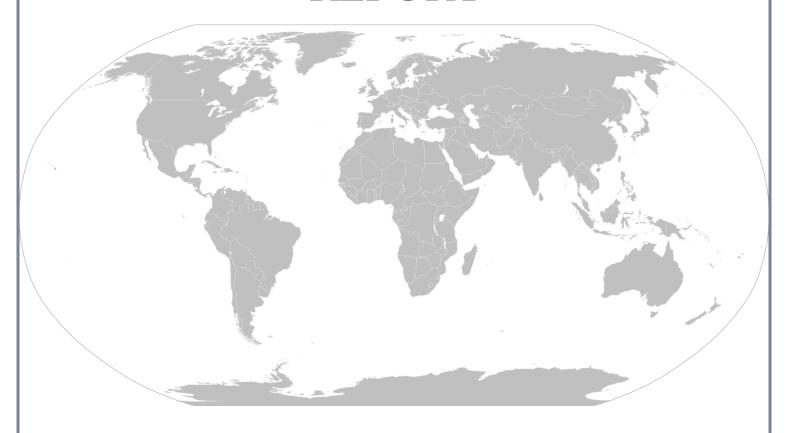
# THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR REPORT



**FALL 2022** 



# International Student & Scholar Report 2022

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

International Student & Scholar Services
The University of Alabama
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Acknowledgements and thanks to the following:
Education Abroad
English Language Institute
Human Resources
Office of Institutional Research & Assessment

Prepared by:
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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. Since Spring 2020, due to the continuing COVID-19 Pandemic, the ISSS office has dealt with many rapidly changing circumstances in fulfilling its roles and responsibilities as well as the ripple effects of visa processing delays. 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 obtain 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. ISSS gathers copies of documents and contact information from each student, provides an extensive orientation with a primary focus on immigration regulatory issues and acculturation, and finally, monitors 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 2022

In Fall 2022, International Student & Scholar Services served 1118 active, enrolled international students.

In Fall 2022, UA welcomed **246 new international students**, including 188 first-time and internal transfer graduate students, 50 first-time Freshmen, and 8 first-time undergraduate transfer students.

In addition to the 1118 active, enrolled international students served by ISSS, there are an additional 175 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 1293.

The 1118 active, enrolled international students come from 88 countries and regions of the world and represent 2.9% of the 38,645 students enrolled at The University of Alabama for fall 2022<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.

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

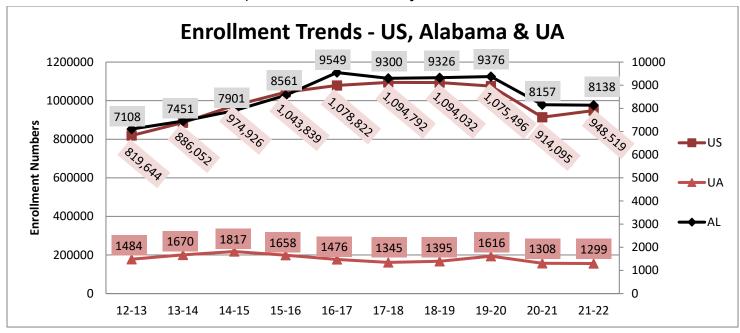
# III. Nation and State - Enrollment and Financial Impact of International Students

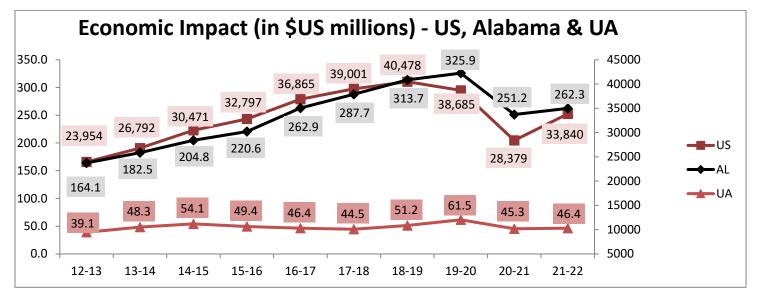
In 2021/22, the United States hosted 948,519 international students; in the same year, Alabama institutions of higher education enrolled 8138 international students.<sup>2</sup>

The economic impact of the **948,519 international students** enrolled in 2021/22 was nearly **\$33.8 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 **8138** international students enrolled in 2021/22 contributed **\$262.3** million to the state economy through paid tuition, living expenses, books, fees, and related expenses, and created **2,190** Jobs through their economic contributions.

Locally, the **1299** international students at The University of Alabama in 2021/22 contributed \$46.4 million to the local economy through paid tuition, living expenses, books, fees, and other related expenses, and created **450 jobs**.<sup>3</sup>





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

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

# IV. UA International Student Statistics

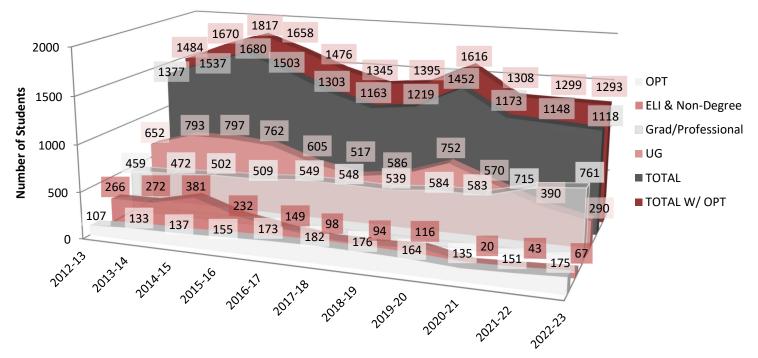
# A. Breakdown of Fall Semester 2022 Student Numbers by Degree Level and Year (Includes Recent Graduates on OPT):

DEGREE & LEVEL	Total
Undergraduate Students	290
Freshman	73
Sophomore	45
Junior	40
Senior	132
Graduate Students	761
Master's	162
Doctoral	598
Professional	1
English Language Institute	29
ELI Only	26
Conditional Admits	3
Non-Degree & Education Abroad Exchanges	38
Non-Degree/Visiting Students	11
Study Abroad	27
SUBTOTAL OF ACTIVE, ENROLLED STUDENTS	1118
OPT – Graduates on Optional Practical Training	175
TOTAL	1293

# B. UA International Student Numbers 2012 - 2022

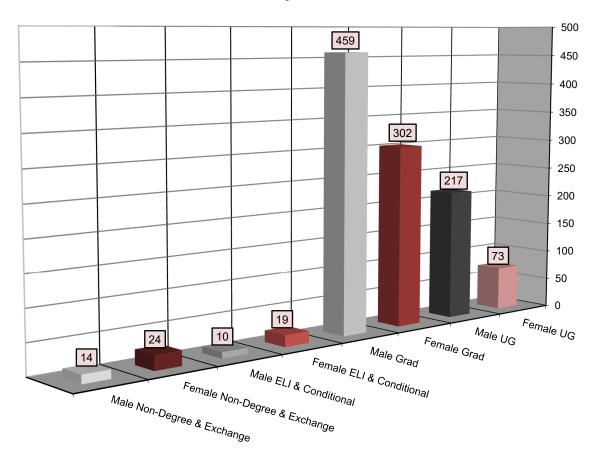
YEAR	UG	GRAD	ELI & NON- DEGREE	SUBTOTAL: ACTIVE STUDENTS	ОРТ	TOTAL W/ OPT	% TOTAL CHANGE
2012-13	652	459	266	1377	107	1484	+ 19.5%
2013-14	793	472	272	1537	133	1670	+ 12.5%
2014-15	797	502	381	1680	137	1817	+ 8.8%
2015-16	762	509	232	1503	155	1658	- 8.8%
2016-17	605	549	149	1303	173	1476	- 10.9%
2017-18	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	- 0.69%
2022-23	290	761	67	1118	175	1293	- 0.46%

# C. 2012-2022 Comparison of UA International Student Numbers



**Academic Year** 

# V. International Student Numbers by Gender



Male Total: 700 Female Total: 418

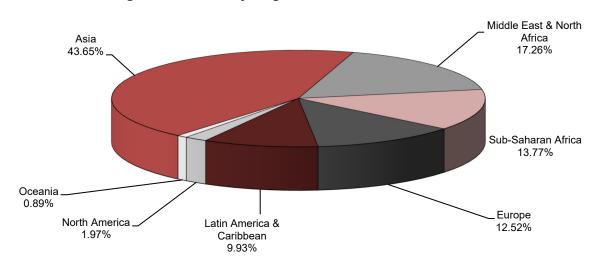
# VI. Region & Places of Origin – For All Students (Excluding those on OPT)

The 1118 actively enrolled international students at The University of Alabama for 2022/23 originated from **88 countries and territories**. 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	488
Middle East & North Africa	193
Sub-Saharan Africa	154
Europe	140
Latin America & Caribbean	111
North America (Canada)	22
Oceania	10
TOTAL	1118

# 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.

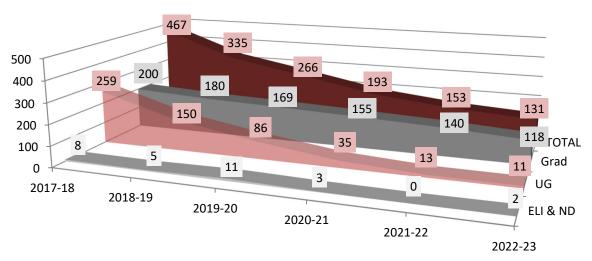
COUNTRY/TERRITORY	UNDERGRAD	GRAD & PROFESSIONAL	ELI & CONDITIONAL	NON-DEGREE & EDUCATION ABROAD	TOTAL
1. China, PR	11	118	1	1	131
2. India	24	89			113
3. Bangladesh	4	96			100
4. Nigeria	10	87			97
5. Kuwait	78				78
6. Iran		59			59
7. Korea, South	6	30		2	38
8. Colombia	2	32	3		37
9. Germany	8	8	1	18	35
10. Saudi Arabia	9	19	4		32

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

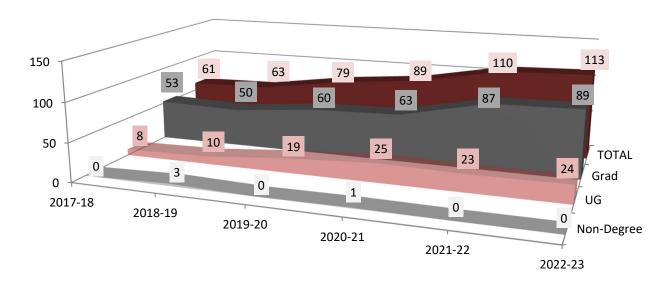
D. International Student Places of Origin – For Active Students (Excluding OP1)						
COUNTRY/TERRITORY	UNDERGRAD	GRAD & PROFESSIONAL	ELI & CONDITIONAL	NON-DEGREE & EDUCATION ABROAD	TOTAL	
Argentina	1				1	
Australia	4	1		2	7	
Austria	1				1	
Azerbaijan	1		1		2	
Bahamas	2	2	-		4	
Bangladesh	4	96			100	
Belize	-	1			1	
Bolivia		1			1	
Botswana		1			1	
Brazil	9	11	1		21	
Bulgaria	1	1			2	
Burma (Myanmar)	1	· ·			1	
Cameroon		5	1		6	
Canada	12	9	·	1	22	
	12		4			
Chine B.B.	11	1 118	1	1	2 131	
China, P.R.				ı		
Colombia	2	32	3		37	
Costa Rica	1				1	
Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)		1			1	
Cuba			1		1	
Cyprus		1			11	
Czech Republic	2				2	
Ecuador		1			1	
Egypt	1	5		1	7	
El Salvador	2	1			3	
Equatorial Guinea	2				2	
Ethiopia	1	3			4	
France	3			2	5	
Gaza Strip		1			1	
Georgia, Republic of		1			1	
Germany	8	8	1	18	35	
Ghana		22			22	
Greece		3		1	4	
Guatemala	2				2	
Honduras	2	1	2		5	
Hong Kong		1			1	
Hungary	1				1	
India	24	89			113	
Indonesia	2	5			7	
Iran		59			59	
Iraq		1			1	
Ireland				1	1	
Israel	1	1			2	
Italy	3	4		1	8	
Jamaica	1	2			3	
Japan		4	11		15	
Jordan	1	3			4	
Kazakhstan	-	1			1	
Kenya	8	1			9	
Korea, South	6	30		2	38	
Kuwait	78			-	78	
Mexico	11	5		1	17	
Nepal	10	20		,	30	
Netherlands	1	3			4	
New Zealand	2	1			3	
Nigeria Nigeria	10	87			97	
Nigeria	IU	01			31	

COUNTRY/TERRITORY	UNDERGRAD	GRAD & PROFESSIONAL	ELI & CONDITIONAL	NON-DEGREE & EDUCATION ABROAD	TOTAL
Norway	1				1
Oman	6				6
Pakistan		13			13
Peru	1				1
Philippines		2			2
Poland	1	6			7
Portugal		1			1
Russia		4			4
Saint Vincent & Grenadines		1			1
Saudi Arabia	9	19	4		32
Senegal		1			1
Serbia, Republic of		1			1
Singapore	1				1
Slovenia	1				1
South Africa	4				4
Spain		6			6
Sri Lanka	1	4			5
Sudan	1				1
Sweden	3	1			4
Taiwan		4			4
Thailand	2	4			6
Trinidad & Tobago	1	1		1	3
Turkey	3	20	1		24
Uganda	1	2			3
Ukraine	3	1			4
United Arab Emirates (UAE)		1	1		2
United Kingdom (UK)	7	7		6	20
Uruguay	1	1			2
Venezuela	1	3			4
Vietnam	10	10			20
West Bank		1			1
Zambia		3			3
TOTAL	290	761	29	38	1118

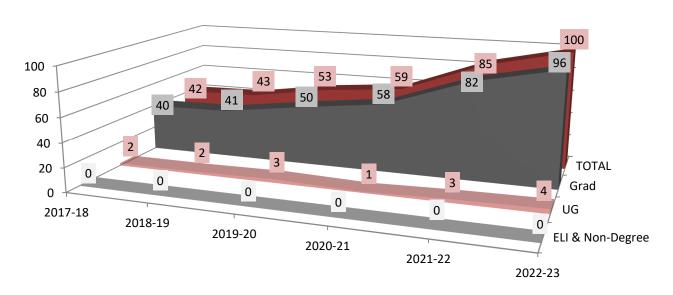
# E. Chinese Student Enrollment: 2017–22



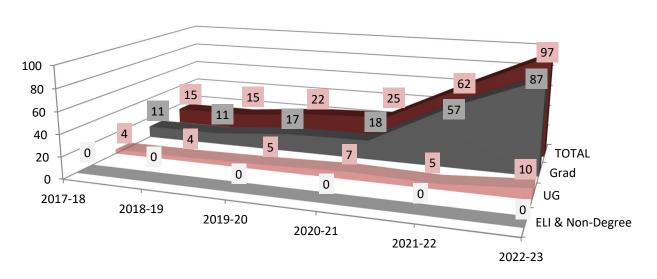
# F. Indian Enrollment: 2017–22



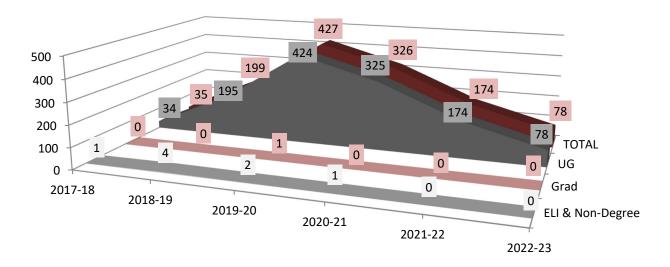
# G. Bangladeshi Enrollment: 2017–22



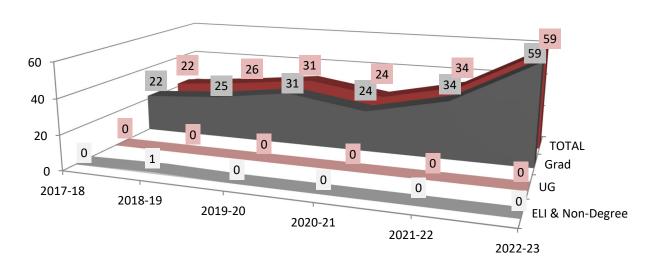
# H. Nigerian Enrollment: 2017–22



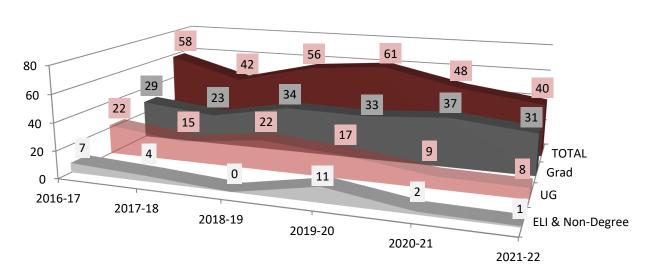
# I. Kuwaiti Enrollment: 2017-22



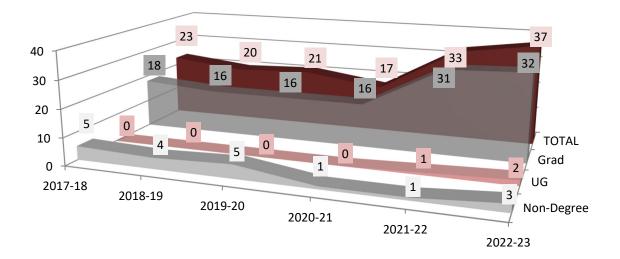
# J. Iranian Enrollment: 2017-22



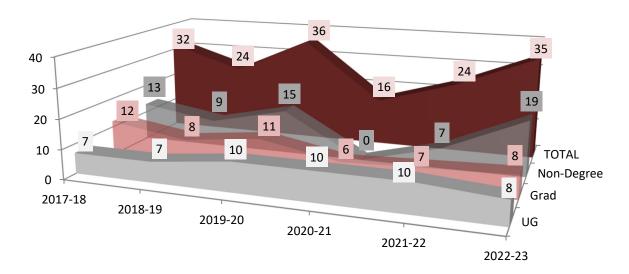
# K. South Korean Enrollment: 2017–22



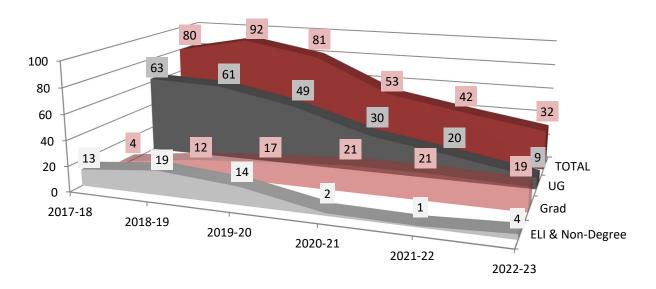
# L. Colombian Enrollment: 2017-22



# M. German Enrollment: 2017-22



# N. Saudi Arabian Enrollment: 2017-22

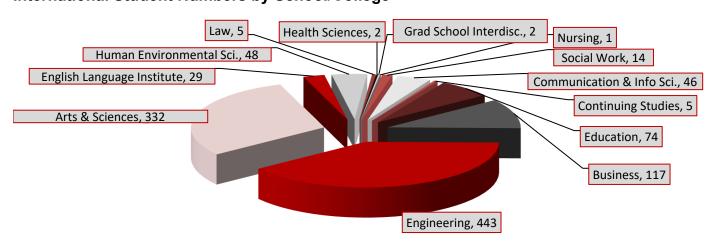


VII. International Student Numbers by Major (NOTE: ELI & Conditional Students are broken down by intended degree. Those students who are only studying English as a Second Language are listed under ELI for their major)

Department	Undergrad	Grad	ELI & Conditional	Non-Degree & Education Abroad	Total
Accounting	4	3	3 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 1		7
Advertising & Public Relations	3	4			7
Aerospace Engineering & Mechanics	13	19			32
American Studies		2			2
Anthropology	1	2			3
Applied Mathematics	-	3			3
Applied Statistics		8			8
Art	1	2			3
Arts & Sciences, General/Undeclared	4	_		12	16
Biology	7	23			30
Book Arts	•	1			1
Business, General	4	•		12	16
Business Analytics	-	2		12	2
Chemical Engineering	44	33			77
Chemistry	2	50			52
Civil & Construction Engineering	23	71			94
Communication & Information Sciences	23	26	1		27
Communication Studies	4				5
	4	1			4
Computer Engineering		20	4		66
Computer Science	33	32	1		
Consumer Sciences	1	1		-	2
Continuing Education				5	5
Counselor Education	_	1			1
Creative Media	1	_			1
Creative Writing	_	6			6
Criminology & Criminal Justice	2	2			4
Curriculum & Instruction		1			1
Cyber Security	1				1
Economics	5	8	1		14
Education				1	1
Education, Elementary	2	7			9
Education, Secondary		8			8
Education, Special		12			12
Ed Leadership/ Ed Admin/ Higher Ed		6			6
Educational Psychology		9			9
<b>Educational Research</b>		8			8
Electrical Engineering	17	48			65
ELI – English Language Institute			26		26
Engineering, General				4	4
English Literature		9			9
Environmental Engineering	3	2			5
Finance	11	12			23
Food and Nutrition	9				9
Geography		14			14
Geology	1	20			21
German		5			5
Health Education & Promotion	7	4			11
History	2	5			7
Hospitality Management	1	5			6
Human Development and Family Studies	-	1			1
Human Environmental Sciences	3	2			5
		-	l .	1	<u> </u>

Department	Undergrad	Grad	ELI & Conditional	Non-Degree & Education Abroad	Total
Human Nutrition		8			8
Instructional Leadership		6			6
Interdisciplinary Studies	1	2			3
Interior Design	3				3
International Studies	2				2
Journalism/ News Media	2	3			5
Kinesiology	7	5			12
Law (JD, JSD, and LLM)		3		2	5
Management	6	8			14
Management Information Systems	5				5
Marketing	4	4			8
Materials Science		18			18
Mathematics	4	23			27
MBA		6			6
Mechanical Engineering	24	37			61
Metallurgical & Materials Engineering	2	15			17
Multiple Abilities Program	1				1
Music	1	18			19
Non-Degree				2	2
Nursing		1			1
<b>Operations Management</b>	3	13			16
Philosophy	1				1
Physics	3	41			44
Political Science	1	7			8
Population Health Sciences		2			2
Psychology	4	8			12
Public Administration		1			1
Public Health		3			3
Public Relations	1				1
<b>Quantitative Economics</b>		1			1
Romance Languages (French & Spanish)		25			25
Social Work	1	13			14
Teaching English as a Second Language		8			8
Theater Arts	1				1
Women's Studies		4			4
TOTAL	290	761	29	38	1118

# 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 2021/22 year (the period between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022) totaled **277** non-immigrants, representing **44 countries and territories**.

The 277 total represents <u>an increase of 42.1%</u> from the 195 scholars hosted by UA the previous year. Much of this is a rebound of J-1 Exchange Visitors and B-1/B-2 and WB/WT Visitors, populations which saw a previous year-to-year decline of 112 J-1 Scholars and B-1/B-2 and WB/WT Visitors and now have seen a significant bounce back.

**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 277 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 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\*

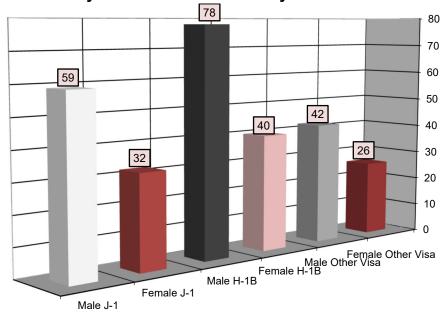
VISA-STATUS	Total
J-1 Scholars	72
J-1 Physicians (sponsored by ECFMG**)	19
H-1B Workers	118
TN Workers	3
0-1	4
F-1 CPT/OPT	45
B-1/B-2 – WB/WT	9
Other	7
TOTAL	277

<sup>\*</sup> For July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates

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%
2021-22	91	118	68	277	+ 42.1%

# XII. International Faculty and Scholar Numbers by Gender



Total International Male: 179 Total International Female: 98

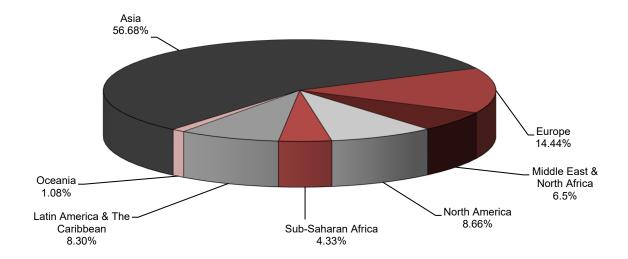
# XIII. Region & Places of Origin

International Scholars and Faculty at The University of Alabama for 2021/22 originated from **44 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	157
Europe	40
North America (Canada)	24
Latin America & the Caribbean	23
Middle East & North Africa	18
Sub-Saharan Africa	12
Oceania	3
TOTAL	277

# 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. India	61
2. China, PR	54
3. Canada	24
4. Iran*	15*
4. South Korea*	15*
6. Colombia	10
7. Bangladesh*	8*
7. Spain*	8*
9. Brazil	7
10. United Kingdom	6

<sup>\*</sup>Tie

# D. International Scholar and Faculty Places of Origin

Country	J-1	H-1B	Other Visa	Total
Antigua and Barbuda	1			1
Australia		3		3
Bangladesh	1	1	6	8
Brazil	4	2	1	7
Canada	18	3	3	24
China	6	35	13	54
Colombia	3		7	10
Ecuador		1		1
France	2	1		3
Germany	1		2	3
Ghana		2		2
Greece		1		1
Hong Kong		1	2	3
Hungary	1	1		2
Iceland		1		1
India	27	24	10	61
Indonesia	1			1
Iran	3	3	9	15
Israel	1			1
Italy	2	1		3
Japan	2		1	3
Kenya		1	2	3
Lithuania		1		1
Macao		1		1
Malaysia		1		1
Mexico	1		2	3
Nepal		1	1	2
Nigeria	1		2	3
Pakistan	3	1		4
Peru		1		1
Russia		2		2
Saudi Arabia			1	1
South Africa	2	1		3
South Korea		13	2	15
Spain	4	4		8
Sweden			1	1
Taiwan		1		1
Thailand	1			1
Tunisia			1	1
Turkey	2	3		5
Uganda	1			1
Ukraine	2	1	1	4
United Kingdom		5	1	6
Vietnam	1	1		2
TOTAL	91	118	68	277

# XIV. International Scholars and Faculty by Department

Advertising and Public Relations  Aerospace Engineering & Mechanics  Alabama Center for Insurance Information & Research  Alabama International Trade Center  Alabama Life Research Institute  Alabama Transportation Institute  Alabama Water Institute  Alumni Affairs  Art & Art History  Arts & Sciences, Dean's Office  Athletics  Biological Sciences  Capstone Center for Student Success  Capstone International Center  Center for Advanced Public Safety (CAPS)  Center for Business & Economic Research	Other Visa 1 1 1 1 3 2	Total 3 5 1 1 1 1 12 1 1 1 5
Aerospace Engineering & Mechanics  Alabama Center for Insurance Information & Research  Alabama International Trade Center  Alabama Life Research Institute  Alabama Transportation Institute  Alabama Water Institute  Alumni Affairs  Art & Art History  Arts & Sciences, Dean's Office  Athletics  Biological Sciences  Capstone Center for Student Success  Capstone International Center  Center for Advanced Public Safety (CAPS)  Center for Business & Economic Research	1 1 3	5 1 1 1 12 1 1 1 1
Alabama Center for Insurance Information & Research  Alabama International Trade Center  Alabama Life Research Institute  Alabama Transportation Institute  Alabama Water Institute  Alumni Affairs  Art & Art History  Arts & Sciences, Dean's Office  Athletics  Biological Sciences  Capstone Center for Student Success  Capstone International Center  Center for Advanced Public Safety (CAPS)  Center for Business & Economic Research	1 3	1 1 1 12 1 1 1
Alabama International Trade Center  Alabama Life Research Institute  Alabama Transportation Institute  Alabama Water Institute  Alumni Affairs  Art & Art History  Arts & Sciences, Dean's Office  Athletics  Biological Sciences  Capstone Center for Student Success  Capstone International Center  Center for Advanced Public Safety (CAPS)  Center for Business & Economic Research	1 3	1 12 1 1 1
Alabama Life Research Institute  Alabama Transportation Institute  Alabama Water Institute  Alumni Affairs  Art & Art History  Arts & Sciences, Dean's Office  Athletics  Biological Sciences  Capstone Center for Student Success  Capstone International Center  Center for Advanced Public Safety (CAPS)  Center for Business & Economic Research	1 3	12 1 1 1 1
Alabama Transportation Institute  Alabama Water Institute  Alumni Affairs  Art & Art History  Arts & Sciences, Dean's Office  Athletics  Biological Sciences  Capstone Center for Student Success  Capstone International Center  Center for Advanced Public Safety (CAPS)  Center for Business & Economic Research	1 3	1 1 1
Alabama Water Institute  Alumni Affairs  Art & Art History  Arts & Sciences, Dean's Office  Athletics  Biological Sciences  Capstone Center for Student Success  Capstone International Center  Center for Advanced Public Safety (CAPS)  Center for Business & Economic Research	3	1 1 1
Alumni Affairs  Art & Art History  Arts & Sciences, Dean's Office  Athletics  Biological Sciences  Capstone Center for Student Success  Capstone International Center  Center for Advanced Public Safety (CAPS)  Center for Business & Economic Research	3	1
Art & Art History 1  Arts & Sciences, Dean's Office 1  Athletics 2  Biological Sciences 4 3  Capstone Center for Student Success 1  Capstone International Center 1  Center for Advanced Public Safety (CAPS) 3  Center for Business & Economic Research 1		1
Arts & Sciences, Dean's Office  Athletics  Biological Sciences  Capstone Center for Student Success  Capstone International Center  Center for Advanced Public Safety (CAPS)  Center for Business & Economic Research  1		-
Athletics 2 Biological Sciences 4 3 Capstone Center for Student Success 1 Capstone International Center 1 Center for Advanced Public Safety (CAPS) 3 Center for Business & Economic Research 1		5
Capstone Center for Student Success       1         Capstone International Center       1         Center for Advanced Public Safety (CAPS)       3         Center for Business & Economic Research       1	2	
Capstone Center for Student Success       1         Capstone International Center       1         Center for Advanced Public Safety (CAPS)       3         Center for Business & Economic Research       1		9
Capstone International Center       1         Center for Advanced Public Safety (CAPS)       3         Center for Business & Economic Research       1		1
Center for Business & Economic Research 1		1
Center for Business & Economic Research 1	1	4
		1
Chemical & Biological Engineering 6 4	2	12
Chemistry & Biochemistry 2 2	1	5
Civil, Construction, & Environmental Engineering 8 6	8	22
College of Community Health Sciences (CCHS) 22 6	1	29
College of Education 10 1		11
College of Human Environmental Sciences (CHES)	1	1
Communicative Disorders 1		1
Computer Science 1	2	3
Consumer Sciences 1		1
Criminology and Criminal Justice 2		2
Curriculum & Instruction 1		1
Economics, Finance & Legal Studies 2 3	1	6
Educational Leadership, Policy, and Technology Studies 2		2
Ed Studies in Psych, Research Methods & Counseling 1 7		8
Electrical & Computer Engineering 6 3	3	12
English Literature and TESL 1 1		2
Gender & Race Studies 1		1
Geography 1	1	2
Geological Sciences 5	3	8
Human Development & Family Studies	1	1
Human Nutrition & Hospitality Management 5		5
Information Systems, Statistics & Management Science 3		3
Information Technology 1		1
Institute for Business Analytics 1	1	2
Journalism & Creative Media 2		2
Kinesiology 1		1
Law School 1		1
Library and Information Studies 2		2
Marketing 1		1
Mathematics 2 5	1	8
Mechanical Engineering 3 7	4	14
Metallurgical & Materials Engineering 2 5	1	8
Modern Languages & Classics 1 3	6	10
National Water Center	13	13
New College	1	1
Office of Evaluation Research & School Improvement	2	2
Office of Institutional Research and Assessment 1		1
Office of Research and Economic Development 1		1
Philosophy 1		1
Physics & Astronomy 4 3	1	8
Political Science 1		1
Psychology 2 1		3

Department		H-1B	Other Visa	Total
Religious Studies	1		1	2
Remote Sensing Center	1	1		2
Social Work			1	1
Theater and Dance		3	1	4
University Libraries			1	1
TOTAL	91	118	68	277

# 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 277 International Scholars and Faculty at UA in 2021/22 by the length of their stay.

In 2021/22, 41 scholars' sponsorship by UA was for less than 3 months. Only 5 scholars' sponsorship lasted between 3 months and less than 6 months. 27 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 204 scholars were sponsored for 1 year or longer.

Time Spent in Program

■ 0 - < 3 Mos

■ 6 Mos - < 1 Year

204

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

It is difficult to stress how challenging 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 - 2022 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 announces Special Student Relief (SSR) for F-1 students from Syria, effective through 9/30/2022 (4/22)
- SEVP announces Special Student Relief (SSR) for F-1 students from Venezuela, effective through 9/30/2022 (4/22)
- 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) • SEVP announces Special Student Relief (SSR) for F-1 students from Burma (Myanmar), effective through 11/25/2022 (5/25)

### 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

- SEVP announces Special Student Relief (SSR) for F-1 students from Haiti, effective through 2/3/2023 (8/3)
- 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)

# September 2021

- SEVP announces Special Student Relief (SSR) for F-1 students from Yemen, effective through 3/3/2023 (9/4)
- SEVP announces Special Student Relief (SSR) for F-1 students from Somalia, effective through 3/17/2023 (9/18)

# 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)
- SEVP announces Special Student Relief (SSR) for F-1 students from Hong Kong, effective through 2/5/2023 (11/26)
- Travel ban announced for entry from certain southern African countries based on the emergence of the COVID Omicron variant (11/26)

# December 2021

- DOS expands and extends through December 2022 visa interview waivers for "students, professors, research scholars, short-term scholars, or specialists" under certain circumstance, though it is at the discretion of the individual Embassy or Consulate (12/23)
- President revokes travel ban from southern African countries, removing the last of the country-specific COVID Travel bans (12/28)
- USCIS extends flexibility in responding to requests for evidence and other request notices until 3/26/22 (12/31)

# January 2022

• Land-border and ferry crossings open up to <u>all</u> travelers from Mexico and Canada with

- full vaccination requirements being the same as for air travel (1/21)
- Due to continuing backlogs, USCIS updates guidance on Expedite Requests, including criteria and examples (1/25)

# March 2022

- SEVP announces Special Student Relief (SSR) for F-1 students from South Sudan, effective through 11/3/2023 (4/19)
- USCIS announces goal of reducing backlogs on cases by end of 2023, addressing the
  fact that case processing times had grown significantly over the pandemic example,
  I-539 Change-of-status case processing is between 17 21 months and new goal is
  3 months (3/29)
- USCIS extends flexibility in responding to requests for evidence and other request notices until 7/25/22 (3/30)

# April 2022

- Transportation Security Administration (TSA) ended mask mandate on public transportation and in transportation hubs based on Federal District Court ruling in Tampa, FL (4/18)
- SEVP announces Special Student Relief (SSR) for F-1 students from Sudan, effective through 10/19/2023 (4/19)
- SEVP announces Special Student Relief (SSR) for F-1 students from Ukraine, effective through 10/19/2023 (4/19)

# May 2022

- USCIS announces a new case processing data system to improve clarity in case processing timelines for applicants (5/5)
- SEVP announces Special Student Relief (SSR) for F-1 students from Afghanistan, effective through 11/20/2023 (5/20)

# June 2022

- SEVP announces Special Student Relief (SSR) for F-1 students from Cameroon, effective through 12/7/2023 (6/7)
- CDC removes COVID testing requirements for all inbound air, land, and ferry travel to the U.S. for both U.S. Citizens and non-citizens. Vaccination requirement remains in effect for all "noncitizens who are nonimmigrants" (6/12)

### **July 2022**

• USCIS extends flexibility in responding to requests for evidence and other request notices until 10/23/22 (7/25)

# August 2022

- SEVP announces Special Student Relief (SSR) extension for F-1 students from Syria, effective through 4/1/2024 (8/1)
- DOS addresses visa appointment and processing delays following multiple news outlets reporting that average waiting time for student visa appointments was 49 days (compared to pre-pandemic average of 10 days) and for general visitor visa appointments was 240 days, with some Embassies and Consulates experiencing wait times of 2 – 3 years (8/18)

# September 2022

- SEVP announces Special Student Relief (SSR) extension for F-1 students from Venezuela, effective through 3/10/2024 (9/8)
- USCIS publishes new Public Charge Rule (9/8)

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 right away, and even those that have are on reduced processing, many new international students have had to defer their admissions repeatedly through 2020, 2021, and 2022 or cancel their plans altogether.

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

In Fall 2021, UA 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 student programs, due to lifting of restrictions against travel by their home institutions and sponsors.

For Fall 2022, UA saw a massive number of applications for admissions, but despite increased interest at all levels, visa appointment and processing delays continued into 2022 and have had significant continuing impact on student mobility. In summer 2022, the average time for a student visa appointment was 45 days worldwide, with some locations still closed to all visa applicants (ICEF Monitor, 8/17/2022).

Despite the visa problems, Fall 2022 saw an increase in graduate student enrollments and a further increases of English Language Institute and exchange student enrollments.

However, Fall 2022 undergraduate enrollment continued to decline. Even though there have been modest increases in new first-time Freshmen and new transfer student enrollments, the increases have not been enough to offset the large numbers of undergraduates leaving due to natural attrition because of graduation.

Overall, enrollment for Fall 2022 has held mostly steady compared to Fall 2021, with an overall enrollment drop of 30 active students, which based on year-to-year measurements is a 2.6% decline in international enrollment from Fall 2021. The steady numbers are thanks in part to the fact that undergraduate enrollment declines were offset by very strong enrollment trends at the graduate level.

As we look to the future, International Student & Scholar Services will continue to work 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.