



When the days grow longer and rainbow flags begin to dot lamp posts along Market Street, I know that we are fully into summer. This is the time when many of us head out of town to go on vacation or visit family. A number of you have told me about exciting plans to travel outside of the U.S. and it reminded me of the value of international experiences. This past spring I had the privilege of visiting four [CPAGE](#) (Center for Professional and Global Engagement) partners while on vacation in Paris and learned how Parisian schools see international education as crucial in producing graduates who are critical and expansive thinkers. One administrator told me that through study abroad, the French believe their youth will gain the ability to make sense of a seemingly contradictory world and hold compassion for people and cultures different from themselves. [Notably, we in the U.S. see a liberal arts education as cultivating these qualities in our students.](#) Then what additional value can international education and internationalization bring to American students?

While study abroad undoubtedly remains an opportunity for students to learn more about themselves as well as the world around them, thinking internationally or transnationally can also significantly change the way we ponder problems. Not until I came to SFSU did I more seriously begin to consider teaching U.S. history through an international frame. [OIP](#) (Office of International Programs) and [CEETL](#) (Center of Equity and Excellence in Teaching and Learning) had initiated a program to encourage faculty to internationalize their curriculum. How would thinking about student unrest in the 1960s and 1970s change if we talked about it as a global phenomena? [How might that shift the way we think about our nation's recent work to value Black life, in the context of an international movement?](#) What happens if we discussed U.S. immigration reform in the second half of the twentieth century in the context of an [international "brain drain."](#) While we might enjoy increasing diversity and growth in the U.S. how has it contributed to the destabilization of Asia? Moreover, postcolonial theorists such as [Inderpal Grewal](#) have been talking for more than three decades about transnational feminist theory and its radical potential to forge collective action while acknowledging international differences.

This summer as many of you embark on your travels, you might more intentionally think internationally at SF State. This might mean encouraging our domestic students to participate in study abroad programs, being more patient with international students in your classroom, or extending acts of generosity to your international and immigrant colleagues. For sure, our university's commitment stalwartly stands in service to our domestic students in our effort to mitigate national problems in educational equity. But this summer, as we board a plane or drive across a border, consider for a moment what we might do to advance our already tremendously international community, a university in what Time Out has called ["the best city in the world,"](#) perched on the edge of the Pacific Rim.

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