



*International Student  
and Scholar Services*

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**2016-2017 Annual Report**



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*Connecting  
the world.*





## A MESSAGE FROM ISSS DIRECTOR ABE SCHAFERMEYER

### *Keeping Our Commitment*

On behalf of the staff of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) in the Office of International Affairs at the University of Oregon, I am pleased to offer our 2016-2017 Annual Report.



In a year of considerable domestic and international change, we in ISSS have made efforts to commit to our mission by continuing to provide our international students and scholars with extraordinary opportunities for study, research, learning, and personal and professional growth. Our dedication stems from a belief in the critical contributions that international students and scholars bring to the intellectual and cultural vitality of our campus as well as the broader local, state, and national communities in which our university is situated. The exchange of ideas, the sharing of global experiences, and the benefits of cross-cultural engagement and interaction inform our core values and beliefs as international educators. We have benefited this past year in engaging campus partners, colleagues, and members of our community in a series of reflective meetings and discussions that have reaffirmed our commitment and re-energized our efforts to provide superior programs and services that underlie our mission.



At the same time, the past year has allowed us to identify distinct challenges emerging on the horizon. After several years of rapid growth in international enrollments at the UO and other institutions across the United States, the international education environment has become more challenging. International students, in particular, are being offered increasingly attractive options across the globe for pursuing their educational and professional dreams. In this context, we have to remain committed to providing an unparalleled educational experience that combines our high academic standards and values with the distinctive opportunities for engagement and development afforded by our uniquely special campuses in Eugene and Portland.

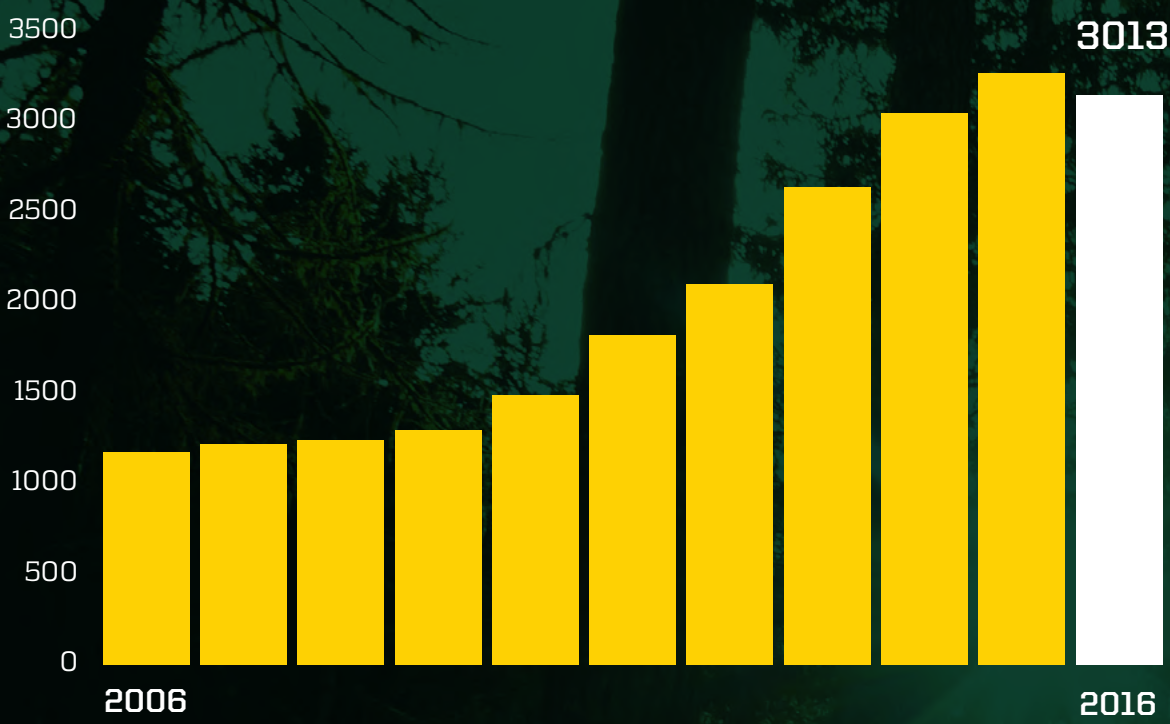


In the following pages you will find more detail about our programs, services, and international student and scholar community. I hope you find the report informative and enjoy the stories that exemplify how international students and scholars enrich the UO educational experience. I welcome your ideas, thoughts, and suggestions about how we can work together to fulfill our shared mission. Please drop me a line at [abe@uoregon.edu](mailto:abe@uoregon.edu) to continue the conversation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Abe Schafermeyer".



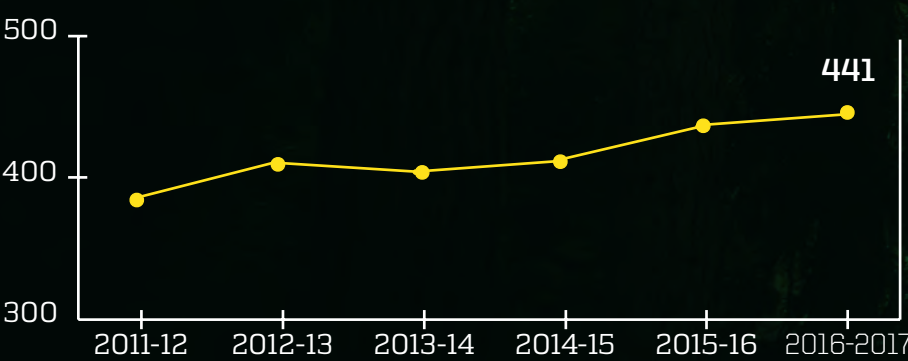
# International Student Enrollment



 **2572**  
**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

 **441**  
**GRADUATE STUDENTS**

## Graduate student enrollment



# Top Ten Majors for 2016-2017

## Undergraduate Students

	TOTAL	PERCENT
Business Administration	670	26%
Economics	417	16%
Liberal Arts	262	10%
Journalism	135	5%
Computer and Information Science	126	5%
General Social Science	121	5%
Mathematics	94	4%
Psychology	82	3%
Accounting	77	3%
Education	77	3%




## Graduate Students

	TOTAL	PERCENT
Computer & Information Science	42	10%
Architecture	24	5%
Linguistics	21	5%
Accounting	20	5%
Media Studies	20	5%
Music Performance	18	4%
General Business	17	4%
Sports Product Management	17	4%
East Asian Languages and Literature	16	4%
Special Education	14	3%





A close-up portrait of Dristi Manandhar, a woman with dark hair tied back, wearing dark-rimmed glasses and a green and red patterned shawl. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a workshop or office setting.

*“I want to make a difference, even if it’s a little thing.”*

## *Using Architecture to Rebuild Her Home*

On April 25, 2015 a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Kathmandu, Nepal and the only thing Dristi Manandhar thought of was her family.

As the hours and days following the earthquake unfolded with a series of strong aftershocks, the extent of the devastation rose to unreal numbers: more than 8,000 dead, 21,000 injured, 40 percent of the country’s infrastructure damaged and nearly 505,000 homes destroyed. Hundreds of thousands of people were made homeless, with entire villages flattened across many districts of the country.

Manandhar tapped six architecture alumni from Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu, where she did her undergraduate work, to join forces designing an emergency shelter solution for their country. The team adopted the name Aashraya, which in Sanskrit means shelter.

The team of designers quickly set out to draw plans for an economical transitional shelter that not only could withstand the coming rainy season but also Nepal’s strong winds. In a matter of two days, they came up with a dome design inspired by the work of Eli Kretzmann, a tour operator who in 2010 created a shelter to bring relief to millions after a flood in Pakistan.

“With just \$300 you can build two temporary shelters,” Manandhar said. “The whole thing takes just three hours for two people to build and all the materials are reusable.”

Aashraya shared the plans with as many organizations as possible. In just 45 days, the team helped create more than 2,300 shelters across Nepal.

In the flurry of activity, Manandhar scarcely recalled the half-dozen graduate school applications she had started months before. Without phone services, electricity or even mail, Manandhar did not realize she had been accepted to the UO until a week after the earthquake.

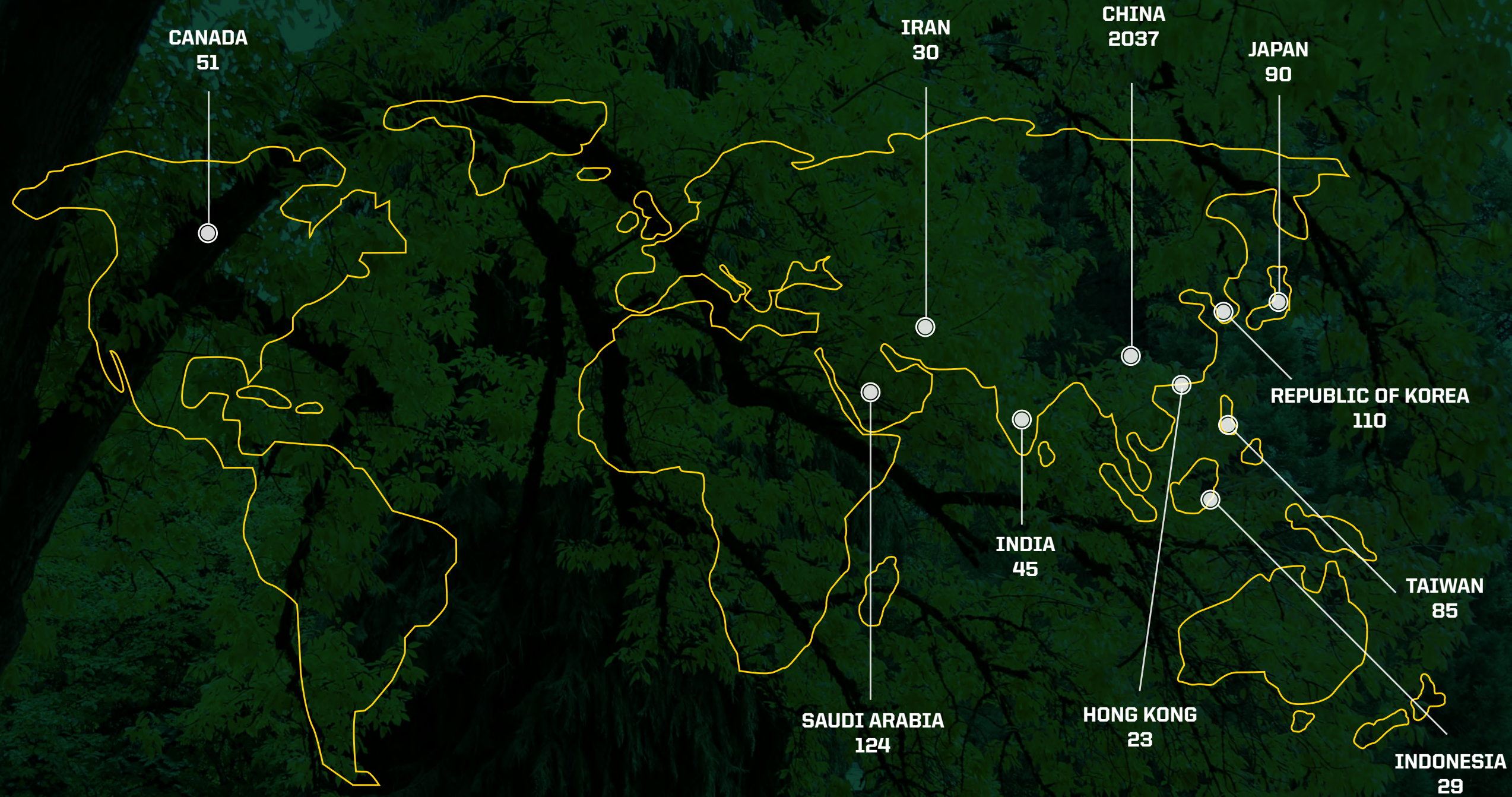
Manandhar’s leadership and talent caught the attention of recruiter Holly Coble at UO’s School of Architecture and Allied Arts. Despite intermittent email communication, she began working on a strategy to bring Manandhar to Oregon. The main challenge at the time was strictly financial.

News of the devastation in Nepal stirred a keen sense of regret for many in the UO community, as Eugene is a sister city to Kathmandu. A full tuition scholarship for students from Nepal was formed. The scholarship’s main requirement: that the recipient would make the commitment to return home after graduation to support rebuilding efforts. And so they selected Manandhar as the first recipient of the scholarship.

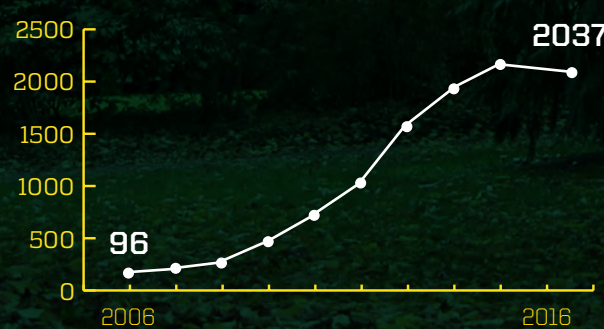
Now, as a graduate architecture student at the UO, Manandhar has been researching sustainable design, particularly passive heating and cooling methods in buildings. After two years away, Manandhar graduated from the UO this spring and will return home to finish what she started.



# Top 10 Countries of Citizenship



## Chinese Student Enrollment



ENROLLMENT OF CHINESE STUDENTS INCREASED BY



IN THE PAST DECADE



**1934**  
**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**



**103**  
**GRADUATE STUDENTS**



# Fulbright Program's Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Award



**Kainat Shaikh**  
*Hyderabad, Pakistan*

**Grad Program:** Linguistics and English Literature  
**Languages:** English, Urdu, and Sindhi



**Irene Njenga**  
*Nairobi, Kenya*

**Grad Program:** Linguistics  
**Languages:** English, Swahili, and Kikuyu



**Suparada Eak-in**  
*Chainat, Thailand*

**Grad Program:** Language Teaching Specialization  
**Languages:** English, Thai



**Anh Duong**  
*Hanoi, Vietnam*

**Grad Program:** English Language Teaching  
**Languages:** English and Vietnamese

Through the prestigious Fulbright Program's Foreign Language Teaching Assistant award, international student-teachers are able to spend a year at the UO, contributing to their host academic department, interacting with colleagues and students, and exploring the structure and content of undergraduate education at a selective, residential liberal arts college, all while enriching the cultural community through their active involvement with the ICSP. The FLTA award is highly competitive, as Fulbright FLTAs apply to the program through the Fulbright Commission/Foundation or U.S. Embassy in their home countries. The Institute of International Education (IIE) arranges academic placement for Fulbright FLTA nominees and co-supervises participants

alongside the Office of International Affairs staff, during their stay in the United States. Selection as a host institution is also very competitive, but the UO's financial and logistical commitment through the years to language instruction and language diversity as the key to cultural and mutual understanding, has allowed for many highly skilled and energetic FLTAs to join the UO and enhance the UO's language teaching abilities.

By participating in community events and campus activities through the ICSP, FLTAs are able to increase their knowledge of American culture while sharing the values and customs of their own countries.

## International Scholarships 2016-2017

\$1,795,700

Financial aid and scholarships for international students

\$750,000

Total Scholarship funds through the International Cultural Service Program (ICSP)

\$202,700

Total disbursement through Endowed Scholarships

\$152,000

Total Sponsored Scholarships awarded

\$140,000

International Student Fee Remission

\$430,000

Total International Dean's Excellence Award (IDEA)

 [iss.uoregon.edu/scholarships](https://iss.uoregon.edu/scholarships)





## *The Oregon Experience Program*

During the summer of 2017, the Office of International Affairs and the Center for Applied Second Language Studies partnered to create a cohesive summer experience program. The Oregon Experience Program is designed exclusively to help international students explore American university life, learn about topics related to sustainability and health, and connect with the culture and people of Oregon.

While exploring the wonders of Oregon, students developed lifelong intercultural connections. They participated on group excursions to places like Mount Bachelor, Crater Lake, Silver Falls, and explore the city of Eugene. Students got to explore the

beauty of Oregon's natural environment and the vibrant culture and welcoming residents of Eugene. Students stayed in homestay accommodations, getting first-hand experience of American family culture.

Students spent time with dedicated faculty discussing global issues related to sustainability and health and found potential solutions for the issues raised in class.

The service learning activity and serving as a volunteer allowed students to receive hands-on experience by becoming part of the local community.



**Total Scholars  
for 2016-2017** 258

**Top 10 Departments**

	TOTAL	PERCENT
Education	42	16%
Asian & Pacific Studies	41	16%
Linguistics	12	5%
Applied Second Language Studies	11	4%
Chemistry and Biochemistry	10	4%
Architecture	8	3%
Human Physiology	8	3%
Molecular Biology	7	3%
Mathematics	7	3%
Product Design	7	3%



**Top Countries of Citizenship**

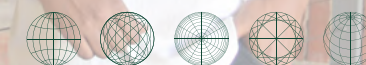
	TOTAL	PERCENT
China	108	42%
South Korea	31	12%
Canada	15	6%
Germany	13	5%
Pakistan	10	4%
France	10	4%
United Kingdom	7	3%
Japan	6	2%
Spain	6	2%
Australia	4	2%
Brazil	3	1%



SHOWING...

NOT

TELLING





*Inspiring curiosity &  
driving discovery.*



## ***Studying Flies to Discover More About the Human Brain***

“The brain is a world consisting of a number of unexplored continents and great stretches of unknown territory,” said Santiago Ramón y Cajal, a Spanish neurologist from the early 20th century. This is what motivates Mubarak Hussain Syed to work in neuroscience in the Doe Lab at University of Oregon.

Syed grew up in a small village in Kashmir with his parents and two brothers. They did not have a phone or internet, and sometimes they didn’t have electricity. Syed was encouraged by his parents to go to school and work hard in his classes. Reading books and magazines, Syed found an interest in science and received a bachelor’s degree in botany, zoology, and chemistry. After he received his master’s in biochemistry at University of Kashmir and a PhD in Germany, Syed participated in a developmental biology workshop with the National Center for Biological Science (NCBS) where he first worked with *Drosophila* (fruit flies).

Since then, Syed has been working as an international scholar at the UO to solve questions about human brain development and functions by studying fruit flies. “*Drosophila* is a genetically tractable organism; we can turn a gene on or off any time we want to and above all 75% of their genes are the same as ours,” said Syed. Fruit flies are an excellent model system to understand the development and function of human brain cells.

Syed recently led a study that found that hormones regulate brain development in fruit flies, which shares a link to thyroid hormones in humans. “Once we understand how a normal brain develops and functions, and what goes wrong in neurological disorders, then we will be able to treat patients suffering from various brain disorders,” said Syed.

Syed will continue exploring the diversity of human brain cell types to determine their roles in health and disease. He hopes to continue his research at the UO to help find treatments for human neurodevelopmental disorders.



