  - 100 in first year (Fall, 2005)
  - 300 by fifth year
  - Represents approximately 12% of each graduating class

- Will not replace existing opportunities for international experience and may stimulate interest across the larger student body in study abroad and overseas internships
Bonus Benefits

- Enables Georgia Tech to attract top-notch students who might otherwise go elsewhere
- Gives Georgia Tech a competitive edge over other top universities – anticipating growing interest in international study
- Will put Georgia Tech in national/international leadership role for integration of international study/experience into disciplinary studies
Part of QEP

- Five years to develop and implement the program
- Funding to launch and sustain the program
  - Language instruction
  - International courses
  - Development of study abroad and overseas internships
  - Efforts within colleges and schools to modify or create culminating course and to develop overseas partners.
- Permits comprehensive assessment of learning outcomes and longer term impact of program on participant’s career path
Thank You!

Questions?