

APPENDIX A

Partner-Finding Resource Guide

From general partnership identification tools to national resources, federal workforce-aligned funding, and key conferences

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Use these key resources to identify where to focus outreach and to vet prospective partners once you have a lead. Conferences are included — they remain one of the most effective ways to build relationships, reconnect with contacts, and meet potential partners.

This guide is not exhaustive. Resources vary by region, discipline, and institution type. Verify current program availability and access requirements on each organization's website.

Section 1 — Universal Partner-Finding Tools

These tools are relevant regardless of discipline, region, or institution type. Start here.

EducationUSA | educationusa.state.gov/us-higher-education-professionals

Connect with Regional Educational Advising Coordinators (REACs) who have on-the-ground contacts at institutions in their region and can facilitate direct introductions to prospective partners. Register to access REAC contacts by region, the monthly HEI eNews newsletter, and fair and webinar registration.

Free; login required for staff at CHEA-recognized accredited U.S. post-secondary institutions | Designed for U.S. institutions; international institutions can benefit but the tool is U.S. State Dept.-based

IIE Project Atlas | iie.org/research-initiatives/project-atlas

A global research initiative that disseminates comparable student mobility data for major sending and host countries. Use country-level data to identify which regions have the strongest student flows before deciding where to focus your partner search.

Free; publicly accessible | Open to all institutions globally

IIE Center for International Partnerships (CIP) | iie.org/about/centers-of-excellence/center-for-international-partnerships



This is a program of the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government, administered by World Learning.



Offers programs, trainings, and resources designed to increase and strengthen international academic partnerships. The CIP Community of Practice connects partnership professionals at colleges and universities worldwide. To join, email CIP@iie.org.

General resources publicly accessible; Community of Practice free to join by emailing CIP@iie.org; some programs fee-based | Open to all institutions globally

IIE International Academic Partnership Program (IAPP) | iie.org/programs/international-academic-partnership-program

A structured, facilitated matchmaking program connecting U.S. institutions with partners in a specific country through strategic planning, virtual communication, group learning, and face-to-face interactions. Since 2010, IIE has worked with 350 participants from U.S. colleges and universities in 13 countries.

Application required; cost varies by program cycle | Designed for U.S. institutions connecting outward; international institutions participate as receiving partners

CCID — Community Colleges for International Development | ccidinc.org

Identify and connect directly with peer community colleges and technical institutions actively engaged in international partnerships. The Member List is a public directory; The Hub is a member networking platform for peer-to-peer connections. CCID member institutions have access to discounted pricing through a vetted third-party virtual exchange platform — contact CCID directly for details.

Member List: free and publicly accessible; The Hub: CCID membership required | U.S. community colleges primarily; international institutions welcome as partners

NAFSA — Member Directory, Network.NAFSA & Country Consortia | nafsa.org

Search for international education professionals at specific institutions you want to approach and connect with peers who can make warm introductions. Network.NAFSA is organized by practice area, country interest, and institution type. Country Consortia connect members by country and region. The Global Partner Marketplace at nafsa.org/marketplace connects IE professionals with partner organizations and service providers.

NAFSA membership required; annual dues vary by institution type and size | U.S.-based organization; international members welcome but the tool is less accessible to non-U.S. institutions

Forum on Education Abroad | forumea.org

The Standards Development Organization for the field of education abroad, recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission. Membership provides access to the Standards of Good Practice, member directory, networking, and professional development resources. The Forum News weekly newsletter is free to all. Particularly useful for identifying institutions with established outbound programs as potential partners.

Institutional membership required; annual dues based on institution size; Forum News newsletter free to all | U.S.-based; 800+ institutional members; some international members

Section 2 — National and Regional Resources (alphabetical)

These organizations are country- or region-specific. Use them when you have identified a target region and want to identify specific institutions or access bilateral funding. Always verify current program availability before pursuing any funding opportunity.

AAU — Association of African Universities | aau.org

The apex organization and forum for consultation, exchange, and cooperation among higher education institutions across Africa, representing over 450 member universities. Supports networking in teaching, research, and information exchange between African universities and international partners. The primary entry point for identifying institutional partners across the African continent.

Membership-based; some resources publicly accessible | Africa-focused; international institutions can engage as partners

AARU — Association of Arab Universities | aaruu.edu.jo

Represents 280+ member universities across 22 Arab countries, working within the framework of the Arab League to support and connect universities in the Arab world and enhance cooperation among them. Hosts the Arab University Twinning Forum, which has connected Arab universities with international partner institutions. The primary entry point for identifying partners across the MENA region.

Membership-based; some resources publicly accessible | MENA-focused; international institutions can engage as partners

ACU — Association of Commonwealth Universities | acu.ac.uk

The world's first and oldest international university network, with over 400 member universities in more than 40 countries across the Commonwealth. Supports partnership-building, mobility, and collaborative research. Particularly strong for partnerships spanning Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, the Caribbean, and the Pacific.

Membership-based | Commonwealth countries; broad geographic reach

AIU — Association of Indian Universities / INIHE | aiu.ac.in | inihe.aiu.ac.in

Founded in 1925, AIU represents Indian universities and coordinates international academic collaboration. INIHE (Indian Network for Internationalisation of Higher Education) is AIU's dedicated platform for promoting international collaboration through student and faculty exchanges, joint research, and partnerships with foreign universities. Foreign universities can join as free members. India is actively expanding international partnerships under its National Education Policy 2020.

AIU: free access; INIHE: free membership for foreign universities | India-focused; explicitly open to international institutions as partners and members

AUN — ASEAN University Network | aunsec.org

Coordinates ASEAN cooperation on higher education and serves as a platform for international educators active in Asia-Pacific higher education to establish and strengthen ties within the region and with global

partners. Covers Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam.

Membership-based; some resources publicly accessible | Southeast Asia-focused; open to institutions seeking partnerships in the ASEAN region

British Council — Going Global Partnerships | britishcouncil.org

Supports partnerships between universities, colleges, and other education institutions in the UK and internationally through its Going Global Partnerships program. Supports research collaboration, transnational education, and student mobility. Relevant for institutions targeting UK partners or seeking co-funded bilateral projects.

Free to access; partnership funding is competitive | UK-focused; open to international institutions partnering with the UK

Campus France | campusfrance.org

France's national agency for promoting French higher education abroad. Facilitates partnerships between French and foreign institutions and manages scholarship and exchange programs. Useful for identifying French higher education partners.

Free to access | France-focused; open to international institutions

DAAD — German Academic Exchange Service | daad.de/en

The world's largest funding organization for the international exchange of students and academics, founded in 1925. Manages scholarship programs and supports the establishment of formal institutional partnerships between German and international institutions. Strong for identifying German partners and accessing bilateral funding for faculty and student exchange.

Free to access; programs are competitive | Germany-focused; open to international institutions

FICHET — Foundation for International Cooperation in Higher Education of Taiwan | fichet.org.tw/en

Established in 2005 by Taiwan's Ministry of Education and 119 member universities and colleges. Coordinates international education cooperation for Taiwanese higher education, organizes international educator assemblies, and actively brokers partnerships between Taiwanese and foreign institutions. The primary gateway for identifying Taiwanese institutional partners.

Free to access; partnership facilitation available | Taiwan-focused; explicitly set up to facilitate partnerships with foreign institutions

JSPS — Japan Society for the Promotion of Science | jps.go.jp/english

Founded in 1932, Japan's sole independent funding agency with a mission to advance science across all fields. Carries out bilateral cooperative programs between Japan and counterpart countries based on agreements with academies, research councils, and science-promotion organizations globally, with the aim of forming sustained networks from individual scientist exchanges. Relevant for research-connected partnerships with Japanese universities.

Free to access; programs are competitive | Japan-focused; bilateral programs open to international institutions

UNESCO IESALC — International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean | iesalc.unesco.org/en

UNESCO's regional institute for higher education in Latin America and the Caribbean. Actively supports academic mobility, quality frameworks, and international cooperation across the entire LAC region. The Higher Education Policy Observatory allows visualization and comparison of higher education systems and policies in nearly 150 countries. A strong entry point for understanding the LAC higher education landscape and identifying partners across the region.

Free; publicly accessible | **Latin America and Caribbean; open to all institutions globally**

Universities Canada | univcan.ca

Represents 97 Canadian universities and manages government-funded international partnership programs and more than 120 scholarship programs. Useful for identifying Canadian institutional partners and accessing bilateral funding opportunities.

Free to access | **Canada-focused; open to international institutions**

Section 3 — Federal Workforce and STEM-Aligned Funding Resources

These resources connect international partnership work to federal workforce priorities — semiconductors, advanced manufacturing, global supply chain, clean energy, and critical emerging technologies. Use these for grant alignment, funding, and institutional credibility when building the case for STEM-connected study abroad and exchange programs.

Note for non-U.S. institutions: the resources in this section are U.S. federal programs and industry bodies. They are included because they represent the funding and policy context driving many U.S. community college international partnership initiatives, and because understanding this context helps non-U.S. partners engage more effectively with U.S. institutional priorities.

ECA — Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs | eca.state.gov

The U.S. State Department bureau that funds exchange and international education programs. ECA is the primary federal source for international education exchange funding and the policy home for EducationUSA. Understanding ECA priorities is essential for grant alignment with federal international education initiatives.

Federal agency; programs are competitive | **U.S. institutions; sets context for non-U.S. partners**

Semiconductor Industry Association | semiconductors.org

The U.S. industry association representing the semiconductor industry. Publishes workforce reports, policy priorities, and research directly useful for framing study abroad and partnership programs connected to semiconductor manufacturing and supply chain goals.

Free to access | ***U.S.-focused industry body; useful for any institution building STEM partnership rationale***

SEMI Foundation | semifoundation.org

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit affiliated with SEMI, the global industry association connecting over 4,000 companies across the semiconductor and electronics design and manufacturing supply chain. Supports programs that build talent pipelines for the semiconductor and electronics industries. Useful for both partnership rationale and potential industry co-sponsorship.

Free to access; some programs require application | ***Global industry focus; relevant for U.S. and international institutions***

MIT Industrial Performance Center | ipc.mit.edu

An MIT research center dedicated to interdisciplinary study of industrial productivity, innovation, and competitiveness, with research areas including manufacturing, automation, AI adoption, and the future of work. Research publications are publicly available and useful for framing institutional rationale around advanced manufacturing, workforce development, and the intersection of technology and industry.

Free to access; research publications publicly available | ***Open to all; primarily a research and policy resource***

Section 4 — Key Conferences for International Higher Education Partnership Development

Several organizations listed in Sections 1 and 2 also host annual conferences. Those are included here alongside additional conferences not represented elsewhere in this guide.

This list is not exhaustive. Regional, discipline-specific, and bilateral conferences exist beyond what is represented here. Verify current dates and locations on each organization's website.

AIEA Annual Conference | aieaworld.org — typically February

An annual conference focused on international education leadership at the senior administrative level, exploring challenges and opportunities in a rapidly changing global landscape. Strong presence of IIE, EducationUSA, and international university delegations.

APAIE Annual Conference and Exhibition | apaie.net — typically March

Brings together international educators, institutions and organizations active in Asia-Pacific higher education for networking and professional development; provides an opportunity to establish and strengthen ties both within the region and between the Asia Pacific and the rest of the world. Attracts more than 2,000

participants from over 60 countries. Strong representation from institutions across the region actively seeking global partnerships.

CCID Annual Conference | ccidinc.org — typically February/March

Since 1976, CCID has been instrumental in enhancing and promoting international education — impacting policies, fostering partnerships, developing programs, and shaping curricula across community, technical, and vocational colleges worldwide. Covers all aspects of international education for this sector, from curriculum internationalization and student mobility to institutional partnerships and funding. A key gathering for institutions worldwide seeking to build or strengthen partnerships with community, technical, and vocational colleges.

Forum on Education Abroad Annual Conference | forumea.org — typically March/April

The annual gathering of the field's standards organization. Strong for identifying institutions with established outbound programs as potential study abroad partners.

NAFSA Annual Conference and Expo | nafsa.org — typically May

A comprehensive international education conference and exposition offering essential training, unmatched networking, and unique learning opportunities. The largest international education conference in the world. Primarily U.S. professionals but with strong international attendance.

IEASA Annual Conference | ieasa.studysa.org — typically August, South Africa

The International Education Association of South Africa's annual conference, focused on advancing internationalization in higher education across Africa and the developing world. Open to international members. Useful for institutions seeking to build relationships with South African or broader African partner institutions.

EAIE Annual Conference and Exhibition | eaie.org — typically September, rotating European city

Europe's largest annual international higher education conference, drawing participants from over 100 countries. Strong representation from institutions outside the U.S., making it a useful venue for meeting prospective partners across Europe, Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

NAFSA Regional Conferences | nafsa.org/conferences/regional — typically fall

NAFSA regions host regional conferences across North America each year — excellent opportunities for those involved in international education and exchange to network with accomplished colleagues and stay current with the latest trends; registration is open to all. A lower-cost alternative to the annual conference with strong regional networking value.

Forum on Education Abroad EMEA Conference | forumea.org — typically October

Regional conference covering Europe, Middle East, and Africa. Useful for institutions targeting EMEA-based partnerships.

Going Global — British Council | britishcouncil.org/going-global — typically November, rotating international city

The British Council’s annual conference for leaders in international education. Rotates internationally, regularly spotlighting emerging higher education regions and bringing together leaders from across the globe.

Appendix A — IEB Session B: Partnership Development & Institutional Agreements | Last Updated: May 2026

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