The Center for Global Studies advances the University of Wyoming to the next level of excellence in internationally focused research in order to find solutions to complex global problems.

Its mission is to enhance international competencies across campus to prepare Wyoming students – particularly the 90% who have not had an international experience, as well as faculty, communities, and businesses – to compete and succeed in the global economy and an increasingly multifaceted and interdependent world. The center taps the potential for interdisciplinary, collaborative, and international expertise at UW to invigorate faculty interactions and student-faculty international research, to enrich teaching, and to share its global academic expertise with UW, Wyoming, and the world.

This center, with links to the social sciences, humanities, and STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and math), provides a model for creating and enhancing three primary areas:

- student research and international fieldwork opportunities;
- faculty international research opportunities; and
- outreach, guest speakers, and symposia.

Within each of the three primary areas listed above, the center examines the implications – from local to global – of evolving international challenges:

- energy, water, health, and food security;
- environment and national resources;
- sustainable development and economics;
- human rights, justice, and ethics; and
- leadership and governance in global policymaking.

The center accomplishes its mission by providing access to both funding and expertise, which leads to expanded and enriched international experiences for students and faculty. The center builds from UW’s unique status as Wyoming’s only state-funded university and responds to calls to promote internationalization and to prepare students for the complex global economy.
Alyssa Kaelin, MA in International Studies (right). Alyssa examined the internal tensions and socioeconomic hierarchies in a commercialized homestay village in Nepal.
The center provides financial support for undergraduate and graduate students’ internationally based research and internship opportunities, as well as graduate fellowship programs to reward top students, research assistantship opportunities for students, and undergraduate scholarships. Students from multiple disciplines across campus are supported by the center’s initiatives.

The center’s support for international research opportunities serves as a recruitment tool to draw the best students to the University of Wyoming and provides competitive funding to help students conducting fieldwork abroad. Graduate fellowships reward the highest performing students and help them finish their thesis and dissertation projects. Research assistantship stipends offer opportunities for students to work collaboratively with faculty on their research projects and provide important support for center-sponsored research.

The Center for Global Studies has supported student projects from multiple disciplines.

Callie Berman, BA in International Studies/Environment and Natural Resources and Geology. Callie received the Rosemarie Martha Spitaleri Award as UW’s outstanding graduating woman. She was supported by the Center for Global Studies - School of Energy Resources Nielson Scholarship in her senior year. Callie is pictured doing artificial insemination work for a joint U.S.-China wagyu beef operation in Inner Mongolia, China.
Working with her graduate school mentors Professor Thomas Seitz (Global and Area Studies) and Professor Susan Dewey (Gender and Women’s Studies), Cara Durr secured research funds from the University of Wyoming and used a nationally competitive U.S. State Department Critical Languages Scholarship to spend six months in Central Java studying the Indonesian language before completing research on women’s microfinance cooperatives.

“Microcredit is often lauded as a panacea for poverty alleviation and a tool to increase women’s empowerment,” says Cara. “I wanted to talk to individuals in order to better understand how microcredit affects different aspects of their lives, particularly social relationships. I decided to research these issues in Indonesia, a country where relatively few studies on the social consequences of microcredit have been conducted.”

Immediately following her graduation from the University of Wyoming, Cara accepted a position as the manager of the Alaska Food Coalition, working with vulnerable populations and in different cultural contexts addressing women’s and indigenous people’s issues in Alaska and across the Arctic. Cara’s contacts in Indonesia have, in turn, helped UW expand its cooperative ties to other Indonesian institutions, which create new opportunities for UW students.

As an MA student in political science, John Rader traveled to the southernmost region of Chile to investigate the HidroAysén dam project and the social movement opposing it, Patagonia Sin Represas (Patagonia Without Dams). John interviewed people from the social movement and dam project, as well as public officials and representatives from international non-governmental organizations, to develop a deeper understanding of how this social movement attempts to effect political change.

“I researched social movements in response to a hydroelectric energy project in Chilean Patagonia,” says John. “Field research in Chile helped me gain a more nuanced perspective of the complexities of development and politics.”
Faculty research funding and international faculty travel support remain the greatest area of need at UW. These opportunities provide a crucial link in building UW’s international reputation and connections as they internationalize faculty scholarship and courses and expand their global collaboration opportunities.

Additionally, our faculty’s international expertise opens the world to UW students. The center’s competitive grants provide seed money for new projects, initial support for projects seeking external grant support, and an opportunity to build prospects for students. Special consideration is given for collaborative projects involving interdisciplinary research groups with faculty from across different units, those that involve undergraduate or graduate student mentorship, and those that directly help internationalize UW’s curriculum.

The Center for Global Studies has already supported successful faculty projects such as:

- Democratization, Electoral Politics, and Governance in Indonesia: Dr. Andrew Garner, Department of Political Science, and Dr. Thomas Seitz, Global and Area Studies Program
- Enhancing the Collaborative Capacity in Energy Project Development: Dr. Jessica Clement, director of the Collaboration Program in Natural Resources, Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources, and Temple Stoellinger, deputy director of the Center for Law and Energy Resources in the Rockies, Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources
- Modeling Sustainable Agriculture Practices – Learning from Guatemala’s Lake Atitlán Challenges: Dr. Roger Coupal, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, and Dr. Ginger Paige, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management
Nicole Crawford, UW Art Museum, and Isadora Helfgott, Department of History.

Nicole and Isa went to Cambodia to collaborate with the Museum of Memory, a division of the Sleuk Rith Institute, to create a human rights museum that will have a worldwide impact. Their work has not only led to an important research collaboration but also to a popular study abroad class for UW students.
Ievgen Avramenko, MA in International Studies (right). Ievgen talked to political decision makers in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia, seeking to explain the roots of the Russian-Georgian War and the factors that contribute to military conflict.
The World to Wyoming outreach series builds on the success of a multi-year statewide lecture series in partnership with Wyoming’s community colleges. The annual slate of events includes dozens of lectures across twelve Wyoming communities averaging over 100 attendees each – particularly impressive in a state where the altitude of communities frequently exceeds the population numbers. Lectures have focused on international topics such as the culture and politics of Asia, challenges in the Middle East, and a program series featuring senior visiting scholars in global studies such as Marc Wall, former U.S. Ambassador to Chad, who visited Wyoming schools to share his experiences from his 30+ year diplomatic career.

Funds for World to Wyoming support a variety of programs at UW and statewide lectures, including a specific focus on the faculty and graduate research projects funded by the center. These presentations provide the context to share UW expertise with our statewide community.

Since its inception in 2009, the series has drawn audiences that reach thousands of Wyoming’s citizens. When surveyed, over 92% of audience respondents reported that the speaker series improved their understanding of global issues, and 95% reported that the event contributed to their sense of international awareness. The statewide lecture series has included more than 130 sponsored events drawing approximately 13,000 people to a variety of formal and informal lectures.

The Center for Global Studies has supported successful outreach activities such as:

- Mark Jenkins from National Geographic with his presentation “Last of the First Skiers”

- Global Studies in Film: featuring the film iThemba with discussion led by the film’s producer and Academy Award winner, Dr. Elinor Burkett, one of UW’s Senior Visiting Scholars in Global Studies


Pictured above is a Tuvan skier from the Altai Mountains of Central Asia. Mark Jenkins, National Geographic writer and UW Writer-in-Residence, toured the state of Wyoming to present on his work investigating one of the world’s oldest ski cultures. The presentation, “Last of the First Skiers,” was part of the UW World to Wyoming Lecture Series.
The Center for Global Studies not only invests in student and faculty leaders who are performing vital international research, it also shares those experiences with Wyoming and the world. But we can’t do it alone.

Your generosity will support the center’s three primary program areas: student research and international fieldwork opportunities; faculty international research opportunities; and the World to Wyoming outreach program.

Your support also helps fulfill the center’s mission of enhancing the sustainability of local communities worldwide and educational opportunities – inside and outside the classroom. You can create new opportunities for the next generation of students to build sustainable partnerships with communities at home and around the globe.

By donating to the Center for Global Studies, you join a concerted effort on the part of the University of Wyoming and the state of Wyoming, including seed money provided by UW’s Office of Research and Economic Development and the School of Energy Resources, as well as private support from foundations such as the Ruth R. Ellbogen Foundation and the Scott and Anne Nickerson Family Foundation.

Together, we create opportunities for students to become leaders and critical thinkers with the ability to find solutions to complex global problems.

Thank you for considering this important opportunity to truly transform international research at UW and to support the students and faculty who lead the charge.

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For her research, Natalia was interested in why Australia adopted a carbon tax and repealed it just two years later. Her fieldwork in Australia allowed her to become familiar with Australia’s political system and to conduct in-depth interviews with different stakeholders. Natalia shared her work with many audiences around Wyoming, which reinforced its relevance to our energy-producing state.

Natalia Sharova, MA in International Studies