

## Core Issues in University Support of International Research

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*Abstract*

This presentation focuses on the factors that promote the development of research collaborations involving faculty and graduate students across national boundaries. It draws upon the 2011 NSF funded workshop on establishing a research agenda to assess international research collaborations at the graduate level, the assessment of an NSF funded IGERT doctoral program with international collaborations, and the experience of a UW medical school international collaboration that illustrates a truly mutual beneficial collaboration.

Four critical findings are highlighted:

1. The imperative to build upon trust in international collaborations and strive for mutual beneficial collaborations to build sustainable collaborations. **Trust takes time.** Collaborations via commercially available networks without prior personal acquaintance may be unsustainable. This is not how your good faculty may get involved.
2. In case of large research collaborations that involve students and postdocs, the need to establish from the beginning a comprehensive assessment framework in order to detect early tension producing structures, programs, and cultural behavior;
3. The need to prepare graduate students, faculty, and researchers for the international experience.
4. The need to create room for post assessment and integration of the experience into academic teaching and learning including the integration of international graduate students as equal partners in US universities coming from a concept of strength and not from a deficiency model.