

International Students and Scholars Data Report

Academic Year 2020-2021

Office of International Programs and Services
George Mason University

4400 University Drive
MS 4C3, SUB 1 Suite 4300
Fairfax, VA 22030
703-993-2970

<http://oips.gmu.edu>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEFINITION OF TERMS.....	1
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS	4
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY LEVEL	8
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY SCHOOL.....	11
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY REGION.....	13
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY COUNTRY	14
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY GENDER.....	20
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY HOUSING	21
SPECIAL POPULATION.....	22
OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT)	22
INTERNATIONAL EMPLOYEES	22
INTO MASON.....	22
EXCHANGE VISITORS.....	22
MASON KOREA.....	23
APPENDIX.....	25
COUNTRY BY REGION	25

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 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:

- 3,340 - International students in all programs at all campuses
- 2,919 - 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
- East Asia
- Europe
- Middle East (*Western Asia*)
- North Africa
- North America
- South America
- South and Central Asia
- Southeast Asia and Oceania
- 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.

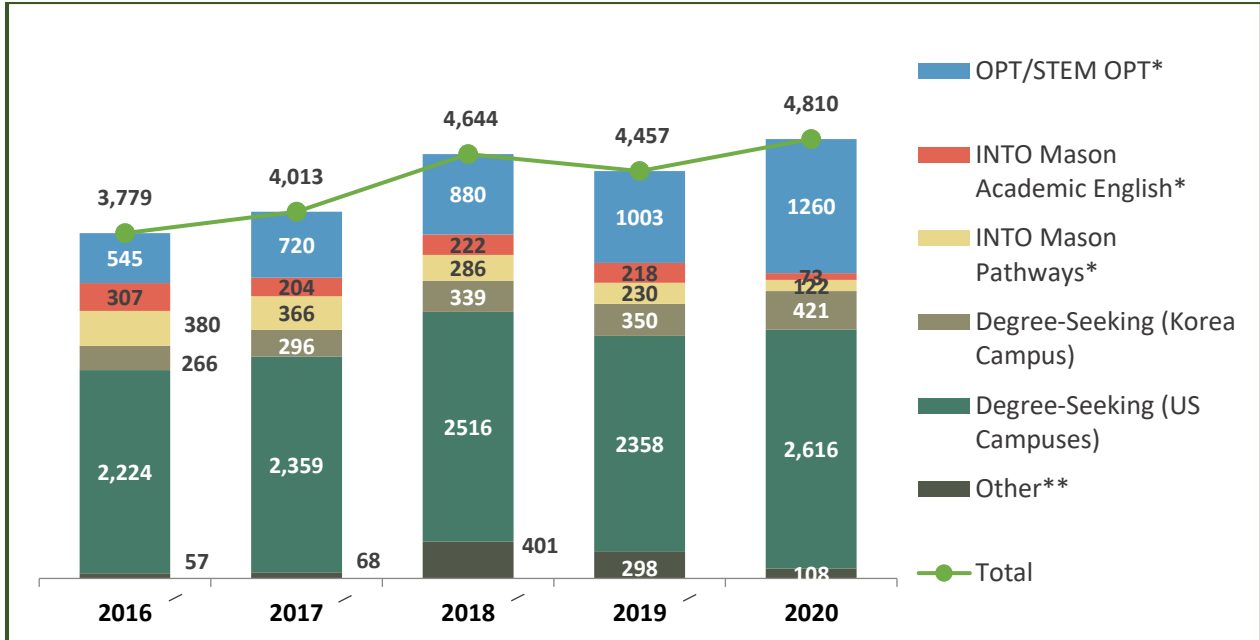
The exchange of professors and research scholars promotes the exchange of ideas, research, mutual enrichment and linkages between research and academic institutions in the US and foreign countries. Exchange Visitor students have the opportunity to study at American degree-granting post-secondary accredited 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, 2016-2020



* 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 2020

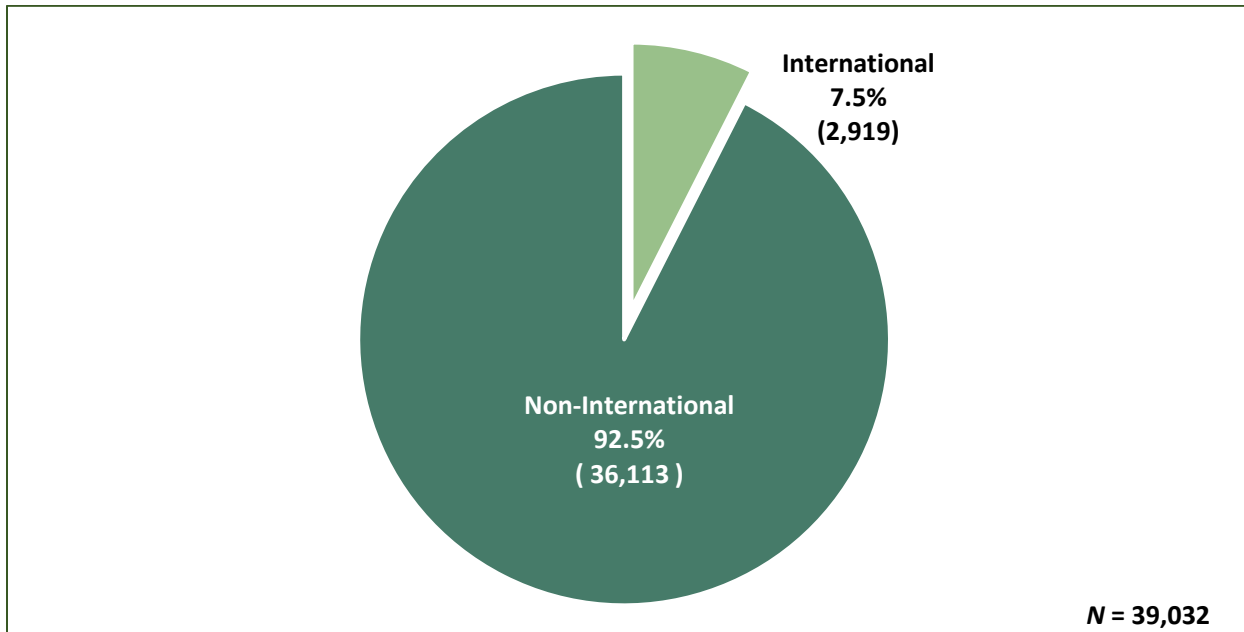
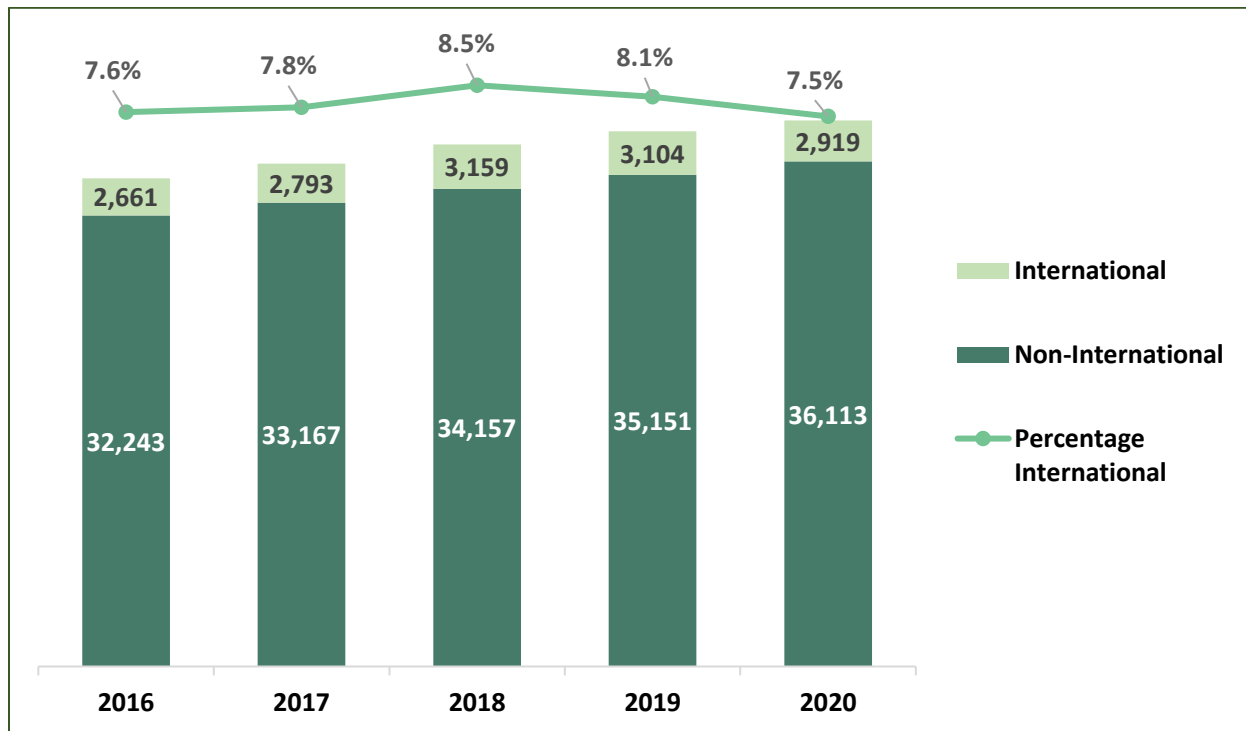


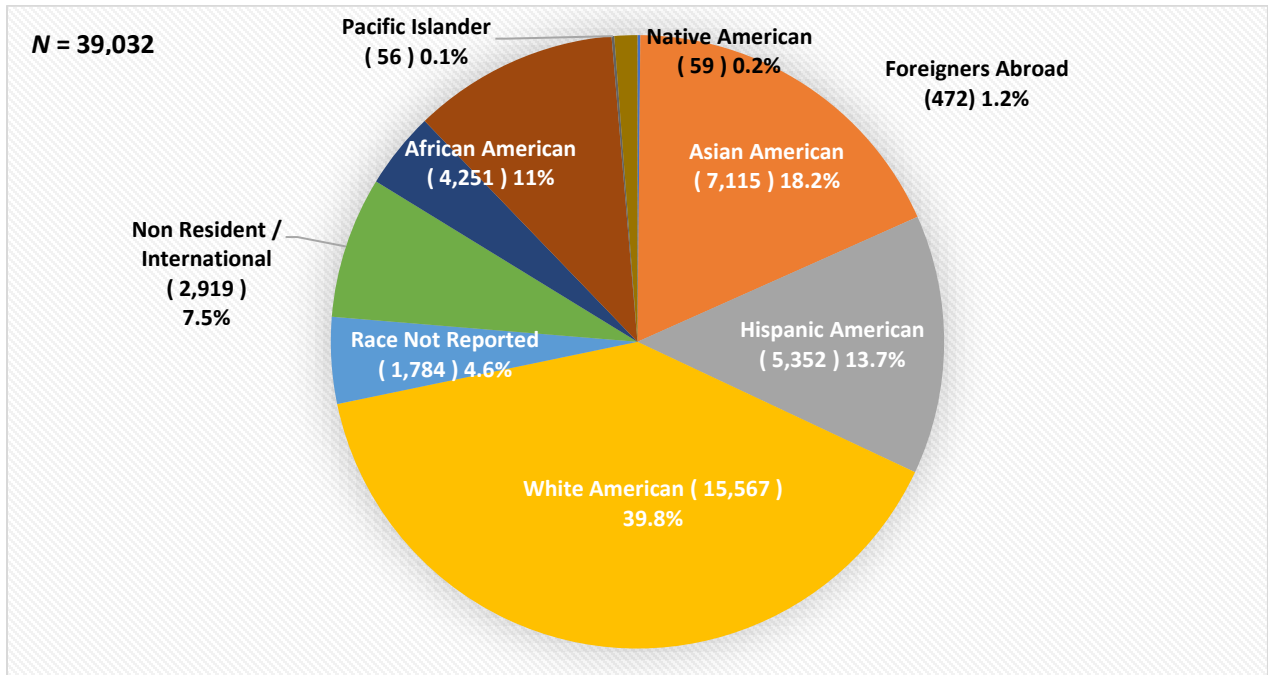
Figure 3. International Students as a Percentage of University Enrollment, 2016 – 2020



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

$N_i = 2,919$

Figure 4. International Students in the Context of Campus Diversity, Fall 2020



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 2020

N_i = 2,919, does not include Mason Korea

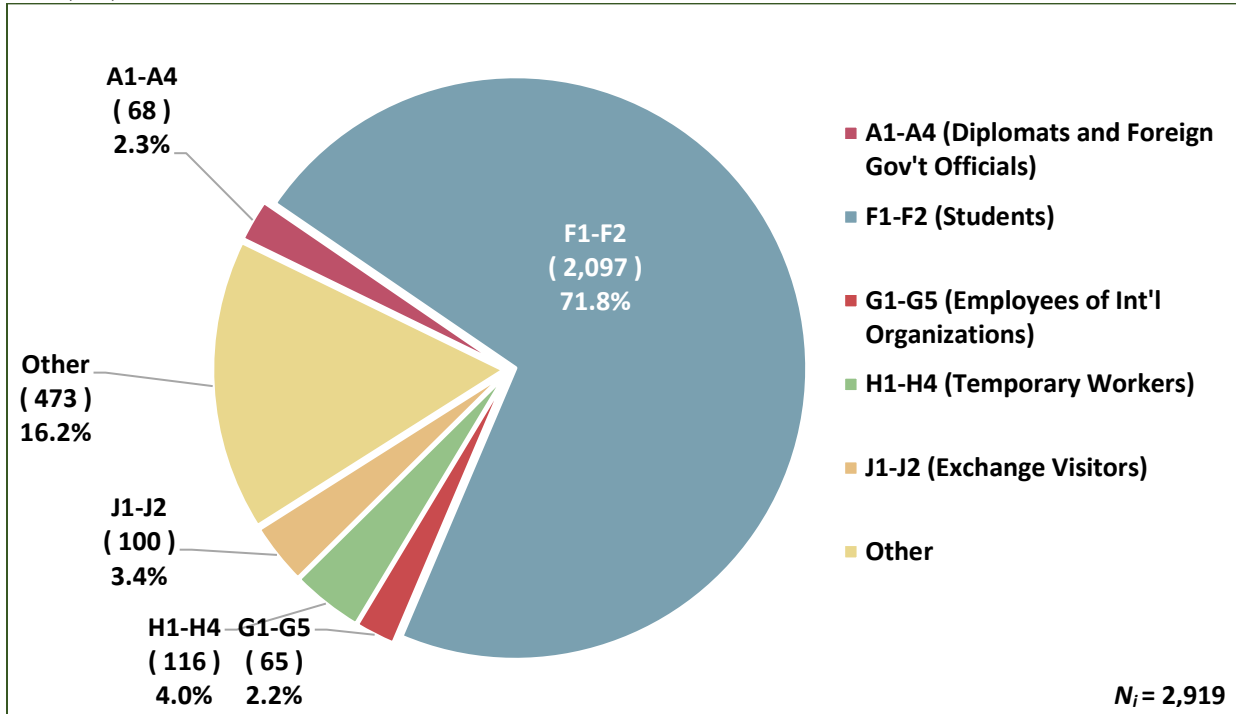
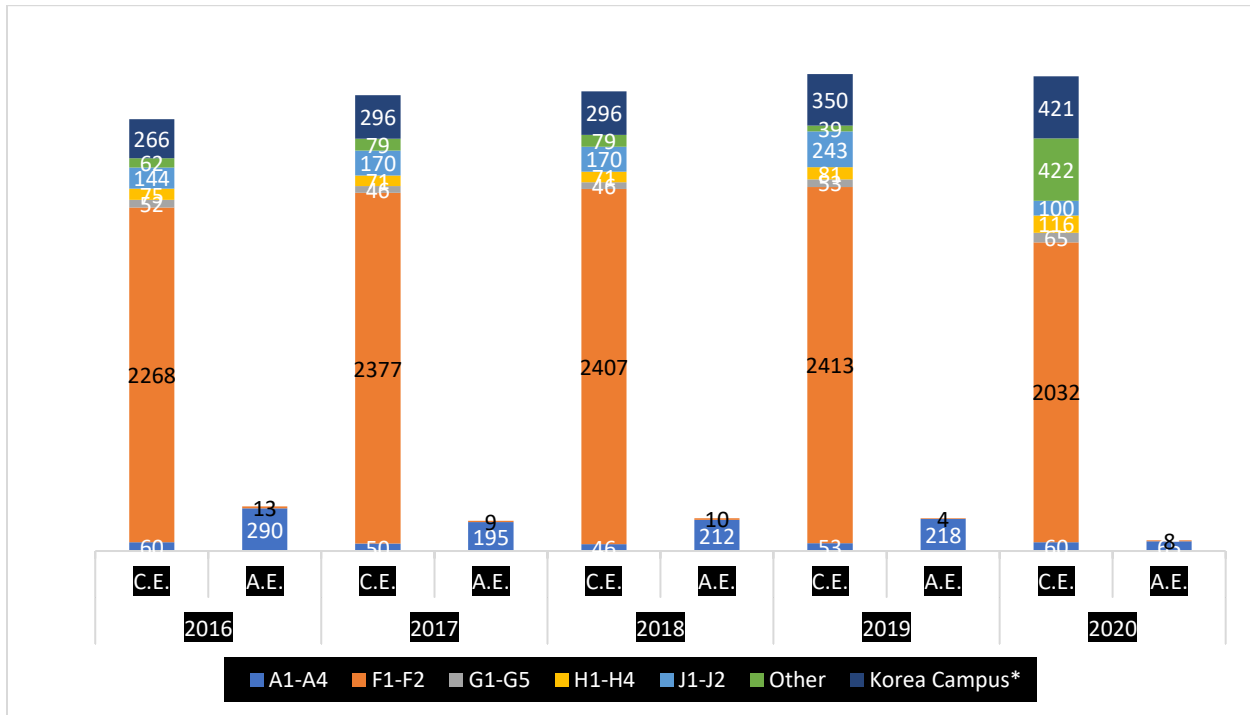


Table 1. International Students by Visa Type, 2016-2020



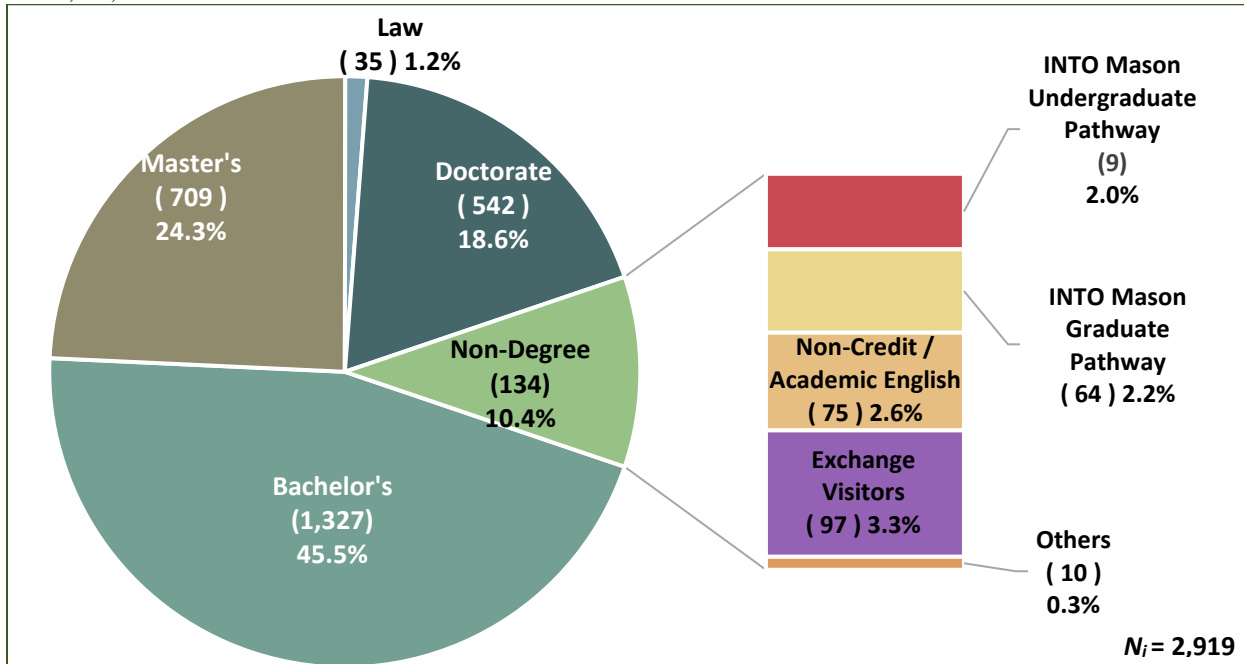
C.B. is “Credit-Bearing”; A.E. is “Academic English”.

* 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 2020

N_i = 2,919, 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, 2016 – 2020

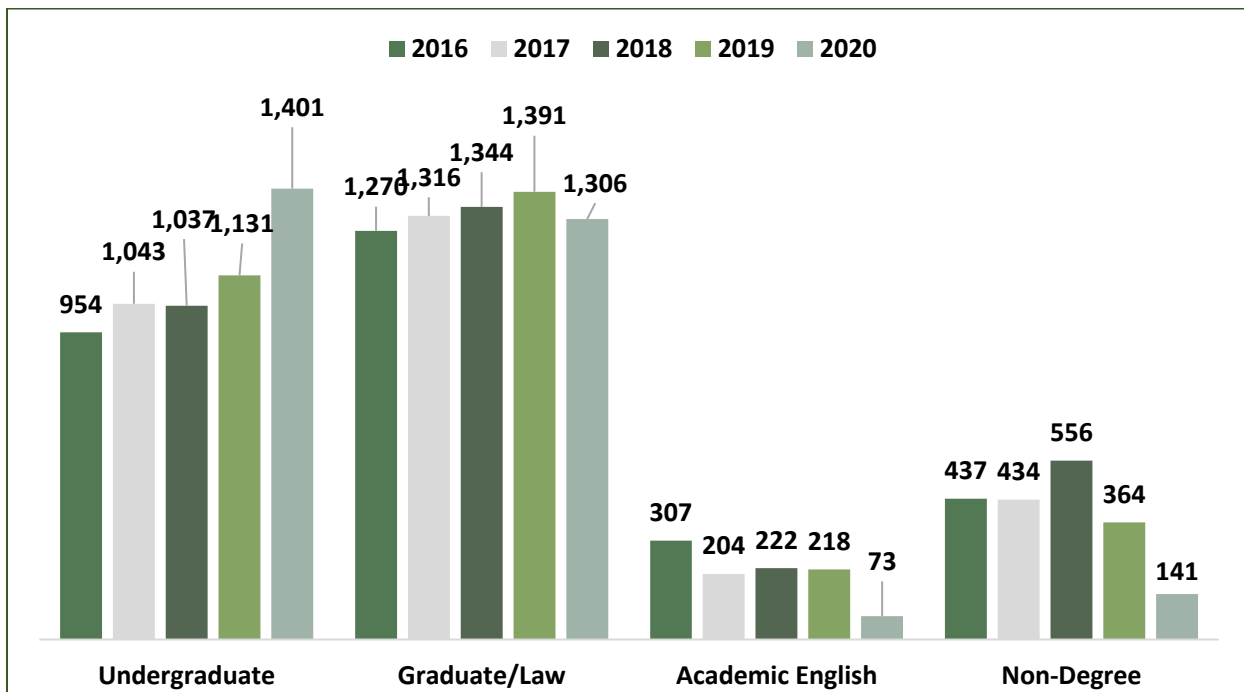


Figure 8. International Students by Level and Region, Fall 2020

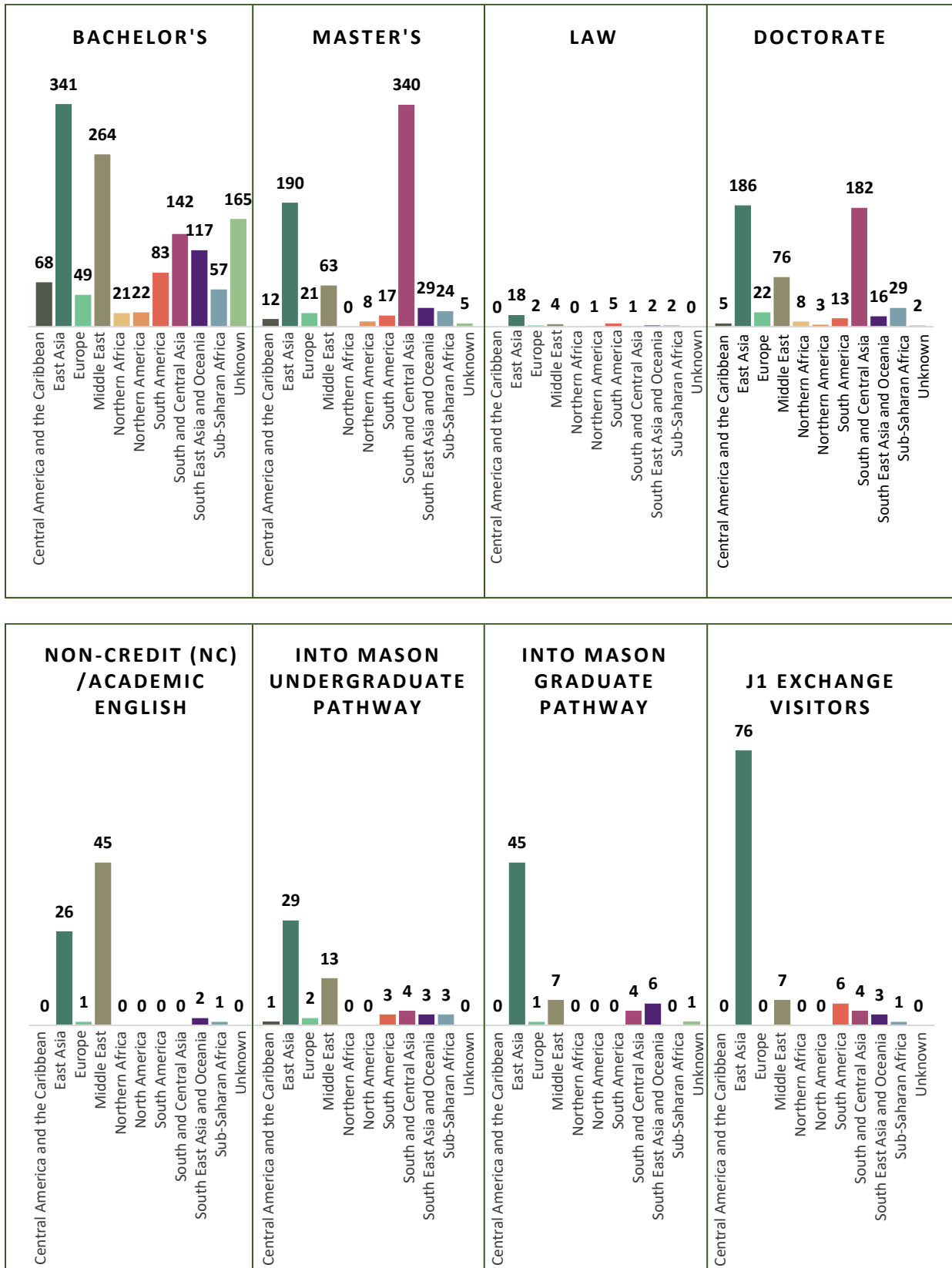


Figure 9. International Students by Level and School, Fall 2020

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

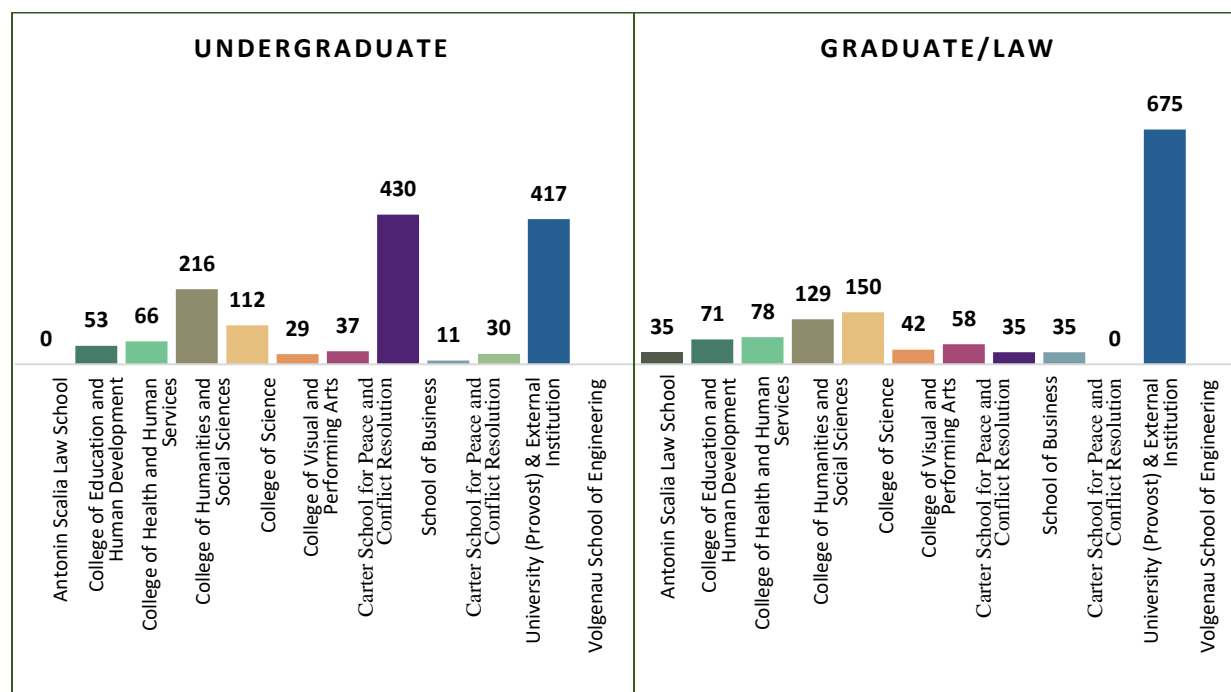


Table 2. International Students by Level and School, Fall 2020

	Undergraduate	Graduate/Law	Non-credit Academic English	INTO Mason Undergraduate Pathway	INTO Mason Graduate Pathway	Exchange Visitors & Others	TOTAL
Antonin Scalia Law School		35					35
College of Education and Human Development	52	68				4	124
College of Health and Human Services	66	76				2	144
College of Humanities and Social Sciences	211	126	2			10	349
College of Science	112	149	1			2	264
College of Visual and Performing Arts	26	42				2	70
INTO Mason			73	58	64		195
Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution	11	33				2	46
School of Business	37	55	3				95
Schar School of Policy and Government	383	35				47	465
University (Provost) & External Institution	30		6				36
Volgenau School of Engineering	401	667	4			24	1,096
TOTAL	1329	1286	89	58	64	93	2,919

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY SCHOOL

Figure 10. International Students by School, Fall 2020

N_i = 2,919, does not include Mason Korea

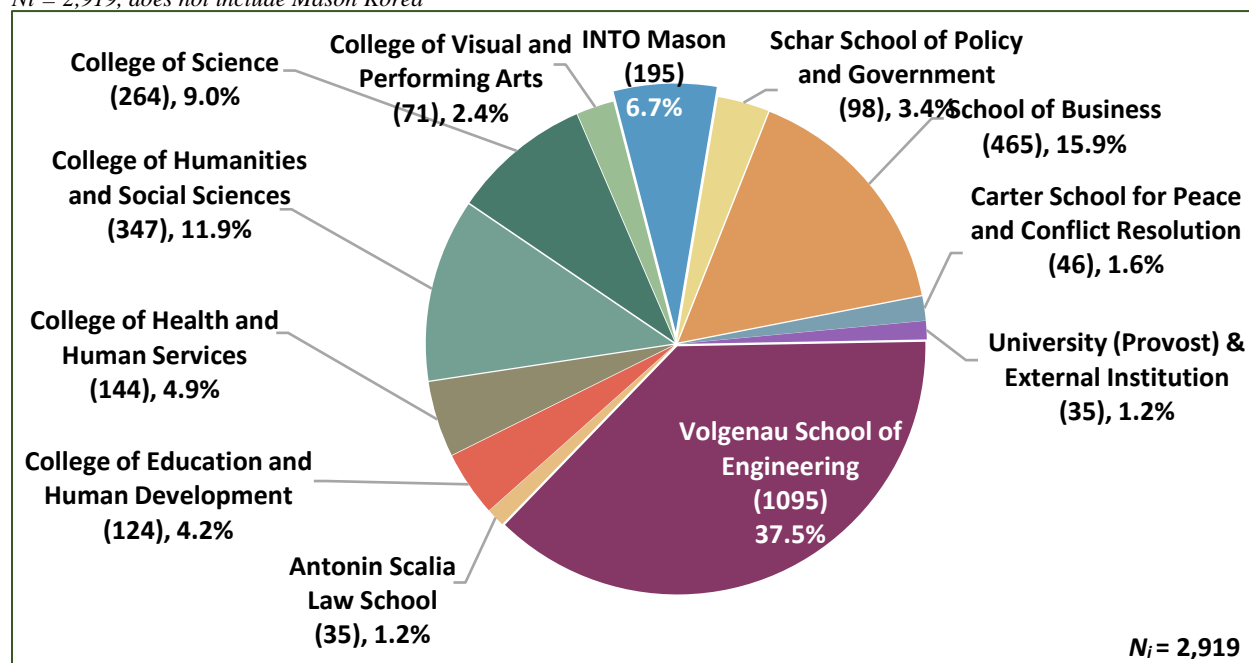


Table 3. International Students by School, 2016 – 2020

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Antonin Scalia Law School	20	16	22	17	35
Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution	37	38	43	39	124
College of Education and Human Development	79	108	141	116	144
College of Health and Human Services	108	111	115	103	347
College of Humanities and Social Sciences	283	318	350	351	264
College of Science	196	212	222	222	71
College of Visual and Performing Arts	56	76	110	103	195
INTO Mason - Academic English	307	204	222	218	98
INTO Mason – Pathways	380	366	289	230	465
Schar School of Policy and Government	87	83	97	108	46
School of Business	387	423	508	517	35
University and External Institution	73	101	78	61	1095
Volgenau School of Engineering	955	941	962	1019	35
TOTAL	2,968	2,997	3,159	3,104	2,919

Table 4. International Students by School and Region, Fall 2020

	Central America and the Caribbean	East Asia	Europe	Middle East	Northern Africa	North America	South America	South and Central Asia	South East Asia and Oceania	Sub-Saharan Africa	Unknown	TOTAL
Antonin Scalia Law School		18	2	4		1	5	1	2	2		35
College of Education and Human Development	9	37	15	9		5	9	13	8	7	12	124
College of Health and Human Services	11	29	1	27			8	35	2	7	24	144
College of Humanities and Social Sciences	18	120	21	58	4	11	24	28	14	21	28	347
College of Science	5	50	8	56	5	3	18	57	25	18	19	264
College of Visual and Performing Arts	3	50	2	4			2	2	4	1	3	71
INTO Mason	1	98	3	65			3	8	11	4	2	195
Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution	1	10	5	8	4	1	2	5	1	6	3	46
School of Business	21	220	16	51	2	6	14	39	40	17	39	465
Schar School of Policy and Government	3	25	9	30	2		5	9	8	6	1	98
University (Provost) & External Institution		13		5	1		1	3	6	1	5	35
Volgenau School of Engineering	12	244	16	164	11	7	37	479	57	28	40	1095
TOTAL	86	1327	101	482	29	36	128	679	178	118	176	2919

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY REGION

Figure 11. International Students by Region, Fall 2020

N_i = 2,919, does not include Mason Korea

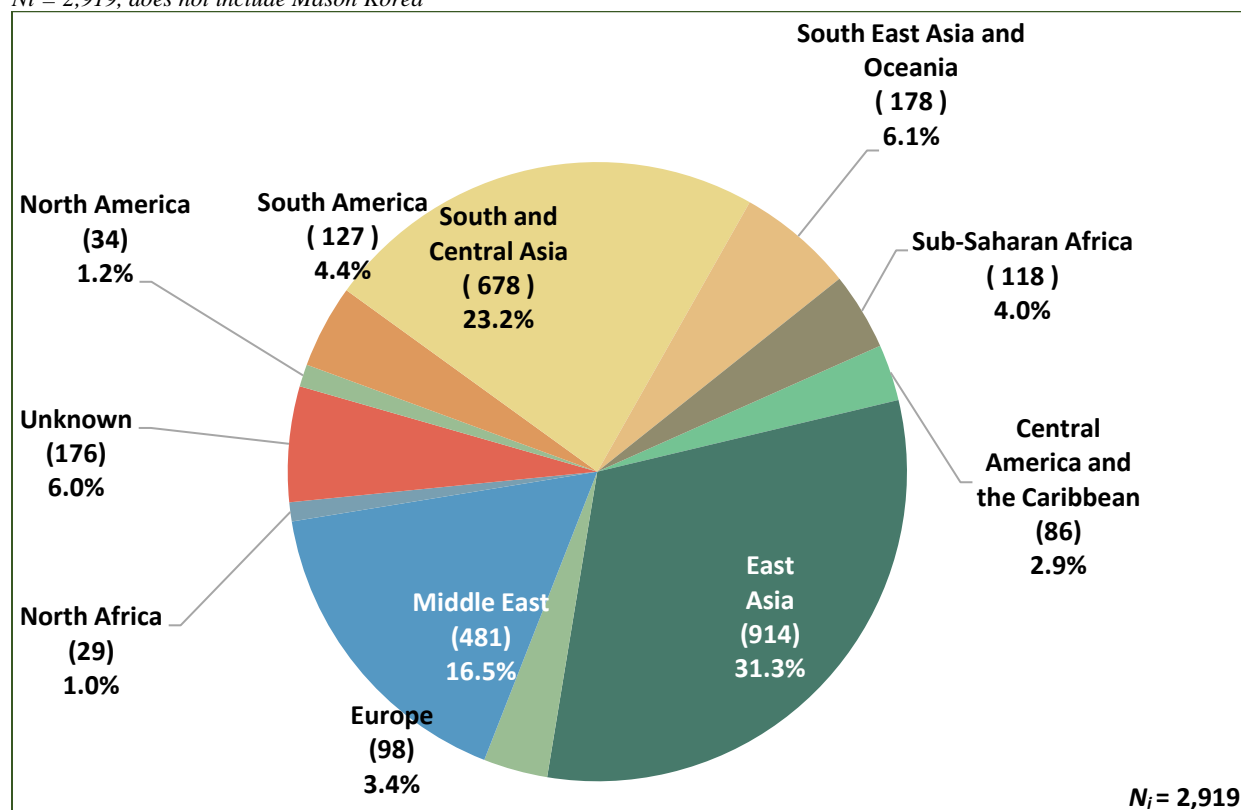


Table 5. International Students by Region, 2016 - 2020

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Central America and the Caribbean	32	38	45	34	86
East Asia	974	1,138	1,304	1224	914
Europe	111	139	203	172	98
Middle East	429	413	513	548	481
North Africa	41	40	44	30	29
North America	20	21	20	20	34
South America	54	63	74	69	127
South and Central Asia	748	693	666	704	678
Southeast Asia and Oceania	134	129	153	165	178
Sub-Saharan Africa	95	93	102	112	118
Unknown	23	26	35	26	176
Total	2,661	2,793	3,159	3,104	2,919

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY COUNTRY

Table 6. International Students by Country (Alphabetical), Fall 2020

Afghanistan	2	Hong Kong	9	Peru	26
Angola	2	Hungary	1	Philippines	8
Argentina	12	Iceland	1	Poland	1
Armenia	2	India	457	Portugal	3
Australia	4	Indonesia	27	Qatar	24
Austria	2	Iran	65	Russia	11
Azerbaijan	9	Iraq	7	Saint Kitts and Nevis	1
Bahrain	3	Ireland	2	Saudi Arabia	282
Bangladesh	61	Israel	3	Sierra Leone	2
Barbados	1	Italy	5	Singapore	4
Belarus	2	Jamaica	2	South Africa	6
Belgium	2	Japan	13	South Sudan	1
Bermuda	1	Jordan	11	Spain	4
Bolivia	36	Kazakhstan	7	Sri Lanka	7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3	Kenya	13	Sudan	4
Brazil	22	Korea, South	186	Swaziland	1
Bulgaria	1	Kuwait	10	Sweden	1
Burkina Faso	1	Kyrgyzstan	3	Switzerland	3
Cambodia	5	Laos	1	Syria	4
Cameroon	2	Lebanon	9	Taiwan	71
Canada	29	Liberia	2	Tajikistan	5
Cayman Islands	1	Libya	1	Tanzania	1
Chile	4	Lithuania	1	Thailand	22
China	619	Macau	1	Trinidad and Tobago	2
Colombia	17	Macedonia	2	Tunisia	1
Congo, Dem Rep of	9	Madagascar	3	Turkey	38
Cote d'Ivoire	8	Malaysia	5	Uganda	2
Denmark	1	Mauritania	2	Ukraine	5
Ecuador	6	Mauritius	2	United Arab Emirates	63
Egypt	17	Mexico	19	United Kingdom	10
El Salvador	38	Mongolia	15	United States of America	4
Eritrea	1	Montenegro	1	Uruguay	1
Ethiopia	17	Morocco	5	Uzbekistan	3
Finland	1	Myanmar (Burma)	1	Venezuela	2
France	5	Nepal	24	Vietnam	100
Georgia	3	Netherlands	3	West Bank	2
Germany	14	New Zealand	1	Yemen	7
Ghana	11	Nicaragua	1	Zambia	1
Greece	6	Nigeria	30	Zimbabwe	2
Guatemala	9	Norway	4	Unknown	176
Guyana	1	Oman	7		

Haiti	1
Honduras	9

Pakistan	44
Panama	2

TOTAL 2,919

Table 7. International Students by Country (Rank Order), Fall 2020

China	619	Iraq	7	Macedonia	2
India	457	Kazakhstan	7	Mauritania	2
Saudi Arabia	282	Oman	7	Mauritius	2
Korea, South	186	Sri Lanka	7	Panama	2
Vietnam	100	Yemen	7	Sierra Leone	2
Taiwan	71	Ecuador	6	Trinidad and Tobago	2
Iran	65	Greece	6	Uganda	2
United Arab Emirates	63	South Africa	6	Venezuela	2
Bangladesh	61	Cambodia	5	West Bank	2
Pakistan	44	France	5	Zimbabwe	2
El Salvador	38	Italy	5	Barbados	1
Turkey	38	Malaysia	5	Bermuda	1
Bolivia	36	Morocco	5	Bulgaria	1
Nigeria	30	Tajikistan	5	Burkina Faso	1
Canada	29	Ukraine	5	Cayman Islands	1
Indonesia	27	Australia	4	Denmark	1
Peru	26	Chile	4	Eritrea	1
Nepal	24	Norway	4	Finland	1
Qatar	24	Singapore	4	Guyana	1
Brazil	22	Spain	4	Haiti	1
Thailand	22	Sudan	4	Hungary	1
Mexico	19	Syria	4	Iceland	1
Colombia	17	United States of America	4	Laos	1
Egypt	17	Bahrain	3	Libya	1
Ethiopia	17	Bosnia and Herzegovina	3	Lithuania	1
Mongolia	15	Georgia	3	Macau	1
Germany	14	Israel	3	Montenegro	1
Japan	13	Kyrgyzstan	3	Myanmar (Burma)	1
Kenya	13	Madagascar	3	New Zealand	1
Argentina	12	Netherlands	3	Nicaragua	1
Ghana	11	Portugal	3	Poland	1
Jordan	11	Switzerland	3	Saint Kitts and Nevis	1
Russia	11	Uzbekistan	3	South Sudan	1
Kuwait	10	Afghanistan	2	Swaziland	1
United Kingdom	10	Angola	2	Sweden	1
Azerbaijan	9	Armenia	2	Tanzania	1
Congo, Dem Rep of	9	Austria	2	Tunisia	1
Guatemala	9	Belarus	2	Uruguay	1

Honduras	9
Hong Kong	9
Lebanon	9
Cote d'Ivoire	8
Philippines	8

Belgium	2
Cameroon	2
Ireland	2
Jamaica	2
Liberia	2

Zambia	1
Unknown	176

TOTAL 2,919

Figure 12. International Students by Country, Fall 2020

N_i = 2,919, does not include Mason Korea

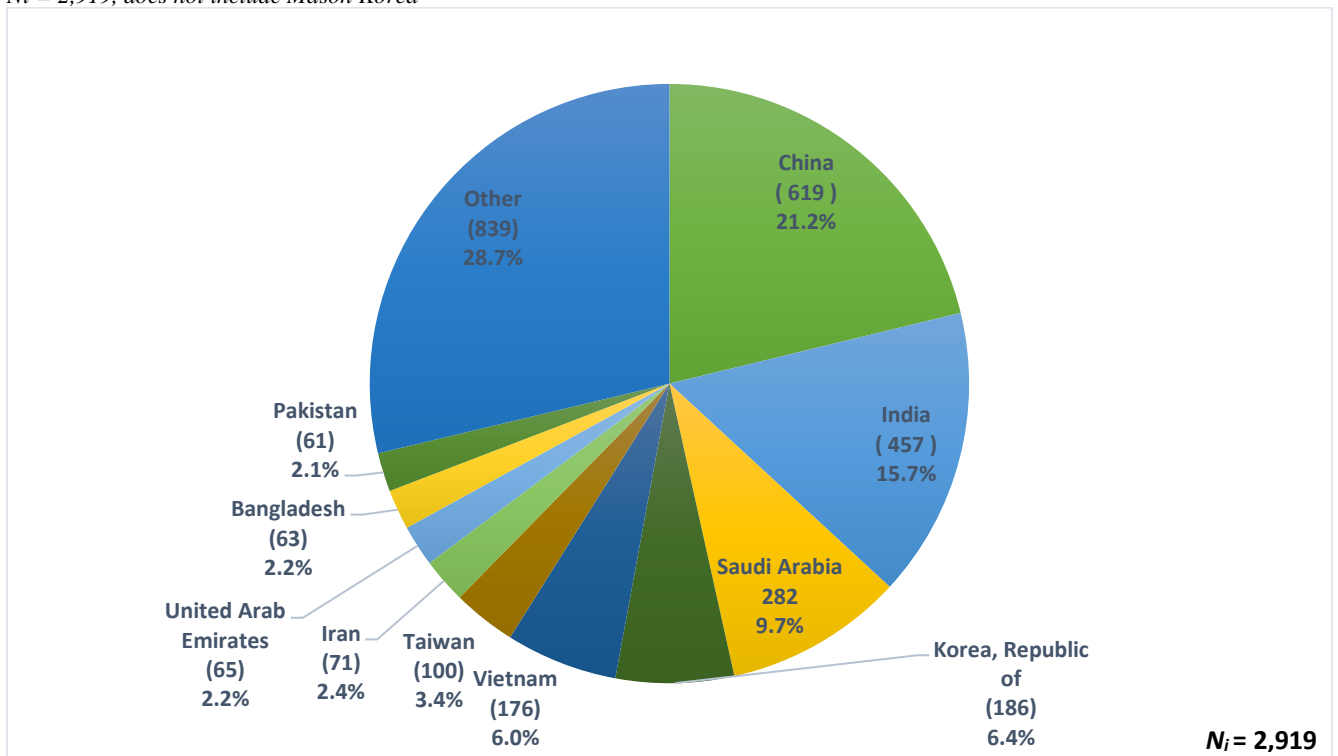
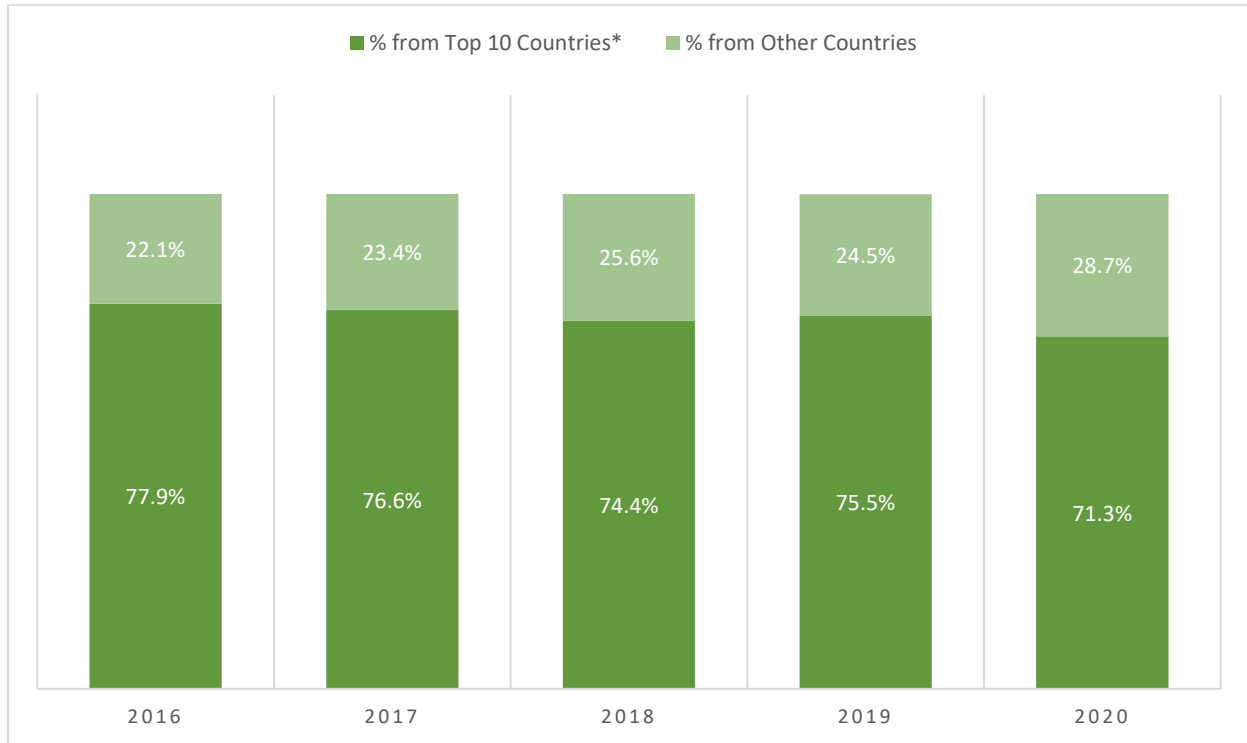


Figure 13. International Students by Country, 2016-2020

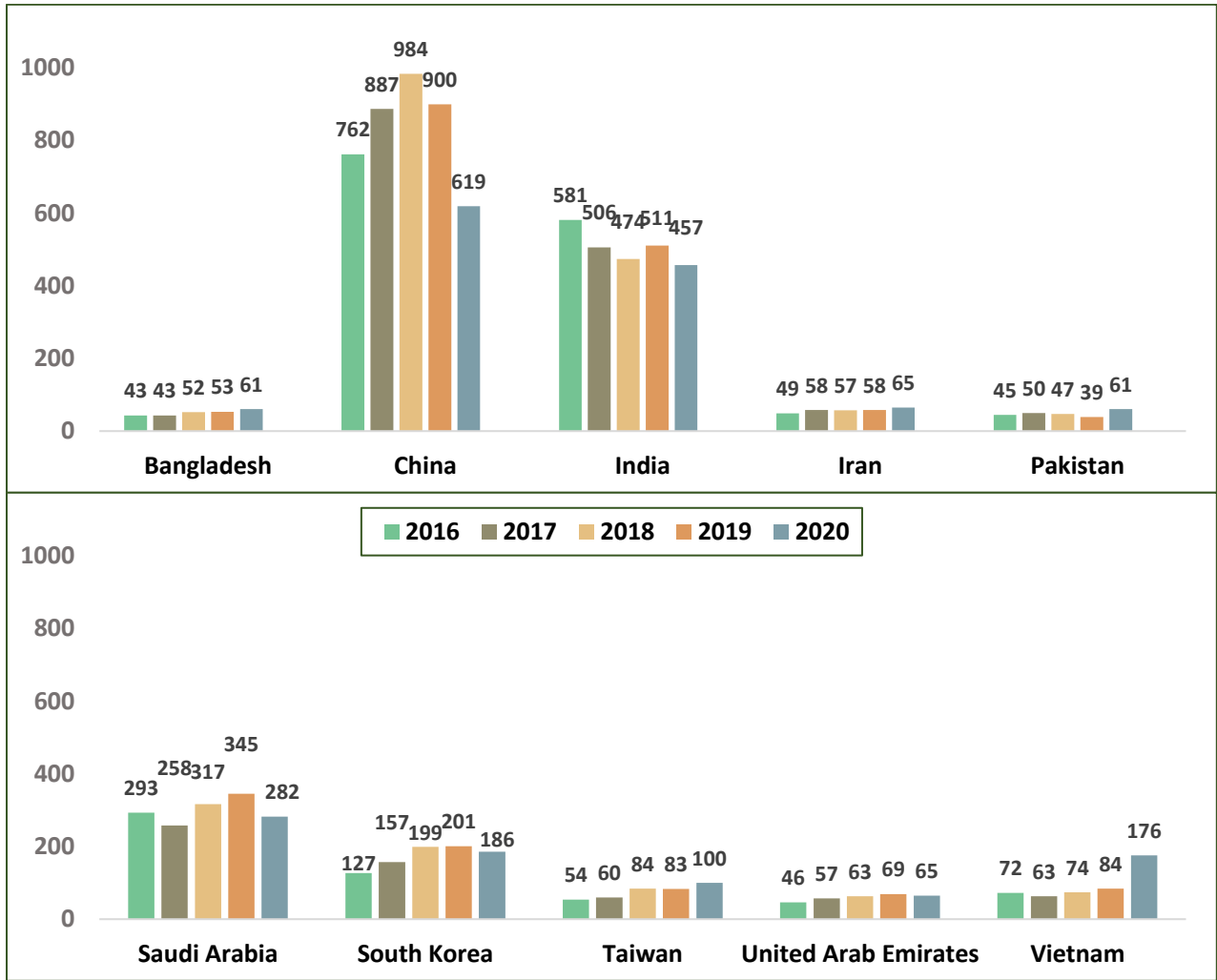


* Top 10 countries vary in each year depending on enrollment.

Table 8. Top Ten Countries for International Students, Fall 2020

Rank	Country	Count
1	China	619
2	India	457
3	Saudi Arabia	282
4	Korea, Republic of	186
5	Vietnam	176
6	Taiwan	100
7	Iran	71
8	United Arab Emirates	65
9	Bangladesh	63
10	Pakistan	61
	Total	2,080

Figure 14. International Students from Select Top Countries, 2016-2020



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY GENDER

Figure 15. International Students by Gender, Fall 2020

N_i = 2,919, does not include Mason Korea

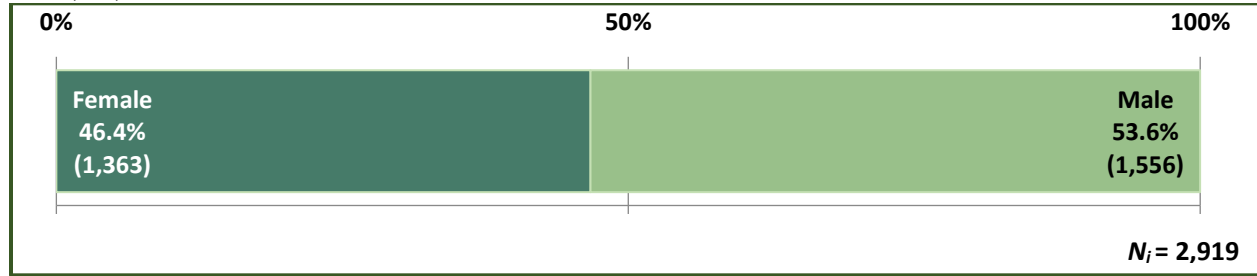


Figure 16. Gender of International Students by Region, Fall 2020

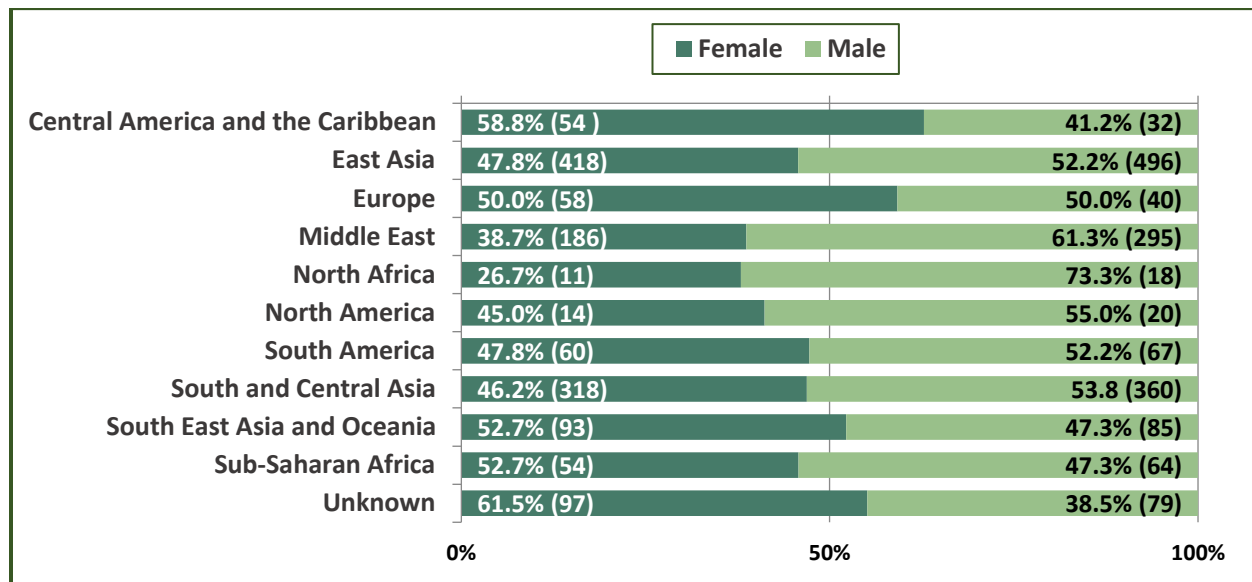
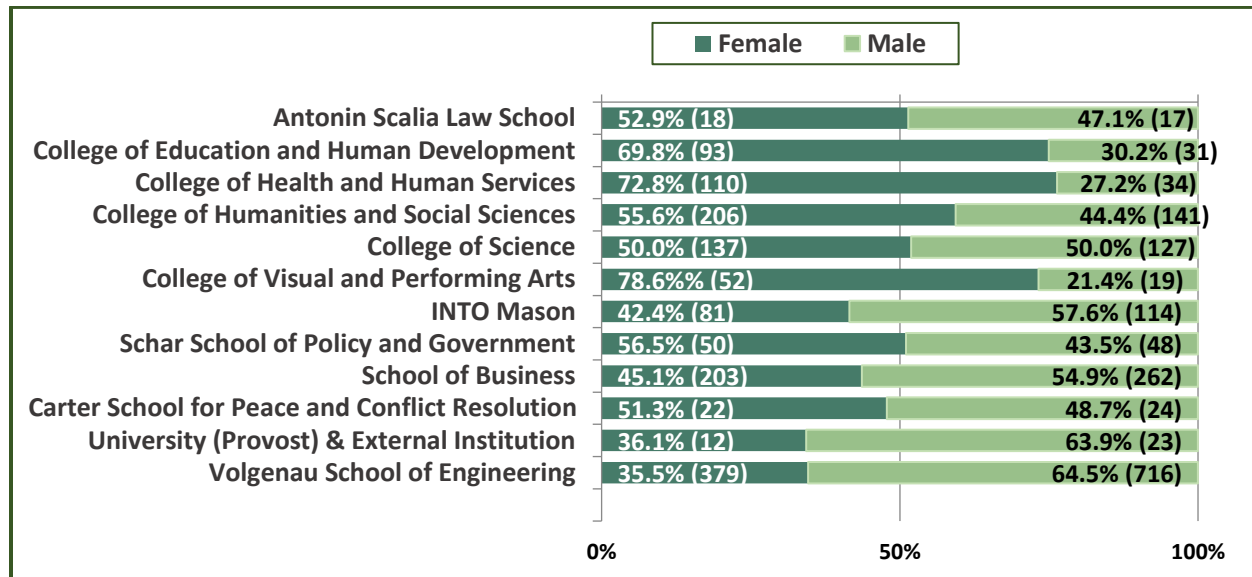


Figure 17. Gender of International Students by School, Fall 2020



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY HOUSING

Figure 18. International Students as a Percentage of University Housing, Fall 2020

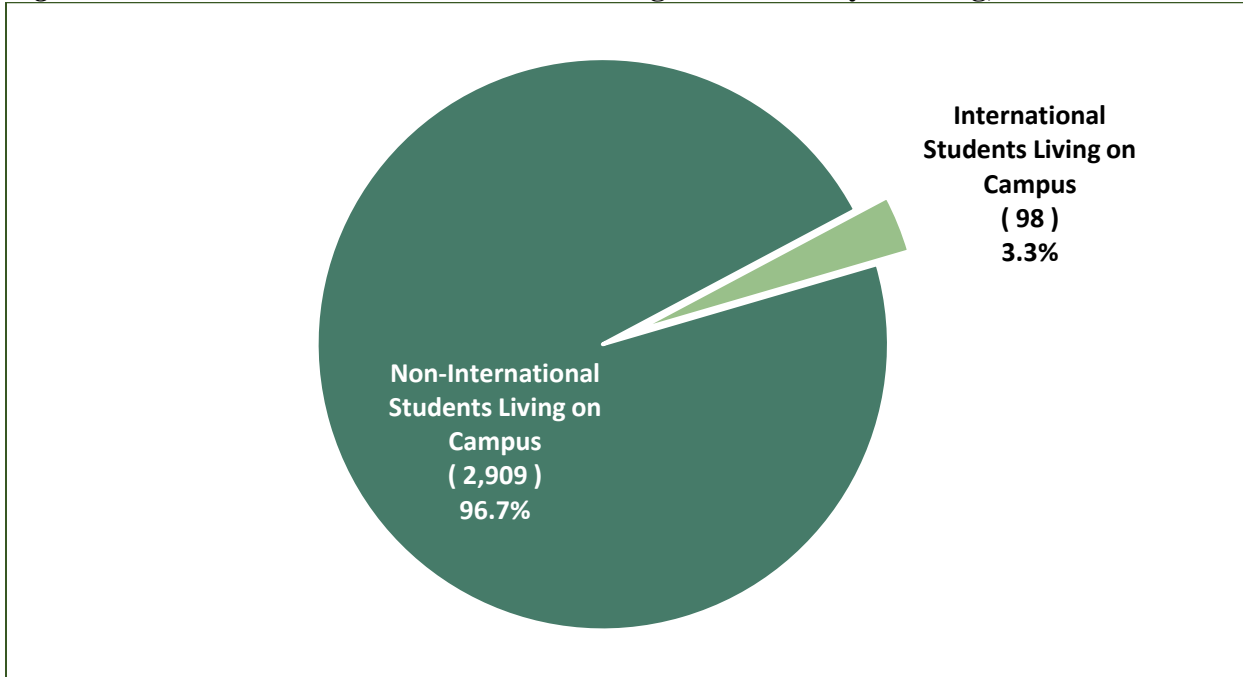
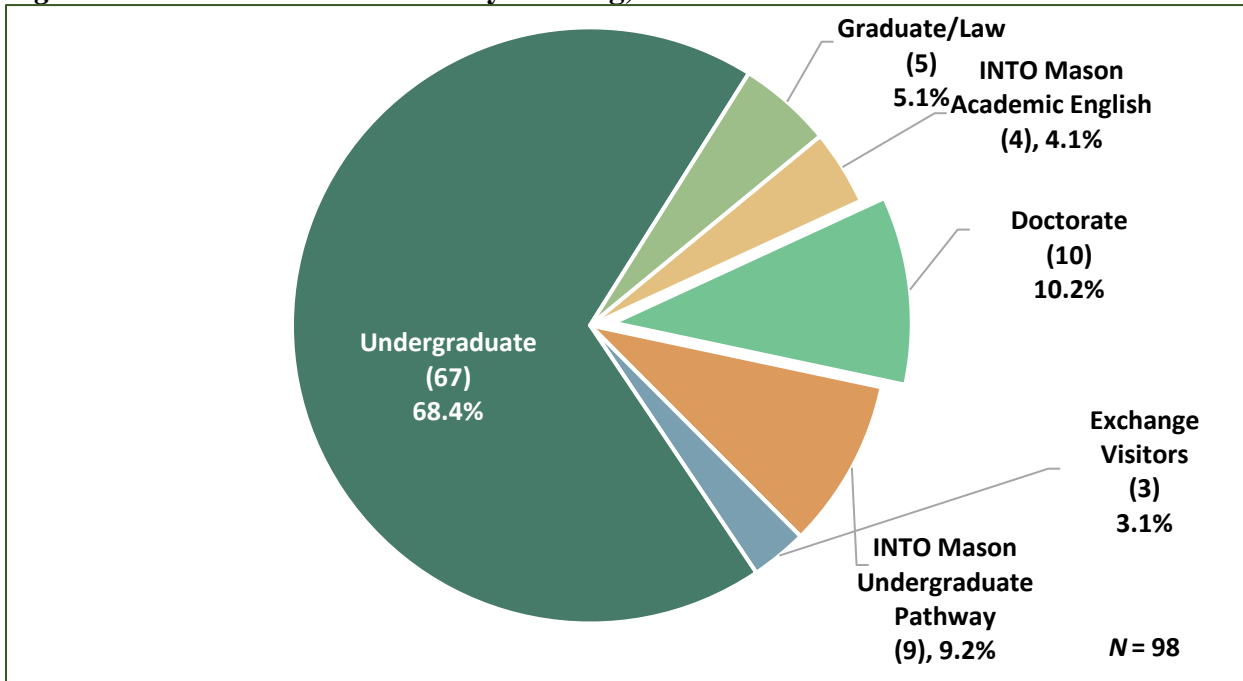


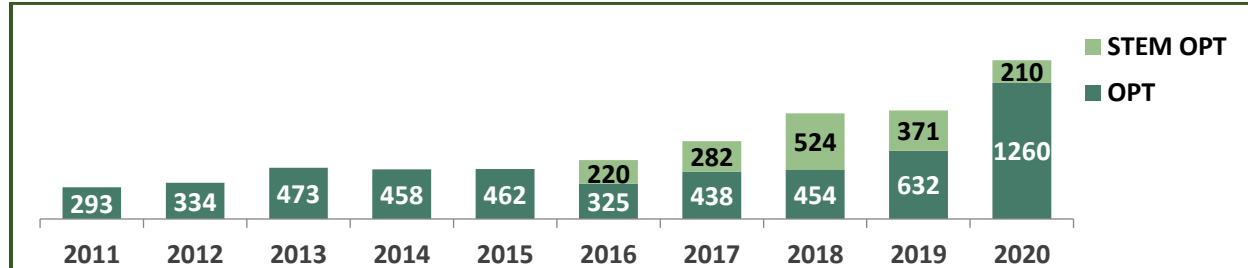
Figure 19. International Students by Housing, Fall 2020



SPECIAL POPULATION

OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT)

Figure 20. International Students in Optional Practical Training (OPT), 2011–2020



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 2020

Visa Type	2020
H1-B, Skilled Worker	73
O-1, Extraordinary Ability	5
TN NAFTA Professionals	2
TOTAL	80

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, 2016–2020

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

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Academic English	307	204	222	218	73
Pathways	380	366	286	230	123
TOTAL	687	570	508	440	196

EXCHANGE VISITORS

Table 10. Mason-Sponsored Exchange Visitor Students and Scholars (J visas), 2015–2020

Category/Cohort	July 2015 – June 2016	July 2016 – June 2017	July 2017 – June 2018	July 2018 – June 2019	July 2019 – June 2020
J-1 Exchange Visitor Scholars and Professors	155	134	105	116	63
J-1 Exchange Visitor Students	111	150	239	217	54
Total	266	284	344	333	117
J-2 Dependents*	92	83	50	67	36
Total with Dependents**	398	367	394	402	153

* 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, 2016–2020

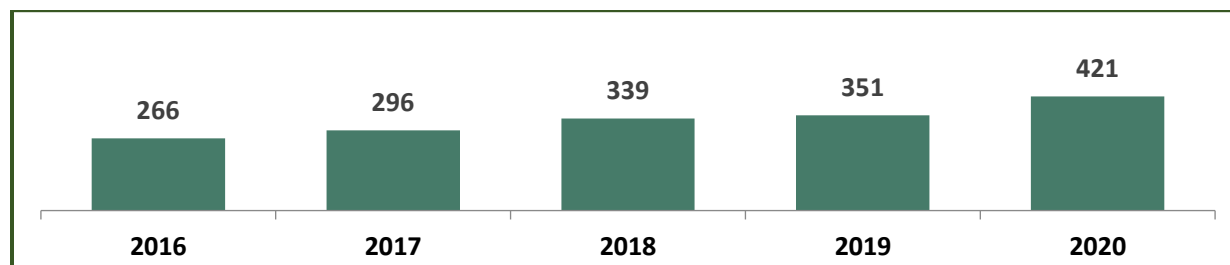


Table 10. International Students at Mason Korea Campus, 2016–2020

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Canada	1		1	1	2
China					1
Ecuador				1	
El Salvador	1				
Ethiopia			2	1	
Georgia	1	1	1		
Germany					1
India			1	1	1
Iraq			1	1	1
Pakistan					
Russia			1	1	2
South Korea	260	293	331	331	412
Switzerland	1	1			
Venezuela		1	1	1	1
Zambia	2				
Unknown					
TOTAL	266	296	339	339	421

Figure 22. International Students at Mason Korea by Gender, Fall 2020

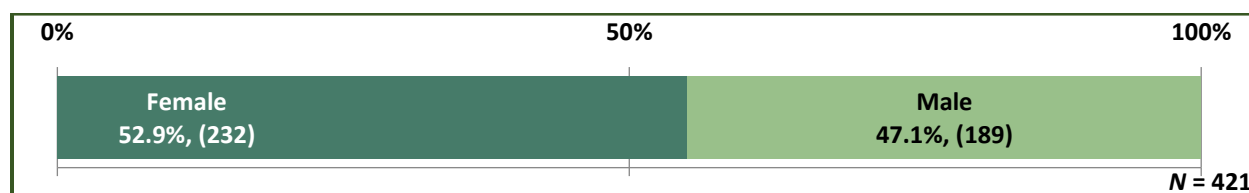
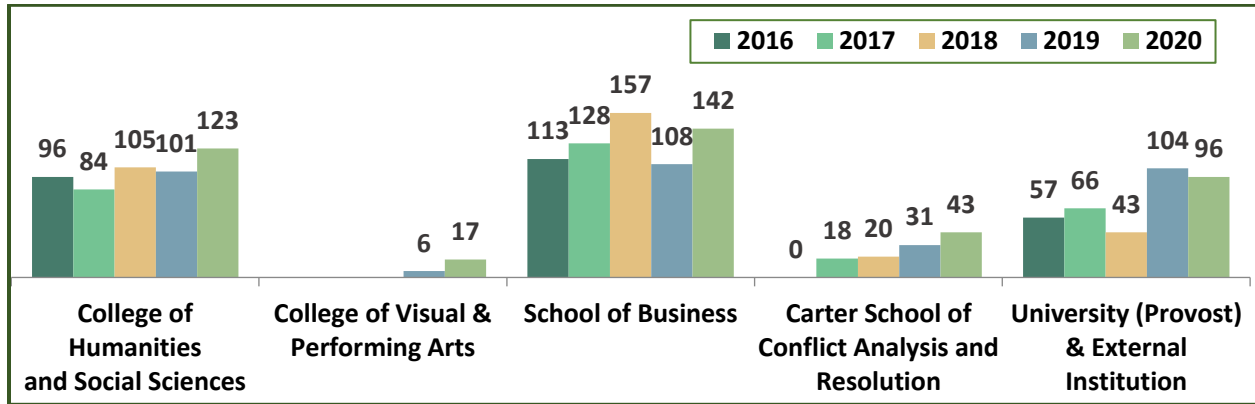


Figure 23. International Students at Mason Korea by School, Fall 2020



APPENDIX

COUNTRY BY REGION

Notes: Countries not represented by international students for Fall 2020 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

Barbados
Cayman Islands
El Salvador
Guatemala
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

Austria
Belarus
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Georgia
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Lithuania
Macedonia
Montenegro
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Russia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Ukraine

United Kingdom

Middle East

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

North Africa

Egypt
Libya
Morocco
South Sudan
Sudan
Tunisia

North America

Bermuda
Canada

South America

Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Ecuador
Guyana
Peru
Uruguay
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
Laos
Malaysia
Myanmar
New Zealand
Philippines
Singapore
Thailand
Vietnam

Sub-Saharan Africa

Angola
Burkina Faso
Cameroon
Congo, Dem Rep of
Cote d'Ivoire
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Ghana
Kenya
Liberia
Madagascar
Mauritania
Mauritius
Nigeria
Sierra Leone
South Africa
Swaziland (Eswatini)
Tanzania
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe