



# International Exchange at Virginia Tech

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# About Virginia Tech

- Land grant university with missions of education, research, and extension
- Student population: 31,000 undergraduate and 7,000 graduate students
- Organized into eight colleges:
  - College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS)
  - College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
  - College of Architecture, Arts, and Design
  - College of Natural Resources and Environment
  - Pamplin College of Business
  - College of Science
  - College of Engineering
  - College of Veterinary Medicine



# International Exchanges

- Global Education Office
  - Teresa Johansson, Director of Global Education
- College-level International Offices
  - Tom Thompson, Associate Dean and Director of CALS Global
- Types of student-exchange programs
  - Faculty led study abroad (shorter-term, research based)
  - Contracts with study abroad service providers
  - Formal relationships with universities
- Multiple programs in Europe, previously had programs with Turku and Tampere
- Most popular: European, English language





## Priorities in international partnerships

- Multiple mission areas: student exchange, research, and outreach/extension
  - Research is important, especially if there are opportunities for joint funding
  - Multiple “touchpoints” so it is not falling on a single person
- Financial parity and balance

# Challenges

- Financial resources
  - For university to develop relationship and program
  - For students to participate
- Logistical challenges for students
  - Alignment with degree program requirements
  - Housing costs and timing for leases
- Faculty availability to lead and build relationships



# Advice

- You have to actively and regularly recruit
- Partnerships typically need a “champion” to start, but more than that to be maintained.