

# ANNUAL REPORT



2022-2023



## From a vision to action

CIRCLE was established in November 2019 as the University of Washington's **vision** to deliver an equal and transformative Husky Experience to international students and to offer a Global Experience to all students by leveraging the diverse perspectives, knowledge and experiences that international students bring to campus.

Today, CIRCLE continues to bring this vision to **action**. CIRCLE streamlines critical support and resources for international students and serves as a central hub for cross-cultural exchange and community engagement.

### IMPACT SNAPSHOT

99%

of the entering international undergraduate class joined Regional Connection Groups (RCG)

\$26K

in emergency funds awarded

7800+

international students at the UW

CIRCLE 2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR

# HIGHLIGHTS

## International Welcome Programs – establishing the home away from home

International Welcome Programs (IWP) continue to play a key role in the UW successfully onboarding international students. 2,633 new international students attended events such as:

- **Flagship events** open to all international students (e.g., International Husky Family Reception, Exchange Student Orientation)
- **One-Stop-Shop Post-Arrival Resource Fair:** 600 students arranged their banking, cell phone plans, immigration check-ins, vaccine requirements and more
- **Events** for specific degree programs

## Regional Connection Groups – a support system for international undergraduates

Before new international undergraduate students arrived in Seattle, Regional Connection Groups (RCG) provided:

- **Access** to receive information and ask questions directly to CIRCLE staff and student leaders
- **Group chats** in 5 different social media platforms based on what was commonly used in the students' region
- **A seven-week engagement program** for building community and receiving support
- **Virtual RCG sessions** in multiple languages which helped students feel more confident in understanding UW's required Advising and Orientation sessions
- **Specific RCG sessions** for international transfer students and exchange students

**19**  
RCG group chats

**1,923**  
students attended  
RCG sessions

**125**  
virtual RCG sessions

## Strategic communications

**We improved** pre-academic year communications by launching separate communication plans for international graduates and undergraduates, designed to give each unique group tailored resources and support.



### STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

"RCG really helped me understand some of the core aspects a student would need to know before starting university. It enabled me to connect with other students and clear up all my questions."

"RCG has helped me better adapt to the new environment and learn more about the resources that I have access to at UW."

"It helped me make connections with other people and familiarize with Seattle, which was super helpful since I've never been to Seattle nor do I have any friends going to UW."

## \* Addressing the unique needs of international graduates

Support for international graduates is centered on academic support, professional development, community building and wellness.

**70%+**

readership of summer newsletters

**40%**

increase in student attendance at virtual summer workshops

**1,100**

students attended academic year events

## \* Cross-cultural community building with Unite UW

Unite UW is a 7-week long cross-cultural exchange and community building program to connect domestic and international students. We:

- **Launched** revised program expectations and communications around program goals that resulted in increased student engagement and motivation
- **Increased** the amount of informal social events paired with formal program events
- **Standardized** program leader selection process
- **Created** a full-cohort group chat which led to increased event participation
- **Expanded leadership opportunities** such as student management of the official Unite UW social media account

**281**

students in the 2022-2023 Unite cohorts

"Unite UW provided me the opportunity to spend time with people who were so different from me, in so many different ways — but we got along like we had no differences. Thursdays genuinely became the best day of my week and I'll cherish the memories forever!"

— UW STUDENT

## \* Emergency aid — helping students in need

The emergency aid program:

- **Connected** international students with relevant UW groups to maximize available resources for students in need.
- **Awarded \$26,000 total** in emergency funds to 24 students from 10 countries. 23 out of the 24 students continued to stay enrolled or have graduated from the UW.



### STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

"I feel CIRCLE is a great association for international students and I really appreciate you acknowledging and celebrating different cultures."

"This virtual workshop helped me make a clear plan for my graduate studies, including some preparation for studying abroad, academic learning, courses and activities in graduate level, which benefit me a lot."

"Besides all the helpful details and clarifications of graduate school myths, knowing that I'm not alone on this path, there are many other international students going through the same phase as I am and also knowing that UW offers help and support was heartwarming."



# SUPPORT CIRCLE

Together, we were able to achieve a great 2022-2023 academic year at CIRCLE. Our programming was only made possible because of donations from people like you who value international education and believe in a Global Husky Experience.

With your generous support, we can achieve more together in 2023-2024.

Every gift makes an impact. Donations go directly to students in the form of transition support, cultural celebrations, student leader cultivation, wellbeing coaching, emergency aid, career preparation and more.

[SUPPORT CIRCLE HERE](#)



**Thank you for partnering with us to create a home away from home for international students at the UW.**



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