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Union University is uniquely positioned as a leader in 21st century missions. Furthermore, intercultural engagement—including community development, humanitarian outreach, and integrative skills—is essential for a globalized world and increasingly important to our student population.

The Center for Intercultural Engagement (CIE)—integratively situated, structured, and staffed—provides campus-wide intercultural academic programming support. By optimizing the missional impact that our students and our community members have here and around the globe, the CIE bolsters Union’s broader mission of supporting interculturallly-engaged, Christ-centered education that promotes excellence and character development in service to Church and society.

The CIE consists of staff and faculty members who are committed to providing guidance, support, instruction, and development for intercultural academic initiatives grounded in current theory and research, current practices found across the academy, the International Education Industry, and our core values.

The CIE partners with both academic departments and various divisions of student services to develop and implement interculturallly-engaged curricular and co-curricular programming in two broad areas: the Study Abroad program and the International Student Program.

The Study Abroad program, housed in Union's Center for Intercultural Engagement, provides structured support for both domestic and international curricular and co-curricular initiatives. Working with faculty and students, the Study Abroad program uses expertise in off-site travel, course transcription management, and financial aid. With a clear protocol prior to departure, support during the experience, and a thorough debriefing process upon return, the Study Abroad program ensures that students have a safe, academically rigorous, and intercultural relevant experience. For a thorough explanation of Study Abroad Programming at Union University, please contact the Study Abroad Coordinator or visit the Center for Intercultural Engagement's website.

Union's Study Abroad program includes direct (concurrent) enrollment, independent institutes or providers, institutional agreements, and third party providers. Furthermore, the Study Abroad program uses a rigorous set of criteria for identifying and cultivating relationships with high-quality, ethically-grounded programs around the world that provide optimal experiences for students. This ensures that we support domestic and international programs that have high academic standards, provide opportunities for students to engage with people from the host institution and the surrounding community, offer a safe living environment, and have an adequate support system for the student. The Center for Intercultural Engagement adheres to the Standards of Good Practice for Education Abroad put forth by the Forum on Education Abroad.

Students may choose to study abroad during a regular se

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