

Dean's Corner: The Importance of a Global Perspective



By Vance Roley
Dean, Shidler College of Business
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

As globalization continues to restructure markets and fade economic boundaries, gaining a global perspective has become a vital skill that is necessary to succeed in today's dynamic business environment. Preparing students with the skills to do business in a new global economy has become a top priority for many leading business schools, especially since many companies now manage operations simultaneously in different countries, and that is a challenge only an internationally-focused program can train its students to meet.

What has the Shidler College of Business done to meet this challenge? Because all facets of business require in-depth understanding of global issues, different cultures, and business practices, a majority of the programs at the Shidler College have a general international and a specific Asia-Pacific focus. Our programs continuously adapt to reflect the changes in the new and emerging markets that are shifting the pendulum toward the east.

- Partnerships and joint degree programs with Asian universities have resulted in the success of international MBA programs including the China International MBA, Vietnam Executive MBA, Japan-focused MBA and US International MBA.
- Internationally accomplished faculty, 35% of whom are from Asia, present a modern view of today's global business environment, balancing theory and practice to provide learning experiences based on their research and international expertise.
- Longstanding exchange agreements with recognized universities in Asia expand learning and career opportunities through extensive international internships and study abroad programs that enhance classroom learning.

- For 27 years, the Asian Field Study has given approximately 600 students a broader understanding of international business and culture through company visits and cultural tours in countries such as Japan, Korea, China, Thailand, Indonesia, India, Vietnam, and Taiwan.
- Recruiting international students builds an internationally diverse business school. Approximately 30% of Shidler's graduate student body is made up of students from outside the U.S. This diversity creates an environment that facilitates a truly international meeting of the minds.
- Taking advantage of alumni connections is vital to increasing the college's Asia-Pacific focus. Shidler graduates can be found in 37 different countries with a large concentration of international alumni living throughout Asia. Many stay connected by volunteering as mentors, guest lecturers, alumni organizers, and career and internship sponsors.

Business schools must continue to meet the challenges of today's dynamic and expansive marketplace. With a global perspective in mind, we can help students gain a competitive edge and better prepare them to succeed as true global business leaders.