

## **Creating an International Strategic Plan**

In 2003, Virginia Tech leadership appointed an International Strategic Directions Team (ISDT) (<http://www.oired.vt.edu/resanddev/isdt/isdtinfo.htm>) under the leadership of Associate Provost for International Affairs S.K. De Datta and charged it with developing a seven-year International Strategic Plan.

The ISDT, which included the college deans and upper level academic administrators, began meeting in October 2003, gradually adding members and requesting input from others in the academic community.

In October, 2004, the ISDT submitted its plan proposal (<http://www.oired.vt.edu/resanddev/isdt/IntlStratPlan.pdf>) to the provost. The plan was accepted in its entirety, and efforts began immediately to implement it.

Many of its recommendations are now part of the Virginia Tech's overall University Strategic Plan (<http://www.president.vt.edu/strategicplan/>) for 2006-2012, woven into the fabric of the new document. Specific goals include:

- Double the number of undergraduates in study abroad and other international experiences
- Develop national and international partnerships for global graduate degrees.
- Increase the international experience for graduate students, including study abroad and foreign language training.
- Foster communities that value all cultures, languages, lands, and people by strengthening the international and multicultural expertise of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and constituents.

For more on Virginia Tech's international priorities, read the International Education and Research section (<http://www.president.vt.edu/strategicplan/engagement.php#international>) of the plan.