

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR REPORT

FALL 2017



Capstone International Center
International Student & Scholar Services

International Student & Scholar Report 2017

***The University of Alabama
Capstone International Center
International Student & Scholar Services***

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Education Abroad
English Language Institute
UA Human Resources
UA Office of Institutional Research & Assessment**

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I. **Overview of International Student & Scholar Services**

International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) serves many roles, but its primary role is as the immigration advising office for all international students and scholars at The University of Alabama.

ISSS is staffed by 7 full-time staff members, including a Director, Assistant Director, 2 International Student and Scholar Advisors, an Immigration Technician who maintains records and SEVIS reporting duties, a Sponsored Student and Services Assistant, and an Immigration Assistant who manages the front office.

In our role as international student visa sponsor, ISSS coordinates with Undergraduate Admissions' international admission unit and with Graduate International Admissions to process F-1 I-20s and J-1 DS-2019s (the two student visa-types used by UA) for all incoming international students and provide each admitted student with advice and guidance on how to process a student visa and make preparations to enter the U.S.

Once international students arrive to UA, International Student & Scholar Services' role switches to that of a compliance office, gathering copies of documents and contact information from each student, providing an extensive orientation with a primary focus on immigration regulatory issues and acculturation, and finally, monitoring all student course registration and on-campus employment to ensure students' compliance with student visa regulations as well as UA's compliance with our reporting duties to the Department of Homeland Security's US Citizenship and Immigration Services.

II. **International Enrollment Highlights for Fall 2017**

As of Fall 2017, **International Student & Scholar Services served 1163 active, enrolled international students.**

In addition to the 1163 active, enrolled international students served by ISSS, there are an additional 182 recent graduates who remain on The University of Alabama's visa sponsorship while working on Optional Practical Training (OPT). Counting these two populations together, the total number of international students served by International Student & Scholar Services is **1345**. The 1163 active, enrolled students match the reported figures from the census data provided by the Office of Institutional Research & Assessment.

The 1163 active, enrolled international students come from 82 countries and regions of the world and represent 3% of the 38,563 students enrolled at The University of Alabama for fall 2017¹.

PLEASE NOTE: For reporting purposes, "international" is understood as a non-U.S. citizen, holding any visa status other than Legal Permanent Residency, Resident Alien, Asylee, or Refugee. Additionally, the student figures presented in this report will differ slightly from the official numbers of international students reported by the Office of Institutional Research & Assessment. OIRA's count includes 8 additional students outside of the U.S. who are enrolled in Distance Learning.

At a total of 1345 (including OPT holders), UA hosted 131 fewer international students in Fall 2017 compared to Fall 2016. The University of Alabama saw its third consecutive decrease in overall international numbers.

The majority of the loss in enrollment was in undergraduate degree seeking students and in non-degree students in the English Language Institute students. Undergraduate degree enrollment fell from 605 to 517 since Fall 2016 due to a number of factors, including: a smaller entering Freshman class; attrition of students especially from Freshman to Sophomore year; and graduating students. Additionally, enrollment from oil dependent economies continues to dwindle, most notably from Saudi Arabia, which impacts English Language Institute enrollment disproportionately.

¹ <http://ua.edu/quickfacts/demographics.html> & <http://oira.ua.edu/factbook/contents/Student-Enrollment/>

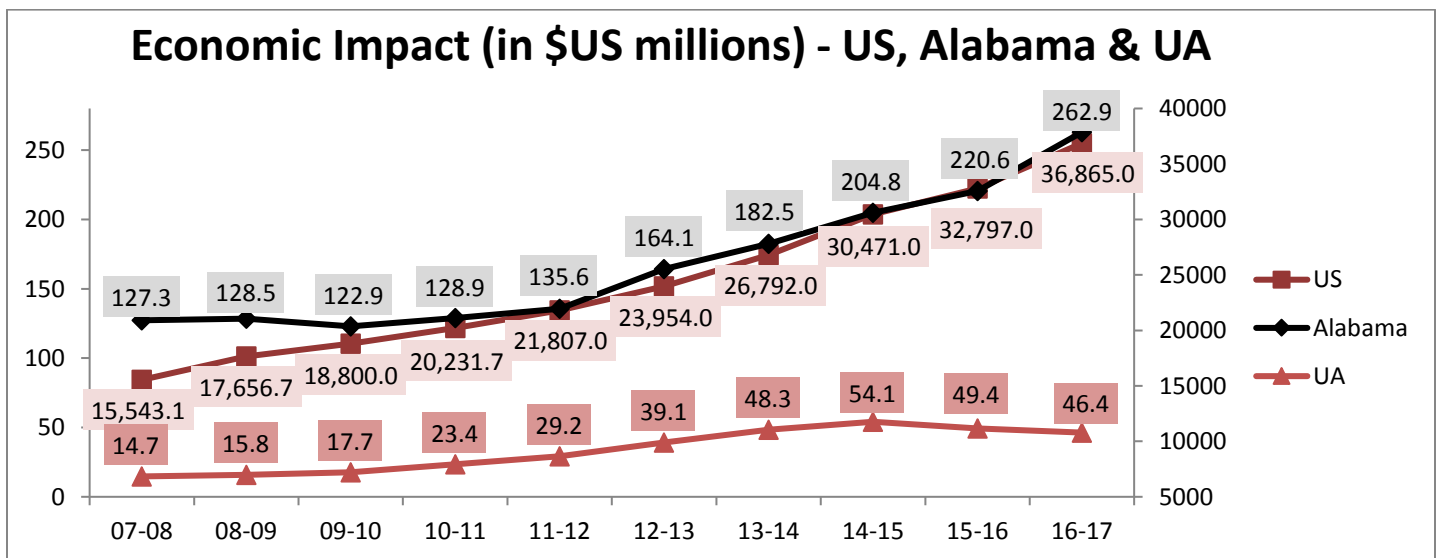
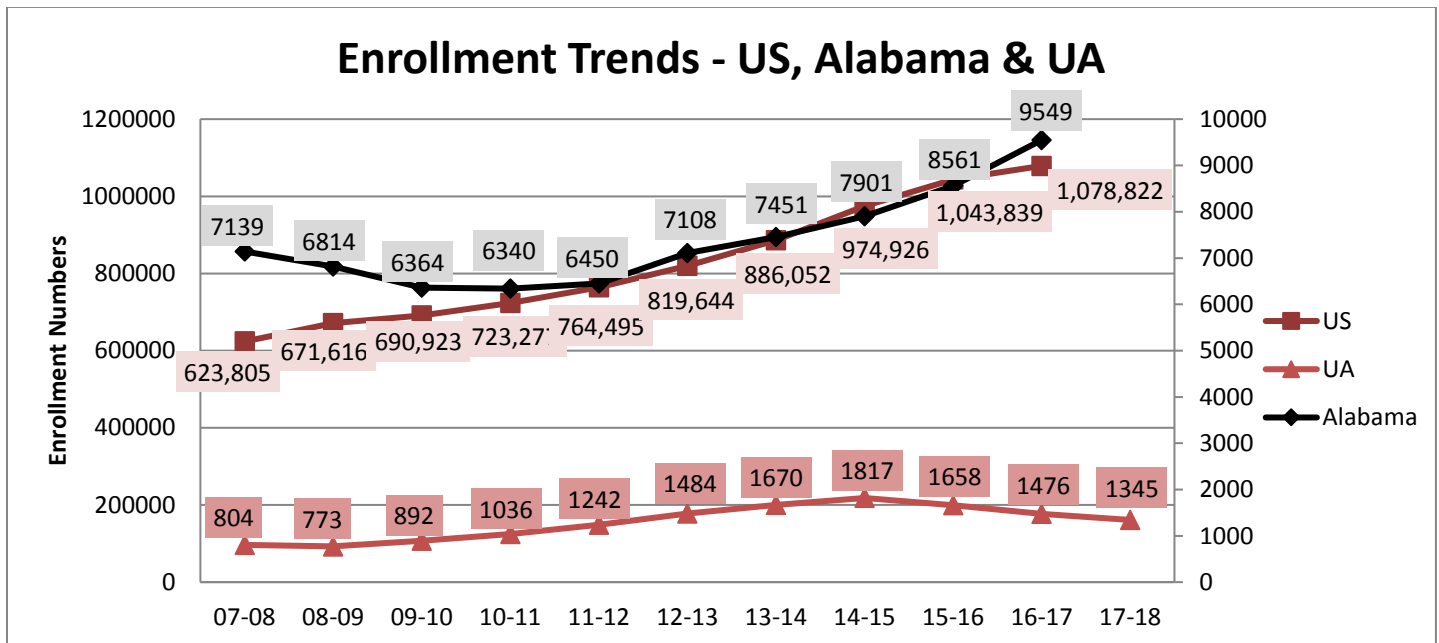
III. Nation and State - Enrollment and Financial Impact of International Students

In 2016/17, the **United States** hosted **1,078,822** international students; in the same year, **Alabama** institutions of higher education enrolled **9549** international students.²

The economic impact of the **1,078,822** international students enrolled in 2016/17 was nearly **\$36.9 billion in contribution to the U.S. economy**, factoring in living expenses for students and their dependents, as well as tuition, books, fees and other education-related expenses.

In Alabama, the **9549** international students enrolled in 2016/17 **contributed \$262,925,048 to the state economy** through paid tuition, living expenses, books, fees, and related expenses.

Locally, the **1476** international students at The University of Alabama in 2016/17 **contributed \$46.4 million to the local economy** through paid tuition, living expenses, books, fees, and other related expenses.³



2 IIE's Open Doors Report - <http://www.iie.org/Research-and-Publications/Open-Doors>

3 NAFSA's International Student Economic Value Tool:

http://www.nafsa.org/Explore_International_Education/Impact/Data_And_Statistics/NAFSA_International_Student_Economic_Value_Tool/#distData

IV. UA International Student Statistics

A. Breakdown of Fall Semester 2017 Student Numbers by Degree Level and Year (Includes Recent Graduates on OPT):

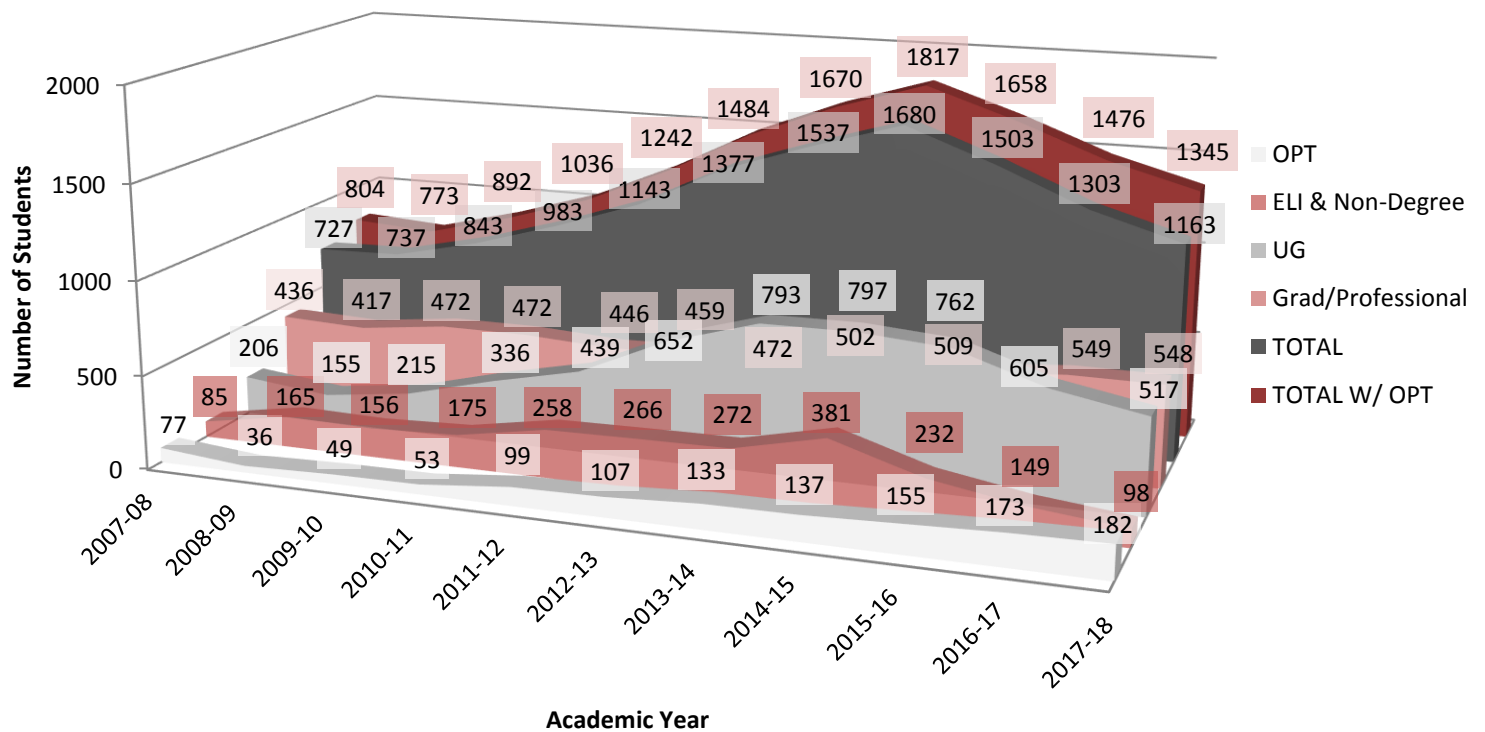
DEGREE & LEVEL	Total
Undergraduate Students	517
<i>Freshman</i>	90
<i>Sophomore</i>	114
<i>Junior</i>	136
<i>Senior</i>	177
Graduate Students	548
<i>Master's</i>	130
<i>Doctoral</i>	415
<i>Professional</i>	3
English Language Institute	67
<i>ELI Only</i>	59
<i>Conditional Admits</i>	8
Non-Degree & Education Abroad Exchanges	31
<i>Non-Degree/Visiting Students</i>	11
<i>Study Abroad</i>	20
SUBTOTAL OF ACTIVE, ENROLLED STUDENTS	1163
OPT – Graduates on Optional Practical Training	182
TOTAL	1345

B. UA International Student Numbers 2007 - 2017

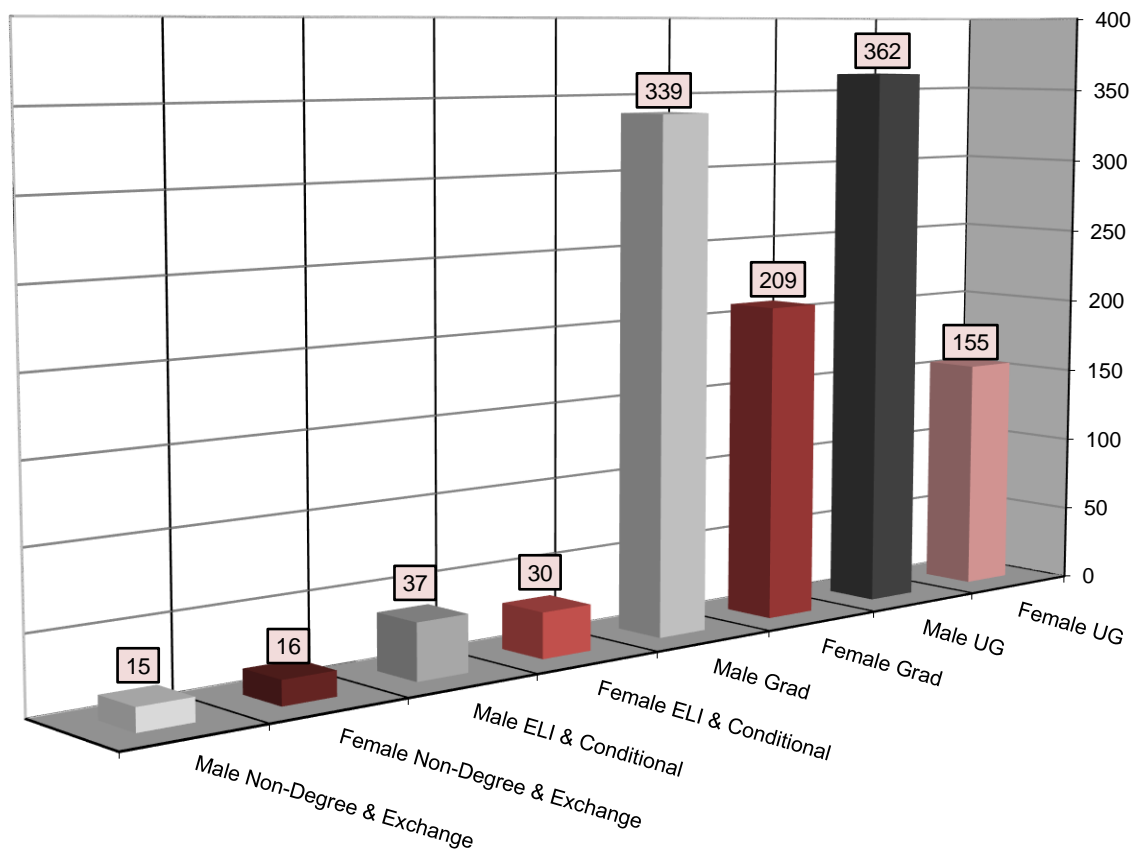
YEAR	UG	GRAD	ELI & NON-DEGREE	SUBTOTAL: ACTIVE STUDENTS	OPT	TOTAL W/ OPT	% TOTAL CHANGE
2007-08	206	436	85	727	77	804	+ 3.5%
2008-09	155	417	165	737	36	773	- 3.9%
2009-10	215	472	156	843	49	892	+ 15.4%
2010-11	336	472	175	983	53	1036	+ 16.1%
2011-12*	439	446	258	1143	99	1242	+ 19.9%
2012-13	652	459	266	1377	107	1484	+ 19.6%
2013-14	793	472	272	1537	133	1670	+ 12.5%
2014-15	797	502	381	1680	137	1817	+ 8.8%
2015-16	762	509	232	1503	155	1658	- 8.8%
2016-17	605	549	149	1303	173	1476	- 10.9%
2017-18	517	548	98	1163	182	1345	- 8.9%

*Prior to 2011/2012, conditionally admitted students were included with the undergraduate and graduate students rather than included with the ELI numbers.

C. 2007-2017 Comparison of UA International Student Numbers



V. International Student Numbers by Gender



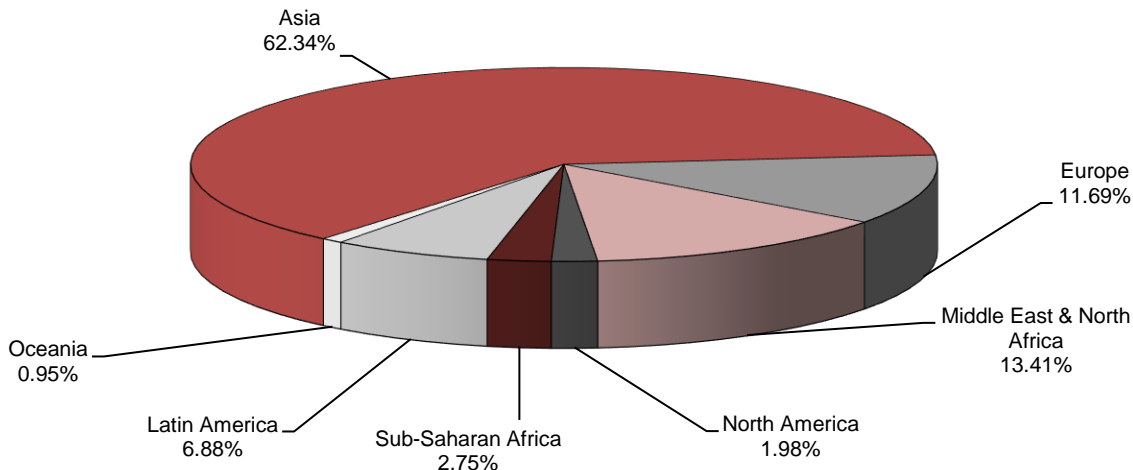
VI. Region & Places of Origin – For All Students Except Graduates on OPT

The 1163 enrolled international students at The University of Alabama for 2017/18 originated from **82 countries**. Table A. subdivides the world into seven major regions. The total number of students from each region has been recorded. Chart B. graphically depicts student percentages from the major regions.

A. International Students by Region

REGION	Total
Asia	725
Middle East & North Africa	156
Europe	136
Latin America	80
Sub-Saharan Africa	32
North America (Canada)	23
Oceania	11
TOTAL	1163

B. Percentage of Students by Regions of the World



C. Top Ten Places of Origin: This table lists the ten countries/territories that send the highest number of students to The University of Alabama.

COUNTRY/TERRITORY	UNDERGRAD	GRAD	ELI & CONDITIONAL	NON-DEGREE & EDUCATION ABROAD	TOTAL
1. China, PR	259	200	5	3	467
2. Saudi Arabia	63	4	13		80
3. India	8	53			61
4. Korea, South*	15	23	4		42
4. Bangladesh*	2	40			42
6. Nepal	1	38			39
7. Kuwait	34		1		35
8. Turkey	3	22	9		34
9. Germany	7	12	6	7	32
10. Canada*	15	8			23
10. Colombia*		18	5		23

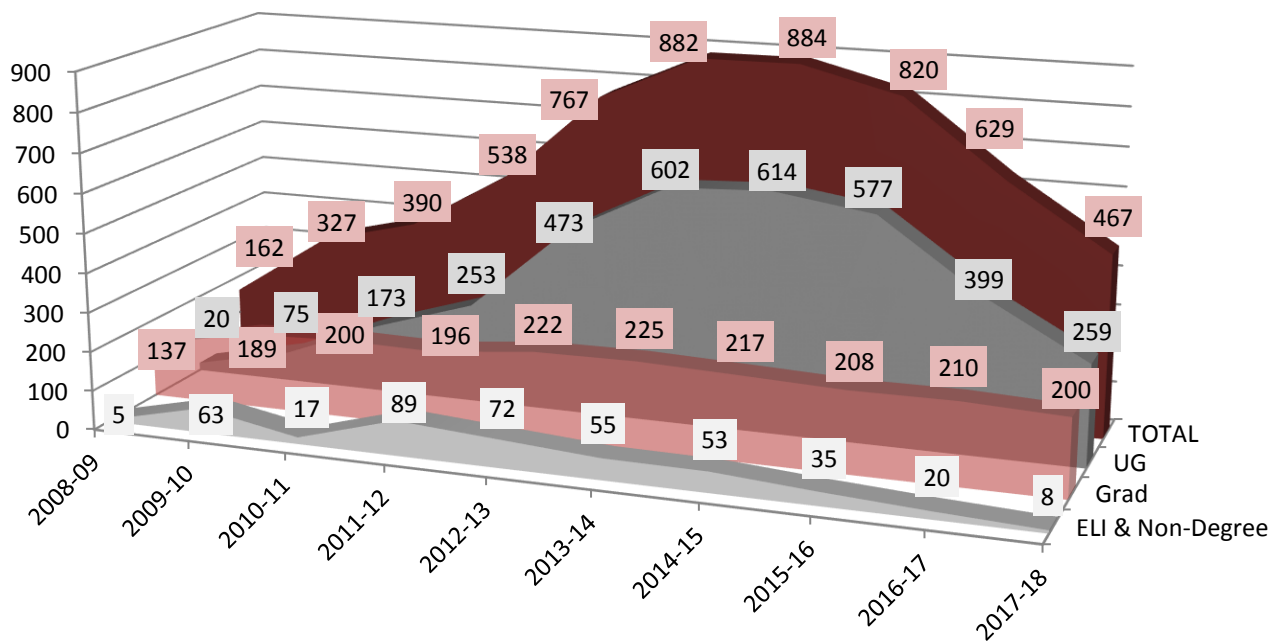
*Tied

D. International Student Places of Origin – For All Active Students (Not OPT)

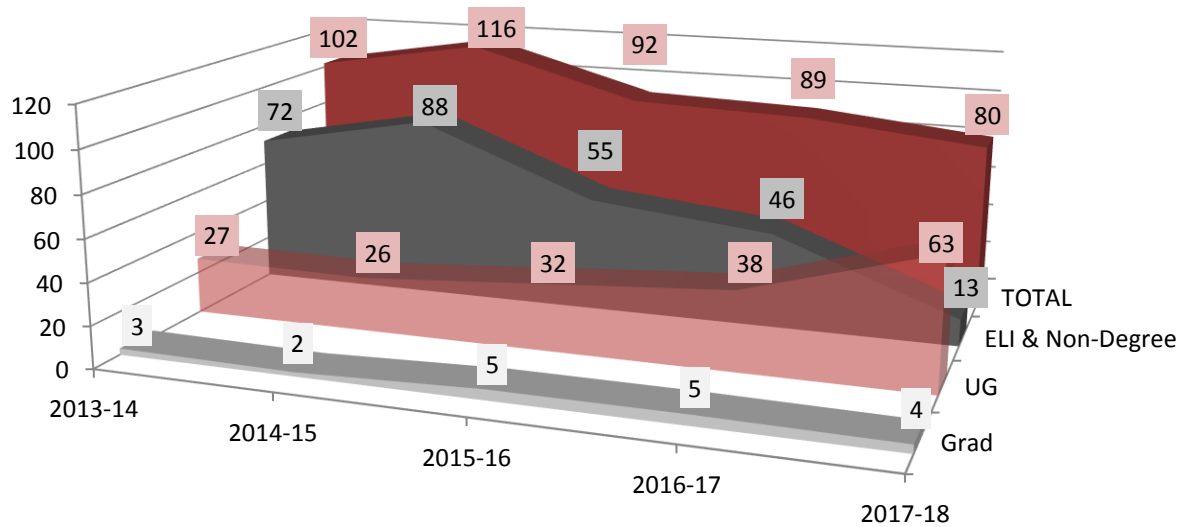
COUNTRY/TERRITORY	UNDERGRAD	GRAD & PROFESSIONAL	ELI & CONDITIONAL	NON-DEGREE & EDUCATION ABROAD	TOTAL
Albania		1			1
Australia	6	1		2	9
Austria	3				3
Bahamas	2	1			3
Bahrain				1	1
Bangladesh	2	40			42
Belarus		1			1
Belize		1			1
Brazil	3	6	2		11
Canada	15	8			23
Cayman Islands	1				1
Chile	1				1
China, P.R.	259	200	5	3	467
Colombia		18	5		23
Cyprus	3				3
Denmark				2	2
Dominica		1			1
Ecuador	2		1		3
Egypt		3			3
Eritrea		1			1
Finland		1			1
France	3	1		1	5
Germany	7	12	6	7	32
Ghana		4			4
Greece	1				1
Grenada	1				1
Guatemala		1			1
Honduras		4			4
Hong Kong	1	1			2
Hungary	3				3
India	8	53			61
Indonesia	1				1
Iran		22			22
Ireland		2			2
Italy	2	3	1	1	7
Jamaica	2	6			8
Japan	1	1	15	3	20
Jordan		2			2
Kazakhstan		1			1
Kenya	3	1			4
Korea, South	15	23	4		42
Kuwait	34		1		35
Kyrgyzstan				1	1
Lithuania	1				1
Malaysia	1	3			4
Mexico	9		2		11
Mongolia		1		1	2
Nepal	1	38			39
Netherlands	3	2			5
New Zealand	2				2
Nigeria	4	11			15
Norway				1	1
Oman	4		1		5
Pakistan		1			1
Panama	1	1			2
Peru		1			1

COUNTRY/TERRITORY	UNDERGRAD	GRAD	ELI & CONDITIONAL	NON-DEGREE & EDUCATION ABROAD	TOTAL
Philippines	1	1			2
Poland	1				1
Romania		1			1
Russia	1	4			5
Rwanda		3		1	4
Saint Lucia		1			1
Saudi Arabia	63	4	13		80
Serbia				1	1
South Africa	3				3
Spain	3	2			5
Sri Lanka	2	2		1	5
Sudan	1				1
Sweden	2				2
Switzerland		1		1	2
Syria	1				1
Taiwan		8	1	1	10
Thailand	3	1			4
Trinidad & Tobago	6				6
Turkey	3	22	9		34
Ukraine	1				1
United Arab Emirates (UAE)	2				2
United Kingdom (UK)	6	7		3	16
Uzbekistan		1			1
Venezuela		1			1
Vietnam	9	11			20
Yemen	4		1		5
TOTAL	517	548	67	31	1163

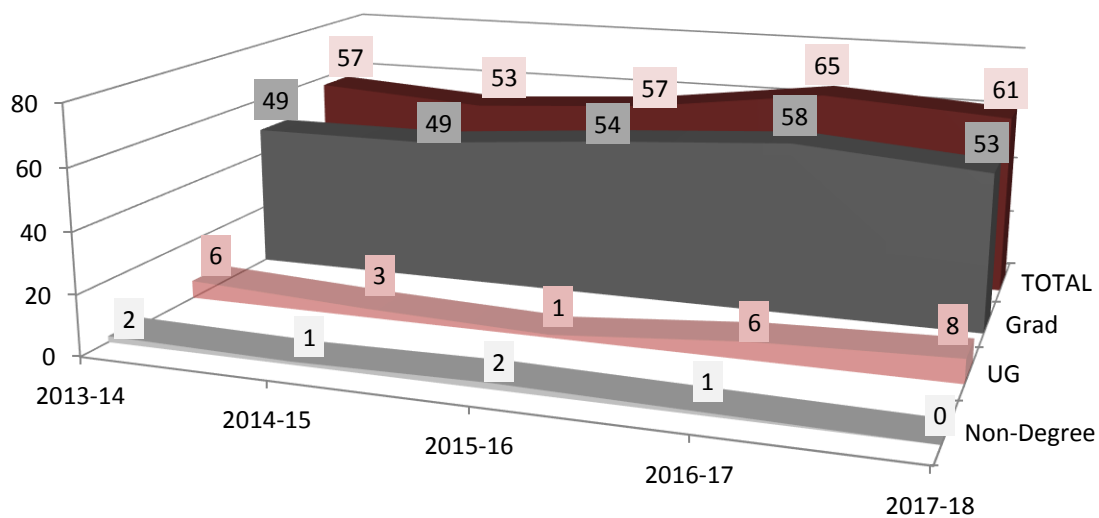
E. Chinese Student Enrollment 10-Year Comparison: 2008–17



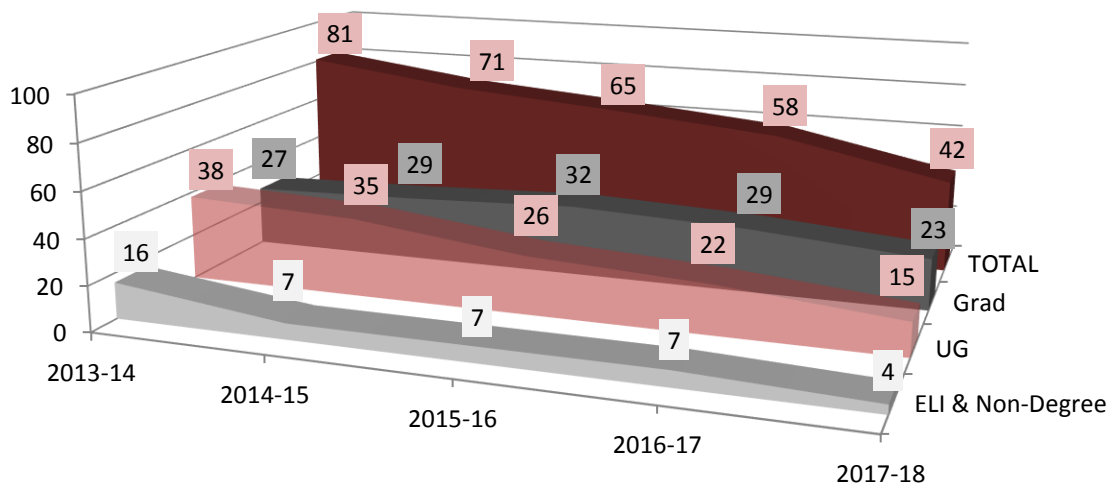
F. Saudi Arabian Enrollment 5-Year Comparison: 2013–17



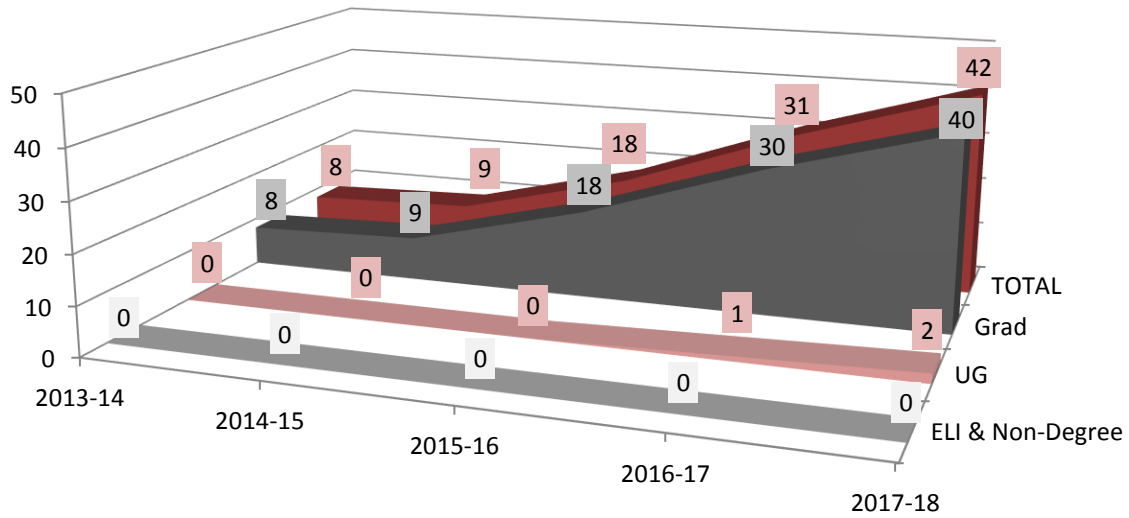
G. Indian Enrollment 5-Year Comparison: 2013–17



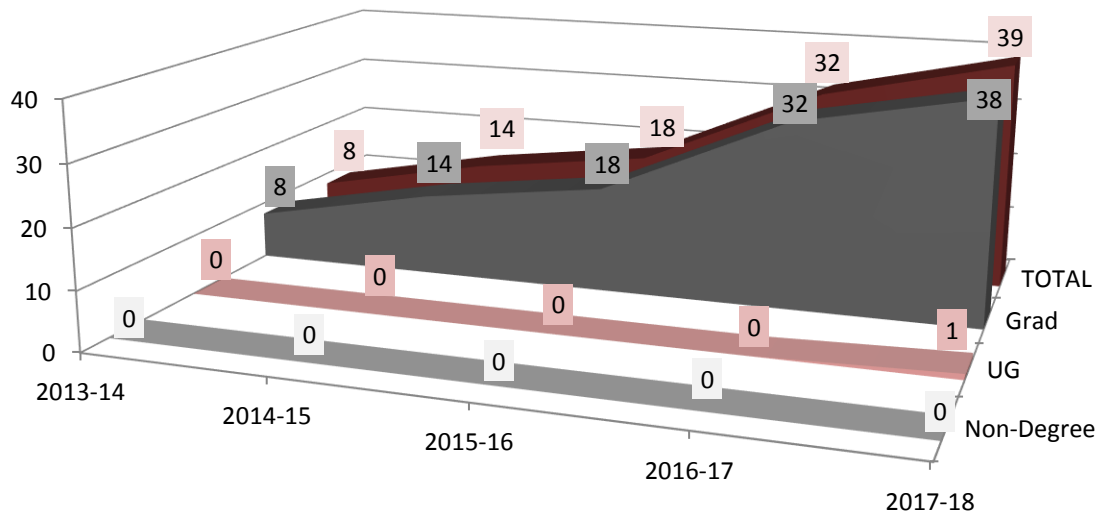
H. South Korean Enrollment 5-Year Comparison: 2013–17



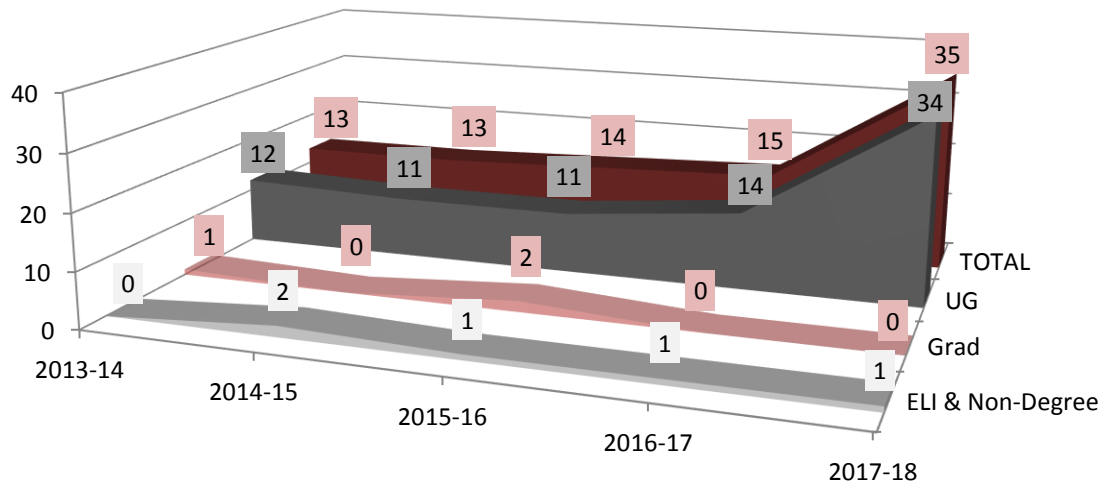
I. Bangladeshi Enrollment 5-Year Comparison: 2013–17



J. Nepalese Enrollment 5-Year Comparison: 2013–17



K. Kuwaiti Enrollment 5-Year Comparison: 2013–17



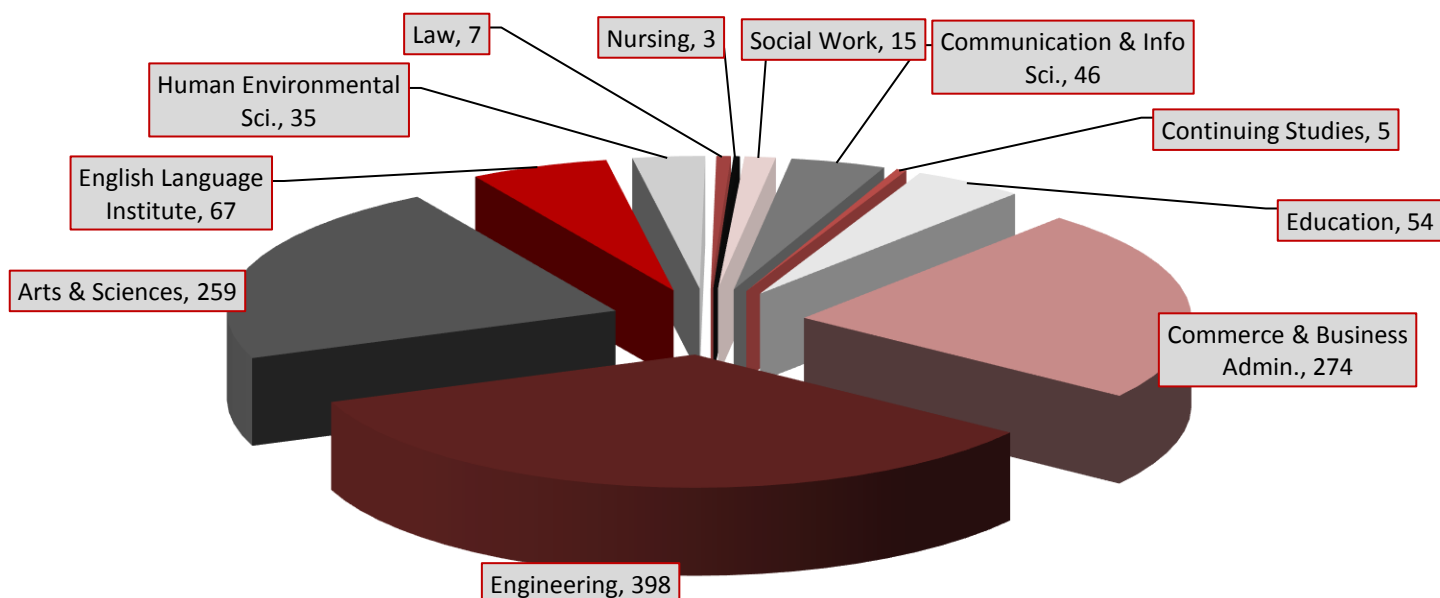
VII. International Student Numbers by Major

(NOTE: ELI & Conditional Students are broken down by intended degree. Those students who are only studying English as a Second Language are listed under ELI for their major)

Department	Undergrad	Grad	ELI & Conditional	Non-Degree & Education Abroad	Total
Accounting	50	2			52
Advertising	5	1			6
Aerospace Engineering & Mechanics	11	24			35
American Studies		1			1
Anthropology		2			2
Apparel and Textiles	3				3
Applied Mathematics		5			5
Applied Statistics		11			11
Architectural Engineering	1				1
Art	1	2			3
Arts & Sciences, General/Undeclared	7			13	20
Athletic Training	1				1
Biology/Marine Biology/Microbiology	11	18			29
Book Arts		1			1
Business, General	29				29
Chemical Engineering	47	11			58
Chemistry	2	32			34
Civil & Construction Engineering	15	29	1		45
Communication & Information Sciences		22			22
Communication Studies	1	2			3
Computer Science	26	19			45
Continuing Education				5	5
Counseling Education		2			2
Creative Media/News Media	2				2
Creative Writing		1			1
Criminal Justice	1				1
Economics	8	19	1		28
Education (Elem., Secondary, Special)	1	9		1	11
Ed Leadership/ Ed Admin/ Higher Ed	1	14			15
Education Psychology / Ed Research		14			14
Electrical Engineering	24	50			74
ELI – English Language Institute			59		59
Engineering, General				10	10
English Literature	2				2
Environmental Engineering	2	1			3
Environmental Science	1				1
Finance	69	15	1		85
Food and Nutrition	7				7
Geography	1	9			10
Geology		22			22
German		7			7
Health Education & Promotion		1			1
Health Studies		1			1
History	2				2
Human Development & Family Studies	2				2
Human Environmental Science, General	15				15
Human Performance Exercise Science	2	6	2		10
Instructional Leadership		3			3
Interdisciplinary Studies	3				3
Interior Design	2				2
International Studies	1				1

Department	Undergrad	Grad	ELI & Conditional	Non-Degree & Education Abroad	Total
Journalism	2	2			2
Law (JD, JSD, and LLM)		7			7
Library & Information Studies		2			2
Management	17	7			24
Management Information Systems	6				6
Marketing	17	11	1		29
Materials Science		14			14
Mathematics	11	15			26
MBA		2			2
Mechanical Engineering	74	31	2		107
Metallurgical & Materials Engineering	2	10			12
Music		11			11
Music Education	1				1
Non-Degree				2	2
Nursing	2	1			3
Operations Management	10	9			19
Philosophy	1				1
Physics	3	34			37
Political Science		3			3
Psychology	7	8			15
Public Administration		3			3
Public Health	1				1
Public Relations	3				3
Restaurant & Hospitality Management	1				1
Romance Languages (French & Spanish)		7			7
Social Work		14			14
Teaching English as a Second Language		1			1
Telecommunication & Film	3				3
TOTAL	517	548	67	31	1163

VIII. International Student Numbers by School/College



IX. UA International Faculty, Staff, & Scholars Report

International scholar and faculty numbers at The University of Alabama for the 2016/17 year (the period between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017) totaled **308** non-immigrants, representing **45 countries and territories**.

The 308 total represents an **8.3% decrease** from the 336 scholars hosted by UA the previous year. While this drop in numbers seems concerning, UA's hosting of J-1 Scholars and H-1B Faculty/Staff is actually up significantly. The increases in scholars, faculty, and staff on UA's sponsorship was negated when a large number (69) of summer interns rolled off our reports. The interns were on J-1 Academic Training and part of the Brazil Science Mobility Program hosted in 2015/16; the BSMP Program officially ended in 2016.

PLEASE NOTE: For reporting purposes, the faculty, staff, and scholar figures presented in this report will differ greatly from the official numbers of faculty and staff reported by The University of Alabama's Office of Institutional Research & Assessment. International Student & Scholar Services capture the data contained within this report from internal files, which include a large number of unpaid, visiting researchers who are not counted in official employment numbers.

International Scholars, Faculty and Staff Excluded from Reported Data: Permanent Residents and Guest Lecturers

This figure of 308 international scholars and faculty present does not include the faculty and staff who hold Permanent Residency Status (Green Card-holders); nor does the total include the numerous international guest lecturers and contractors who visited and performed services for The University of Alabama between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

The reason that Permanent Residents (Green Card Holders) are not included in International Student & Scholar Services' international faculty and staff statistics in this report is because it is not within the purview of International Student & Scholar Services to track or advise Permanent Residents who work for The University of Alabama. New employees who hold Permanent Residency status do not report to International Student & Scholar Services. Permanent Residents do not normally require the office's services nor do they have to have their visa-status maintained by International Student & Scholar Services.

International guest lecturers and contractors who came for brief visits to perform a service for UA are not counted because they are not employees of the University. Like any other guest lecturer or contractor, their visit is brief and is for a specific purpose.

X. What the Visa Categories Mean

J-1 Research Scholar/Professor

The J-1 Exchange Visitor category is for persons who are coming to the U.S. for a temporary stay in a variety of different areas. As it concerns faculty and staff, The University of Alabama authorizes J-1 documents only for professors, research scholars, short-term scholars, specialists, and student interns.

The J-1 program is a temporary program. J-1 researcher scholars/professors are limited to just 5 years for their research or teaching; specialists and student interns are limited to 1 year, and short-term scholars are limited to 6 months of research or other activity in their field. The J-1 Visa is considered a non-immigrant visa, meaning that J-Visa holders should have no intent to immigrate to the United States or become Permanent Residents. J-1 Professors and Scholars cannot be candidates for tenure or hold tenure-track positions.

The overall objective of the J-1 Exchange Visitor classification as written in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act (Fulbright-Hayes Act) of 1961 is "to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchanges."

O-1 Extraordinary Ability

The O-1 Visa is a rarely used visa category. It is a sponsored visa-type. The O-1 is used in cases where the faculty member or researcher is someone of extraordinary renown and for whom the H-1B is not an option.

H-1B

The H-1B category is another employment visa category which is sponsored by The University of Alabama. It is for persons who are coming to the U.S. to be temporary workers in a specialty occupation. To be considered eligible for H-1B, the position must require at least a Bachelor's degree.

Employment approval is granted through the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and is job-specific as well as employer- and department-specific. The H-1B has a maximum total stay of six years. Workers in this category can fill permanent positions, including tenure-track positions, but they must leave the country at the end of their authorized period of stay unless they have filed for a change to Permanent Residency or another valid visa category. H-1B is often the category used while in the process of applying for Permanent Residency.

Other Visa Categories:**F-1 OPT, F-1 CPT, J-1 Academic Training, J-2 with EAD, B-1/B-2 or WB/WT**

There are several employees whose visas are not sponsored by The University of Alabama. Those with Employment Authorization Cards are the most common non-sponsored employee. F-1 international students who are on Optional Practical Training (OPT) and J-2 Spouses with Employment Authorization hold Employment Authorization Cards issued by US Citizenship and Immigration Services. Additionally, there are two other authorizations for students which do not require Employment Authorization Cards – F-1 students with Curricular Practical Training (CPT) authorization and J-1 students with Academic Training (AT) authorization. CPT and AT are authorized by the students' international advising offices.

Another common, non-sponsored visa types is the B-1/B-2 Visitor Visa or WB/WT Visa Waiver Visitor. B-1/B-2 Visas and WB/WT status are visitor visa statuses for business trips and tourism. While those with a visitor visa status cannot be employees, it is possible for someone on a visitor visa to conduct research with the University with strictly external-support (e.g. a professor on sabbatical or researcher on personal funds).

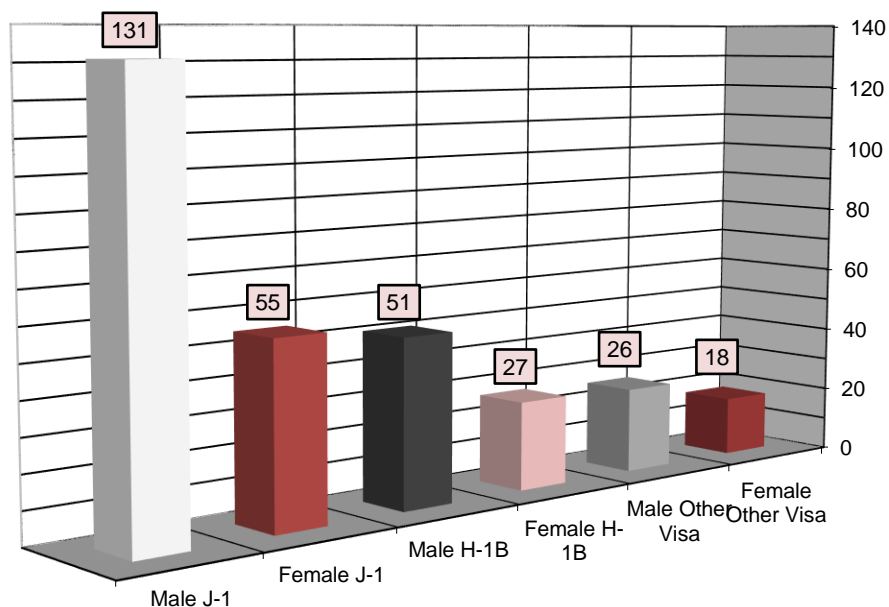
XI. International Faculty and Scholar Statistics*

VISA-STATUS	Total
J-1 Scholars	174
J-1 Physicians (sponsored by ECFMG)	12
H-1B Workers	78
O-1	1
F-1 CPT/OPT	20
Other	5
B-1/B-2 – WB/WT	18
TOTAL	308

* Information covers July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

YEAR	J-1	H-1B	OTHER	TOTALS	% TOTAL CHANGE
2011-12	79	77	16	172	-
2012-13	149	67	16	232	+ 34.8%
2013-14	126	73	27	226	- 2.6%
2014-15	160	77	89	326	+ 44.2%
2015-16	165	73	98	336	+ 3.1%
2016-17	186	78	44	308	- 8.3%

XII. International Faculty and Scholar Numbers by Gender



Total International Male: 208
Total International Female: 100

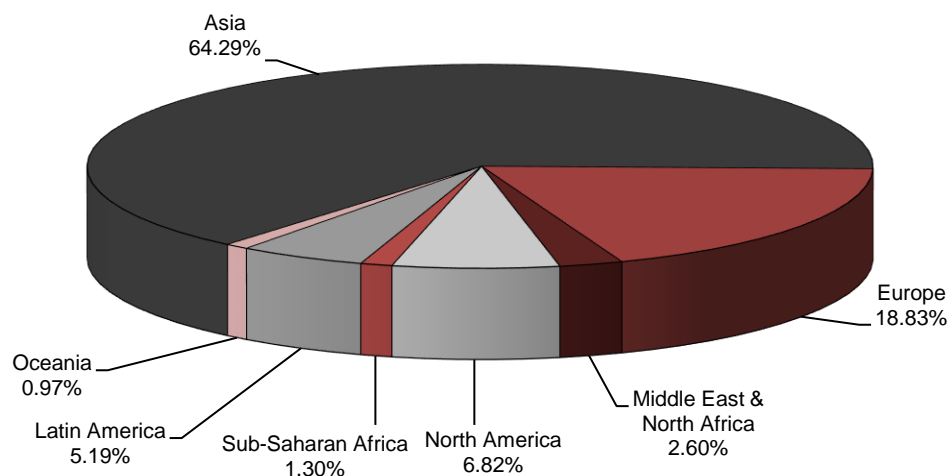
XIII. Region & Places of Origin

International Scholars and Faculty at The University of Alabama for 2016/17 originated from **45 countries and territories**. The first table subdivides the world into seven major regions. The total number of scholars and faculty from each region has been recorded. And the chart in B graphically depicts faculty and staff percentages from the major regions.

A. International Scholars and Faculty by Region

REGION	Total
Asia	198
Europe	58
North America (Canada)	21
Latin America & the Caribbean	16
Middle East & North Africa	8
Sub-Saharan Africa	4
Oceania	3
TOTAL	308

B. Percentage of Scholars and Faculty by Regions of the World



C. Top Ten Places of Origin: The following table lists the ten countries/territories that have the highest number of scholars and faculty at The University of Alabama.

1. China, PR	114
2. India	36
3. Germany	30
4. South Korea	27
5. Canada	21
6. Brazil	7
7/8/9. Egypt, Japan, Turkey*	6
10. Taiwan	4

*Tie

D. International Scholar and Faculty Places of Origin

Country	J-1	H-1B	Other Visa	Total
Australia	1		1	2
Bangladesh			1	1
Bolivia	1			1
Brazil	2	2	3	7
Bulgaria		1		1
Canada	13	8		21
Chile	1			1
China, P.R.	80	18	16	114
Colombia	1		2	3
Croatia	1			1
Cuba	1			1
Czech Republic			1	1
Ecuador	1			1
Egypt	6			6
France	3			3
Germany	22	6	2	30
Ghana	1	1		2
Greece	1	2		3
Hong Kong		1		1
India	18	12	6	36
Iran			1	1
Ireland			1	1
Italy	2	1		3
Japan	5	1		6
Korea, South	14	11	2	27
Kyrgyzstan		1		1
Libya		1		1
Mexico	1			1
Moldova			1	1
Nepal		1	1	2
New Zealand	1			1
Pakistan			1	1
Philippines	1			1
Portugal	1			1
Russia		1		1
South Africa			1	1
Spain	1		1	2
Sri Lanka		1	1	2
Taiwan	2	2		4
Turkey	3	2	1	6
Ukraine			1	1
United Kingdom		3		3
Venezuela		1		1
Vietnam	2			2
Zambia		1		1
TOTAL	186	78	44	308

XIV. International Scholars and Faculty by Department

Department	J-1	H-1B	Other Visa	Total
Adapted Athletics		1		1
Advertising & Public Relations	1	1		2
Aerospace Engineering & Mechanics	11		2	13
Alabama Transportation Institute			2	2
Art			1	1
Athletics	2			2
Biology	3	3	2	8
CCHS – School of Medicine	12	1		13
Center for Advanced Public Safety (CAPS)		3		3
Center for Advanced Vehicle Technology		1		1
Chemical & Biological Engineering	3	2	1	6
Chemistry	15	5	6	26
CIS - Communication and Information Science	1		1	2
Civil, Construction, & Environmental Engineering	14	2	2	18
Communicative Disorders		1		1
Computer Science	8	1	1	10
Consumer Science/ CHES		3		3
Curriculum and Instruction		1		1
Economics, Finance & Legal Studies	11	5		16
Education	2	1	2	5
Education Leadership, Policy, & Technology Studies	1			1
Ed Studies in Psych, Research Methods & Counseling	1	2		3
Electrical & Computer Engineering	15	1	3	19
English Language Institute	7			7
English Literature and TESL	7	1		8
Gender & Race Studies	1			1
Geography		1		1
Geological Sciences	11	3	1	15
History		2		2
Honors College	1			1
Human Development and Family Studies			4	4
Human Nutrition & Hospitality Management		3		3
Information Systems, Statistics & Management Science	1	3	1	5
Information Technology		1		1
Institutional Research Assessment (OIRA)		1	1	2
Instructional Technology and Academic Services		1		1
Journalism & Creative Media	3			3
Kinesiology		1		1
Law, School	2		2	4
Marketing		1		1
Mathematics	4	5	2	11
Mechanical Engineering	10	2		12
Metallurgical & Materials Engineering	4		1	5
MINT Center (Materials for Information Technology)	25		2	27
Modern Languages & Classics	2	3		5
Nursing		1		1
Physics & Astronomy	5	7	2	14
Political Science	1	1		2
Psychology		1	1	2
Religious Studies		3		3
Social Work	1			1
Special Education & Multiple Abilities		1	1	2

Department	J-1	H-1B	Other Visa	Total
Student Accounts			1	1
Technology Transfer			1	1
Telecommunication and Film		1		1
University Libraries	1	1	1	3
TOTAL	186	78	44	308

XV. Length of Program

International Scholars' time at The University of Alabama varies widely from short visits of a few weeks to longer terms of employment of several years. The chart below breaks down the 308 International Scholars and Faculty at UA in 2016/17 by the length of their stay.

In 2016/17, 44 scholars' sponsorship by UA was for less than 3 months. 16 scholars' sponsorship lasted between 3 months and less than 6 months. 23 scholars' sponsorship at UA was for a period of between 6 months and less than 1 year. The vast majority, 225 scholars, were sponsored for 1 year or longer.

