



PERSPECTIVES on EXCELLENCE

August 2005



Avijit Ghosh
Dean
College of Business
University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign

More than forty years ago, Canadian author and philosopher Marshall McLuhan said that we live in a “global village.” How surprised he would be to learn how much more global we are today, in our daily lives and most certainly in business.

At the College of Business global education experiences are available to all students through a variety of international educational programs. Global immersion programs offer undergraduate and graduate students a critical advantage in preparing for work in a global business environment — and for life — in an increasingly smaller world.

An international perspective, with its exposure to new cultures and countries often in sharp contrast to life in the United States, is a personal and professional development opportunity for our students. Whether they study abroad for a semester or a year or take advantage of the ever increasing number of immersive study classes offered by the College, our students return to Illinois and the US with a new perspective on their futures.

Students have the option of studying abroad for a few weeks, a summer, a semester, or the entire academic year. From an 11-day study trip to China to a two-week MBA class held at the University of Warsaw to an academic year in Spain, more than 300 College of Business students each year are experiencing education, work, and life outside Illinois. Faculty eagerly develop immersive classes that integrate classroom experience with interaction with business and academic leaders in countries around the world and our International Programs office assists students in developing a curriculum plan.

Such experiences are often funded through generous gifts from individuals and corporate friends of the College. They have the vision to see the value of international experiences. And, I am pleased to say, our students embrace that vision. Their enthusiasm for living and learning outside of the United States is a testament to their understanding that the world is, indeed, a global village.

Avijit Ghosh
Dean

Recent International Programs and Study Trips

- Honors Seminar Trip to Japan and Korea, May
- Hoelt Technology & Management Program Immersive Class in China, May
- International Business Exposure Program in Germany, March
- MBA Study Experience at the University of Warsaw, March
- International Study Trip to New Zealand, March
- Taiwan and Vietnam Study Trip, March
- Entrepreneurial Study Trip to China, January

For more information about international initiatives, visit studyabroad.business.uiuc.edu.