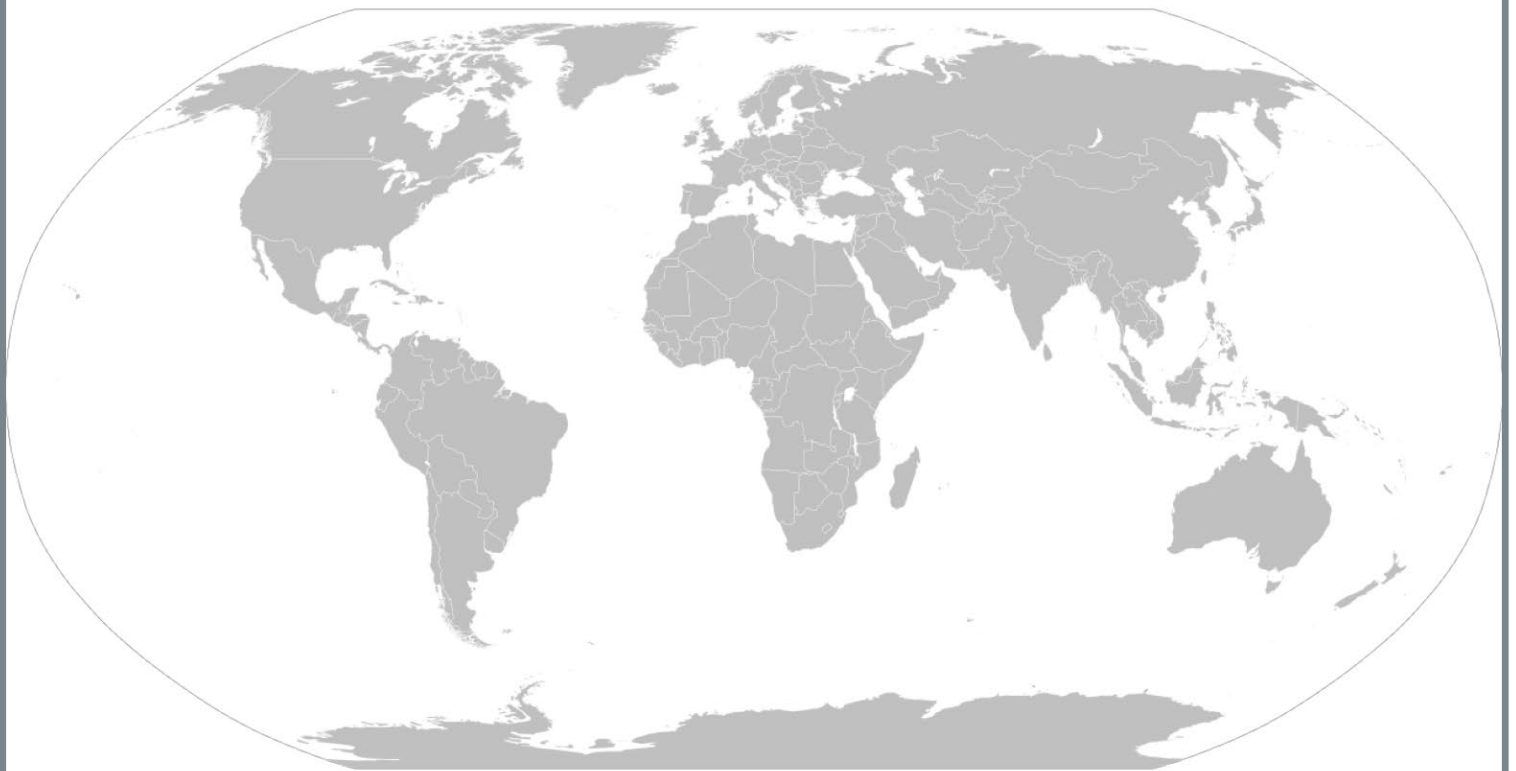


# THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR REPORT



### FALL 2021



Capstone International Center  
International Student & Scholar Services

# ***International Student & Scholar Report 2021***

***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 the continuing COVID-19 Pandemic, 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, an International Program 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 2021**

In Fall 2021, **International Student & Scholar Services served 1148 active, enrolled international students.**

In Fall 2021, UA welcomed **271 new international students**, including 210 first-time and internal transfer graduate students, 44 first-time Freshmen, and 17 first-time undergraduate transfer students.

**In addition to the 1148 active, enrolled international students served by ISSS, there are an additional 151 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 **1299**.

**The 1148 active, enrolled international students come from 91 countries** and regions of the world and **represent 3% of the 38,320 students enrolled at The University of Alabama for fall 2021<sup>1</sup>.**

**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. The 1148 active, enrolled students match the reported figures for international students with visa data from the census data provided by the Office of Institutional Research & Assessment; however the official report from OIRA for Fall 2021 is 1151 international students, as their report includes 3 additional students outside of the U.S. who are enrolled in Distance Learning and who are not counted in the ISSS totals.

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

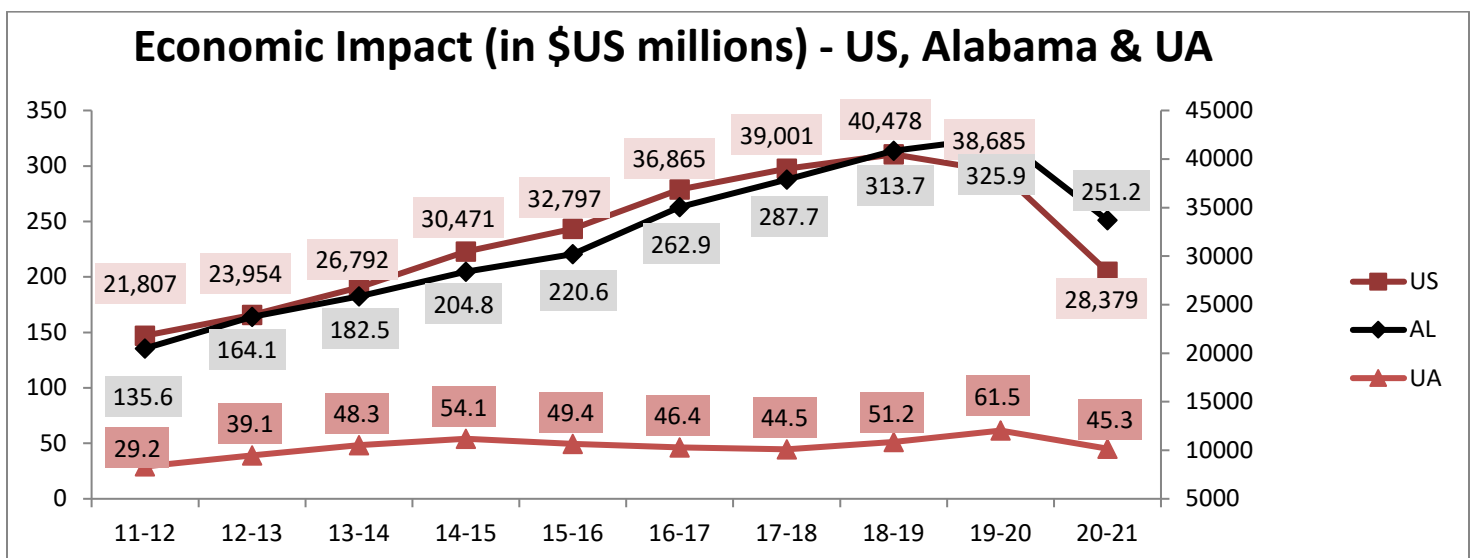
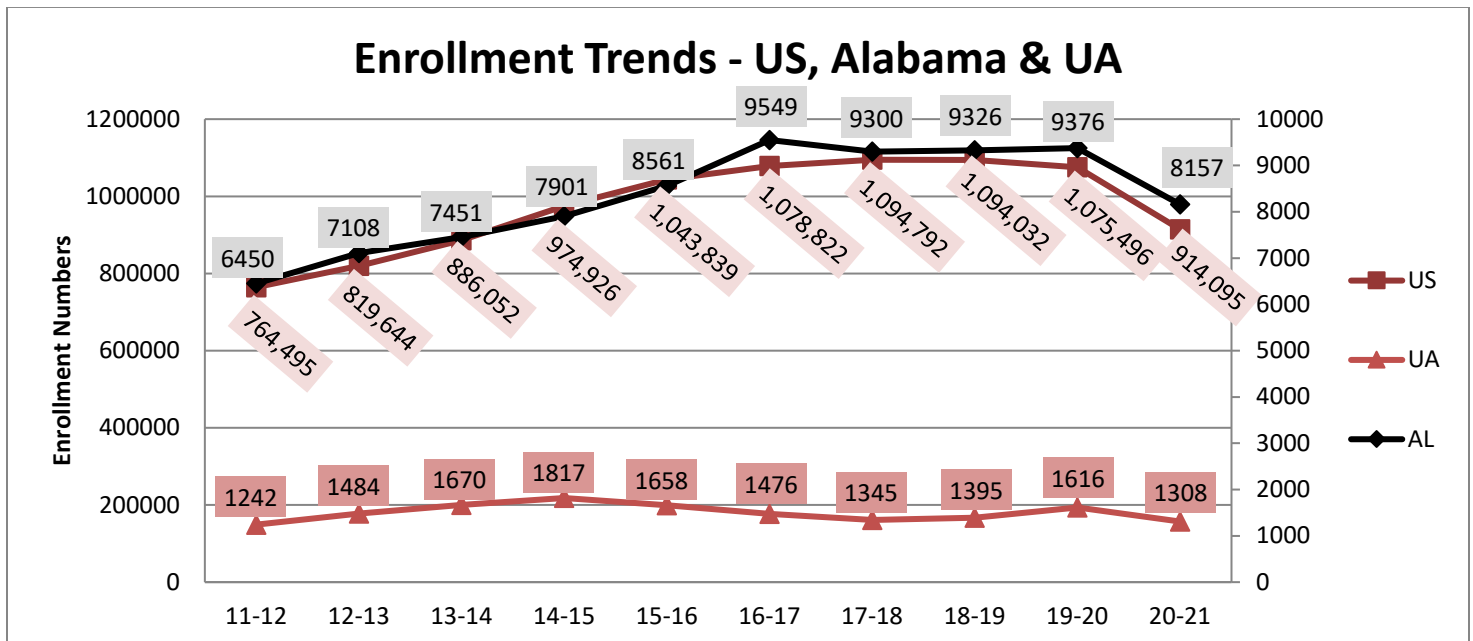
### III. Nation and State - Enrollment and Financial Impact of International Students

In 2020/21, the **United States** hosted **914,095** international students; in the same year, **Alabama** institutions of higher education enrolled **8157** international students.<sup>2</sup>

The economic impact of the **914,095** international students enrolled in 2020/21 was nearly **\$28.4 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 **8157** international students enrolled in 2020/21 **contributed \$251.2 million** to the **state economy** through paid tuition, living expenses, books, fees, and related expenses, and created **2,364 Jobs** through their economic contributions.

Locally, the **1308** international students at The University of Alabama in 2020/21 **contributed \$45.3 million** to the **local economy** through paid tuition, living expenses, books, fees, and other related expenses.<sup>3</sup>



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

3 NAFSA's International Student Economic Value Tool: [www.nafsa.org/economicvalue](http://www.nafsa.org/economicvalue)

IV. UA International Student Statistics

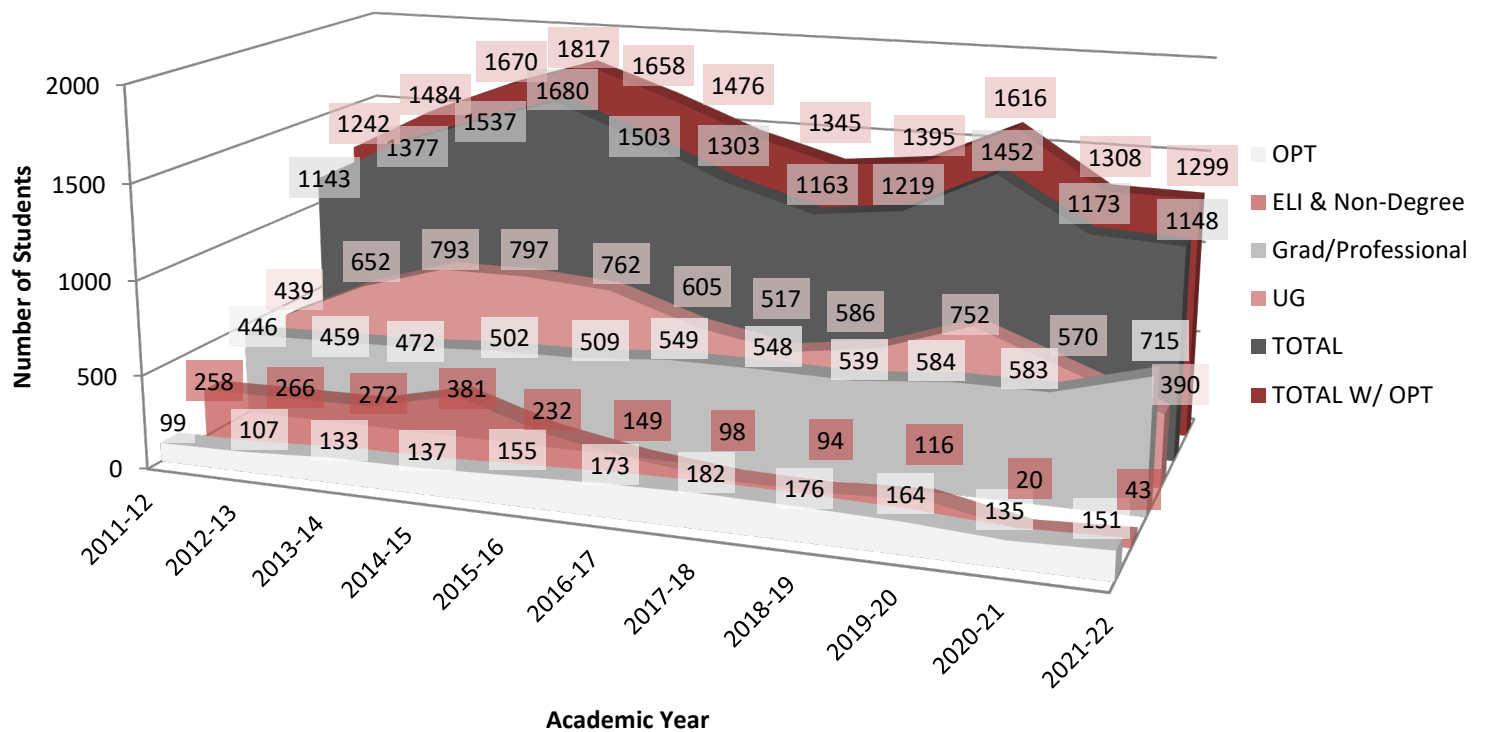
A. Breakdown of Fall Semester 2021 Student Numbers by Degree Level and Year (Includes Recent Graduates on OPT):

DEGREE & LEVEL	Total
<b>Undergraduate Students</b>	<b>390</b>
<i>Freshman</i>	65
<i>Sophomore</i>	42
<i>Junior</i>	101
<i>Senior</i>	182
<b>Graduate Students</b>	<b>715</b>
<i>Master's</i>	155
<i>Doctoral</i>	559
<i>Professional</i>	1
<b>English Language Institute</b>	<b>21</b>
<i>ELI Only</i>	21
<i>Conditional Admits</i>	0
<b>Non-Degree &amp; Education Abroad Exchanges</b>	<b>22</b>
<i>Non-Degree/Visiting Students</i>	5
<i>Study Abroad</i>	17
<b>SUBTOTAL OF ACTIVE, ENROLLED STUDENTS</b>	<b>1148</b>
<b>OPT – Graduates on Optional Practical Training</b>	<b>151</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1299</b>

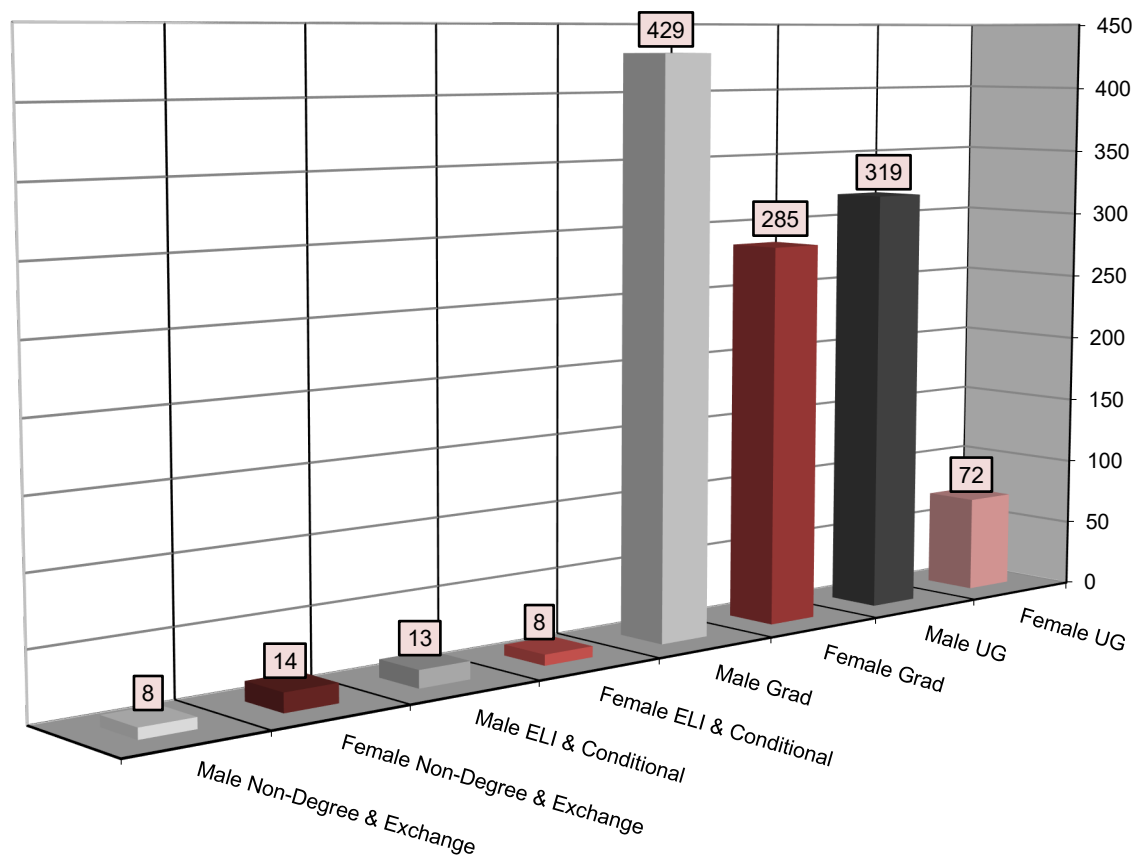
B. UA International Student Numbers 2011 - 2021

YEAR	UG	GRAD	ELI & NON-DEGREE	SUBTOTAL: ACTIVE STUDENTS	OPT	TOTAL W/ OPT	% TOTAL CHANGE
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%
2021-22	390	715	43	1148	151	1299	- 0.6%

### C. 2011-2021 Comparison of UA International Student Numbers



### V. International Student Numbers by Gender



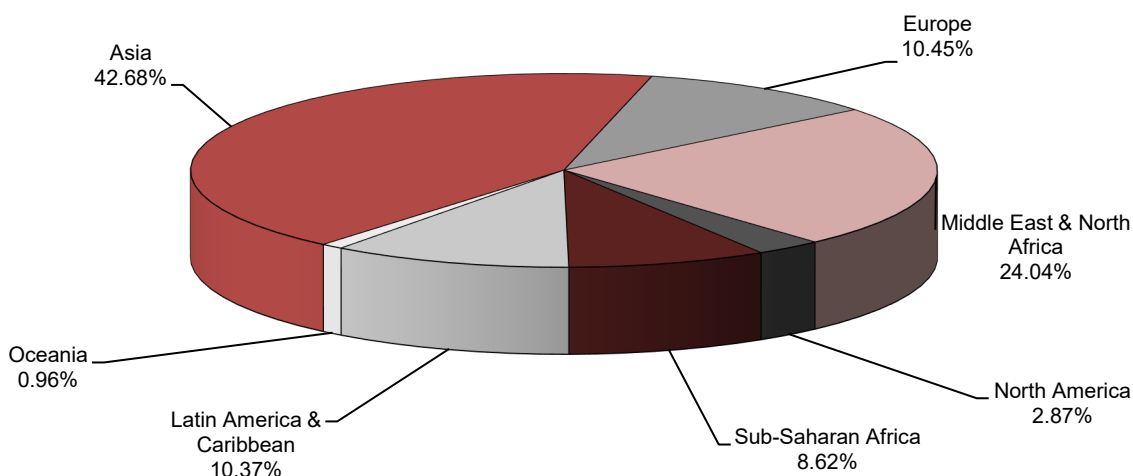
## VI. Region & Places of Origin – For All Students Except Graduates on OPT

The 1148 actively enrolled international students at The University of Alabama for 2021/22 originated from **91 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	490
Middle East & North Africa	276
Europe	120
Latin America & Caribbean	119
Sub-Saharan Africa	99
North America (Canada)	33
Oceania	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1148</b>

### 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 & PROFESSIONAL	ELI & CONDITIONAL	NON-DEGREE & EDUCATION ABROAD	TOTAL
1. Kuwait	174				174
2. China, PR	13	140			153
3. India	23	87			110
4. Bangladesh	3	82			85
5. Nigeria	5	57			62
6. Saudi Arabia	20	21	1		42
7. Korea, South	8	31	1		40
8. Nepal	7	31			38
9. Iran		34			34
10. Canada*	20	12		1	33
10. Colombia*	1	31	1		33

\*tied

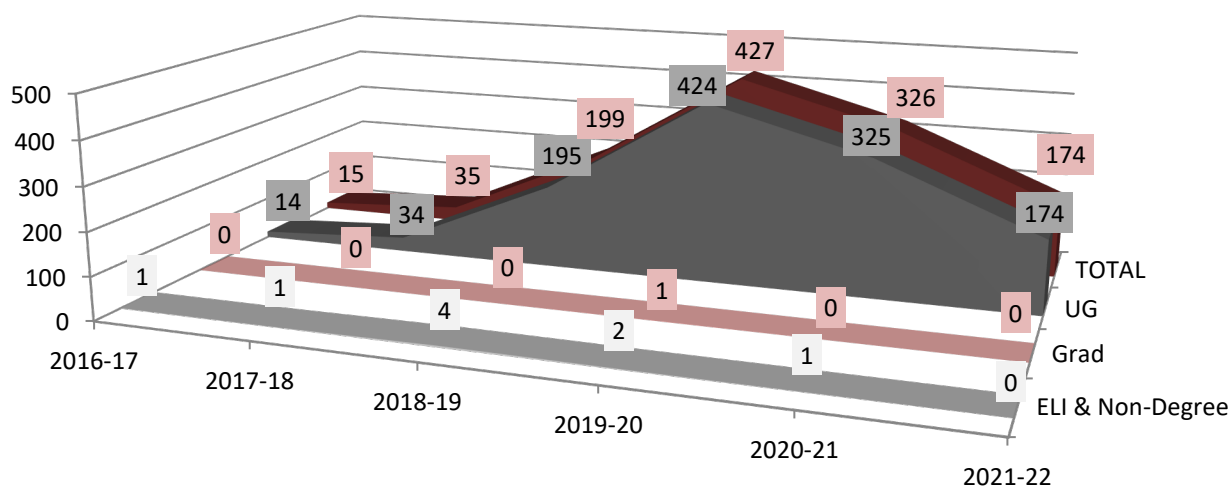
**D. International Student Places of Origin – For Active Students (Excluding OPT)**

<b>COUNTRY/TERRITORY</b>	<b>UNDERGRAD</b>	<b>GRAD &amp; PROFESSIONAL</b>	<b>ELI &amp; CONDITIONAL</b>	<b>NON-DEGREE &amp; EDUCATION ABROAD</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Argentina	1	2	9		12
Australia	6	2			8
Austria	2			1	3
Azerbaijan	1				1
Bahamas	1	2			3
Bangladesh	3	82			85
Belize		1			1
Bolivia		1			1
Botswana		1			1
Brazil	7	11			18
Bulgaria	1				1
Cameroon		3			3
Canada	20	12		1	33
Cayman Islands	1				1
Chile			3		3
China, P.R.	13	140			153
Colombia	1	31	1		33
Costa Rica		1			1
Cuba			1		1
Curacao (Netherlands Antilles)		1			1
Cyprus	1				1
Czech Republic	3				3
Denmark				2	2
Dominican Republic		1			1
Ecuador		2	1		3
Egypt	3	3		1	7
El Salvador	1				1
Equatorial Guinea	1				1
Ethiopia	1	3			4
Finland	1				1
France	2		1	1	4
Gaza Strip		1			1
Germany	10	7		7	24
Ghana		12			12
Greece		2			2
Guatemala	1	1			2
Honduras	3	1			4
Hong Kong	1	1			2
Hungary	1	1			2
India	23	87			110
Indonesia	1	4			5
Iran		34			34
Iraq		1			1
Israel	1	1			2
Italy	3	4			7
Jamaica		3			3
Japan	1	4	1		6
Jordan		2			2
Kazakhstan		1			1
Kenya	7	1			8
Korea, South	8	31	1		40
Kuwait	174				174
Lebanon				1	1
Mexico	9	8			17
Nepal	7	31			38
Netherlands		1			1

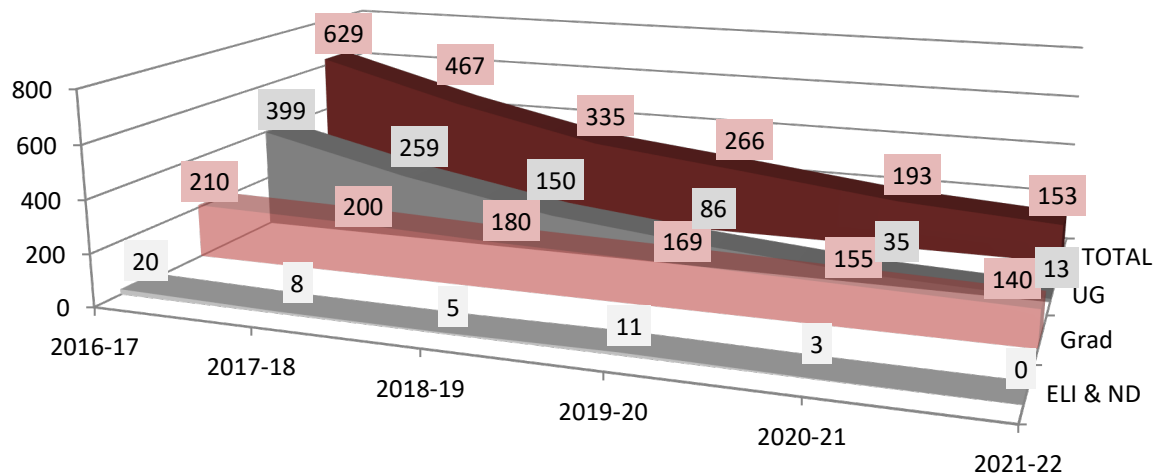


COUNTRY/TERRITORY	UNDERGRAD	GRAD & PROFESSIONAL	ELI & CONDITIONAL	NON-DEGREE & EDUCATION ABROAD	TOTAL
New Zealand	1	2			3
Nigeria	5	57			62
Norway	1				1
Oman	9			1	10
Pakistan	1	6		1	8
Panama		1			1
Paraguay		1			1
Peru	1	1			2
Philippines		1			1
Poland	1	4			5
Russia		5			5
Saudi Arabia	20	21	1		42
Senegal		1			1
Serbia		1			1
Slovenia	1				1
South Africa	1				1
Spain	2	4			6
Sri Lanka		2			2
Sudan	1				1
Sweden	3				3
Taiwan		6			6
Thailand	3	5			8
Trinidad & Tobago	2	1			3
Turkey	2	21	1		24
Uganda		3			3
Ukraine	2		1		3
United Arab Emirates (UAE)		1			1
United Kingdom (UK)	6	9		4	19
Uruguay		1			1
Uzbekistan		1		1	2
Venezuela		4		1	5
Vietnam	8	15			23
West Bank		1			1
Zambia		1			1
Zimbabwe		1			1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1148</b>

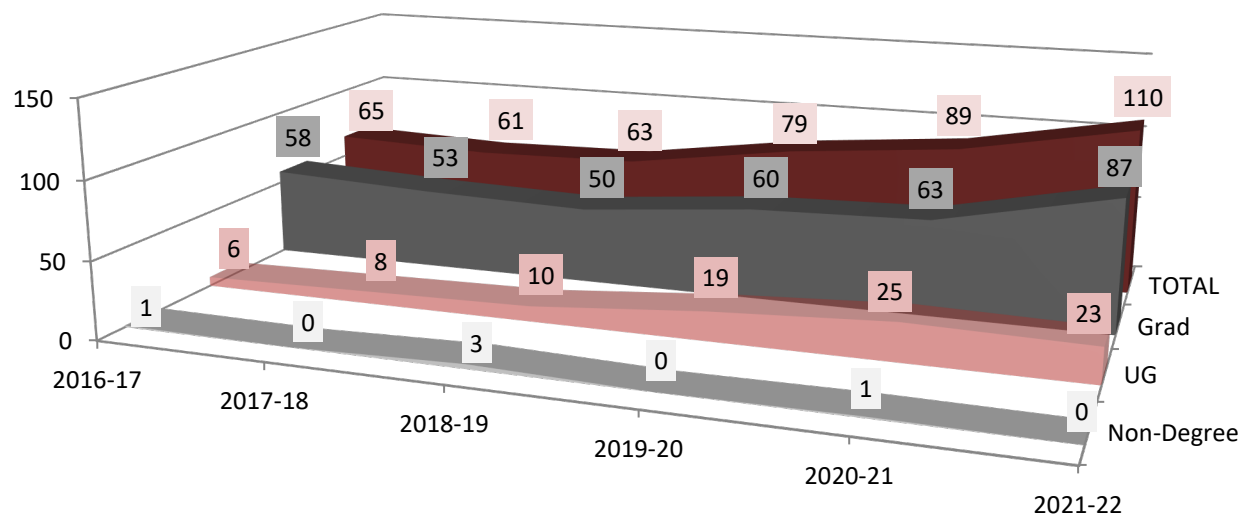
#### E. Kuwaiti Enrollment: 2016–21



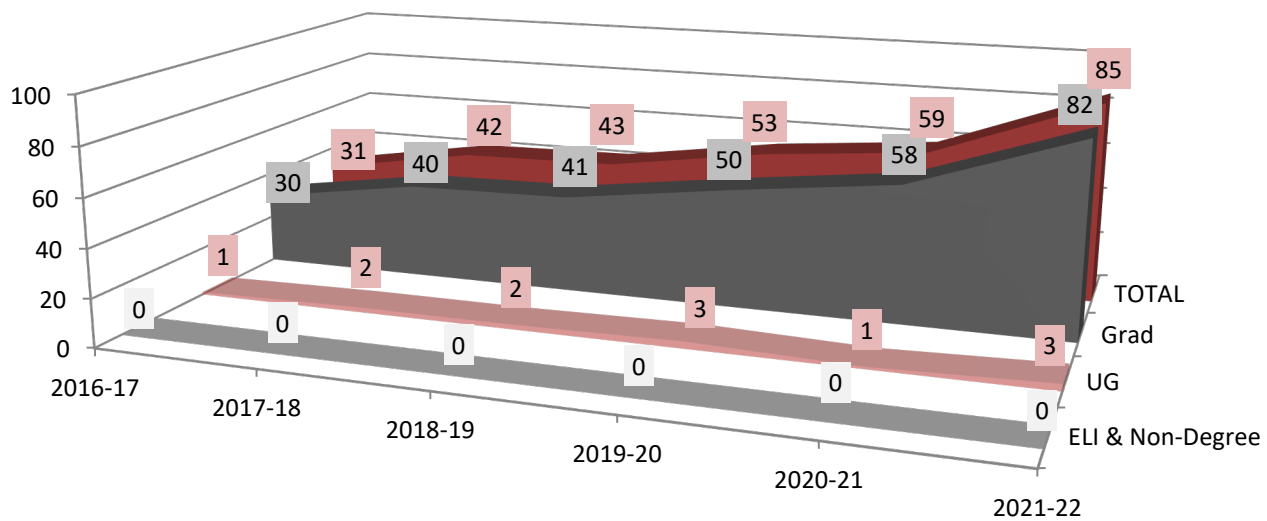
### F. Chinese Student Enrollment: 2016–21



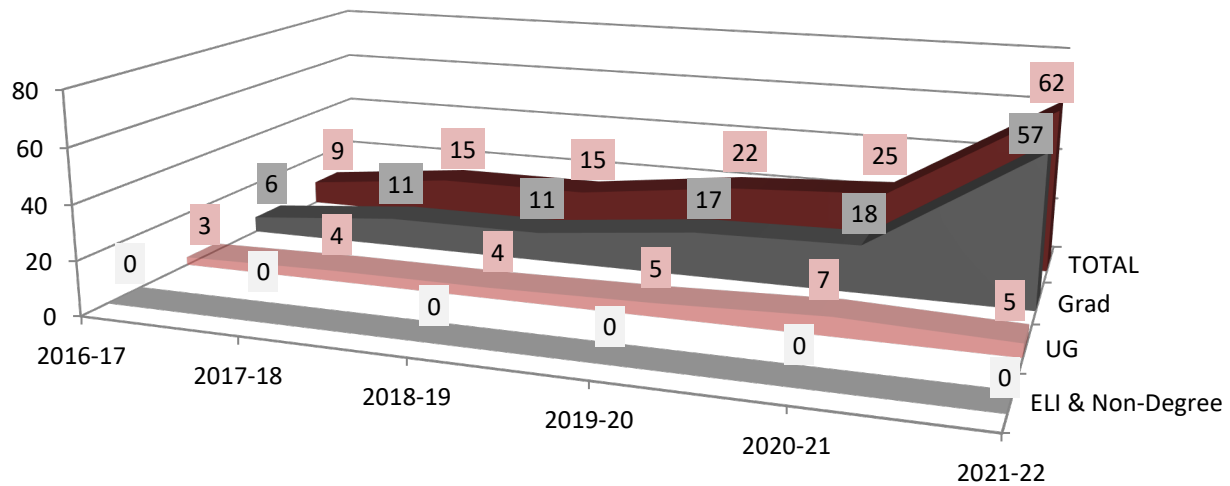
### G. Indian Enrollment: 2016–21



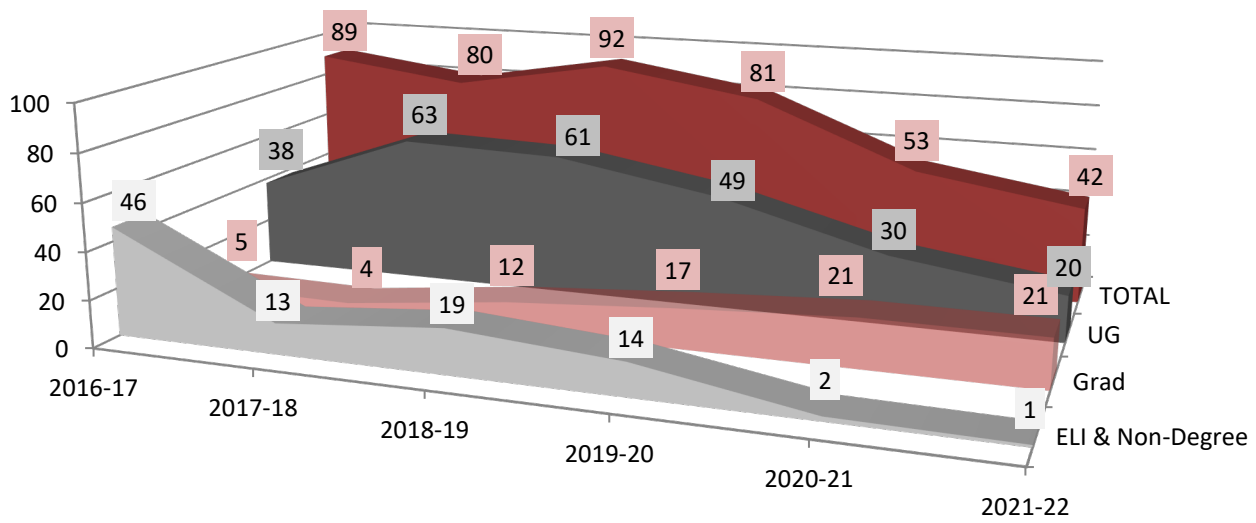
### H. Bangladeshi Enrollment: 2016–21



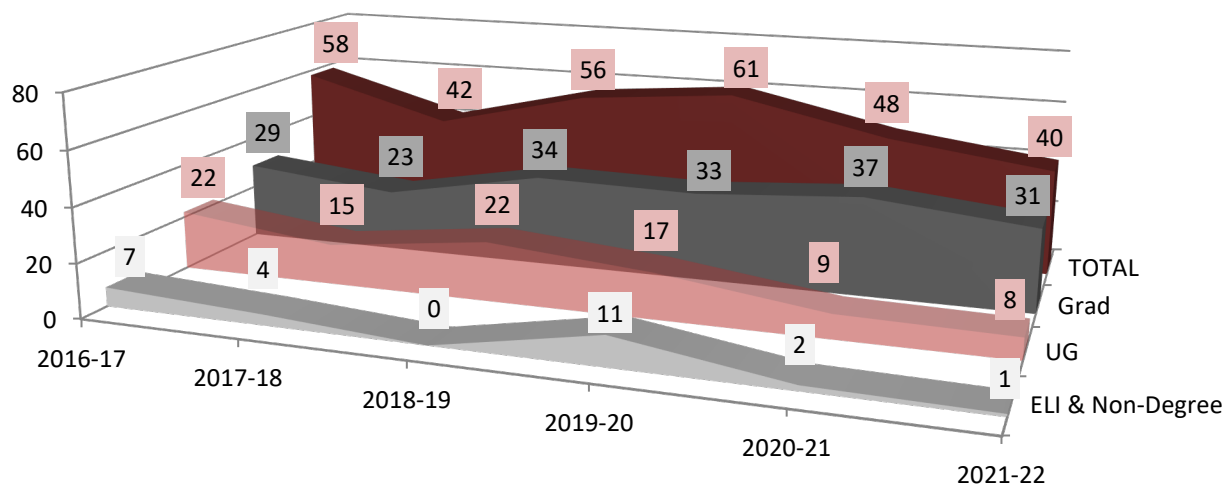
### I. Nigerian Enrollment: 2016–21



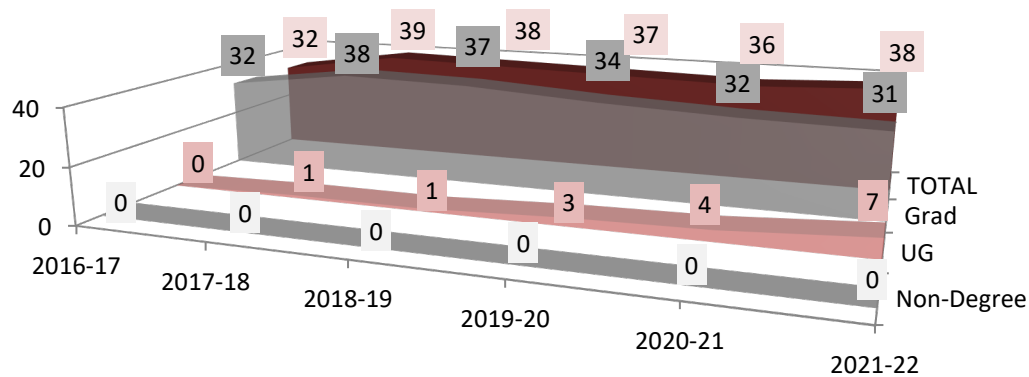
### J. Saudi Arabian Enrollment: 2016–21



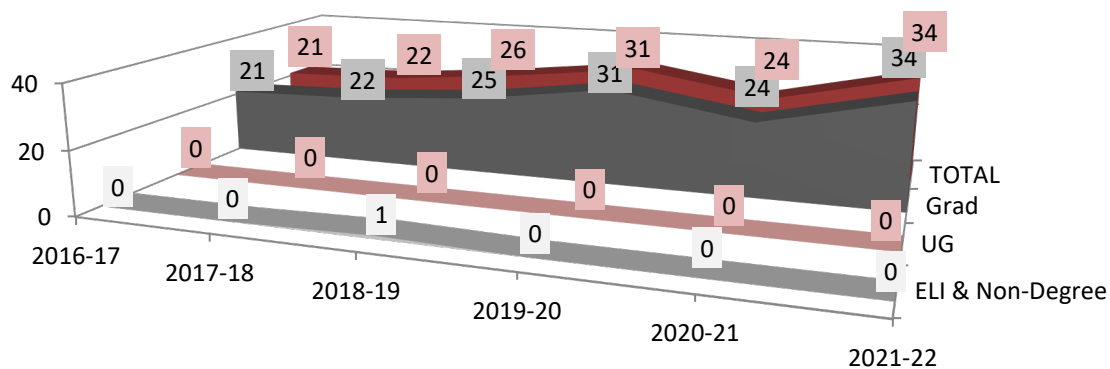
### K. South Korean Enrollment: 2016–21



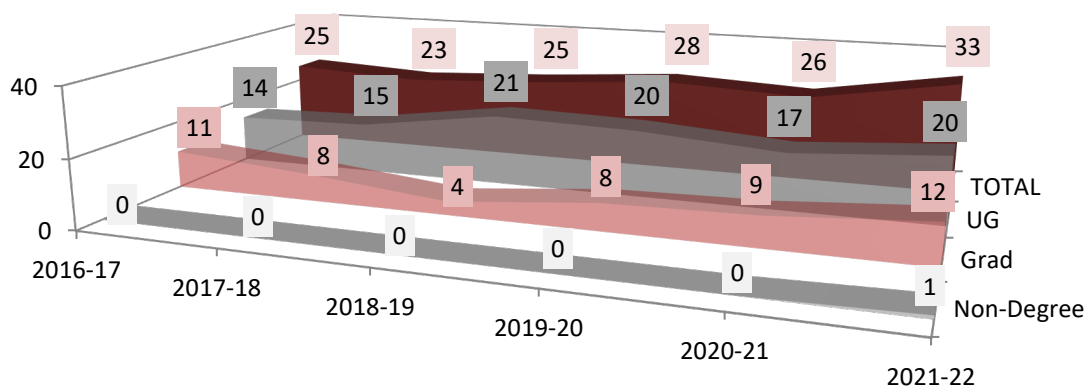
### L. Nepalese Enrollment: 2016–21



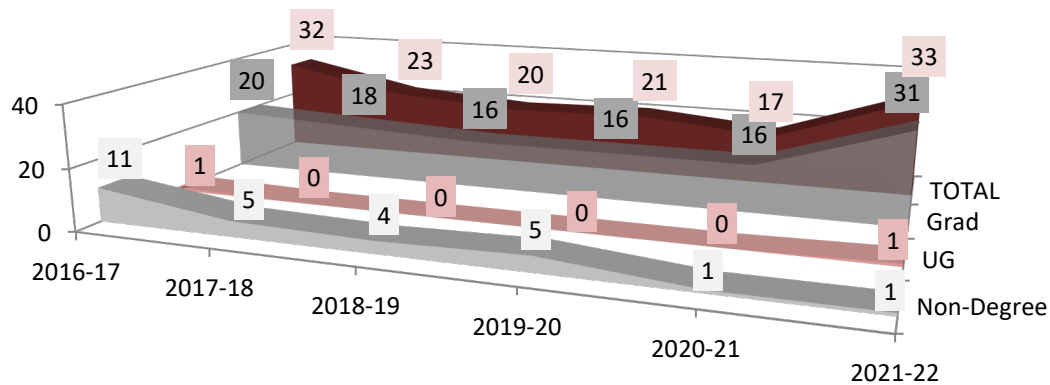
### M. Iranian Enrollment: 2016–21



### N. Canadian Enrollment: 2016–21



### O. Colombian Enrollment: 2016–21



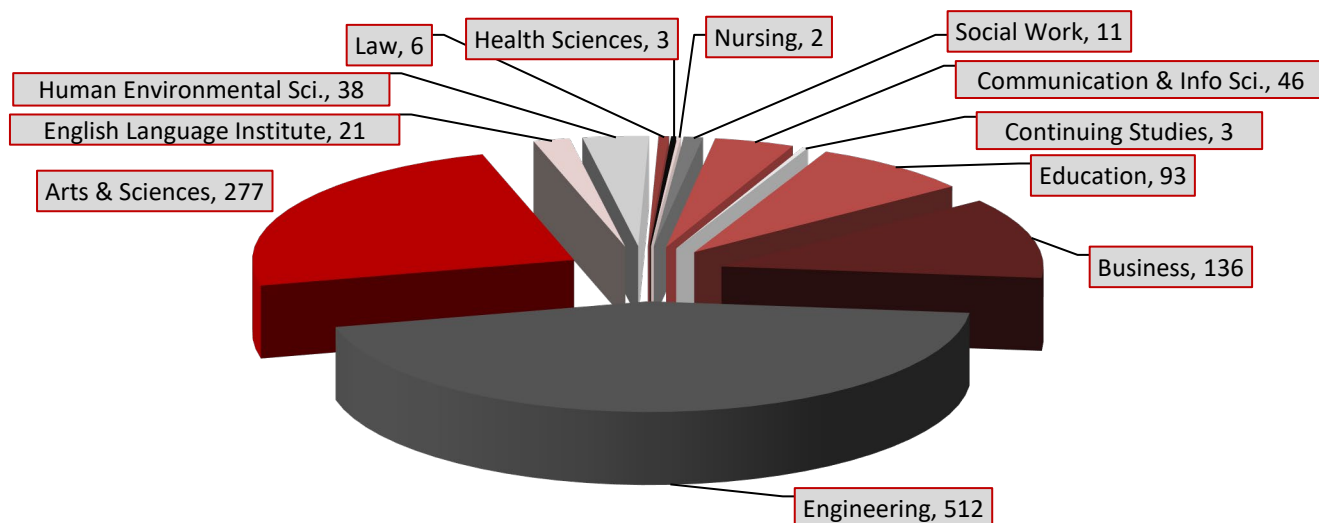
## VII. International Student Numbers by Major

(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	8				8
Advertising & Public Relations	1	2			3
Aerospace Engineering & Mechanics	12	23			35
American Studies		1			1
Anthropology		2			2
Applied Mathematics		1			1
Applied Statistics		11			11
Art	1	2			3
Arts & Sciences, General/Undeclared	7			4	11
Biology	2	26			28
Business, General	9			8	17
Business Analytics		2			2
Chemical Engineering	83	29			112
Chemistry	4	39			43
Civil & Construction Engineering	51	59			110
Communication & Information Sciences	1	24			25
Communication Studies	4	2			6
Computer Engineering	1				1
Computer Science	23	29	1		53
Consumer Sciences		1			1
Continuing Education				3	3
Creative Media	2				2
Creative Writing		3			3
Criminology & Criminal Justice	2	1			3
Curriculum & Instruction		2			2
Cyber Security	2				2
Economics	9	11			20
Education			1		1
Education, Elementary	2	7			9
Education, Secondary		14			14
Education, Special		13			13
Ed Leadership/ Ed Admin/ Higher Ed		6			6
Educational Psychology		12			12
Educational Research		7			7
Electrical Engineering	38	48			86
ELI – English Language Institute			18		18
Engineering, General				4	4
English Literature		5			5
Environmental Engineering	2	2			4
Finance	14	13			27
Food and Nutrition	4				4
Geography		10			10
Geology	1	17			18
German		6			6
Health Education & Promotion		9			9
History	1	4			5
Hospitality Management	1	1			2
Human Environmental Science, General	3	2		1	6
Human Nutrition		9			9
Human Performance/Exercise Science	3	2			5
Instructional Design		1			1

Department	Undergrad	Grad	ELI & Conditional	Non-Degree & Education Abroad	Total
Instructional Leadership		6			6
Interdisciplinary Studies	2				2
Interior Design	3				3
International Studies	1				1
Journalism/ News Media	2	5			7
Kinesiology	7	9			16
Law (JD, JSD, and LLM)		4		2	6
Library & Information Studies		1			1
Management	8	8			16
Management Information Systems	3	1			4
Marketing	11	8			19
Materials Science		17			17
Mathematics	4	23			27
MBA		3			3
Mechanical Engineering	35	38	1		74
Metallurgical & Materials Engineering	2	13			15
Multiple Abilities Program	1				1
Music		17			17
Nursing	2				2
Operations Management	2	10			12
Philosophy	1				1
Physics	2	46			48
Political Science	1	6			7
Population Health Sciences		3			3
Psychology	6	7			13
Public Administration		1			1
Public Health	4				4
Public Relations	2				2
Romance Languages (French & Spanish)		13			13
Social Work		11			11
Teaching English as a Second Language		3			3
Theater Arts		1			1
Women's Studies		3			3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1148</b>

#### 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, 2020 and June 30, 2021) totaled **195** non-immigrants, representing **34 countries and territories**.

The 195 total represents a **decrease of 36.9%** from the 309 scholars hosted by UA the previous year. This is directly attributable to COVID-19's impact on J-1 Exchange Visitors and B-1/B-2 and WB/WT Visitors, where we saw a year-to-year decline of 112 J-1 Scholars and B-1/B-2 and WB/WT Visitors.

**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 195 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).



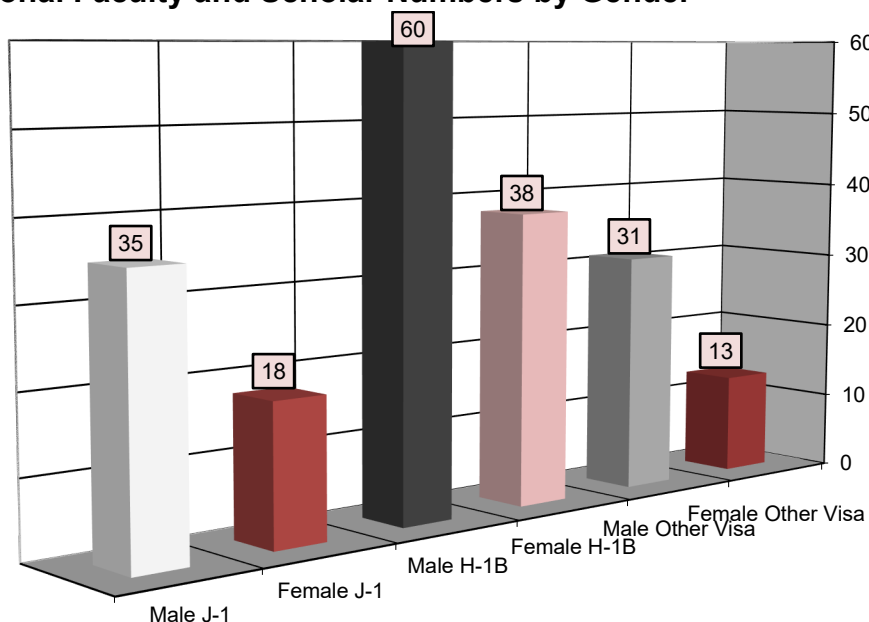
## XI. International Faculty and Scholar Statistics\*

VISA-STATUS	Total
J-1 Scholars	32
J-1 Physicians (sponsored by ECFMG)	21
H-1B Workers	98
O-1	3
F-1 CPT/OPT	35
B-1/B-2 – WB/WT	0
Other	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>195</b>

\* Information covers July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

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%
2020-21	53	98	44	195	- 36.9%

## XII. International Faculty and Scholar Numbers by Gender



**Total International Male: 126**  
**Total International Female: 69**

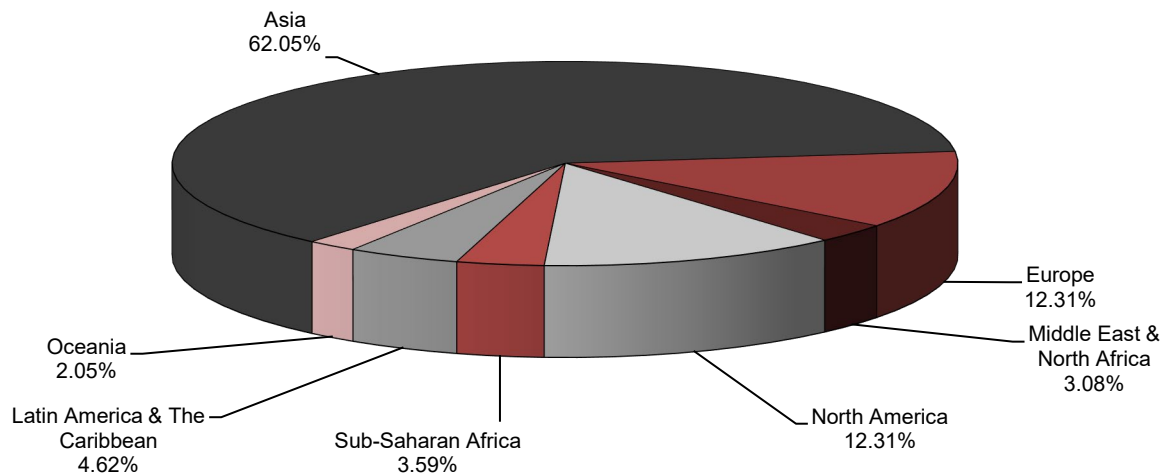
### XIII. Region & Places of Origin

International Scholars and Faculty at The University of Alabama for 2020/21 originated from **34 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	121
Europe	24
North America (Canada)	24
Latin America & the Caribbean	9
Sub-Saharan Africa	7
Middle East & North Africa	6
Oceania	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>195</b>

#### 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.

<b>1. China, PR</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>2. India</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>3. Canada</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>4. South Korea</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>5. Iran</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6. Bangladesh *</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>7-10. Australia, Spain, Turkey, U.K.*</b>	<b>4</b>

\*Tie

#### D. International Scholar and Faculty Places of Origin

Country	J-1	H-1B	Other Visa	Total
Antigua & Barbuda	1			1
Australia	1	3		4
Bangladesh	1		4	5
Brazil	1	1	1	3
Canada	20	2	2	24
China, P.R.	3	32	16	51
Colombia	2			2
Ecuador	1	1		2
Ghana		2	1	3
Hong Kong		1		1
Hungary	1	1		2
Iceland		1		1
India	12	24	9	45
Indonesia	1			1
Iran		1	5	6
Italy	2			2
Japan	1			1
Kenya		1	2	3
Korea, South		9	2	11
Lithuania		1		1
Macau		1		1
Mexico	1			1
Nepal		1		1
Pakistan		1		1
Poland		1		1
Russia		2		2
Spain	2	2		4
Sweden			1	1
Taiwan		1		1
Turkey	1	3		4
Uganda	1			1
Ukraine	1	1		2
United Kingdom		3	1	4
Vietnam		2		2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>195</b>

#### XIV. International Scholars and Faculty by Department

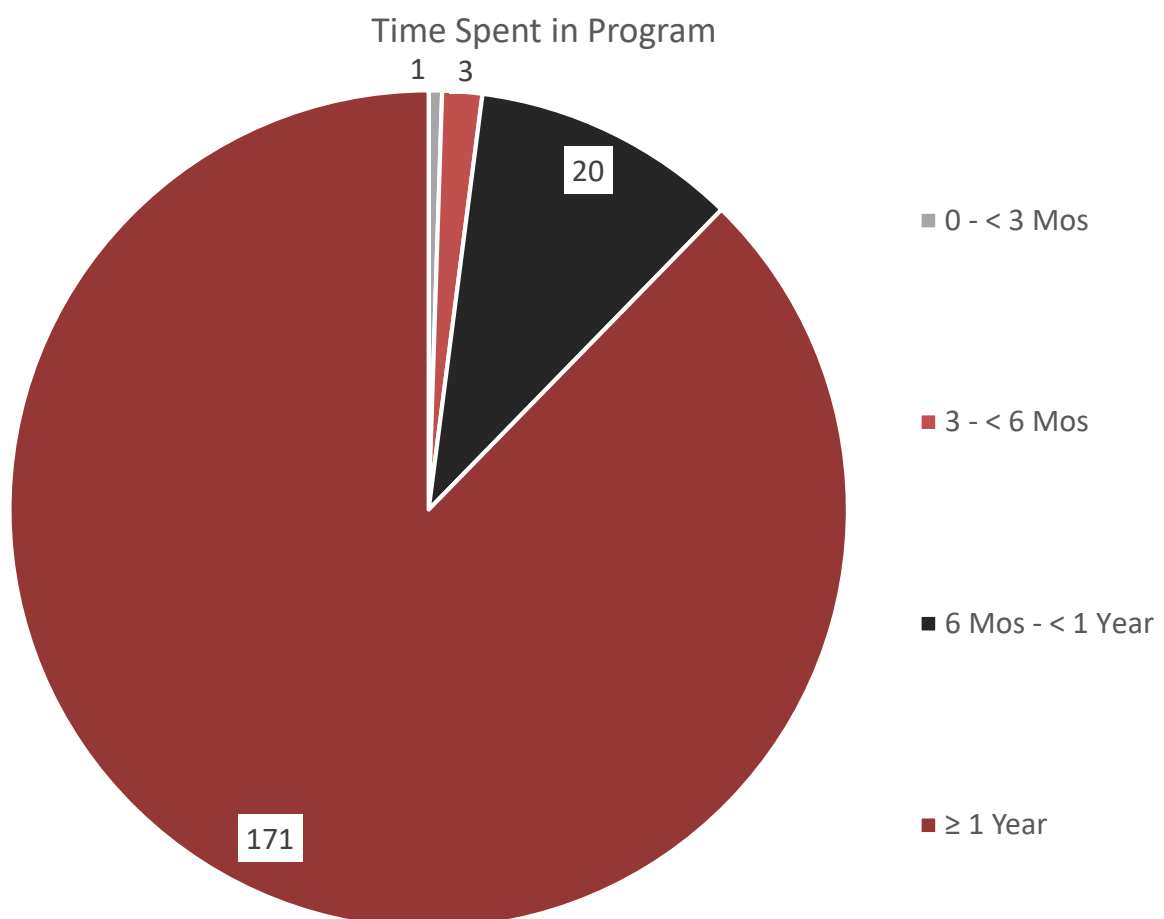
Department	J-1	H-1B	Other Visa	Total
Adapted Athletics		1		1
Advertising and Public Relations			1	1
Aerospace Engineering & Mechanics		4	2	6
Alabama Center for Insurance Information & Research		1		1
Alabama International Trade Center		1		1
Alabama Life Research Institute		1		1
Alabama Transportation Institute	3	7	1	11
Alabama Water Institute		1		1
Art & Art History		1		1
Athletics		1	2	3
Biological Sciences	3	1	1	5
CCHS – School of Medicine	23	6		29
Center for Advanced Public Safety (CAPS)		4	1	5
Center for Business & Economic Research		1	1	2
Chemical & Biological Engineering	4	4	4	12
Chemistry & Biochemistry	1	2	2	5
Civil, Construction, & Environmental Engineering	2	4	3	9
Computer Science		1	2	3
Consumer Sciences		1		1
Criminology and Criminal Justice		2		2
Curriculum & Instruction		1		1
Economics, Finance & Legal Studies		2		2
Educational Leadership, Policy, and Technology Studies		1		1
Ed Studies in Psych, Research Methods & Counseling		6	1	7
Electrical & Computer Engineering	1	2	1	4
English Literature and TESL		1		1
Gender & Race Studies	1	1		2
Geography			1	1
Geological Sciences	4		3	7
History		1		1
Human Development & Family Studies			1	1
Human Nutrition & Hospitality Management		3		3
Information Systems, Statistics & Management Science		6		6
Information Technology		1		1
Institute for Business Analytics			1	1
Instructional Technology and Academic Services		1		1
Journalism & Creative Media		2	1	3
Kinesiology		1		1
Law School	1			1
Library and Information Studies		1	1	2
Marketing		1		1
Mathematics		5	1	6
Mechanical Engineering	1	5	4	10
Metallurgical & Materials Engineering	3	3	3	9
Modern Languages & Classics	2	2	1	5
Office of Evaluation Research & School Improvement			1	1
Physics & Astronomy	1	3	1	5
Political Science		1		1
Psychology	1	1		2
Remote Sensing Center	1	1	1	3
Social Work			1	1
Special Education & Multiple Abilities	1			1
Student Affairs Assessment and Planning		1		1
Theater and Dance		1	1	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>195</b>

## 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 195 International Scholars and Faculty at UA in 2020/21 by the length of their stay.

As mentioned, the greatest impact of COVID during the 2020/21 reporting year was on J-1 Scholars, primarily those who were externally funded or on personal funds and come for 1 year or less, and those on B-1/B-2 or WB/WT Visitors who typically come for less than 3 months.

In 2020/21, only 1 scholar's sponsorship by UA was for less than 3 months. Only 3 scholars' sponsorship lasted between 3 months and less than 6 months. 20 scholars' sponsorship at UA was for a period of between 6 months and less than 1 year. And the vast majority, or a total of 171 scholars were sponsored for 1 year or longer.



## **XVI. Final Notes on COVID-19 Impact and Response**

It is difficult to stress how challenging 2020 and 2021 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 and 2021 is as follows:

### **January 2020**

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

### **February 2020**

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

### **March 2020**

- 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 2020**

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

### **May 2020**

- 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 2020**

- 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 2020**

- 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 2020**

- 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)
- UA first day of Fall 2020 classes – operating under a hybrid format filed with SEVP (8/19)

### **September 2020**

- 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 2020**

- 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)
- DHS Operation: OPTical Illusion (10/22)

#### **November 2020**

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

#### **December 2020**

- Court invalidates DOL's and USCIS's new wage and specialty occupation rules for H-1Bs (12/01)
- Department of Labor reverts wage databases back to old wage guides for the 2020-21 fiscal year (12/09)

#### **January 2021**

- UA first day of Spring 2021 classes – operating under a hybrid format filed with SEVP (1/13)
- DOL publishes final rule of Strengthening Wage Protections for the Temporary and Permanent Employment of Certain Aliens in the United States, 86 FR 3608 (1/14)
- Trump Administration issues Executive Order to end COVID Travel Bans for EU, U.K., Ireland, and Brazil (1/18)
- Biden Administration Inauguration (1/20)
  - Executive Order reverses discriminatory entry bans based on country of origin (Muslim bans)
  - Executive Order extends DACA protections
- Executive Order reinforces/reinstates COVID Entry Bans on EU, U.K. Ireland, and Brazil and adds South Africa to the COVID Entry Bans (1/25)
- CDC requires COVID Viral Tests for all inbound air travel to the U.S. for both U.S. Citizens and non-citizens (1/26)

#### **February 2021**

- USCIS allows extended filing time flexibilities for F-1 Optional Practical Training applicants (2/26)

#### **March 2021**

- UA System announces return to traditional in-person instruction for Fall 2021 semester. Based on this announcement, ISSS files updated plans for Fall 2021 with SEVP and begins communicating to students about the need to resume pre-pandemic enrollment requirements beginning in Fall 21 (3/01)
- DOL proposes delay of implementation of final rule of Strengthening Wage Protections for the Temporary and Permanent Employment of Certain Aliens in the United States, 86 FR 3608 (3/22)

#### **April 2021**

- USCIS allows F-1 Optional Practical Training I-765 applications to be filed online (4/12)
- SEVP issues guidance for 2021-22 Academic Year Enrollment (4/26)
- DOS issues updated J-1 Student Visa Fall 2021 Guidance (4/26)
- DOS announced updated National Interest Exceptions for travelers from China, Iran, EU, U.K., Ireland, Brazil, and South Africa (4/26)
- India COVID Entry Ban issued by Executive Order (4/30)
- DOS adds India to National Interest Exceptions list (4/30)

#### **May 2021**

- DOS specifically adds F-1 Students and J-1 Students and Scholars to the National Interest Exceptions for travel from China, Iran, EU, U.K., Ireland, Brazil, South Africa and India, in time for summer visa applications and fall semester studies (5/12)

#### **June 2021**

- U.S. Embassy/Consulates in India begin processing Fall 2021 visa applications (6/14)
- U.S. District Court vacates final rule of Strengthening Wage Protections for the

Temporary and Permanent Employment of Certain Aliens in the United States, 86 FR 3608 (6/29)

- USCIS extends Request for Evidence response time flexibilities until 9/30/21 (6/24)
- OFLC delays new Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) codes and wage statistics model implementation until 06/2022 (6/25)
- THRIVE Act passes (implications for use of Recruiting Agents) (6/28)

#### **July 2021**

- Name-Image-Likeness Licensing legislation for student-athletes takes effect (7/01)
- DHS officially withdraws proposed rule to eliminate “duration of status” for F and J visa holders (7/06)

#### **August 2021**

- UA first day of Fall 2021 classes – operating under a returned in-person format filed with SEVP – students required to be enrolled under pre-pandemic guidelines (8/18)

#### **October 2021**

- Technical fix bills introduced to address THRIVE Act restrictions on use of agents for international student recruitment (10/08)
- U.S.-Canada and U.S.-Mexico Border Restrictions extended through 1/21/22 (10/21)
- Executive Order on COVID Entry Bans removes all country-specific travel bans and institutes a vaccine mandate to enter the U.S. for all non-citizen, nonimmigrants. New rules go into effect on November 8. (10/25)
- CDC updates COVID Viral Tests requirements for all inbound air travel to the U.S. for both U.S. Citizens and non-citizens – those without proof of vaccination must take viral COVID test within 1 day of flight (10/25)

#### **November 2021**

- SEVP announces that special COVID allowances to transmit I-20s electronically rather than as a physical document is a permanent allowance (11/01)
- New vaccination entry requirements for air travelers go into effect (11/08)
- Land-border crossings open up to non-essential travelers from Mexico and Canada for fully vaccinated travelers (11/08)

Due in large 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 prior to summer of 2021, many new international students had to defer their admissions repeatedly or cancel their plans altogether.

UA saw a significant drop in international enrollment for Fall 2020, especially with English Language Institute enrollment, non-degree and exchange student enrollment, and first-year undergraduate enrollment.

In Fall 2021, we saw modest increases in English Language Institute enrollment, thanks in part to lifting restrictions on travel for special groups such as the Friends of Fulbright.

Likewise, Fall 2021 saw a resumption in many incoming exchange students, due to lifting of restrictions against travel by their home institutions and sponsors.

However, undergraduate enrollment continued to decline severely, partly due to declines in new first-time Freshmen and new transfer student enrollments as well as natural attrition of numbers due to graduation.

Undergraduate enrollment numbers were offset by very strong enrollment trends at the graduate level.

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.