

ANNUAL REPORT

2019/20



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University of Missouri

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ABOUT INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

[International Programs](#) facilitates educational and cultural exchange at the University of Missouri. With collaborations that build international connections on campus and throughout the community, International Programs helps Mizzou students experience the world through study and internship abroad programs and supports MU's international community as they study, teach and research at Mizzou.

International Initiatives

International Programs works with faculty and staff from across campus to develop and maintain MU's relationships with institutions around the world. We also facilitate on-campus internationalization through curriculum and faculty development projects.

International Student and Scholar Services

[International Student and Scholar Services](#) provides comprehensive support services to MU's international community — students, faculty, staff and their dependents come to MU from more than 100 countries. In doing so, we also serve a critical compliance role for the university required by federal immigration regulations.

Center for English Language Learning

The [Center for English Language Learning](#) provides high-quality English language instruction to non-native speakers of English to prepare them for university-level studies, professional endeavors and community engagement. CELL encompasses the Intensive English Program, English Language Support Program and special programs.

Asian Affairs Center

The [Asian Affairs Center](#) provides professional development programs for Asian students and professional hosted on MU's beautiful campus. The center also connects MU students and Columbia residents to Asia through volunteer opportunities and referrals to programs for Asian studies at MU and teaching or study abroad.

Study Abroad

[Mizzou Study Abroad](#) coordinates, develops and administers quality programs that enable MU students to study outside the United States. 1-in-5 MU students choose to enhance their academic experience — gaining an appreciation and understanding of other nations and cultures — through study abroad.

International Health, Safety and Security

The [Office of International Health, Safety and Security](#) fulfills responsibilities assigned to International Programs by the University of Missouri Collected Rules and Regulations to support traveler health, safety and security, as well as compliance with federal and state regulations and university policy, for MU students, non-enrolled participants, and faculty and staff who participate on study abroad or university-related international programs. Our staff evaluates risk; develops and implements risk mitigation measures provides health, safety and security training and compliance; develops and maintains emergency response plans; and responds to crises.

INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Developed strategic plan for internationalization

In fall 2019, the provost appointed a committee to create a [strategic plan for internationalization at MU](#). Interim vice provost Mary Stegmaier and International Programs faculty fellow Tina Bloom co-chaired the committee. Committee members represented various divisions within International Programs and faculty members who have deep engagement in international education and research. The committee identified four priority areas for comprehensive institutional internationalization:

- Achieving excellence in global education for all students.
- Attracting and supporting international students.
- Supporting faculty internationalization.
- Strengthening MU's key strategic international partnerships and collaborations.

Responded to the COVID-19 pandemic

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, an International Mobility Working Group was created to help guide the university's response and support provided to students abroad and our international community on campus. Ultimately, all of MU's study abroad programs were canceled in spring 2020, which meant that International Programs needed to assist nearly 200 students in their safe return to the U.S., facilitate reimbursements and ensure they had the opportunity to complete their spring semester coursework. Additionally, for international students who remained in the U.S., the closure of campus from March–August 2020 meant that many job opportunities on campus dried up. International Programs raised emergency funds and nominated international students in need for emergency support through IIE.

Hosted international delegations and dignitaries

International Programs assisted the MU Department of Black Studies in hosting the prime minister of Jamaica, Andrew Holness. He delivered an address to students and a public address, and met with representatives from MU departments.

The university also hosted delegations from Universidad Evangelica Boliviana in Bolivia (School of Music partner) and Universidad San Martin de Porres in Peru (College of Engineering partner). Other visitors included the Chicago-based consuls general of India, Canada and France.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting limits on travel, future high-profile visits were suspended, including a visit from the Chicago-based German consul general.

Advanced MU relationships with international partners

International Programs guides the development and review of the university's international memorandums of understanding initiated at the departmental, college and campus levels. MU has more than [200 active agreements](#) with institutions in over 30 countries. During 2019/20, the campus [IMOU Review Committee](#) (chaired by Dr. Stegmaier) met monthly to review new MOU proposals and renewals. The committee also expanded its membership to include three faculty members: Michael Volz (Chinese), Pilar Mendoza (Education) and Rajiv Mohan (Medicine).

Additionally, Dr. Stegmaier visited the following MU international partners during 2019/20:

- Shanghai Normal University, China — research and study opportunities for their students and faculty at MU
- Shanxi University and the Shanxi Alliance, China — Asian Affairs Center programs
- University of the Western Cape, South Africa — research partnership and exchange
- University UNIMINUTO, Colombia — research partnership with MU College of Education
- University of Nicosia, Cyprus — study abroad partner
- CEA-Prague, Czech Republic — study abroad provider
- CIS Abroad-Prague, Czech Republic — study abroad provider
- John Cabot University, Italy — study abroad partner

INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Supported faculty pursuing Fulbright opportunities

As campus representative, interim vice provost for International Programs provided assistance to MU faculty with their Fulbright proposals.

- Six MU faculty received [Fulbright scholar awards](#) for 2019/20:
 - > Syed Hasan, Medicine | Jordan
 - > Joanna Hearne, English | Canada
 - > Mary Hendrickson, Rural Sociology | Iceland
 - > Laura McCann, Agricultural and Applied Economics
 - > Pilar Mendoza, Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis | Colombia
 - > Rocio Rivera, Animal Science | Spain

Scholars at Risk network

The center director serves as MU campus liaison to the [Scholars at Risk Network](#), an organization that is dedicated to protecting threatened scholars and promoting academic freedom around the world. With support from the International Rescue University, MU continues to host a prominent Syrian scholar from the University of Damascus.

Provided leadership for the MU Council on International Initiatives

The vice provost for International Programs chairs the [MU Council on International Initiatives](#). Council members represent MU's academic divisions and administrative units, advising the provost on priorities and actions related to international programs or relationships.

- **Supported global research collaborations.** As part of the University of Missouri's Tri-Continental Partnership with Ghent University and the University of the Western Cape, the council awarded five travel grants for MU scholars to engage in research with colleagues at these institutions. Additionally, the three universities cooperated to establish funding for virtual research collaborations, requiring participation of a researcher at each university. Eight teams of researchers received awards of up to \$5,000.
- **Provided funding for study abroad planning scholarships.** The council supported efforts to increase study abroad opportunities for freshmen and sophomore first-generation college students who have financial need by awarding five \$2,000 study abroad planning scholarships. These awards allow the students to know that they have this funding prior to applying for programs. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these recipients were unable to use their awards for summer or fall study abroad programs. However, they will receive the scholarship when they study abroad later in their MU careers.
- **Recognized international excellence at MU.** The council administers the annual [MU International Engagement Awards](#) to recognize outstanding work carried out by faculty and staff to internationalize the University of Missouri.

2019 award recipients:

- > Outstanding student contribution
 - Tipparat Udmuangpia, doctoral student in nursing
 - Julia Coelho, master's student in musicology and vocal performance (2018 recipient, recognized in 2019)
- > Outstanding staff contribution
 - Victoria Bryan, Interdisciplinary Plant Group
 - Li Yang, School of Journalism International Programs
- > Outstanding faculty contribution
 - Dr. Kerry Clark, director of CAFNR International Programs and assistant research professor of rural sociology, College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources

INTERNATIONAL CENTER ADVISING

Supported students through convenient, responsive advising

The International Center — the on-campus home to Mizzou Study Abroad and International Student and Scholar Services — provides a centralized location for students to access advising services.

- **Provided efficient walk-in advising and convenient online appointment scheduling through MU Connect.** This campus-wide platform allows advisers to manage wait times more effectively and provides them with more information on students' contact with offices across the university.
- **Pivoted quickly and efficiently to remote advising in spring 2020.** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all advising for International Student and Scholar Services and Study Abroad moved to online or phone appointments on March 18, 2020.
 - > International students and prospective study abroad students could schedule online appointments through MU Connect and appointments were held via Zoom.
 - > International scholars could contact their adviser to set up an appointment via Zoom or phone.

INDIVIDUAL ADVISING

1,562 STUDENTS
3,093 MEETINGS
715 HOURS

GROUP ADVISING

235 SESSIONS
4,262 STUDENTS

INDIVIDUAL ADVISING

	Students	Meetings	Meetings/ student	Hours	Hours/ student
International students: F-1/J-1	936	1,953	2.1	266.9	0.3
International students: sponsored	90	202	2.2	44.8	0.5
Study abroad	536	938	1.8	403.3	0.8
Total	1,562	3,093	2.0	715.0	0.5

GROUP ADVISING

	Sessions	Students
International students: New student check-in	30	399
International students: Expedited travel signatures*	6	290
International students: Optional Practical Training workshop	37	225
Study abroad: Study Abroad 101	75	217
Study abroad: Classroom/campus presentations	72	3,080
Student abroad: Program- and country-specific orientations	15	51
Total	235	4,262

*Spring 2020 expedited travel signature sessions were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES

Responded to the COVID-19 pandemic

Beginning in January 2020, International Student and Scholar Services staff began closely monitoring the development and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and providing support to MU's international community.

- **Closely monitored pandemic-related F/J/H program regulatory adaptations** and provided regular guidance and updates to MU's international students and scholars, as well as campus stakeholders, through email, advising appointments, social media and Zoom sessions.
 - > Facilitated numerous update and outreach sessions via Zoom for international students and scholars, international student organizations and campus stakeholders presented by ISSS staff and MU-affiliated immigration attorneys.
 - > Organized and co-hosted a town hall session with the Office of the Provost for international students and scholars.
- **Participated in campus-wide crisis management working groups** to ensure consideration and support for international student and scholar concerns.
- **Facilitated more than \$40,000 in emergency financial support** for international students.
- **Served as liaison with congressional representatives** in support of international student and scholar cases that were directly impacted by pandemic-related disruptions.
- **Adapted ISSS operations to ensure uninterrupted advising and document processing services.** Advising appointments were available via Zoom or phone and a few staff continued to work on-site to provide in person support and facilitate document processing.
- **Assisted hundreds of international students and scholars** with understanding the complex COVID-19 temporary regulatory provisions, which impacted enrollment requirements, international travel and re-entry to the U.S., self-quarantine, health care and COVID-19 testing, and many other issues impacting their immigration status.
- **Initiated a survey to assess international student and scholar concerns and well-being.**
 - > 206 respondents (56% students, 44% scholars), representing 53 countries
 - > 79% were residing in Columbia
 - > 45% participated in a Zoom outreach session, 96% of those who participated found the session helpful
 - > 75% felt connected to MU; 80% were satisfied with MU support services
 - > 80% had not witnessed or experienced discriminatory behavior
- **Collaborated with MU Division of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity to develop summer seminar series** called Tuesday Talks, with support from the Office of International Health, Safety and Security. Sessions covered topics such as inclusion and belonging, self-care and wellness, and reporting discrimination and harassment.

Ensured university compliance with federal immigration regulations

SEVIS

- **Maintained federal certifications to admit, enroll and host international students and scholars.** MU is designated as a J-1 exchange visitor academic program sponsor by the U.S. Department of State and is F-program certified by the Student Exchange Visitor Program under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. ISSS received biennial F-program recertification and J-program re-designation through both federal agencies in 2020.
- **Accurate completion of federal immigration reporting requirements.** The center processes critical data changes that are reportable in SEVIS, the federal government's international student database.
- **Provide accurate and efficient OPT and OPT STEM services.** Students continue to utilize post-completion optional practical training, which permits students and recent graduates in F-1 nonimmigrant status to engage in training that is directly related to their field of study. The online application endorsement process through myStatus facilitates better communication and allows students to review and update their records more quickly.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES

SEVIS reportable events	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
SEVIS registrations	5,089	3,739	3,158	2,880
Personal information changes	8,288	3,594	3,862	2,774
Change of program	518	611	1,257	340
Change of education level	156	143	91	97
Curricular Practical Training authorizations	202	157	175	126
Subtotal	14,253	8,244	8,543	6,217
OPT requests	333	512	246	189
OPT employment information changes	700	754	706	346
OPT STEM extension requests	105	140	119	99
Subtotal	1,138	1,406	1,071	634
Total	15,391	9,650	9,614	6,851

IMMIGRATION DOCUMENT PROCESSING

- **Issued immigration documents** necessary for newly admitted students to attend MU and for scholars to begin their programs or employment with MU..
- **Continually improved turnaround time for processing document requests for international students and scholars.**
- **Provided J-1 scholar services to Danforth Plant Sciences Center**, an independent nonprofit research center in Creve Coeur, Missouri. MU is a charter member of the Danforth Plant Sciences Center. Our staff provided document processing and advising for 12 active visiting scholars.

New I-20s/DS-2019s for incoming students	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Immigration documents issued	1,466	600	685	411
Students who enrolled at MU	650	540	440	383
Document requests for enrolled students				
Total requests completed	3,993	3,364	2,435	2,306
Average number of business days to complete requests	3.61	3.36	3.30	4.14
International faculty, staff and visiting scholars				
J-1 visiting scholar records created	493	447	544	324
Average number of business days to complete requests	-	-	-	3
Document requests for active J-1 scholars	-	-	-	281
H-1B petitions submitted	64	52	59	95

Enhanced student and scholar experience

NEW STUDENT AND SCHOLAR PROGRAMS

- **Hosted a comprehensive [International Student Welcome](#)** for more than 350 new international students.
 - > Collaborated with the Office of New Student Programs to offer [International Student Registration and Orientation](#), allowing new international undergraduate students to preregister for their classes in the same way domestic students do.
- **Completed the first year of the \$mart Work Mizzou fellowship program**, facilitating on-campus employment opportunities for first semester international freshmen and transfer undergraduate students. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program transitioned to an online platform in March 2019. The program will continue for a second year, despite a reduction in on-campus employment due to COVID-19.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES

CROSS-CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS

- **Matched new international students with campus/community volunteers** through the [International Friendship Program](#), facilitating cross-cultural relationships and helping new students acclimate to MU. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this program did not run in spring 2020.
- **Collaborated with the Office of the Provost to organize Mizzou Welcomes You**, a program where 26 MU faculty, staff and retirees hosted 72 international students and their families for a meal on Thanksgiving.
- **Presented at 20 events throughout Columbia and Boone County** as part of the [Kaleidoscope program](#), bringing the world to Columbia's classrooms and other community events as international students and scholars from around the world share about their home countries.

SHORT-TERM/VISITOR PROGRAMS

- **Hosted summer program for students from China.** Nearly 60 students from Chongqing University, Southwest University and South China Normal University participated in the program during July 2019.
- **Collaborated with Mizzou Athletics to host Xidian University** in January 2020. Xidian's delegation included faculty, staff and students from their swim team program.

ONGOING SUPPORT PROGRAMS

- **Assisted international students, scholars and campus departments** in understanding the changing federal policies related to F/J/H programs.
- **Continued administration of the [Curator's Grant-in-Aid Scholarship](#)**, providing critical assistance to international students with demonstrated financial need.
- Collaborated with the Asian Affairs Center to host a fall pumpkin painting event for international scholars and families.
- Presented a workshop on H-1B and J-1 scholar processes during Staff Recognition Week and session for international postdocs during National Postdoc Appreciation Week.

Advanced Sponsored Student Program

International sponsored students at MU receive educational funding through a third-party source such as a government (U.S. or foreign), foundation, nonprofit organization, employer, university or business. Through the Sponsored Student Program, International Student and Scholar Services serves as a central point of contact and liaison between sponsoring agencies, sponsored students and a variety of offices across campus.

STRENGTHENED RELATIONSHIPS WITH SPONSORING AGENCIES

- **Participated in recruitment travel** to Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam. Conducted visits with 23 international sponsor programs and participated in four international recruitment fairs.
- **Facilitated liaison visits** with 12 sponsor program partners in-country.
- **Developed new proposals** with 10 sponsor programs.

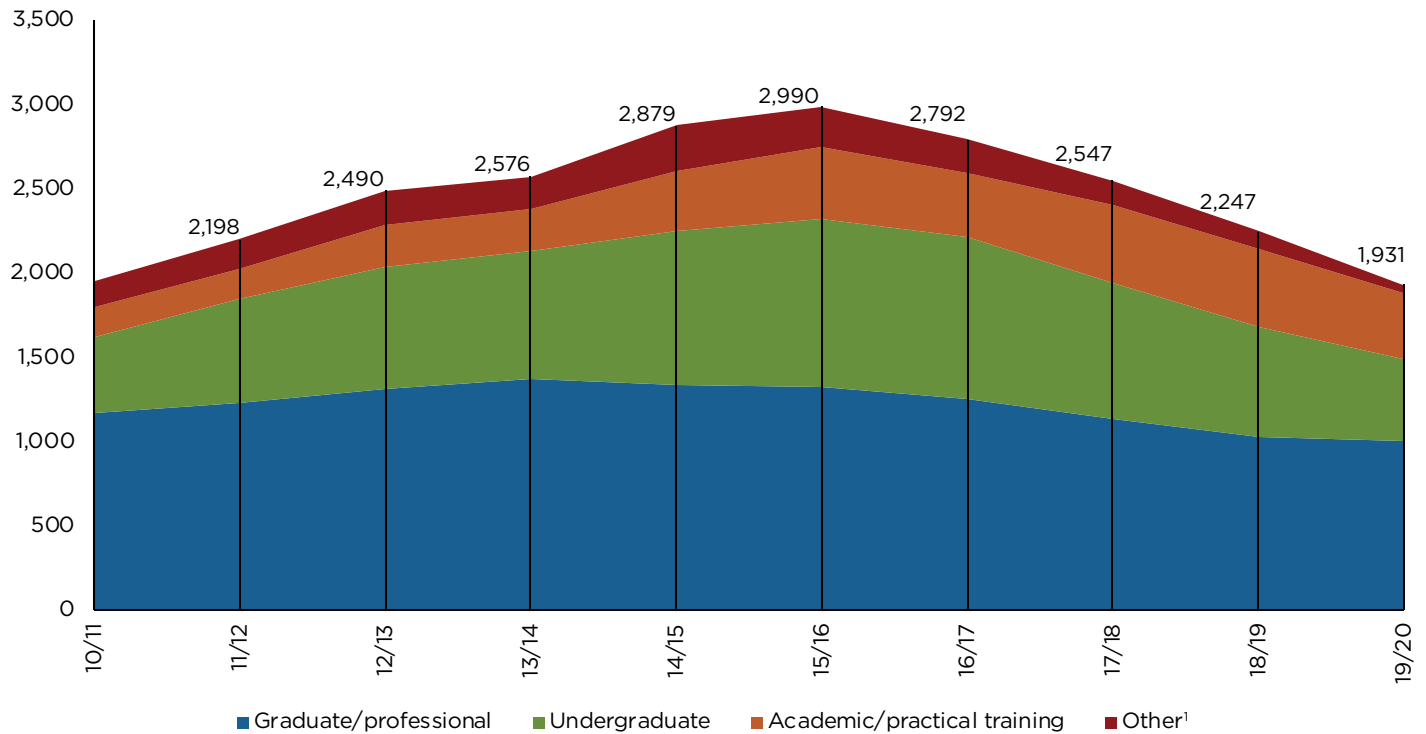
PROVIDED PERSONAL ATTENTION FOR STUDENTS

- **Hosted annual Fulbright Welcome Dinner and other events** such as specialized orientation sessions, campus resource scavenger hunt, welcome lunch, bi-weekly on-campus lunches, tea and coffee hour, and a farewell potluck in the park for graduating students.
- **Increased sponsored student advising hours and delivered graduation satisfaction surveys** to track student satisfaction and identify areas of growth, worked with registrar to implement sponsored student category for enrollment tracking and academic reporting, developed sponsored student fact sheets partnered with campus and community stakeholders to streamline foreign Fulbright grantee placement, and enhanced arrival assistance to sponsored students and provide new student welcome kits.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES

Fast facts: International students

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY LEVEL



TOP COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
China	1,555	1,469	1,298	1,069	837
India	245	229	228	208	202
South Korea	197	179	143	143	117
Saudi Arabia	117	108	93	75	68
Vietnam	63	66	63	59	54
Iran	49	51	57	52	46
Brazil	62	23	36	44	42
Iraq	91	79	69	58	42
Bangladesh	12	13	19	26	35
Nigeria	19	19	23	28	32
Taiwan	43	37	30	34	32
Nepal	29	28	28	31	27
Indonesia	20	23	23	20	20
Turkey	23	24	19	11	20

ENROLLMENT BY SCHOOL/COLLEGE

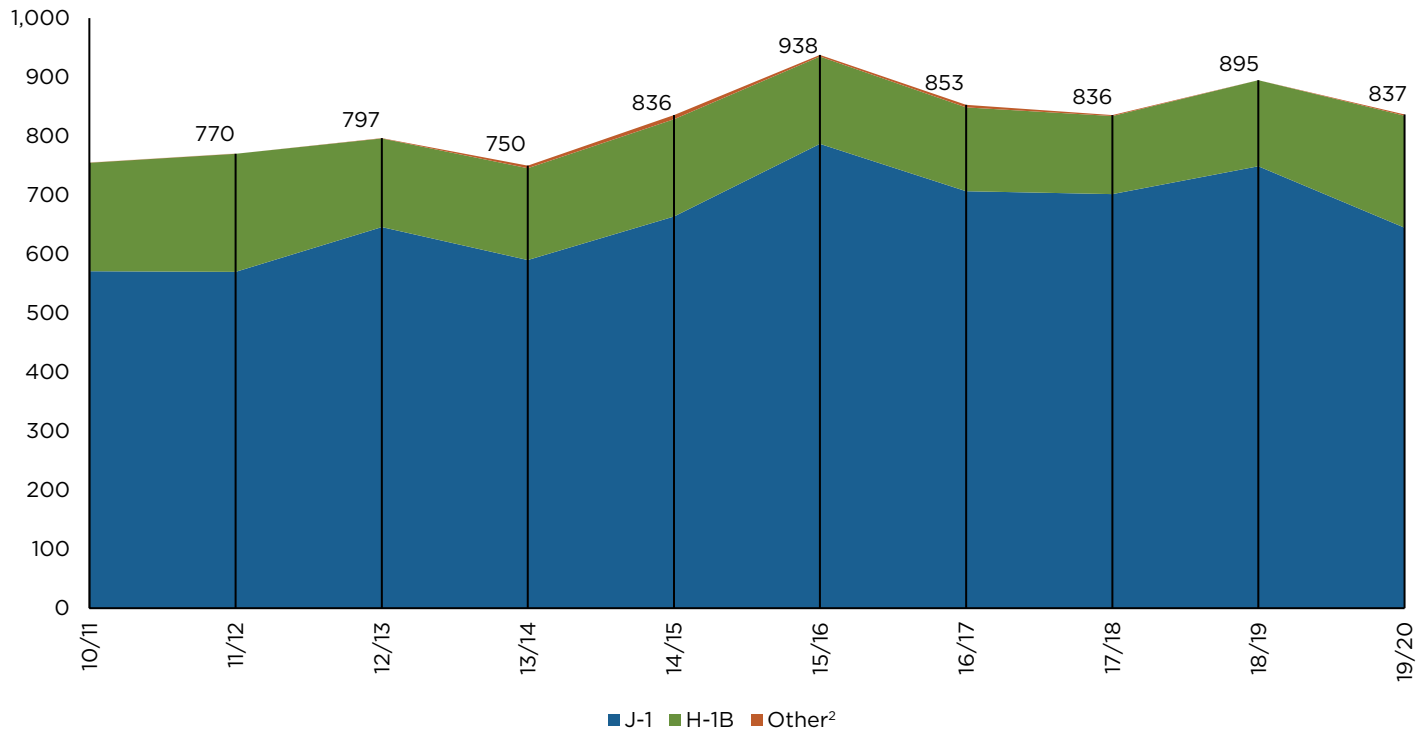
	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Engineering	752	860	615	748	490
Arts and Science	741	828	657	624	426
CAFNR	219	238	165	159	126
Journalism	120	133	92	138	119
Business	194	198	127	131	86
HES	66	93	92	89	70
Education	72	70	66	74	63
Graduate Studies	64	69	58	25	30
Health Professions	10	14	18	27	30
Medicine	46	48	24	44	27
Nursing	4	7	7	9	10
Vet Medicine	3	4	10	16	7
Law	9	8	5	11	5
Public Affairs	27	28	-	-	-

¹ Other includes all nonimmigrant students participating in the Intensive English Program and other non-degree programs.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES

Fast facts: International scholars

INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS BY VISA TYPE



TOP COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
China	436	396	392	441	379
South Korea	159	153	158	156	173
India	69	73	54	64	75
Brazil	31	34	36	39	34
Canada	19	20	14	12	15
Spain	12	8	7	19	15
Japan	8	6	6	4	9
Germany	18	8	9	9	7
Vietnam	4	8	8	5	7
Egypt	5	2	3	2	6
Thailand	21	13	10	11	6
Colombia	5	2	2	2	5
Iran	9	5	7	8	5
Israel	1	2	2	3	5
Nepal	4	5	4	2	5
United Kingdom	5	4	5	5	5

BY FIELD OF SPECIALIZATION

	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Biological sciences	133	105	109	127	155
Agriculture	141	124	119	119	95
Health professions	79	49	54	78	66
Comm./journalism	86	79	63	68	62
Area/ethnic studies	15	33	36	46	61
Engineering	92	89	83	76	57
Physical sciences	57	54	40	49	51
Social sciences	53	65	70	65	43
Business	53	41	44	43	40
Education	81	37	25	26	30
Comp./info sciences	33	43	38	29	29
Natural resources	13	20	17	16	21
Foreign languages	9	13	21	32	20
Mathematics	17	17	22	23	19
Law	5	4	6	18	16
Other	71	78	89	80	72

² Other includes short-term activities such as conferences, colloquiums, observations, consultations and other short-term professional development activities.

CENTER FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

Provided high quality English language instruction

The [Center for English Language Learning](#) provides English language instruction to prepare non-native speakers for university-level studies, professional endeavors and community engagement. Through our courses, services and extracurricular activities, we:

- Provide our students with a deeper understanding of academic and American culture, both within and outside of the university.
- Assist our students with personal and cultural adjustments.
- Foster support for international initiatives at MU.
- Advocate for international students locally and nationally.

Intensive English Program

The [Intensive English Program](#) provides personalized instruction through small class sizes that allow each student to receive a large amount of individual attention. Students with beginning, intermediate and advanced English proficiency are placed in one of five levels based on the results of the placement test administered at the beginning of each term.

Students receive a minimum of 20 hours of instruction per week in grammar, listening and speaking, reading and writing. In the higher levels, the program has a strong academic focus; students work on improving reading skills, writing research papers, developing note-taking skills and communicating effectively in a university setting.

The program is accredited by the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation.

- During 2019/20, **61 students from 16 different countries studied in the Intensive English Program**, making up 87 enrollments. Of these students:
 - > 17 students applied to MU, and nine have matriculated.
 - > 44 students came to study English in the IEP for other reasons, some of which included to get a better job, to integrate into the community, to be able to apply to other universities and to gain skills for personal growth.
- **Hosted 14 Turkish sponsored students.** This was the first time the program had been included on the Turkish government's scholarship list of approved programs for English language study.

Academic Integration @ Mizzou

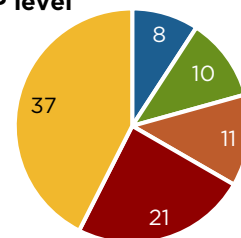
The Academic Integration @ Mizzou program supports international students who are ready for academic work but simultaneously need additional English-language study because they do not meet the minimum TOEFL or IELTS requirements.

The program combines English Language Support Program courses with academic courses specifically chosen to put students in a position to succeed. During the 2019/20 academic year, 15 of the 16 students who were admitted and enrolled in courses at MU completed the program.

FAST FACTS: INTENSIVE ENGLISH PROGRAM

Countries of origin	19/20	Visa type	19/20
Turkey	14	F-1	30
Saudi Arabia	13	J-1	14
China	10	Permanent resident	8
South Korea	7	U.S. citizen	4
DR Congo	3	J-2	3
Libya	3	H-4	2
Taiwan	2		
Egypt	1		
Germany	1		
Honduras	1		
India	1		
Japan	1		
Jordan	1		
Mexico	1		
Mongolia	1		
Puerto Rico	1		

IEP level



■ Level 1 ■ Level 2 ■ Level 3
■ Level 4 ■ Level 5

CENTER FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

English Language Support Program

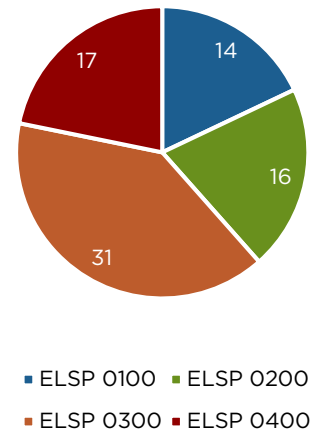
The [English Language Support Program](#) serves the University of Missouri by assessing the English proficiency of MU's undergraduate international students and providing English language courses for undergraduate and graduate international students to help them be successful in their academic studies.

- During 2019/20, **55 students from 16 different countries studied in the English Language Support Program**, making up 78 enrollments.
- ELSP courses are offered in reading, writing and oral communication:
 - > ELSP 0100: Grammar and Composition I
 - > ELSP 0200: Reading and Vocabulary
 - > ELSP 0300: Grammar and Composition II
 - > ELSP 0400: Oral Communication

FAST FACTS: ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUPPORT PROGRAM

Countries of origin	19/20	Academic level	19/20
China	29	Undergraduate	37
Korea	6	Graduate	17
Saudi Arabia	3	Exchange	1
Taiwan	3		
Kuwait	2		
Thailand	2		
Brazil	1		
Colombia	1		
France	1		
Germany	1		
Indonesia	1		
Iran	1		
Japan	1		
Pakistan	1		
Russia	1		
Uzbekistan	1		

ELSP course



Responded to the COVID-19 pandemic

In March 2020, the Center for English Language Learning quickly transitioned to remote learning with the rest of the university in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. All IEP and ELSP courses were moved online and taught synchronously.

- **Ensured SEVP compliance with synchronous instruction.** Guidelines from the Student Exchange Visitor Program require students in English language training programs to have at least 18 hours of instruction.
- **Helped students navigate online learning and technology challenges.** Taking classes online was more difficult for the lower level students as the platforms used for remote instruction were in English, the language they are trying to learn. Additionally, eight students did not have laptops at home and/or high-speed, stable internet. These students were able to check out laptops and DoIT helped provide hotspots where possible.
- **Offered summer courses for students in the highest level in IEP.** Because SEVP guidelines did not allow new international students coming to the U.S. to enroll in fully online courses, only IEP level 5 courses were delivered synchronously online during summer 2020.

ASIAN AFFAIRS CENTER

Served as a bridge between MU and Asia

- **Developed and maintained close ties with MU partners and alumni in the Pacific Rim.** The Asian Affairs Center develops and manages partnerships in nations of the Pacific Rim, facilitating academic, research, economic and diversity opportunities between Missouri and Asia.
 - > Facilitated and co-organized MU alumni events in China, Japan, South Korea and Thailand.
 - > Conducted a series of Zoom meetings with alumni groups and partner universities in Asian countries since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Provided short- and long-term training programs for students and scholars.** The center offers professional development education programs for Asian partner institutions, government officials, professionals and university students.
 - > The [Global Leadership Program](#) for government officials, professionals, higher education faculty and research scholars designed to enhance global competency and cross-cultural communication skills.
 - > Educational [programs for visiting Asian students](#) from MU's partner universities enhance language and communication skills, leadership capabilities and cross-cultural competence.
- **Connected the campus and community to Asia.** The center connects MU students and faculty as well as Columbia residents to Asia through outreach and engagement programs and referrals to Asian studies programs at MU and to teaching or study abroad opportunities in Asia.
 - > [Volunteer programs](#) like the Collegiate Ambassador Program and Conversation Partners Program provide opportunities for MU students to engage in cultural exchange without leaving campus.
 - > In collaboration with the National Institute for International Education in South Korea, the center recruits students to teach English in public schools in Korea through the [TaLK](#) and [EPIK](#) programs.
- **Promoted awareness and appreciation of Asia and its various cultures** on campus and in the community. The center has arranged volunteer internships with local organizations and business for approximately 190 visiting Asian students. Host organizations have consistently indicated that having visiting interns from Asia has helped to enhance the diversity and office culture of their organizations, as well as to promote cultural understanding in these workplaces.
 - > Organized a Thai Culture Day with visiting scholars from Thailand in July 2019.
 - > Co-hosted K-Cultural Night with the Korean Student Association in November 2019.
 - > Sponsored the 2020 Chinese New Year Gala with the Chinese Students and Scholars Association in February 2020.
 - > Offered diversity education to Asian visiting scholars and alumni, including Black Lives Matter: A Discussion on Racial Inequity in the U.S. in July 2020.
- **Facilitated opportunities between Missouri and Asia.** Through our official partnership with the Missouri Department of Economic Development, the Asian Affairs Center collaborates with Asian governments and businesses to facilitate communication and opportunities between Missouri and Asia. The center also serves as communication liaison for State of Missouri and City of Columbia sister partnerships in Japan and South Korea.
 - > Organized and coordinated a Columbia community leadership delegation to Hakusan, Japan, in October 2019, fostering cultural, educational and economic development exchanges between the sister cities.
 - > Coordinated multiple Asian delegation visits to MU and Missouri, including:
 - Mr. Kunitake Ando, chairman of the University of Nagano and former president of Sony Corporation
 - Dr. Young Sok Kim, Chicago-based consul general of the Republic of Korea

ASIAN AFFAIRS CENTER

Responded to the COVID-19 pandemic

In March 2020, the Asian Affairs Center adapted with the rest of the MU campus to remote learning formats and other creative solutions to keep staff and program participants healthy and safe.

- Swiftly adjusted the curriculum and instruction of the Global Leadership Program to be fully online.
- For J-2 dependent children in need of supplemental support to the Columbia Public Schools online program during spring and summer 2020, the center offered:
 - > Online ESL program
 - > Online tutoring program (in partnership with the MU Office of Service-Learning)
- Hosted a [drive-through certificate ceremony](#) in May 2020 to honor Asian visiting scholars in the Global Leadership Program.
- Continued the Collegiate Ambassador Program by coordinating online cultural exchange. The center recruited 21 MU students from Japanese language classes to connect with 30 students at the University of Nagano in Japan.
- Offered [trail and bike tours](#) for our visiting scholars as suitable leisure options during the pandemic.
- Launched new online education programs:
 - > [Junior Leadership Program](#)
 - > [Executive Certificate in Global Leadership](#)
- Undergraduate education programs for visiting students have been canceled since March 2020. The center has focused on developing and offering online education programs for our partner universities, including:
 - > Online orientation lessons for the [Global Business Program](#) for students at the University of Nagano in Japan.
 - > Professional Leadership Advancement for NextGen Scholars — still in development, this is a semester-long hybrid education program for students at our Asian partner universities.

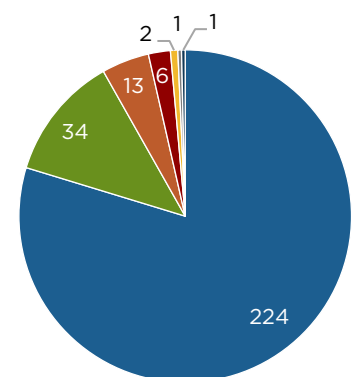
Fast facts: Asian Affairs Center

PARTICIPANTS BY PROGRAM

Program	19/20
Visiting scholars	111
GLP	52
Spouses Program	35
GSPE	14
FDP	10
Visiting students	60
LEAD	20
I-LEAP	17
GLCP	12
AGAP	11
K-12	110
JLP	110

PARTICIPANTS BY COUNTRY

Program	19/20
Visiting scholars	111
South Korea	80
China	16
Thailand	13
United Kingdom	1
Vietnam	1
Visiting students	60
South Korea	40
China	12
Japan	6
Kyrgyzstan	2
K-12	110
South Korea	104
China	6



STUDY ABROAD

Responded to the COVID-19 pandemic

2019/20 was an intense academic year for Mizzou Study Abroad. In addition to our ongoing commitment to promote study abroad opportunities to as many MU students as possible, our team worked through the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic created for our spring and summer 2020 programs.

- 188 students had programs canceled mid-semester (spring 2020 and academic year 2019/20)
- 523* students had programs canceled in advance (spring break and summer 2020)

In collaboration with partners on the MU campus and around the world, the Mizzou Study Abroad team supported students in making arrangements to return home and finish their semester coursework remotely, navigating reimbursement procedures and processing the sudden interruption of their study abroad experience.

*Excludes programs administered by College of Engineering, College of Education and Department of Nutrition and Exercise Physiology.

Launched new academic-based model for study abroad advising

In direct response to MU's student success strategic priorities, in June 2020 Mizzou Study Abroad launched a new model for study abroad advising focused on academics, rather than geographic region. **To better serve MU students, our approach is now focused on what students want to study rather than where.** Students will have one dedicated study abroad adviser in our office who is familiar with their major and who can suggest programs that are a good fit for students in that major regardless of location. Our goal is to keep students on track for graduation and to provide experiential learning opportunities that will complement the outstanding education they receive at their academic homes. This new approach will help us better contribute to MU's strategic student success goals:

■ Student retention

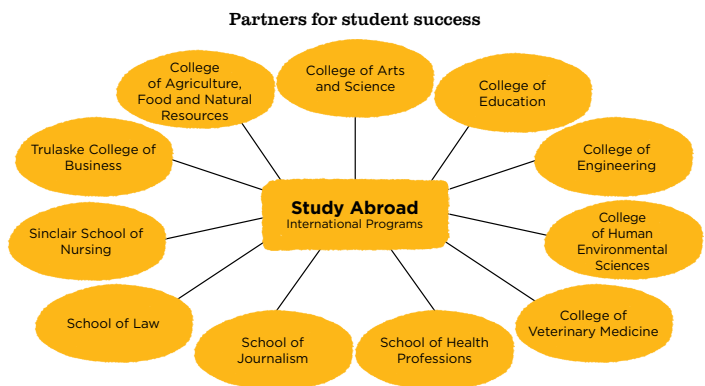
- > Provides students of all majors with a road map for participation in study abroad, a high-impact practice for student engagement and success.
- > One-stop-shop experience — one designated contact in the Study Abroad Office for students, faculty and academic advisers with specialized knowledge of students' academic majors.

■ Degree acceleration

- > Customized study abroad advising approach to ensure students identify programs and courses that accelerate their degree completion at MU.
- > Enhanced curricular integration presence on the Study Abroad website to facilitate credit transfer.

■ Career readiness

- > Exploration of academic and vocational goals with students to ensure congruence with their study abroad program selection.
- > Provides opportunities for student reflection and making connection between study abroad, academics and career.



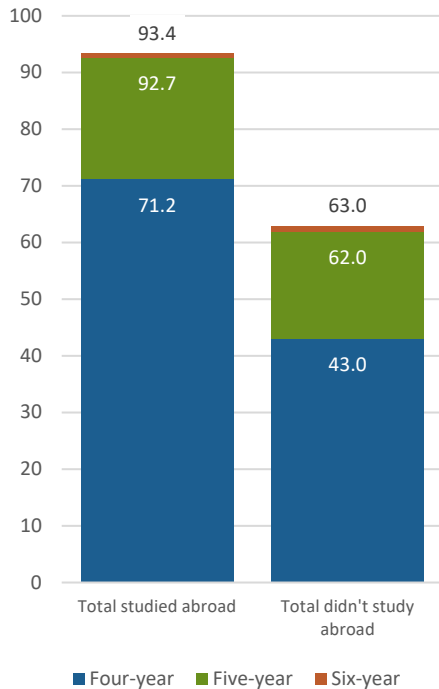
Study abroad enhances MU's academic retention and graduation goals

A recent review of MU's graduation and retention data (2007–2016) shows that **MU students who participate in study abroad have graduation rates at least 30% higher** than those of students who are not able to study abroad. We also found that study abroad makes a positive difference for students at risk. Specifically, first generation, underrepresented minority and Pell-eligible students who participate in study abroad have a graduation rate 36% higher than students who don't study abroad. These findings demonstrate that study abroad programs are mission critical to MU's student success strategies and encourage us to continue our commitment to provide global experiences for students that accelerate retention and degree completion.

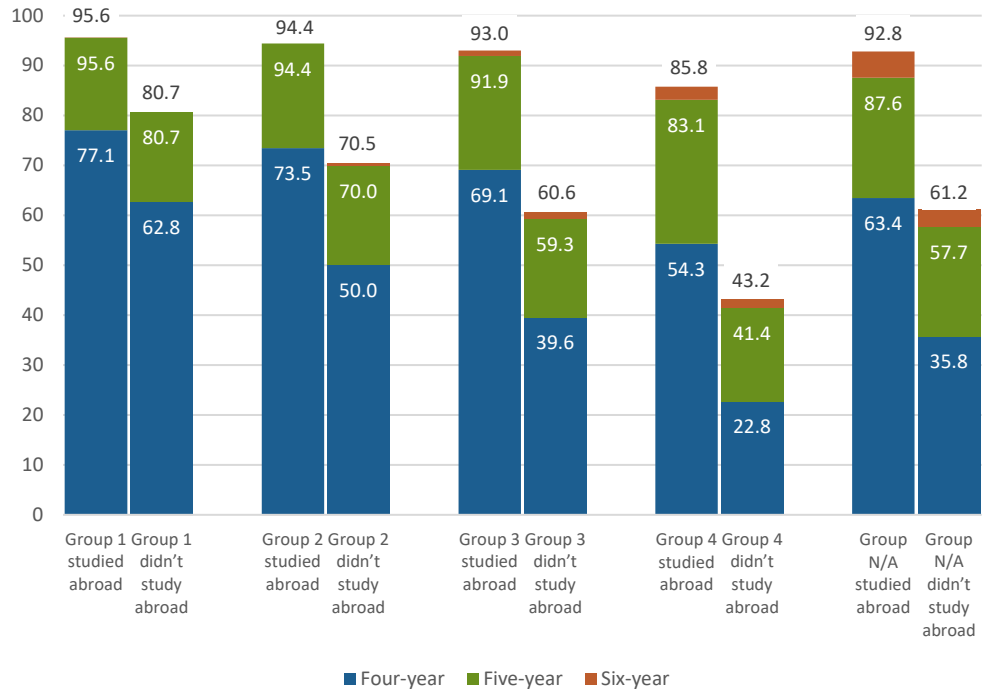
STUDY ABROAD

Graduation rates: FS2007–FS2016* admit terms, averaged

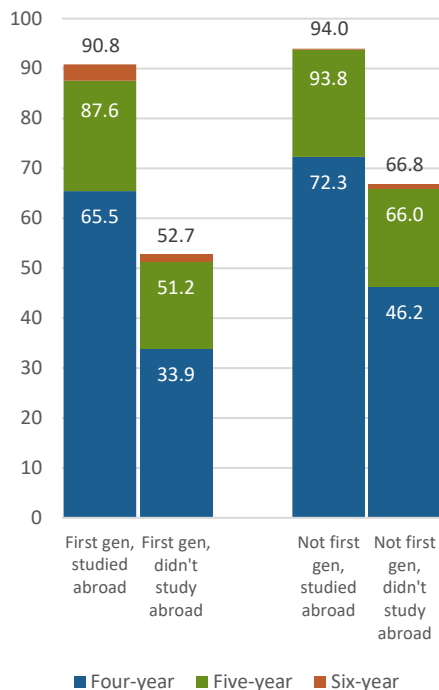
TOTAL



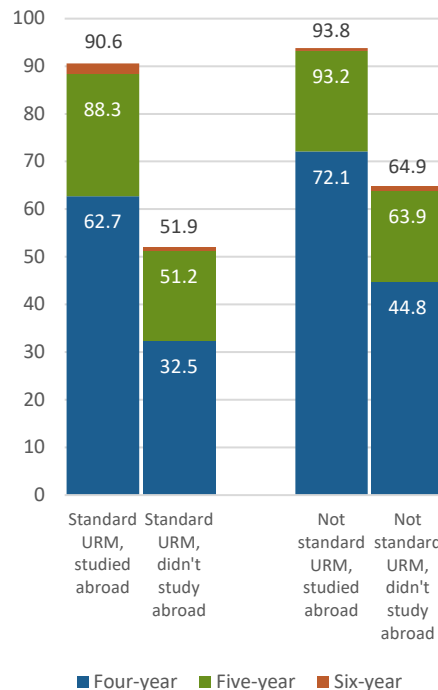
ADVISING GROUP



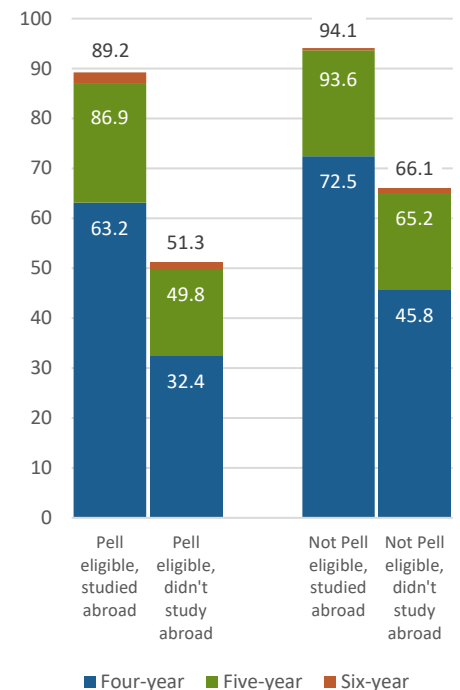
FIRST GENERATION



UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITY



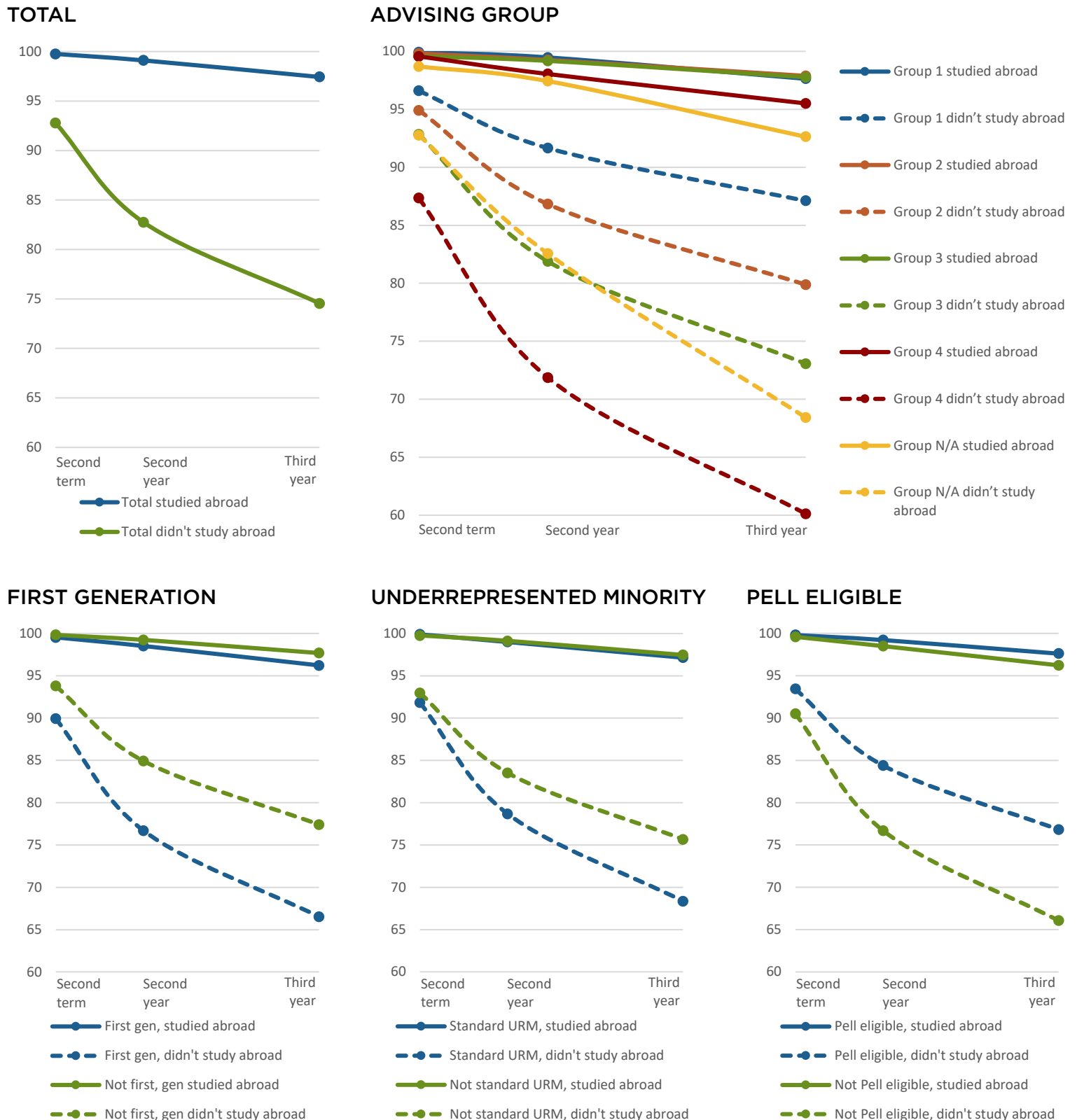
PELL ELIGIBLE



*Five-year rate excludes FS2016; six-year rate excludes FS2015 and FS2016 (data not yet available).

STUDY ABROAD

Retention rates: FS2007–FS2017 admit terms, averaged



STUDY ABROAD

Revitalized our commitment to inclusion, diversity and equity

Consistent with MU's commitment to inclusion, diversity and equity in a time of racial crisis and injustice in the U.S., the Mizzou Study Abroad staff completed the [Race, Racism and the American Experience](#) self-guided curriculum created by the MU Division of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity. Individual study and small group discussions with team members culminated in a full staff discussion facilitated by Dr. Ty-Ron Douglas, MU associate professor of educational leadership and policy analysis and renowned international speaker on topics of diversity and inclusion. The completion of this curriculum has helped us revitalize our inclusion, diversity and equity efforts in our study abroad operations, and empower our staff to be a positive influence for our campus.

With the strong financial support of International Programs, seven MU staff members participated in the [2020 Diversity Abroad Conference](#), which was postponed and then held online this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to Mizzou Study Abroad staff, representatives from the Center for Academic Success and Excellence and the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture attended. We also sponsored the participation of one study abroad student returnee, [Elijah Brown](#), in the Global Student Leadership Summit hosted by the conference. Elijah is from St. Louis, Mo., and is pursuing majors in linguistics and Spanish. He studied abroad in Spain (summer 2019) and plans to graduate from MU in December 2020.

Developed new strategic partnership with MU College of Engineering

In summer 2020, International Programs and Mizzou Study Abroad began a new partnership with the College of Engineering to provide [global learning opportunities](#) to all engineering students. Under this partnership, engineering students will be able to enhance their engineering degrees and stand out in the competitive global job market by obtaining experiential knowledge through studying, researching or interning abroad. Skills such as adaptability, intercultural communication and critical thinking are highly sought after in the engineering industry and can be improved by studying abroad. We believe this student-centered partnership will contribute to the College of Engineering's student success goals and optimize the expertise and resources of Mizzou Study Abroad.

Expanded program offerings to include global virtual internships

For summer 2020, Mizzou Study Abroad launched our first [virtual internships](#) to provide students with outstanding global opportunities to develop career readiness and success. Host by our affiliated partner CEA Study Abroad, the inaugural cohort of 11 students spent the summer working remotely for companies and nonprofit organizations in Australia, Czech Republic, France, Italy and Spain. With internships focusing on areas such as marketing, project management, fundraising and newspaper reporting, our students were able to be part of international teams and solve real life problems for global partners from their homes in the United States. We plan to expand our virtual internship offerings to make global learning more accessible to all Mizzou students.

Renewed our partnership with top-100 universities

Mizzou Study Abroad was thrilled to renew our long-standing student exchange relationships with prestigious partners: [Seoul National University](#) (South Korea) and [Monash University](#) (Australia). MU has worked closely with these top-100 universities for more than 20 years. Through these student exchange relationships, Mizzou students have the great opportunity to study at renowned global universities for a semester or academic year at the same cost as attending MU. We also have the opportunity to host talented international students from our exchange partners on our campus each semester.

Recognized first Study Abroad Teaching Excellence Award recipients

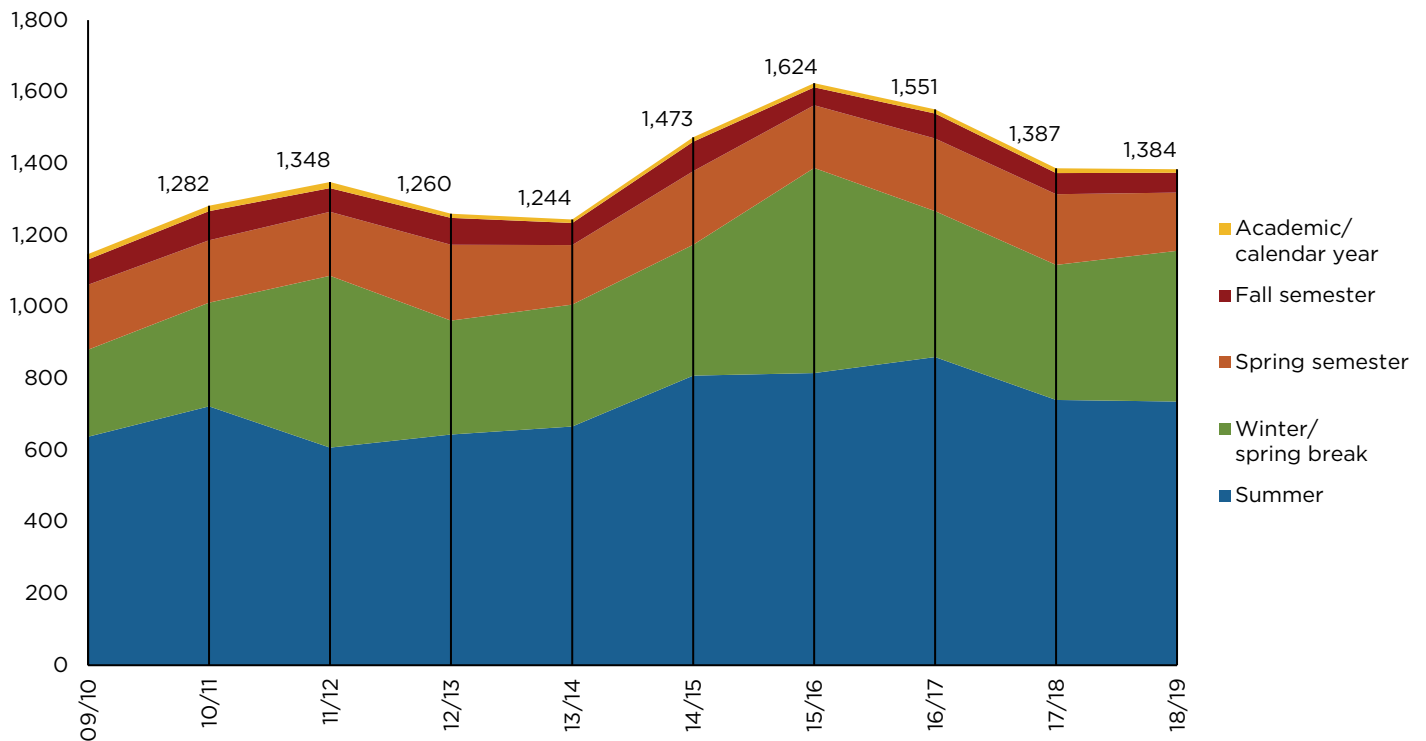
With support from International Programs and the Council on International Initiatives, Mizzou Study Abroad selected the inaugural recipients of the [MU Study Abroad Teaching Excellence Awards](#). Open to faculty in all academic disciplines, the awards recognize the exceptional and meaningful work carried out by faculty in global teaching, student learning and curriculum design for faculty-led study abroad programs. The 2020 recipients were:

- > **Dr. Tojan Rahhal**, College of Engineering
- > **Dr. Robert Sites**, College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources

STUDY ABROAD

Fast facts: Study abroad

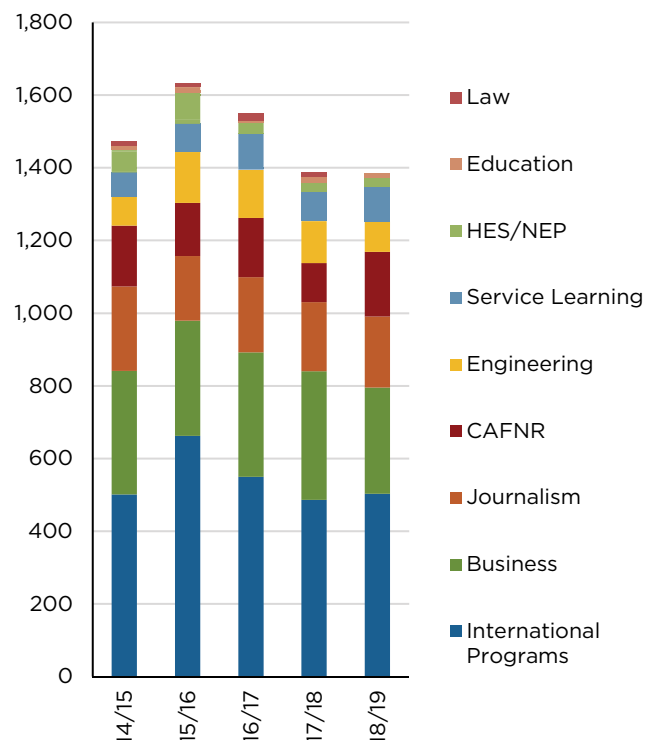
PARTICIPATION BY PROGRAM TERM³



TOP DESTINATIONS³

	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
Italy	232	277	210	242	185
Spain	130	148	152	125	152
United Kingdom	126	99	130	119	119
Czech Republic	57	47	73	84	76
New Zealand	64	71	60	68	68
Multiple	121	67	98	93	64
Costa Rica	63	77	74	37	63
Ireland	62	240	55	68	63
Belgium	43	37	47	48	54
Germany	51	35	92	56	49
France	52	92	48	38	48
South Africa	66	54	53	33	43
Thailand	17	37	37	20	38
Vietnam	4	-	11	45	35
Ghana	20	14	19	26	34
Australia	14	40	41	24	33

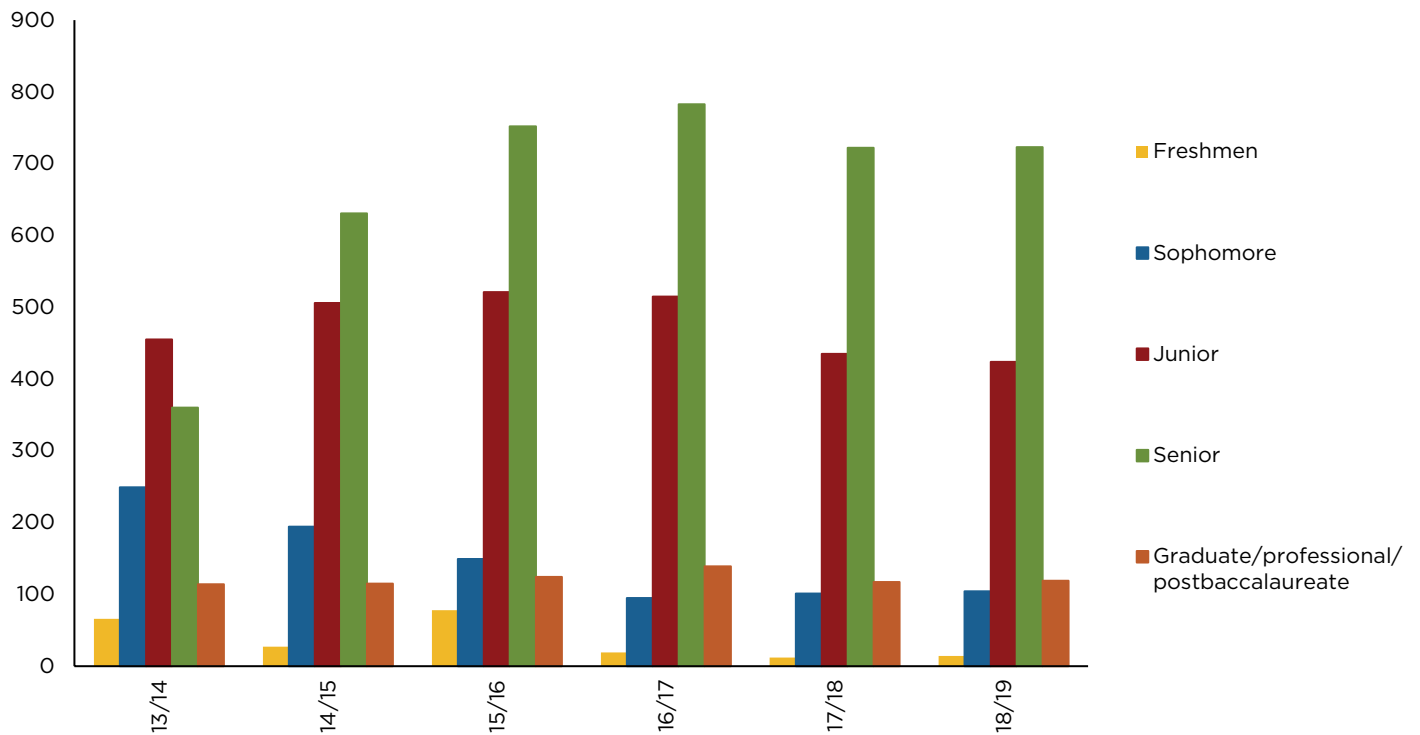
PARTICIPATION BY ADMINISTERING OFFICE³



STUDY ABROAD

Fast facts: Study abroad

PARTICIPATION BY LEVEL³



ESTIMATED UNDERGRADUATE PARTICIPATION AND PARTICIPATION RATE BY SCHOOL/ COLLEGE OF PRIMARY DEGREE PROGRAM⁴

	14/15		15/16		16/17		17/18		18/19	
	participants	rate	participants	rate	participants	rate	participants	rate	participants	rate
Arts and Science	308	16%	353	18%	308	16%	274	14%	280	15%
Business	267	34%	279	34%	303	32%	250	24%	213	24%
CAFNR	173	23%	182	24%	177	24%	124	17%	176	27%
Education	38	14%	37	12%	33	15%	35	14%	38	15%
Engineering	79	13%	143	21%	131	21%	102	15%	82	11%
Health Professions	116	19%	109	16%	118	16%	96	14%	92	12%
HES	65	21%	71	21%	55	15%	53	15%	36	10%
Journalism	230	48%	213	39%	233	43%	216	40%	211	40%
Nursing	33	14%	45	23%	42	21%	40	19%	51	25%
Total	1,309	22%	1,432	23%	1,400	22%	1,190	18%	1,149	18%

³ Includes visiting students and non-U.S. citizens who participated in MU study abroad programs. Students who studied abroad more than once during an academic year were counted as two separate participants.

⁴ Undergraduate participation rate uses the Institute of International Education Open Doors (iie.org/opendoors) data definition for participants, which includes only degree-seeking students who are U.S. citizens/permanent residents. Rate is calculated based on participants relative to undergraduate degrees conferred.

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH, SAFETY & SECURITY

Led initiatives to support the health, safety and security of MU travelers

The Office of International Health, Safety and Security fulfills the responsibilities assigned to International Programs by the [University of Missouri Collected Rules and Regulations](#) to support health, safety and security compliance, as well as compliance with federal and state regulations and university policy, for MU students, non-enrolled participants, and faculty and staff who participate on study abroad or university-related international travel programs. The office is responsible for maintaining and implementing the [MU Student International Travel Policy](#) for all university-related international travel, and works in collaboration with the [Student Travel Abroad Review Committee](#) to review requests for higher risk travel.

Working with colleagues across campus, university experts, colleagues in the U.S. and abroad, and individual participants, the office facilitates travel abroad that supports the academic mission of the university and seeks to maximize the safety of travelers by evaluating risk; providing health and safety orientation, training and compliance; developing and maintaining emergency response plans; and responding to emergencies.

In response to increased campuswide need, in August 2019 an assistant director of international health, safety and security was added to provide capacity to expand services, particularly in regard to registering university-related travel, and to continue to offer a high level of support for the health, safety and security of university travelers.

Responded to the COVID-19 pandemic

A core function of the Office of International Health, Safety and Security is to provide focused, on-going risk assessment and mitigation by monitoring health, safety and security conditions relevant to MU's international travelers. In January 2020, we began targeted monitoring of the outbreak of the novel coronavirus in China. The World Health Organization declared this coronavirus a public health emergency of international concern on Jan. 30, 2020, and named it coronavirus disease 2019 on Feb. 11. Our office's response to the COVID-19 pandemic included the following:

- **Conducted continual, focused monitoring of COVID-19** using resources from the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), [World Health Organization](#), [U.S. Department of State](#) and its [Overseas Security Advisory Council](#), dedicated COVID-19 dashboards (e.g., [Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center](#)), and national and international news sources. In addition, we conducted nationwide benchmarking with peer universities regarding their stances toward university-related international travel.
- **Implemented the [MU Student International Travel Policy](#)** under the leadership of the vice provost for International Programs and in close collaboration with the MU Student Health Center. Based on the policy, university-related student international travel to China was canceled in January, followed in turn by the cancellation of travel to South Korea, Italy, Europe and, finally, the unprecedented cancellation of all university-related student international travel.
- **Drafted university-wide COVID-19 communication** in close collaboration with International Programs leadership, Student Health Center and key campus experts. This messaging was sent to all MU students participating in study abroad programs and their families, as well as campus stakeholders.
- **Assisted MU students studying abroad in 22 countries** and their families in making travel arrangements to return to the United States. Continued collaboration with the Student Health Center to provide information and respond to questions about the rapidly changing CDC recommendations and requirements regarding COVID-19.
- **Managed communication with MU graduate students and fellowship recipients in 20 countries** to confirm their safety and provide information regarding university travel decisions and CDC recommendations and requirements.
- **Identified key COVID-19 considerations and indicators** for restarting university-related student international travel, including Department of State and CDC advisories, host country entry restrictions, COVID-19 trajectory predictions, quality of local medical system and on-site student support.
- **Developed COVID-19 specific questionnaires** to guide individual students and programs in developing COVID-19 safety plans for appeals to the Student Travel Abroad Review Committee and provided in-depth COVID-19 risk analysis.

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH, SAFETY & SECURITY

Expanded travel registration

- **Developed a proposal for a Domestic Travel Registry** to track approved, university-related domestic student travel. Having students register in a centralized database better positions the university to communicate with students in response to an event that has the potential to negatively impact their health, safety or security.
- **Promoted use of the [International Travel Registry](#)** for university-related international travel by students, faculty and staff members traveling with students and [non-enrolled participants](#).
- **Conducted campuswide outreach** with the UM System Office of Risk and Insurance Management to increase knowledge about the registry and university resources to support related international travel.

Distributed key health and safety information to travelers

MANAGED ALERTTRAVELER SOFTWARE

AlertTraveler is available to all MU students participating on student abroad or university-related international travel programs and faculty and staff leading MU students abroad. This mobile application and service provides real-time security data from [WorldAware](#), a premier provider of global security information, and a check-in feature that allows travelers to instantly confirm their safety in the event of a critical incident, such as a natural disaster or terrorist attack. Alerts are rated critical, warning or informational, depending on the severity of the event.

- > Disseminated 213 critical alerts and 1,185 warning alerts to MU international travelers

PROVIDED 24/7 CRISIS RESPONSE FOR ALL MU STUDENTS PARTICIPATING ON STUDY ABROAD OR UNIVERSITY-RELATED INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL PROGRAMS

- **Crisis response:** Collaborated with the vice provost for International Programs, colleagues in Mizzou Study Abroad, UM System Office of Risk and Insurance Management, UM System Office of the General Counsel, Student Health Center, Counseling Center and other key campus stakeholders to respond to 22 health, safety and security incidents impacting MU students abroad and faculty/staff traveling with them, ranging in severity from moderate to very high, in addition to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Maintained university-wide student international travel incident database.** This database tracks type, frequency and severity of incidents impacting MU travelers abroad. Health, safety and security training for faculty and staff leading MU students abroad is updated to respond to incident trends.
- **Maintained centralized emergency response information, plans and protocols.** International Programs manages myStudyAbroad for campuswide use as the official central data source of location and emergency contact information for MU students participating in study abroad and university-related international travel programs. The Office of Health, Safety and Security collaborates with key campus and university stakeholders to develop and maintain emergency response plans and protocols.

ENHANCED HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY TRAINING

- **Trained MU faculty and staff members leading groups of students abroad and international educators.** Worked in collaboration with the UM System Office of Risk and Insurance Management and Office of the General Counsel to develop and present training workshops for winter break 2019/20 programs. Workshops for summer 2020 programs were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and university suspension of non-essential travel.
- **Delivered enhanced health, safety and security information** through the [Mizzou Abroad Orientation](#). This orientation is mandatory for all MU students participating in study abroad or university-related international travel programs.

COORDINATED CLERY ACT COMPLIANCE

Coordinated university-wide compliance with the [Clery Act](#) for all study abroad and university-related international travel programs. Submitted Clery compliance information to the MU Police Department to be included in the [University Annual Fire Safety and Security Report](#).