

# Review of operations

## Internationalisation

*“AUQA commends USC for its Global Opportunities (GO) Program which is highly valued by students...”*

*Australian Universities Quality Agency report*



*International students... France's Nicolas de la Brosse (left), says he chose to come to USC because it offered him the chance to study in one of Australia's best coastal locations. "I chose to study at USC because it is a good university and it's close to the sea, cheaper than others, and provides a relaxing place to study," he said.*

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**Goal: to engage in international activities, including internationalisation of the curriculum, to heighten academic, economic, and cultural benefits for the region**

*Increase the number of domestic students studying part of their program overseas, including through the Global Opportunities Program*

### GO-ing overseas

This year, the University's Global Opportunities (GO) Program was commended by AUQA (page 10) and won a major State Government award at the Celebrating International Education and Training Industry Showcase.

The Program, launched in 2004, encourages a global perspective and gives graduates a competitive edge by facilitating overseas study for academic credit. This year, 6.56 percent of graduating domestic students had spent up to two semesters overseas as GO participants, expanding their personal and professional horizons while earning credit towards their degrees.

The University has partnerships with more than 70 universities and institutions worldwide, with GO places available in Canada, Mexico, Costa Rica, Brazil, USA, Chile, Peru, Japan, Korea, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Norway and other countries.

All USC students now receive a grant or scholarship subsidy when participating in the GO Program. Students are provided with either the USC Overseas Study grant to the value of up to \$2,000, or scholarship grants offered by particular overseas partner universities; external organisations such as JASSO (Japan Student Services Organisation); or grants of up to \$5,000 each provided by the Australian Government as part of the Endeavour Program.

GO is publicised to students via the University website and portal; seminars; *Courses for Careers* open day, the Exchange Fair and other informational events; and on-campus social activities.

### GO-ing again

The GO undergraduate experience can lead to major postgraduate study opportunities overseas. Examples in 2007 include the following.

- An invitation to complete a masters degree and a two-year, full-fee scholarship (including tuition, fees, health insurance and a US\$1,000 monthly stipend) took 2005 science graduate Nikki Bird back to the University of Wyoming, where she studied as a GO student in 2004.
- A two-year Japanese Government scholarship worth at least \$100,000 took Daniel Gilham (combined arts/business graduate) back to Japan to complete a Master of Business at Waseda University in Tokyo. He chose to enrol at USC in 2004 because of the GO Program and spent 10 months of his first undergraduate year at Nagoya University for Foreign Students.

### GO student numbers

2005	2006	2007
48 students	56 students	68 students

## Internationalisation

### *Increase the proportion of international students in the student body*

The proportion of international students increased to 11 percent of the on-campus student body, compared with 10 percent in each of the previous two years (page 15). These percentages have remained stable due to the concurrent increase in domestic student numbers.

Various marketing methods for recruiting international students included recruitment agents, exhibitions, visits to VET/TAFE institutions, visits to English language schools, print and electronic publications, and pathways established with partner institutions. The latter remains significant, as reflected by enrolments in the University's Study Abroad program.

### *Increase the number of USC staff undertaking projects involving teaching and research in collaboration with international partner universities*

The University launched a central database this year to track teaching and research collaborations involving international partners. The improved data will help monitor progress and feed into planning.

International research collaborations (page 35) this year included the following.

- Two articles in academic journals were among outcomes from a tourism study conducted by USC and Washington State University management researchers. The project investigated local residents' preferences for tourism development on the Sunshine Coast. Findings included overwhelming local support for the idea of developing cultural/historic/nature-based attractions rather than theme parks and large hotels or resort complexes.
- USC biomedical scientists are working with scientists at the University of Iowa, USA on a two-year project analysing risk factors of humans spreading the equine influenza virus. Outcomes could help contain future outbreaks of the disease, which is new to Australia but common in other countries.



*High-flying... German Sport University Cologne student Andreas Mierau enjoys the sensation of weightlessness aboard a parabolic flight campaign that involved USC exercise scientist Dr Chris Askew. Andreas is currently attending USC to undertake research work with Dr Askew into the benefits of exercise. Photograph by Dr Stefan Schneider.*

- A USC sports scientist working with colleagues at Leuven University, Belgium and German Sport University Cologne secured rights to research the ergonomic and physiological profile of elite handcyclists at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games. USC and Campinas University, Brazil also gained approval to track the player movements of elite wheelchair rugby players at the Olympics.
- A flight over Paris in a modified Airbus A300 (nicknamed the *Vomit Comet*) and ground-based research at USC were highlights of a research partnership involving exercise physiologists from USC and German Sport University Cologne. The Paris flight, part of a project funded by the German Space Agency, tested the effects of weightlessness (zero gravity) on brain activity, mood changes and blood hormonal responses. The USC-based and USC-funded work in Australia used the testing devices carried on the Airbus to assess differences in the psycho-physiological stress-relaxation thresholds of individuals during aerobic and anaerobic exercise.

### *International visitors to USC...*

- Anand Krishnaswamy, employed by the non-profit Lemelson Foundation in Chennai, India (three-month internship with the USC Innovation Centre, offered through the Australian Government Endeavour professional development scheme)
- 12 academics from the United States and Canada (AIE-sponsored visit to familiarise delegates with the Australian education system—campus tour and presentations)
- Indonesian Ambassador Teuku Mohammad Hamzah Thayeb (opened 9<sup>th</sup> biennial Australian Society of Indonesian Language Educators Conference, USC campus)
- Dr Richard S. Matthews, philosopher and ethicist at Mount Allison University, Canada (visiting scholar, delivered a free public lecture on *Torture and evil consequences*)
- 13 academics from universities in the German state of Hessen (campus tour and attendance at USC Exchange Fair)

## Internationalisation

### Internationalise the curriculum

The University's Learning and Teaching Plan, available online, requires an international focus throughout the curriculum. Implementation began in 2005 and continues, with the aim of completing examination of all courses by the end of 2009.

Moves to boost internationalisation included:

- expanding the GO program (page 46);
- increasing numbers of on-campus international students (pages 15, 47);
- inviting staff from partner universities to teach in USC programs; and
- encouraging USC staff to experience teaching overseas.

### Promote appreciation of global and intercultural issues through interaction between international students, other parts of the University community and the broader community

The University calendar again included numerous public events with a global flavour. Celebrations large and small marked World Day for Cultural Diversity, Harmony Day, Indigenous Education Week, World AIDS Day, and World Mental Health Day (pages 43–44).

Research projects (pages 35–37) included international collaborations, and teaching (pages 22–31) reflected a global focus.

### USC activities abroad...

- Dr Mark Sayers, Senior Lecturer in Sports Biomechanics and sports biomechanist with the New Zealand All Blacks (speaker at the 6<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Science and Football, in Turkey; helped train the All Blacks for the Rugby World Cup in France and the Bledisloe Cup in Melbourne)
- Dr Brendan Burkett, Director of CHASE (three months in Norway, Belgium, Germany and Ireland for research collaboration, teaching and USC promotional work)

## Key performance indicators

### Increasing to five percent the proportion of graduating students who have undertaken part of their undergraduate programs overseas by 2009

The following table summarises the number and proportion of domestic bachelor degree graduates (excluding honours graduates) who have undertaken overseas study towards their degree. Students are included if they have undertaken overseas studies as part of either a formal exchange program or in-country language studies.

Year of conferral	Graduates (total numbers)	Numbers completing overseas study	Percentage
2003	430	14	3.26%
2004	483	9	1.86%
2005	438	18	4.11%
2006	462	20	4.33%
2007 <sup>1</sup>	488	32	6.56%

<sup>1</sup> Includes graduates up to and including the latest major graduation ceremony in May 2007.

### Increasing to 20 percent the number of international students in the student body

A particular challenge in achieving a higher proportion of international students in the student body is rapid growth in domestic enrolments (the base against which the proportion is measured).

Year <sup>1</sup>	International award students	Study Abroad students	Other <sup>2</sup>	Total (international students) <sup>3</sup>	Percentage (international students)
2003	205	88	0	293	8.3%
2004	351	153	0	504	13.1%
2005	505	168	0	673	15.8%
2006	528	164	1	693	14.7%
2007	621	204	2	827	15.8%

<sup>1</sup> As at Census 1 each year.

<sup>2</sup> Includes visiting enrolments and enrolments in the Enabling and Tertiary Preparation programs.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes inbound exchange students; includes on and off-campus students.

### On-campus international students as a percentage of all on-campus students by faculty<sup>1</sup>

Year	Arts and Social Sciences	Business	Science, Health and Education
2003	10%	8%	4%
2004	13%	12%	6%
2005	14%	14%	6%
2006	13%	17%	5%
2007	11%	20%	10%

<sup>1</sup> Based on annual EFTSL (Equivalent Full-Time Student Load).

## Internationalisation

### *Increasing to five percent the proportion of USC staff pursuing projects involving teaching or research with colleagues from international partner universities*

Staff from USC International and all USC faculties are collecting data in this area.

### *All courses examined through the curriculum internationalisation project by 2009*

Internationalisation of the curriculum is mandated in the University's Learning and Teaching Plan. Implementation began in 2005 and continues with the aim of examining all programs and courses by the end of 2009.

### *Positive and constructive feedback from internal students and the community*

No year-on-year trend or benchmarking data is currently available. However work to distinguish between student type in Course Experience Questionnaire data is being undertaken to enhance understanding of the University's performance in relation to international students.

Surveys and other feedback on various aspects of the University's operations yielded the following outcomes.

- USC exceeded several Total International (pages 18–19) respondent scores in an Australian Education International survey of all on-shore international students in Australia.
- USC International staff review and act upon verbal and written feedback gathered as follows: from Study Abroad students (via the Feedback on Teaching process and an exit survey); from Study Tour students; and from Homestay families.
- English Language Programs maintains systematic and thorough processes for gathering feedback. This is reviewed by the Director of Studies and staff, and used to formulate improvements.



*Internationalisation award... Emi Tamba and Liani Eckard, USC International staff members, with the award for the Global Opportunities (GO) Program presented at the Celebrating International Education and Training Industry Showcase in Brisbane in August. The GO Program was commended in the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) audit report, which noted that the program was highly valued by students, and that participants were well supported by the University.*

### The year 2008

- International visitors will include University of Wyoming researchers, to advance work conducted during previous visits on fiscal impact modelling for local government services.
- Internationalising the curriculum (as outlined in the Learning and Teaching Plan) will continue with the goal of examining all courses by the end of 2009.
- Public events commemorating and celebrating international issues will remain a significant part of the University calendar.
- On-campus international student enrolments are poised to increase.



*Return to Wyoming... former USC GO Program student Nikki Bird returned to the University of Wyoming in 2007 to begin a Masters in Soil Science. Nikki, who received a \$2,000 travel grant when she studied in the GO Program in 2004, was offered a scholarship to study her postgraduate program at UWYO.*