

PRESS RELEASE

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Graduate Education Leaders Consider Importance of International Research Experiences for Graduate Students

Report, Workshop Proceedings Offer Recommendations for Evaluating Effectiveness

Washington, D.C. —The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) recently released a report: [Evaluating International Research Experiences for Graduate Students](#), which outlines the findings of a one-day workshop convened in February 2016 along with the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) Division of Graduate Education (DGE), the NSF Office of International Science and Engineering, and the North American Office of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation, DFG). This project was driven by the graduate education community’s desire for a deeper understanding of the impact of international collaboration on subsequent graduate careers and a need from funding agencies to validate their investment in international research collaboration.

The workshop convened 55 international participants who presented the current state of knowledge on assessing international research experiences and formulated a set of recommendations for program administrators to use in evaluating the effectiveness of these activities. “While additional research and data collection is needed, international research experiences for graduate students provide unique professional development opportunities and have value in an increasingly global economy, said CGS President Suzanne Ortega.

“The workshop generated a great deal of discussion in the assessment community on how best to evaluate international research experiences. I hope the report recommendations will motivate funding agencies and international exchange organizations to look more carefully at the long-term benefits their international activities provide to participants,” said Brian Mitchell, the CGS/NSF dean-in-residence and co-project leader.

Proceedings may be accessed at <http://cgsnet.org/2016-cgsnsf-workshop-evaluating-international-research-experiences-graduate-students>.

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The [Council of Graduate Schools](#) (CGS) is an organization of approximately 500 institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada engaged in graduate education, research, and the preparation of candidates for advanced degrees. The organization’s mission is to improve and advance graduate education, which it accomplishes through advocacy in the federal policy arena, research, and the development and dissemination of best practices.