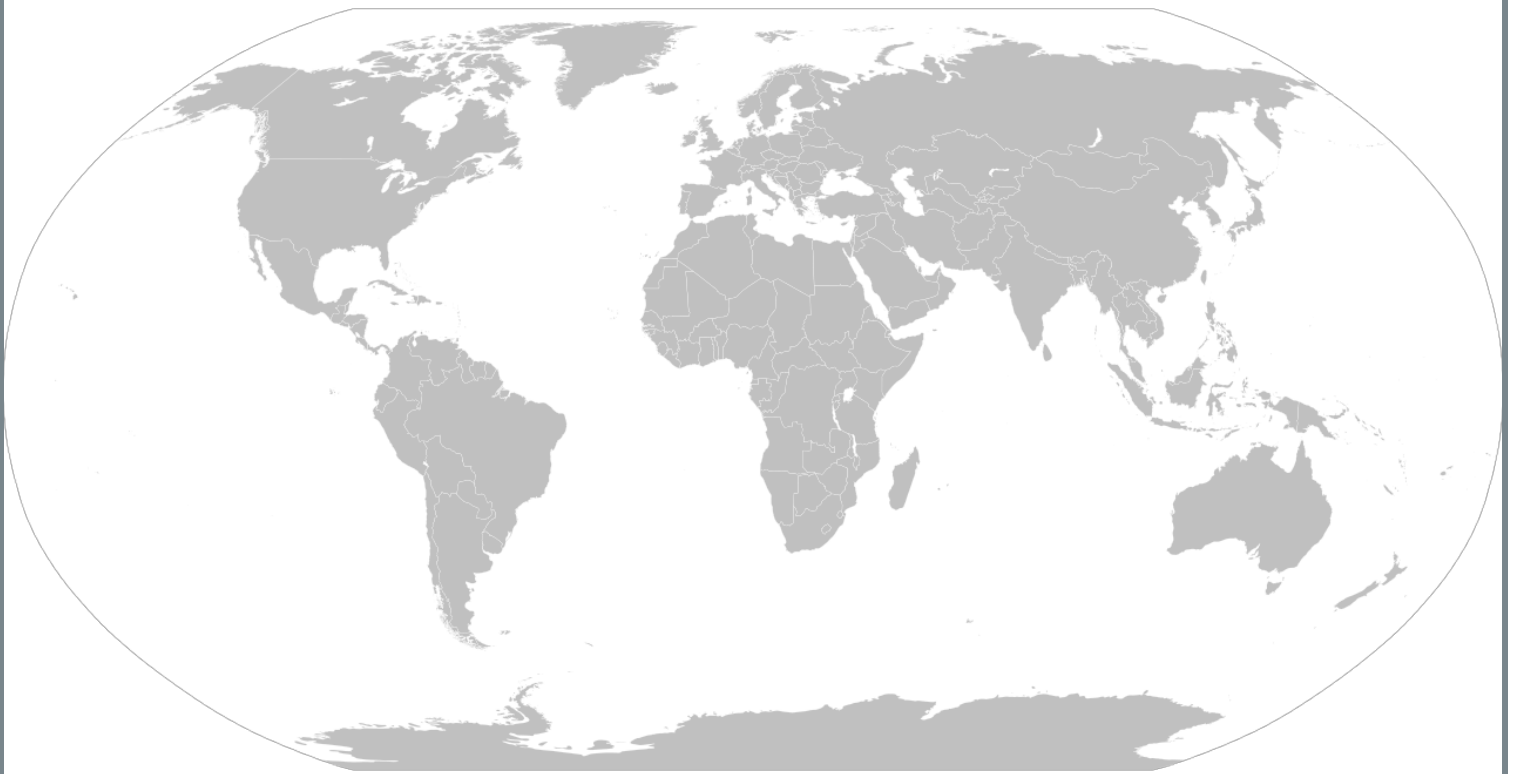


# THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR REPORT



### FALL 2023



Capstone International Center  
International Student & Scholar Services

# ***International Student & Scholar Report 2023***

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

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**Acknowledgements and thanks to the following:  
Capstone International Center  
Education Abroad  
English Language Institute  
Human Resources  
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. Since Spring 2020, due to the continuing COVID-19 Pandemic, the ISSS office 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, see Section XVI at the end of this report.

ISSS is staffed by 7 full-time staff and 1 part-time staff, including a Director, Associate Director, 2 International Student Advisors, 1 International Scholar Advisor, a SEVIS Coordinator who maintains records and SEVIS reporting duties, an International Program Assistant who runs the office outreach and programming, 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 2023**

In Fall 2023, **International Student & Scholar Services served 1102 active, enrolled international students.**

In Fall 2023, UA welcomed **276 new international students**, including 214 first-time and internal transfer graduate students, 51 first-time Freshmen, and 11 first-time undergraduate transfer students.

**In addition to the 1102 active, enrolled international students served by ISSS, there are an additional 171 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 **1273**.

**The 1102 active, enrolled international students come from 92 countries** and regions of the world and **represent 2.8% of the 39,623 students enrolled at The University of Alabama for fall 2023<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.

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

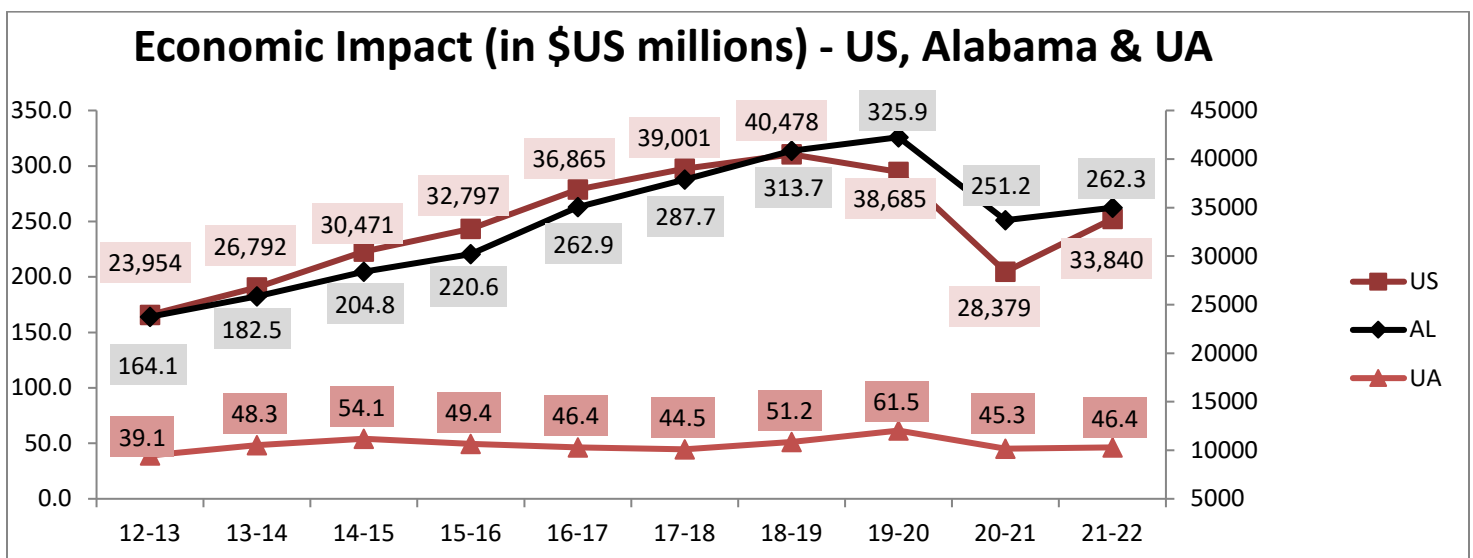
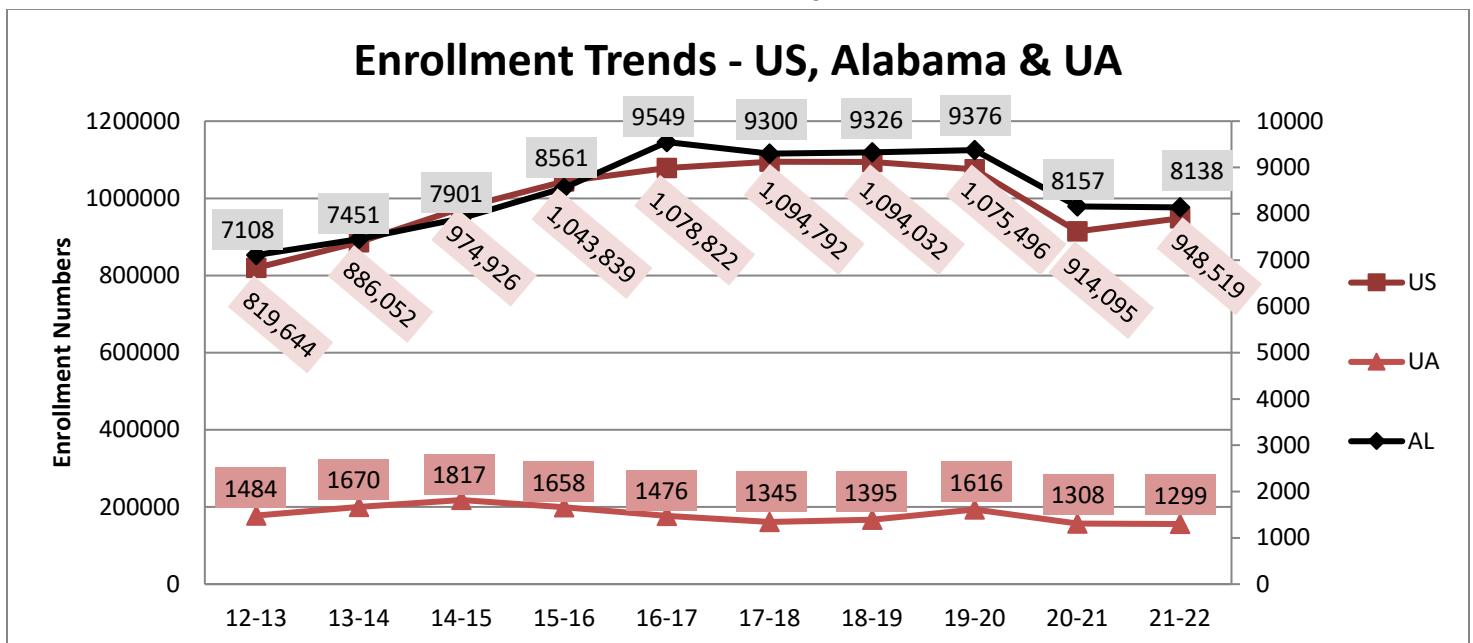
### III. Nation and State - Enrollment and Financial Impact of International Students

In 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](http://www.nafsa.org/economicvalue)

IV. UA International Student Statistics

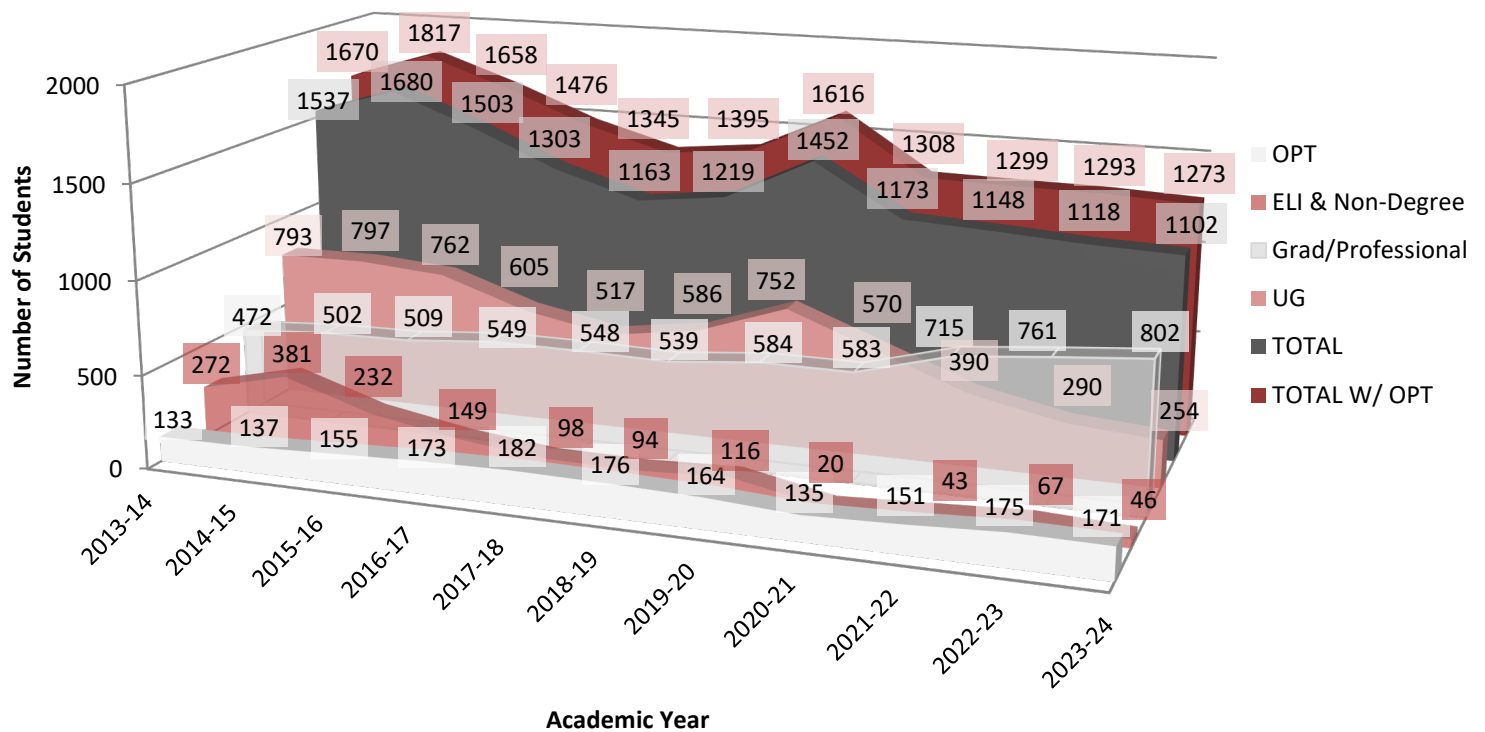
A. Breakdown of Fall Semester 2023 Student Numbers by Degree Level and Year (Includes Recent Graduates on OPT):

DEGREE & LEVEL	Total
<b>Undergraduate Students</b>	<b>254</b>
<i>Freshman</i>	63
<i>Sophomore</i>	63
<i>Junior</i>	56
<i>Senior</i>	72
<b>Graduate Students</b>	<b>802</b>
<i>Master's</i>	147
<i>Doctoral</i>	652
<i>Professional</i>	3
<b>English Language Institute</b>	<b>24</b>
<i>ELI Only</i>	23
<i>Conditional Admits</i>	1
<b>Non-Degree &amp; Education Abroad Exchanges</b>	<b>22</b>
<i>Non-Degree/Visiting Students</i>	7
<i>Study Abroad</i>	15
<b>SUBTOTAL OF ACTIVE, ENROLLED STUDENTS</b>	<b>1102</b>
<b>OPT – Graduates on Optional Practical Training</b>	<b>171</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1273</b>

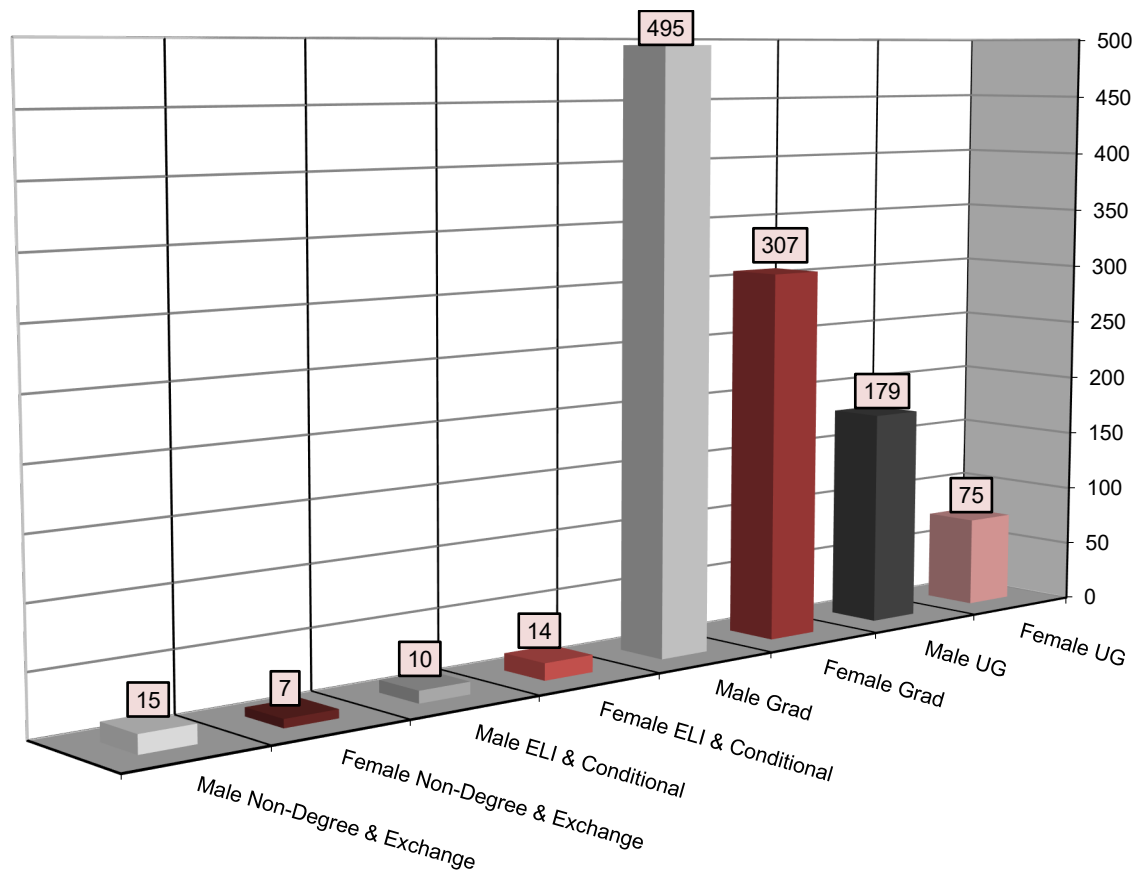
B. UA International Student Numbers 2013 - 2023

YEAR	UG	GRAD	ELI & NON-DEGREE	SUBTOTAL: ACTIVE STUDENTS	OPT	TOTAL W/ OPT	% TOTAL CHANGE
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%
2023-24	254	802	46	1102	171	1273	- 1.55%

### C. 2013-2023 Comparison of UA International Student Numbers



### V. International Student Numbers by Gender



**Male Total: 699**  
**Female Total: 403**

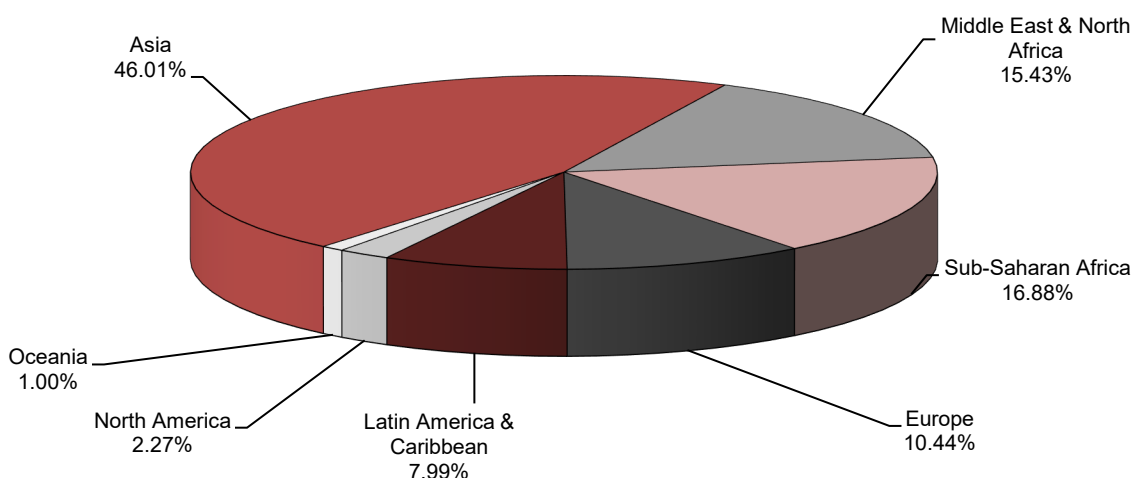
## VI. Region & Places of Origin – For All Students Except Graduates on OPT

The 1102 actively enrolled international students at The University of Alabama for 2023/24 originated from **92 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	507
Sub-Saharan Africa	186
Middle East & North Africa	170
Europe	115
Latin America & Caribbean	88
North America (Canada)	25
Oceania	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1102</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. India	27	104	1		132
2. China, PR	5	114	1	1	121
3. Nigeria	10	103		2	115
4. Bangladesh	5	103			108
5. Iran		81		1	82
6. Ghana		33			33
7. Korea, South	9	20	2	1	32
8. Kuwait	31				31
9. Saudi Arabia	9	17	3		29
10. Nepal	10	17			27

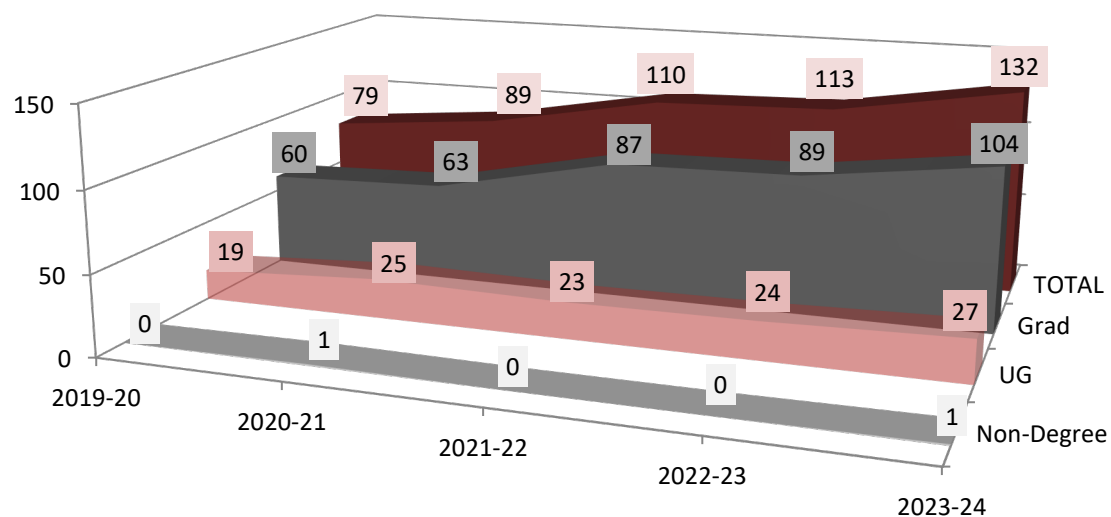
### D. International Student Places of Origin – For Active Students (Excluding OPT)

COUNTRY/TERRITORY	UNDERGRAD	GRAD & PROFESSIONAL	ELI & CONDITIONAL	NON-DEGREE & EDUCATION ABROAD	TOTAL
Australia	6			3	9
Azerbaijan	1		1		2
Bahamas	1	2			3
Bahrain	2				2
Bangladesh	5	103			108
Belgium		1			1
Bolivia		1			1
Botswana		1			1
Brazil	5	16			21
Bulgaria	1	1			2
Burma (Myanmar)	1		1		2
Cameroon		6			6
Canada	16	9			25
Chile			1		1
China, P.R.	5	114	1	1	121
Colombia	2	14			16
Congo, Democratic Republic of		1			1
Costa Rica	1				1
Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)		1			1
Czech Republic	1				1
Ecuador		1			1
Egypt	1	7			8
El Salvador	1	1			2
Equatorial Guinea	1				1
Ethiopia	1	3			4
Finland	1				1
France	3	1	1		5
Gaza Strip		2			2
Georgia, Republic of		1			1
Germany	8	4		7	19
Ghana		33			33
Greece		4			4
Guatemala	4				4
Haiti		1			1
Honduras	4	1	1		6
Hong Kong	1	1			2
India	27	104	1		132
Indonesia	1	7			8
Iran		81		1	82
Iraq		1			1
Israel	2	1			3
Italy	3	2		1	6
Jamaica	1	2			3
Japan	2	5	10		17
Jordan		2			2
Kazakhstan	2	2			4
Kenya	6	5			11
Korea, South	9	20	2	1	32
Kuwait	31				31
Malawi	1				1
Mexico	12	4			16
Morocco	1	1			2
Nepal	10	17			27
Netherlands	1	2			3
New Zealand	1	1			2
Niger		1			1

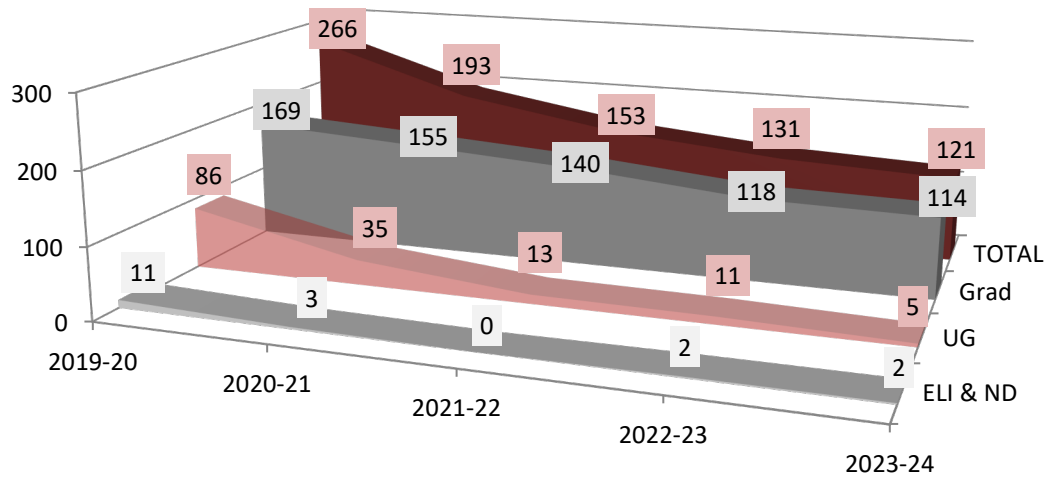


COUNTRY/TERRITORY	UNDERGRAD	GRAD & PROFESSIONAL	ELI & CONDITIONAL	NON-DEGREE & EDUCATION ABROAD	TOTAL
Nigeria	10	103		2	115
Oman	4				4
Pakistan	1	12			13
Panama		1			1
Peru	1	1			2
Philippines		2			2
Poland		5			5
Portugal		1			1
Russia	2	5			7
Saint Vincent & Grenadines		1			1
Saudi Arabia	9	17	3		29
Senegal		1			1
Serbia, Republic of	1	1			2
Singapore	1				1
Slovenia	1				1
South Africa	4				4
Spain	2	5			7
Sri Lanka	1	6			7
Sudan	1				1
Sweden	1				1
Taiwan		4			4
Thailand	2	1			3
Trinidad & Tobago		1			1
Turkey	3	17	1		21
Turkmenistan		1			1
Uganda	1	2			3
Ukraine	2	1			3
United Arab Emirates (UAE)		1	1		2
United Kingdom (UK)	7	9		6	22
Uruguay	1				1
Uzbekistan	1				1
Venezuela	3	3			6
Vietnam	13	9			22
West Bank		2			2
Zambia		1			1
Zimbabwe		1			1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1102</b>

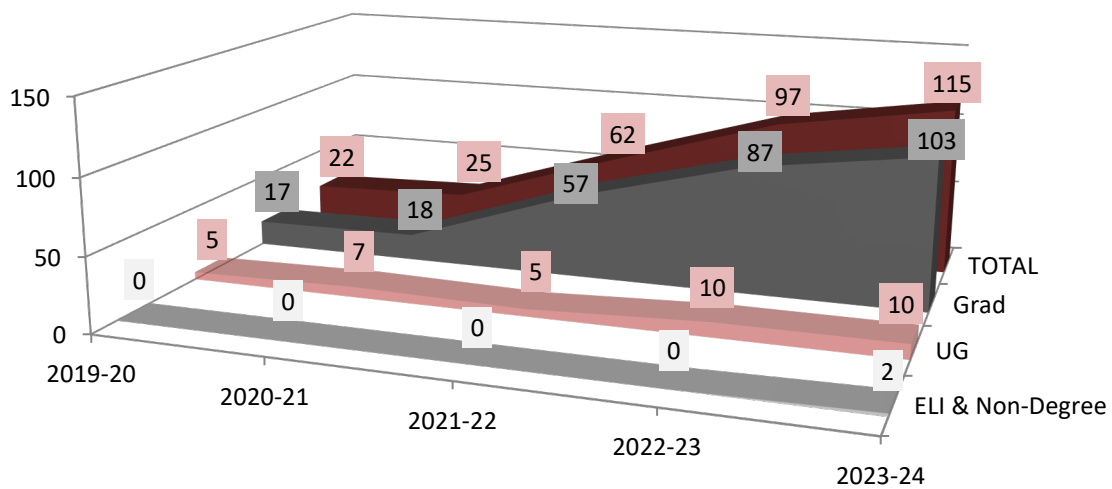
### E. Indian Enrollment: 2019–23



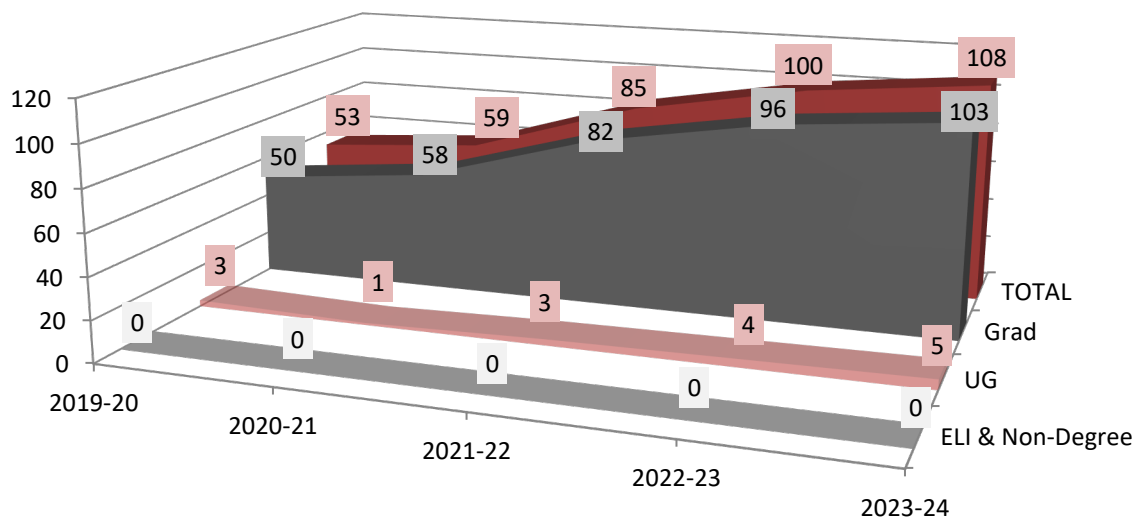
### F. Chinese Student Enrollment: 2019–23



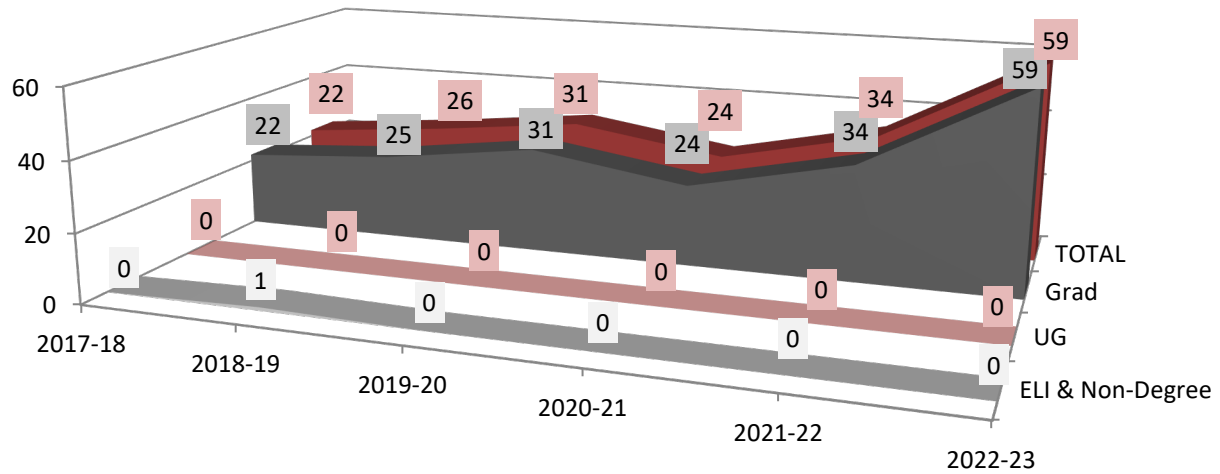
### G. Nigerian Enrollment: 2019–23



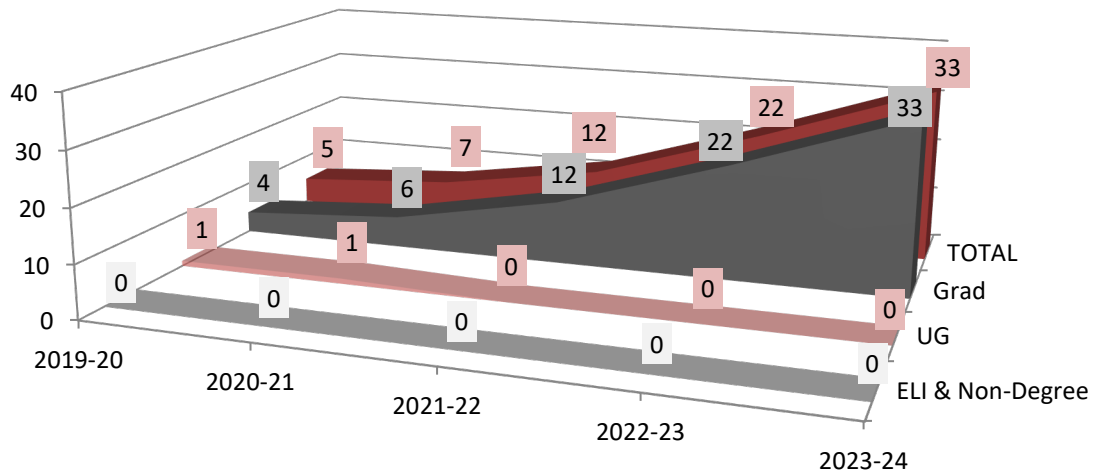
### H. Bangladeshi Enrollment: 2019–23



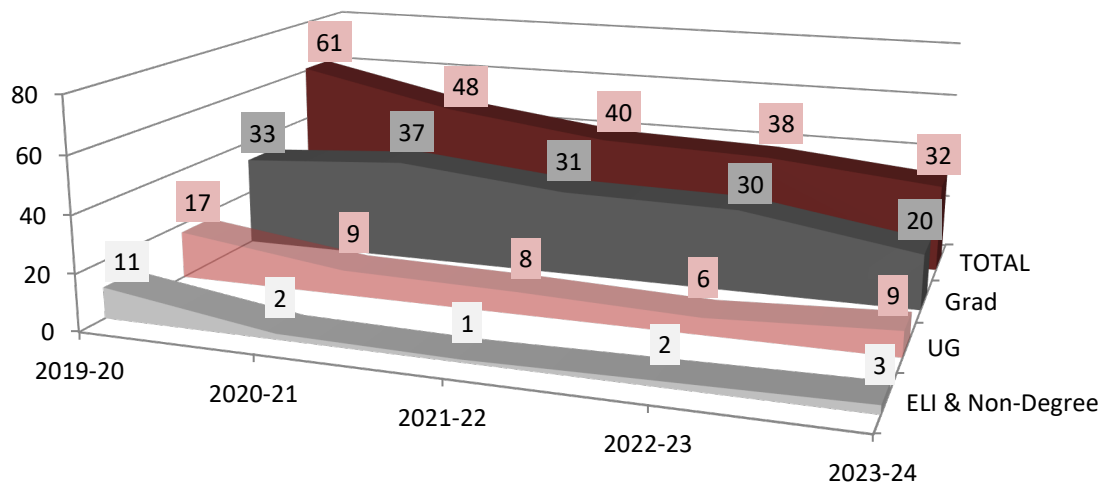
### I. Iranian Enrollment: 2019–23



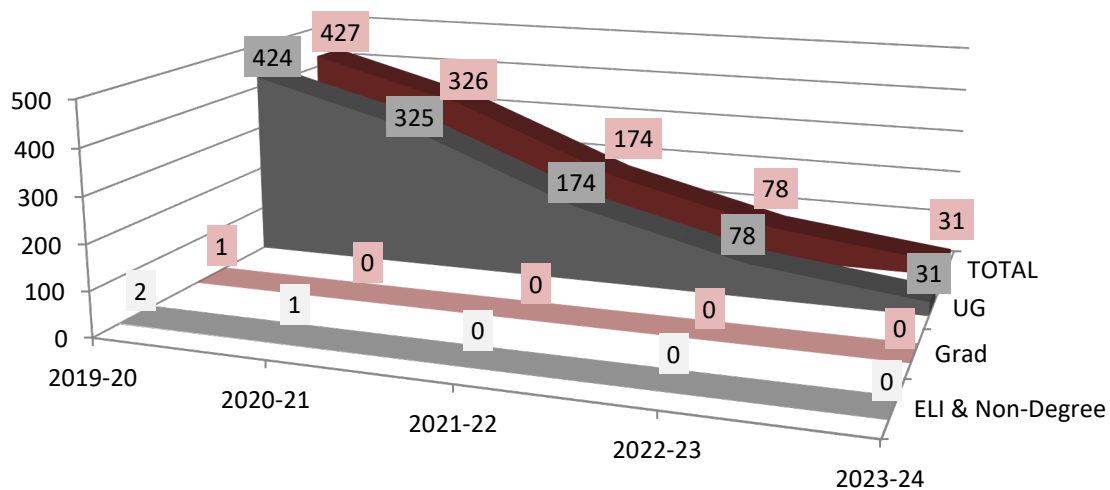
### J. Ghanian Enrollment: 2019 –23



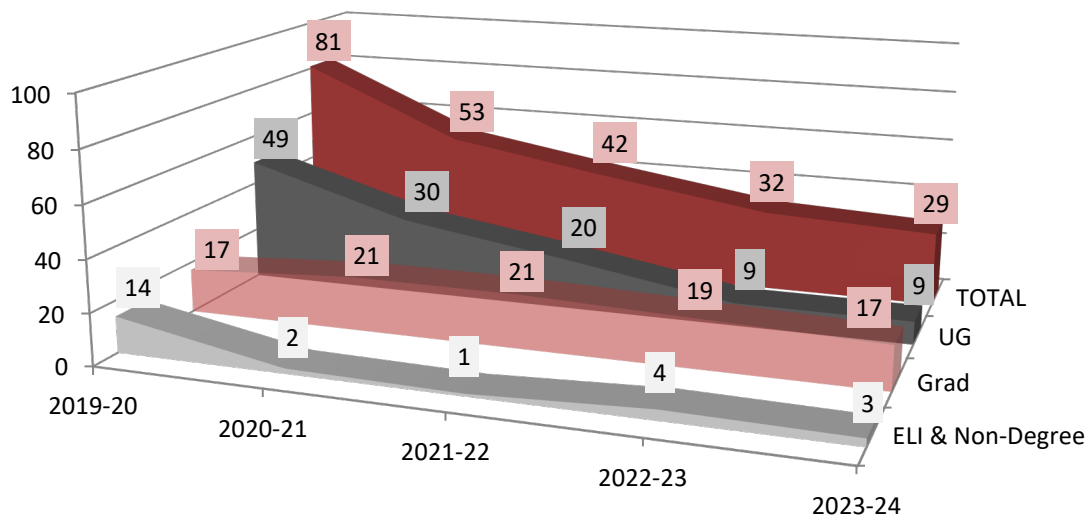
### K. South Korean Enrollment: 2019–23



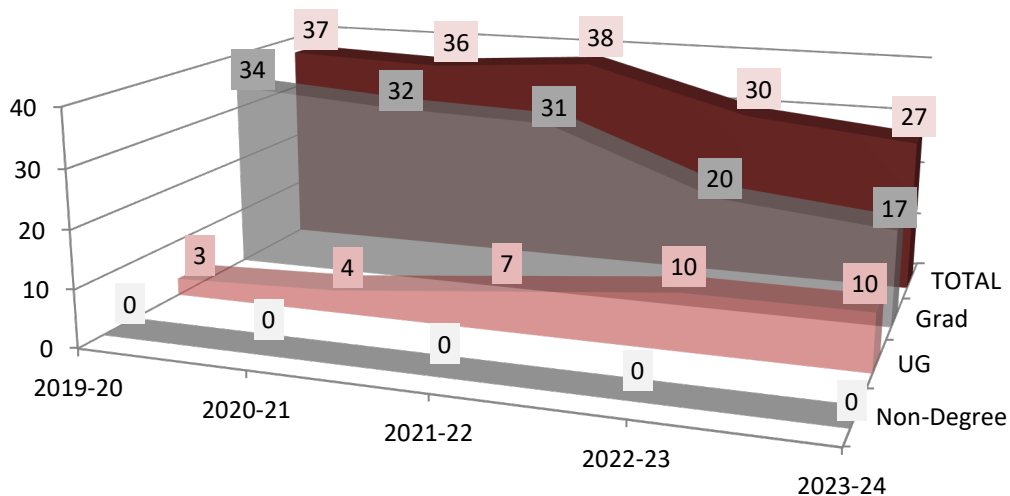
### L. Kuwaiti Enrollment: 2019–23



### M. Saudi Arabian Enrollment: 2019–23



### N. Nepalese Enrollment: 2019–23



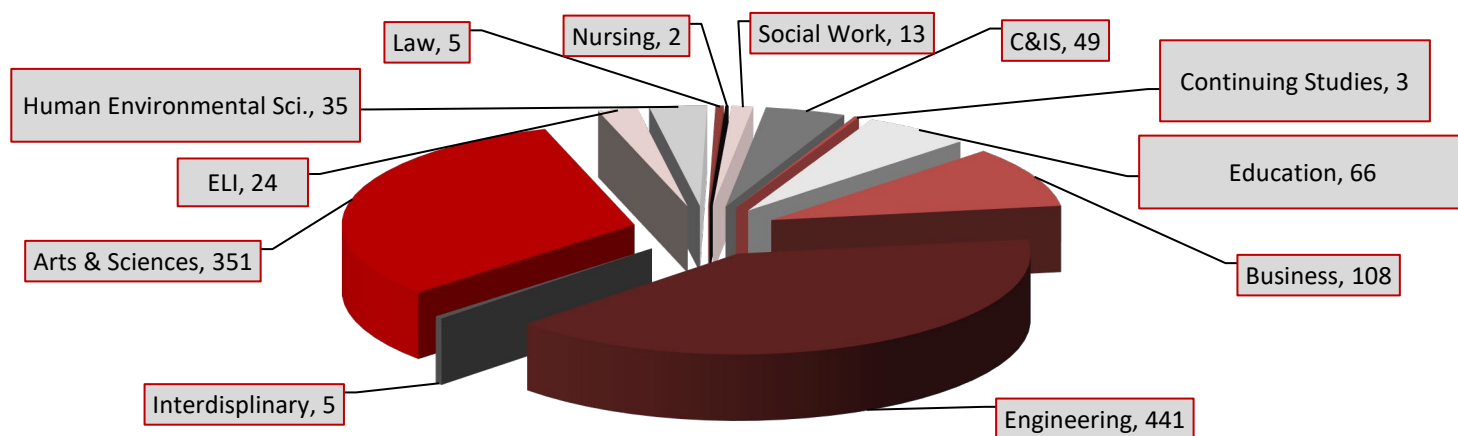
## VII. International Student Numbers by Major

(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	3	2			5
Advertising & Public Relations	1	5			6
Aerospace Engineering & Mechanics	13	21			34
American Studies		3			3
Anthropology	1	5			6
Applied Mathematics		4			4
Applied Statistics		9			9
Architectural Engineering	1				1
Art	1	4			5
Arts & Sciences, General/Undeclared/Pre	1			8	9
Biology	7	28			35
Business, General	9			4	13
Business Administration		5			5
Business Analytics		1			1
Chemical Engineering	25	34			59
Chemistry	1	59			60
Civil & Construction Engineering	8	79			87
Communication & Information Sciences	1	33			34
Communication Studies	3	2			5
Communicative Disorders	1				1
Computer Engineering	4				4
Computer Science	43	52	1		96
Consumer Sciences	1	1			2
Continuing Education				3	3
Counselor Education		5			5
Creative Writing		8			8
Criminology & Criminal Justice	1	2			3
Curriculum & Instruction		6			6
Cyber Security	2				2
Economics	4	10			14
Education, Elementary	1	1			2
Education, Special		1			1
Education Leadership		11			11
Educational Psychology		8			8
Educational Research		11			11
Electrical Engineering	9	46			55
ELI – English Language Institute			23		23
Engineering, General				4	4
English Literature		12			12
Environmental Engineering	4	1			5
Finance	13	9			22
Food and Nutrition	6				6
Geography		21			21
Geology		17			17
German		2			2
Health Education & Promotion		4			4
Higher Education Administration		2			2
History		3			3
Hospitality Management		2			2
Human Environmental Sciences	5	1			6
Human Nutrition		6			6

Department	Undergrad	Grad	ELI & Conditional	Non-Degree & Education Abroad	Total
Instructional Leadership		7			7
Interdisciplinary Studies	2	5			7
Interior Design	3				3
International Studies	4				4
Journalism/ News Media	1	1			2
Kinesiology	7	6			13
Law (JD, JSD, and LLM)		3		2	5
Management	4	7			11
Management Information Systems	4				4
Manufacturing Systems Engineering	1				1
Marketing	5	5			10
Materials Science		12			12
Mathematics	1	22			23
Mechanical Engineering	29	42			71
Metallurgical & Materials Engineering	1	9			10
Microbiology	1				1
Music		19			19
Non-Degree				1	1
Nursing	1	1			2
Operations Management	2	12			14
Performance	1				1
Physics	3	37			40
Political Science	1	6			7
Psychology	5	11			16
Public Administration		1			1
Public Health	4				4
Public Relations	2				2
Romance Languages (French & Spanish)		29			29
Social Work	1	12			13
Sport Management	2				2
Teaching English as a Second Language		14			14
Women's Studies		5			5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1102</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 2022/23 year (the period between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023) totaled **416** non-immigrants, representing **50 countries and territories**.

The 416 total represents **a massive increase of 50%** compared to the 277 scholars hosted by UA in 2021/22. More importantly, it represents a **2-year increase of 113%** compared to the 195 scholars hosted by UA in 2020/21. Much of this is a rebound of J-1 Exchange Visitors and B-1/B-2 and WB/WT Visitors, populations which were impacted the greatest by COVID restrictions.

**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 416 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).



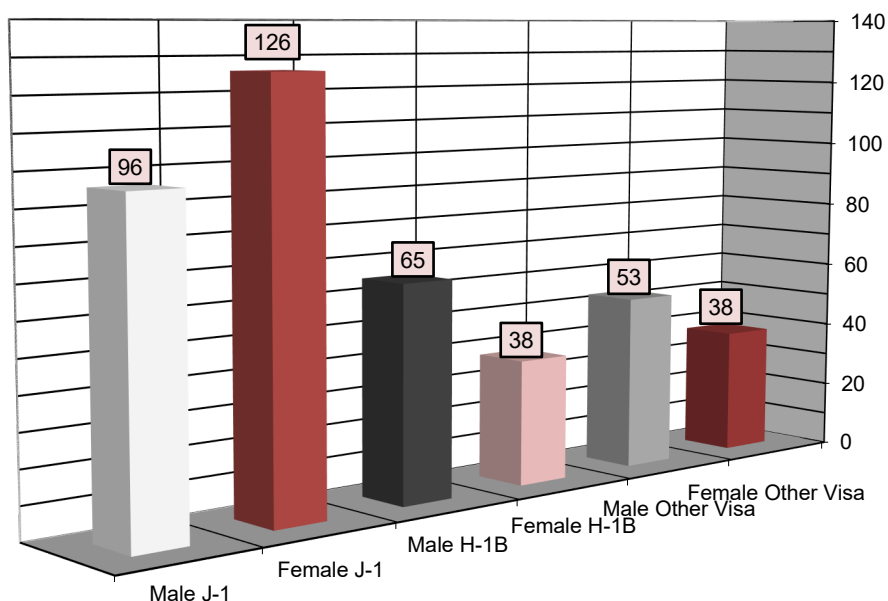
## XI. International Faculty and Scholar Statistics\*

VISA-STATUS	Total
J-1 Scholars	201
J-1 Physicians (sponsored by ECFMG)	21
H-1B Workers	103
TN Workers	4
O-1	2
F-1 CPT/OPT	73
B-1/B-2 – WB/WT	3
Other	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>416</b>

\* Information covers July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

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%
2022-23	222	103	91	416	+ 50.2%

## XII. International Faculty and Scholar Numbers by Gender



**Total International Male: 214**  
**Total International Female: 202**

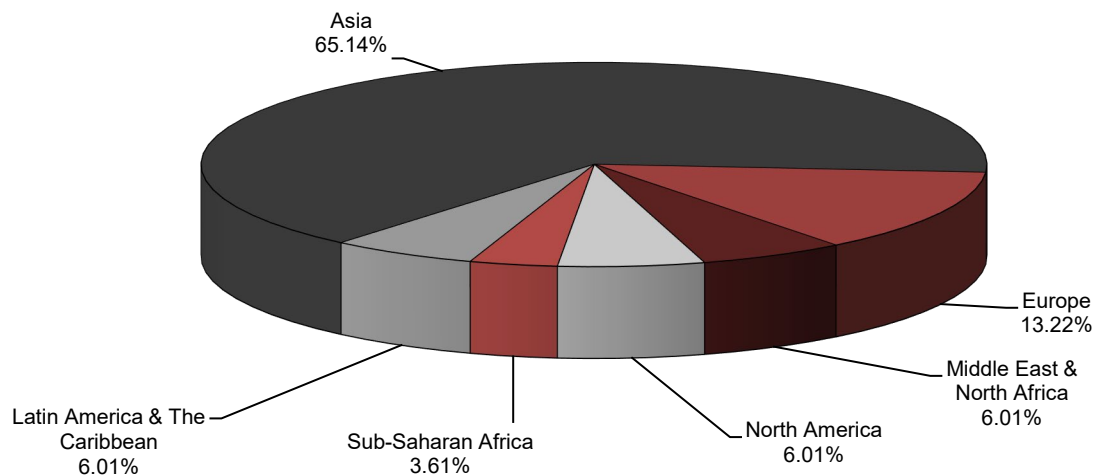
### XIII. Region & Places of Origin

International Scholars and Faculty at The University of Alabama for 2022/23 originated from **50 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	271
Europe	55
North America (Canada)	25
Latin America & the Caribbean	25
Middle East & North Africa	25
Sub-Saharan Africa	15
TOTAL	416

#### 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. Pakistan	91
2. India	69
3. China, PR	54
4. Canada*	25*
4. South Korea*	25*
6. Iran	20
7. Italy	12
8. Bangladesh	10
9. Brazil	9
10. Nigeria*	7*
10. Turkey*	7*

\*Tie

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

Country	J-1	H-1B	Other Visa	Total
Antigua and Barbuda	2			2
Bangladesh		2	8	10
Brazil	5	1	3	9
Canada	19	3	3	25
Chile	1			1
China	8	26	20	54
Colombia	4			4
Ecuador		1	2	3
France	3	1		4
Germany	3		3	6
Ghana		2		2
Greece		1		1
Hong Kong			2	2
Hungary		2	1	3
Iceland		1		1
India	44	17	8	69
Indonesia	1			1
Iran	6	2	12	20
Iraq	1			1
Israel	1			1
Italy	6	3	3	12
Japan	3		1	4
Jordan			1	1
Kenya		1		1
Lithuania		1		1
Malaysia		1		1
Mexico	3		1	4
Nepal		1	4	5
Nigeria	2		5	7
Pakistan	90	1		91
Peru		1		1
Philippines			1	1
Poland			1	1
Russia		2		2
Saudi Arabia			1	1
Slovenia	1			1
South Africa	2	1		3
South Korea	3	15	7	25
Spain	1	4		5
Sri Lanka			1	1
Taiwan		2		2
Thailand	1			1
Tunisia			1	1
Turkey	4	3		7
Uganda	2			2
Ukraine	3	1	1	5
United Kingdom	1	4	1	6
Uruguay	1			1
Uzbekistan		1		1
Vietnam	1	2		3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>416</b>

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

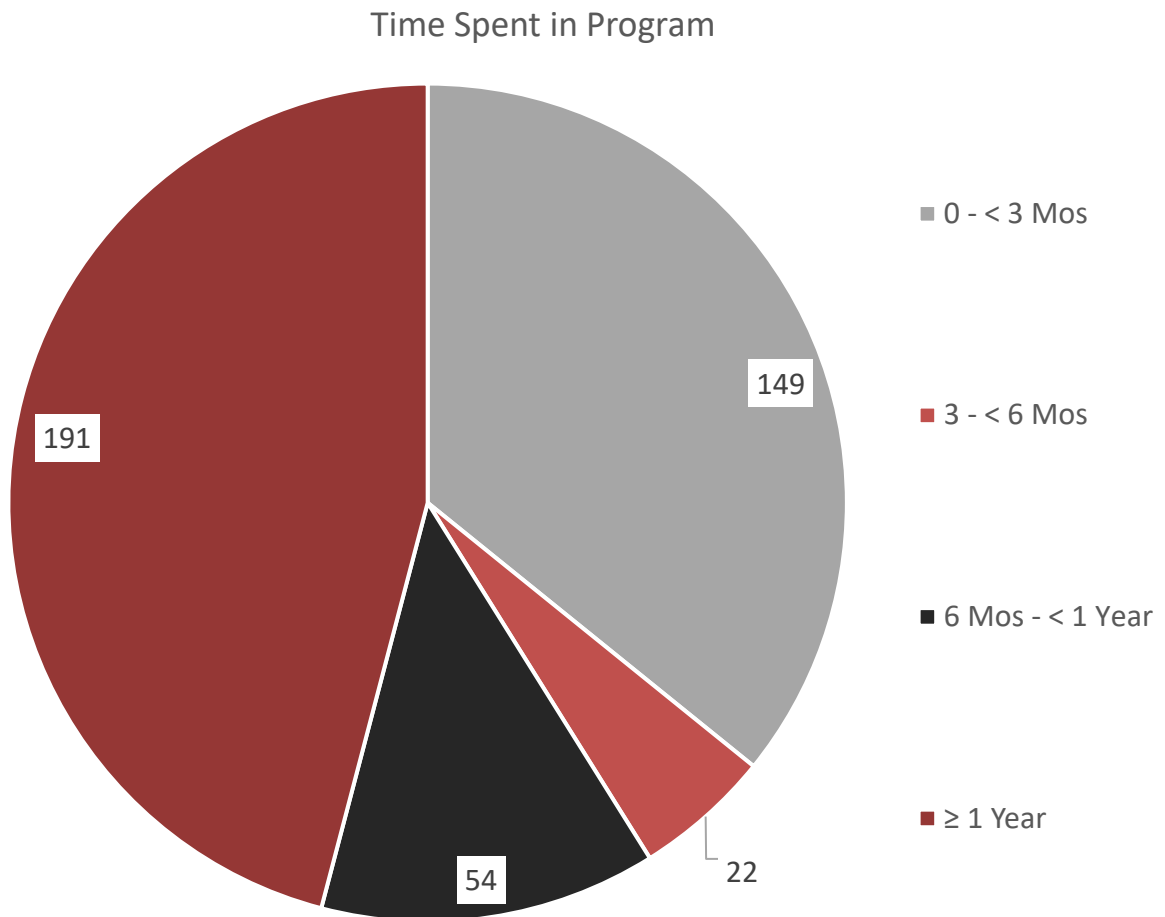
Department	J-1	H-1B	Other Visa	Total
Advancement			1	1
Advertising and Public Relations		2		2
Aerospace Engineering & Mechanics			1	1
Alabama Center for Insurance Information & Research		1		1
Alabama International Trade Center		1		1
Alabama Life Research Institute		1	1	2
Alabama Transportation Institute	4	5	2	11
Alabama Water Institute		1	13	14
Art & Art History	1	1		2
Arts & Sciences, Dean's Office	1			1
Athletics	1	1	1	3
Biological Sciences	4	4	2	10
Campus Development		1	1	2
Capstone International Center	1			1
Center for Advanced Public Safety (CAPS)		1		1
Center for Business & Economic Research		1		1
Chemical & Biological Engineering	10	4	2	16
Chemistry & Biochemistry	5	1	2	8
Civil, Construction, & Environmental Engineering	11	7	5	23
College of Business			1	1
College of Communication & Information Sciences (C&IS)	1			1
College of Community Health Sciences (CCHS)	24	4	1	29
College of Education	21	1	2	24
Communication Studies		1	1	2
Communicative Disorders		1	1	2
Computer Science		1	1	2
Consumer Sciences		1	1	2
Criminology and Criminal Justice		2		2
Curriculum & Instruction		1		1
Economics, Finance & Legal Studies	2	1	2	5
Educational Leadership, Policy, and Technology Studies		3	1	4
Ed Studies in Psych, Research Methods & Counseling		4		4
Electrical & Computer Engineering	5	3	2	10
English Literature and TESL	1	1		2
Gender & Race Studies		1		1
Geography	1	2	1	4
Geological Sciences	3	1	5	9
Graduate School	86			86
Human Nutrition & Hospitality Management		3	2	5
Human Resources		1	1	2
Information Systems, Statistics & Management Science	2	2	1	5
Institute for Business Analytics		2	1	3
Journalism & Creative Media	1	1		2
Law School	2			2
Library and Information Studies		2		2
Mathematics	2	5	2	9
Mechanical Engineering	9	5	7	21
Metallurgical & Materials Engineering	4	4	1	9
Modern Languages & Classics	4	3	5	12
Music		1	1	2
National Water Center			13	13
Philosophy		1		1
Physics & Astronomy	8	5	5	18
Political Science	2	2		4
Psychology	3	1		4
Religious Studies	1		1	2
Remote Sensing Center	1	1		2
Research and Economic Development		1		1

Department	J-1	H-1B	Other Visa	Total
Theater and Dance		3		3
University Libraries			1	1
University Museums	1			1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>416</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 416 International Scholars and Faculty at UA in 2022/23 by the length of their stay.

In 2022/23, 149 scholars' sponsorship by UA was for less than 3 months. Only 22 scholars' sponsorship lasted between 3 months and less than 6 months. 54 scholars' sponsorship at UA was for a period of between 6 months and less than 1 year. And a total of 191 scholars were sponsored for 1 year or longer.



## **XVI. Final Notes: COVID-19's End of Emergency Declaration and COVID's Continuing Impact on International Education**

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 over the last 4 years.

At 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.

Despite easing of restrictions and re-opening of travel in 2021 and 2022, the chill on student mobility has had a lasting impact on all of international education.

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 many U.S. Embassies and Consulates continue to operate with reduced staffing and processing even now in 2023, many new international students have had to defer their admissions repeatedly through 2020, 21, 22, and 23 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 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 expansion of English Language Institute and exchange student enrollments

Fall 2023 saw the situation for visa delays continue. As of October 2023, visa appointments and processing at the U.S. Embassies and Consulates in some of our largest sending countries are still limited. China, India, Nigeria, and Mexico ([Boundless, 10/9/2023](#)) all continue to have reduced services. And even for countries where visa services are resumed, there are large backlogs for visa appointments.

Overall, enrollment for Fall 2023 has held mostly steady compared to Fall 2022 and 2021, with an overall enrollment drop of only 16 active students, which based on year-to-year measurements is a modest 1.4% decline in active international student enrollment compared Fall 2022. 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.