



UNIVERSITY OF
OREGON

Office of
International Affairs



International Student and Scholar Services

2015-2016 Annual Report

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*Connecting
the world.*

 international.uoregon.edu/iss



A MESSAGE
FROM ISSS DIRECTOR
ABE SCHAFERMEYER

It's all about the journey

Over the past year, the Office of International Affairs has focused on implementing new programs and services to support the academic success and social and cultural integration of a rapidly-growing international student body. Many of these programs - including our Academic Success Program, ExplOregon, and Peer Mentor program - were launched in the summer and fall of 2014, and we have worked with our campus partners over the past year to get these fully underway. As an example of our efforts, please see the in-depth profile of our ExplOregon program on pages 18-19.



With the 2015-16 academic year and looking forward to the future, we have turned our focus toward evaluating and assessing the impacts of these programs on international student success and integration. These evaluations are essential, as we welcome new cohorts of international students marked by increasing levels of academic excellence and ability. Our objective, as always, is to find new ways to meet our international students' expectations for an extraordinary experience at the UO. We continue to work with our campus partners and colleagues to refine and improve our programs and services, so that we can consolidate the gains we have made in the past year while striving to identify where we can improve the effectiveness of our outreach, advising, and programming.

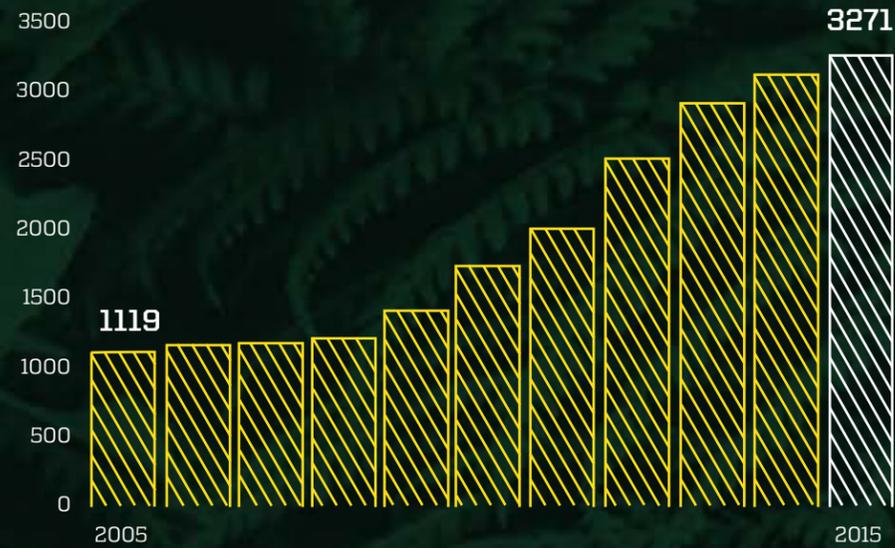


Our efforts come at a time of critical change in the UO. While the UO continues to maintain its reputation as a destination for students - with international student enrollments continuing to rise year-over-year, even in a tightening global economic environment - OIA is working hard to align its programs and services to support new presidential initiatives aimed at reinforcing and improving the UO's academic excellence. Groundwork is being laid to increase our tenure-track faculty and to expand graduate student enrollments. As these initiatives start to take root and bear fruit, we look forward to assisting increasing numbers of international faculty and graduate students, whose presence will further enrich the global diversity and international dimensions of the UO educational experience.

I hope that you will find the information in our 2015-2016 Annual Report to be informative. Please send your thoughts and comments to me at abe@uoregon.edu.

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

International Student Enrollment



2840 UNDER-GRADUATE STUDENTS

431 GRADUATE STUDENTS

Graduate Student Enrollment



The 2015-2016 school year had the highest number of international graduate level students.

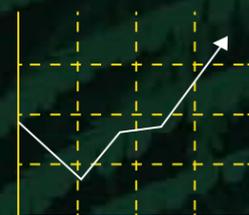
International student enrollment at the UO continues to grow.

For the past seven years, our university has welcomed an average cohort of 800 new international students each fall term. With a 192% increase in enrollment over the past decade, our university is on a healthy trajectory and will continue to attract talent from around the world.



745
NEW STUDENTS WERE ADMITTED TO THE UO IN 2015.

192%
INCREASE IN ENROLLMENT OVER THE PAST DECADE.



International Scholarships

\$1,225,671

Financial aid and scholarships for international students 2014-15. Estimated total for 2015-16 is ~\$1,372,618.

\$750,000

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

\$135,000

Total disbursement through Endowed Scholarships.

\$150,000

Total Sponsored Scholarships awarded.

\$100,000

International Student Fee Remission.

\$430,000

Total International Dean's Excellence Award (IDEA).

More than 400 international students attended a Ducks football game in Autzen Stadium during Fall 2015 International Student Orientation.





*Meeting challenges,
creating opportunities, and
defining the future.*

Designing buildings for Uganda's health

Architecture student from Uganda and member of the African Student Association, Sharon Letaa Alitema, is a sophomore at the University of Oregon. Alitema plans to use architecture to advance the healthcare system in her home country. Currently, there is little presence of healthcare-based architecture in Uganda.

"I have a dream that one day I will make a huge change in the healthcare system of Uganda by creating spaces that are beautiful, sustainable, and affordable so that it can aid improvement in patient health and the communities around it as well."

Uganda's government has made several advances to its health system like decentralizing health services, making medicine available to private healthcare providers, consolidating the health finance system and eliminating the patient fee. Health facilities in small villages and counties, however struggle to provide for diseases like malaria and HIV.

"I believe that architecture can enable

a fast healing process for patients," Alitema said.

Pulling inspiration from her favorite architect, Zaha Hadid, the first woman recipient of the Pritzker Architecture Prize, Alitema wants to design structures that imitate patterns and structure found in nature.

"There is an upcoming style of architecture called Biomimetic design. It is an approach to innovation that seeks sustainable solutions to human challenges by emulating nature's time-tested patterns and strategies," Alitema said. "I think the biggest challenge would be getting the community and a government to fund, commit, and accept such a huge healthcare project."

Alitema is from a small village called Ovujo, Maracha District in the West Nile region. She is the eldest of four children.



The World Health Organization ranked Uganda at 186th out of 191 countries in overall healthcare performance. Despite this poor rating, Uganda is known as a success story in Africa for its treatment and decline of HIV/AIDS cases.



Growing academic support and resources for international students

International Student Academic Support is a program facilitated and coordinated by ISSS to provide customized academic support to international students. ISSS partners with the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) to provide expanded writing lab service to international students.

Five additional peer tutors have been hired and hours of operation have been extended to accommodate the influx of international students in need of writing support. TLC has hired a writing specialist exclusively for international students.

“In addition to aligning with President Schill’s goals for the university, International Student Academic Support helps our students progress through their studies in a timely manner,” said Abe Schafermeyer, director of ISSS. “This program is an excellent example of International Student and Scholar Services efforts to improve the academic experience for international students at the UO.”

The higher-education experience can be challenging. For students going through the same experience but in their second language, college can seem defeating. ISSS collaborates with the American English Institute (AEI) and

the Office of Academic Advising in a pilot program with AEIS 101 to offer advisor visits, quick tips and mini-lessons about succeeding in higher education. The mini lessons focus on such topics as Time Management, GPA Calculation, Academic Standing and more.

ISSS has recently launched peer tutoring for economics courses (200 and 300 levels). Peer tutors meet with international students who need help with micro and macroeconomics courses.

“The program lets you build relationships with people you probably would never have met otherwise,” economics tutor Theo Friedman explained.

In addition to one-on-one tutoring, economics students can also attend small study groups for course help.

International Student Academic Support has made an immense effort to increase awareness of various support resources to the international student population on campus. The tutors are dedicated to ensuring international students have the tools they need to have an empowering and stimulating experience at the University of Oregon.

Top Ten Majors for 2015-2016

Undergraduates

	TOTAL	PERCENT
Business Administration	819	30.2%
Economics	438	16.2%
Undeclared	307	11.3%
Computer & Information Science	126	4.6%
General Social Science	123	4.5%
Accounting	110	4.1%
Mathematics	82	3%
Psychology	74	2.7%
Journalism	70	2.5%
Education	64	2.4%



Graduate Students

	TOTAL	PERCENT
Computer & Information Science	38	8.8%
East Asian Languages & Literature	20	4.6%
Architecture	20	4.6%
General Business	20	4.6%
Accounting	18	4.2%
Music Performance	18	4.2%
Linguistics	17	3.9%
Media Studies	14	3.3%
Political Science	12	2.8%
Educational Leadership	12	2.8%

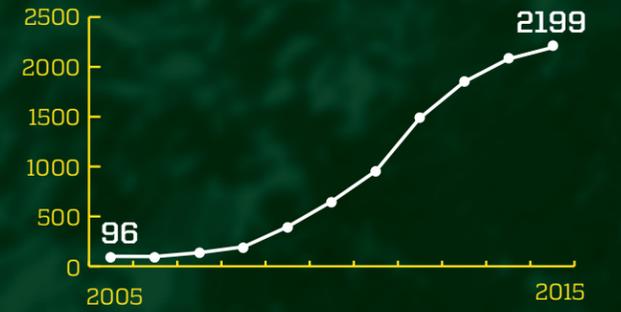


Top Countries of Citizenship

ISSS welcomes and supports more than 3,000 international students from around the world. International students increase diversity and cross-cultural experience on the UO campus.



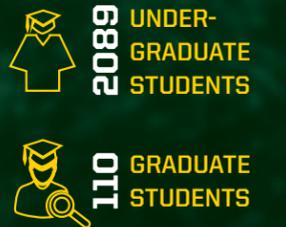
Chinese Student Enrollment



ENROLLMENT OF CHINESE STUDENTS INCREASE BY

2190%

IN THE PAST DECADE



0

UO IS HOME TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FROM

98

DIFFERENT COUNTRIES



Last year, UO welcomed more international faculty than ever before.

**Total Scholars
for 2014-2015**

281

Top 10 Departments

	TOTAL	PERCENT
Center for Asian & Pacific Studies	50	17.8%
College of Education	27	9.6%
Linguistics	10	3.6%
Physics	8	2.8%
Lundquist College of Business	8	2.8%
Math	7	2.5%
Chemistry	7	2.5%
Institute of Neuroscience	7	2.5%
Architecture	6	2.1%
English	6	2.1%



Top Countries of Citizenship

	TOTAL	PERCENT
China	94	33.5%
South Korea	25	8.9%
Canada	15	5.3%
Germany	14	5%
Pakistan	9	3.2%
Japan	7	2.5%
Australia	6	2.1%
Spain	6	2.1%
Brazil	5	1.8%
United Kingdom	5	1.8%
France	5	1.8%



SHOWING...

NOT

TELLING



Analyzing explosive volcanic eruptions

Volcanoes fascinated Thomas Giachetti, a visiting faculty from France, since he was young.

“At the age of twelve I watched a documentary about two French volcanologists named Maurice and Katia Kraft. This couple died in 1991 in an eruption in Japan. This documentary was about their lives. They went everywhere in the world taking pictures and video of many types of volcanoes and eruptions. When I saw this documentary, I told my parents, ‘this is what I want to do in my life.’”

During his Master’s studies and Ph.D., Giachetti’s studied volcanic deposits at Soufrière Hills on the island of Montserrat. He became enthralled with the diversity of volcanic rock deposits and the degassing process of magma so he posed the question: How can volcanic deposits vary so much when the deposits have the exact same magma chemistry?

In pursuit of the answer, he finished his Ph.D. at University of Clermont-Ferrand. Giachetti then moved to Texas where he held a Post-Doctoral position at Rice University in Houston.

“When I was in Houston and wanted to study volcanoes I had to take a plane. Here I can wake up and drive for two hours and be at Newberry,” Giachetti said. “When you are a volcanologist or geologist, you love nature in the first place. You want to know things about it and share the knowledge. That is the most important part.”

Living in the Pacific Northwest near many volcanic sites helps Giachetti continue his research.

“I just arrived at the University of Oregon in September 2015 to start a position of tenure track faculty in volcanology, which was my dream for the last 20 years.”

Giachetti began teaching spring term 2016. He is teaching Geology 306, Volcanoes and Earthquakes.



Thomas Giachetti studied degassing processes using textural and chemical analyses of pyroclasts from the 1997 Vulcanian explosions of Soufrière Hills Volcano, in Montserrat.



Inspiring curiosity and driving discovery.

Newberry volcano east of the Cascade Range in Oregon, is one of the largest volcanoes on the US mainland.



BUILDING A GLOBAL COMMUNITY



Sharing stories to make a global community

The International Cultural Service Program (ICSP) brings together a select group of University of Oregon international students to provide the Eugene-Springfield and surrounding communities with valuable cross-cultural exchange.

Students in this program provide 80 hours per year of cultural and educational service to the community in return for scholarship assistance while studying at the university. ICSP students generally satisfy this service requirement by sharing their cultures with local school classes and community groups.

“Personally, I am very proud to represent my country,” said Win Min, an ICSP student from Myanmar. “But at the same time I’m proud of doing this type of program. Diversity and cultural education is very important to humanity.”

For more than 30 years, we’ve found that involvement in the program has been mutually beneficial and rewarding for U.S. students, community members,

and participating international students. Direct interaction with a person from another culture provides us with a unique learning experience as we discover new ideas, values, interests and problems different from and similar to our own. The human aspect of culture, not usually found in textbooks or popular media, can be shared in a personal way.

“I believe people who request ICSP students to present gain a lot of understanding about the world,” said Iago Bojczuk, a student from Brazil. “Many people in the US do not have the opportunity to travel abroad. So by having students from different countries, people are able to understand how other people live.”

The ICSP students are multi-talented and enthusiastic, eager to share their cultures and themselves with U.S. audiences. All ICSP students are trained to make public presentations in local schools and community groups.

The ICSP program has 37 students representing 32 different countries.



international.uoregon.edu/iss/icsp



ICSP students did 477 presentations in the 2014-2015 academic year.

explOregon

ExplOregon began in Fall 2014 with 21 trips to locations throughout the state. Growing in popularity, ExplOregon facilitated 50 activities, averaging 45-60 international students each trip in 2015. Often, the trips can attract many more students.

“The most popular activity out of town has been visiting Portland,” Program Director Paolo Daniele said, “because it offers a variety of fun neighborhoods with great shopping opportunities, professional sports like the Blazers and Timbers, and the big city feel that perhaps many students miss.”

International students can sometimes be reclusive and not get the opportunity to see much of the state of Oregon and the city of Eugene. Many students don’t have reliable modes of transportation. ExplOregon provides the opportunity, transportation and activity guides to help international students feel comfortable in their exploration of the Pacific Northwest.

“These trips and experiences are highly subsidized and are, therefore, quite affordable,” Daniele said.

Upcoming trips and activities are posted online at blogs.uoregon.edu/exploreregon and on the ExplOregon Facebook page.



JOIN THE
ADVENTURE

blogs.uoregon.edu/exploreregon/

A community of international students exploring Oregon and the Pacific Northwest region. Learn about the origins of our green state, participate in community events, join group hikes scenic landmarks, and get a taste for what the city of Eugene has to offer.



62 international students are using the UO's work-study program



Career alliance helps international students get job skills

For international students at the University of Oregon, finding a job experience that pairs with their field of study can be a difficult path to navigate. To address the challenge, the UO established the collaborative International Student Career Alliance (ISCA) to advise and support international students in their professional pursuits.

Because work experience can enhance the value of an undergraduate degree almost exponentially, it is often essential that students find internships, volunteer opportunities, or jobs while they're studying at the undergraduate level.

"The alliance exists because there is a clear need to better educate students and prepare them for professional opportunities, as well as educate campus and community employers of this diverse and global workforce at their fingertips," said Abe Schafermeyer, director of International Student and Scholar Services.

This year, the career alliance is expanding with the recent hire of an alliance manager and international student career advisor, Bartholomew Kassel.

Additionally, the alliance's intern, Haozhe Li – a sophomore international student from southwestern China – has crafted a prototype for an international student job-shadow program with the help of his mentor, Courtney Ball, the student engagement and communications manager at the UO Career Center.

"In my mind, ISCA is a group of professionals and active students who are passionate about helping international students in our career development," Li said. "Our members collaborate and work on many projects that I believe will remarkably aid and positively impact the international student community in our campus."

Many international students have the ability to take advantage of their immigration visa benefits, which

provide them with the opportunity to work on and off campus, depending on the specifics of their visas. A large part of the career alliance's goal is to broaden the general understanding and awareness – both for campus employers and for international students – of these benefits.

This is done primarily through the alliance's partnership with the UO Career Center.

That partnership has produced six subcommittees, made up of alliance members from different departments at the UO, that focus on six areas of international student support: communications, curriculum and instruction, networking and cross-cultural integration, access to OPT/H1-B international student-friendly employers, part-time employment and campus engagement.

Listening to the experience of international students is essential to understanding how the alliance and

the committee can help them succeed, said Ethan Mapes, an international student adviser and the liaison between the Career Center and the Office of International Student and Scholar Services.

"I often find that we can be doing more to support the professional development of our amazing international students," Mapes said. "We have such an impressive and ambitious international student population at the UO, and I'm confident that through the collaborative efforts of ICSCA we can offer top-notch support to these students, who will in turn bring much value back to the UO campus and community."

The International Student Career Alliance (ISCA) is a collaborative group that includes efforts and members from Student Life, International Affairs, Equity and Inclusion, Undergraduate Studies, and Academic Affairs. ICSCA is co-chaired by Abe Schafermeyer and Daniel Pascoe Aguilar.

–Nathanial Brown, *Around the O*

