

International Students and Scholars Data Report

Academic Year 2019 - 2020

Office of International Programs and Services
George Mason University

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DEFINITION OF TERMS

v **Who is counted as an International Student in this report?**

For this report, the international student population includes students studying at any Mason campus who are nationals of a country other than the US and do not have citizenship or permanent residency in the US. This includes:

- 1) Students studying at the US campuses of George Mason University on temporary visas that allow for academic coursework. These include primarily holders of F visas (students) and J visas (exchange visitors)
- 2) Students studying at Mason's campus in South Korea who are not US citizens or US Permanent Residents

Foreign-born students who are naturalized US citizens, Permanent Residents, or undocumented are not included in the international student population for the purposes of this report.

Non-US students who remain outside the US during their course of study (therefore not requiring a visa to enter the country or other services from OIPS) will not be included. These students are primarily participating in online programs.

Also excluded from this report are students who have submitted data confidentiality requests.

v **Why do the total population counts (the “N” values) vary on some charts?**

Depending on the type of data being displayed, the “N” value may vary based on which students are included in that particular analysis. Some graphs and charts focus on a specific subset of students (i.e., only undergraduate international students), and therefore the “N” value changes accordingly.

Most graphs and charts in this report use one of the following three “N” values as described below:

- 3,454 - International students in all programs at all campuses
- 3,104 - International students in all programs, excluding Korea campus

v **How are the World Regions defined?**

Using the United Nations' categorization of nations as a reference, the following world region categories are used to report data in this report:

(Reference: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/>)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Central America and the Caribbean | • North America |
| • East Asia | • South America |
| • Europe | • South and Central Asia |
| • Middle East (<i>Western Asia</i>) | • South East Asia and Oceania |
| • North Africa | • Sub-Saharan Africa |

Please see the Appendix for a list of countries included in each region for the purposes of this report.

v **What is INTO Mason?**

INTO Mason is the short-hand for the joint venture between the company INTO and George Mason University to provide English language and academic preparation coursework to students who do not yet meet the academic or English language proficiency level required for regular admission to the university.

v **What do “Pathways” and “Academic English” refer to?**

INTO Mason Pathways and Academic English programs. Pathways students take both credit-bearing courses in their intended major field of study and English language or academic preparation courses, whereas Academic English students take only English language instruction.

v **Why are INTO Mason’s Academic English students counted separately from other international students and INTO Mason’s Pathways students?**

The University distinguishes between students taking credit-bearing courses and those who are not. Students enrolled in INTO Mason’s Academic English program are taking only non-credit English Language courses, and therefore they are not included in the University’s official enrollment census.

Students enrolled in INTO Mason’s Pathways programs are taking some credit-bearing courses (in addition to non-credit English Language courses) and therefore they are included in the official University enrollment counts. International students not affiliated with INTO Mason are taking only credit-bearing courses (whether degree-seeking or non-degree students) and are therefore included in the official University enrollment counts.

v **Why are these numbers slightly different from INTO Mason’s enrollment numbers?**

The data set for this report includes *only* international students. INTO Mason students who are US citizens or Permanent Residents are *not* counted as international students for the purposes of this report, and therefore the numbers reported here may differ slightly from enrollment figures reported by INTO Mason.

v **What is the Korea campus? Why are those students reportedly separately?**

George Mason University opened a satellite campus location in Songdo, South Korea, welcoming its first cohort of students in 2014. Because our aim is to highlight international student presence at our US campuses and accurately portray sizes of our various demographic groups at these campuses, we have chosen to exclude from most charts and graphs the international students who are physically studying at the campus in South Korea.

It is important to note that international students who begin their studies at the Korea campus and then physically come to a US Campus for one or more semesters (using an F-1, J-1, or other entry visa) are counted amongst the general international student population for that year.

v **Why are these numbers different from Mason Korea’s enrollment data?**

The way international students are categorized and counted for this report may differ from the ways they are categorized and counted for reports produced by Mason Korea. Additionally, Mason Korea enrollment numbers will include US Citizens and US Permanent Residents who are excluded from this report.

v What is OPT?

OPT (Optional Practical Training; pronounced as the letters of its acronym (O.P.T.), not as the word “opt”) is a benefit available to F-1 non-immigrant students which permits them to obtain employment as a form of training in their major field of studies. This benefit is most commonly exercised by students immediately following completion of a degree or certificate program. Those OPT students who have already graduated from Mason are not included in any enrollment figures although they remain under the administrative purview of OIPS for the duration of their OPT. All F-1 students have the option to request 12 months of OPT following completion of their program of study.

Students in STEM fields may request an extended period of OPT for a total of up to 36 months after completing degree study. The “STEM OPT” designation refers to the additional 24 months of OPT, which is authorized by USCIS after verification of graduation in a STEM field. During STEM OPT, additional requirements for the student, the employer, and OIPS are in place to ensure the bona fides of the training aspect of the employment, including the development of a training plan and the review of training objectives and outcomes.

v What is a J-1 Exchange Visitor?

The Exchange Visitor Program is overseen by the US Department of State, which designates specific organizations, agencies, and institutions as J-1 sponsors with authorization to sponsor exchange visitors in categories relevant to the work of the sponsor. Mason is authorized to sponsor Exchange Visitors in the student, scholar, professor, and short-term scholar categories.

Unlike other visa types, the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program has an underlying foreign policy objective, to facilitate cultural learning about the US as well as to achieve the specific purpose (study, teaching, etc.) of the Exchange Visitor. Therefore, J-1 sponsors such as Mason must demonstrate annually the opportunities and participation of Exchange Visitors in cultural exchange while under our sponsorship.

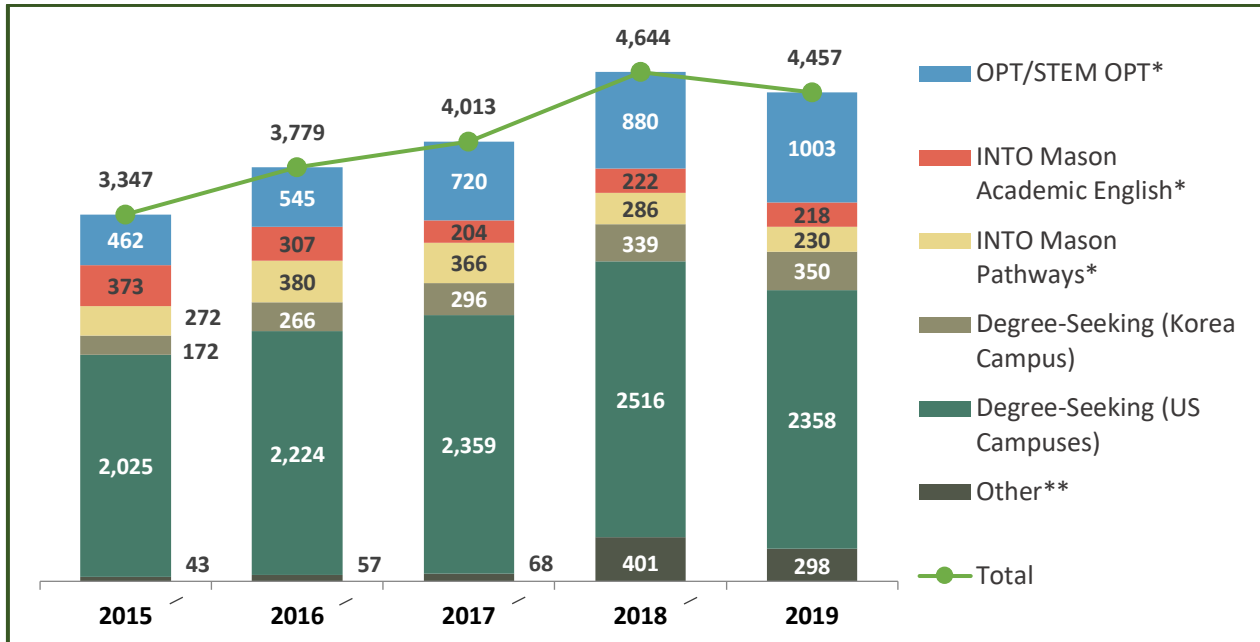
The exchange of professors and research scholars promotes the exchange of ideas, research, mutual enrichment and linkages between research and academic institutions in the US and foreign countries. Exchange Visitor students have the opportunity to study at American degree-granting post-secondary accredited academic institutions, or participate in a student internship program that will fulfill the educational objectives of the student’s degree program in his/her home country.

v Why do the counts of International Students on J visas (p. 8) and J-1 Exchange Visitor Students (p. 27) differ?

Not all J students attending the University have visas sponsored by the University, and therefore these two numbers will always differ based on the number of non-Mason-sponsored J students who are enrolled. (Examples of non-Mason sponsored Exchange Visitor students include those sponsored by the US government, such as Fulbright students, and those sponsored by agencies who have their own Exchange Visitor designation.) In addition, the census is taken in the Fall, and some J students sponsored by the University attend only in Spring or Summer, and therefore they are not reflected in the Fall census.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Figure 1: International Students, 2015-2019



* Please see *Definition of Terms* section for descriptions of OPT, Academic English, and Pathways.

** “Other” includes Exchange students, non-degree international students who are not part of the INTO Mason Pathways program, and international students studying at Mason through consortium agreements.

Figure 2. International Students as a Percentage of University Enrollment, Fall 2019

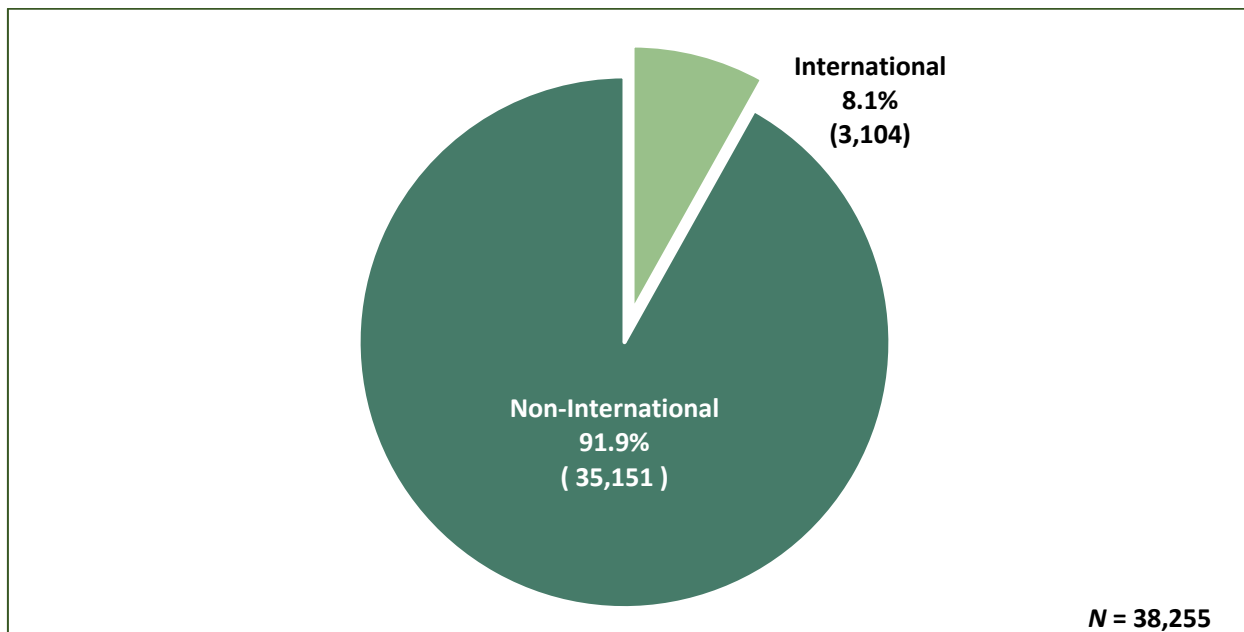
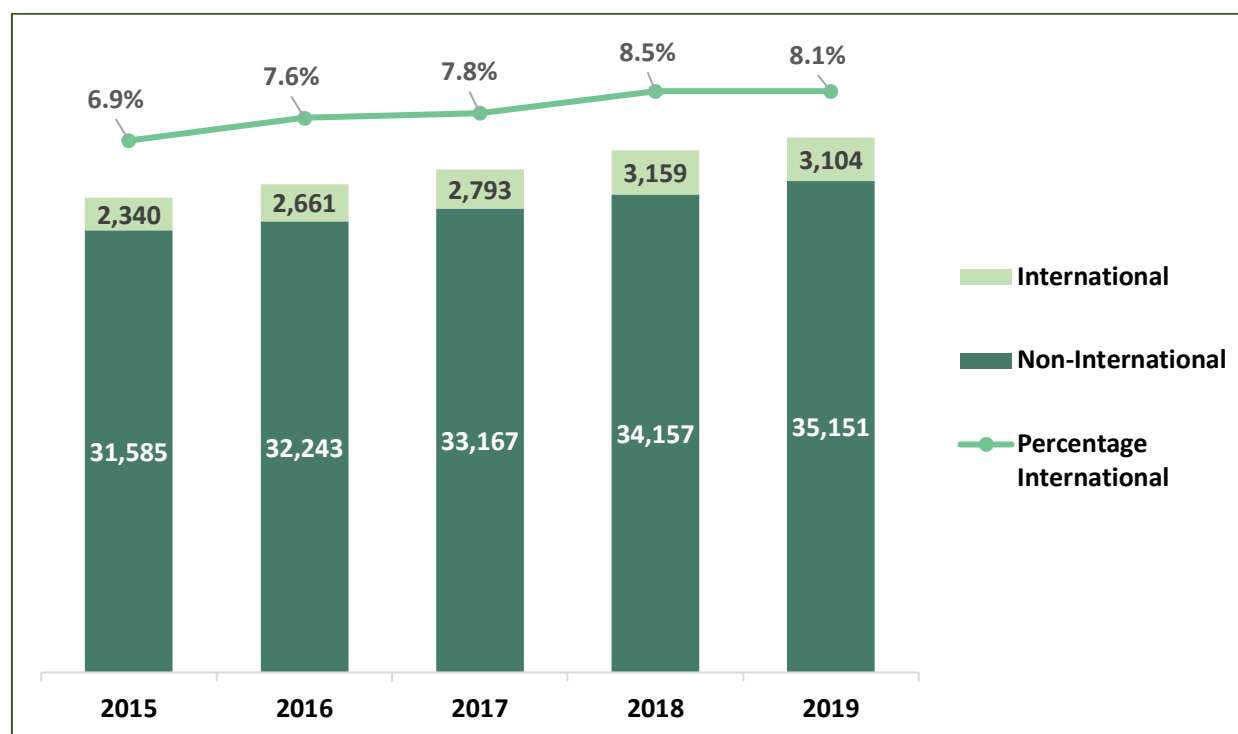


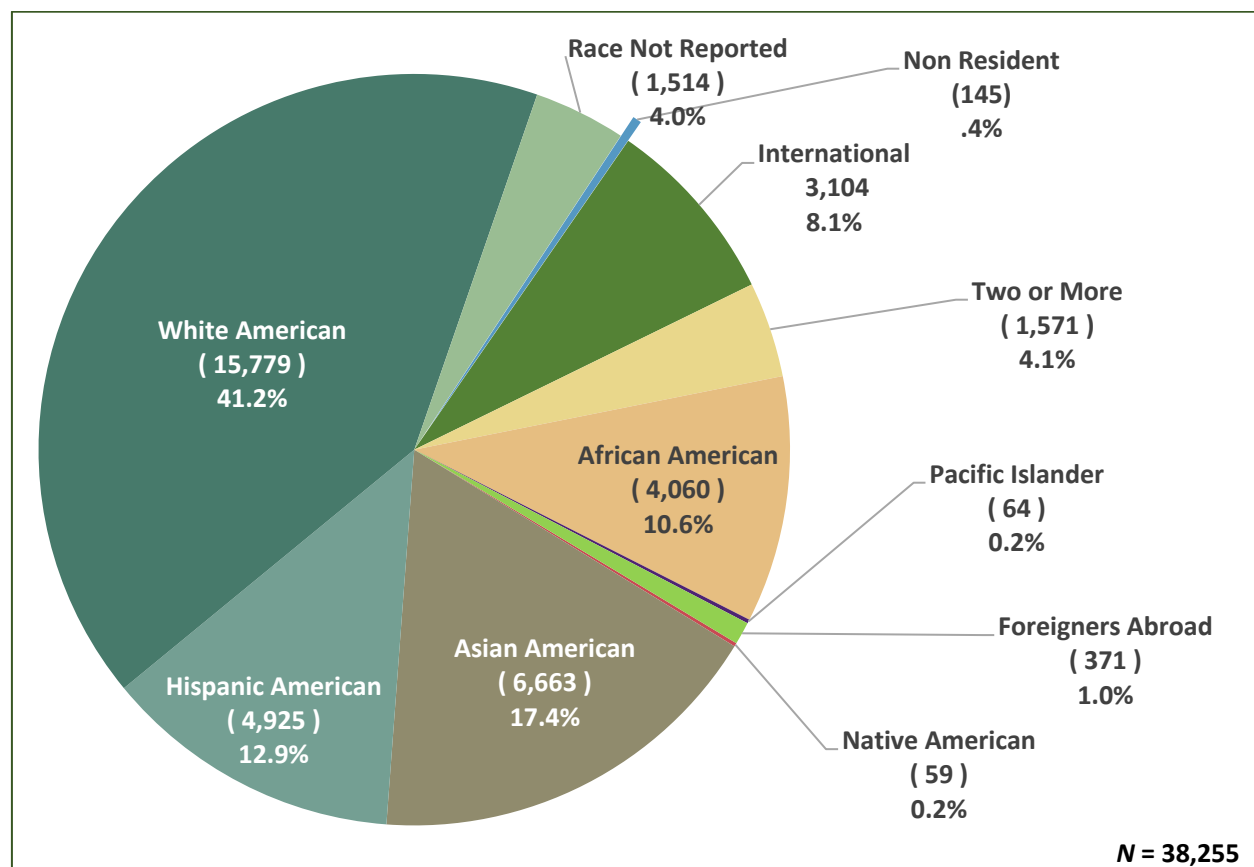
Figure 3. International Students as a Percentage of University Enrollment, 2015 - 2019



From this point forward, no figures/tables will include information of Mason Korea unless specifically mentioned.

$$N_i = 3,104$$

Figure 4. International Students in the Context of Campus Diversity, Fall 2019



Notes:

1. The graph above provides context for the representation of international students in the University's diversity statistics.
2. This figure delineates the relevant demographic differently than the other figures in this report; the data in this graph should not be compared to data elsewhere in this report.
3. The demographic categories in this figure are derived from the categories the University is required to use when reporting diversity statistics to the federal government.
4. The category "Foreigners Abroad" is a category used only internally to indicate international students who are not physically present in the US during their studies, which generally includes international students at our Korea campus and international students taking online courses from outside the US. For government reporting, these students are included in the larger "International" category.

Figure 5. International Students by Visa Type, Fall 2019

N_i = 3,104, does not include Mason Korea

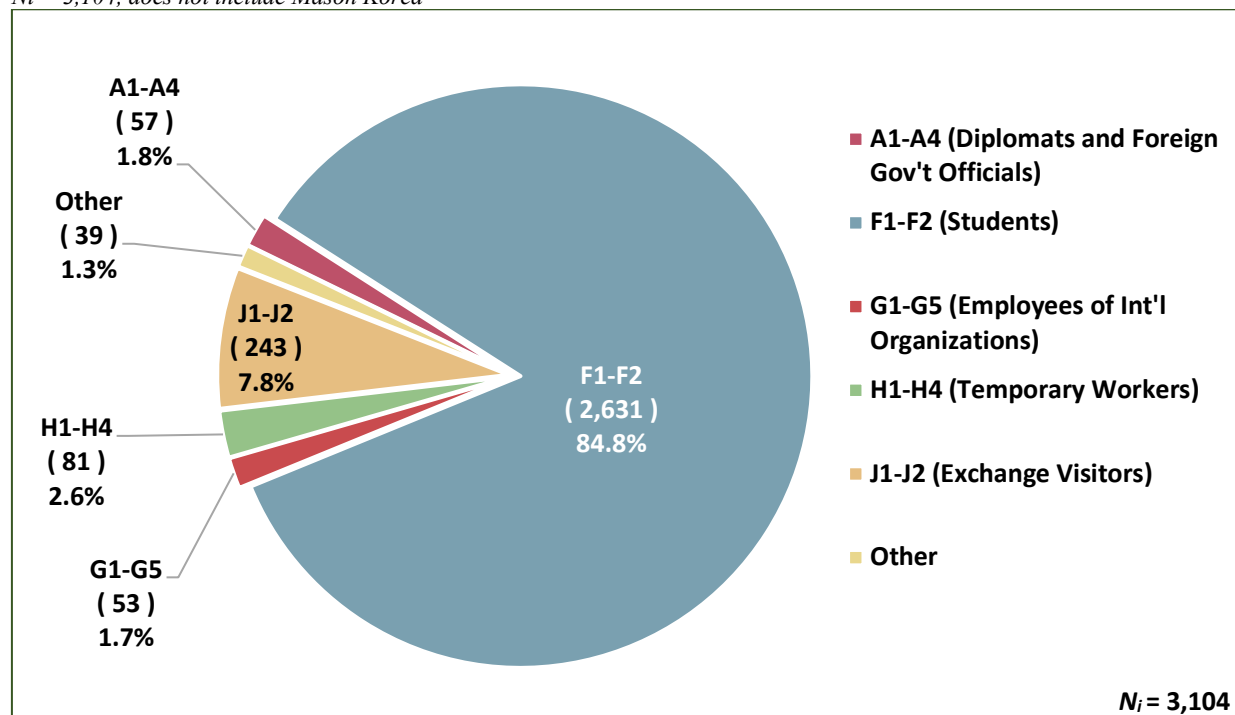
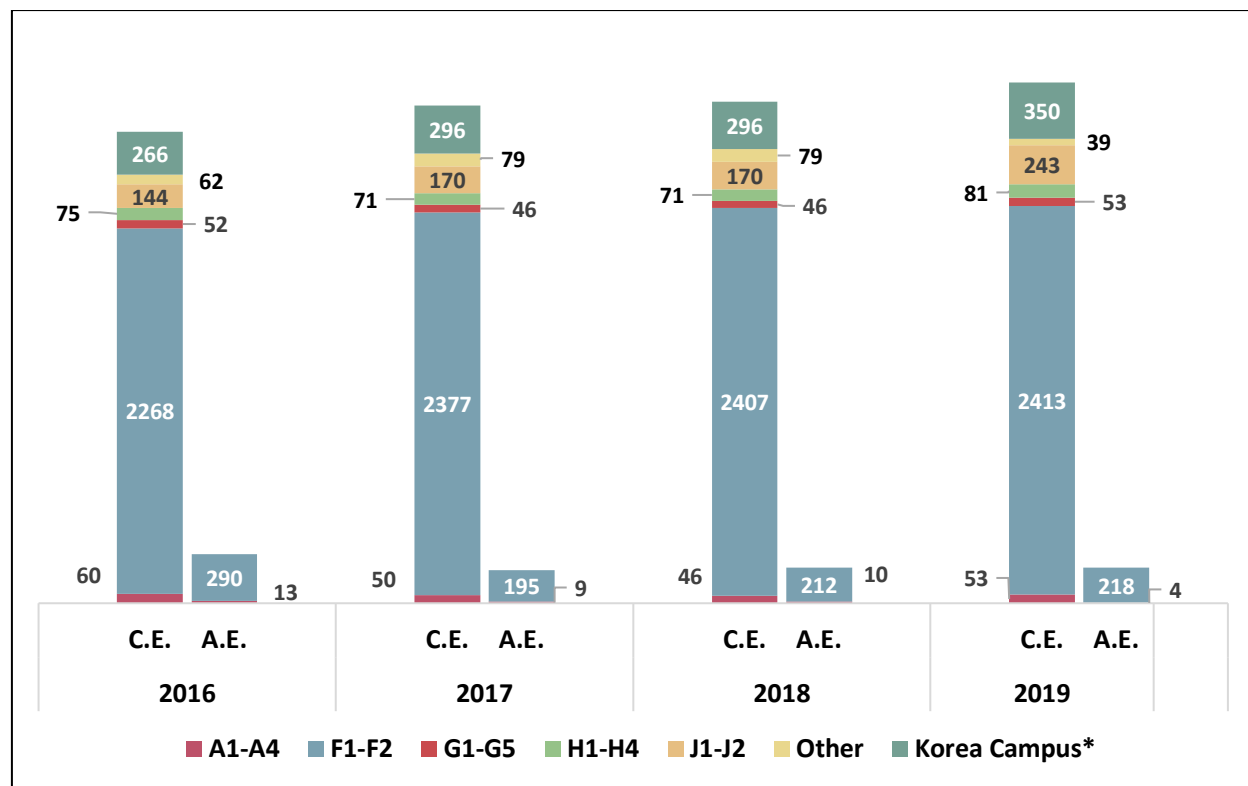


Table 1. International Students by Visa Type, 2016-2019



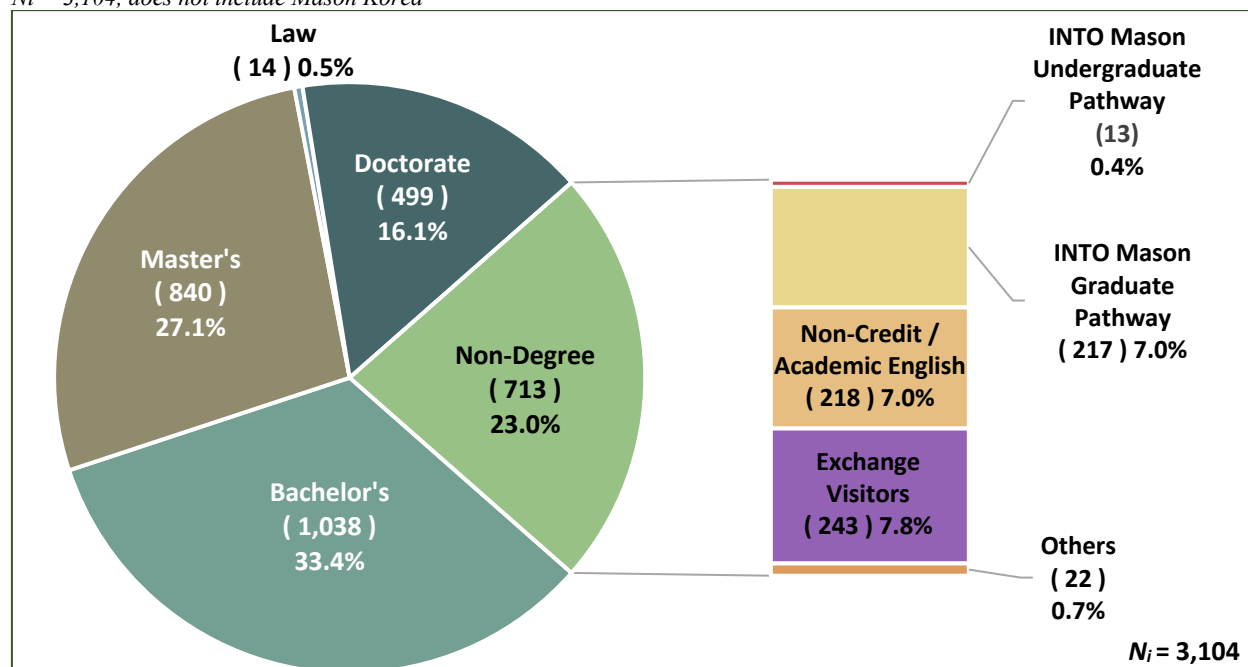
C.B. is "Credit-Bearing"; A.E. is "Academic English".

* Students enrolled at the Korea Campus do not require US visas since they remain outside the US.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY LEVEL

Figure 6. International Students by Level, Fall 2019

N_i = 3,104, does not include Mason Korea



"Other" includes non-degree international students who are not part of the INTO Mason Pathways program, and international students attending Mason through a consortium agreement.

Figure 7. International Students by Level, 2015 – 2019

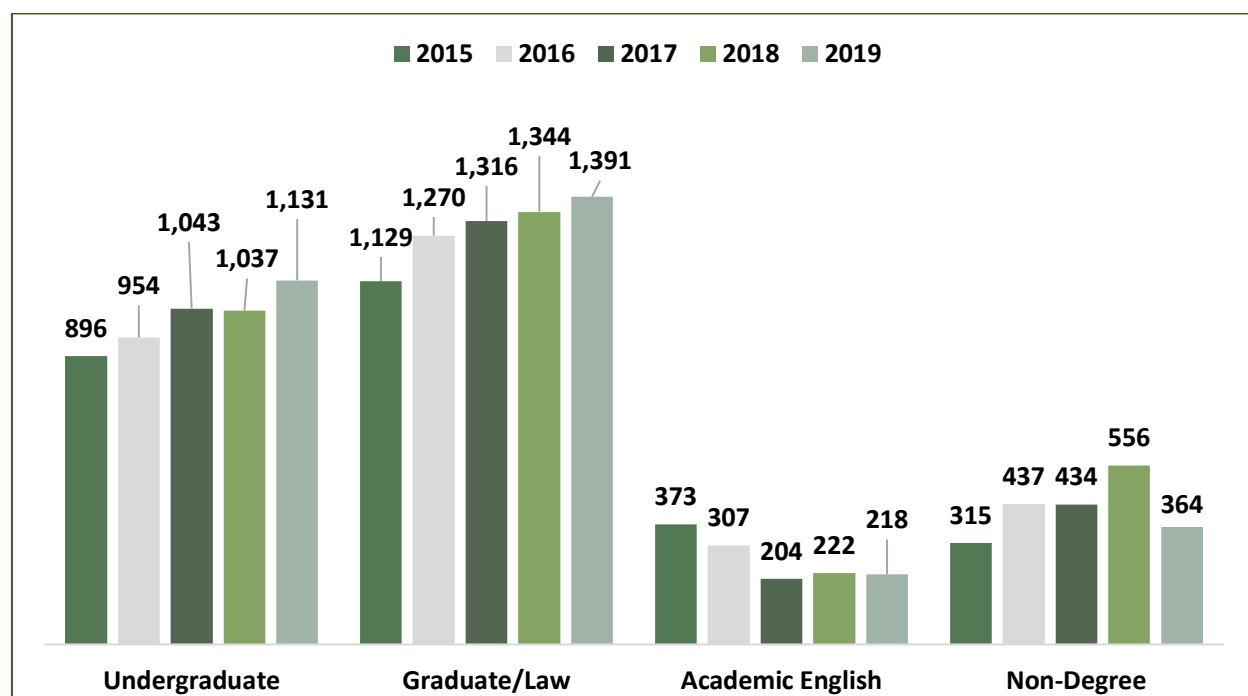


Figure 8. International Students by Level and Region, Fall 2019

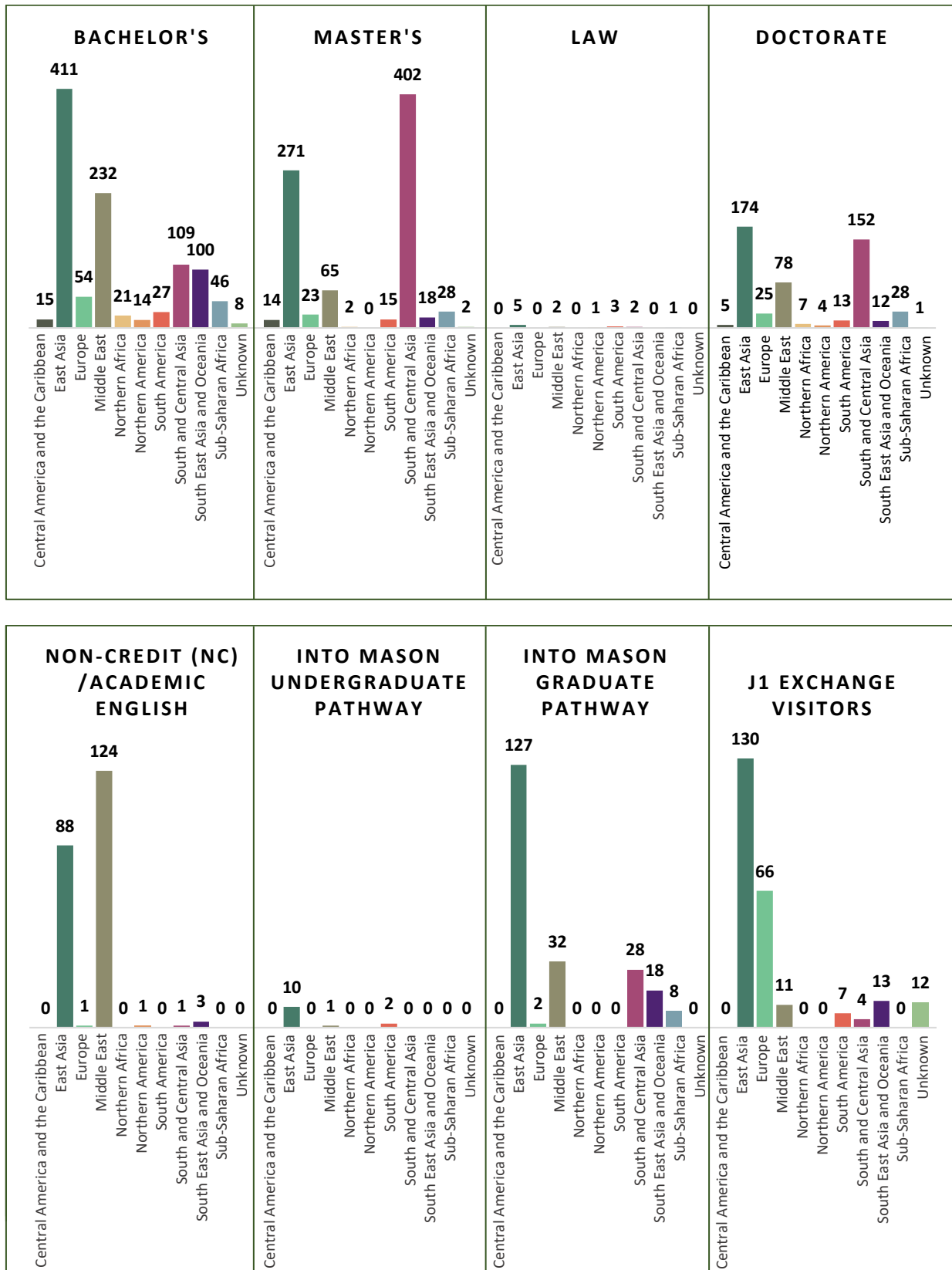


Figure 9. International Students by Level and School, Fall 2019

Note: INTO Mason Pathway and Academic English students are not included in this table.

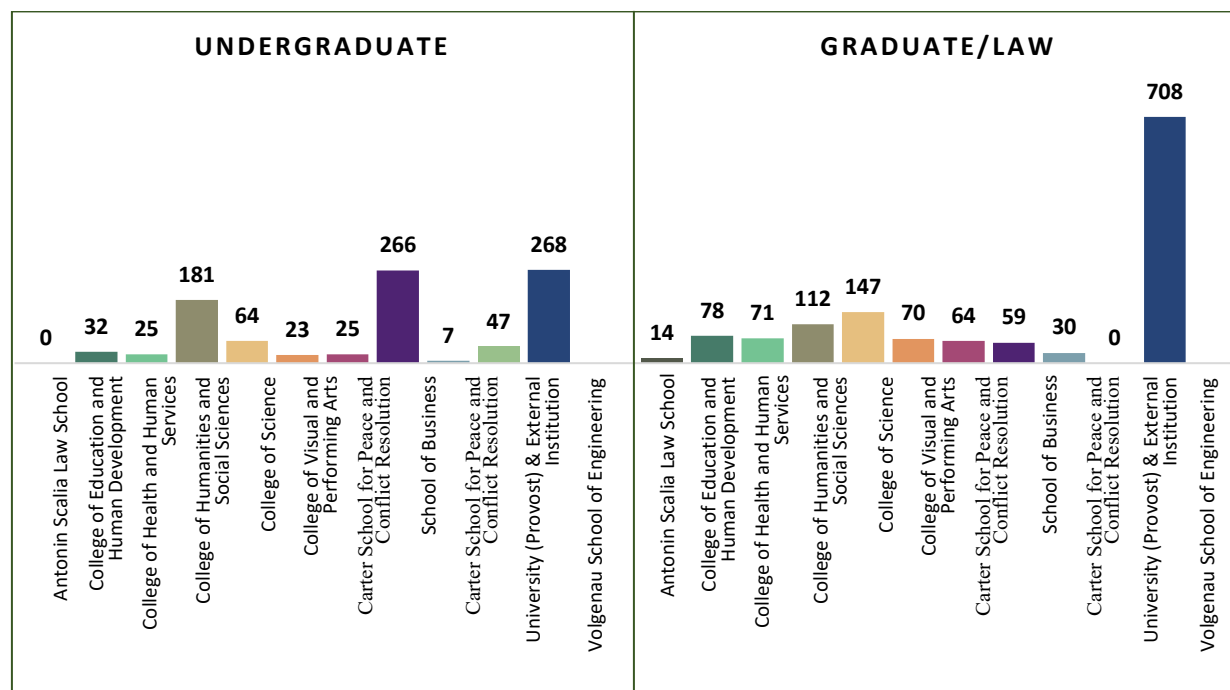


Table 2. International Students by Level and School, Fall 2019

	Undergraduate	Graduate/Law	Non-credit Academic English	INTO Mason Undergraduate Pathway	INTO Mason Graduate Pathway	Exchange Visitors & Others	TOTAL
Antonin Scalia Law School		14				3	17
College of Education and Human Development	32	78				6	116
College of Health and Human Services	25	71				7	103
College of Humanities and Social Sciences	181	112			1	57	351
College of Science	64	147				11	222
College of Visual and Performing Arts	23	70				10	103
INTO Mason			218	13	214	3	448
Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution	25	64				19	108
School of Business	366	59				92	517
Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution	7	30				2	39
University (Provost) & External Institution	47					14	61
Volgenau School of Engineering	268	708				43	1019
TOTAL	1038	1353	218	13	215	267	3,104

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY SCHOOL

Figure 10. International Students by School, Fall 2019

N_i = 3,104, does not include Mason Korea

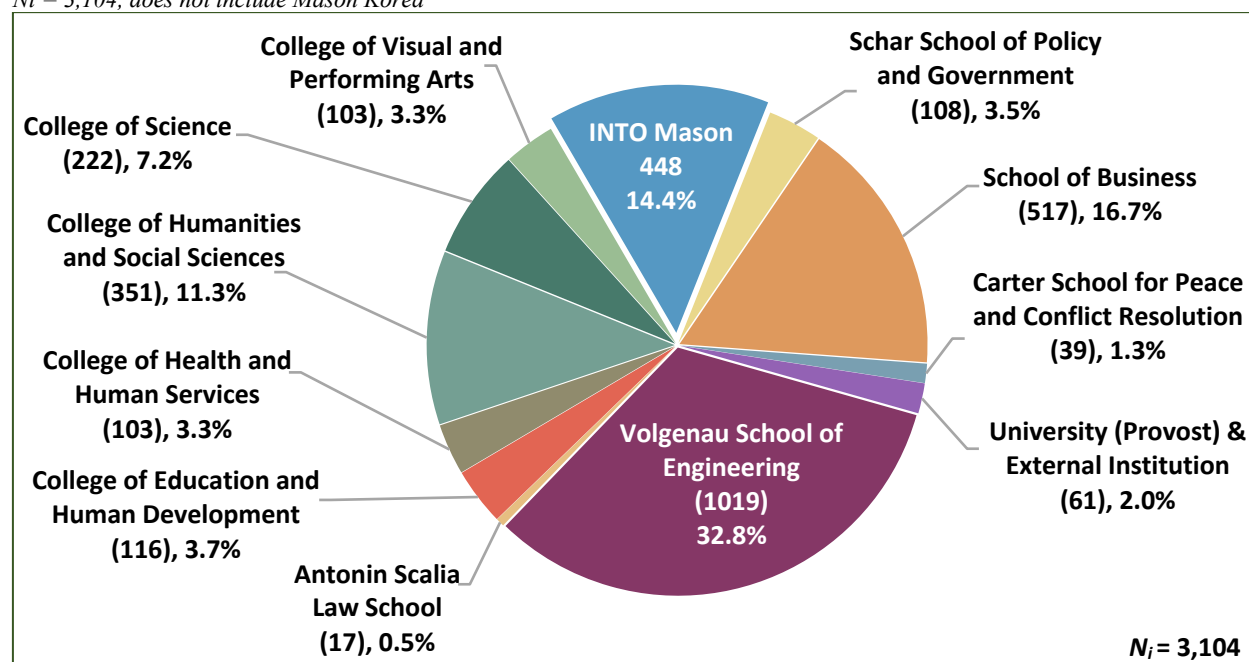


Table 3. International Students by School, 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Antonin Scalia Law School	14	20	16	22	17
Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution	37	37	38	43	39
College of Education and Human Development	75	79	108	141	116
College of Health and Human Services	84	108	111	115	103
College of Humanities and Social Sciences	291	283	318	350	351
College of Science	196	196	212	222	222
College of Visual and Performing Arts	48	56	76	110	103
INTO Mason - Academic English	373	307	204	222	218
INTO Mason – Pathways	272	380	366	289	230
Schar School of Policy and Government	94	87	83	97	108
School of Business	314	387	423	508	517
University and External Institution	52	73	101	78	61
Volgenau School of Engineering	855	955	941	962	1019
TOTAL	2,713	2,968	2,997	3,159	3,104

Table 4. International Students by School and Region, Fall 2019

	Central America and the Caribbean	East Asia	Europe	Middle East	Northern Africa	Northern America	South America	South and Central Asia	South East Asia and Oceania	Sub-Saharan Africa	Unknown	TOTAL
Antonin Scalia Law School		5		2		1	3	2		1	3	17
College of Education and Human Development	3	51	16	16		3	5	10	8	4		116
College of Health and Human Services		28	3	33	1		1	27	4	4	2	103
College of Humanities and Social Sciences	10	141	48	72	2	4	10	25	19	17	3	351
College of Science	4	61	13	50	4	1	7	50	15	16	1	222
College of Visual and Performing Arts	2	80	4	5			4	4	3		1	103
INTO Mason		225	2	159		1	2	29	21	8	1	448
Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution	3	31	15	22	3		8	11	6	8	1	108
School of Business	6	328	33	43	5	3	9	34	38	16	2	517
Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution	1	6	3	7	2	1		7	1	10	1	39
University (Provost) & External Institution		23	3	11			1	5	10		8	61
Volgenau School of Engineering	5	245	32	128	13	6	19	500	40	28	3	1019
TOTAL	34	1224	172	548	30	20	69	704	165	112	26	3104

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY REGION

Figure 11. International Students by Region, Fall 2019

N_i = 3,104, does not include Mason Korea

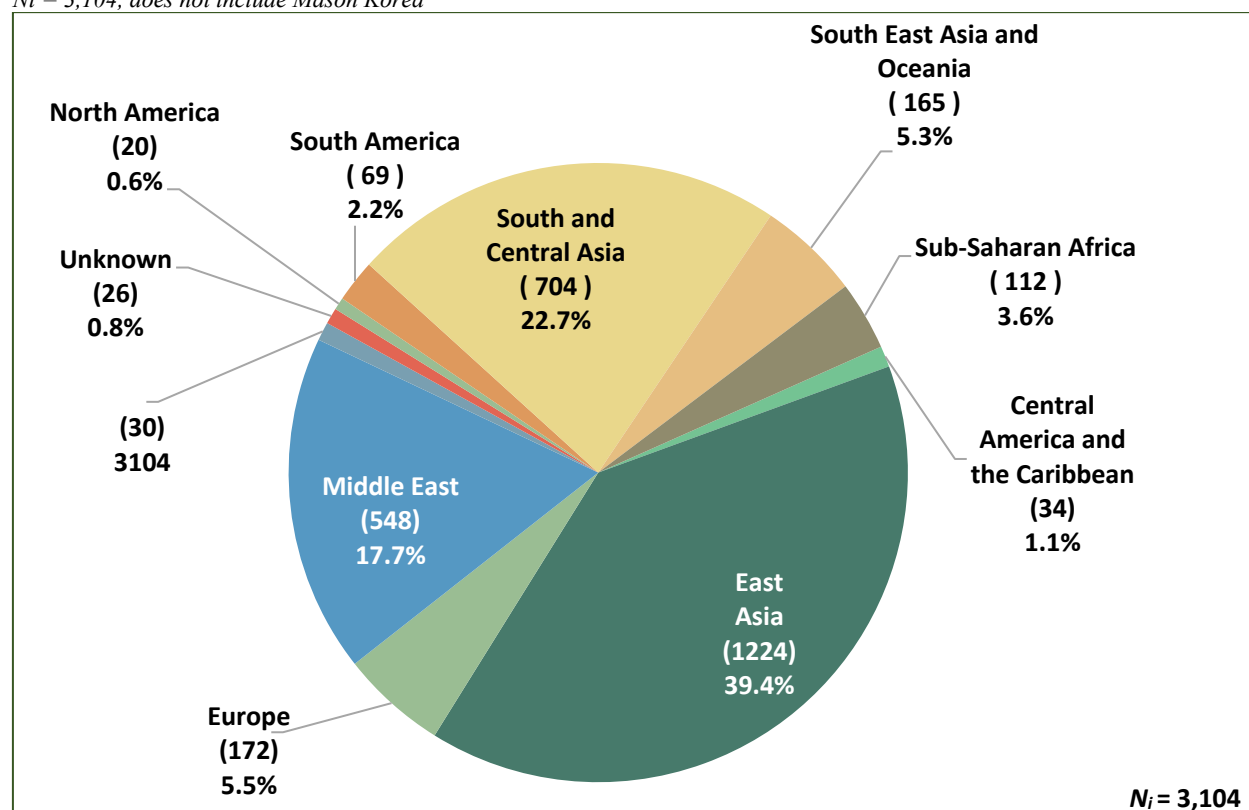


Table 5. International Students by Region, 2015 - 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Central America and the Caribbean	38	32	38	45	34
East Asia	707	974	1,138	1,304	1224
Europe	114	111	139	203	172
Middle East	423	429	413	513	548
North Africa	40	41	40	44	30
North America	20	20	21	20	20
South America	63	54	63	74	69
South and Central Asia	702	748	693	666	704
South East Asia and Oceania	128	134	129	153	165
Sub-Saharan Africa	88	95	93	102	112
Unknown	17	23	26	35	26
Total	2,340	2,661	2,793	3,159	3,104

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY COUNTRY

Table 6. International Students by Country (Alphabetical), Fall 2019

Afghanistan	3	Haiti	1	Pakistan	39
Albania	2	Honduras	4	Panama	1
Angola	2	Hong Kong	7	Peru	13
Antigua and Barbuda	1	Hungary	1	Philippines	7
Argentina	4	Iceland	2	Poland	2
Armenia	1	India	511	Portugal	2
Australia	12	Indonesia	26	Qatar	23
Austria	2	Iran	58	Romania	1
Azerbaijan	13	Iraq	4	Russia	12
Bahrain	3	Ireland	1	Saint Kitts and Nevis	1
Bangladesh	53	Israel	6	Saudi Arabia	345
Barbados	2	Italy	8	Senegal	1
Belarus	3	Jamaica	5	Sierra Leone	2
Belgium	4	Japan	26	Singapore	5
Bermuda	1	Jordan	8	South Africa	2
Bolivia	10	Kazakhstan	9	Spain	30
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	Kenya	12	Sri Lanka	4
Brazil	20	Korea, South	201	Sudan	4
Bulgaria	1	Kosovo, Republic of	1	Sweden	2
Burkina Faso	1	Kuwait	18	Switzerland	1
Cambodia	3	Kyrgyzstan	2	Syria	1
Cameroon	1	Laos	1	Taiwan	83
Canada	19	Latvia	1	Tajikistan	3
Cayman Islands	2	Lebanon	6	Tanzania	2
Chile	3	Libya	1	Thailand	23
China	900	Lithuania	1	Trinidad and Tobago	2
Colombia	12	Macau	1	Tunisia	2
Congo, Dem Rep of (Zaire)	9	Macedonia	1	Turkey	35
Costa Rica	1	Madagascar	3	Uganda	2
Cote d'Ivoire	5	Malawi	1	Ukraine	6
Cyprus	2	Malaysia	3	United Arab Emirates	69
Denmark	2	Mali	1	United Kingdom	20
Ecuador	1	Mauritania	2	Uzbekistan	4
Egypt	19	Mauritius	2	Venezuela	5
El Salvador	5	Mexico	8	Vietnam	84
Ethiopia	12	Mongolia	6	West Bank	2
Finland	3	Morocco	4	Yemen	3
France	15	Myanmar (Burma)	1	Zambia	1
Gabon	2	Nepal	18	Zimbabwe	1
Georgia	3	Netherlands	16	Unknown	26
Germany	23	Nicaragua	1		
Ghana	11	Nigeria	37		
Greece	4	Norway	4		
Guyana	1	Oman	6		
				TOTAL	3,104

Table 7. International Students by Country (Rank Order), Fall 2019

China	900	Lebanon	6	Sierra Leone	2
India	511	Mongolia	6	South Africa	2
Saudi Arabia	345	Oman	6	Sweden	2
Korea, South	201	Ukraine	6	Tanzania	2
Vietnam	84	Cote d'Ivoire	5	Trinidad and Tobago	2
Taiwan	83	El Salvador	5	Tunisia	2
United Arab Emirates	69	Jamaica	5	Uganda	2
Iran	58	Singapore	5	West Bank	2
Bangladesh	53	Venezuela	5	Antigua and Barbuda	1
Pakistan	39	Argentina	4	Armenia	1
Nigeria	37	Belgium	4	Bermuda	1
Turkey	35	Greece	4	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1
Spain	30	Honduras	4	Bulgaria	1
Indonesia	26	Iraq	4	Burkina Faso	1
Japan	26	Morocco	4	Cameroon	1
Unknown	26	Norway	4	Costa Rica	1
Germany	23	Sri Lanka	4	Ecuador	1
Qatar	23	Sudan	4	Guyana	1
Thailand	23	Uzbekistan	4	Haiti	1
Brazil	20	Afghanistan	3	Hungary	1
United Kingdom	20	Bahrain	3	Ireland	1
Canada	19	Belarus	3	Kosovo, Republic of	1
Egypt	19	Cambodia	3	Laos	1
Kuwait	18	Chile	3	Latvia	1
Nepal	18	Finland	3	Libya	1
Netherlands	16	Georgia	3	Lithuania	1
France	15	Madagascar	3	Macau	1
Azerbaijan	13	Malaysia	3	Macedonia	1
Peru	13	Tajikistan	3	Malawi	1
Australia	12	Yemen	3	Mali	1
Colombia	12	Albania	2	Myanmar (Burma)	1
Ethiopia	12	Angola	2	Nicaragua	1
Kenya	12	Austria	2	Panama	1
Russia	12	Barbados	2	Romania	1
Ghana	11	Cayman Islands	2	Saint Kitts and Nevis	1
Bolivia	10	Cyprus	2	Senegal	1
Congo, Dem Rep of (Zaire)	9	Denmark	2	Switzerland	1
Kazakhstan	9	Gabon	2	Syria	1
Italy	8	Iceland	2	Zambia	1
Jordan	8	Kyrgyzstan	2	Unknown	26
Mexico	8	Mauritania	2		
Hong Kong	7	Mauritius	2		
Philippines	7	Poland	2		
Israel	6	Portugal	2		
				TOTAL	3,104

Figure 12. International Students by Country, Fall 2019

N_i = 3,104, does not include Mason Korea

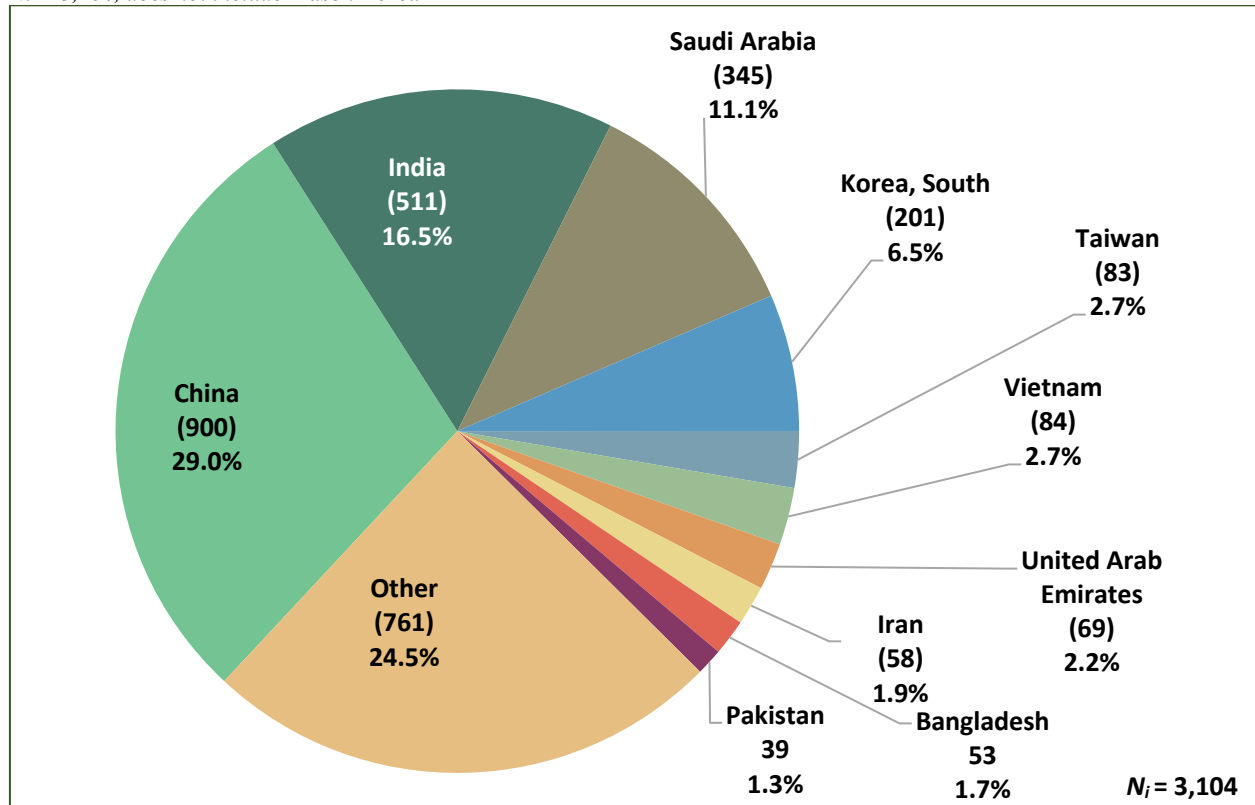
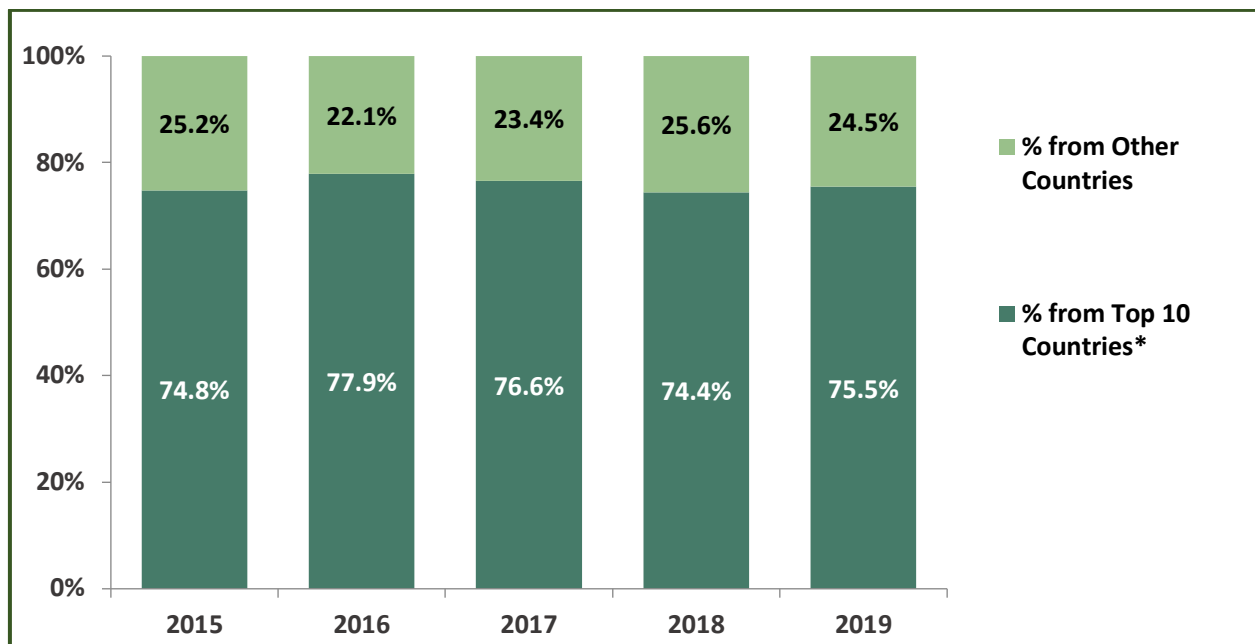


Figure 13. International Students by Country, 2015-2019

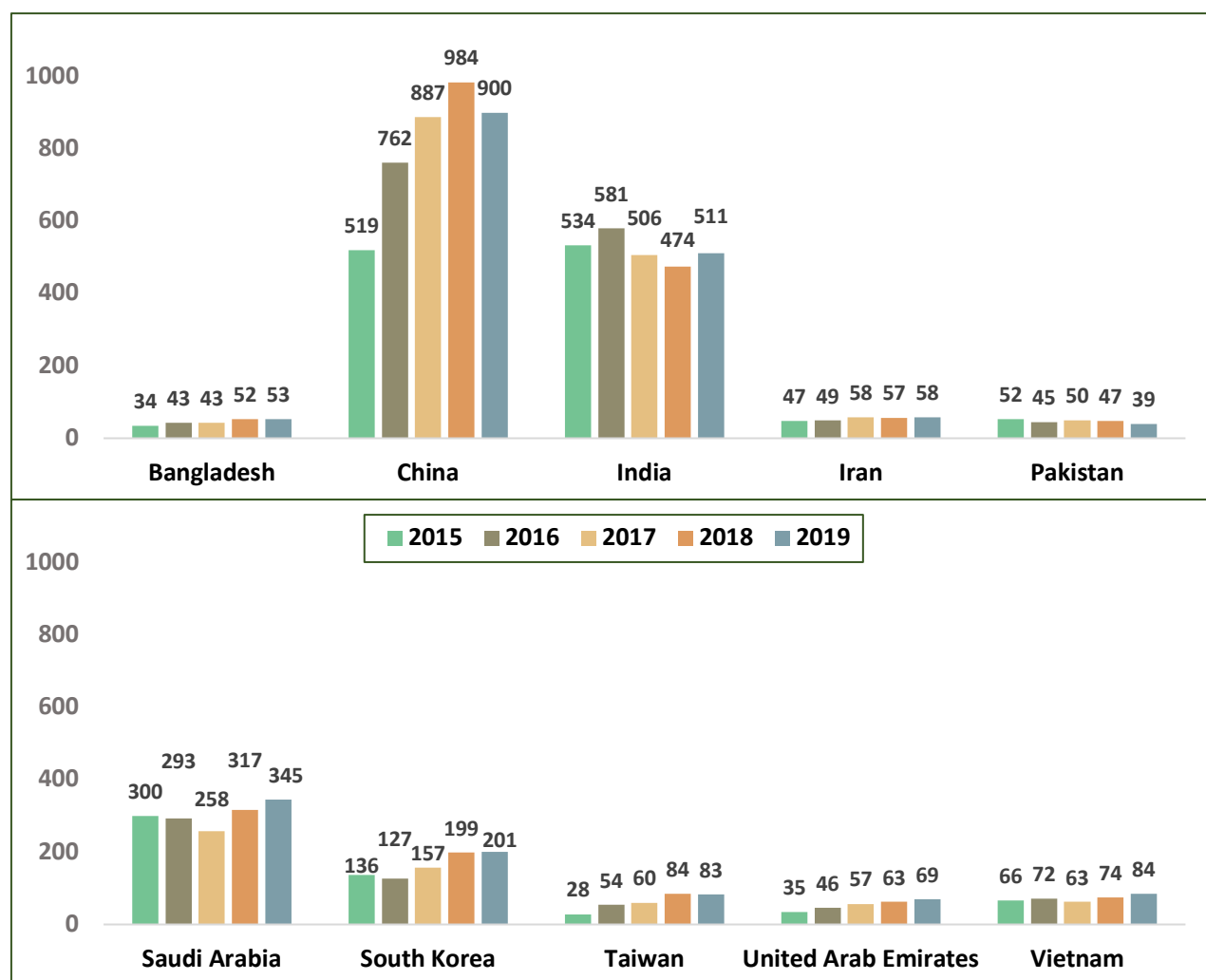


* Top 10 countries vary in each year depending on enrollment.

Table 8. Top Ten Countries for International Students, Fall 2019

Rank	Country	Count
1	China	900
2	India	511
3	Saudi Arabia	345
4	South Korea	201
5	Vietnam	84
6	Taiwan	83
7	United Arab Emirates	69
8	Iran	58
9	Bangladesh	53
10	Pakistan	39
	Total	2,343

Figure 14. International Students from Select Top Countries, 2014-2019



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY GENDER

Figure 15. International Students by Gender, Fall 2019

N_i = 3,104, does not include Mason Korea

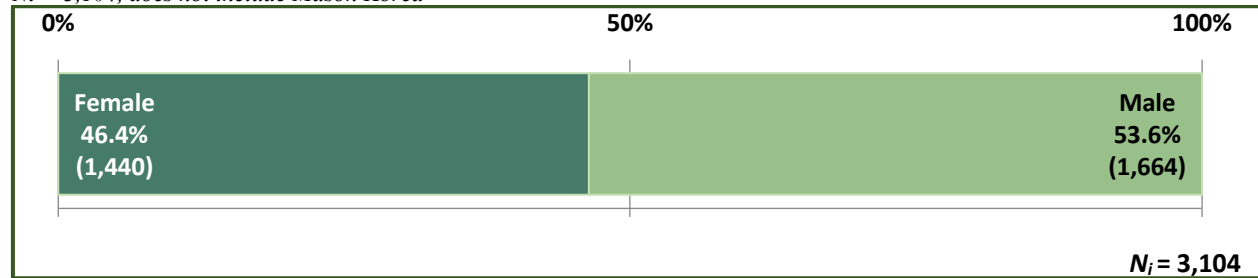


Figure 16. Gender of International Students by Region, Fall 2019

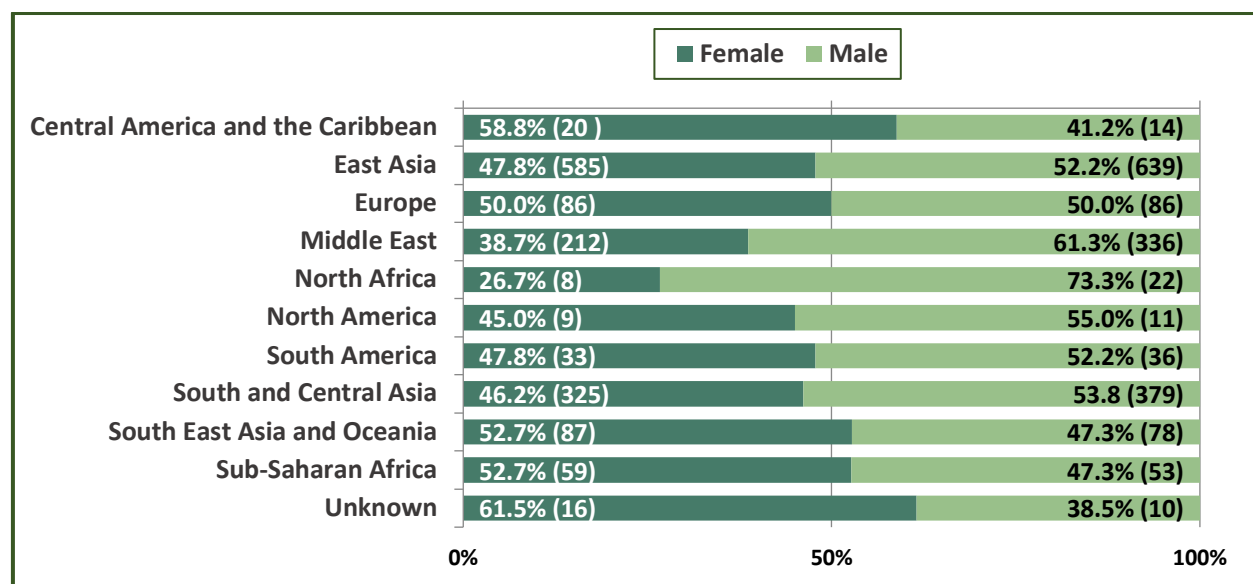
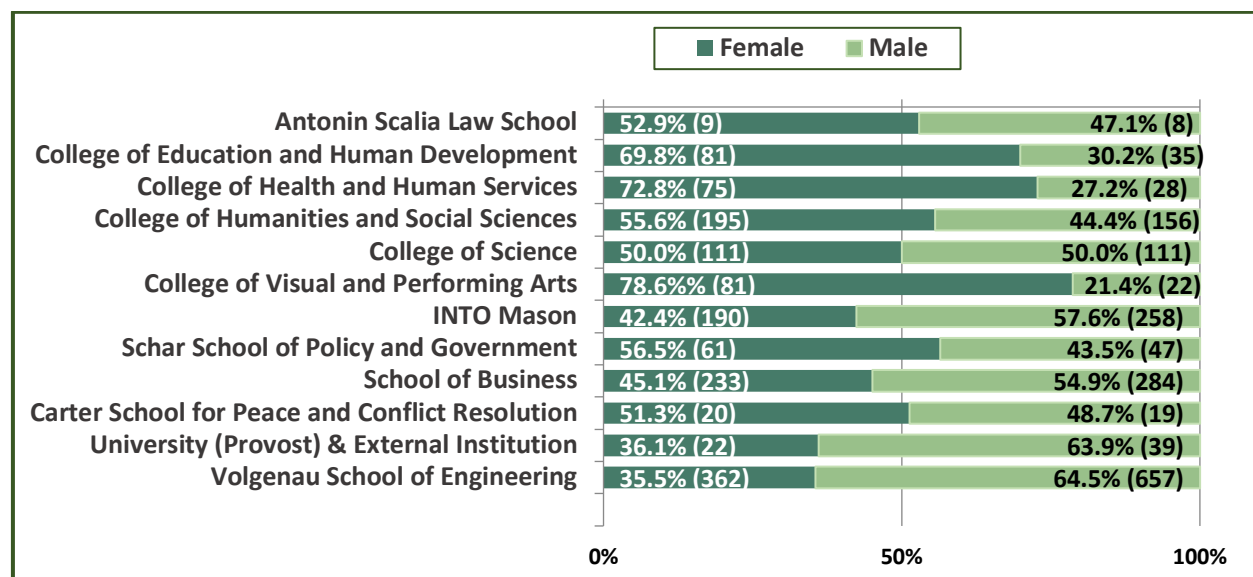


Figure 17. Gender of International Students by School, Fall 2019



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY HOUSING

Figure 18. International Students as a Percentage of University Housing, Fall 2019

Ni = 3,104, does not include Mason Korea

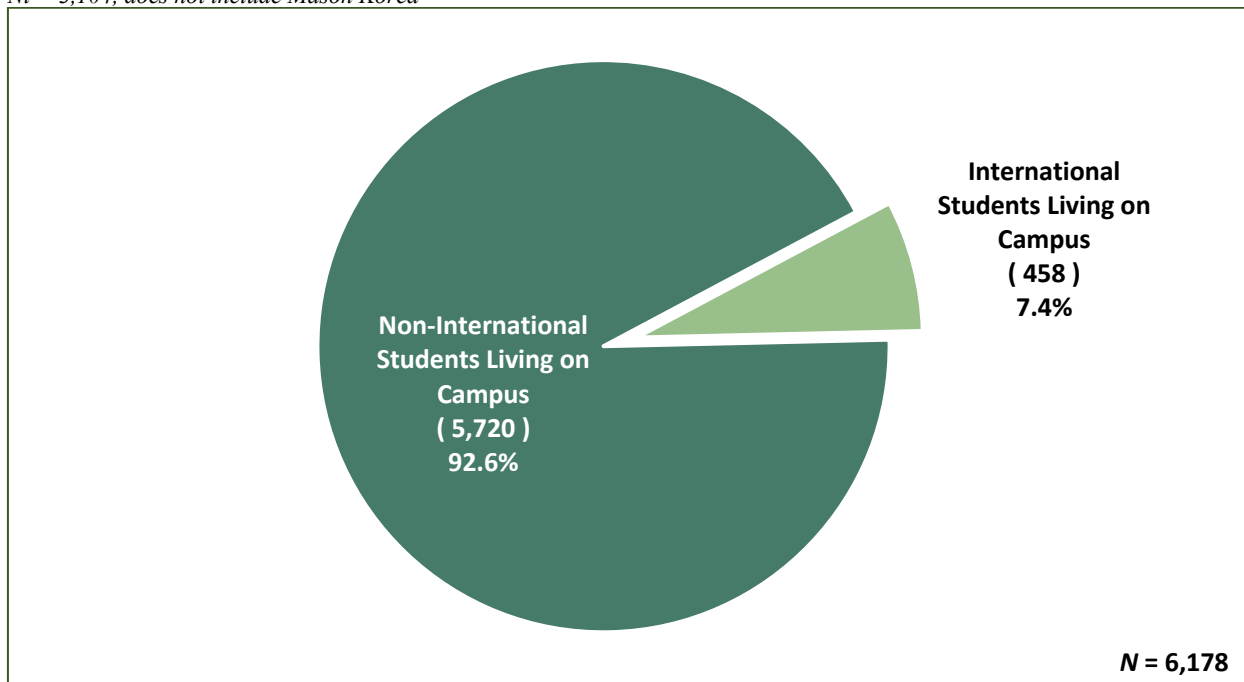
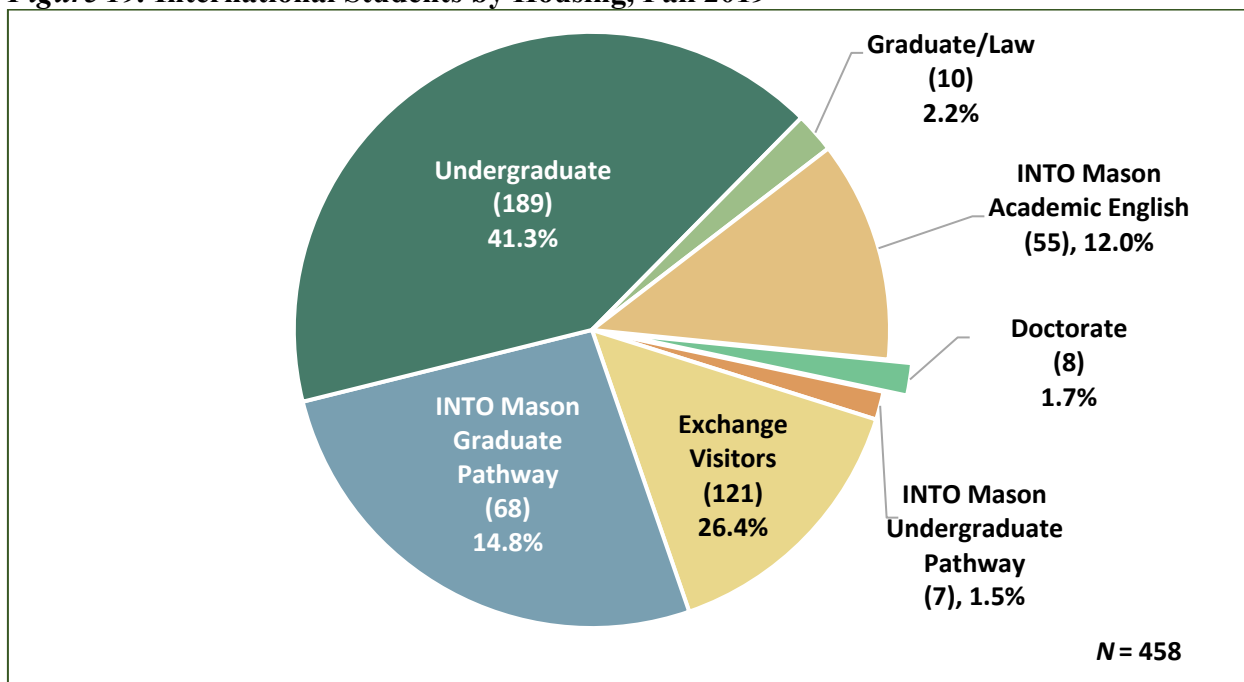


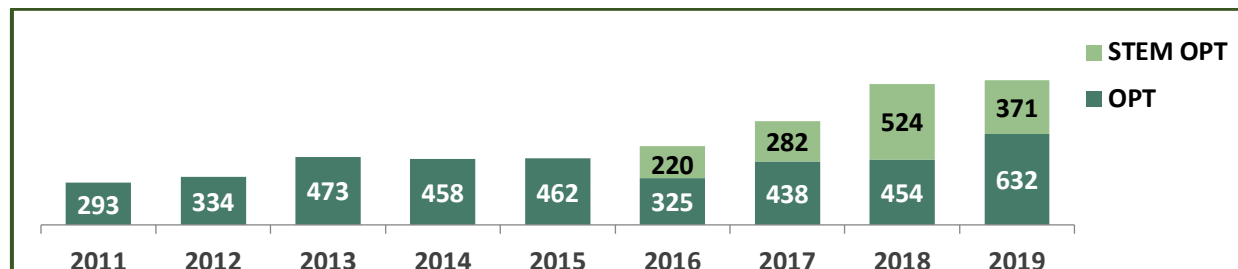
Figure 19. International Students by Housing, Fall 2019



SPECIAL POPULATION

OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT)

Figure 20. International Students in Optional Practical Training (OPT), 2011–2019



Note: These data are not part of the official University census and are based on records maintained in Office of International Programs and Services. As of May 10, 2016, students in STEM fields have been able to request a total of 36 months of OPT. The increase in the number of OPT students reflects this change.

INTERNATIONAL EMPLOYEES

Table 9. Mason-Sponsored International Employees, Fall 2019

Visa Type	2019
H1-B, Skilled Worker	56
O-1, Extraordinary Ability	6
E-3, Australian	3
TN NAFTA Professionals	2
TOTAL	67

Note: These data are not part of the official University census and are based on records maintained in the Office of International Programs and Services.

INTO MASON

Table 11. INTO Mason Enrollment, 2015–2019

Please see the *Definition of Terms* for a description of INTO Mason's programs.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Academic English	373	307	204	222	218
Pathways	272	380	366	286	230
TOTAL	645	687	570	508	440

EXCHANGE VISITORS

Table 10. Mason-Sponsored Exchange Visitor Students and Scholars (J visas), 2014–2019

Category/Cohort	July 2014 – June 2015	July 2015 – June 2016	July 2016 – June 2017	July 2017 – June 2019	July 2019 – June 2019
J-1 Exchange Visitor Scholars and Professors	163	155	134	105	116
J-1 Exchange Visitor Students	170	111	150	239	217
Total	333	266	284	344	333
J-2 Dependents*	113	92	83	50	67
Total with Dependents**	518	398	367	394	402

* J-2 Dependents are generally spouses and children who accompany J-1 exchange visitors to the U.S.

MASON KOREA

Note: This data includes ONLY non-US students.

Figure 21. International Students at Mason Korea Campus, 2015–2019

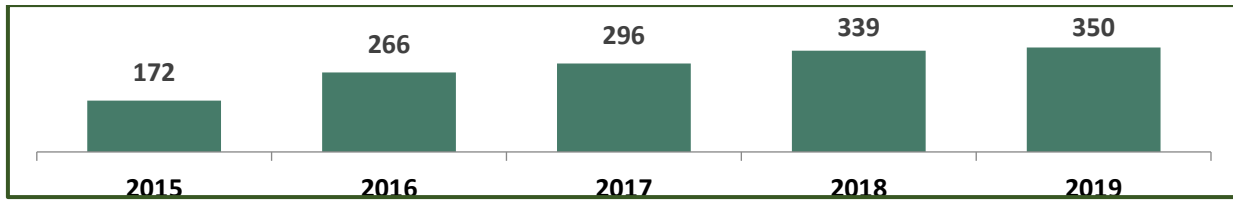


Table 10. International Students at Mason Korea Campus, 2015–2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Canada		1		1	1
Ecuador					1
El Salvador		1			
Ethiopia				2	1
Georgia	1	1	1	1	
India				1	1
Iraq				1	1
Pakistan					
Russia				1	1
South Korea	139	260	293	331	331
Switzerland		1	1		
Venezuela			1	1	1
Zambia	2	2			
Unknown	30				
TOTAL	172	266	296	339	339

Figure 22. International Students at Mason Korea by Gender, Fall 2019

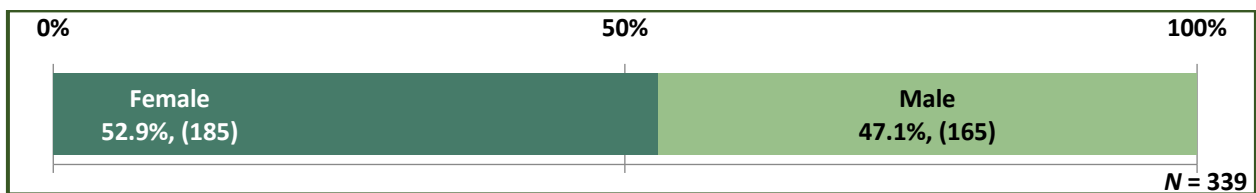
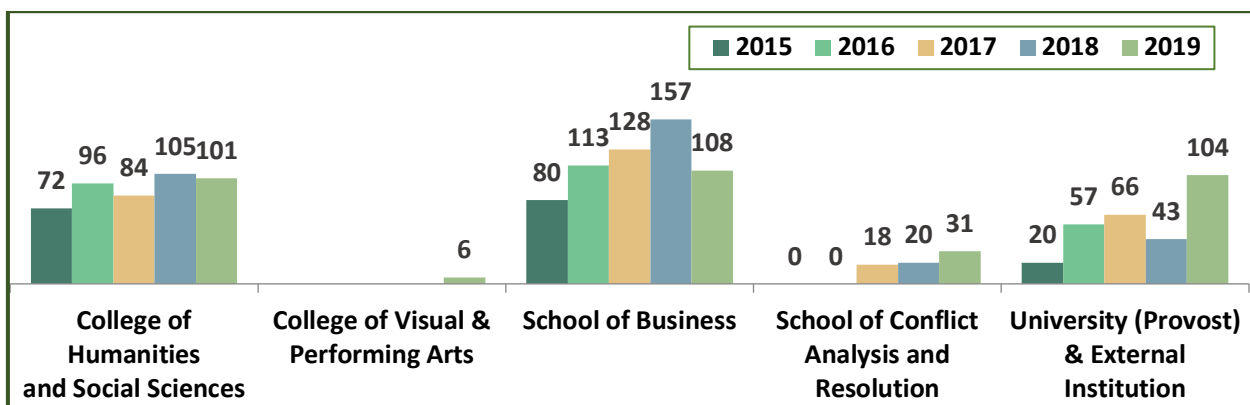


Figure 23. International Students at Mason Korea by School, Fall 2019



APPENDIX

COUNTRY BY REGION

Notes: Countries not represented by international students for Fall 2019 are not included in this list. This list is representative of international students in all visa categories and at all campuses.

Central America and the

Caribbean

Antigua and Barbuda
Barbados
Cayman Islands
Costa Rica
El Salvador
Haiti
Honduras
Jamaica
Mexico
Nicaragua
Panama
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Trinidad and Tobago

East Asia

China
Hong Kong
Japan
Korea, South
Macau
Mongolia
Taiwan

Europe

Albania
Austria
Belarus
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Kosovo, Republic of
Latvia
Lithuania
Macedonia
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania

Russia

Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Ukraine
United Kingdom

Middle East

Armenia
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Cyprus
Gaza Strip
Iraq
Israel
Jordan
Kuwait
Lebanon
Oman
Qatar
Saudi Arabia
Syria
Turkey
United Arab Emirates
West Bank
Yemen

North Africa

Egypt
Libya
Morocco
Sudan
Tunisia

North America

Bermuda
Canada

South America

Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Ecuador
Guyana
Peru
Venezuela

South and Central Asia

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
India
Iran
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Nepal
Pakistan
Sri Lanka
Tajikistan
Uzbekistan

South East Asia and Oceania

Australia
Cambodia
Indonesia
Lao
Malaysia
Myanmar
Philippines
Singapore
Thailand
Vietnam

Sub-Saharan Africa

Angola
Burkina Faso
Cameroon
Congo, Dem Rep of
Cote d'Ivoire
Ethiopia
Gabon
Ghana
Kenya
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
Mauritius
Nigeria
Senegal
Sierra Leone
South Africa
Tanzania
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe