



SDG 17

PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS



International Affairs Department
University of the Visayas



RELATIONSHIP TO SUPPORT THE GOALS

WE ARE CONNECTORS OF PEOPLE,
PURPOSE, AND PROGRESS.

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FOR THE GOALS



International Affairs Department
University of the Visayas

ABOUT US

The University of the Visayas was founded by the late Don Vicente A. Gullas in 1919 as the Visayan Institute (V.I.) in Cebu City. In 1948, the Visayan Institute was awarded university status, the first to become a university in Cebu, and was renamed the University of the Visayas (UV). Don Vicente Gullas also brought education closer to the people as the school opened a total of eight satellite campuses across Cebu Province making it the private University in Cebu with the greatest number of external campuses.



We are builders of impact.

At the University of the Visayas, this commitment is reflected in how the International Affairs Department proactively shapes national and regional SDG policy landscapes. UV consistently contributes to inter-agency focus group discussions and strategic dialogues, ensuring that educational policies evolve alongside global development goals.

Through active participation in the Commission on Higher Education's consultations on internationalization,

UV provides grounded institutional insights that strengthen mobility frameworks and **align Philippine higher education with global standards.** As Region VII's strong representative, UV works closely with the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry to keep its academic programs responsive to emerging industry needs and sustainability priorities. Internationally, UV maintains dynamic coordination with the Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines, promoting regional mobility, employability-driven partnerships, and collaborative EU-ASEAN educational exchanges. Together, these engagements reflect UV's role as a data-driven, policy-oriented institution committed to building systems, relationships, and opportunities that advance inclusive and adaptive SDG strategies.

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UV CONNECT

UV CONNECT is the University of the Visayas' flagship platform for uniting national agencies, higher education institutions, and NGOs to build a cohesive and future-ready ecosystem for internationalization and regional development. Designed as a catalyst for collaboration, UV CONNECT strengthens the pathways between government policy, academic innovation, and community engagement, ensuring that global standards translate into local impact.



Connecting sectors, transforming futures.

Rooted in UV's long-standing commitment to inclusive mobility and cross-sector partnership, the UV CONNECT program creates a structured space where evidence, policy, and practice meet to shape a stronger Region 7 and a more globally connected Cebu.

At its core, it operates through a three-pillar framework:

- **National Convergence for Policy Alignment**

UV anchors its work in close coordination with agencies such as Commission on Higher Education, Bureau of Immigration, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Foreign Affairs and local government units to harmonize

mobility guidelines, accreditation processes, student welfare policies, and cross-border academic cooperation.

- **HEI Collaboration for Academic Innovation**

UV convenes public and private HEIs across Region 7 to exchange best practices, align internationalization strategies, co-develop faculty-student mobility models, and collectively build a regional consortium for global education.

- **NGO and Industry Partnership for Community Impact**

Through strategic alliances with NGOs, industry networks, and chambers of commerce, UV CONNECT integrates employability, sustainability, and community empowerment into internationalization—ensuring that global learning translates into grassroots development.

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2024 Key Figures

Cross-Sector Engagement

10

national
agencies
engaged

50+

no. of HEIs
participating in
dialogues or
consortium

800+

no. of
NGO/industry
partners
mobilized

Policy and Systems Influence

5

no. of policy
recommendations
submitted

8

no. of SOPs and
frameworks
improved

6

no. of cross-agency
meetings convened
or co-led

Internationalization Impact

16

no. of international
partners engaged
through UV

4

no. of
outbound/inbound
mobility pathways
strengthened

20

no. of countries
represented in UV
CONNECT
collaborations

Students and Community Reach



300+

no. of international
students benefiting
from improved
policies:



3,500+

no. of local students
gaining mobility/
internationalization
opportunities



47

no. of community
programs linked to
SDG initiatives





17.2.1 GOVERNMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS ADVANCING UV'S INTERNATIONALIZATION AGENDA

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL POLICY
THROUGH ACADEMIC EXPERTISE AND
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP



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Picture 1.1 Focus group discussion with Commission on Higher Education together with HEIs outlining the importance of international mobility.

STEADFAST IN CHAMPIONING MEANINGFUL, CROSS- BORDER SDG ACTION.

The University of the Visayas has been proactively participating in focus group discussions led by the Commission on Higher Education – International Affairs Service, representing Region VII in shaping national internationalization policies.

As part of CHED-IAS consortia focused on China, Southeast Asia, and Europe, UV contributes concrete outputs such as mobility framework recommendations, regional benchmarking reports, and proposed templates for joint programs and credit recognition. UV also submits policy notes on improving internship pathways, hosts cross-country dialogues with partner universities, and provides data for CHED’s monitoring of outbound and inbound mobility. Through these tangible contributions, UV strengthens the relationships and evidence base that drive meaningful progress toward the SDGs.

In the last quarter of 2024, based on the results of the focus group discussions, the University of the Visayas has formulated and adapted its new and improved 2025-2028 internationalization roadmap.



The University of the Visayas Internationalization Roadmap for 2025-2028



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INTERNATIONALIZATION ROADMAP 2025-2028

KEY RESULT AREA	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	2025	2026	2027	2028	INNOVATIVE ACTION PLAN	RESPONSIBLE UNIT
1. Philosophy and Objectives	Clear integration of internationalization in the institutional mission and vision.	100%	100%	100%	100%	Incorporate internationalization commitments into all major institutional strategic planning efforts.	Office of the President Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs Office of the Vice President for Finance and QMS International Affairs Department
	Formal policy alignment with Commission on Higher Education Memorandum Order 55, series of 2016 (including policy statements referencing Philippine Qualifications Framework and Association of Southeast Asian Nations Qualifications Reference Framework).	100%	100%	100%	100%	Develop a clear communication strategy so that faculty, staff, and students understand how these updates tie into national, regional, and global priorities.	
2. Faculty	Annual increase in faculty participation in outbound and inbound exchanges, visiting	+10%	+15%	+20%	+20%	Provide incentives, such as research grants or travel subsidies, to faculty who develop strong	Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs Deans of Colleges



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	professorships, or collaborative research engagements.					global networks and high-impact collaborative projects.	International Affairs Department
	Percentage of faculty with advanced training in English-Medium Instruction, cross-cultural competencies, and quality assurance frameworks.	40%	60%	80%	90%	Maintain a faculty database to track the outcomes of short-term exchanges, visiting lectures, and training programs, ensuring continuous quality improvement in mobility programs.	
3. Instruction	Percentage of degree programs revised to embed international or regional content and competencies.	50%	70%	90%	100%	Incorporate intercultural simulations, problem-based projects, or cross-border mentorship in all core curricula.	Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs Deans of Colleges International Affairs Department Center for Innovative Education
	Proportion of programs fully aligned with the Philippine Qualifications Framework and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Qualifications Reference Framework, as validated by external or local quality	100%	100%	100%	100%	Use external peer reviews in partnership with foreign institutions to validate the relevance of globally oriented curricula.	



The University of the Visayas Internationalization Roadmap for 2025-2028



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	assurance entities such as CHED and PACUCOA.						
	Percentage of students achieving a target proficiency in the Common European Framework of Reference for undergraduates (for example B2) and for graduate students or faculty (for example C1).	100%	100%	100%	100%		
4. Research	Number of joint research projects or co-authored publications with reputable foreign institutions.	3 projects	5 projects	8 projects	10 projects	Engage in bilateral or international grants from agencies	Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs Center for Research and Innovation Deans of Colleges International Affairs Department
	Annual increase in indexed publications (for instance, those found in recognized indexing services) and conference proceedings with international collaborators.	100%	100%	100%	100%	Facilitate periodic mentor-mentee pairings for faculty members new to international collaborative research.	
	Tangible knowledge applications, such as patents, technology transfers, or community	+10%	+15%	+20%	+25%	Build an online research portal to showcase ongoing projects and outcomes.	



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	engagement projects resulting from cross-border research collaborations.						
5. Student Services	Annual percentage increase in outbound and inbound student mobility, which may include studies abroad, internships, or cultural immersion.	+10%	+15%	+20%	+25%	Provide strong advisory services (financial, academic, intercultural) to ensure equitable student access to mobility.	Student Affairs and Services Center Deans of Colleges Career Placement and Alumni Relations Center International Affairs Department
	Number of scholarships or financial aid programs that support international activities.	1	2	3	4	Build an online "mobility and alumni tracker" to consistently gather feedback and outcome data from participants, including job placement and career advancements.	
	Mechanisms for tracking graduate outcomes, including surveys on how international exposure influences career pathways.	70% response rate from graduates	75% response rate from graduates	80% response rate from graduates	85% response rate from graduates		
6. Organization and Administration	Establishment of a formal International Affairs Department with defined structure and stable funding.	100%	100%	100%	100%	Develop and institutionalize standard operating procedures including policy integration and performance reviews for all international programs.	Office of the Vice President for Finance and QMS International Affairs Department
	Regular publication of internationalization performance reports	Quarterly	Quarterly	Quarterly	Quarterly		



The University of the Visayas Internationalization Roadmap for 2025-2028




University of the Visayas
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	Achievement or maintenance of recognized external accreditation relevant to internationalization processes.	100%	100%	100%	100%		
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Prepared by:


ROGIE NICHOLE N. AQUINO
Director
International Affairs Department

Noted by:



VINCE RALZYN L. LUCERO
Assistant Vice President for Student Services

Approved by:


CONRADO E. INIGO, JR., PhD, DBE
University President



The University of the Visayas International Academic or Industry Partnership Framework

VERSION NO. 1	MANUAL TITLE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS MANUAL	DOCUMENT NO. AAM 16.02
	DOCUMENT NAME	REVISION NO. 1
	INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC OR INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK	EFFECTIVITY DATE JUNE 1, 2025
		PAGE NO. 1 OF 7

1.0 Objective

To establish comprehensive guidelines for initiating, operationalizing, and sustaining international academic and industry partnerships/linkages that align with the University of the Visayas' commitment to academic excellence, global engagement, and inclusive education.

2.0 Scope

This policy covers all activities related to international academic or industry partnership/ linkages across all colleges of the university's main and satellite campuses.

3.0 Reference


None

4.0 Policies

- 4.1 The International Affairs Department (IAD) of the University of the Visayas shall take the lead in establishing and overseeing institutional linkages and partnerships with international academic and non-academic institutions in coordination with the Deans of the colleges.
- 4.2 All Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) and Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) related to international partnerships must first undergo an initial review by the International Affairs Department (IAD) to ensure alignment with the University of the Visayas' internationalization goals and standards. All MOUs and MOAs shall be subject to further review by the University Legal Officer to ensure compliance with legal and institutional requirements and the Director for QMS to ensure compliance with the quality management standards of the University.
- 4.3 Any Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), particularly those involving financial provisions, shall be reviewed by the Vice President for Finance and QMS to ensure alignment with fiscal and quality management standards.
- 4.4 The final copy of the MOU/MOA shall be endorsed for approval by the University President and any member of the Executive Board.
- 4.5 The MOU/MOA shall be implemented within six (6) months after its approval and signing.
- 4.6 MOU/MOA not implemented within six (6) months after its approval and signing shall be re-evaluated for appropriate actions.



The University of the Visayas International Academic or Industry Partnership Framework


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5.0 Narrative Procedures

Step	Person Responsible	Activities
Exploratory Phase	Director, International Affairs Department (IAD)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initiates contact with prospective international higher education institutions (HEIs) and industry after the conduct of due diligence, negotiates terms and arranges meetings to explore potential collaborations. 2. IAD coordinates with the Dean, provide updates and discuss possible collaboration with the potential partner. 3. IAD facilitates the initial meeting of both parties to discuss preliminary points of collaboration.
Preparatory Phase	Vice President for Finance and QMS; Vice President for Academic Affairs, QMS Director; Dean of Concerned Department; IAD Director; University Legal Officer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IAD conducts initial review of the MOU/MOA. 2. Simultaneous review of the proposed MOU/MOA by the following: Dean VPAA QMS Legal VP Finance and QMS
Revision Phase	Dean of Concerned Department; IAD Director; Partner Institution; University Legal Officer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IAD collates all suggested revisions to the MOU/MOA and discusses with the potential partner. 2. IAD prepares the revised draft agreement as agreed by both parties.
Approval Phase	IAD Director; University President; Executive Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IAD Director submits the finalized MOU/MOA to the University President and any member of the Executive Board for approval. 2. In any case, IAD facilitates the signing ceremony of the forged partnership.



The University of the Visayas International Academic or Industry Partnership Framework

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Implementation Phase	Dean of Concerned Department; IAD Director	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The concerned department executes the provisions and activities outlined in the MOU/MOA. 2. The Dean appoints one (1) International Affairs Focal Person who will coordinate with IAD. 3. IAD monitors the implementation of the MOU/MOA and provides semestral reports to the University President with copies furnished to the concerned departments.
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7.0

Forms

F-IAD-003 - International Partnership Monitoring Sheet
F-IAD-004 - Template of MOU/MOA





Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Reference No.: IASCTS25-I-682

TO : **PARTICIPANTS OF THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION TO THE
CIEET 2025 - GUANGZHOU LEG**

FROM : *Lily Freida C. Montenegro - Milla*
ATTY. LILY FREIDA M. MILLA, CESO III
Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Deputy Executive Director
Director, International Affairs Service

SUBJECT : **THANK YOU NOTE AND POST EVENT REQUIREMENTS**

DATE : **30 APRIL 2025**

Milla
Lily
Freida
Macaba
ngun
Digitally
signed by
Milla Lily
Freida
Macabangan
Date:
2025.05.02
08:45:17
+0800

On behalf of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), we wish to express our deepest appreciation for your active and valuable participation in the **China International Education Exhibition Tour (CIEET 2025) – Guangzhou Leg**, held successfully from **19 to 23 April 2025**. Your presence and engagement throughout the exhibition, meetings, and university visits, particularly under the guidance of **Commissioner Dr. Marite R. Canapi**, were crucial to the overall success of this international mission.

Your interactions and meaningful dialogues with our Chinese counterparts and institutions served to effectively promote Philippine higher education and laid the groundwork for promising new partnerships. We trust that this experience was professionally enriching for your respective institutions and will significantly contribute to the ongoing internationalization efforts of Philippine higher education.

As we move forward from this successful engagement, please be guided by the following post-event requirements:

1. Submission of Travel Reports and Official Photos



Official photos from the CIEET 2025 Guangzhou Leg are available via the shared drive: https://bit.ly/PostEvent_CIEET2025Guangzhou. Alternatively, you may access it by scanning the qr code.

We kindly request all delegates to upload their individual travel reports and any additional official photos taken during the event to the designated folder.

In 2025, UV was handpicked by CHED to represent the Philippines in the official delegation to Guangzhou, forging new partnerships and elevating international benchmarks. Among the 11 nominated HEIs nationwide, UV stood out as the only institution invited by Guangzhou City Polytechnic to join a global cross-cultural dialogue on TVET—an event participated in by over 90 higher education institutions from around the world.



菲律宾高等教育委员会代表团

来校合作交流座谈会议程

Agenda of the Exchange and Cooperation Meeting between the Delegation of the Commission on Higher Education of the Philippines and the GCP

会议时间：2025 年 4 月 22 日 15: 45-16: 30

会议地点：A7-B314

主持人：李坪

参会人员：李铭辉书记、李坪、时东晓、温炜坚、石璞璞、周彬、高传龙、Marita R. Canapi、Kathryn P. Delos Santos、Ruby B. Santos-Matibag、Victor C. Cañez, Jr.、Maribel N. Zipagan、Boyett Latumbo Batang、Isagani Pablo Angeles Jr.、Edgar G. Cue、Nalyn A. Maitang、Elbert M. Galas、Merian P. Catajay-Mani、Renante A. Egcas、Ambrosio B. Cultura II、Rogie Nichole M. Aquino、Joy C. Capistrano、Ana Marie J. Matalines、Siverlyn M. Camposano、Queenie Lyn G. Almerez、毛琦、吴玉光、杨舜瑛

时间 议题/发言人

播放学校英文版宣传片

15:45-15:50 广州城市职业学院李铭辉校长介绍学校情况

Brief Introduction to Guangzhou City Polytechnic

Speaker: President Li Minghui

Shi Dongxiao

Q30

15:45

MEETING STARTS

In 2025, UV was handpicked by CHED to represent the Philippines in the official delegation to Guangzhou, forging new partnerships and elevating international benchmarks. Among the 11 nominated HEIs nationwide, UV stood out as the only institution invited by Guangzhou City Polytechnic to join a global cross-cultural dialogue on TVET—an event participated in by over 90 higher education institutions from around the world.



15:50-16:00 国际合作交流中心李坪主任介绍“广州城市职业学院国际化办学探索与实践”

GCP's International Cooperation: Exploration and Practice

Speaker: Prof. Li Ping

16:00-16:10 双方与会人员开展合作交流

Mutual Communication of Future Cooperation

16:10-16:20 茶歇

Tea Break

16:20-16:30 中国书法体验活动（A7-B305）

Experiencing Chinese Calligraphy（A7-B305）

In 2025, UV was handpicked by CHED to represent the Philippines in the official delegation to Guangzhou, forging new partnerships and elevating international benchmarks. Among the 11 nominated HEIs nationwide, UV stood out as the only institution invited by Guangzhou City Polytechnic to join a global cross-cultural dialogue on TVET—an event participated in by over 90 higher education institutions from around the world.





Picture 1.2 The University of the Visayas formally signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Guangzhou City Polytechnic establishing faculty and student mobility opportunities focusing on the field of artificial intelligence and engineering.



Picture 1.3 The University of the Visayas was granted a seat during the Roundtable Conversation for College Leaders of the Alliance of Guangzhou International Sister City Higher Vocational Education. A pledge of commitment was also signed strengthening the promotion and implementation of TVET programs.





Picture 1.4 Stakeholder discussion facilitated by the University of the Visayas together with the Bureau of Immigration

FROM UV TO THE NATION: POLICIES THAT UPLIFT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The University of the Visayas has firmly positioned itself as a staunch advocate for international student welfare by taking the lead in shaping more responsive immigration policies in Central Visayas. Recognizing the urgent need for clearer, more humane, and student-centered guidelines, in December 2024, UV initiated and organized a groundbreaking dialogue between international students and the Bureau of Immigration, a first-of-its-kind effort in Region 7 that transformed individual concerns into coordinated policy action.

By bringing together BI officers, administrators, and foreign students in one structured forum, UV enabled previously unheard voices to directly inform institutional and government decision-making. During the engagement, UV gathered concrete evidence, documented cases, procedural gaps, and common compliance challenges, and translated them into actionable recommendations.

This allowed the Bureau to understand the lived realities of foreign learners, from visa delays to inconsistent regional processes, and provided UV with the momentum to advocate for standardization and policy clarity. More importantly, the initiative demonstrated UV's commitment not just to hosting international students, but to protecting their rights, ensuring their safety, and championing their overall welfare through policy reform.





Picture 1.5 Focus group discussion with Mr. Anthony Cabrera, Chief of the Foreign Student Desk of the Bureau of Immigration together with Mr. Rogie Aquino, Director of International Affairs Department of the University of the Visayas, and Dr. Anna Kathrina Watin, the Director of Student Affairs.

UV AS A NATIONAL PARTNER IN ADVANCING INTERNATIONAL STUDENT WELFARE POLICIES

Following the comprehensive Focus Group Discussion conducted in December 2024 with international students, the University of the Visayas consolidated critical data detailing the challenges faced by foreign learners in Region 7, ranging from visa processing delays and inconsistency in requirements, to communication gaps and compliance difficulties. This evidence became the foundation for UV's proactive engagement with the Bureau of Immigration as the institution sought to ensure that student experiences translate into meaningful policy action. To advance this advocacy, UV facilitated a high-level discussion with Mr. Anthony Cabrera, Chief of the Foreign Student Desk of the Bureau of Immigration, bringing together key university

leaders such as Mr. Rogie Aquino, Director of the International Affairs Department, and Dr. Anna Kathrina Watin, Director of Student Affairs. The meeting focused on presenting the consolidated findings from the FGD, identifying systemic gaps, and proposing concrete measures to standardize and improve processes for international students in Central Visayas. This high-level discussion marks a significant step toward shaping more consistent, humane, and student-centered immigration policies in Region 7. Through this engagement, the University of the Visayas demonstrates its unwavering commitment to elevating the foreign student experience, transforming on-the-ground challenges into actionable policy recommendations and solidifying its role as a national partner in building a safer, more inclusive, and more supportive environment for all international learners in the Philippines.

