

# uOInternational Annual Report 2021-2022



uOttawa

**Cabinet du vice-recteur, International et Francophonie**  
**Office of the Vice-President, International and Francophonie**



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# A Word from the Vice-President, International and Francophonie



It is my great pleasure to present this report on uOInternational activities for 2021-22. This report, the first one since the creation of the Office of the Vice-President International and Francophonie, is not only an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of uOInternational, but, just as importantly, to highlight the contributions of our many collaborators across campus and around the world.

The University of Ottawa is the oldest and largest bilingual University in North America and the largest English-French university in the world. We have established partnerships and agreements with institutions all over the world for excellence in learning, teaching, and research. Our international student body and faculty represent over 140 countries.

At the University of Ottawa, education, research, and knowledge sharing must embody other worlds of meaning. That is why our mission is international by nature. Today, while the world faces daunting challenges, it is also at the crossroads of many opportunities. These challenges are in terms of education, research, knowledge

mobilization, and collaboration with communities in all knowledge-oriented areas, where universities have a key role to play. As a higher education institution, the University of Ottawa has a particularly unique role to play in building the world's future and training the next generation of leaders. We are working to meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, as expressed in our strategic plan, Transformation 2030, and we strive to serve democracy, human rights, positive peace, and security. We have substantial unrealized potential and opportunities to fulfill our mission in new, creative ways.

This report describes the context for 2022 and highlights the key achievements of each sector of uOInternational.

2022 was a transformative year for uOInternational as a refreshed and diversified team devoted their time and energy to restructuring and rebuilding our operations to make them more efficient and effective. The rebranded uOInternational team was split into two major units: Global Partnerships and International experience. With the return of in-person classes and activities, uOInternational facilitated several events to promote internationalization at the University. Several memoranda of understanding were signed, including with Mauritius, South Africa, Morocco, Ghana, Egypt, and Malaysia. We also launched uOInternational Dialogues and Insights, a series of conferences presented by outstanding diplomats, thinkers, and speakers eager to share their expertise and thoughts on challenging global issues of relevance to the academic community.

At the same time, the war in Ukraine increasingly polarized the international community, which created new challenges for internationalization efforts. Along with 21 other universities members of the U7+ Alliance, the University of Ottawa signed a joint statement, standing in solidarity with Ukraine, the Ukrainian people, and Ukrainian universities, and committing to offering the best possible support to victims, including welcoming students and faculty fleeing the war.

As travel restrictions were lifted following the pandemic, international students came to Canada to attend their classes. Learning from the challenges that our community and international students faced from travel restrictions during the pandemic, we set new travel policies to better support our travellers. Also, our managers of International Partnership Development were pleased to set off on their international missions, seeking new collaborations and recruiting more international students. As Africa and Asia take a central place in the global world order, our University is on its way to becoming a truly global crossroads for students, faculty, staff, and for its many current and potential collaborators. We want to tackle this work differently, with a decolonial approach and as equal partners contributing to prosperity, human rights, democracy, and good governance rather than contributing to power imbalances and “brain drain.”

uOInternational is committed to making a positive impact on the University’s internationalization as a defining feature of our mission here in Canada and in the world.

**Sanni Yaya**  
Vice-President  
International and Francophonie

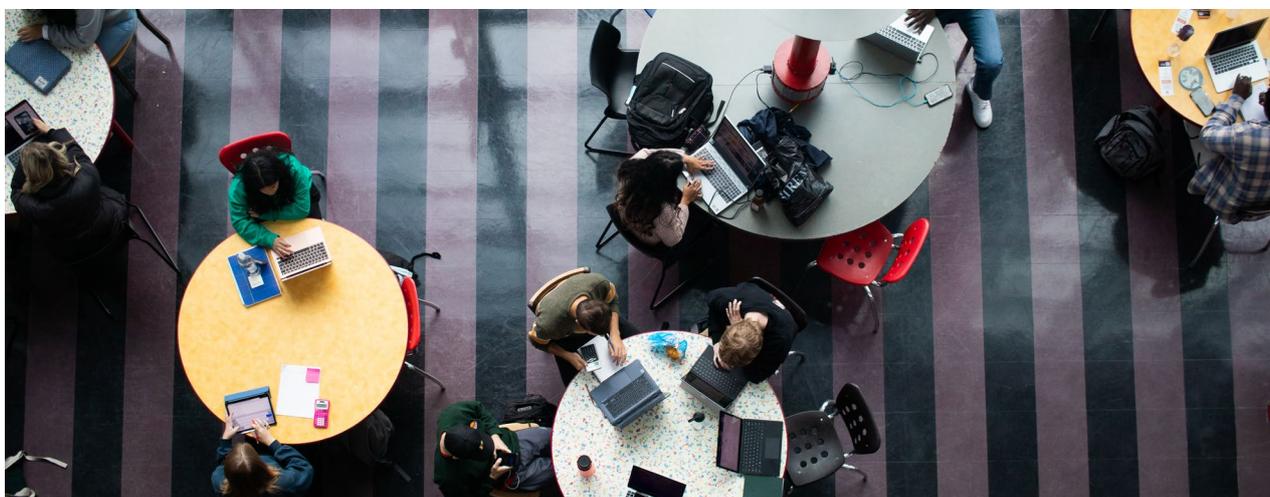
# About uOInternational

uOInternational enhances the University's influence internationally by enabling knowledge sharing and meaningful exchanges and promoting our expertise and programs through a collaborative approach. The University of Ottawa keeps building bridges with major universities and other institutions of excellence abroad, contributing to cultural and scientific developments for a better world. Internationalization also takes place on our campus, where international students and staff help broaden our diversity, bringing a multiplicity of knowledge and cultures in and out of the classroom.

The International Office was rebranded as uOInternational in July 2020, becoming part of the Office of the Vice President, International and Francophonie. Under the leadership of Professor Sanni Yaya, uOInternational's vision is to foster an excellent international experience for the University of Ottawa community, offering unique services and programming in collaboration with partners. Under his leadership, our mission is to advance a thriving international experience by delivering a select set of services and programming that fill a niche on campus and by promoting strategic engagement with partners.

This new orientation aims at embedding the University of Ottawa's internationalization in the context of a global knowledge economy driven by the digital revolution, overcoming challenges, seizing opportunities, and pushing the boundaries of knowledge and innovation each and every day.

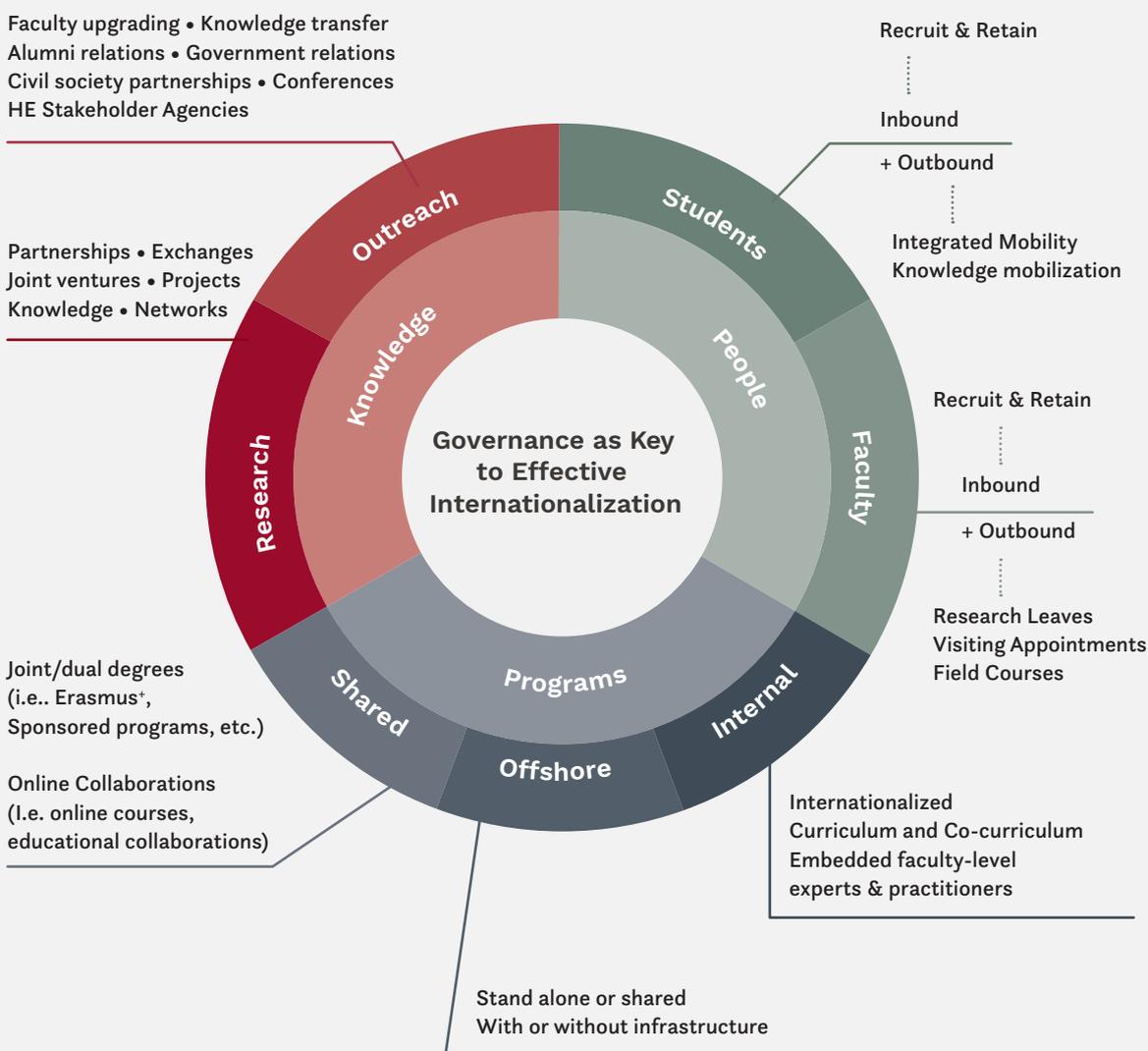
Bringing this new project to fruition meant making changes for more efficiency. The team was reorganized into two distinct sections: one focussed on partnerships and the other on developing international experience. New team members were recruited: some are former international students and others are professionals with significant international experience, making the teams more diverse and more representative of their clients. Each team developed clear scopes of work intended to position uOInternational as a collaborative leader in the internationalization of the University.



As internationalization is a collective responsibility, uOInternational works in collaboration with the faculties and develops strategic partnerships with institutions and organizations to raise the profile of the University of Ottawa internationally. We support international students in strengthening

their sense of belonging within our University community and help Canadian students take advantage of international experiences so they can develop the skills they need to stand out in a competitive global labour market.

**Figure 1** uOttawa Comprehensive Internationalization Framework



Source: adapted from Graham (2014)

## 1. Governance of uOInternational

The University of Ottawa is the largest bilingual (English-French) university in the world. Located in the heart of Canada's capital, we have ready access to the great institutions of our country, as well as the rest of the world. Drawing our powers from the *University of Ottawa Act (1965)*, we offer instruction in English and French, conduct research, and serve our local community as well as collaborators around the world.

In our Transformation 2030 strategic plan, the University committed to increasing the scope and scale of our international presence and influence.

To better give form to this goal and ensure consistency in both University priorities and practice, the Office of the Vice-President, International and Francophonie established an Advisory Committee for International work. The committee's work has encouraged reflection and guided decision-making on short-, medium- and long-term issues involving internationalization at the University of Ottawa.

We also liaise and collaborate with staff throughout the University of Ottawa on various types of international issues.



# A diverse and inclusive campus for international students and faculty



## 1. International Students

The University of Ottawa's international student body grew by 2% from the previous year, reaching 10,638 students enrolled in the fall of 2022 term. International students made up 22% of the student population, up from 15% just 5 years ago. The international student body is becoming increasingly diverse, with Asian students making up just under half of the population for the first time in over a decade. Twenty countries had more than 100 students enrolled at the University of Ottawa, compared to just 9 countries in 2017. Twelve of these countries are African, most of them part of the Francophonie. French-speaking students from Africa increased from 19% of international students in 2017 to 29% in 2022. International

students studying in French now make up 37% of all international students, which is greater than the overall percentage of Francophone students at the University (30%).

International student tuition and fees continue to be a significant source of revenue for the University, ranking third after grants and tuition and fees from Canadian students. For the 2021-2022 fiscal year, international student revenues amounted to over \$220 million, accounting for 46% of revenues from tuition and fees, an increase of 40% from the previous year.

## 2. International Faculty

### Fulbright Scholars

The Foundation for Educational Exchange between Canada and the United States of America aims to grow intellectual capacity, increase productivity, and assist in the shaping of future leaders. Its mandate is to identify the best and brightest minds in both countries and engage them in residential academic exchange, enabling them to conduct research, give lectures, or enrol in formal academic programs in the other country. These educational exchanges allow for the development of our future leaders, encourage them to have a more nuanced appreciation of each other, and contribute to a more thoughtful and reasoned public policy debate in both countries.

In 2021-2022, the University of Ottawa was pleased to host four Fulbright Canada Visiting Research Chairs from the United States of America:

#### Professor Jo Ellen Patterson

University of San Diego  
School of Leadership and Education Sciences  
*Hosted by the Centre for Health Law, Policy, and Ethics*

#### Professor María Verónica Elías

College for Health, Community and Policy  
University of Texas at San Antonio  
*Hosted by the Centre on Governance*

#### Professor David Driesen

College of Law  
Syracuse University  
*Hosted by the Institute of the Environment*

#### Professor Diana Liverman

School of Geography, Development and Environment  
University of Arizona  
*Hosted by the Institute of the Environment*

### The Collège des chaires de recherche sur le monde francophone

In 2022, the *Collège des chaires de recherche sur le monde francophone* welcomed several researchers as part of the *Mobilité francophone Chair Program*. The Francophone Mobility Chair aims to support the integration of international researchers wishing to spend a few months at the University of Ottawa. These researchers are sponsored by the University of Ottawa Faculty and work in collaboration with the College researchers for the duration of their stay.

In 2021-2022, the College welcomed:

Professor **Julia Ndibnu-Messina Ethé**, from the French Department of the *École normale supérieure* of the University of Yaoundé I (Cameroon), who explores bilingual and plurilingual teaching as well as the use of information and communication technologies to facilitate the teaching of first and second languages at the elementary and high school levels.

Professor **Denis Provencher**, from the French and Francophone Cultural Studies and Chair of the Department of French and Italian at Arizona State University (USA), who examines the experience of racialized and immigrant queer persons scattered across Canada.

Professor **Odome Angone**, from the Department of Romance Languages of the Faculty of Literature and Human Sciences at Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar (Senegal), who shared the findings of her research on the Francophonie, and particularly on inclusive literature supporting structural minorities in Francophone universities in sub-Saharan Africa.

During their stay, these researchers also gave lectures, facilitated workshops, and contributed to several round tables.

## University of Ottawa international community in numbers

### **Over 140 countries**

Are represented among our faculty and students

### **53% of uOttawa publications**

in 2022 Involve international collaboration

### **34% of our professors**

Are international by citizenship and/or country of first degree if completed outside of Canada

### **We received \$20M in extramural grants and contracts**

Involving international partners (2022)

### **55% of our visiting professors and researchers**

Are foreign nationals (2020)

### **The 250,000 uOttawa alumni are spread out in 150 countries**

### **20% of our student body**

Is international; so are

### **31% of our graduate students**

### **46% of our postdoctoral fellows**

Are international



# International Rankings: Our Reputation and Ability to Attract the World's Top Students, Faculty and Staff

The University of Ottawa is part of the world's top 1% of universities and 2022 proved to be exceptional for the University in terms of its international rankings. The following section provides

an overview of our achievements in relation to the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings and the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings.

**Table 1** University of Ottawa's International and Domestic Rankings

RANK of uOttawa	Name of the Ranking	Ranked by
237 <sup>th</sup> best in the world	QS World University Rankings	QS Top Universities
137 <sup>th</sup> best in the world	World University Rankings	Times Higher Education
215 <sup>th</sup> best in the world	Best Global Universities	US News
9 <sup>th</sup> best in Canada	Best Global Universities	US News
14 <sup>th</sup> best in Canada	Best Canadian Universities	Maclean's Magazine



## 2023 QS World University Ranking Results

This year, the University of Ottawa moved from 230<sup>th</sup> to 237<sup>th</sup> and remained in the top 17% among 1,422 institutions. Note that the University of Ottawa achieved stability despite 124 more institutions added to this year's QS world university ranking. We made improvements in Academic Reputation and Employer Reputation. The University performed very favourably with regard to four particular indicators (Citation 110<sup>th</sup>, Employer Reputation 242<sup>nd</sup>, International Student Ratio 195<sup>th</sup>, International Faculty Ratio 169<sup>th</sup>). Academic Reputation contributes the most to the overall score of 40%. Last but not least, the University of Ottawa moved up to 195<sup>th</sup> place in terms of the International Student Ratio.

## 2023 THE World University Rankings Result

THE World University Ranking (WUR) 2023 included 1,799 institutions, 137 more institutions than in 2022. This year, the University of Ottawa achieved the best result since 2016, jumping to the 137<sup>th</sup> position—our best results to date in this ranking. The University performed the best among U15 institutions, an increase of 25 spots from its prior position (162<sup>nd</sup>) in the 2022 WUR ranking. The majority of U15 institutions lost ground in this year's ranking. The University of Ottawa's progress is largely due to a remarkable improvement in the reputation survey results, as reputation votes have increased in teaching and research areas.

## Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Rankings

The "THE University Impact Rankings" were officially released on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022. This ranking is based on the 17 United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To be included, universities needed to submit data for at least four out of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under consideration for these rankings. Requested information included both quantitative and qualitative data (e.g., links to the university website to support evidence, enrolment data, etc.).

The University of Ottawa was ranked in the top 200 in the global ranking out of 1,406 participating institutions. This rank was based on the University's performance in its top four SDGs shown in Table 1. When we look at the University's 2022 performance in greater detail, we see improvement in several categories. The University's standing in the overall rank bracket of 101-200 globally remains stable, but there are now 1,406 institutions in the ranking (up from 1,117). The University performed in the top 100 globally in the following individual SDG categories:

### 3<sup>rd</sup> in the U15 and 29<sup>th</sup>/809 globally

in SDG 16: *Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions*.

### 5<sup>th</sup> in the U15 and 72<sup>nd</sup>/796 globally

in SDG 10: *Reduced Inequalities*.

### 8<sup>th</sup> in the U15 and 87<sup>th</sup>/1,101 globally

in SDG 3: *Good Health and Wellbeing*.

### 8<sup>th</sup> in the U15 and 99<sup>th</sup>/674 globally

in SDG 13: *Climate Action*.

# International Student Experience: Supporting Development and Learning

The International Experience team worked hard to deliver new and improved experiences for a host of clients including international students, students seeking academic experience abroad, and those engaged in the broader internationalization of the University.

The creation of a defined core service offering provided direction to the team and led to tangible improvements to the quality and timeliness of service. Management invested in recruiting new talent to the team. 9 of the 12 team members serving on the international team were newly

recruited to their positions in 2022. While noteworthy staff shortages in the first half of the year had led to students waiting on average 10 days for a response to their queries (up from 4 days in 2021), the recruitment of a business analyst combined with a dedicated information agent led to considerable improvements in service delivery times. The backlog of emails waiting for a response dropped from over 1,600 in September to less than 100 by the end October. By December, the average inquiry was answered within 9 hours.



## 1. Support Services to International Students

uOInternational provides several services to international students to support their experience and their well-being both in class and on campus. These services range from a health insurance plan to immigration and mentoring services.

### University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP)

One of uOInternational's most important roles is to administer UHIP, Ontario's mandatory health insurance plan for international students. The UHIP team processes over 12,000 student files automatically and 3,500 manually to serve approximately 8,500 international students who remain enrolled in the plan.

The new UHIP business analyst position was filled in late August, at the height of the return to class and right as UHIP was transitioning to a new insurance provider. The additional support for UHIP brought immediate results as UHIP queries made up 41% of all student requests to the support services team. In addition, the team completed a thorough review of UHIP processes in collaboration with IT and an external consultant to identify challenges and explore solutions. uOInternational submitted a robust proposal to IT to invest in automating most UHIP processes, which was selected to obtain funding in 2023. The UHIP team also developed new processes to collaborate with the newly established Health and Wellness Centre.

### Immigration

uOInternational has a team of three dedicated international student advisors who provide immigration advice to international students from the time they commit to the University to 90 days after they complete their program, estimated at approximately 20,000 potential clients. Given available resources, the immigration team focused on the website, recorded presentations, and targeted mass emails to reach relevant students.

The immigration team delivered over 100 online presentations and drop-in question and answer sessions. In 2022, it logged over 4,500 immigration

related email interactions comprising approximately 43% of the student support interactions. It provided over 970 one-on-one meetings with students to assist in specific cases.

The team maintained a consistent level of support despite the increasing demand and periodic staff shortages. Refining the immigration service offering in 2022 helped to deliver quality and timely immigration advising services to an expanding international student population. The demand for immigration support increased not only due to growth in the student body but also because many students who had studied virtually in their home countries due to COVID-19 restrictions were required to travel to take courses in person. The high demand for advice is demonstrated by the high view count for the "How to apply for your study permit" YouTube videos. They generated over 25,000 views in less than a year. The team also advised internal stakeholders on immigration policy and major issues such as study permit refusal rates in the Sub-Saharan African region.

### International Mentoring Centre

uOInternational continued with its International Mentoring Centre, which provides peer support to international students. The centre re-opened for in-person visits with nine international student mentors from China, Madagascar, Haiti, India, Rwanda, Morocco, and Oman providing support to their regional peers. The team collaborated with other services on campus to assist with specific student cases and special initiatives such as the Enrolment Help Centre with the regional mentoring centre. They also participated in the pre-arrival and arrival of newly admitted international students by providing proactive information and answering questions. They also participated in the International Hangout organized by Student Affairs, which was held in person for the first time since the pandemic and attracted hundreds of students. The mentors responded to over 4,400 interactions in 2022.

## 2. Support to Student Mobility

Outgoing exchanges were delayed until the summer due to concerns over the impact of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 on international travel earlier in the year. Outgoing students initially appeared reluctant to travel, with fewer students travelling than before the pandemic. For instance, 98 students went on exchange for the Fall 2022 term, down from the height of 159 in the fall of 2019. However, by the end of the year, the team noticed a significant increase in students interested in exchanges for the 2023-2024 academic year with over 650 students requesting access to the exchange information workshop. In contrast, in-person incoming exchanges resumed for the Winter 2022 term, with approximately 77 students hosted by uOttawa in the winter and another 205 for the fall.

The mobility team refined its scope of work and streamlined procedures and tools for efficiency. The refined service offering provided clarity for internal partners on the role of the mobility team. Significant effort was put into communicating to students and partners through the website, social media, and the mobility portal. The team created a mix of in-person and virtual events to better engage students. This included inviting embassies to give presentations and a “coffee and chat” event to connect incoming and outgoing exchange

students. A key achievement was the completion of a review of all student mobility agreements in collaboration with faculties, culminating in a decision to reduce the number of active agreements from over 250 to 92. Going forward, the mobility team will focus on strengthening relationships with strategic partners with potential for growth.

uOttawa International was selected for the Government of Canada funded Global Skills Opportunity program with \$500,000 in funding and support for young Canadians facing barriers in gaining international experience. The program targets Indigenous students, students from low-income backgrounds, and those with disabilities. The program also supports students seeking experiences in locations where few Canadian students travel. The mobility team plans to support at least 40 students through the program over the next two years.

### Safety Abroad

Systems designed to support safe travel for a limited number of essential student trips permitted under COVID-19 restrictions were adapted to provide the framework for ongoing travel safety procedures in 2022. Students were allowed to travel freely to lower risk destinations once the Canadian Government’s global travel advisory was lifted in March. However, students were still required to register their trips and to complete an online predeparture travel safety course.



**The team noticed a significant increase in students interested in exchanges for the 2023-2024 academic year with over 650 students requesting access to the exchange information workshop.**

By September, the University formally adopted the international travel safety policy, formalizing the responsibility for international travel safety policies and procedures within the VPIF. Over 289 trips to 46 different countries were registered as departing in 2022. There were no serious incidents reported in the past year. The services offered by International SOS continued to play a key role in providing advice, support, and alerts to the travelling community.

uOInternational formally ended its oversight of quarantine for incoming students once all COVID-19 related restrictions for incoming travellers were lifted at the end of September. The office provided over 3,500 students with quarantine support since the fall of 2020 when universities were required to oversee quarantine for incoming students. Most of the work in 2022 was to provide advice on the evolving easing of restrictions as most students were vaccinated against COVID-19 and therefore exempt from quarantine. Close to 500 students were provided with quarantine support in 2022.

### **uOGlobal**

A record number of 298 students enrolled in the program for the Fall term, a 59% increase since the launch of the program. The program promotes a global outlook by certifying a mix of experiential and academic learning opportunities. 30% of uOGlobal students are international students. Well-known Professor Abdoukadre Ado, from the Telfer School of Management, became the lead academic in the fall term, offering cross-cultural seminars for students and strategic guidance to the program. 2022 marked the return of recruitment for the fully funded Kakehashi program to take students to Japan in early 2023. The program also hosted the Mexican Ambassador in November for an intercultural event for the uOGlobal community.



### 3. Enhancing University of Ottawa's International Profile

#### Sustainability

Sustainability is at the core of uOInternational contributions. The mandate of the office directly touches on several of the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Traditionally, sustainability has been framed as a concern for the environment. However, uOInternational took concrete steps to better understand its contribution towards sustainability by completing a mapping exercise in 2022. The exercise developed indicators and further issues to explore such as poverty and hunger among international students or advocating to reduce inequalities. Efforts will continue to measure and improve on the newly established indicators in 2023. The uOGlobal program has been firmly rooted in a commitment to furthering the SDGs since its inception and continued to weave sustainability into the curriculum.

#### U7+ Alliance

The University of Ottawa's involvement in the U7+ as a founding member reflects its commitment to global cooperation and its recognition of the power of universities to drive positive change in the world. In 2022, the University participated in several events that advanced these interests and collaboration through the U7+. In May, the Vice-President, International and Francophonie attended the 4<sup>th</sup> annual President's Summit on the contribution of universities to peaceful and sustainable democracies. Other events included the engagement of the University of Ottawa engineering students in the U7+ Student Challenge, becoming a core member of the U7+ [Human-centered AI+](#) lab, and hosting the University of Bordeaux for an [inclusive leadership training](#) as the U7+ co-leads to developing global citizenship skills in students. The University continued to speak out collectively with U7+ members on matters of global importance in 2022, most notably a [statement of solidarity](#) with Ukraine and Ukrainian universities.

#### Other uOInternational activities

##### French and English Conversation Workshops

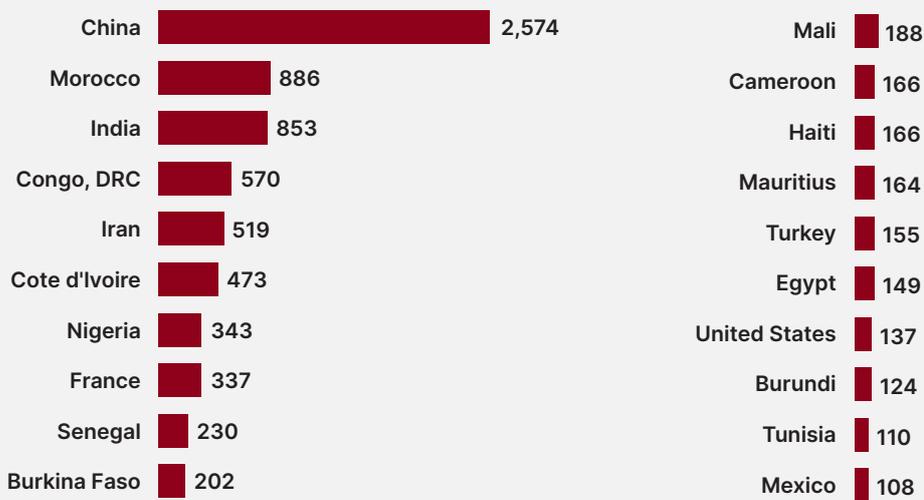
Our international students participated in the Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute's (OLBI) conversation workshops in English and French to improve their language skills in the other official language, while making new friendships. These workshops also include a cultural component. After two years of mostly online interaction, OLBI has returned to offering in person workshops at the Julien Couture Resource Centre. Conversation workshops take place during the fall, winter and spring-summer semesters for students at the advanced, intermediate and beginner level, and have a 12-week duration.

##### uOInternational Successes in Numbers

We welcomed 10,638 international students enrolled in the fall of 2022. This represents a 2% increase since 2021. Figure 1 lists the source countries with 100 or more students in fall 2022.



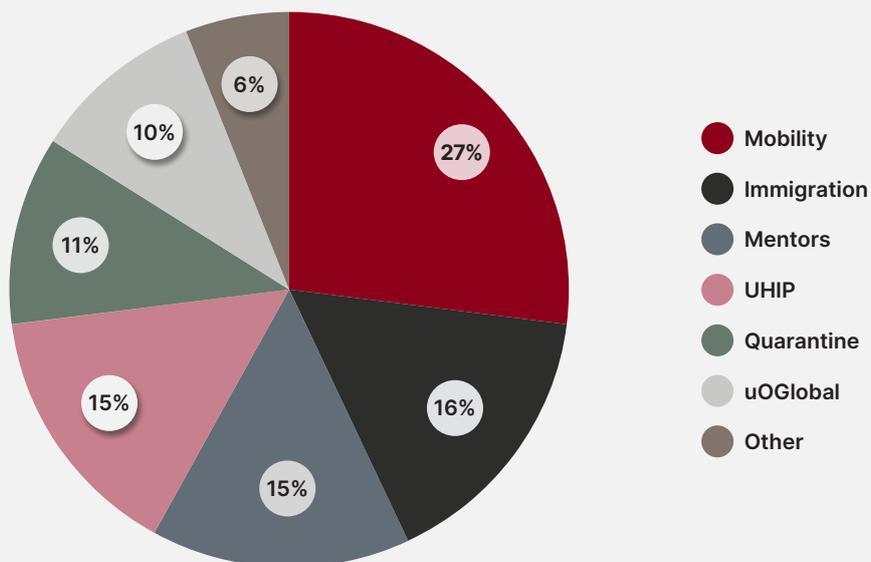
**Figure 2 International Student Enrollments at University of Ottawa in Fall 2022**



We also welcomed over 150 International Visiting Student Researchers.

This large and dynamic international student community contributed to over 29,200 interactions with uOInternational in 2022. Figure 2 provides an overview of the topics of inquiry.

**Figure 3 Topics of student Interactions by uOInternational International Experience staff in 2022**



As a result of various transformative activities, we have seen the average response time to student enquiries drop drastically to less than 24 hours. This included an exercise to strategically streamline 250 active mobility agreements to 92 based on our priorities. We commit to continuous improvement in terms of reviewing our processes going forward to foster mobility while being mindful of the overall cost-benefit to the institution.

In terms of studying abroad, there were 98 outgoing uOInternational exchange students with 289 registered international trips departing in 2022. This included 46 registered countries with the top 10 destinations indicated in Table 2.

**Table 2 Top ten outbound mobility destinations in the 2021-22 academic year**

The figures below are lower than usual because of the COVID-19 pandemic as indicated on page 16.

Country	Travellers
France	64
United States	43
United Kingdom	30
Iceland	14
Germany	11
Netherlands	11
Cameroon	9
Ireland	8
Norway	8
Spain	8

With a team of mostly new recruits over the past few years, uOInternational managed to support 3,500 students, including during the quarantine period. This was no small feat!

# Building Strategic Partnerships

As the institution's primary office for global partnerships, uOInternational maintains a repository of all the University's relationships and agreements, which number over 1,000. Prominent examples of these include memoranda of understanding, student mobility agreements, international collaborative and dual degree agreements, student sponsorship agreements, and consortia memberships. These partnerships support the University's strategic agenda by promoting recruitment, research, rankings and revenues. Together with other international counterparts on campus, the Global Partnership unit also provides risk assessment for potential international agreements.

The tables below provide an overview of several broad types of agreements in the University's database, and also identify prominent partnerships signed during the 2022 calendar year.



**Table 3 Most Active Countries for Partnerships**

<b>Country</b>	<b># of Agreements</b>
China	75
France	37
Brazil	14
United Kingdom	11
Spain	10
Canada	10
Japan	9
Belgium	8
Germany	7
Italy	6
Turkey	6
United States	6
Australia	6

**Table 4 Significant Agreements Signed/Renewed in 2022**

Institution	Country	MOU type	Month Signed
South Africa—University of Cape Town	South Africa	General MOU	June 2022
East China University of Political Sciences and Law	China	Legal English Program	July 2022
Ministry of Higher Education	Kuwait	Collaborative Program for Medical Training	July 2022
Universiti Teknologi MARA	Malaysia	General MOU	August 2022
South Africa—University of Cape Town	South Africa	Student Mobility	September 2022
Bahrain Defence Force	Bahrain	Post-Graduate Training Program	September 2022
Ghana Scholarship Secretariat	Ghana	MOU-Sponsorship	September 2022
Africa Institute for Mathematical Sciences	Pan-African	General MOU	September 2022
Mauritius—University of Mauritius	Mauritius	General MOU	October 2022
Khalifa University of Science and Technology	UAE	MOU-Faculty of Medicine	October 2022
Smart Africa Secretariat	Pan-African	General MOU	April 2022
African School of Economics	Benin	General MOU & 2 + 2 collaborative training programs	October 2022
New Giza University	Egypt	Collaborative program 3+1+1 with Engineering	November 2022
Egypt University of Informatics	Egypt	Collaborative Program 2+2 with Telfer	December 2022
Gulf University of Science and Technology—GUST	Kuwait	Collaborative Program 2+2 with Telfer	December 2022

# Faculties and International

The University of Ottawa’s faculties are where the main program delivery takes place in terms of teaching, research and community service. This section profiles some of the main activities in many but not all of them.

## 1. Education

The Faculty of Education’s *International Symposiums Series* brings together Faculty members and scholars from across the world to share emerging research on education and to explore innovations in educational theory and praxis. In 2022, five bilingual virtual events were organized — with topics ranging from socio-educational inequalities, second language education, and digital pedagogy in multicultural francophone contexts, to STEAM education. Invited speakers and participants came from all over the planet: Argentina, Cameroon, China, France, Israel, Ivory Coast, and the USA. For next year, a number of international events are being planned on the theme of sustainability and climate education as part of our faculty’s year of action on “Education & Climate Action”. In addition, the faculty has increasingly hosted a number of international students and researchers from countries like Brazil, Iran, France, and Cameroon.

## 2. Social Sciences

The Faculty of Social Sciences — the largest at the University of Ottawa — is deeply committed to providing opportunities for our students to pursue international educational experiences, and for faculty members to both participate in and lead international research teams. For example, our Double Degree MA program in Criminology permits students from the University of Ottawa and from the Université Catholique de Louvain to earn MA degrees from both institutions, and we place undergraduate and graduate students in many not-for-profit organizations and labs in partner universities around the world to undertake research projects. We are particularly proud of our Field Research courses, which are led by professors from the FSS, and which allow students to engage in research and learning activities alongside their professor, but in the field rather than in a classroom in Ottawa. Our most significant new initiative, however, is the new African Studies program which is a pan-university initiative led by the Faculty of Social Sciences and grounded in a genuine partnership with a network of African universities. In this new program, the University’s students will have opportunities to study alongside students and with professors from African universities, and we believe that it will soon be recognized as a program that will play a significant role in internationalizing and decolonizing our programs of study, but also in raising the reputation of the University of Ottawa across Africa and elsewhere in the world.



**For next year, a number of international events are being planned on the theme of sustainability and climate education as part of our faculty’s year of action on “Education & Climate Action”.**

### 3. Faculty of Law – Common Law

#### Open to the World: University of Ottawa’s Common Law Section is Making an Impact on International Law

As a long-time leader in international law scholarship, the Common Law Section is home to a large group of globally recognized academics conducting impactful research on topics ranging from human rights and trade to global knowledge governance and solutions for refugees. Again this year, there is an abundance of international law-related activities happening among our faculty members. To name a few:

- We are proud of the work of recently retired Professor and former President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ottawa [Allan Rock](#) in advancing ways to bring aid to Ukrainian refugees. As a member of the World Refugee and Migration Council, he has been exploring methods through which countries like Canada can confiscate and repurpose frozen assets of kleptocrats and war criminals, setting out the legal basis in Canada for such measures.
- The recent appointments of Professors [Wolfgang Alschner](#) and [Chidi Oguamanam](#) to the respective international roles of [Hyman Soloway Chair in Business and Trade Law](#) and University Research Chair in Sustainable Bio-Innovation, Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Global Knowledge Governance demonstrate that both are not only globally renowned experts in their respective fields, but also leaders in sharing innovative solutions with a global perspective.
- Professors [Yves Le Bouthillier](#) and [Delphine Nakache](#) have published a new book entitled “*Citizenship Law in Canada: Acquisition and Loss of Citizenship and Citizens’ Rights and Obligations*,” bringing new ground in legal literature in Canada by focusing on the rights and

obligations that come with being a Canadian citizen. Professor Nakache also leads the Canadian section of [Horizon 2020](#) research projects that aims to analyze how the protection regimes of some countries address the “vulnerabilities” of migrants seeking protection.

- Professor [John Packer](#), holder of the [Neuberger-Jesin Professor of International Conflict Resolution](#), has recently served as a member and as the elected Chair of the International Experts Group appointed by UNESCO’s Director General to advise on redrafting the [1974 Recommendation on Education for Peace](#), a landmark legal instrument, bringing together peace, international understanding, human rights, fundamental freedoms and education.

Canada can and should play a main role in advancing critical thinking across the spectrum of international law. In this perspective, the University of Ottawa is actively participating in this revolution. For instance, Dean [Kristen Boon](#), the Susan & Perry Dellelce Dean of the Common Law Section, has been appointed Editor-in-Chief of [The Canadian Yearbook of International Law](#). The journal aims to advance critical thinking in all areas of international law, while making Canadian practice in international law accessible to academics, policy-makers, and practitioners.

Keep an eye on the [Common Law Section’s news feed](#) for more updates and learn how the University of Ottawa is making an impact on international law.

## 4. Engineering

In 2020, the University of Ottawa became the first university in Canada to sign a strategic partnership agreement with the Egyptian government to train the next generation of Egyptian engineers in digital technologies. Each year, under the leadership of the Faculty of Engineering, the University of Ottawa welcomes about 100 students of the Digital Egypt Builders Initiative (DEBI) selected through a national competition in its Master of Engineering in Electrical and Computer Engineering program with three focus tracks: Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, the Internet of Things and Robotics, and Cybersecurity. The experiential component of this online training is accompanied by internships in national and international industries based in Egypt, supervised by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies (MCIT) and in collaboration with University of Ottawa professors. To date, 245 new engineers in Egypt were trained by the University's Faculty of Engineering and 100 of them (or 41%) are women.

This program creates a powerful learning experience and emphasizes integrative and experiential learning, critical thinking, and creative problem solving to ensure that students gain the skills that are most in-demand worldwide. It represents a unique opportunity for students to excel and to develop their professional skills in top engineering fields.

“ **To date, 245 new engineers in Egypt were trained by the University's Faculty of Engineering and 100 of them (or 41%) are women.** ”



## 5. Medicine

In April 2022, the Faculty's International and Global Health Office hosted its inaugural Faculty of Medicine Symposium on Leading Innovation for a Healthier World, themed "Towards a Healthier and Greener World." This virtual event included workshops and presentations from renowned experts and was designed to foster engagement from all University of Ottawa learners, faculty and personnel, as well as its partner institutions, in becoming involved in the Faculty of Medicine's international, global health and social accountability mandates. With the return to travelling overseas, IGHO was able to visit existing partners and expand on new opportunities. A delegation of Faculty leadership members was welcomed in the Middle East in May, yielding exciting opportunities. As part of this visit, a preferred partnership agreement with Khalifah University was signed in October.

This year also saw an expansion of the Faculty's current partnerships, demonstrated by the signing of a new agreement with long-time partner Shanghai Jiao Tong University Medical School in July 2022, which will see the existing collaboration expand to the sphere of medical research. The faculty continued to promote international knowledge exchange through its long-standing collaborations with Université de Lyon, Université Paris Cité, and Université d'Abomey-Calavi. In September, the Besrouer Centre for Global Family Medicine, the

College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Faculty of Medicine signed a first-in-Canada collaboration agreement, reinforcing the Faculty's commitment to social accountability, this time in the field of family medicine. Expanding the social accountability mandate, the University of Ottawa Faculty of Medicine and the Faculté de médecine Lyon Est of Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1 have committed to collaborating on a unique "Health Humanities Charter" to promote teaching and research in health humanities, and 14 learners travelled to Lyon, France in July to participate in the Medicine and the Humanities International Summer School Program.

A delegation of Faculty members was received at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College, in Moshi, Tanzania, in October to plan activities as part of the newly signed preferred partnership. The Faculty also signed an agreement with the Department of Clinical Neurosciences of the University of Cambridge in December. Both parties have indicated their interest in further discussing possible areas of collaboration, including collaborative research in mitochondrial diseases.



**A delegation of Faculty leadership members was welcomed in the Middle East in May, yielding exciting opportunities. As part of this visit, a preferred partnership agreement with Khalifah University was signed in October.**

# International Research in 2022

The Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation (OVPRI) has developed an international research strategic plan in 2020 and has since been actively implementing it. This OVPRI-wide endeavour involves several units, such as International Research and Experiential Learning (IREX) supporting researchers and students addressing challenges facing the world in collaboration with leading international academic partners, and Innovation Support Services (ISS) furthering active engagement between those developing new discoveries and those best able to make them available for societal benefit.

Significant resources are also dedicated to knowledge dissemination and outreach resulting in international recognition by peers and accolades for the University's researchers. The OVPRI facilitates international prizes and awards and oversees the University of Ottawa Press (UOP) along with several other units serving the research community, developing opportunities, ensuring compliance and creating research partnerships of global relevance and impact.





## 1. Research Partnership Building

*Mandate: International Research and Experiential Learning (IREX) initiates profile-raising activities to attract extramural research funding, nurture relationships, and develop and implement strategies that increase institutional competitiveness in key countries. We are proud to report some accomplishments:*

- Established the Canadian Office of the *Centre national de la recherche scientifique* (CNRS) at the University of Ottawa.
- Hosted the Executive and Scientific Steering Committees of the France Canada Research Fund, co-managed by the OVPRI and the French Embassy in Canada since 2000.
- Hosted various high-level visits and information sessions involving the Human Frontier Science Program Organisation, the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Université Paris Cité, Germany's Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Czech Academy of Science.

## 2. Pre-Award Administration

*Mandate: IREX administers international research grants and contracts through the provision of supporting documentation and the review, negotiation, and approval of agreements with funding organizations.*

- More than 150 research initiatives at various stages of development have been supported.
- Key sponsors are the United States' National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health, numerous European and American foundations supporting research, and the European Commission's Horizon and Erasmus programs.
- Numerous grant agreements were also concluded with international higher education and academic institutions as well as with Canadian government departments funding research collaborations such as the International Development Research Centre.

### 3. Private Sector Research Partnerships

*Mandate: Innovation Support Services (ISS) catalyzes and fuels successful innovations based upon promising research results and associated research champions. This is accomplished by harnessing complimentary resources to create a supportive framework of policies, protocols and processes that facilitate industry partnerships and the formation and growth of new companies.*

- Numerous opportunities for collaborative research presented themselves and agreements were reached with industry partners in Germany, Iceland, South Korea, the US, and the UK. The most active faculties in these international industrial collaborations were Engineering, Medicine, and Science.
- In addition, the University of Ottawa continues to conduct collaborative research activities with several multinationals through their Canadian R&D operations, including Ciena, CISCO, Ericsson, Pfizer and Nokia.
- A few common areas of research include therapeutics and life/health sciences, cybersecurity, and engineering technologies.

### 4. Co-Funded Opportunities

*Mandate: The Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation (OVPRI) leverages external sources of funding to support internal programs aiming to seed new international collaborations, support doctoral students and host visiting scholars.*

- Created a new Fulbright Canada-US Research Chair in Indigenous Education. Arranged for four Fulbright Research Chairs hosted by University of Ottawa Research Centres and Institutes.
- Facilitated the research stays of Visiting Researchers from 2019-2020 whose trips were delayed due to travel restrictions.

- Launched two multi-year research initiatives (in Engineering and in Medicine) co-funded by the OVPRI and Taiwan's Academia Sinica.
- Created the Francophone Mobility Chairs program to support international researchers who would like to spend time at the University of Ottawa.
- Renewed the joint agreement with the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica and the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Medicine. The intellectual property arising from this agreement has been captured in an international patent application.

### 5. Research Experience for Students

*Mandate: IREX supports inbound and outbound research students engaging with University of Ottawa research teams by facilitating the administrative and registration process.*

- Negotiated a co-funding agreement with Mitacs and launched a call for international research mobility awards targeting priority countries. In total, over thirty applications were submitted to the Mitacs Globalink Programs.
- Organized the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program Symposium in March 2022.
- Processed more than 80 University of Ottawa successful applications to NSERC's Undergraduate Student Research program.
- Modernized the registration procedure for Visiting Research Students.

## 6. International Impact and Scholarly Publications

*The University of Ottawa Press (UOP) enriches intellectual and cultural life through excellence in academic and literary publishing for a knowledge-based, globalized world.*

- Professor Pierre Anctil (Faculty of Arts) was awarded the Governor General’s Literary Award in the “Translation” category for his book “History of the Jews in Quebec.” Three other UOP books were nominated for the “Foreword Indie Awards” (United States).
- A translation in Arabic with an expanded edition of “*La traduction en citations : florilège*” by Professor Emeritus Jean Delisle (Faculty of Arts) has been published by a Lebanese publisher.
- UOP was represented at international publishing and book fairs in Germany, the United States, Great Britain and Morocco.

## 7. Research Awards and Honours

*Awards and distinctions promote research excellence and increase the institution’s national and international visibility and reputation. Several University of Ottawa researchers have been recognized internationally in 2022, including:*

- Professor Paul Corkum (Faculty of Science) won the Wolf Prize in Physics, one of the world’s most prestigious scientific awards.
- Professor Vera Etches (Faculty of Medicine) was elected to the Ordre de la Pléiade, a prestigious international decoration of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie.
- Professor Thomas Burelli (Faculty of Law — Civil Law Section) has been elected to the Global Young Academy that seeks to bring together and mobilize committed early career researchers to advance international, interdisciplinary and intergenerational dialogue.

# International Events

uOInternational is very active in organizing and participating in events that have an international theme and draw faculty, students, staff, and guests from the Ottawa community and around the world. One of our strategic advantages is to be next door to heads of mission who represent their countries as Ambassadors and High Commissioners to Canada. It is our great privilege to welcome official delegations. Here is a snapshot of some highlights.

## 1. 60 years of diplomatic relations between Morocco and Canada

The year 2022 coincided with the celebrations of 60 years of diplomatic relations between Morocco and Canada. The University of Ottawa, in collaboration with the Embassy of Morocco in Ottawa, organized celebrations through a two-day event in the presence of the President of the University of Ottawa and the President of Mohammed VI Polytechnic University. The Scientific Day was a great success with more than 400 participants in virtual mode who eagerly attended talks on current topics such as (a) Perspectives and Morocco's Strategic Role in Africa, and (b) Water Management: Challenges, Paradigms and Solutions. On the second day, a commemorative plaque was unveiled, bearing the name of the founder of "Al Qarawiyyine", the oldest university in the world that is still active. About twenty ambassadors from countries in Africa and the Middle East attended this in-person event, the first one since the pandemic.

## 2. MOU Signature Ceremony with Universiti Teknologi MARA (Malaysia)

On Friday, August 19, 2022, the University of Ottawa held an MoU signature ceremony with Universiti Teknologi MARA (Malaysia). The event was hosted by President Fremont and Vice-President Yaya, with participation from Roziah Mohd Janor, Vice-Chancellor UiTM, and Yamin Yasin, Rector UiTM Negeri Sembilan. This agreement helps to cement the University's partnership with one of the leading universities in Malaysia. A reception was held following the event. The event was attended by Her Excellency Datin Puduk Anizan Siti Hajjar Adnin, High Commissioner of Malaysia to Canada.

## 3. Ghana Secretariat Signature

On Monday, September 26, President Fremont presided over the signing ceremony of two agreements with eminent African institutions: one with the Ghana Scholarship Secretariat and the other with the African Institute of Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) Global Network. The event was in the Camille Villeneuve room at the Desmarais building. According to the Registrar for the Ghana Scholarship Secretariat, Mr. Kingsley Agyemang, the Secretariat leadership was pleased with the professionalism of the University of Ottawa staff members who collaborated with them in the creation of the agreement, and their commitment supporting Ghanaian students who want to study at the University of Ottawa. During the signing ceremony, AIMS was represented by AIMS-Ghana President, Prince Koree Osei, as well as AIMS Global Network CEO, Lydie Hakizimana. This event was graced with the presence of Ambassadors, High Commissioners, and other diplomats from Africa, as well as University of Ottawa executive, academic,

and administrative staff. During his address, Vice-President, International and Francophonie Sanni Yaya welcomed the High Commissioners and other high-profile guests, and reiterated the importance of partnering with institutions like AIMS and the Ghana Scholarship Secretariat, which support higher education, especially the development and growth of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in Africa. VP Yaya said, “This double collaboration event is in line with the University of Ottawa’s principle of building win-win partnerships with institutions across the world.”

#### 4. uOInternational Dialogues and Insights

uOInternational Dialogues and Insights is a lecture series that serves as a bridge to the international arena and is intended to provide a space for discussion and exchange in the spirit of experiential knowledge transfer in order to generate innovative and realistic thinking that will enable participants to rethink the world and build the future. The international conferences presented by renowned experts will help enrich the knowledge of professors and students of all levels of study, while increasing the visibility of the University of Ottawa. In addition, these conferences provide opportunities for information exchange and the creation of new collaborations.

#### South Africa: “The Age of Geopolitical Disorder: The Entropic Pull to a Fragmented World”

On the afternoon of Thursday, November 10, President Jacques Fremont and the Vice President, International and Francophonie, Professor Sanni Yaya, inaugurated the first conference of the Dialogue and Insights series, presented by H.E. Mr. Rieaz Shaik, High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa to Canada.

The High Commissioner spoke on “The Age of Geopolitical Disorder: The Entropic Pull to a Fragmented World” which had attracted a considerable audience of students, staff, and diplomatic guests from outside the University. A reception followed the event, at which time High Commissioner Shaik spoke personally with members of the lecture audience. The reception was hosted by President Fremont and Vice President Yaya, and included several other African ambassadors and diplomats, staff from the High Consulate of South Africa, as well as executives, staff, and students from the University community.



# Outreach Missions Abroad

Another important aspect of uOInternational's work is supporting the organization of official missions abroad for the Rector, Vice-Rector and other University officials. This section provides an overview of some of the most important missions that took place during the period of this report.

## 1. Morocco Mission March 2022

As part of the 2022 Action Plan, the University of Ottawa organized a mission to Morocco in March 2022, particularly because of the strong diplomatic relationship between Canada and Morocco which promotes mobility and university activities. The mostly French-speaking delegation was made up of the partnerships team as well as the market development team. In a win-win spirit, the objective of this mission was to consolidate the relationship with existing partners and meet new partners in different fields with different profiles that can be summarized as follows: three government institutions, one research centre, and ten universities.

## 2. Nigeria Mission April 2022

The main objective of this mission was to meet with senior Nigerian government officials and other stakeholders to concretely explore how the University of Ottawa and Nigeria can collaborate on the country's priorities at the tertiary level, to recruit potential students through our local partner (Maple Education), and finally to promote the scholarship for English-speaking African students.

A sub-objective was to gather data on the Nigerian market, understand the role of key stakeholders at the tertiary level and in research, and finally to increase market awareness of the University of

Ottawa as a prestigious institution open to collaboration and development of joint projects in the academic and research fields. During this mission, we met with senior government officials, including the Vice-President of Nigeria, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, as well as Vice-Chancellors and senior officials of 12 universities across Nigeria.

## 3. South Africa Mission November 2022

Since South Africa was identified as one of our priority countries in our Africa Strategy, our main objective was to solidify our relationship with existing partners (University of Cape Town - #1 in SA - ) and explore new partnerships. In line with the above, top South African Universities were visited and fruitful discussions were conducted with:

- University of the Witwatersrand (#3 in SA)
- Stellenbosch University (#4 in SA)
- University of Pretoria (#5 in SA)
- Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University.

## 4. Rwanda Mission November 2022

Several interesting [Francophonie projects](#) have been executed in Rwanda to promote the Francophonie. As the largest bilingual university in the world, our mission to Rwanda consisted in exploring the potential for win-win partnerships. As the University of Ottawa is also exploring new institutions to partner on joint proposal submissions for the upcoming [BCDI 2030 Program](#), this mission enabled the setting of solid foundations for future collaboration. During the mission, we were

able to meet with senior government officials as well as key universities including:

- University of Rwanda
- University of Global Health Equity
- RICA— Rwanda Institute for Conservation Agriculture.

## **5. Vietnam Mission**

### **September 2022**

The development of the ASEAN region aligns with the Transformation 2030 strategy. It helps us strengthen the Francophonie of the University of Ottawa and increase Asian universities' partnerships with French-speaking influence. Vietnam was identified as the largest international student

population in ASEAN countries. In September 2022, the uOInternational office sent a manager to explore and develop the Vietnamese market. There were three key objectives to this mission. One is to rekindle the relationship with one of the top universities in Vietnam, Ton Duc Thang University (TDTU), celebrating its milestone 25th Anniversary. The second is to create a collaboration program or events with TDTU beyond the MoU agreement. Lastly, we want to take advantage of the upcoming 50th Anniversary of the Bilateral Relationship between Canada and Vietnam in 2023 to educate students on the diplomatic ties between the two nations. Consequently, a joint virtual competition is set in motion inviting students from the University of Ottawa and TDTU to participate in an entrepreneurial project showcasing future young talents in fall 2023.



# Looking Forward

A challenging yet exciting future lies ahead for uOInternational. As we work to raise the University's influence at the international level in collaboration with our partners on campus, in Ontario and in Canada, we are also dedicated to building a stronger community, enabling our international students and staff to realize their potential and encouraging our local students and staff to broaden their perspective through international experience.

In addition, we strive to take part in the global effort to build a more inclusive world and advance positive peace and democracy, while contributing to meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. As one of the largest universities in Canada representing a community of 50,000 individuals, the University is poised to tackle current and future issues from a variety of perspectives.

Our future is clearly in the international sphere. We recently developed a roadmap to engage in the mighty continent of Africa, where French and English serve as the primary "link" languages. Furthermore, more of our students are also Canadians of African descent.

We are committed, along with the University community and our local and international partners, to helping train tomorrow's leaders and building a better world through education and research, at the highest international levels of excellence.





uOttawa

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