



Xavier Global House

Seattle University

Program Description:

Xavier Global House consists of residents interested in global studies and cross-cultural education, and who desire to live in a culturally diverse and enriching learning community. The community houses 5 language theme floors (Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Spanish) and a component of Global African Studies program.

The community also serves as the new home for the Department of Modern Language and Literature.

The community works with such supporting units as the International Student Center; the Study Abroad Office; and Office of Multicultural Student Affairs.

Program History:

The Xavier Global House has been in existence for 2 years, it houses five language floors and the Global African Studies floor in the community. The program was created as a part of a 5 year strategic plan which started in 2003, with a goal of creating a vital and engaged residential experience.

Program Goals:

The mission of the house is to provide a living-learning program that fosters a friendly and caring community where cultural diversity and respect for difference is valued. It also offers a challenging and supportive experience in international living and learning that promotes academic excellence, personal growth, cross-cultural understanding, and shared ideas of faith and justice.

Its vision is to become a locus of energies focused on global education.

The program looks to:

- 1.) Attract domestic and international residents, faculty, and staff who are committed to the goals.
- 2.) Create an intellectually and socially stimulating environment where cultural similarities, differences, histories, and challenges are explored through mutual respect and openness to change.
- 3.) Establish and nurture collaborative relationships between faculty, staff, and students around the concept of an ever changing global world.
- 4.) Provide a physical environment that is comfortable, secure, and aesthetically pleasing for students to live, grow, and learn from other cultures.

- 5.) Offer opportunities for residents and the wider Seattle University community to learn how to become more culturally sophisticated global citizens.
- 6.) Create a community where students can enrich their understanding of other cultures, explore the world, and share their own cultural heritage.
- 7.) Create an environment that attracts and retains international students and reverses the recent trend in declining numbers.
- 8.) Enhance the impact of study/volunteer abroad experiences on participants and the SU community by providing a structured outlet for returnees to reflect on and integrate their learning into their own education and the campus community.

Program Layout:

Xavier Global House offers cross-cultural classes, lecture series, films, and group discussion, that explore languages and other countries. It also creates constructive dialogue around political, religious, racial, and cultural issues. There is also a student leadership development training component that incorporates global awareness training.

The social components to the program include: Language tables hosted by native speakers and open to others, coffee/tea hours (other social cultural events), and celebrations of national and international holidays.

Effectiveness/Evaluation/Assessment:

Currently, there are 80 students that are part of the program. Seattle University is in the process of creating an application process for prospective students.