

## **Standards for International Partnerships**

The Standards for International Partnerships define what Overseas Council (OC) values in institutions training leaders for the Church. These Standards are used by OC in evaluating current and potential partnerships. They were developed over the course of two years (2005-2007) with input from our international staff and the leadership of several partner schools. While few of our partners (or OC itself) would fully meet every point, the Standards constitute values which OC and our partner seminaries share as well as goals to which we aspire. They serve as a tool to stimulate institutional growth and development. OC comes alongside our partners as they seek to grow stronger in all of these areas.

### **I. We are committed to strengthening the Church, and seek to enable partner institutions that**

1. affirm a theological framework compatible with the World Evangelical Alliance Statement of Faith and the Lausanne Covenant.
2. train leaders for Christian ministries.
3. foster mutually beneficial relationships with evangelical churches and church bodies.
4. have national or regional ownership.
5. are committed to mutual accountability and dynamic partnership.

### **II. We are committed to strategic impact and seek to enable partner institutions that**

1. have significant influence for positive change within their context.
2. demonstrate potential for broad Kingdom impact.
3. equip students with bachelor's level or higher.
4. demonstrate multiplication through assistance to other institutions.

### **III. We are committed to cooperation and seek to enable partner institutions that**

1. are multidenominational in their ministries, student body, faculty and board composition.
2. are willing to cooperate with others and avoid competition and duplication in a city or country.
3. are committed to learning, dialogue and change.
4. demonstrate diversity of age, gender, language and ethnicity.

**IV. We are committed to a global orientation and seek to enable institutions that**

1. demonstrate global awareness, concern and orientation.
2. are willing to assist Overseas Council in understanding the realities within their continent or region.
3. engage global trends in balance with local concerns.

**V. We are committed to excellence in education, and seek to enable partner institutions that**

1. are accredited or are actively pursuing accreditation.
2. are missional, transformative and holistic in their community.
3. are expanding their programs through new information technology and delivery systems.
4. have faculty who are striving to grow in Christ and who serve as role models and mentors.
5. are equally concerned about academic excellence, spiritual formation and ministry competencies.
6. have quality academic faculty with educational skills and ministry experience.
7. are responsive to ongoing training needs of alumni and pastors.
8. are responsive to the training needs of the laity at various levels, including the grass roots.
9. are developing curricula that focus on contextual realities from an interdisciplinary perspective.
10. have faculty and staff who are engaged in research, publication and engagement with the wider academic community.

**VI. We are committed to excellence in institutional development and seek to enable partner institutions that**

1. have leaders who foster team cooperation.
2. have an effective organizational structure that that fosters academic, administrative, and resource development functions
3. have strong vision and orientation toward the future expressed in a realistic strategic plan.

4. implement an effective performance measurement system for all functions.
5. have leaders engaged in continuing professional development through opportunities like the *Institute for Excellence*.
6. provide for continuing training for staff and faculty.
7. practice financial management which demonstrates integrity and accountability.
8. are progressing toward financial sustainability through increasing reliance on local resources.

**VII. We are committed to excellence in governance and seek to enable partner institutions that have a board (council, trustees)**

1. consisting of representatives of church and society who demonstrate ownership and carry ultimate responsibility for the entire institution.
2. which ensures legal and statutory compliance within the institution's country
3. which governs by policy and sets strategic vision.
4. which avoids conflict of interest.