In 2012, UC International established seven global advisory groups. Over 100 faculty, staff, and community representatives work in these strategy groups, identifying key institutions around the world to partner with the University of Cincinnati.

Choosing partners strategically allows the university to focus our efforts and resources on building strong, rich collaborations. Partnerships that engage the entire university, not simply individual programs or colleges, build our international stature and advance our global educational mission.

UC now has eleven strategic partnerships, ranging from traditional research and exchange collaborations to unique joint programming and mentoring models.

Working from these successes, the strategy groups are now focusing on new areas of activity, both within existing relationships and in other parts of the world. The groups have been reorganized under the leadership of Jenni Kim Sutmoller and Gowribalan (Ana) Vamadeva, directors of international strategic partnerships.

This vital work supports the university's vision of global impact, innovation, and inclusion.

STRATEGY GROUP OBJECTIVES

• Identify universities of similar programmatic diversity and stature who are enthusiastic about partnership.
• Enter into broad and deep collaborative relationships with these institutions.
• Provide a wide range of opportunities for our students wishing to study abroad by encouraging faculty to develop courses in collaboration with partners.
• Increase market awareness of UC in each region to diversify our international student population.
The Latin American group was expanded to the Americas this year, consolidating our internationalization efforts in the hemisphere.

We have three strongly-established strategic partnerships in the region, and the group’s major focus this year has been on fostering further collaborations within those partnerships. Just a few of these collaborations are highlighted here.

Delegations to Guatemala and Mexico this year followed up on the potential for new partnerships in the region. The first major result of these delegations has been a developing partnership with Universidad del Valle de Guatemala.

**STRATEGIC PARTNERS**

*Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Colombia*
- A new exchange agreement with PUJ was signed.
- The director of UC’s international master’s of law program visited PUJ in the fall to further collaborations.
- LCB is exploring a joint seminar-based study abroad program with PUJ.
• UC International grants were announced for scholars from PUJ to visit UC’s biology program and to visit the College of Law’s Center for Race, Gender, and Social Justice this fall.

Universidad de Concepción, Chile
• A cohort from UC’s School of Pharmacy studied at UdeC in the fall 2018 semester.
• UC International funded a UdeC scholar’s visit to CECH this spring to work on ESL teacher education.
• A UC International incentive grant was announced to help fund an expedition from our Geography Department to the Andes region to study toxic algal blooms.
• The University Honors Program hosted a joint study abroad program with UdeC at the ALMA Observatory in Chile’s Atacama Desert.

Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada
• The international collaboration agreement with UQAM was renewed and a university-wide student exchange agreement signed.
• UQAM’s director of international relations and a faculty member from international management visited UC this spring.
• DAAP is working with UQAM on English curriculum in design.
• UC International funded visiting scholars from UQAM’s accounting and fashion department, project management department, and film and media program.
• Additional connections and collaborations are occurring in political science, sports administration, and ESL.

OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION
UC International provided funding for joint projects with scholars from the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala (UVG). The UVG director of learning technology visited UC to develop collaborative online courses, and a UVG scholar is partnering with CCM on a summer music camp at UVG’s highlands campus. Three faculty-led study abroad programs went to UVG this year, and a CECH professor has received a UC International grant to develop a course about world educational systems that focuses on Guatemala.
Chiba University in Japan is our current strategic partner in the Asia-Pacific region. While new collaborations have developed slowly within this partnership, a Japanese government grant for collaborative online international learning has sparked recent activity.

Beyond these activities, the strategy group also explored other parts of the region for new partnerships this year, especially in Australia.

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Chiba University

New collaborations are developing in our partnership with Chiba University as a result of the $250,000, five-year COIL grant Chiba received in 2018.

COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) funding supports e-learning and research innovation. Chiba identified unique programs and research areas for collaboration with UC and four other US universities. Potential collaborations include cosmetic
science, business, landscape architecture, pharmaceutical science practice, Japanese entertainment, and design thinking.

Student exchanges with Chiba have increased, and joint workshops with DAAP on mobility and on packaging design are taking place this spring.

UC International funded a visiting scholar of comparative Japanese studies to explore online collaborations with UC’s Asian Studies program. Connections are also developing with Law and Nursing.

OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION
In addition to our established relationship with Chiba, the Asia-Pacific group focused on identifying universities in Australia and New Zealand for strategic partnership. The imbalance of student exchange in this part of the world offers challenges for developing such partnerships. The group created an initial short list of universities to explore in the coming year.

After a visit to Korea, talks continued with Chung-Ang University. A return delegation to UC from Chung-Ang last June came prepared to work on curriculum matching for dual degree programs in DAAP and LCB.

Active college-level collaborations in Taiwan, particularly with CEAS, offer potential for new strategic partnerships as well.

A student with Peter Chamberlain’s faculty-led study abroad program on culture and packaging presents to her peers at Chiba University.
UC has two strategic partners in China, Chongqing University and Beijing Jiaotong University.

The renewal of the Joint Co-op Institute (JCI) agreement with Chongqing, our oldest strategic partner, was one of the year’s landmark events. Additional programs in civil engineering and computer science await ministerial approval of the renewed agreement.

The mayor of Cincinnati’s trade mission to China in November offered UC opportunities to build relationships and increase our brand recognition throughout the region.

CEAS, LCB, and several A&S programs are exploring introductory collaborations with universities like Guangzhou, East China Normal, Shandong, South China Normal, Beijing University of Technology, Fuzhou, Hunan, and Jinan. A delegation of faculty from Shandong visited UC’s College of Allied Health Sciences in November for help in developing online and hybrid course content.
STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Beijing Jiaotong University
Two faculty from BJTU received visiting scholar grants from UC International. One will work with CEAS on water and soil remediation projects. The other will work with the School of Planning on education for undergraduate, master’s and doctoral students.

With support from a UC International incentive grant, faculty from Planning and CEAS will travel to BJTU to develop a multicultural blended/online course on transportation planning with GIS applications.

Two faculty from DAAP School of Planning gave a presentation at the UC/BJTU Future Cities Co-Lab during winter break.

Chongqing University
This was a particularly memorable year for our partnership with Chongqing, with the graduation of the first class from the JCI last spring. President Pinto has accepted an invitation to travel to CQU in October for its 90th birthday celebration. The JCI is poised to expand to 1000 students in four disciplines.

Two major trade delegations from the Chongqing region will visit the Cincinnati area this year.

OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION
Representatives of our International Admissions office visited university offices throughout China in November to discuss enrollment drops in some undergraduate programs. Competition, cost, and a shift from 2+2 to graduate 1+1 agreements were the major reasons cited. International Admissions and UC International worked with our colleges on tuition levels. We are also looking at adapting the International Pathway (ESL) program to meet the needs of graduate students.

The first joint MSDD pharmacy class from Xiamen University graduated this year.
We are continuing to build collaborations in two of our very active partnerships, Bordeaux and Zagreb.

The strategy group is also working to solidify the new partnership possibilities we have been exploring in Germany, as well as revisiting last year’s conversations with universities in Spain and the UK.

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Université de Bordeaux & Université Bordeaux Montaigne

Biological sciences and Chemistry are working on dual undergraduate degrees; a graduate chemistry dual degree is also in the works.

This year’s visiting scholar and incentive grants supported faculty mobility between UC and Bordeaux, including research collaboration in chemistry, physics, and pharmacology, as well as English, translation, creative writing, philosophy, and archaeology at Université Bordeaux Montaigne.
Bordeaux has established a scholarship in memory of Bill Connick, Chemistry, one of the pioneers of our partnership with them; the scholarship will fund a UC student to travel to Bordeaux for a semester or more.

University of Zagreb
UC has renewed our international collaboration and exchange agreements with the University of Zagreb.

We have active faculty exchange with Zagreb, too. UC International funded several visiting scholars in design, pediatrics, English, graphic arts, classics, economics, pharmacy, and photovoltaic materials science. In addition, UC faculty traveled to Zagreb to conduct projects in philosophy and water science and to involve their students in an international student research symposium.

Three Univ. of Zagreb students and a faculty member from the Faculty of Organization and Informatics visited UC to present their research to UC Clermont students and McNair Scholars.

UC staff also traveled to Zagreb to take part in the second study abroad experience for advisors. Zagreb hosted the event as part of their Erasmus+ week. The trip was designed to familiarize advisors with faculty-led study abroad programs.

OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION
A UC delegation visited the three universities of the University Alliance Ruhr in Germany this fall. The region shares many similarities with the US Midwest, and there is a lot of scope for joint research. A renowned UC water researcher visited UAR to explore collaboration opportunities in water treatment and remediation. An Urban Design class and several Economics students participated in Ruhr’s international Future of My City competition.

Conversations continue with Universidade Europea in Madrid and with Coventry University, a public research university in the UK.
UC’s goal is to develop two to three strategic partnerships in this region of the world.

The India strategy group initially focused on working with public or state universities, which offer the best match of programming breadth with UC. Due to the complex administration of public universities in the country, those efforts did not gain traction.

In recent years, the group has turned its focus toward private universities. However, traditional private universities in the region are not generally as comprehensive as UC, so program matching and research collaborations have been challenging.

The group has been searching for workable partnership models for the region and researching a short list of potential partners. Among them were Jindal University, FLAME University, and Krea University, a private university that is just breaking ground.
CURRENT ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION

In October, a UC delegation traveled to several universities in India. Contacts throughout the country have been sustained by visits from several members of the strategy group traveling individually.

In addition, UC International has been working with the Department of Higher and Technical Education in the Andhra Pradesh region; government scholarships for international postgraduate study may encourage student mobility. UC is working on tuition options for those students.

Among the institutions showing continued promise for partnership are:

- Christ University in Bangalore, a private university that is fairly comprehensive except for the health sciences; we are exploring research pairings to complement their partnership with Miami University. The Business School Dean and faculty from Commerce planned a visit for April.

- GD Goenka University in Gurugram, which also looks comprehensive; its eleven schools show some alignment with UC’s colleges.

- Amrita University and the University of Hyderabad; these contacts are in the initial stages.

Vice Provost Raj Mehta, Professor Laura Jenkins and Professor Amit Rathuri visit the Chief Minister in Andhra Pradesh.
Future University in Egypt is our strategic partner in the region. The partnership, one of our oldest, is based on a unique mentoring model progressing toward international accreditation for FUE’s developing programs.

The strategy group is working to solidify one or two more institutions as potential partners in the region. UC delegations traveled to Morocco in October and Israel in February.

**STRATEGIC PARTNER**

*Future University in Egypt*

UC President Dr. Neville G. Pinto headed a delegation to Future University in Egypt (FUE) to renew our strategic partnership agreement in November. This was the president’s first international visit since he took office in February 2017. He traveled with Vice Provost for International Affairs Raj Mehta and a group of faculty from several UC colleges for a signing ceremony hosted by FUE President Dr. Ebada Sarhan.
Under the agreement first signed in 2013, UC faculty and administrators have worked with FUE on undergraduate curricula and educator development in disciplines ranging from engineering to economics, political science, information technology, commerce and business administration.

The new agreement extends to 2024. Within its framework, UC and FUE hope to encourage increased faculty and student mobility, additional research collaborations, and new marketing initiatives.

Six FUE faculty came to UC as visiting scholars in 2018-2019. The scholars partnered with UC faculty in LCB, A&S, and Clermont on a variety of projects, ranging from cooperative research to a comprehensive training workshop. In addition, emeriti faculty have visited FUE for extended teaching tours.

OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION
UC signed international collaboration agreements with the University of Haifa and Oranim Academic College in northern Israel. The signing ceremonies took place during a UC delegation to Israel in February.

While Haifa is more promising as a potential strategic partner, the smaller Oranim has proposed some interesting collaborative projects that UC can pursue in the coming year. The two universities also share close local ties, which opens up possibilities for regional partnership.

Following up on our delegation to Morocco, the rector and business dean from University International Casablanca plan a visit to UC in mid-April.

In other parts of the region, the strategy group is exploring early contacts with Sultan Qaboos University in Oman.
STRATEGY GROUP MEMBERS
Charlene Agyemang, Vanessa Allen-Brown, Ibraham Amidou, Charles Appeadu, Babacar Camara, Neil Choudhury, Jordan Crabbe, Prince Ellis, Jan Fritz, Richard Hess, Hanan Kerr, Cedrick Kwuimy, Bert Lockwood, Lizzie Ngwenya-Scoburgh, Joseph Takougang, Kate York

Director: Ana Vamadeva

UC has two strategic partners in this region, Botswana International University of Science & Technology (BIUST) and our newest partner, the University of Cape Coast in Ghana.

In February, a UC delegation traveled to Ethiopia to visit the University of Gondar and Jimma University. Talks are also underway with the University of Johannesburg. The group will continue exploring potential partnership with these universities in the coming year.

STRATEGIC PARTNERS IN THE REGION
Botswana International University of Science & Technology (BIUST)
UC International funded a visit from a BIUST scholar doing research on drones and dual-arm robots; he also worked with both CEAS and Psychiatry to develop a collaboration about machine learning modelling of addiction and other human behaviors.
A visiting scholar grant also funded an upcoming trip by a scholar from BIUST’s Earth and Environmental Sciences program to collaborate with UC on a wastewater treatment project.

University of Cape Coast
Scholars from UCC visited UC’s College of Pharmacy to develop instructor training for a new doctoral program in pharmacy at UCC.

UC faculty are working with UCC to develop faculty-led study abroad programs focused on the global technical workforce and the microfinance industry in developing countries. UC International is funding visits by UC faculty to UCC this spring for these projects.

OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION
UC’s delegation to Ethiopia in February narrowed down the search for likely strategic partnerships to Jimma University as a strong candidate.

Conversations continue with the University of Johannesburg, where a strong slate of potential research collaborations is being developed with A&S, CEAS, DAAP, and Nursing.
A 30,000-foot view is only the first focus for a great vision. It's looking across the table that counts, looking for creative and practical ways to work together, seeing the opportunities we have for partnership.

That's how we get to the big picture, how we engage everyone in what comes next.

Vice Provost for International Affairs Raj Mehta