Every semester the Office of Global Learning organizes various events, activities and opportunities that lead FDU students and faculty to the UN. These include our Ambassador Forums series, our UN Pathways Video Conference series, UN briefings and tours, and other student activities. Fairleigh Dickinson University is committed to promoting a prominent role for higher education within the UN system.

♦ Ambassador Forums
The UN Pathways Ambassador Forums bring various Ambassadors to both the Metro and Florham campuses of FDU for candid conversations about the issues that affect their nations and the world. Students are able to ask thoughtful questions directly of these high level diplomats, which in the Fall 2010 semester included the Ambassadors of Sierra Leone, India, Turkey, and Rwanda. The program is co-sponsored by FDU’s Office of Global Learning and the UN Ambassadors Club.

♦ Video Conferences
In addition to the on-site lectures, students on both campuses are able to participate in video conferences with the UN every semester. The video conferences, arranged in collaboration with the UN Ambassadors Club, feature delegates and academics debating current global issues, followed by a question-and-answer session, which allow students to interact one-on-one with the presenters. FDU is the central hub for the live feed from these broadcasts, which are simultaneously transmitted to other participating universities and high schools. Video archives are maintained to provide ongoing access to these outstanding educational resources and are accessible to anyone who visits the website.

♦ UN Briefings/Tours
FDU’s Office of Global Learning provides an ongoing series of opportunities for students to experience the United Nations through direct exposure every Thursday. They participate in briefings organized by the UN Department of Public Information (DPI) to inform NGOs about diverse aspects of the UN and issues related to its mission. Students are also given the chance to attend major global conferences. These opportunities allow students to learn more about crucial topics such as food security, culture diversity, human rights, and climate change, and to perfect their global networking skills. Fairleigh Dickinson University has been associated with UNDPI since 2002.

♦ UNA-USA Chapter
This flagship program of UNA-USA engages students from all over the country to form a network of clubs and organizations within a university or high school to disseminate information and raise awareness about issues on the UN agenda.
NGO Pathways Programs

FDU’s Office of Global Learning collaborates with other NGOs and the United Nations to provide undergraduate and graduate students with learning, service, and professional opportunities. The NGO Pathways program increases student awareness of the role of NGOs in addressing the world’s most difficult problems at the grassroots level, provides hands-on involvement in problem-solving, and helps them discover and internalize the true meaning of global citizenship.

♦ ECOSOC Consultative Status
On January 23rd, 2009, Fairleigh Dickinson University was granted special consultative status by the NGO Committee of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. FDU is the first entire institution of higher learning in the world to earn this distinction. This allows FDU faculty to be appointed not merely as observers, but as active sitting participants on NGO committees at the UN and at international conferences, contributing expertise that may influence the formulation of policy, and bringing that valuable experience back to the classroom. More than twenty FDU Faculty serve in the capacity of FDU representative on diverse NGO committees ranging from Human Rights to Peace and Disarmament. It also means that there are far-reaching opportunities for students at FDU to interact with high level UN representatives both on campus and at the UN itself.

♦ UN/NGO Committees
Fairleigh Dickinson University is dedicated to cooperation with a variety of Nongovernmental Organizations [NGOs] and UN/NGO committees that are focused on addressing the most complex issues faced by humanity. Organized by the Conference of Nongovernmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the UN, these institutions are essential and effective vehicles for civil society to implement sweeping changes in the areas of global peace, human rights, and the Millennium Development Goals. FDU’s Office of Global Learning works with NGOs and committees to create innovative initiatives and applied learning opportunities for our students, such as our Ambassador Forums, video conferences, and NGO Pathways.

♦ NGO Partnerships
Partnering with NGO entities at the UN and with large and small NGOs working to address challenges to peace, human rights, and poverty, the NGO Pathways Program exists to create learning, service, and professional opportunities for Fairleigh Dickinson University students within the vibrant international non-governmental sector. FDU’s partnerships with specific NGOs and UN/NGO committees enable our global-citizens-in-training to interact, experience and serve with communities in the field and their representatives in NGO leadership positions.

♦ Internship and Volunteer Opportunities
In addition to four internships offered each semester by the Office of Global Learning, FDU students may inquire about opportunities to volunteer and serve as interns through various UN/NGO Committees and specific NGO Partners. By creating opportunities for observation, experience and service, the NGO Pathways Program aims to:

» increase student awareness and understanding of the significant role assumed by NGOs in addressing many of the world’s most difficult issues at the grassroots level;

» offer exposure at the UN and within NGO settings to students to observe and experience NGOs in action;

» provide hands-on opportunities for student involvement in problem-solving with issues such as poverty, hunger, health, education, disaster relief, global peace and disarmament.

http://globallearning.fdu.edu/ungopathways
Global Conferences and Special Events

The Office of Global Learning’s UN and NGO Pathways programs sponsor or co-sponsor a variety of special events and symposia for the campus and neighboring communities. The UN and NGO Pathways programs also organize delegations of FDU students to attend prominent global conferences.

♦ UN Day Celebrations
FDU’s Office of Global Learning and various student organizations participate in annual celebrations of UN Day on October 24th, on both the Metro and Florham campuses. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness about the UN’s mission and priorities, such as the Millennium Development Goals. Activities include cultural exhibits, film screenings, ethnic food samplings, and fund-raising for urgent humanitarian needs around the world.

♦ Other Events for Campus and Community
In recent years, the UN and NGO Pathways programs at FDU also have sponsored or co-sponsored events including Green Day, World Peace Day, the Indigenous Peoples at the UN forum, the Spotlight on India series, and the Interrogating Boundaries series, as well as a variety of visiting lecturers and a major international symposium on Human Rights.

♦ Global Conferences
As an accredited NGO of UNDPI, FDU participates in the Annual UNDPI Conference that provides a unique learning experience for students, faculty and staff who represent the university at these events. Topics such as Peace and Disarmament or Global Health and the Millennium Development Goals have been featured at recent conferences in Paris, Mexico City and Melbourne, Australia. Student delegates are actively engaged at these conferences in global networking and interviewing NGO delegates from all over the world. Conferences such as these provide unique learning opportunities to all who attend.

♦ Youth Leadership Programs
In conjunction with the Annual Youth Assembly at the United Nations, the Office of Global Learning at FDU partners with Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, Inc., to create an annual Emerging Global Youth Leadership Seminar. The inaugural seminar drew more than 100 participants, ages 16 through 21, for an intensive leadership development program focusing on the importance of social entrepreneurship in not-for-profit and for-profit sectors for advancing the U.N. Millennium Development Goals.
About FDU

Founded in 1942, Fairleigh Dickinson University is a coed, independent, not-for-profit, non-sectarian institution. FDU was the first American university to own and operate an overseas campus and is dedicated to promoting responsibility in the global community and success in the global marketplace. We are New Jersey’s largest independent university, serving 8,585 undergraduate students and 3,527 graduate students. With one of the largest international student bodies in the region and its strategic proximity to New York City, FDU’s two stateside campuses offer a unique and diverse educational and cultural experience. In all FDU is proud to host close to 1500 international students (more than ten percent of the overall student population) from nearly 100 countries.

Fairleigh Dickinson’s College at Florham emphasizes residential living, a strong liberal arts based education, graduate and professional school preparation, and customized educational offerings - all framed by a global perspective. The College at Florham offers a broad range of strong undergraduate and graduate liberal arts, sciences, and business programs in the Maxwell Becton College of Arts and Sciences and in the Silberman College of Business. The campus emphasizes an academically challenging learning environment with an enhanced residential experience.

The Metropolitan Campus, in Teaneck, New Jersey, is a fast-paced, professionally oriented environment that feeds off the energy of nearby New York City. Although the Metropolitan Campus is technically suburban, with many of the expected university-life elements, it is still a place where hustle and bustle are not far away. Many of FDU’s business, professional, science, and healthcare programs are based at the Metropolitan Campus.

FDU’s English campus, Wroxton College, offers students an opportunity to study abroad in an intensive environment. Wroxton is located in the heart of rural England but is still only 70 miles from London. FDU also offers an expansive study-abroad program and partners with other institutions in the U.S. as well.

Classes began in September 2007 at FDU-Vancouver, in scenic British Columbia, Canada. FDU-Vancouver offers undergraduate students one of the few opportunities to earn an American college degree (currently a B.S. in business management or a B.S. in information technology) while studying in Canada.

For more information contact:

Dr. Jo Anne Murphy, jo-anne_murphy@fdu.edu
Director of Programs with Intergovernmental and Nongovernmental Organizations,
Office of Global Learning
Fairleigh Dickinson University

Metropolitan Campus:
1000 River Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666
Phone: (201) 692-7061
Fax: (201) 692-7273

College at Florham:
285 Madison Avenue, Madison, NJ 07940
Phone/Fax: (973) 443-8876