



**UNC
GREENSBORO**

Global Engagement Office

2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT

Global Engagement Office

The Global Engagement Office (GEO) strives to strengthen international education and global learning at UNCG as well as in the Greensboro community.

The following pages highlight important data and statistics regarding GEO's scope of programming and its reach on and off campus.

Message from the Associate Provost



"I am delighted to share the Global Engagement Office Annual Report for AY2024-2025. The report highlights the major global learning accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff, which is made possible in collaboration with UNCG campus partners, Greensboro community partners, and our partners around the world. The students and their success are always at the center of the work we do that prepares them for professional and personal success.

I hope you enjoy reading this year's report.

-Dr. Maria Anastasiou, Associate Provost for Global Engagement

Highlights of the Year

Global Symposium

More than 80 people from UNCG and local community participated in this inaugural event that celebrated global learning and research. Faculty, staff, and students were recognized for their contributions in global learning.

Fulbright TEA and Community Engagement

UNC Greensboro was one of 7 universities in the U.S. selected to implement Fulbright TEA for the third consecutive year. This program positively impacts UNCG, the larger Greensboro community, and communities in more than 30 countries around the world. This is a collaboration between GEO, the School of Education, and Guilford County Schools

31 Benjamin Gilman scholarship recipients

UNC Greensboro continues to be a leader in this area. GEO supports students in receiving this prestigious national awards for their study abroad transformational experiences.

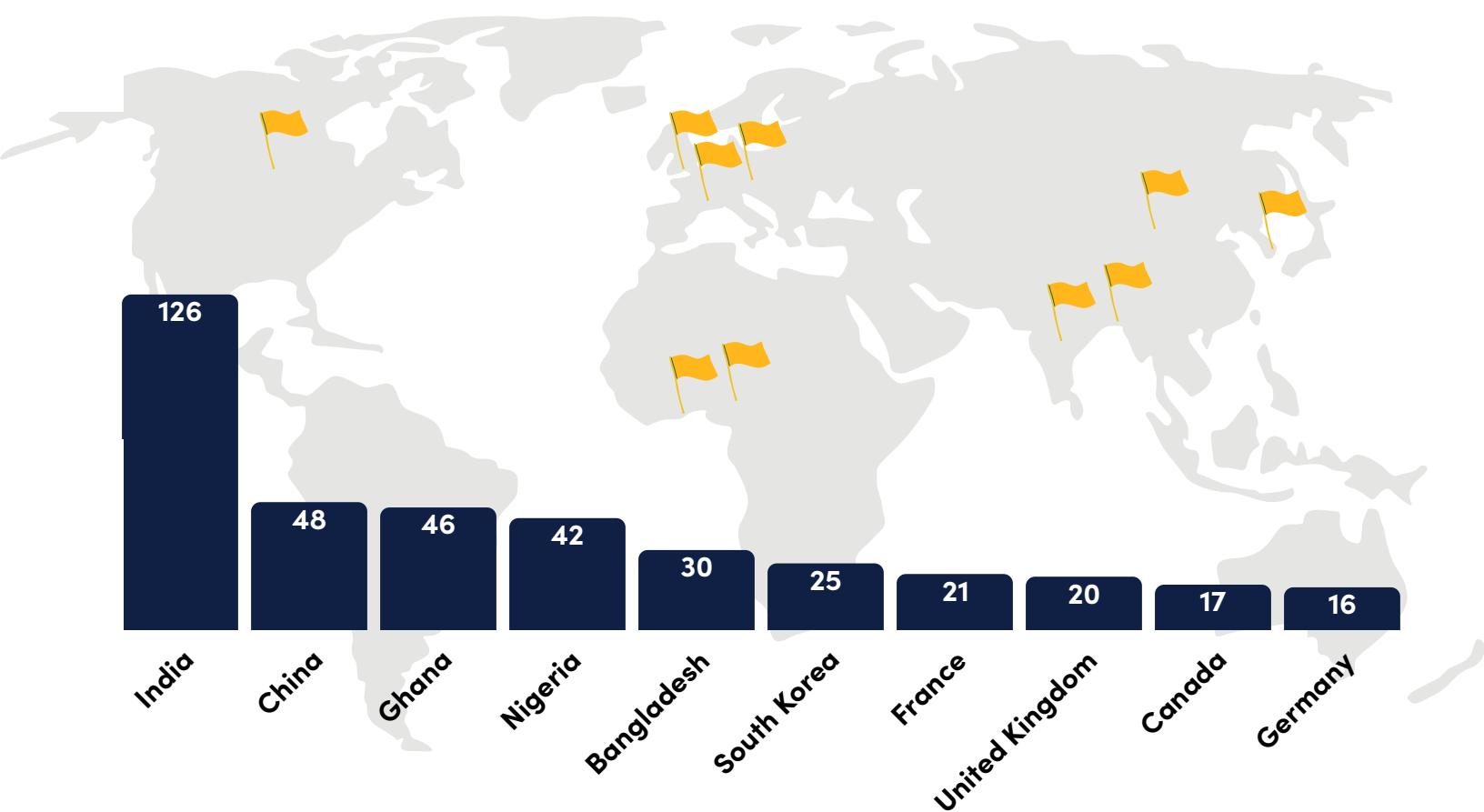
International Students and Scholars at UNC Greensboro

The International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) office is committed to providing information, immigration services, and programs that aid international students and visiting scholars in achieving their professional, educational, and personal goals.

"UNCG is a big welcoming community where no one is judged based on their faith, color, sex, or ideology. A close-knit family where value and integrity is placed over mediocrity and classism."

- Samuel Adegoke, Ph.D. student in Joint School of Nanoscience.

580 students from **102** countries



The J-1 Research Scholar Program

This program is designed to welcome visiting scholars to the United States for the purpose of engaging in research, observation, or consultation related to research projects at U.S. institutions. The program's duration offers flexibility, ranging from 3 weeks to 5 years, catering to the needs of both short-term and long-term research endeavors. The program fosters a dynamic environment for the exchange of ideas, research, and mutual enrichment between the United States and foreign countries. This collaboration strengthens linkages between research and educational institutions, forging lasting partnerships and advancing knowledge globally. UNC Greensboro hosted 34 new visiting international scholars on campus from 18 countries and hosted by 11 academic departments.



Dr. Ashraf Alsagheer, visiting scholar from India, was awarded the 2nd best poster prize at the annual Catalyst Symposium at the North Carolina Research Campus. (scholar recognition) Dr. Ashraf also published a research paper in Analytical Chemistry, discovering a new gas phase chemistry that can pinpoint the carbon-carbon double bond position in lipids. UNCG host: Dr. Qibin Zhang, Center for Translational Biomedical Research

Dr. Ingrid Martinez Aldino, visiting scholar from Mexico and hosted by Dr. Nadja Cech in Chemistry, collected and interpreted the spectroscopic data that is employed to determine the structure of a molecule present in the human skin microbiome that helps to prevent colonization by bacterial pathogens. Dr. Martinez Aldino's work forms the foundation for future development of new treatments for bacterial infections.



Dr. Shivprasad Suresh Patil, visiting scholar from India, published a research paper in Journal of Proteome Research, focusing on human blood plasma derived extracellular vesicles. UNCG host: Dr. Qibin Zhang, Center for Translational Biomedical Research

2024-25 J-1 Scholars' Countries of Origin

China

Brazil	Sri Lanka	Japan
India	Mexico	Nepal
Senegal	Turkey	
S. Korea	UK	

Top 3 Departments Hosting Visiting Scholars

**Center for
Translational
Biomedical Research**



**Chemistry and
Biochemistry**

**Mathematics &
Statistics**

Top Colleges Enrolling International Degree-Seeking Students Over the last 3 years

College of Arts & Sciences

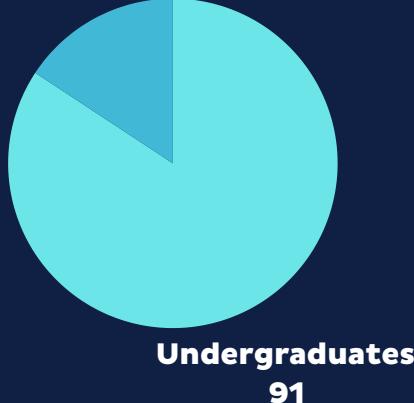
Bryan School of Business

School of Education



Exchange Students

Graduates 17



International Student Enrollment

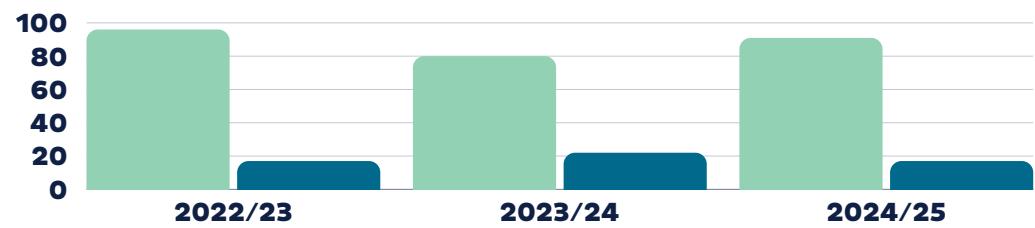


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– Samuel Adegoke, Ph.D. student in Joint School of Nanoscience.

Exchange Students

Undergraduate Graduate



Top 3 sending countries for F-1 Degree-Seeking Students

India

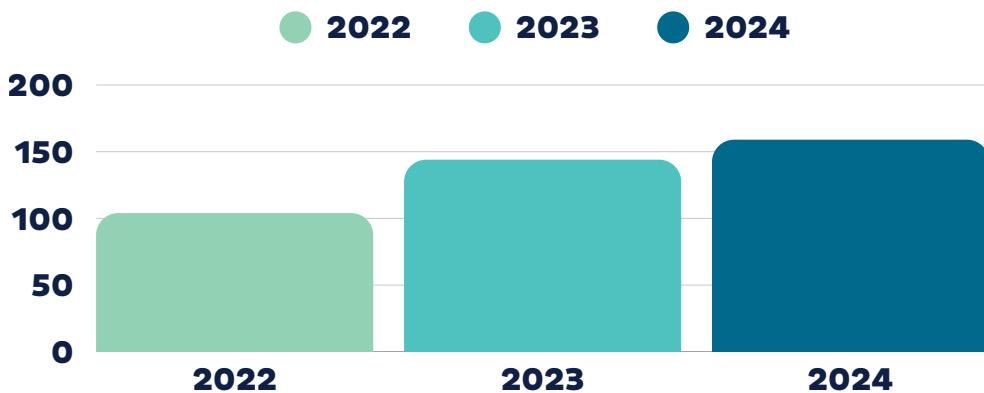
China

Ghana

Optional Practical Training (OPT)

OPT is a temporary employment authorization that allows international students with F-1 or M-1 visas to work in the United States after they graduate from a U.S.-accredited academic institution.

Students on OPT



"Seeking more knowledge to make a change in the world is my motto. I came to do a master's program. I applied to other schools here in United states, got admission but picked UNCG because I had the easiest and smooth admission process with affordable tuition for my program unlike some others. I was also attracted by their strong desire in portraying culture, diversity and equity and this indeed is well represented in UNCG." – Kesiena Abeke, Master of Public Health Student

International Student OPT Placements Include Many Prominent Organizations

**Ocean IT
Software,
LLC**

**Deloitte
Consulting**

**Bank of
America**

**Guilford
County
Schools**

**Infotek
Global**



2024-25 AT A GLANCE

421
students on
77
programs in
32
countries

Benjamin A. Gilman
31 International
Scholarships
awarded, totaling
\$95,000

49%
people of color,
compared to
national average of
32%

30%
had never flown
before

UNC Greensboro Students Studying Abroad

The Study Abroad Office at UNC Greensboro supports students in pursuing international learning opportunities that enrich their academic, professional, and personal growth. The office helps students explore a wide range of programs, including semester and year-long exchanges, faculty-led short-term courses, and summer programs in destinations around the world. Staff provide guidance on selecting programs that align with students' academic goals, navigating the application process, and preparing for life abroad through pre-departure orientations. They also assist with credit transfer, financial planning, scholarship opportunities, and guidance on leveraging skills and experiences to prepare for the workforce.

TOP STUDY ABROAD DESTINATIONS

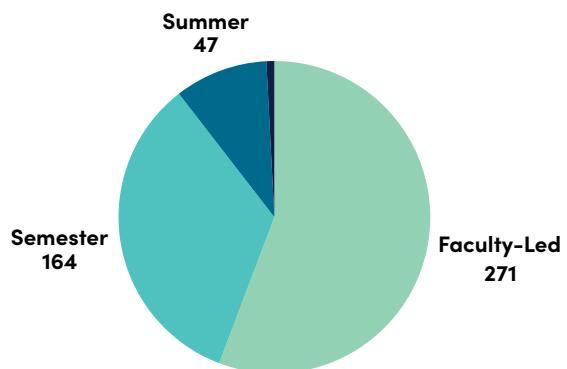


MOST POPULAR PARTNER UNIVERSITIES

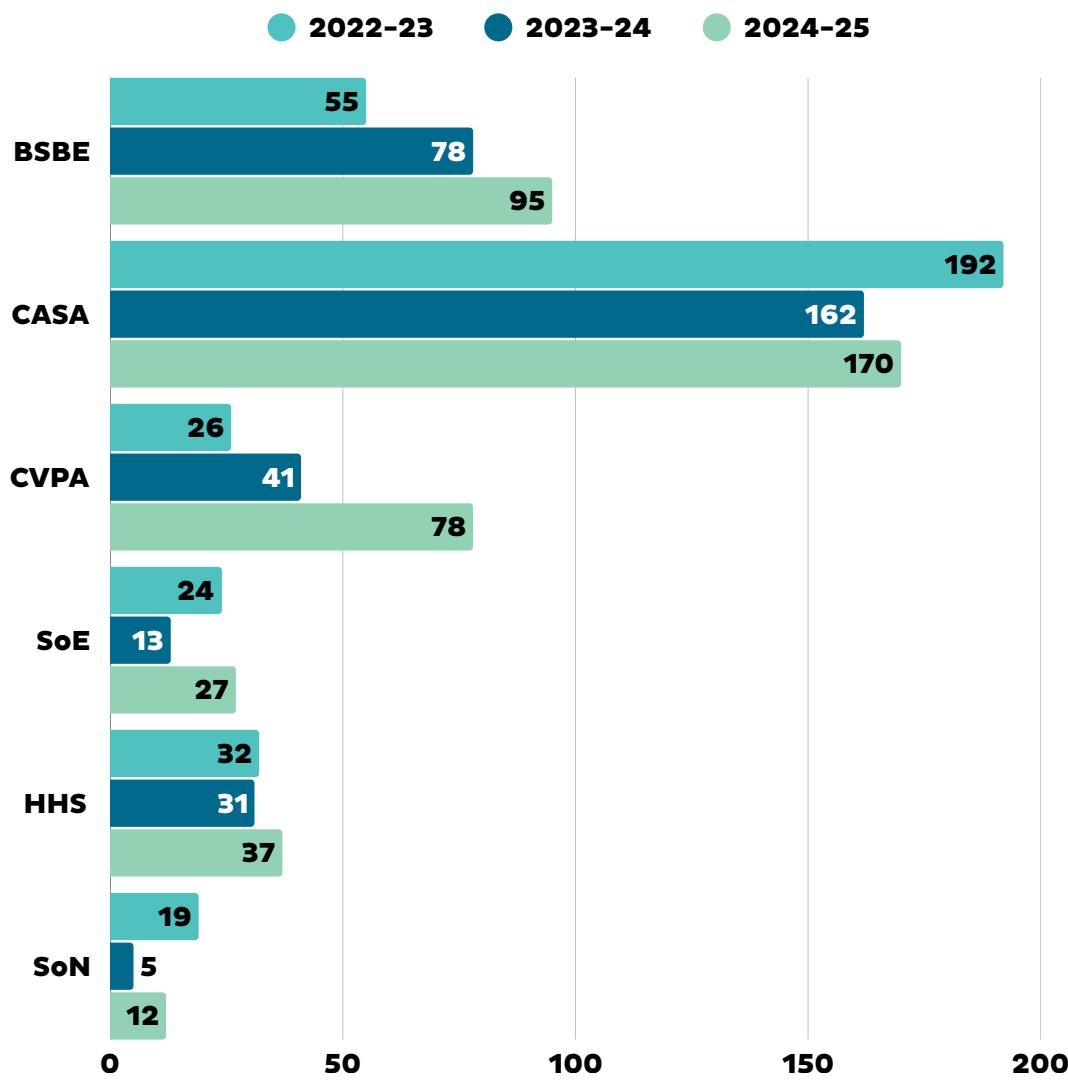
- #1: Lorenzo de Medici, Italy**
- #2: Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea**
- #3 (tie): Nagoya University of Foreign Studies, Japan**
- #3 (tie): Sogang University, South Korea**
- #3 (tie): University Carlo Cattaneo, Italy**
- #3 (tie): University of Wales Trinity St David, UK**

Study Abroad Participation

Participation by Program Type



Participation by College/School



- 37** semester programs
- 18** summer programs
- 22** faculty-led programs

Top Majors



Faculty-Led Programs In Students' Words



Theatre Intensive in London

"I felt like we were forced (positively) into the culture, and so there was a lot that I was learning. Also I felt like I learned a lot about theatre while on this trip, and had a lot of opportunities for me to build on my craft. As a BA, we don't get a lot of opportunities like this and for once, I felt like I was on an even playing field with the BFA majors."



Spanish Immersion in Peru

"This experience abroad helped me to practice my Spanish and learn new words and phrases. Even more than that, I learned about a new culture that is very diverse and its people are extremely kindhearted. I met new people, I made connections and lifelong friendships, and I felt as if I was a part of a family the whole time. In the beginning I was nervous about going abroad, especially because I had never done it before, but everybody in the group helped me to feel safe and understood."



Experience Business in Germany

"My study abroad experience was truly eye-opening and inspired me to pursue my dreams with confidence. Meeting people who shared similar ambitions reminded me that with hard work and dedication, anything is possible. This journey not only broadened my perspective on different cultures and global business but also reinforced my belief in pushing beyond my comfort zone to achieve my goals."



Literary London

"This was a fantastic program to be a part of; I would say this program has helped me grow in my perspective of other countries and what the culture is like, and I gained meaningful connections with my peers. I had a great time working with Chris and Hope and I hope they can do this program again in the future for others."



Space, Form, and Culture, Italy

"The faculty really try to make it worth the money...You could tell they really care. It is also so important to see the world and experience cultures outside your own, not just as people but as designers as well. Travel opens the box to new design strategies and understanding of people and space. It was also just genuinely so much fun."

UNCG Travel Grants for Students

Travel Grants are awarded from funds established by generous donors to UNCG and managed by the Global Engagement Office, Lloyd International Honors College, the Bryan School of Business and Economics, the Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, Philosophy, and Religious Studies Departments for the benefit of students studying abroad.

Kohler Awards

The Kohler Endowment is dedicated to the support of comprehensive internationalization efforts at UNC Greensboro. The endowment was created with generous support of Mrs. Phyllis Penn Kohler and her husband, U.S. Ambassador Foy D. Kohler. The Global Engagement Office allocates a set amount of money annually from the Kohler Fund for awards to faculty and staff global engagement activities.

ITF Awards

The Provost's Office created the International Travel Fund to support faculty to attend international conferences, present their work to an international audience, and interact with colleagues from other countries. The Office of Research and Engagements provides generous support for these awards

Fulbright

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program helps expand perspectives through academic and professional advancement and cross-cultural dialogue in partnership with more than 140 countries worldwide. The program is open to all academic disciplines to passionate and accomplished graduating college seniors, graduate students, and young professionals from all backgrounds. This year UNCG hosted 3 Fulbright visiting scholars. Two faculty members were awarded a Fulbright Scholar award and 1 student was awarded a Fulbright Student award.

\$214,400

Total Travel Grants Disbursed

317

Total Travel Grant Recipients

\$676

Average Travel Grant Award

\$13,700

Total Kohler Funds Disbursed

14

Total Kohler Award Recipients

\$1,000

Average Kohler Award

\$20,900

Total ITF Awards Disbursed

35

Total ITF Award Recipients

\$600

Average ITF Award



Awards

Global Engagement

Champion:

**Dr. S Anandavalli
(Alumni)**

Faculty Global

Excellence:

**Dr. Vasyl Taras
(Management)**

Faculty Global

Excellence:

**Dr. Hewan Girma
(AAADS)**

Student Global Impact:

**Dominic Done
(Senior)**

Global Symposium

In celebration of UNC Greensboro's many decades of global engagement success, GEO hosted its very first Global Symposium on April 4, 2025! Nominations were collected for the following award categories:

Global Engagement Champion Award: This accolade honors individuals, including UNCG staff, friends and alumni, who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to global engagement and have exhibited leadership in supporting the University's global engagement, reputation, and excellence.

Faculty Global Excellence Award: Presented to a faculty member or a group of faculty members who have demonstrated excellence in advancing global engagement through innovative projects, programs, or other internationally focused activities.

Student Global Impact Award: This recognition celebrates students, including undergraduates, graduates, international students, and visiting scholars, who have made significant contributions to our local and international communities through their studies, internships, or other forms of global community engagement activities.



Fulbright Teaching Excellence and Achievement

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) is one of seven universities in the US selected to host a six-week Fulbright Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) Program for 21 secondary school teachers. Fulbright TEA participants foster positive interactions with Americans throughout their time in the United States, especially in American classrooms. All program participants have opportunities to observe, co-teach, and share their expertise in U.S. secondary schools. They are master teachers of English, English as a foreign language, science, mathematics, and social studies, including special education in those subject areas. Fulbright TEA is funded by the U.S. government, supported by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the U.S. Department of State, and administered by IREX. The Global Engagement Office and the School of Education collaborate to implement the program at UNCG.

Global Visiting Scholar Program

As a world-class institution, UNC Greensboro welcomes faculty and researchers from around the world. The Exchange Visitor Program, administered by the U.S. Department of State, allows UNCG to use the J-1 Exchange Visitor immigration classification to invite or employ visiting scholars including foreign professors, research scholars, short-term scholars and specialists in the U.S. temporarily.

Global UGrad

The Global Undergraduate Exchange Program (also known as the Global UGRAD Program) provides one semester scholarships to outstanding undergraduate students from around the world for non-degree full-time study combined with community service, professional development, and cultural enrichment.

"As a cultural ambassador of Tunisia, I made it my mission to connect with international and American students, learn from the American culture but also teach the Tunisian culture and the beauty of being a North African from amazing origins. UNCG has quickly become my new home over the past month. There's always something to do —whether it's joining clubs and student organizations, volunteering, attending events and game nights, or watching sports. Beyond social activities, UNCG provides incredible support for students' academic and professional growth." - Khalil Oueslati, Global UGRAD student from Tunisia





Global Alumni Network

This group helps UNCG Alumni to connect with former international and study-abroad students and develop networking opportunities with domestic and international companies.



Samson Adegbienro
President



Theophraste Noussi
Vice President



Sri Ram Nanne
Treasurer



Winnie Mwayi
Communication Officer



Parth Desai
Secretary



Chibor Chibor
Board Advisor



Marise Fernandes
Board Advisor

China: New Partnerships on the Horizon

In December 2024 a group of 10 UNCG faculty, staff and students visited several Chinese institutions, including Jiangxi Normal University, Wuhan Haiden Foreign Language International School, and Hubei University, to explore potential collaboration opportunities with UNCG.

On August 2–3, 2025, UNCG welcomed a delegation from Zhejiang Industry & Trade Vocational College for their first U.S. visit. The two institutions explored collaboration in Computer Science, shared academic insights, and built cross-cultural connections — including a special gathering hosted by Dr. Anastasiou at her home.



