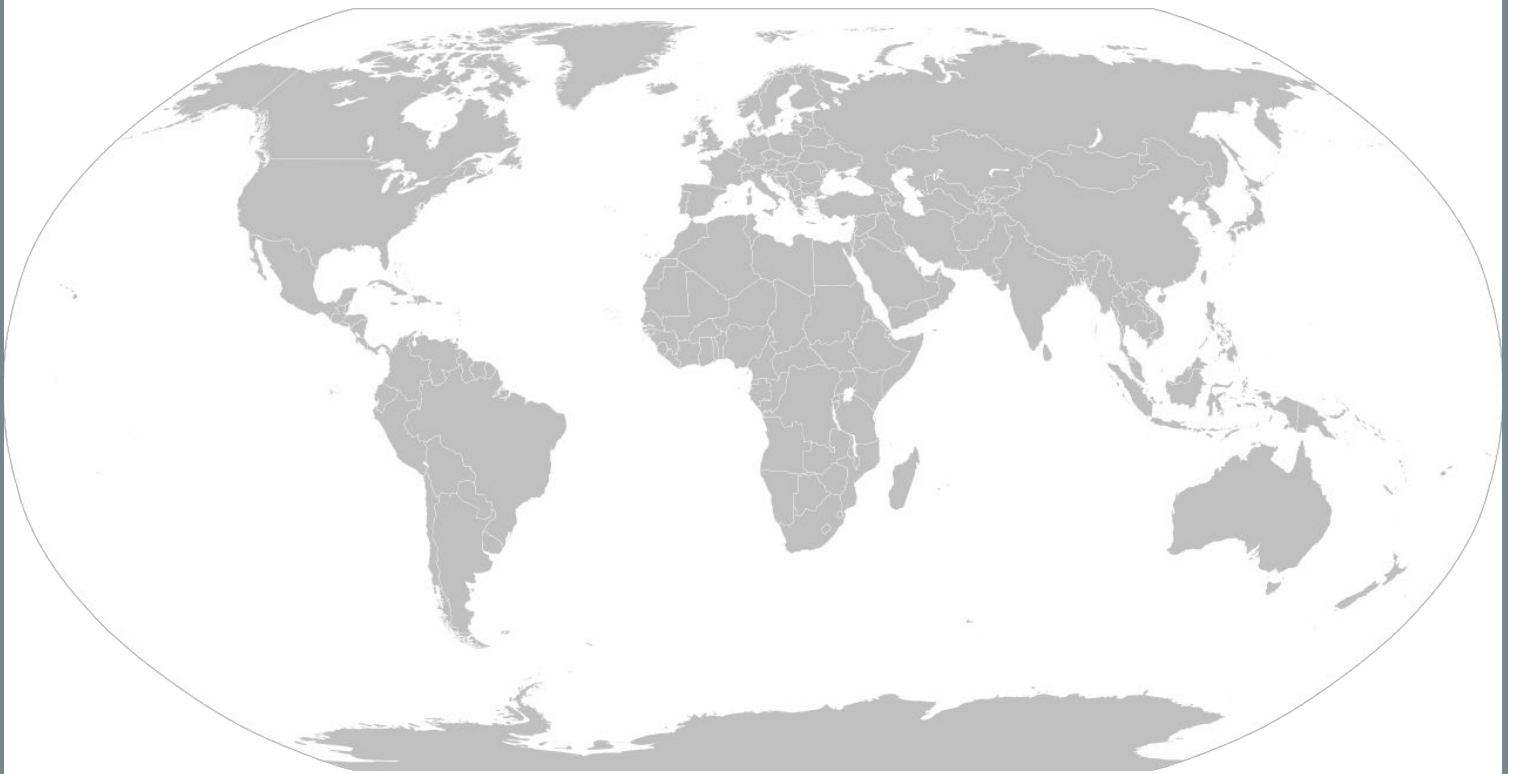# THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR REPORT

FALL 2024

Capstone International Center
International Student & Scholar Services

International Student & Scholar Report 2024

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.

ISSS is staffed by 8 full-time staff, including a Director, Associate Director, 3 International Student Advisors, 1 International Scholar Advisor, an International Programs Coordinator 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 admissions unit and with the Graduate School's 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 2024**

As of Fall 2024, **International Student & Scholar Services served 1196 active, enrolled international students**.

In Fall 2024, UA welcomed **321 new international students**, including 221 first-time and internal transfer graduate students, 74 first year undergraduates, and 26 first-time undergraduate transfer students.

In addition to the 1196 active, enrolled international students served by ISSS, there are an additional 195 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 **1391.**

The 1196 active, enrolled international students come from 96 countries and regions of the world and **represent 2.9% of the 40,846 students enrolled at The University of Alabama for fall 2024**[1].

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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1 https://www.ua.edu/about/quickfacts & https://oira.ua.edu/new/interactiveFB/

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

In 2023/24, the **United States hosted 1,126,690 international students**; in the same year, **Alabama institutions of higher education enrolled 10,071 international students.**[2]

The economic impact of the **1,126,690 international students** enrolled in 2023/24 was nearly **$43.8 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 **10,071 international students** enrolled in 2023/24 **contributed $348.6 million to the state economy** through paid tuition, living expenses, books, fees, and related expenses, and created **2,373 jobs** through their economic contributions.

Locally, the **1273 international students** at The University of Alabama in 2023/24 **contributed $49.2 million to the local economy** through paid tuition, living expenses, books, fees, and other related expenses, and created **427 jobs**.[3]

Enrollment Trends - US, Alabama & UA

Economic Impact (in $US millions) - US, Alabama & UA
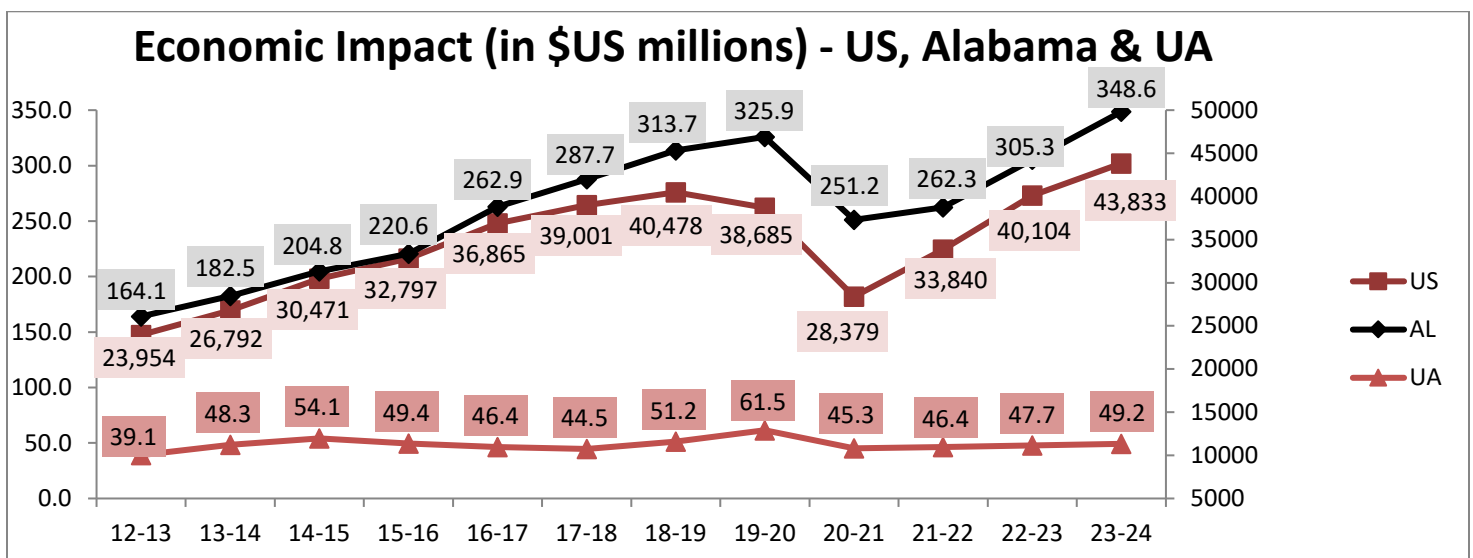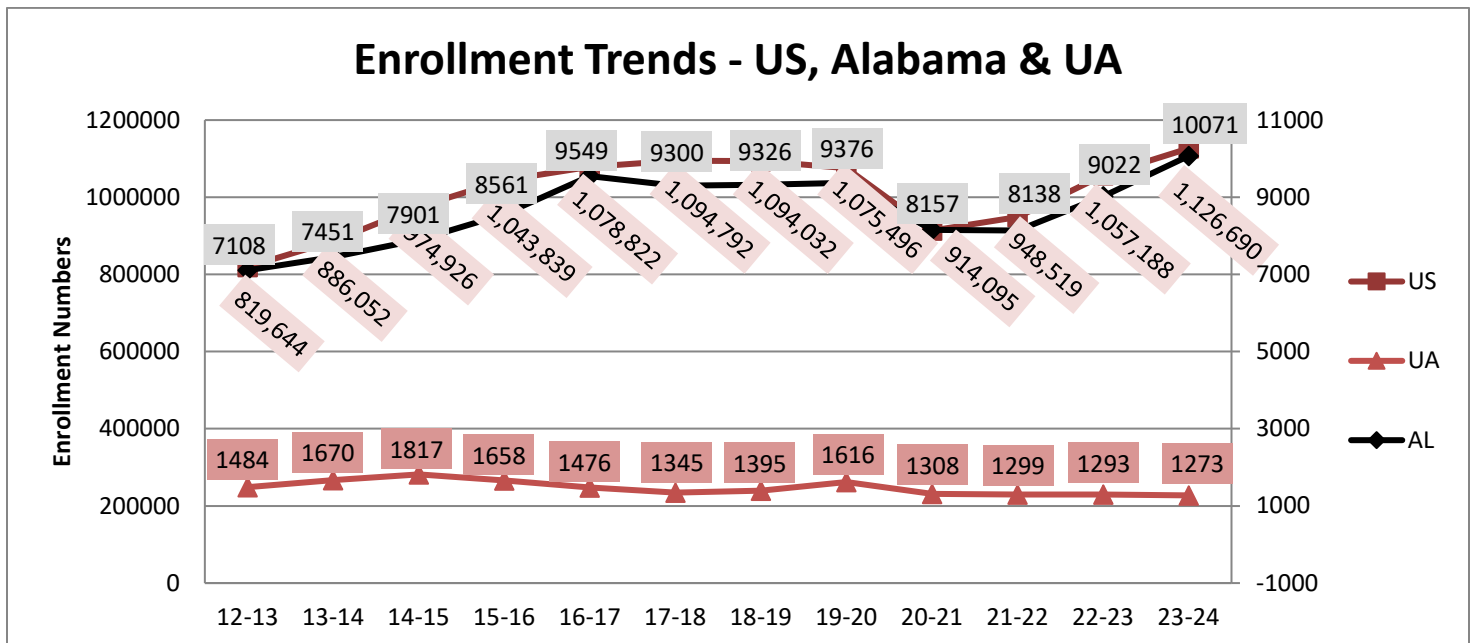
2 IIE's Open Doors Report - https://opendoorsdata.org/
3 NAFSA's International Student Economic Value Tool: www.nafsa.org/economicvalue

IV. UA International Student Statistics

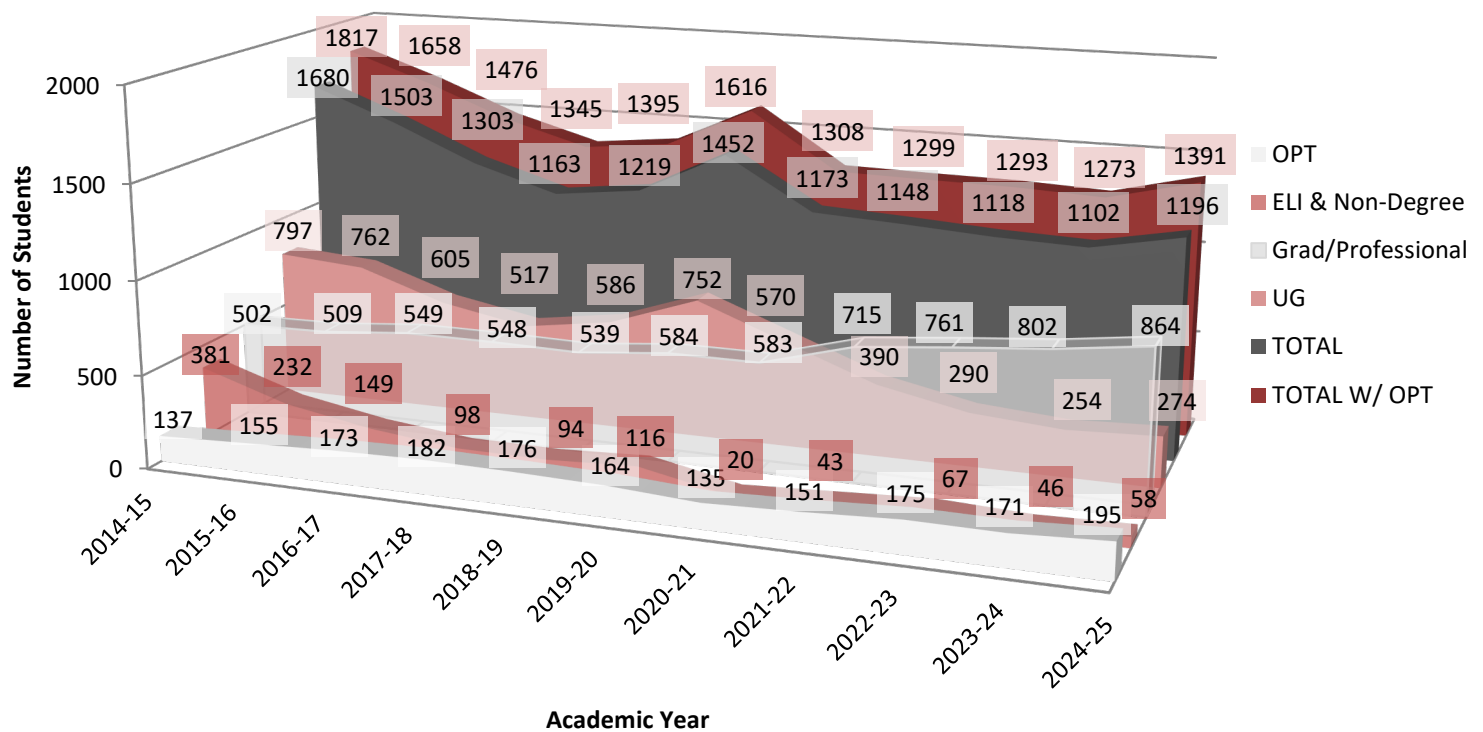### A. Breakdown of Fall Semester 2024 Student Numbers by Degree Level and Year (Includes Recent Graduates on OPT):

DEGREE & LEVEL	Total
Undergraduate Students	**274**
Freshman	*88*
Sophomore	*58*
Junior	*68*
Senior	*60*
Graduate Students	**864**
Master's	*167*
Doctoral	*695*
Professional	*2*
English Language Institute	**42**
ELI Only	*40*
Conditional Admits	*2*
Non-Degree & Education Abroad Exchanges	**16**
Non-Degree/Visiting Students	*2*
Study Abroad	*14*
SUBTOTAL OF ACTIVE, ENROLLED STUDENTS	**1196**
OPT – Graduates on Optional Practical Training	**195**
TOTAL	**1391**

B. UA International Student Numbers 2014 - 2024

YEAR	UG	GRAD	ELI & NON-DEGREE	SUBTOTAL: ACTIVE STUDENTS	OPT	TOTAL W/ OPT	% TOTAL CHANGE
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%
2024-25	274	864	58	1196	195	1391	+ 9.27%

C. 2014-2024 Comparison of UA International Student Numbers

Chart legend: OPT, ELI & Non-Degree, Grad/Professional, UG, TOTAL, TOTAL W/ OPT

Y-axis: Number of Students
X-axis: Academic Year (2014-15 through 2024-25)

V. International Student Numbers by Gender

Category	Number
Male Non-Degree & Exchange	9
Female Non-Degree & Exchange	5
Male ELI & Conditional	10
Female ELI & Conditional	32
Male Grad	515
Female Grad	351
Male UG	172
Female UG	102

**Male Total: 706**
Female Total: 490
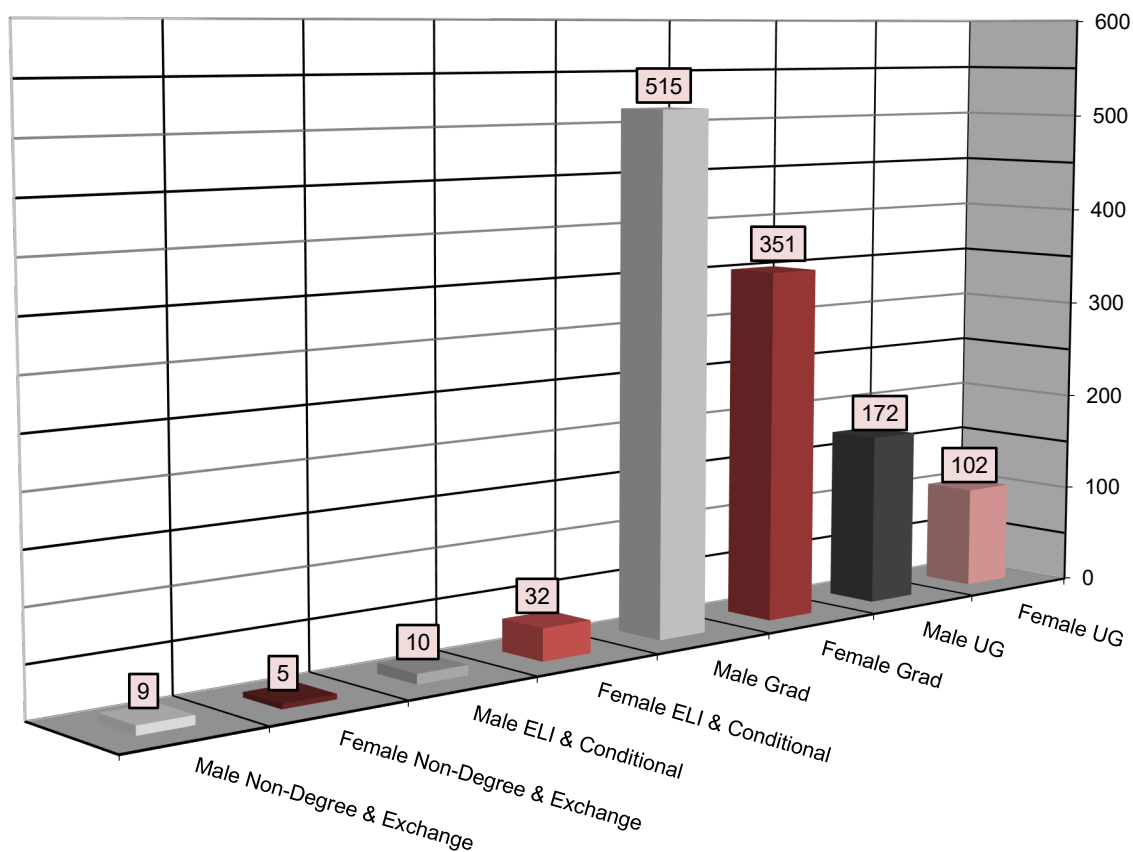
VI. Region & Places of Origin – For All Students Except Graduates on OPT

The 1196 actively enrolled international students at The University of Alabama for 2024/25 originated from **96 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	551
Sub-Saharan Africa	239
Middle East & North Africa	140
Europe	120
Latin America & Caribbean	106
North America (Canada)	30
Oceania	10
TOTAL	1196

B. Percentage of Students by Regions of the World

Asia 46.07%
Middle East & North Africa 11.71%
Sub-Saharan Africa 19.98%
Europe 10.03%
Latin America & Caribbean 8.86%
North America 2.51%
Oceania 0.84%
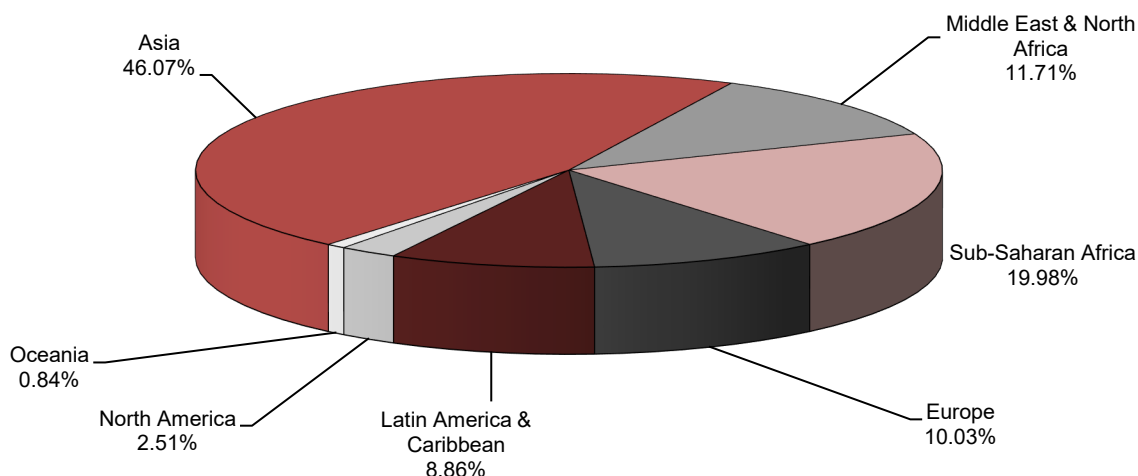
C. Top Ten Places of Origin: This table lists the ten countries/territories that send the highest number of students to The University of Alabama.

COUNTRY/TERRITORY	UNDERGRAD	GRAD & PROFESSIONAL	ELI & CONDITIONAL	NON-DEGREE & EDUCATION ABROAD	TOTAL
1. Nigeria	13	125		2	140
2. India	31	104			135
3/4. Bangladesh	7	110			117
3/4. China, PR	3	114			117
5. Iran		90		1	91
6. Ghana	2	48			50
7. Japan	2	6	25	1	34
8. Nepal	13	19			32
9. Canada	22	8			30
10/11. Korea, South	6	18	3	1	28
10/11. Vietnam	19	8	1		28

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

COUNTRY/TERRITORY	UNDERGRAD	GRAD & PROFESSIONAL	ELI & CONDITIONAL	NON-DEGREE & EDUCATION ABROAD	TOTAL
Albania		1			1
Argentina	1				1
Australia	7	2			9
Azerbaijan	3		1		4
Bahamas	4	2			6
Bangladesh	7	110			117
Belgium		1			1
Bolivia		1			1
Brazil	7	17			24
Bulgaria	1	1			2
Burma (Myanmar)	1				1
Cameroon		8			8
Canada	22	8			30
Chile	1	1			2
China, P.R.	3	114			117
Colombia	2	14	3		19
Congo, Democratic Republic of		1			1
Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)		1			1
Czech Republic	2				2
Dominica	1				1
Egypt	2	9			11
El Salvador	2	1			3
Equatorial Guinea	1				1
Ethiopia	5	4			9
Finland	1				1
France	3	2			5
Gaza Strip		2			2
Georgia, Republic of		2			2
Germany	8	3		7	18
Ghana	2	48			50
Greece		3			3
Guatemala	3				3
Haiti		1			1
Honduras	4	1			5
Hong Kong	1				1
India	31	104			135
Indonesia	1	9			10
Iran		90		1	91
Israel	1	1			2
Italy	2	3	1	2	8
Jamaica	3	4			7
Japan	2	6	25	1	34
Jordan		3			3
Kazakhstan	3	4			7
Kenya	7	5			12
Korea, South	6	18	3	1	28
Kuwait	9				9
Kyrgyzstan		1			1
Latvia	1				1
Lithuania	1				1
Mali		1			1
Mexico	9	15			24
Morocco	1	2			3
Nepal	13	19			32
Netherlands	1	2			3
New Zealand	1				1

COUNTRY/TERRITORY	UNDERGRAD	GRAD & PROFESSIONAL	ELI & CONDITIONAL	NON-DEGREE & EDUCATION ABROAD	TOTAL
Niger		1			1
Nigeria	13	125		2	140
Norway			1		1
Pakistan	4	14			18
Peru	1	1			2
Philippines		1			1
Poland		5			5
Portugal		1			1
Russia	3	4			7
Saudi Arabia	2	11	2		15
Senegal		1			1
Serbia, Republic of	2				2
Singapore	1				1
South Africa	4	2			6
South Sudan		1			1
Spain	5	3			8
Sri Lanka	2	10			12
Sudan	1				1
Sweden	2				2
Switzerland	1				1
Taiwan		1			1
Tanzania		1			1
Thailand	1	2			3
Trinidad & Tobago	1				1
Tunisia		1			1
Turkey	3	10	5		18
Turkmenistan	2	1			3
Uganda	1	2			3
Ukraine	4				4
United Arab Emirates (UAE)		1			1
United Kingdom (UK)	10	6		2	18
Uruguay	1				1
Uzbekistan	1				1
Venezuela	2	3			5
Vietnam	19	8	1		28
West Bank		1			1
Yemen		1			1
Zimbabwe	2	1			3
TOTAL	274	864	42	16	1196

E. Nigerian Enrollment: 2020–24

F. Indian Enrollment: 2020–24

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
TOTAL	89	110	113	132	135
Grad	63	87	89	104	104
UG	25	23	24	27	31
Non-Degree	1	0	0	1	0
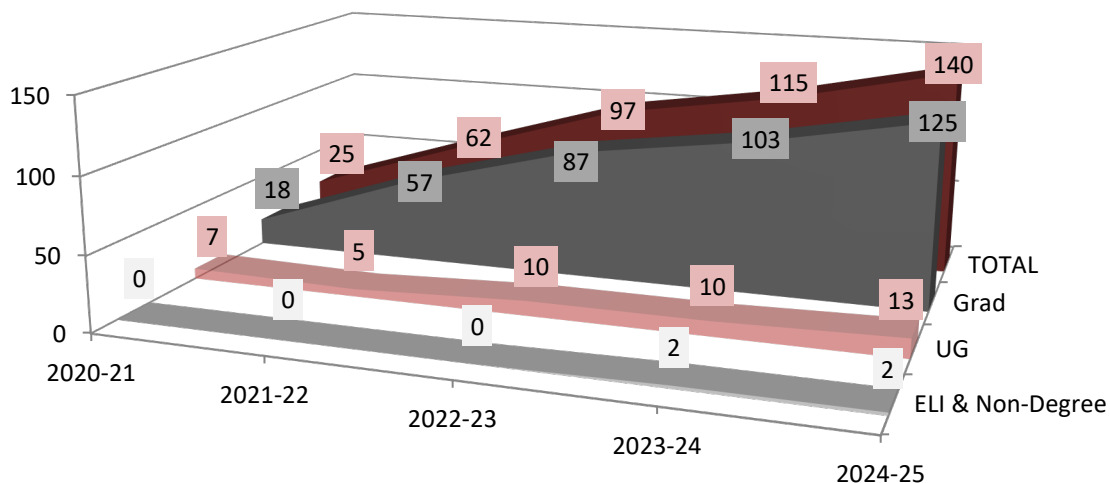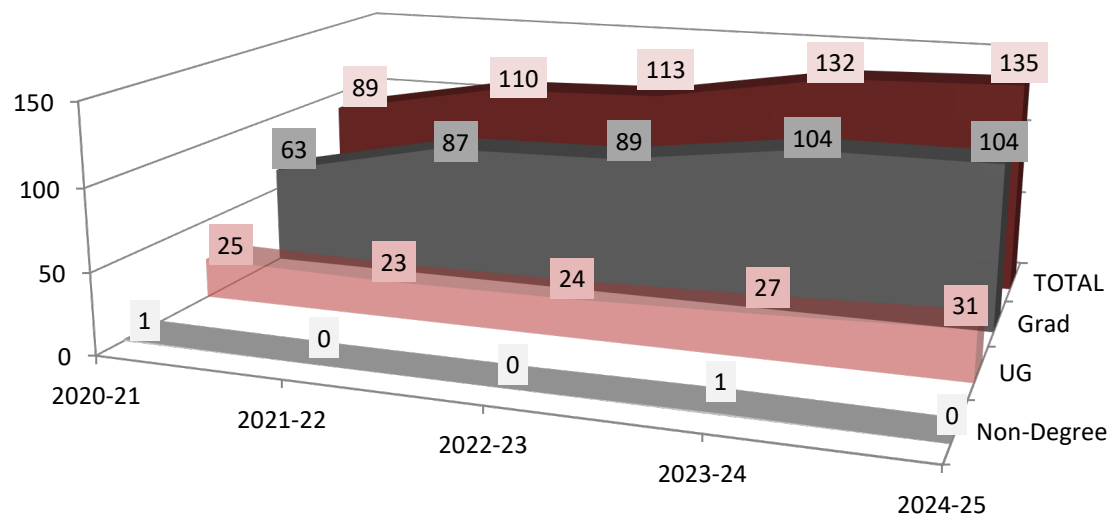
G. Bangladeshi Enrollment: 2020–24

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
TOTAL	59	85	100	108	117
Grad	58	82	96	103	110
UG	1	3	4	5	7
ELI & Non-Degree	0	0	0	0	0
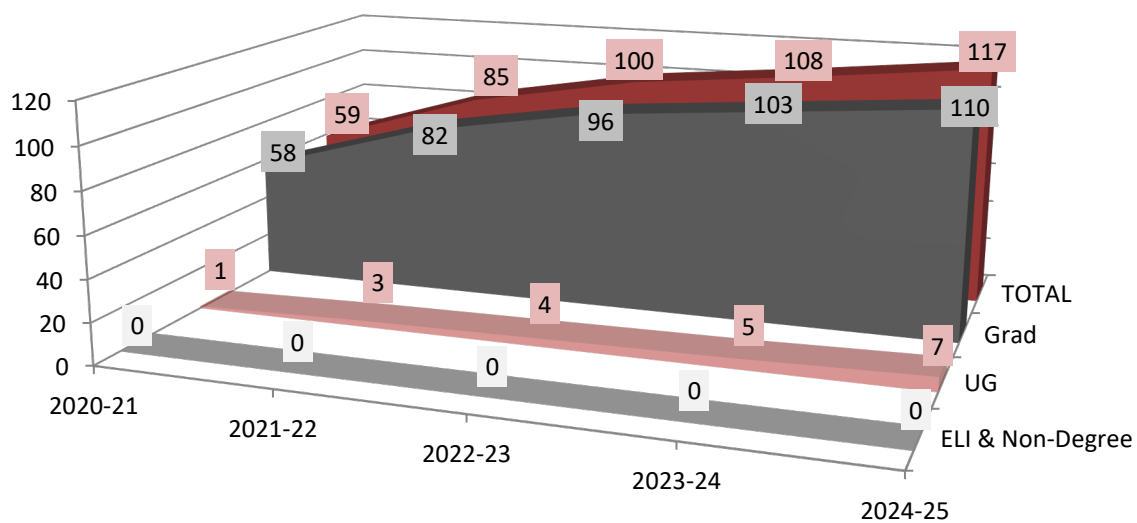
H. Chinese Student Enrollment: 2020–24
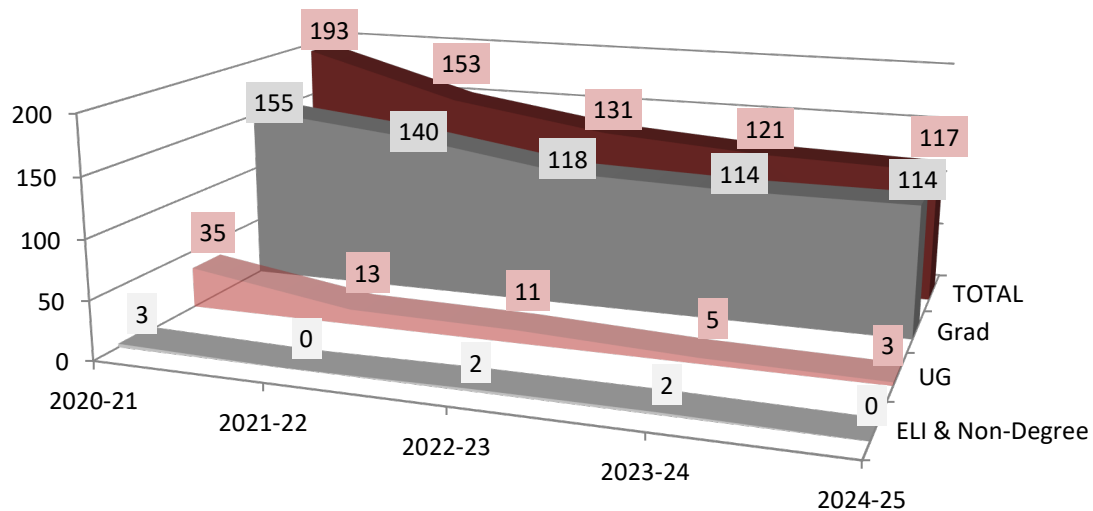
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
TOTAL	193	153	131	121	117
Grad	155	140	118	114	114
UG	35	13	11	5	3
ELI & Non-Degree	3	0	2	2	0

10

I. Iranian Enrollment: 2020–24

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
TOTAL	24	34	59	82	91
Grad	24	34	59	81	90
UG	0	0	0	0	0
ELI & Non-Degree	0	0	0	1	1

J. Ghanian Enrollment: 2020–24

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
TOTAL	7	12	22	33	50
Grad	6	12	22	33	48
UG	1	0	0	0	2
ELI & Non-Degree	0	0	0	0	0

K. Japanese: 2020–24

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
TOTAL	3	6	15	17	34
ELI & Non-Degree	1	1	11	10	26
Grad	0	4	4	5	6
UG	2	1	0	2	2
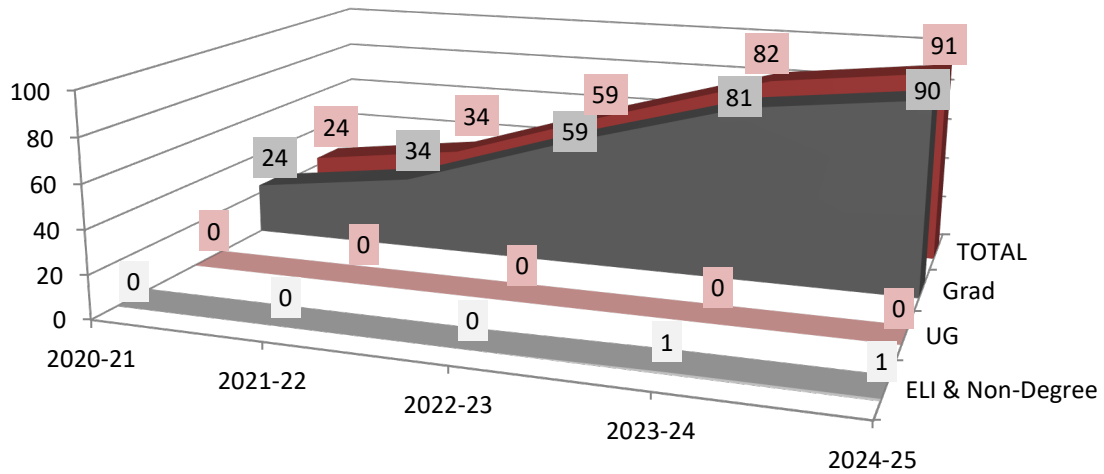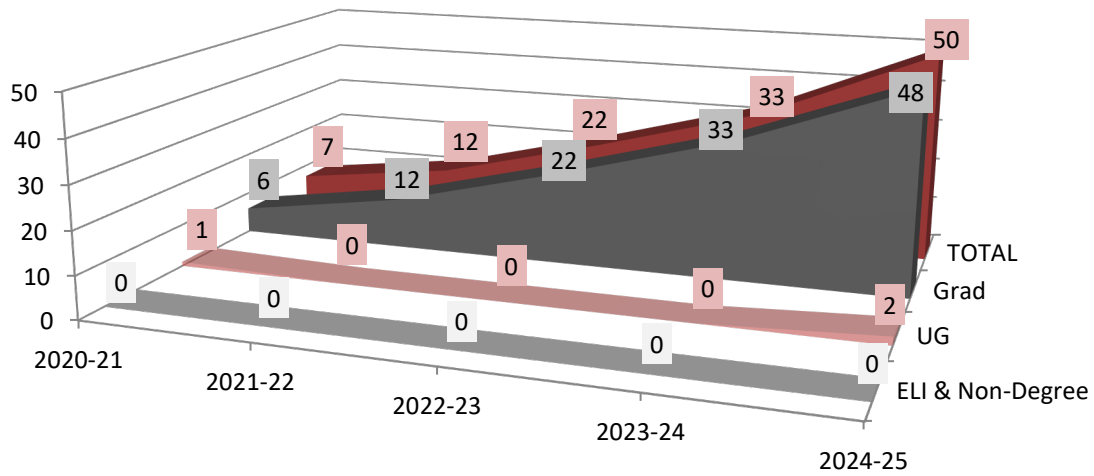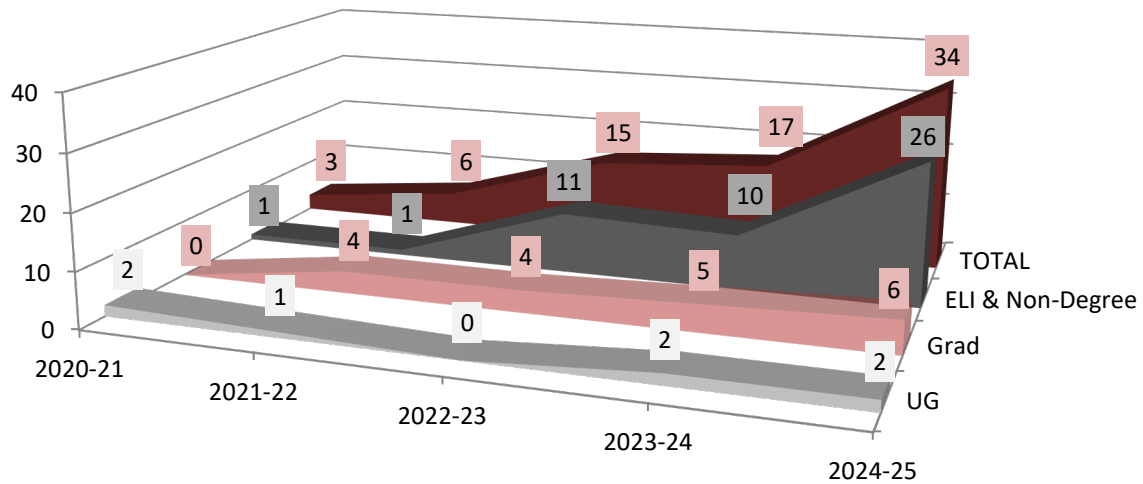
L. Nepalese Enrollment: 2020–24

Non-Degree: 0, 0, 0, 0, 0

UG (Grad values): 4, 7, 10, 10, 13

Grad: 32, 31, 20, 17, 19

TOTAL: 36, 38, 30, 27, 32

Years: 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25

M. Canadian Enrollment: 2020–24

ELI & Non-Degree: 0, 1, 1, 0, 0

Grad: 9, 12, 9, 9, 8

UG: 17, 20, 12, 16, 22

TOTAL: 26, 33, 22, 25, 30

Years: 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25
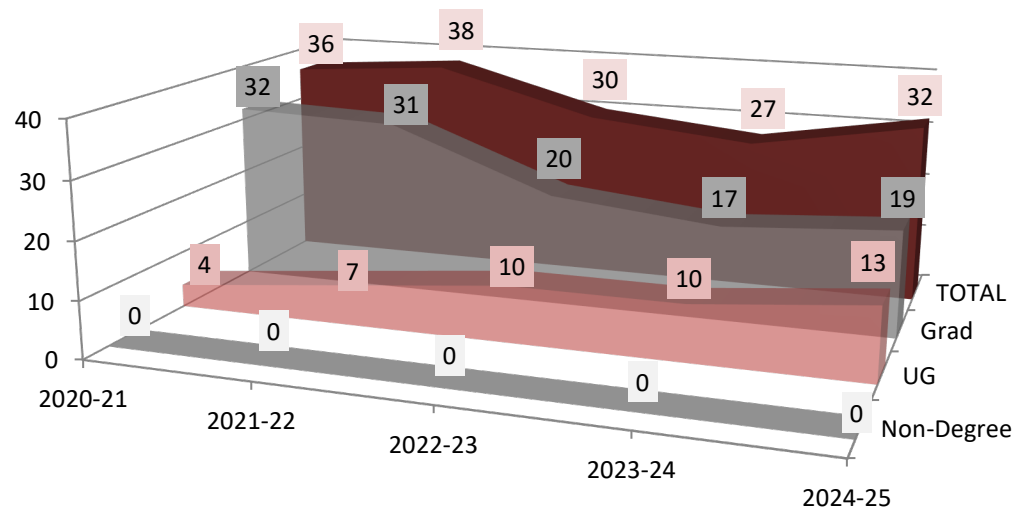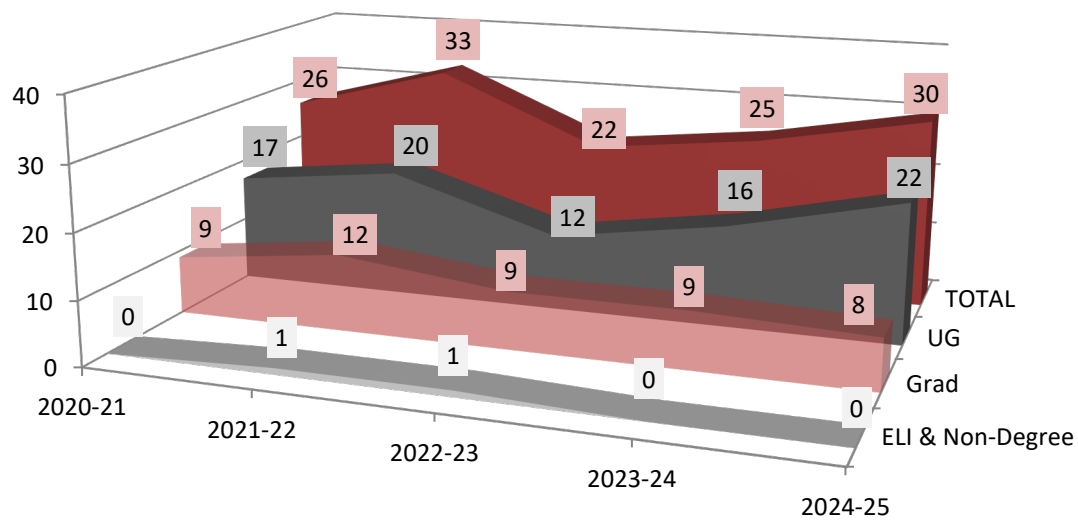
N. South Korean Enrollment: 2020–24

ELI & Non-Degree: 2, 1, 2, 3, 4

UG: 9, 8, 6, 9, 6

Grad: 37, 31, 30, 20, 18

TOTAL: 48, 40, 38, 32, 28

Years: 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25
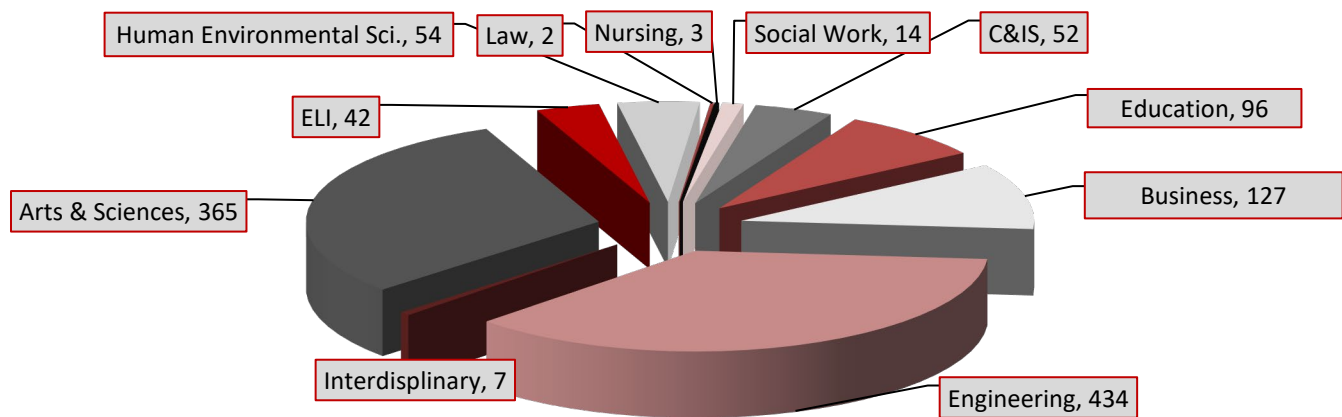
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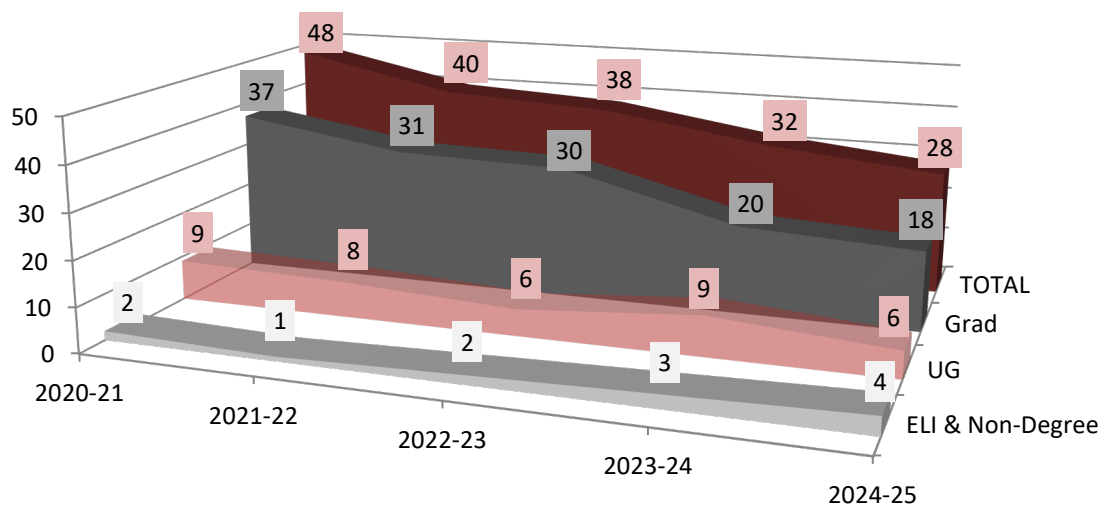
O. Vietnamese Enrollment: 2020–24
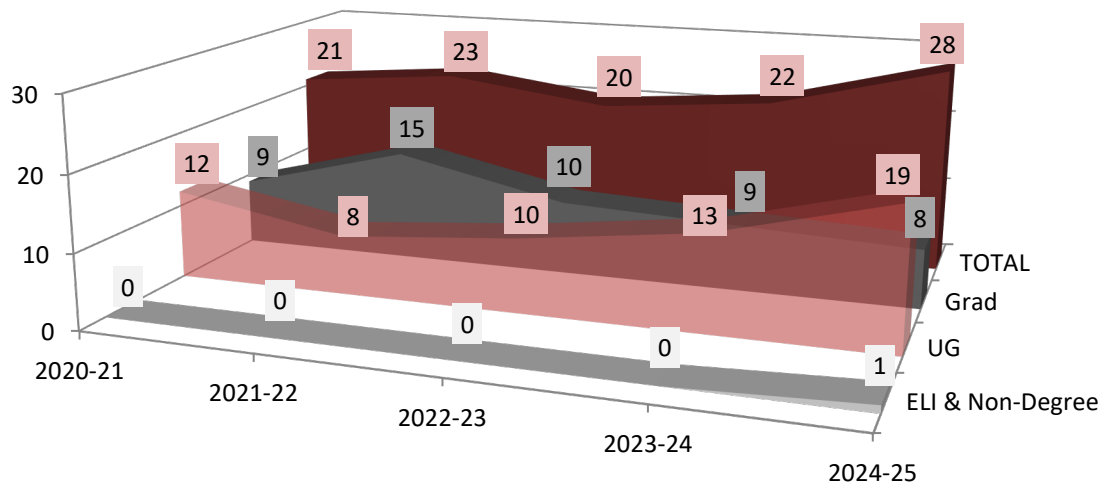
VII. International Enrollment by Major and College

A. International Student Numbers by School/College

Human Environmental Sci., 54
Law, 2
Nursing, 3
Social Work, 14
C&IS, 52
ELI, 42
Education, 96
Arts & Sciences, 365
Business, 127
Interdisplinary, 7
Engineering, 434

B. Top 10 Majors/Programs

(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
1. Computer Science	50	49			99
2. Civil, Construction & Env. Eng.	2	85			87
3. Mechanical Engineering	21	46			67
4. Chemistry	5	61			66
5. Electrical Engineering	8	45			53
6. Chemical Engineering	10	39			49
7/8. Aerospace Engineering & Mechanics	13	26	1		40
7/8. English Language Institute (ELI)			40		40
9. Communication & Info Sciences		38			38
10. Physics	4	31			35

C. 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	1			4
Advertising & Public Relations	1	3			4
Aerospace Engineering & Mechanics	13	26	1		40
American Studies		2			2
Anthropology		4			4
Applied Mathematics		7			7
Applied Statistics		8			8
Architectural Engineering	1				1
Art		6			6
Art History	1				1
Arts & Sciences, General/Undeclared/Pre	1			6	7
Biology	9	23			32
Business, General	17		1	4	22
Business Administration		2			2
Business Analytics		2			2
Chemical Engineering	10	39			49
Chemistry	5	61			66
Civil & Construction Engineering	2	85			87
Communication & Information Sciences		38			38
Communication Studies	3	3			6
Communicative Disorders	2				2
Computer Engineering	9				9
Computer Science	50	49			99
Consumer Sciences	1	1		1	3
Counselor Education		5			5
Creative Writing		7			7
Criminology & Criminal Justice	1	1			2
Curriculum & Instruction		11			11
Cyber Security	3				3
Data Science	1				1
Economics	4	10			14
Education, Elementary		8			8
Education, Secondary		9			9
Education, Special		1			1
Education Leadership		14			14
Educational Psychology		5			5
Educational Research		16			16
Electrical Engineering	8	45			53
ELI – English Language Institute			40		40
Engineering, General				3	3
English Literature	1	13			14
Environmental Engineering	1				1
Finance	16	9			25
Food and Nutrition	6				6
Geography		31			31
Geology		20			20
German		2			2
Graphic Design	1				1
Health Education & Promotion		5			5
Higher Education Administration		4			4
History		5			5

Department	Undergrad	Grad	ELI & Conditional	Non-Degree & Education Abroad	Total
Hospitality Management		2			2
Human Development Family Studies	1	1			2
Human Environmental Sciences	7	1		1	9
Human Nutrition		8			8
Instructional Leadership		8			8
Interdisciplinary Studies	1	7		1	9
Interior Design	3				3
International Studies	3				3
Journalism/ News Media	1	1			2
Kinesiology	10	5			15
Law (JD, JSD, and LLM)		2			2
Library & Information Studies		1			1
Management	10	10			20
Management Information Systems	8				8
Marketing	2	6			8
Materials Science		8			8
Mathematics	3	21			24
Mechanical Engineering	21	46			67
Metallurgical & Materials Engineering	1	13			14
Music		19			19
Nursing	3				3
Operations Management	4	11			15
Physics	4	31			35
Political Science	3	8			11
Psychology	5	10			15
Public Administration		1			1
Public Health	2	2			4
Public Relations	1				1
Religion in Culture		1			1
Romance Languages (French & Spanish)		31			31
Social Work		14			14
Sport Management	11	1			12
Teaching English as a Second Language		11			11
Gender & Race Studies		3			3
TOTAL	274	864	42	16	1196

VIII.   UA International Faculty, Staff, & Scholars Report

International scholar and faculty numbers at The University of Alabama for the 2023/24 year (the period between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024) totaled **392** non-immigrants, representing **54 countries and territories**.

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 captures 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 392 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.

IX.   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.

Other common, non-sponsored visa type are 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).
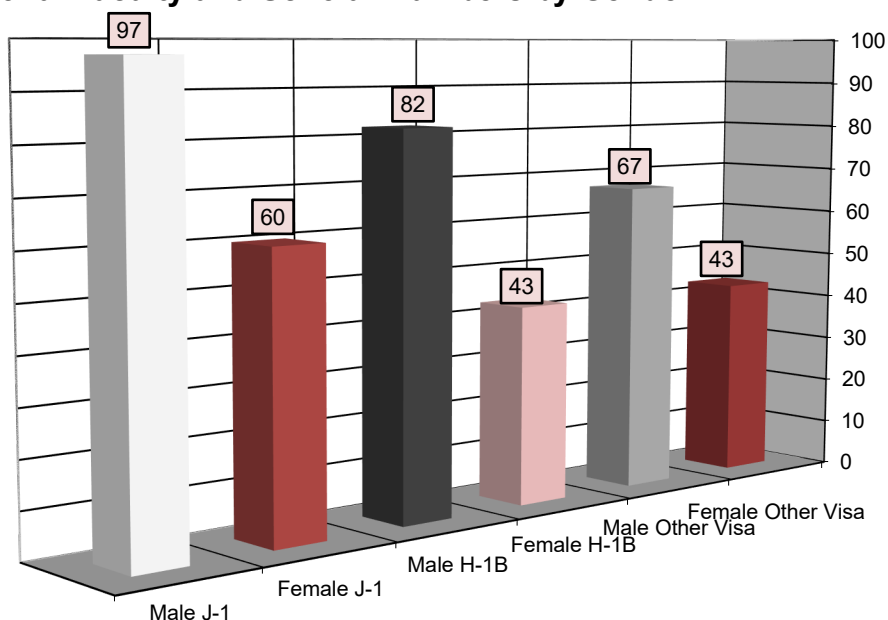
X. International Faculty and Scholar Statistics*

VISA-STATUS	Total
J-1 Scholars	144
J-1 Physicians (sponsored by ECFMG)	13
H-1B Workers	125
TN Workers	4
O-1	1
F-1 CPT/OPT	91
B-1/B-2 – WB/WT	5
Other	9
TOTAL	392

*   Information covers July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

YEAR	J-1	H-1B	OTHER	TOTALS	% TOTAL CHANGE
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%
2023-24	157	125	110	392	- 5.8%

XI. International Faculty and Scholar Numbers by Gender

Bar chart values: Male J-1: 97, Female J-1: 60, Male H-1B: 82, Female H-1B: 43, Male Other Visa: 67, Female Other Visa: 43

Total International Male: 246
**Total International Female: 146**

XII.   Region & Places of Origin

International Scholars and Faculty at The University of Alabama for 2023/24 originated from **54 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	238
Europe	55
Middle East & North Africa (MENA Region)	29
Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)	29
Latin America & the Caribbean	21
North America (Canada)	18
Oceania	2
TOTAL	392

B. Percentage of Scholars and Faculty by Regions of the World
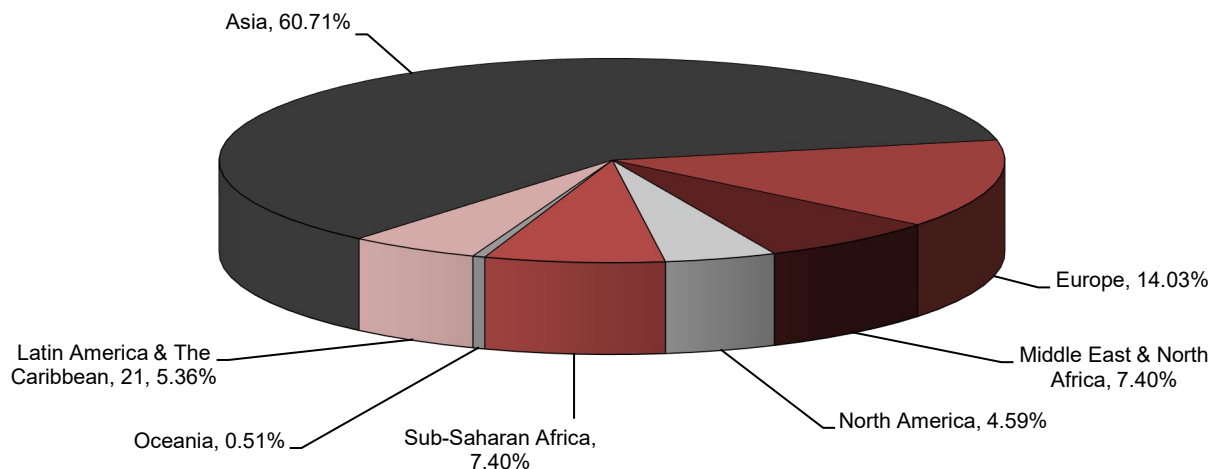
C. Top Ten Places of Origin: The following table lists the ten countries/territories that have the highest number of scholars and faculty at The University of Alabama.

1. China, PR	83
2. India	78
3. Pakistan	29
4. South Korea	22
5. Canada	18
6. Iran	17
7. Turkey	11
8. Ghana	10
9. Nigeria	9
10. Germany	8

D. International Scholar and Faculty Places of Origin

Country	J-1	H-1B	Other Visa	Total
Antigua and Barbuda	2			2
Australia	1		1	2
Austria			1	1
Bahamas			1	1
Bangladesh		1	4	5
Brazil	4	1		5
Canada	11	2	5	18
Chile	2			2
China	13	43	27	83
Colombia	3			3
Costa Rica			1	1
Czech Republic	1			1
Ecuador			1	1
Egypt	1		5	6
Ethiopia		1	1	2
Finland		1		1
France	2	1		3
Germany	3		5	8
Ghana	5	2	3	10
Hungary		1		1
Iceland		1		1
India	48	19	11	78
Iran	4	2	11	17
Iraq			1	1
Israel		1	1	2
Italy	3	4		7
Japan	1		1	2
Jordan			1	1
Kenya		1		1
Lithuania		1		1
Malaysia		1		1
Mexico	2	2	1	5
Nepal		2	4	6
Nigeria	3	1	5	9
Pakistan	29			29
Peru		1		1
Philippines			1	1
Poland			1	1
Russia		2	1	3
Saudi Arabia		1	1	2
Slovenia	1			1
South Africa	1	2		3
South Korea	4	13	5	22
Spain	1	3		4
Sri Lanka			2	2
Taiwan		2	1	3
Togo			1	1
Turkey	6	3	2	11
Uganda	1			1
Ukraine	2	1	1	4
United Kingdom	2	4	1	7
Uzbekistan		1		1
Vietnam	1	3	1	5
Zimbabwe		1	1	2
TOTAL	**157**	**125**	**110**	**392**

XIII. International Scholars and Faculty by Department

Department	J-1	H-1B	Other Visa	Total
Advancement		1	1	2
Advertising and Public Relations		3		3
Aerospace Engineering & Mechanics		2	3	5
Alabama Center for Insurance Information & Research		1		1
Alabama International Trade Center		1		1
Alabama Life Research Institute		1	1	2
Alabama Materials Institute		1		1
Alabama Transportation Institute	3	5	2	10
Alabama Water Institute	1	1	20	22
Art & Art History	1			1
Athletics	1	2		3
Biological Sciences	5	5	4	14
Campus Development		1		1
Capstone International Center	4		1	5
Center for Advanced Public Safety (CAPS)		1		1
Center for Business & Economic Research		1	1	2
Chemical & Biological Engineering	9	2	2	13
Chemistry & Biochemistry	6	1	1	8
Child Development Research Center			1	1
Civil, Construction, & Environmental Engineering	12	9	6	27
College of Business			1	1
College of Communication & Information Sciences (C&IS)	1			1
College of Community Health Sciences (CCHS)	19	7	1	27
College of Education	19	1	1	21
College of Engineering	1			1
College of Human Environmental Sciences		1		1
College of Nursing		1		1
Communication Studies		1		1
Communicative Disorders		1	2	3
Computer Science		2	2	4
Criminology and Criminal Justice		1		1
Curriculum & Instruction		1	1	2
Economics, Finance & Legal Studies	1	3	2	6
Educational Leadership, Policy, and Technology Studies	1	4		5
Ed Studies in Psych, Research Methods & Counseling	2	3		5
Electrical & Computer Engineering	3	5	6	14
English Literature and TESL	1	1	1	3
Enrollment Management			1	1
Geography	4	2	4	10
Geological Sciences	4	1	3	8
Graduate School	26		6	32
History		1	1	2
Human Development and Family Studies			1	1
Human Nutrition & Hospitality Management		1	1	2
Human Resources		1		1
Information Systems, Statistics & Management Science	2	3	1	6
Institute for Business Analytics		1		1
Institute for Rural Health			1	1
Institute for Social Science Research		1		1
Journalism & Creative Media	1	2	2	5
Kinesiology		1		1
Marketing		1		1
Mathematics	5	8		13
Mechanical Engineering	6	4	5	15
Metallurgical & Materials Engineering	2	6	2	10
Modern Languages & Classics	4	4	3	11
Music	1	1		2
National Water Center			9	9

Department	J-1	H-1B	Other Visa	Total
Office of Information Technology			1	1
Philosophy		1		1
Physics & Astronomy	6	6	4	16
Political Science	1	2	2	5
Psychology	1	1		2
Religious Studies	1		1	2
Remote Sensing Center	1	1		2
Research and Economic Development		1		1
School of Law	1			1
School of Social Work		1		1
Strategic Communications		1		1
Student Affairs Assessment & Planning		1		1
Theater and Dance		2		2
University Libraries			2	2
University Museums	1			1
TOTAL	157	125	110	392

XIV. 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 392 International Scholars and Faculty at UA in 2023/24 by the length of their stay.

In 2023/24, 96 scholars' sponsorship by UA was for less than 3 months. Only 15 scholars' sponsorship lasted between 3 months and less than 6 months. 56 scholars' sponsorship at UA was for a period of between 6 months and less than 1 year. And a total of 225 scholars were sponsored for 1 year or longer.

Time Spent in Program

Legend:
- 0 - < 3 Mos
- 3 - < 6 Mos
- 6 Mos - < 1 Year
- ≥ 1 Year

Values shown: 96, 15, 56, 225
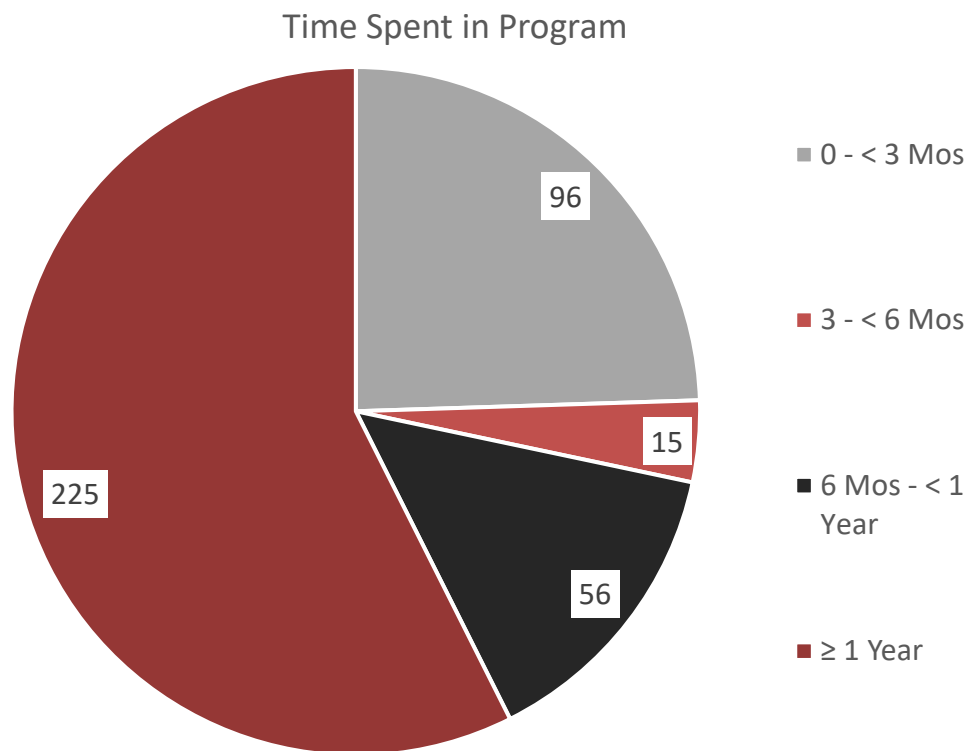
XV. Final Notes: COVID-19's End of Emergency Declaration and COVID's Continuing Impact on International Education

It is difficult to stress how challenging the impacts of COVID-19 were 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 2024, 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 countries, institutions and/or 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 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 remained limited. China, India, Nigeria, and Mexico (Boundless, 10/9/2023) all continued to have reduced services. And even for countries where visa services resumed, there were large backlogs for visa appointments.

Overall, enrollment for Fall 2023 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 to 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.

Fall 2024 saw massive numbers of undergraduate and graduate international student applicants to The University of Alabama. Visa delays remained high, with appointment wait times of 100 – 350 days (NAFSA) and visa denial rates reached a peak this year, with denial rates as high as 61% for students across Africa (Presidents' Alliance, 7/9/2024) and 36% worldwide (CATO Institute, 3/19/2024). Despite these obstacles, UA saw the first significant

increase in overall international student enrollment in Fall 2024, with a year-to-year increase of 8.5% in active international student enrollment compared to Fall 2023. In fact, the 1196 active international student enrollment is the highest international enrollment total at UA since Fall 2019.

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.