

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR REPORT

FALL 2020



Capstone International Center
International Student & Scholar Services

International Student & Scholar Report 2020

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

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**Acknowledgements and thanks to the following:
Education Abroad
English Language Institute
UA Human Resources
UA Office of Institutional Research & Assessment**

**Prepared by:
Charter Morris, Director of International Student & Scholar Services**

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. This year, due to COVID-19 the ISSS office dealt with many rapidly changing circumstances in fulfilling its roles and responsibilities. For a summary of the impacts of COVID-19 and a timeline of events, see Section XVI at the end of this report.

ISSS is staffed by 7 full-time staff members, including a Director, Associate Director, 2 International Student and Scholar Advisors, a SEVIS Coordinator 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 at 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 Student Exchange Visitor Program.

II. **International Enrollment Highlights for Fall 2020**

In Fall 2020, **International Student & Scholar Services served 1173 active, enrolled international students.**

In Fall 2020, UA welcomed **151 new international students**, including **98 first time graduate students**, **35 first time Freshmen**, and **18 first-time undergraduate transfer students**.

In addition to the 1173 active, enrolled international students served by ISSS, there are an additional 135 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 **1308**. The 1173 active, enrolled students match the reported figures from the census data provided by the Office of Institutional Research & Assessment.

The 1173 active, enrolled international students come from 77 countries and regions of the world and **represent 3.1% of the 37,842 students enrolled at The University of Alabama for fall 2020¹.**

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 5 additional students outside of the U.S. who are enrolled in Distance Learning.

Primarily due to visa delays and entry bans related to COVID-19, UA saw a significant drop in international enrollment for Fall 2020. The greatest impact was on ELI, non-degree, exchange students, and Freshman enrollment. At a total of 1308 (including OPT holders), UA hosted 308 fewer international students in Fall 2020 compared to Fall 2019. This is a 19% total decrease year-to-year.

¹ <https://www.ua.edu/about/quickfacts> & <http://oira.ua.edu/factbook/contents/Student-Enrollment/>

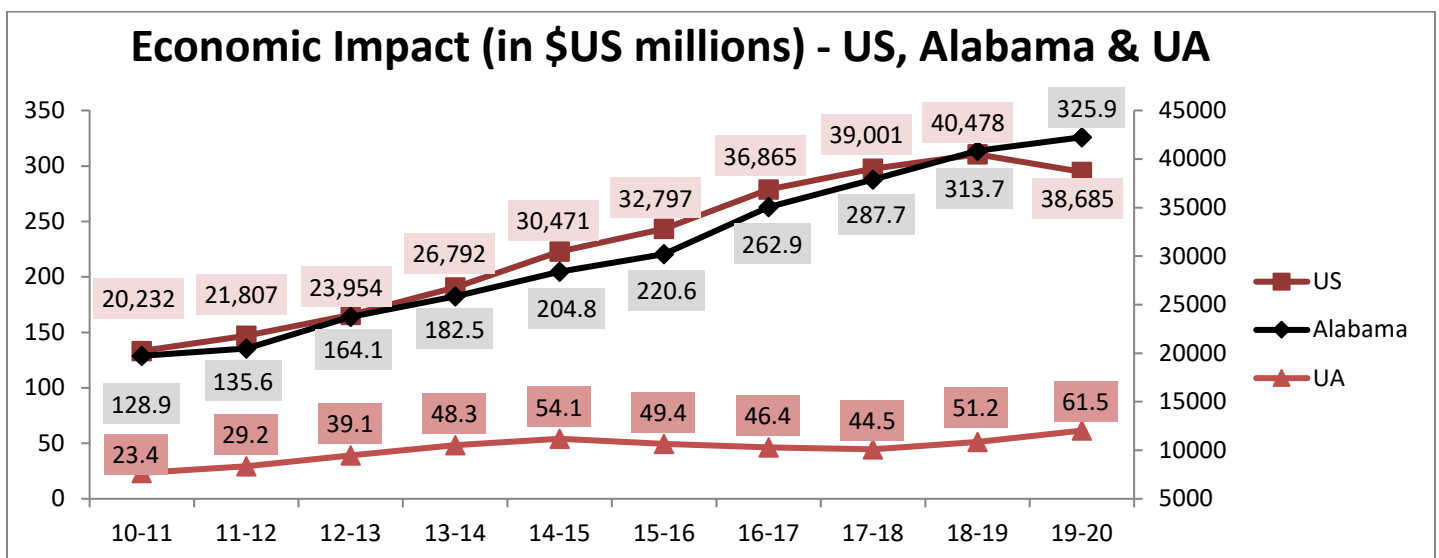
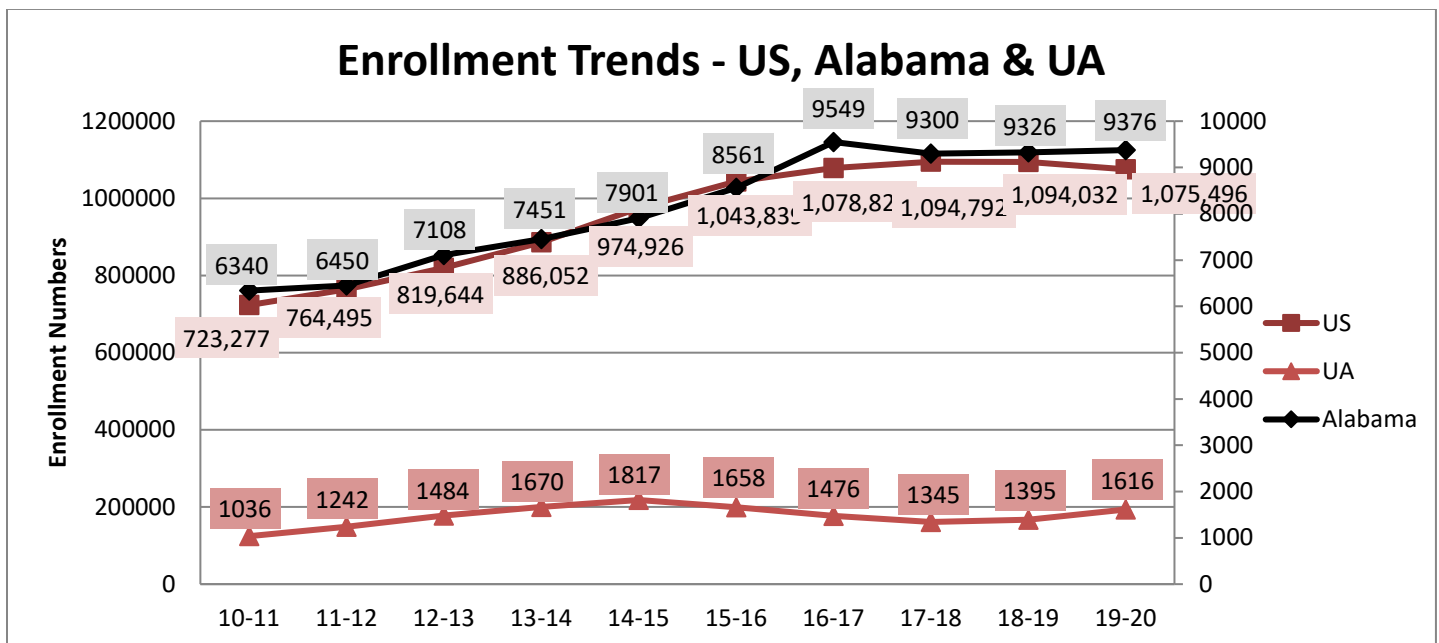
III. Nation and State - Enrollment and Financial Impact of International Students

In 2019/20, the **United States hosted 1,075,496 international students**; in the same year, **Alabama institutions of higher education enrolled 9376 international students**.²

The economic impact of the **1,075,496 international students** enrolled in 2019/20 was nearly **\$38.68 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 **9376 international students** enrolled in 2019/20 **contributed \$325.9 million to the state economy** through paid tuition, living expenses, books, fees, and related expenses.

Locally, the **1616 international students** at The University of Alabama in 2019/20 **contributed \$61.5 million to the local economy** through paid tuition, living expenses, books, fees, and other related expenses.³



2 IIE's Open Doors Report - <https://opendoorsdata.org/>

3 NAFSA's International Student Economic Value Tool: www.nafsa.org/economicvalue

IV. UA International Student Statistics

A. Breakdown of Fall Semester 2020 Student Numbers by Degree Level and Year (Includes Recent Graduates on OPT):

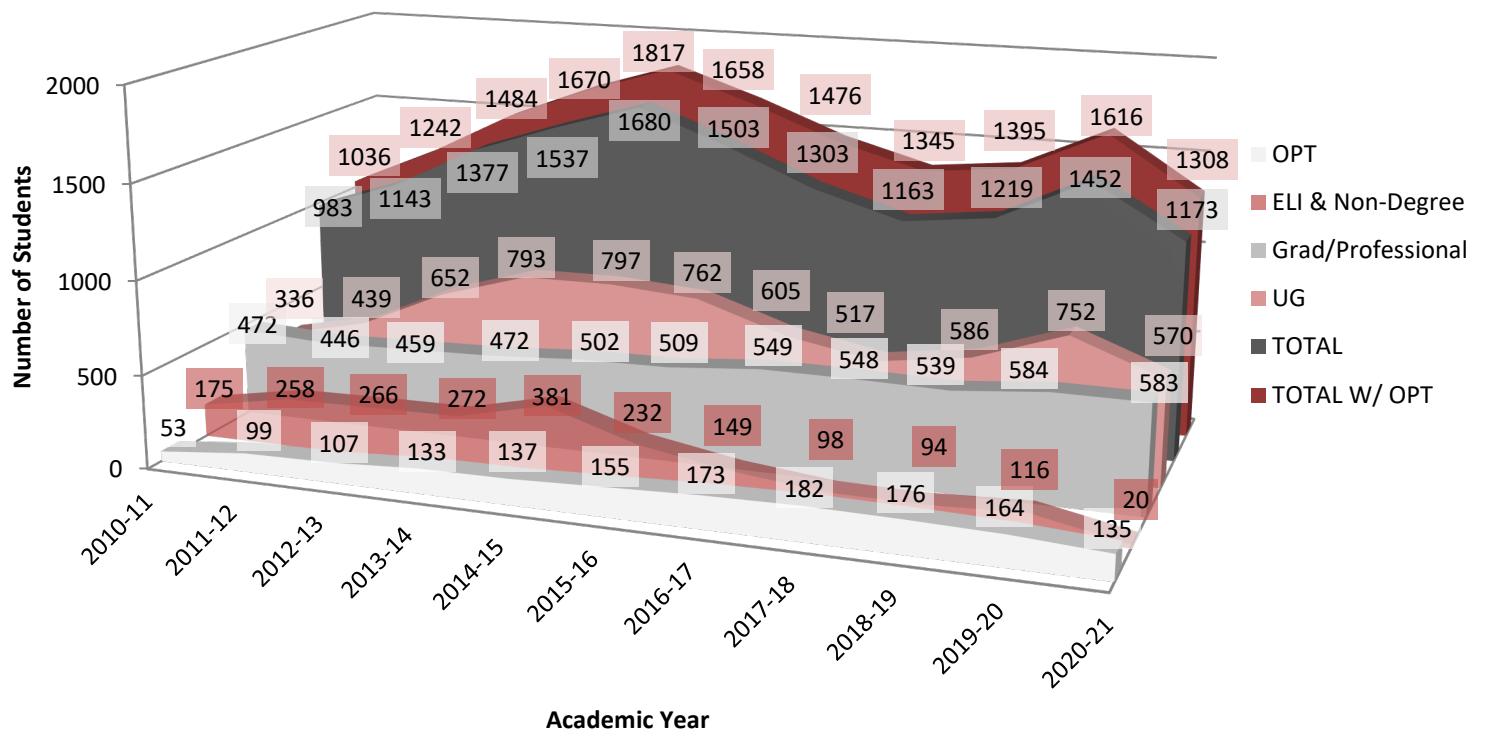
DEGREE & LEVEL	Total
Undergraduate Students	570
<i>Freshman</i>	67
<i>Sophomore</i>	169
<i>Junior</i>	135
<i>Senior</i>	199
Graduate Students	583
<i>Master's</i>	109
<i>Doctoral</i>	472
<i>Professional</i>	2
English Language Institute	7
<i>ELI Only</i>	6
<i>Conditional Admits</i>	1
Non-Degree & Education Abroad Exchanges	13
<i>Non-Degree/Visiting Students</i>	8
<i>Study Abroad</i>	5
SUBTOTAL OF ACTIVE, ENROLLED STUDENTS	1173
OPT – Graduates on Optional Practical Training	135
TOTAL	1308

B. UA International Student Numbers 2010 - 2020

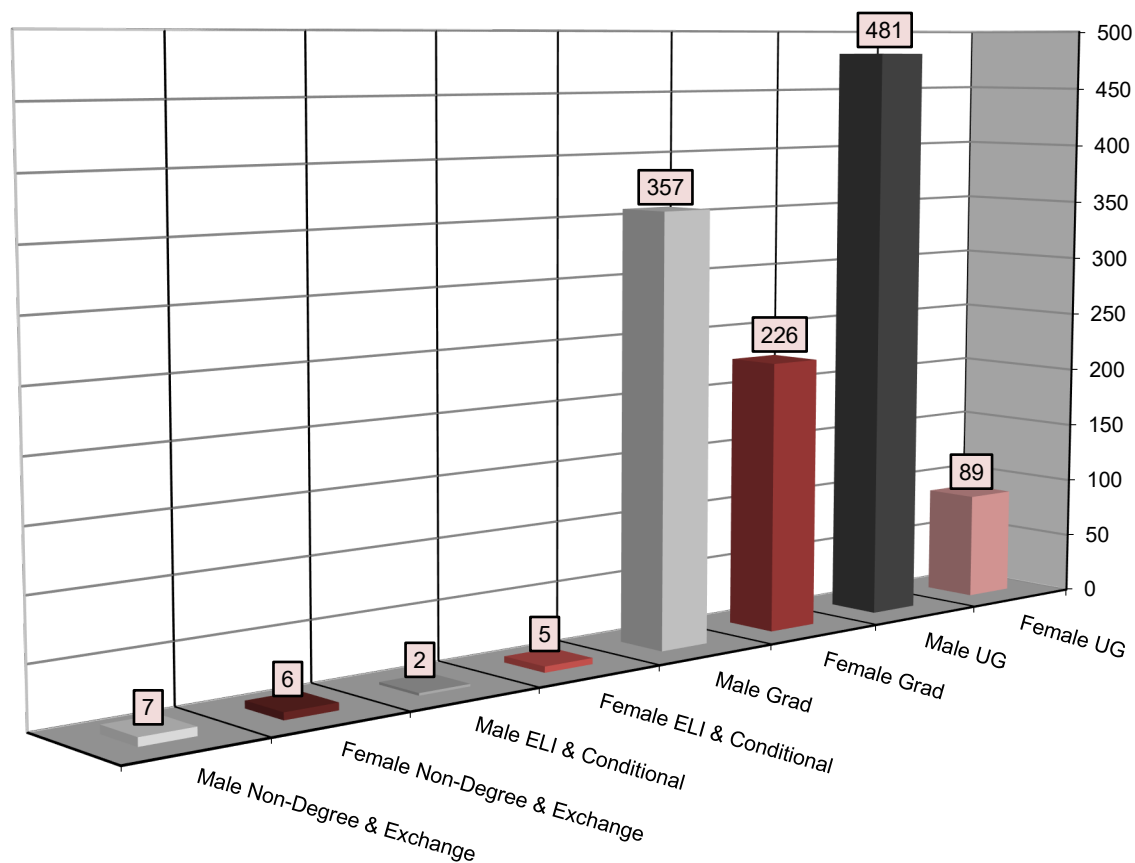
YEAR	UG	GRAD	ELI & NON-DEGREE	SUBTOTAL: ACTIVE STUDENTS	OPT	TOTAL W/ OPT	% TOTAL CHANGE
2010-11	336	472	175	983	53	1036	+ 16.1%
2011-12*	439	446	258	1143	99	1242	+ 19.9%
2012-13	652	459	266	1377	107	1484	+ 19.5%
2013-14	793	472	272	1537	133	1670	+ 12.5%
2014-15	797	502	381	1680	137	1817	+ 8.8%
2015-16	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%
2018-19	586	539	94	1219	176	1395	+ 3.7%
2019-20	752	584	116	1452	164	1616	+ 15.8%
2020-21	570	583	20	1173	135	1308	- 19.06%

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

C. 2010-2020 Comparison of UA International Student Numbers



V. International Student Numbers by Gender



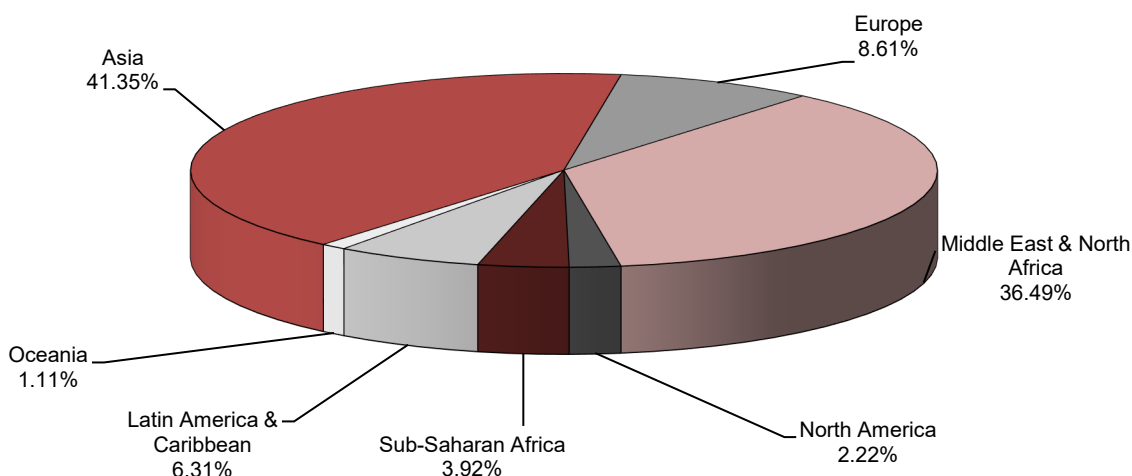
VI. Region & Places of Origin – For All Students Except Graduates on OPT

The 1173 actively enrolled international students at The University of Alabama for 2020/21 originated from **77 countries**. Table A subdivides the world into seven major regions and provides the total number of students from each region. Chart B. graphically depicts student percentages from the major regions.

A. International Students by Region

REGION	Total
Asia	485
Middle East & North Africa	428
Europe	101
Latin America & Caribbean	74
Sub-Saharan Africa	46
North America (Canada)	26
Oceania	13
TOTAL	1173

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.

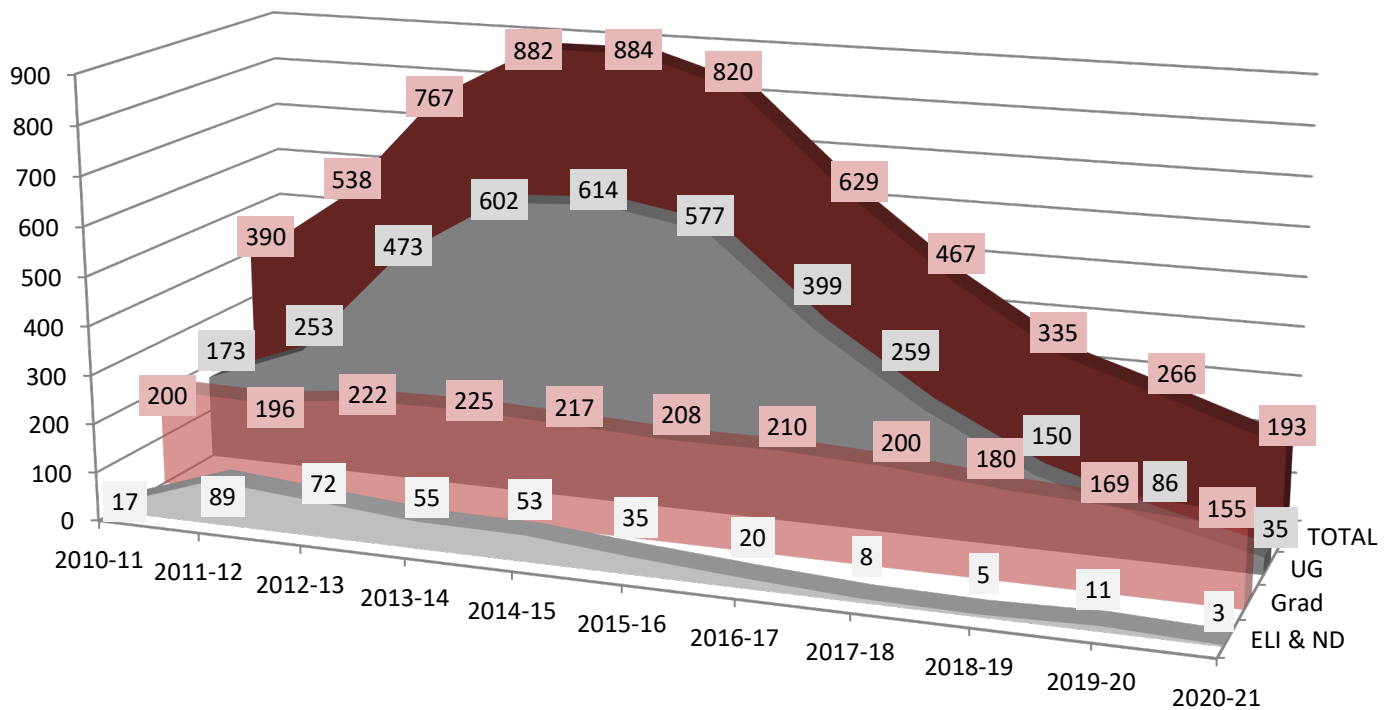
COUNTRY/TERRITORY	UNDERGRAD	GRAD	ELI & CONDITIONAL	NON-DEGREE & EDUCATION ABROAD	TOTAL
1. Kuwait	325		1		326
2. China, PR	35	155	1	2	193
3. India	25	63		1	89
4. Bangladesh	1	58			59
5. Saudi Arabia	30	21	2		53
6. Korea, South	9	37	1	1	48
7. Nepal	4	32			36
8. Turkey	2	29			31
9. Canada	17	9			26
10. Nigeria	7	18			25

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

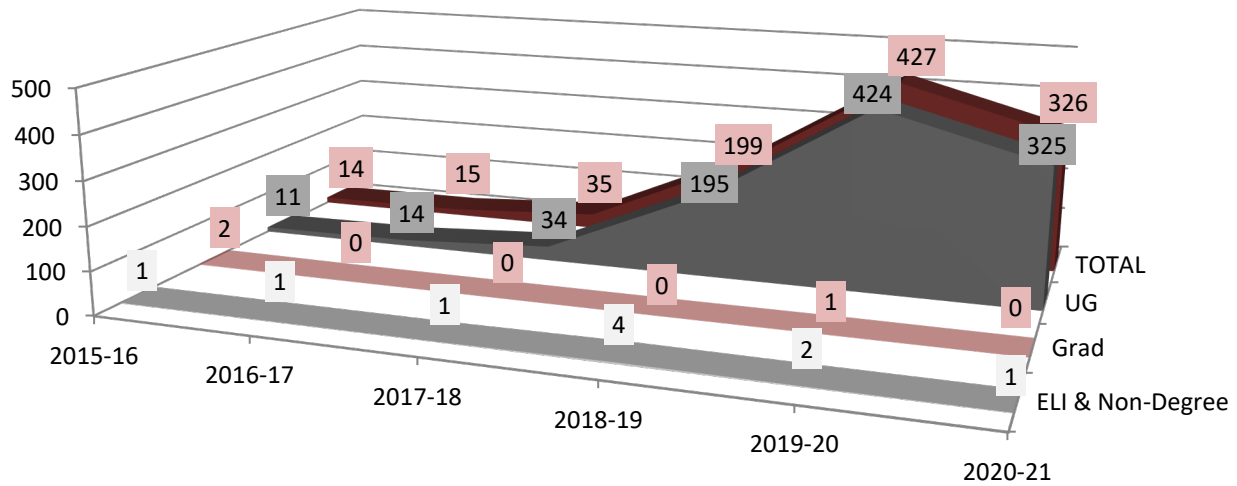
COUNTRY/TERRITORY	UNDERGRAD	GRAD & PROFESSIONAL	ELI & CONDITIONAL	NON-DEGREE & EDUCATION ABROAD	TOTAL
Argentina		1			1
Australia	3	3		1	7
Austria	1				1
Bahamas	1				1
Bangladesh	1	58			59
Belize		1			1
Botswana		1			1
Brazil	6	8			14
Cameroon		1			1
Canada	17	9			26
Cayman Islands	1				1
Chile		1			1
China, P.R.	35	155	1	2	193
Colombia		16		1	17
Costa Rica		1			1
Cyprus	1				1
Czech Republic	1				1
Ecuador		2			2
Egypt	2	2			4
El Salvador	1				1
Finland	1				1
France	1	1			2
Germany	10	6			16
Ghana	1	6			7
Greece		1			1
Guatemala		1			1
Guyana		1			1
Honduras	3				3
Hong Kong		1			1
Hungary	3				3
India	25	63		1	89
Indonesia	1	4			5
Iran		24			24
Iraq		1			1
Italy	3	3		2	8
Jamaica		3			3
Japan	2			1	3
Jordan		3			3
Kazakhstan		1			1
Kenya	4	5			9
Korea, South	9	37	1	1	48
Kuwait	325		1		326
Latvia	1				1
Malaysia	1	1			2
Mexico	14	3		1	18
Nepal	4	32			36
Netherlands	1	1			2
New Zealand	5	1			6
Nigeria	7	18			25
Norway	1				1
Oman	11				11
Pakistan	1	1		1	3
Panama		1			1
Paraguay		1			1
Peru		1			1
Philippines		4			4

COUNTRY/TERRITORY	UNDERGRAD	GRAD	ELI & CONDITIONAL	NON-DEGREE & EDUCATION ABROAD	TOTAL
Poland	2				2
Russia		7			7
Saudi Arabia	30	21	2		53
Serbia		1			1
Spain	2	4			6
Sri Lanka	1	2			3
Syria	1				1
Taiwan		8			8
Thailand	2	5			7
Trinidad & Tobago	2				2
Turkey	2	29			31
Uganda		2			2
Ukraine	1				1
United Arab Emirates (UAE)	3		1		4
United Kingdom (UK)	8	5		2	15
Uzbekistan		2			2
Venezuela		2	1		3
Vietnam	12	9			21
West Bank		1			1
Zambia		1			1
TOTAL	570	583	7	13	1173

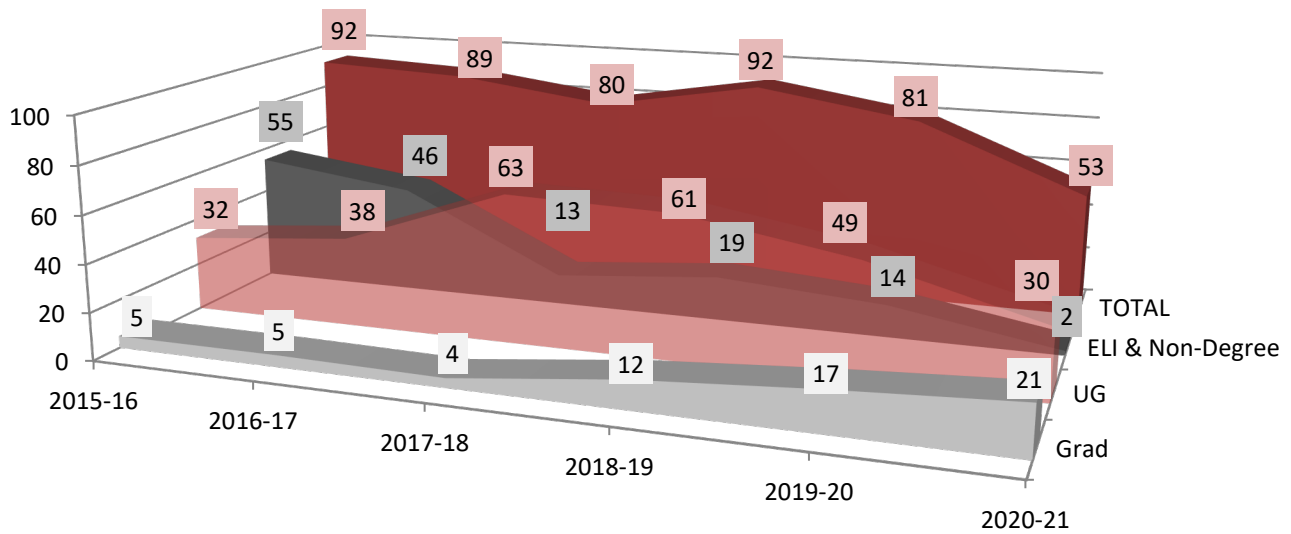
E. Chinese Student Enrollment: 2010–20



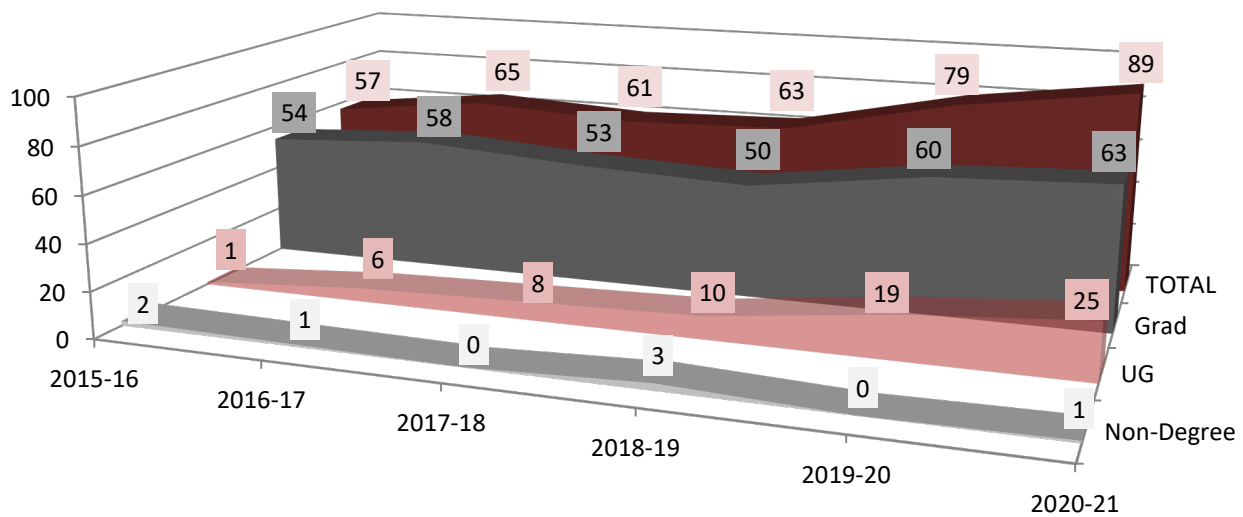
F. Kuwaiti Enrollment: 2015–20



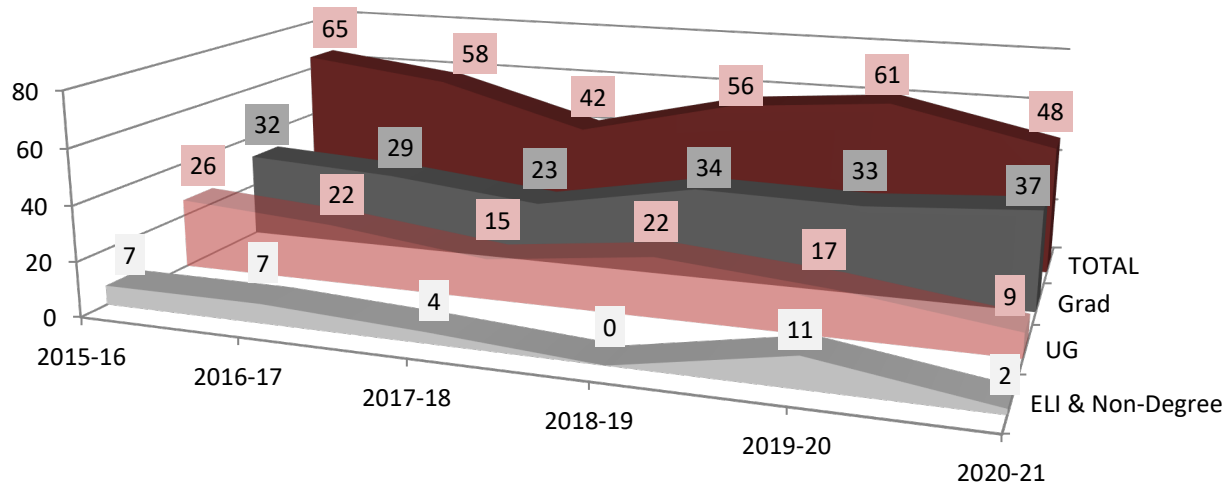
G. Saudi Arabian Enrollment: 2015–20



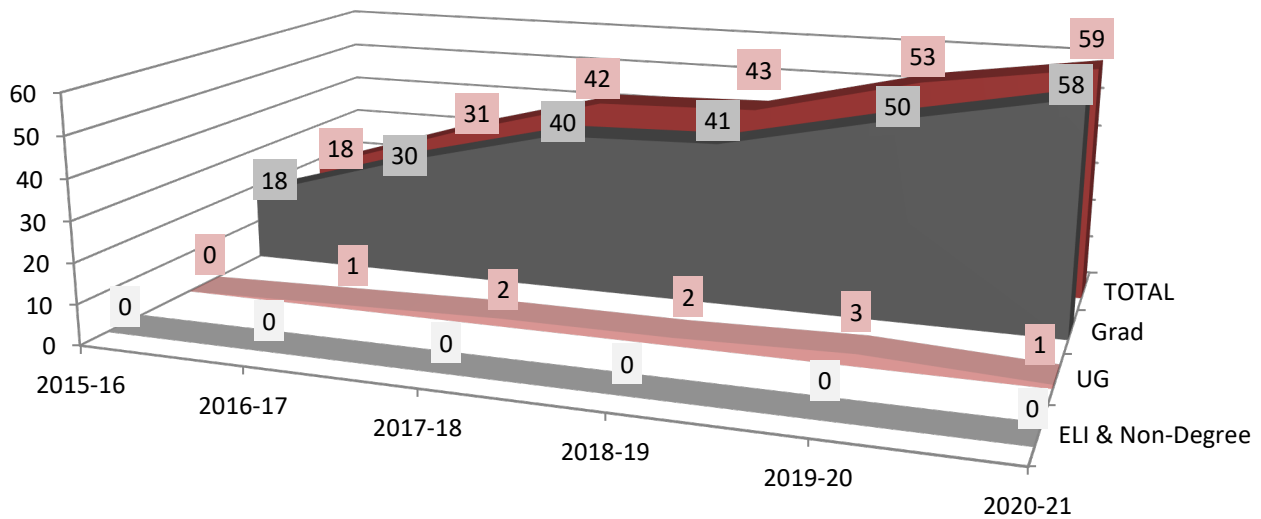
H. Indian Enrollment: 2015–20



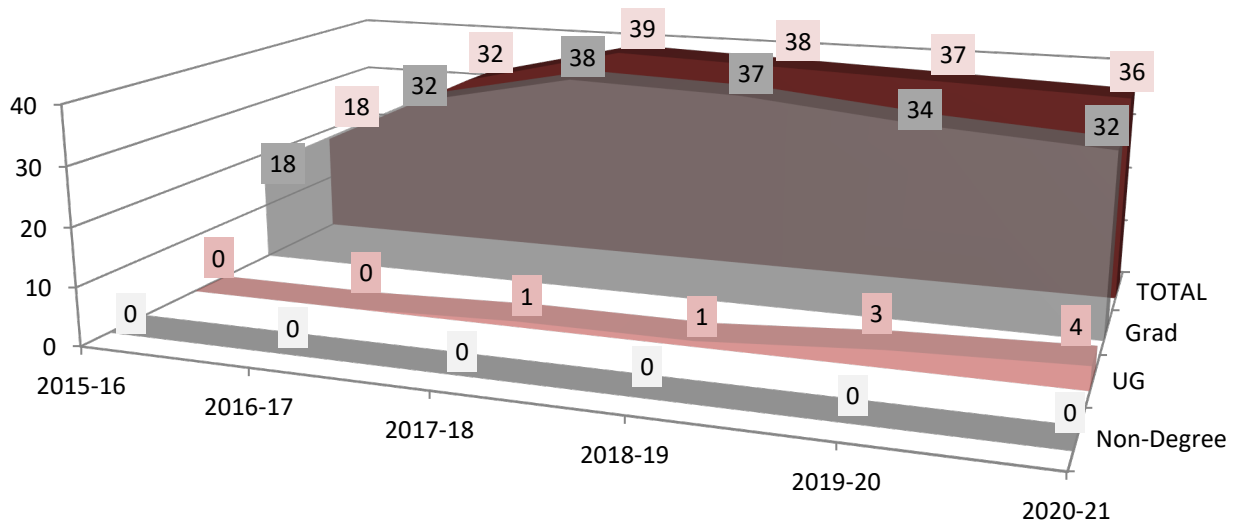
I. South Korean Enrollment: 2015–20



J. Bangladeshi Enrollment: 2015–20



K. Nepalese Enrollment: 2015–20



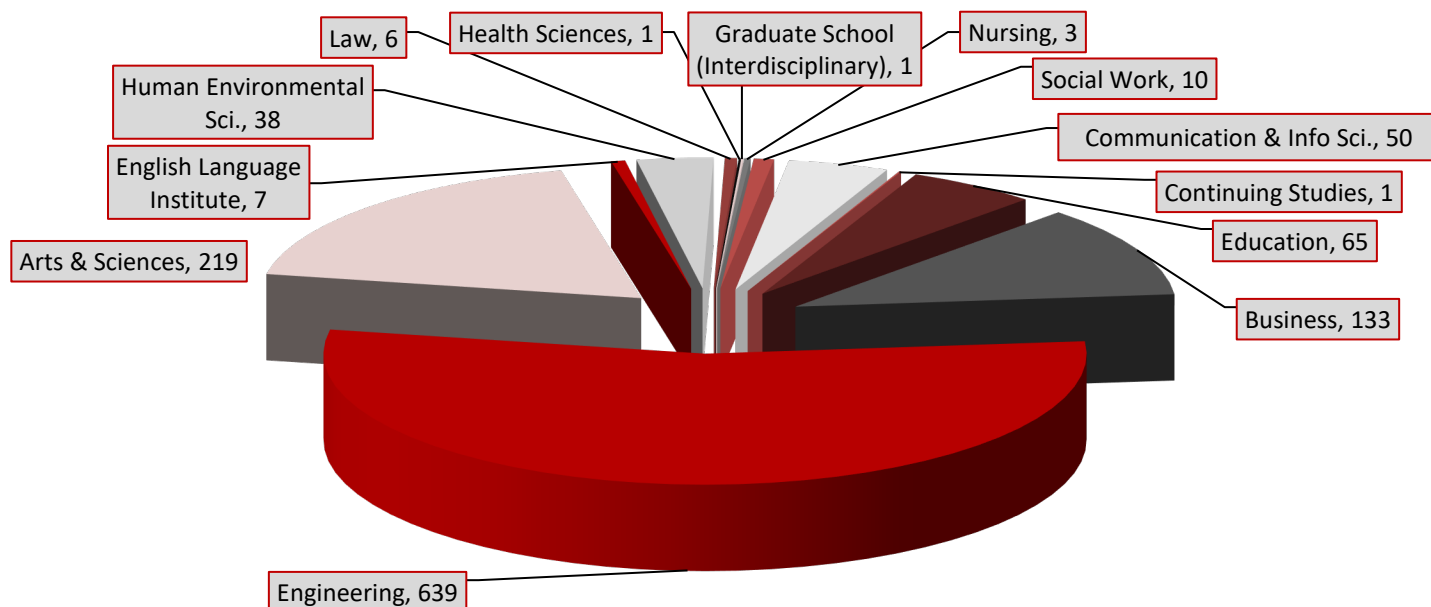
VII. International Student Numbers by Major

(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	15	3			18
Advertising & Public Relations	2	2			4
Aerospace Engineering & Mechanics	11	22			33
American Studies		1			1
Anthropology	1	2			3
Applied Mathematics		7			7
Applied Statistics		11			11
Architectural Engineering	1				1
Art	1	2			3
Arts & Sciences, General/Undeclared	1			4	5
Biology	2	15			17
Business, General	9				9
Chemical Engineering	116	19			135
Chemistry	4	35			39
Civil & Construction Engineering	84	45			129
Communication & Information Sciences		23			23
Communication Studies/ New Media	8	2			10
Computer Engineering	4				4
Computer Science	22	23			45
Consumer Sciences	1	3			4
Continuing Education				1	1
Criminology & Criminal Justice	3				3
Economics	5	11			16
Education, Elementary	2	9			11
Education, Secondary		9			9
Education, Special	1	1			2
Ed Leadership/ Ed Admin/ Higher Ed		5			5
Educational Psychology		9			9
Educational Research		6			6
Electrical Engineering	107	49			156
ELI – English Language Institute			6		6
Engineering, General				3	3
English Literature		2			2
Environmental Engineering	2	3			5
Finance	18	16			34
Food and Nutrition	5				5
Geography	1	6			7
Geology	1	14			15
Health Education & Promotion		5			5
History	2	1			3
Hospitality Management	1	3			4
Human Development & Family Studies	1		1		2
Human Environmental Science, General	4			1	5
Human Nutrition		8			8
Human Performance/Exercise Science	5	2			7
Instructional Leadership		6			6
Instructional Technology		1			1
Interdisciplinary Studies	1	1			2
Interior Design	1				1
International Studies	2				2
Journalism & Creative Media	6	2			8

Department	Undergrad	Grad	ELI & Conditional	Non-Degree & Education Abroad	Total
Kinesiology	2	4			6
Law (JD, JSD, and LLM)		6			6
Library & Information Studies		1			1
Management	9	6			15
Management Information Systems	1				1
Marketing	13	6			19
Materials Science		16			16
Mathematics	6	14			20
MBA		3			3
Mechanical Engineering	66	35			101
Metallurgical & Materials Engineering	1	10			11
Museum Studies		1			1
Music		17			17
Music Education	1				1
News Media	3				3
Non-Degree				4	4
Nursing	3				3
Operations Management	2	8			10
Physics		38			38
Political Science		4			4
Population Health Sciences		1			1
Psychology	7	6			13
Public Health	4				4
Public Relations	1				1
Qualitative Research		1			1
Romance Languages (French & Spanish)		4			4
Social Work		10			10
Teaching English as a Second Language		6			6
Theater Arts	1	1			2
Women's Studies		1			1
TOTAL	570	583	7	13	1173

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 2019/20 year (the period between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020) totaled **309** non-immigrants, representing **41 countries and territories**.

The 309 total represents **a slight increase of 1.3%** from the 305 scholars hosted by UA the previous year.

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 309 international scholars and faculty does not include the faculty and staff who hold Permanent Residency Status (Green Card Holders); nor does the total include the international guest lecturers who visit The University of Alabama.

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 does their visa-status have to be maintained by International Student & Scholar Services.

International guest lecturers who come for brief, singular visits, as opposed to longer-term visiting scholars, are not counted because 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).

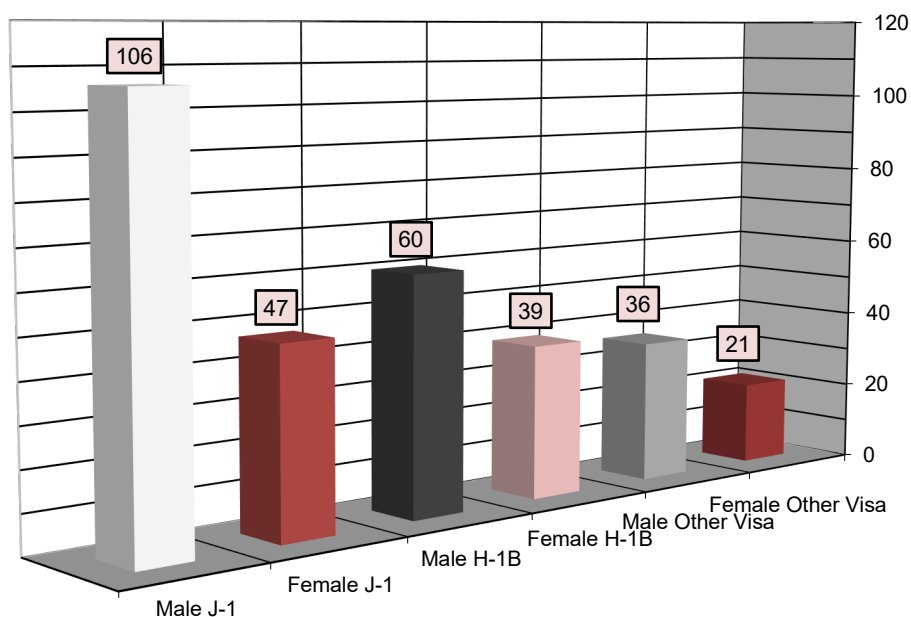
XI. International Faculty and Scholar Statistics*

VISA-STATUS	Total
J-1 Scholars	134
J-1 Physicians (sponsored by ECFMG)	19
H-1B Workers	99
O-1	1
F-1 CPT/OPT	38
B-1/B-2 – WB/WT	10
Other	8
TOTAL	309

* Information covers July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

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%
2017-18	177	86	36	299	- 2.9%
2018-19	159	92	54	305	+ 2.0%
2019-20	153	99	57	309	+ 1.3%

XII. International Faculty and Scholar Numbers by Gender



Total International Male: 202
Total International Female: 107

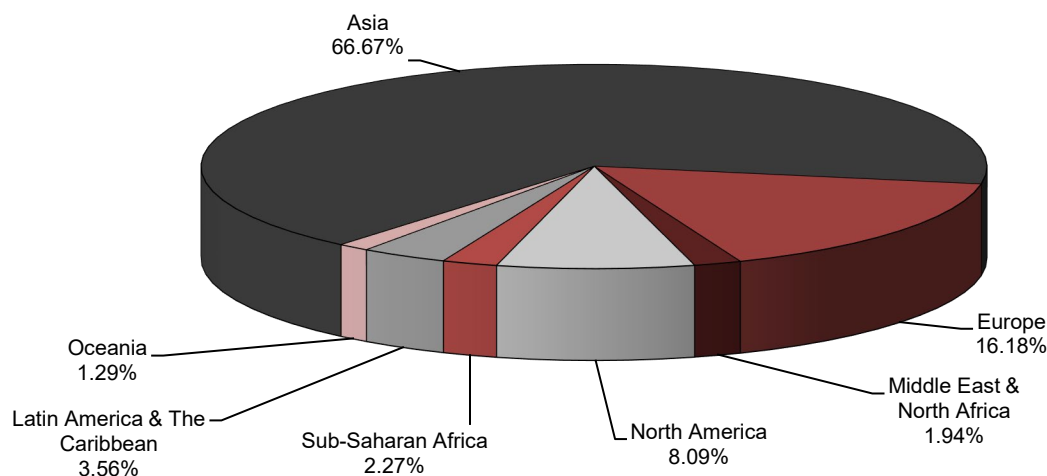
XIII. Region & Places of Origin

International Scholars and Faculty at The University of Alabama for 2019/20 originated from **41 countries and territories**. The table below subdivides the world into seven major regions and provides the total number of scholars and faculty from each region. The chart below graphically depicts faculty and staff percentages from the major regions.

A. International Scholars and Faculty by Region

REGION	Total
Asia	206
Europe	50
North America (Canada)	25
Latin America & the Caribbean	11
Sub-Saharan Africa	7
Middle East & North Africa	6
Oceania	4
TOTAL	309

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	111
2. India	54
3. Canada	25
4. South Korea	19
5. Germany	13
6/7. Brazil*	8
6/7. Japan*	8
8. Turkey	7
9. United Kingdom	6
10. Bangladesh	5

*Tie

D. International Scholar and Faculty Places of Origin

Country	J-1	H-1B	Other Visa	Total
Antigua & Barbuda	1			1
Australia	1	1	1	3
Bangladesh	1		4	5
Brazil	6	1	1	8
Canada	18	7		25
China, P.R.	64	32	15	111
Colombia	1			1
Ecuador	1			1
Egypt	1			1
Ethiopia	1			1
France	1	1	1	3
Germany	9	2	2	13
Ghana			2	2
Hong Kong		1		1
Iceland		1		1
India	20	21	13	54
Iran		1	2	3
Israel	1			1
Italy	4			4
Japan	3	1	4	8
Jordan	1			1
Korea, South	5	12	2	19
Lithuania		1		1
Macau		1		1
Nepal			1	1
Netherlands			2	2
New Zealand	1			1
Nigeria		2		2
Pakistan			1	1
Poland	2	1		3
Portugal			1	1
Russia	1	2	1	4
South Africa	1			1
Spain		2	1	3
Sri Lanka	1			1
Sweden	1		1	2
Taiwan		1		1
Turkey	5	1	1	7
Uganda	1			1
United Kingdom		5	1	6
Vietnam	1	2		3
TOTAL	153	99	57	309

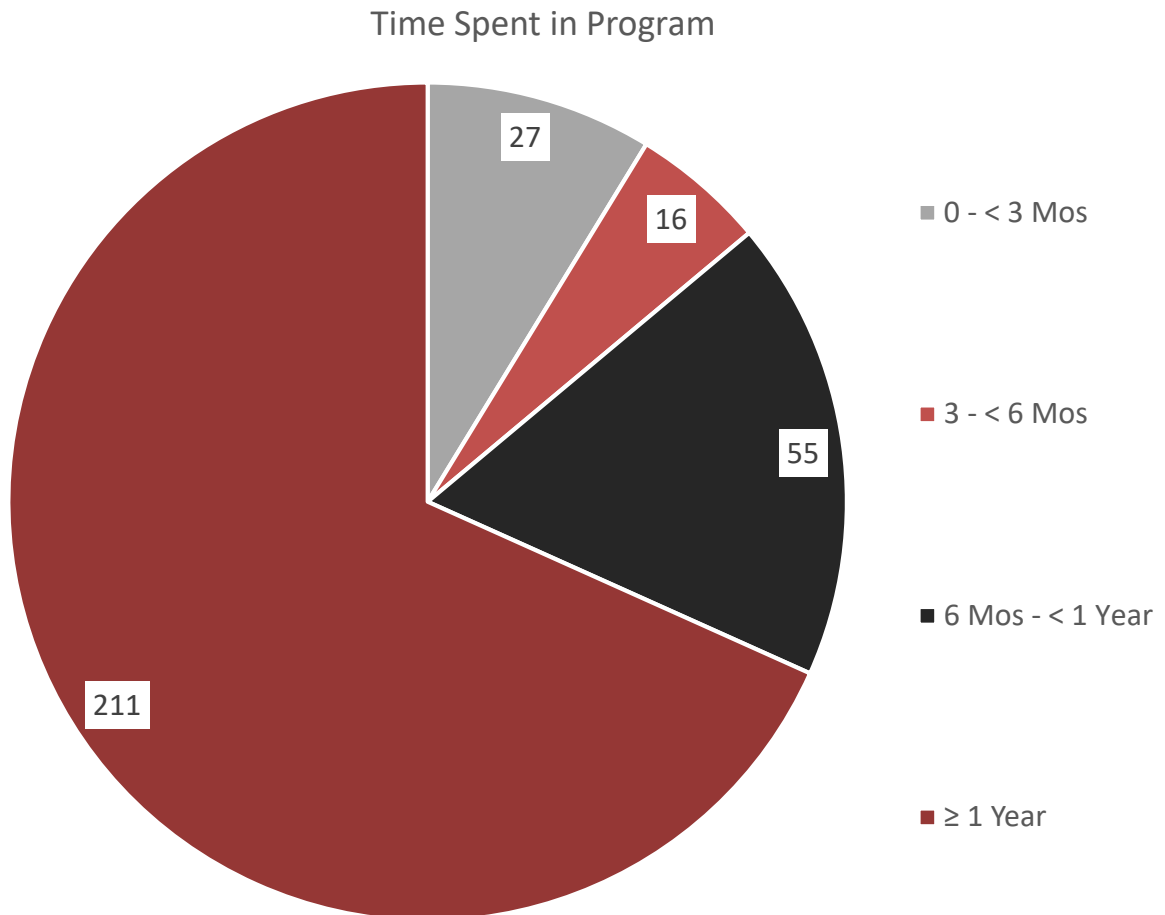
XIV. International Scholars and Faculty by Department

Department	J-1	H-1B	Other Visa	Total
Adapted Athletics		1		1
Aerospace Engineering & Mechanics	7	3	3	13
Alabama Center for Insurance Information & Research		1		1
Alabama International Trade Center		1		1
Alabama Life Research Institute		1		1
Alabama Transportation Institute	4	4	6	14
Alabama Water Institute		1		1
Art & Art History	1	1		2
Athletics	1	1	1	3
Biological Sciences	4	1	5	10
CCHS – School of Medicine	19	6		25
Center for Advanced Public Safety (CAPS)		5	1	6
Center for Youth Development and Intervention	1		2	3
Chemical & Biological Engineering	7	3	3	13
Chemistry & Biochemistry	8	3	2	13
Civil, Construction, & Environmental Engineering	17	5	2	24
Communicative Disorders		1		1
Computer Science	8	1	1	10
Criminology and Criminal Justice		1		1
Economics, Finance & Legal Studies	2	2	1	5
Education		1		1
Educational Leadership, Policy, and Technology Studies	1			1
Ed Studies in Psych, Research Methods & Counseling	1	4	1	6
Electrical & Computer Engineering	13	3	3	19
English Literature and TESL	5			5
eTech			1	1
Gender & Race Studies	1			1
Geography	2			2
Geological Sciences	13	1		14
History	2	1		3
Human Nutrition & Hospitality Management	2	3	2	7
Information Systems, Statistics & Management Science		9	1	10
Information Technology		2		2
Institute for Business Analytics			2	2
Instructional Technology and Academic Services		1		1
Journalism & Creative Media		2		2
Kinesiology	1	2		3
Law School	1		2	3
Library and Information Studies		1		1
Mathematics	2	7	2	11
Mechanical Engineering	9	4	4	17
Metallurgical & Materials Engineering	4	3	2	9
MINT Center (Materials for Information Technology)	5			5
Modern Languages & Classics	3	1	2	6
Physics & Astronomy	6	3	2	11
Political Science		4		4
Psychology		1		1
Religious Studies		1		1
Remote Sensing Center	1		3	4
Research Institutes			1	1
Social Work	1		1	2
Special Education & Multiple Abilities	1			1
Student Affairs Assessment and Planning		1		1
Theater and Dance		1		1
The Children's Program			1	1
University Libraries		1		1
TOTAL	153	99	57	309

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 309 International Scholars and Faculty at UA in 2019/20 by the length of their stay.

In 2019/20, 27 scholars' sponsorship by UA was for less than 3 months. 16 scholars' sponsorship lasted between 3 months and less than 6 months. 55 scholars' sponsorship at UA was for a period of between 6 months and less than 1 year. And the vast majority of 211 scholars were sponsored for 1 year or longer.



XVI. Final Notes on 2020 – COVID-19 Impact and Response

It is difficult to stress how challenging 2020 and the impacts of COVID-19 have been for the field of international education and all aspects of both inbound and outbound student and scholar mobility.

Since the start of 2020, a series of executive orders and major and abrupt changes in immigration regulations led to a near complete shutdown of all international student and scholar mobility.

A timeline of events impacting international students and scholars in 2020:

January

- China COVID Entry Ban issued by Executive Order (1/31)

February

- Iran COVID Entry Ban issued by Executive Order (2/29)

March

- SEVP issues guidance for Spring Semester plans (3/09, 3/12, 3/13);
- EU COVID Entry Ban issued by Executive Order (3/11);
- UK & Ireland COVID Entry Ban issued by Executive Order (3/13);
- US Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) suspends in-person services (3/18);
- Department of State (DOS) suspends all visa services (3/20);
- Canada & Mexico restricted to essential travel (3/24)

April

- Suspension of Permanent Residency (Green Card) via Consular Processing (4/22)

May

- Brazil COVID Entry Ban issued by Executive Order (5/24);
- Executive Order on Chinese Students & Scholars related to PRC Military-Civil Fusion Strategy (5/29)

June

- USCIS resumes in-person services (6/04);
- Flights to China are limited by Executive Order (6/15);
- Suspension of H-1B, L, and Certain J Visas via Consular Processing through December 31 (6/22)

July

- Student Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) issues restrictive Fall Guidance, which requires termination of student visas for those unable to return for in-person classes (07/06);
- Harvard/MIT File Lawsuit against SEVP; 7/6 SEVP Guidance Rescinded (7/14);
- DOS Announces Phased Resumption of Visa Processing (7/14);
- DOS Announces National Interest Exemption for EU, UK, & Ireland (7/22);
- SEVP Releases New Fall Guidance (7/24);
- DOS Issues Updated J-1 Student Visa Fall Guidance (7/29)

August

- USCIS Introduces new fee structure for petitions to go into effect on October 2 (8/03)
- CDC alters 14-Day Self-isolation guidance for International Travel (8/05);
- University of Alabama Classes Begin (8/19)

September

- DHS publishes a proposed rule to eliminate “duration of status” for F and J visa holders (9/25)
- U.S. District Court for Northern District of California issues a preliminary injunction and hold order on the USCIS Fee Rule that was to go into effect on October 2 (9/29)

October

- Congress passes Emergency Stopgap USCIS Stabilization Act, increasing Premium Processing fees with USCIS from \$1440 to \$2500 (10/01)
- Department of Labor publishes interim final rule that dramatically changes the

- prevailing wage calculations for all H-1B and Permanent Residency cases (10/08)
- USCIS publishes interim final rule on H-1Bs which dramatically change what types of jobs can qualify for H-1B sponsorship (10/08)

November

- President-Elect Biden announces roll back of many standing Executive Orders impacting international students and scholars on day one of new administration (11/07)

Due in part to visa processing coming to a full stop between March 20 and July 14, 2020, and due to the fact that not all U.S. Embassies and Consulates resumed visa processing even as of November 2020, many new international students had to defer their admissions to a future semester or cancel their plans altogether.

As noted, UA saw a significant drop in international enrollment for Fall 2020. The greatest impact was on English Language Institute enrollment (which fell from 71 students to 7 students year-to-year), non-degree and exchange student enrollment (which fell from 45 to 13 students year-to-year), and Freshman enrollment (which fell from 244 to 67 students year-to-year).

As we look to the future, International Student & Scholar Services will be working closely with our partners on-campus to provide necessary support services to assist and retain students and scholars and to attract the next generation of UA international students and scholars.