Global Engagement Fellows (GEFs)

Serve as ambassadors of the Vanderbilt Center for Languages.
Reflect its values and promote a multicultural, multilingual, and interconnected campus.
Design and host a range of activities to take place either at the Center, in Nashville, or in the Residential College spaces. GEFs provide culturally enriching programs for student audiences, often combined with content in languages other than English (readings, performances, music, media, television/films, speakers).
Contribute to making visible a mix of international students, heritage speakers, third-culture kids, returnees from study abroad, or any student interested in crossing cultural and linguistic borders, in service to the greater goal of promoting language integration and cultural competence among Vanderbilt University’s campus communities.

Study Abroad Returnees
The GEF program provides a landing pad for students returning from studying abroad. It provides guidance, community, and support certainly, but also targeted activities that can potentially extend those sought-after transformations, ease their way back into campus life, connect them with similarly-oriented Fellows, and contribute positively to campus culture.

International Students
The GEF program recognizes the unique perspectives of its international student members. It values the contributions of international students to life at Vanderbilt, and can help better integrate our international student community, both undergraduate and graduate, into campus life—both inside and outside of the classroom.

Heritage Speakers of languages other than English
Our heritage speakers also bring a valued perspective to campus life, enriching our notions of identity through the lens of language, family, and culture. As Fellows, they represent also a growing segment of our student population.
Third-Culture Kids (TCKs)
Students who identify as Third-Culture Kids usually grow up outside their parents’ home culture(s); consequently, they must establish for themselves their own, third culture. For both TCKs and heritage speakers, the GEF program celebrates their presence at Vanderbilt and provides legitimacy to their individual experience, as they may move between languages in ways that defy easy categorization.

Fellows for Global Engagement Mentors (GEF Mentor)

Our Global Engagement Fellows are partnered with a Mentor, who has more years’ experience crossing cultural borders and living in a multilingual world. As faculty members and community partners both on campus and in Nashville, our GEF Mentors contribute to the program by lending their expertise, by listening, and by bringing to the conversation a wealth of experience. Their interest in students’ growth lends a valued dimension to the Fellows program.

Your Mentor is available to meet with you several times per semester both on and off campus, and at an event you co-host.

The Global Engagement Fellows program is supported by the Vanderbilt Center for Languages. Fellows reflect the Center’s values and help create a multicultural, multilingual, and interconnected campus to better prepare its students to thrive in a complex and global society. All students, graduate and undergraduate, are eligible to apply.