The Yale Center for the Study of Globalization (YCSG) is devoted to examining the impact of our increasingly integrated world on individuals, communities, and nations. The center's purpose is to support the creation and dissemination of ideas for seizing the opportunities and overcoming the challenges resulting from globalization's impact on the world's people and places. The center also studies problems that, even if they do not result directly from globalization, are global in nature and can therefore be effectively addressed only through international cooperation. In accordance with this mission, the YCSG enriches the debate about globalization on campus and promotes the flow of ideas between Yale and the policy world.

One of the center's strengths, and an important area of focus, is its ability to engage with multilateral institutions and global organizations in activities pertinent to its mission through an activity well known in international and policy circles: Commission Diplomacy. Over a ten-year period from 2002 to 2012, the YCSG was involved in over 50 percent of the international commissions convened worldwide, and the center continues this effective work today, bringing its efforts here to the Yale community in a variety of public forums.

The YCSG's current projects include the Rockefeller Foundation Economic Council on Planetary Health, which focuses on the interconnectedness between planetary health and human well-being; a project to produce a Charter on Universal Health Coverage; and work on global drug policy reform. These highlighted activities are in addition to the center's consistent focus on global development, global trade, financial globalization, peace and security, nuclear disarmament, and climate change mitigation.

On campus, the center hosts international conferences, organizes brainstorming sessions and panels, and works constantly to bring to the Yale community individuals who have input on international policy. The center’s project International Cooperation in the National Interest: In Defense of the Multilateral System is an ongoing series of lectures and public presentations at Yale by leaders of the world's multilateral institutions and the experts and scholars who have studied and analyzed them.