

Royal Roads' Learning Models Have Positive *Global Impact*

Royal Roads University was established in 1995 as a public institution that would reach out to the global community.

The challenge of educating thousands of people on a campus equipped to handle only a few hundred resulted in an online learning environment. The Royal Roads online learning platform is accessible from anywhere on the planet. The accompanying blended-learning model has developed into a world-class innovation in education that poses a great opportunity for countries with emerging economies and democracies.

For President and Vice Chancellor Richard Skinner, RRU's international mandate is about the quality of education, social responsibility, and the importance of playing a role in nurturing British Columbia's and Canada's opportunities in the global marketplace. "We are providing our learners a better quality of education

through opportunities to actually experience international environments."

As Dean of Business in the late '90s, Dr. Eric West directed business programs across Asia on behalf of Royal Roads University. Today, more than 950 people have earned Royal Roads degrees and diplomas in China, 195 in Bangladesh, 186 in Taiwan, and 11 in Malaysia. A newly launched MBA program in Iran is completing its second residency and is getting ready to launch a second cohort in partnership with Sharif University of Technology in Tehran.

West says, "Our best advertisers are our graduates—over a thousand highly placed business leaders promoting the benefits of our learning model around the Pacific Rim."

RRU's new Dean of Business Niraj Bhargava has been energized by the opportunities presented by RRU's international MBA programs. "More than half of our MBA learners are outside of Canada," he says.

The recent visit of a delegation from Uganda to launch a new partnership with the University of Makerere in Kampala inspired a group of 26 Human Security and Peacebuilding students to hold a final residency in the war-torn East African nation this spring. The class hopes to contribute to building peace in a region that has suffered more than two decades of conflict and brutal violence. A newly signed ceasefire agreement in the north has presented a historic opportunity for some real-world experience.

Royal Roads will continue to provide its global partners with a leading-edge learning environment to fill the gap that many emerging economies are facing and help make the university's learning platform even better. ▲

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Dean Niraj Bhargava (left) and Eric West (right) meeting RRU representatives in China



A team of MBA learners in Iran, where RRU began offering a program this year in partnership with the Sharif University of Technology in Tehran