

## BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Office of Global Affairs

Create Date: 02/06/2025

Due Date: 02/07/2025

Submitter Name: Vanessa de Veritch Woodsic

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Department Head Approval:

Department Head: Vanessa de Veritch Woodsic

Requested Amount: **\$51,120**

## Departmental Information

### STUDENT UTILIZATION

**Global Ambassadors** brings together domestic and international students for themed cohort meetings, during which we discuss global and local social justice issues. The program is grounded in cultural humility, and participants engage with local experts and community groups, have peer-to-peer discussions, and participate in guided reflection activities that challenge their understanding of power, privilege, and justice. We balance discussions with social activities to create trust and meaningful connections.

Leveraging the expertise of our students, we offer informal, non-credited **language lessons** that are open and free to UWT students. Because UWT only regularly offers courses in Spanish, this initiative significantly expands opportunities for language learning, celebrates students' linguistic and cultural diversity, and promotes intercultural learning.

**OGA Study Abroad Fellows** provide critical support for UWT Study Abroad since there is currently only one full-time SA staff position. Many students don't realize we offer study abroad and for those who do, most assume it's not feasible for them. The most effective way for students to learn about these transformative opportunities and how to make study abroad work for them (in terms of finances, credits, juggling responsibilities, etc.) is hearing it from fellow students that have been in their shoes. In addition to peer advising, OGA Fellows coordinate events, create marketing and outreach materials, offer info sessions in collaboration with other units, maintain website content, and collaborate with staff on special projects.

### CORE VALUES/MISSION ALIGNMENT

Our programs aim to reduce disparities in achievement, experience and opportunity across diverse groups of students, create opportunities for students to learn about our diverse communities, and foster a sense of belonging, in alignment with the strategic plan:

- 1: Advance student success academically, professionally, and personally.
  - 84% of study abroad alumni felt their studies abroad helped them build valuable skills for the job market (AIFS Study Abroad Outcomes Study), but typically only about 2% of UWT students study abroad. Our programs bring together international, domestic and multilingual students and engage them in global learning right here on campus. Research indicates participation in these kinds of cocurricular activities positively correlates with students' academic and personal development and contributes to their success.
  - 1D: Ensure every student has opportunities to engage in high impact practices (HIPs).
  - Participants range from first-year to graduate-level students, and the program enables meaningful and sustained interaction: Students develop international perspectives, gain cultural humility and learn a foreign language. An explicit goal of the program is to challenge students' ways of thinking and to facilitate interactions with individuals who have life experiences different from their own.
  - 8A: Expand opportunities for students, faculty and staff to engage in the work of social justice and anti-racism.
- 8B: Expand opportunities for training and community conversations to enhance a culture of inclusive excellence, mutual respect and social justice
- Our cohort regularly gathers to discuss local social justice issues through a global lens. During these meetings students also learn how to get involved in the local community, and some activities in-between cohort meetings take place in collaboration with South Sound community partners.
  - 10: Intentionally create spaces, programs and activities that encourage engagement with our campus
- 10A: Create and expand opportunities to activate our campus.
- Our programs build community among students and help create a sense of belonging. We provide an opportunity for students to develop relationships with those they might not otherwise meet, which can lead to broader social and professional networks for all participants.

## SAF-FUNDED PROGRAM OR SERVICES GOALS AND OUTCOMES

The **Global Ambassadors** program provides an opportunity for global learning without the need to travel; it introduces students to the concept of cultural humility and connects our local and global communities. The program reflects UWT's urban-serving mission by developing participants' interest in and understanding of social justice issues while providing real ways for participants to be involved on our campus and in our community. Our guided discussions are rooted in cultural humility, and, after meetings, members can use this framework in everyday lives. They are able to identify examples of power, privilege, and/or oppression in their local and global communities. Through our invigorating discussions they learn to build meaningful relationships with people from diverse backgrounds and learn to feel more comfortable having important conversations with people of differing opinions. Members leave knowing how to reflect on their biases, privileges, and the general intersectionality of their identities. Due to lack of staffing, this program has been on hiatus. We're excited to bring it back in the coming year now that we will again have a full-time staff person that can oversee Study Abroad and Global Ambassadors.

**Language Lessons:** Based on robust survey results about students' interests in specific language options, we've offered a variety of lessons facilitated by a student worker who is a native speaker and is trained and supervised by OGA staff. In Autumn 2024, we offered Mandarin and Hindi lessons and we're currently offering Korean and Japanese lessons.

Informal language lessons goals are:

- Create opportunities for informal language learning for students (in languages that are not offered for credit)
- Celebrate the linguistic diversity of our student body
- Promote intercultural learning and exchange among students

**Study Abroad:** We take great pride in knowing that the demographics of UWT students who study abroad mirror the demographics of our broader student body in terms of race, ethnicity, first-gen status, Pell-eligibility, etc. This is certainly not the case at other institutions nationally and we strongly believe it's due largely to our OGA Fellows, who help students "see" themselves in terms of identities and lived experiences and assist peers with finding ideal options and navigating processes to make studying abroad work for them. Our OGA Fellows frequently collaborate with Office of First Gen, the CEI, the VRMC, and DRS to host workshops, info sessions, etc.

## STUDENT UTILIZATION (COMPARISON OVER PAST 2 YEARS)

Due to ongoing personnel transitions and associated capacity issues, we haven't been able to offer the **Global Ambassadors** program during the 2024-25 academic year. We are confident that we will be poised to reinstate the program in 2025-26 with strong student participation now that we will onboard the one full-time staff position (which has been vacant since August) later this month. During 2020-21, approximately 7-12 students regularly participated in our events. We had to adapt our in-person model to a virtual Zoom model and had a consistent group of students participate. In 2021-22, we had record consistent turn-out, with at least 12-15 students at each weekly meeting. In 2022-23, we offered the same weekly meetings with added activities and incorporated three bonding trips (one trip per month of the quarter). The attendance of these weekly meetings ranged from 10-15 people consistently.

In previous years, students were not required to apply to the program, and we did not ask demographic questions (age, race, gender, etc.) beyond their academic year and if they were a domestic or international student on our initial entrance reflection. We want it to be as easy as possible for participants to attend our first meeting.

Two years ago, we hosted a variety of off-campus events like a trip to the Tacoma Night Market (15 participants), a Thanksgiving Dinner at our local pizza place, the Rock, (28 participants) and Bellevue Snowflake Lane to celebrate the holidays (35 participants). We even hosted a volunteer event at the Giving Garden (10 participants). Many of our events were collaborative efforts with Student Activities Board, the Giving Garden, First Generation Initiatives, and the Center of Equity and Inclusion. This collaboration both helps to introduce our students to these other offices and helps the Global Ambassadors program reach a broader audience on campus - one that is reflective of our student demographics. We had a wide a range of majors including Psychology, Politics, Philosophy, and Economics, Accounting, Business, Criminal Justice, Bio-Med, and Nursing majors, and had class standings of sophomore, junior, senior, graduate students and sometimes even alumni.

The informal **language lessons** began in 2017 and have been offered to students for free, initially with support from the Strategic Initiative Fund and since 2020 with support from SAFC. During 2021-22, 35 students and alumni participated in Japanese and Korean lessons. Some participants only attended one or two sessions, but many attended regularly over the course of a quarter or even the entire academic year. In 2021-22, 15 students regularly participated in Japanese lessons. In 2022-23, 20 students regularly participated in Japanese lessons. Though turnout was relatively low in Autumn 2024 for the Mandarin and Hindi classes (which got started rather late in the quarter), we already have 20 students regularly participating in both the Korean and Japanese lessons.

## COLLECTION OF FEEDBACK & IMPROVEMENTS

**Global Ambassadors:** At the end of every meeting, we reflect on the day's topic, and students provide either verbal or written feedback. Our coordinator takes detailed notes and reviews the notes after every meeting to assure progress is being made. Participants are sometimes asked to fill out post-discussion surveys, where we ask them to share topics they'd like to discuss at future meetings. We often also ask students to participate in "What stuck with you?" reflection activities, examples of which are provided in the supplemental documentation section of the proposal. We previously tracked attendance using sign-in sheets when we meet in person, but plan to use Dubnet to track interest and participation. We use data to choose monthly themes, make changes to activities and delivery of content, plan social events and market our program.

**Language Lessons:** We have begun to use Dubnet to track interest and participation in our language lessons. We also administer language lesson evaluations at the end of each quarter. The evaluations ask a series of closed-ended and open-ended questions modeled after the teaching evaluations used by academic units. Students typically provide detailed feedback, including what they liked most, what they liked least, and what change(s) they would like to see implemented. The staff member responsible for supervising language lesson facilitators also observes at least two lessons per quarter and provides feedback to the facilitator throughout the quarter.

**OGA Study Abroad Fellows:** Due to limited capacity, we haven't regularly assessed feedback about the impact of peer advising and other aspects of the Fellows' work. We recently shifted to use of Bookings for students to schedule peer advising appointments with our OGA Fellows; this will enable us to better capture data about use of services.

## SERVICE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

**Global Ambassadors** aims to provide a safe space for meaningful discourse and open discussion on relevant world issues from the standpoint of cultural humility. Verbal feedback from participants indicates that these meetings introduced them to unfamiliar topics and perspectives. Past participants also shared the ways in which these meetings have connected to their classes and daily lives. For example, after discussing indigenous issues in the month of November, students decided to try out the Native American-focused menu items at Alma Mater. After learning about religious oppression, students independently researched local religious and ethnic minority groups and stumbled upon the Pacific Bonsai Museum in Federal Way. Students joined and utilized the First Generation Fellows Initiative after attending a presentation from that office. Our volunteer visit to the Giving Garden made students aware of the garden itself, and students learned it provides fresh vegetables to the UWT Pantry and Court 17.

Most importantly, we're able to provide a space for community as we are re-learning in-person social interaction. Participants have asked for our meetings to be longer and for us to host additional events on- and off-campus. Because of the trust and intimacy we've built with our participants, we can read the vibe in the room and do a quick pivot to meet the needs of our students, which is particularly important during these challenging times. Our members feel they are part of a community during a time when many people are feeling lonely and left behind.

In the end-of-quarter teaching evaluations of informal **language lessons**, students consistently share their excitement and gratitude for being able to learn a new language from one of their peers. (The language lesson facilitators are trained bilingual student workers). Students also report developing a better understanding of the cultures and countries in which the languages are spoken and often express a desire to engage with the language more frequently. They also identify the benefit of creating community over a shared interest in language learning.

**OGA Study Abroad Fellows:** We regularly hear informally from students that have decided to look into, or commit to, studying abroad that they felt driven to do so after conversations with our Fellows at tabling events, in class visits, during advising appointments, or random chats in a shared class. While hearing from faculty and full-time staff helps students understand the personal and professional benefits of studying abroad, peers are more effective in conveying that information and more in a unique way that makes students feel comfortable discussing the possibilities and what to expect, how to pay for it, etc. These Fellows are on the front lines, making the transformative experience of study abroad visible to their peers and, through describing their own experiences, helping them to see that studying abroad is doable and extremely beneficial for their future academic or professional prospects.

## Staff Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Student Staff <sup>3</sup>	<b>Global Ambassadors Coordinator: \$16.66 per hour for 12 months (10 hours per week)</b> E001	
	Student Staff Wages:	<b>\$8,663</b>
	Fringe @ 23%:	<b>\$1,992</b>
Student Staff <sup>3</sup>	<b>Language Lesson Facilitator #1: \$16.66 per hour for 9 months (7 hours per week)</b> E002	
	Student Staff Wages:	<b>\$4,548</b>
	Fringe @ 23%:	<b>\$1,046</b>
Student Staff <sup>3</sup>	<b>Language Lesson Facilitator #2: \$16.66 per hour for 9 months (7 hours per week)</b> E003	
	Student Staff Wages:	<b>\$4,548</b>
	Fringe @ 23%:	<b>\$1,046</b>
Student Staff <sup>3</sup>	<b>OGA Study Abroad Fellow #1: \$16.66 per hour for 12 months (10 hours per week)</b> E004	
	Student Staff Wages:	<b>\$8,663</b>
	Fringe @ 23%:	<b>\$1,992</b>
Student Staff <sup>3</sup>	<b>OGA Study Abroad Fellow #2: \$16.66 per hour for 12 months (10 hours per week)</b> E005	
	Student Staff Wages:	<b>\$8,663</b>
	Fringe @ 23%:	<b>\$1,992</b>
PERSONNEL TOTAL:		<b>\$43,155</b>

## Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Other Services	HRPM Workday fee for five (5) student workers	S001 <b>\$4,015</b>
Travel	Travel to off-site events for Global Ambassadors cohort	S002 <b>\$750</b>
Non-Food Supplies & Materials	printing charges (advertising) and fees to cover social activities such as bowling, escape room, games, etc.	S003 <b>\$1,200</b>
Food	for Global Ambassadors meetings, language lesson celebrations, etc.	S004 <b>\$2,000</b>
SUPPLIMENTAL TOTAL:		<b>\$7,965</b>

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	<b>\$43,155</b>
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	<b>\$7,965</b>
<b>COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$51,120</b>

## Supplemental Documents



### **JAPANESE LANGUAGE LESSONS**

Flyer



### **KOREAN LANGUAGE LESSONS**

Flyer



### **MANDARIN LANGUAGE LESSONS**

Flyer



### **HINDI LANGUAGE LESSONS**

Flyer



### **JANUARY 2025 STUDY ABROAD NEWSLETTER**

Example of newsletter prepared by OGA Study Abroad Fellows and the various events and services they provide