

International Programs
Biennial Report
2021/22 and 2022/23



International Programs
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 abroad programs and supports MU's international community as they study, teach and research at MU.

International Initiatives

International Programs works with faculty and staff from across campus to develop and maintain MU's relationships with institutions and organizations 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](#) offers high-quality English language instruction to non-native speakers of English to prepare them for university-level studies, professional endeavors and community engagement. The center 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 professionals hosted on MU's campus. The center also connects MU students and mid-Missouri residents to Asia through volunteer opportunities and referrals to programs for Asian studies at MU and for teaching or study abroad.

Study Abroad

[Mizzou Study Abroad](#) coordinates, develops and administers high impact academic programs abroad that enable MU students to study outside the United States. Students from any major can gain a global perspective while earning credit toward their MU degrees on our global study, internship, research and service-learning programs.

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 lead study abroad or university-related international activities. The office 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

Resumption of international engagement in the post-pandemic era

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact international initiatives and mobility during the 2021/22 academic year. International travel restrictions meant that a limited number of delegations were able to travel to the U.S. to visit the MU campus, while other international partner meetings and presentations continued in a virtual format. Study abroad programming continued to grow throughout 2021/22 as COVID-19 cases and country entry restrictions eased. The numbers of international students and scholars arriving at MU began to increase as consulates around the world reopened for visa processing and restrictions on entry to the U.S. also eased.

By fall 2022, in-person international events, study abroad and delegation visits quickly returned to (almost) pre-pandemic levels. MU International Programs hosted many delegations — including visits that had been postponed due to earlier travel restrictions. International partnership development and student recruitment events took place in-person in some locations, while virtual meetings or webinars were arranged for time efficiency or to reach a broader audience.

International delegation visits

The university hosted distinguished visitors and delegations from the following institutions and organizations.

2021/22

- **Mongolia:** Mongolian National University of Education
- **South Africa:** University of the Western Cape
- **South Korea:** Jinju Health College, Kongju National University
- **Uzbekistan:** El-Yurt Umidi Foundation, Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan, Tashkent State Agrarian University

2022/23

- **Canada:** Canadian Consul General in Chicago
- **China:** Chinese Consulate of Chicago
- **Georgia:** Akaki Tsereteli State University
- **Germany:** Deputy Ambassador of Germany to the U.S. and Bertelsmann Foundation
- **Ireland:** Irish Consulate in Austin
- **South Africa:** University of the Western Cape
- **South Korea:** Kongju National University, Korea Foundation, National Institute for International Education, National Korea Maritime and Ocean University, South Korean Education Influencers Program (American Councils for International Education/U.S. Embassy in Seoul program)

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 [150 active agreements](#) with institutions in over 35 countries. During 2021/22 and 2022/23, the campus [IMOU Review Committee](#) met regularly to review new MOU proposals and renewals.

Due to the pandemic, travel opportunities were limited in 2021/22. However, Dr. Mary Stegmaier, vice provost for International Programs, was able to meet with partners in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

- **Kyrgyzstan:** International University named after K.Sh.Tokomamatov, Jalal-Abad State University, Osh State University
- **Uzbekistan:** El-Yurt Umidi Foundation, Ministry of Agriculture, Tashkent State Agrarian University

In 2022/23, Dr. Stegmaier visited the following current and prospective partners.

- **Ireland:** National University of Ireland–Galway, CEA Study Abroad Dublin Center, IES Abroad Dublin Center
- **Senegal:** Virtual University of Senegal
- **South Africa:** University of the Western Cape, IES Abroad Cape Town Center
- **Uzbekistan:** Tashkent State Agrarian University, International Agriculture University–Tashkent, Westminster International University Tashkent, Tashkent Institute of Management and Economics, Samarkand State University
- **Kyrgyzstan:** Jalal-Abad State University, International University in Jalal-Abad, Osh State University

International student recruitment

In addition to meetings and events with international partners, Dr. Stegmaier participated in an [SEC recruitment program in Ghana and Senegal](#) in October 2022. SEC senior international officers visited top high schools in Accra and Dakar and met with U.S. Embassy officials in both locations. Dr. Stegmaier also traveled to Kumasi, Ghana, for recruitment presentations at the EducationUSA office and local high schools.

In Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, Dr. Stegmaier participated in recruitment presentations at EducationUSA in Tashkent, Uzbekistan; the American Corner in Jalal-Abad, Kyrgyzstan; and at local universities and schools in the region.

Tri-Continental Partnership

The Tri-Continental Partnership between the University of the Western Cape (South Africa), Ghent University (Belgium) and University of Missouri System organized a Precision Medicine Symposium at UWC in March 2023. Scholars from all four UM System campuses and Ghent University traveled to Cape Town for the three-day conference. Professor Rod Uphoff, Dr. Stegmaier and their counterparts at Ghent and UWC organized the symposium and were in attendance.

Coordinated webinars to raise awareness of events in Afghanistan and Ukraine

The August 2021 Taliban takeover in Afghanistan and February 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine had a significant impact on MU international students and scholars from those countries. In addition to working with the International Student and Scholar Services team to support the students, International Programs organized and co-hosted three webinars. The webinars had a total of more than 850 live attendees and the recordings were posted on the International Programs website:

- [The Crisis in Afghanistan](#)
- [Welcome to America! Preparing for the Arrival of Afghan Refugees](#)
- [The War in Ukraine](#)

Support for refugee students and scholars

Through generous donations from Veterans United and Mizzou 100 and community support, Mizzou has been able to support student refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine. In September 2022, MU welcomed an Institute for International Education Scholar Rescue Fund scholar from Russia who is hosted by the Division of Applied and Social Sciences in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.

Supported faculty pursuing Fulbright opportunities

As campus representative, Dr. Stegmaier provided assistance to MU faculty with their Fulbright proposals. In spring 2022, Dr. David Crespy assumed an active role as Fulbright liaison and hosted three [webinars on Fulbright opportunities](#) for MU faculty members.

Five MU faculty members received recent Fulbright scholar awards:

- 2021/22
 - Haley Horstman, communication | Poland
- 2022/23
 - Alik Barnstone, English | Greece
 - David Crespy, theater | Spain/Greece
 - Kenneth MacLeod, geological sciences | United Kingdom
 - Wilson Majee, public health | South Africa

Provided leadership to 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.

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.

2021 award recipients

- Outstanding faculty contribution
 - Michael Marlo, associate professor of English, College of Arts and Science
- Outstanding staff contribution
 - Gabrielle Malfatti, director of global engagement, College of Education and Human Development

2022 award recipients

- Outstanding student contribution
 - Ifeolu David, doctoral, College of Health Sciences
- Outstanding faculty contribution
 - Enid Schatz, professor of public health and women's and gender studies

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 students to schedule appointments online, helps advisers manage wait times more effectively and provides information on students' contact with offices across the university.
- **Offered flexible advising options** to better meet students' needs with in-person and online appointments for study abroad and in-person walk-ins and online appointments for international students.

Individual advising

	Students		Meetings		Mtgs/student		Hours		Hours/student	
	21/22	22/23	21/22	22/23	21/22	22/23	21/22	22/23	21/22	22/23
International students: F-1/J-1	617	647	1,039	1,229	1.7	1.9	145.5	154.2	0.2	0.2
International students: sponsored	84	59	200	155	2.4	2.6	72.0	47.9	0.9	0.8
Study abroad	774	806	1,333	1,342	1.7	1.7	395.7	366.8	0.5	0.5
Total	1,475	1,512	2,572	2,726	1.7	1.8	613.1	569.0	0.4	0.4

Group advising

	Sessions		Students	
	21/22	22/23	21/22	22/23
International students: New student check-in	42	36	426	446
International students: OPT workshops	48	43	243	245
Study abroad: Study Abroad 101	31	22	73	42
Study abroad: Classroom/campus presentations	30	38	1,258	1,464
Study abroad: Program/country-specific orientations	46	42	375	455
Total	197	181	2,375	2,652

International Student and Scholar Services

Resilient, steady support during continuous challenges

International Student and Scholar Services continued providing reliable support to MU's international community while adjusting to post-pandemic operations, a return to pre-COVID regulatory guidance and significant international crises.

- **Provided services to ensure compliance with F/J/H regulations**, including submission of F-program and J-program recertification/redesignation applications. Provided regular guidance and updates for MU's international students and scholars and campus stakeholders through email, advising appointments, social media and Zoom sessions.
- **Coordinated crisis response for Afghan and Ukrainian students.**
- **Facilitated the raising and ongoing distribution of \$200,000 in emergency financial support** for international students.
- **Maintained flexible advising and document processing services.** Advising appointments were available on Zoom, by phone or in person.
- **Continued assisting hundreds of international students and scholars** with post-pandemic regulatory provisions that continued to impact enrollment requirements, international travel and re-entry to the U.S., health care and insurance, and other issues affecting their immigration status.
- **Collaborated with campus and community stakeholders to provide outreach sessions**, including sessions on taxation, temporary protected status and asylum.

Ensured university compliance with federal immigration regulations

- **Maintained federal certifications to admit, enroll and host international students and scholars.** MU is designated 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.
- **Accurate completion of federal immigration reporting requirements.** ISSS 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.

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.
- **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. Staff provided document processing and advising for visiting scholars — 17 in 2021/22 and 25 in 2022/23. Our staff also conducted a site visit to the Danforth Center.

SEVIS reportable events	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
SEVIS registrations	2,088	2,068	2,253
Personal information changes	1,485	1,623	1,971
Change of program	180	264	208
Change of education level	68	51	38
Curricular Practical Training authorizations	137	203	189
Subtotal	3,958	4,209	4,659
Optional Practical Training requests	165	146	182
OPT employment information changes	202	290	266
OPT STEM extension requests	60	73	71
Subtotal	427	509	519
Total	4,385	4,718	5,178

New I-20s/DS-2019s for incoming students	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Immigration documents issued	491	797	713
Students who enrolled at MU	200	435	442
Document requests for enrolled students			
Total requests completed	1,999	2,273	2,482
Avg. business days to complete requests	3.35	3.19	3.05
International faculty, staff, visiting scholars			
J-1 visiting scholar records created	127	294	330
Avg. business days to complete requests	3.0	2.0	1.36
Document requests for active J-1 scholars	96	176	129
H-1B petitions submitted	63	85	87

Enhanced student and scholar experience

New student and scholar programs

- **Hosted a comprehensive [International Student Welcome](#)** for new international students: 150 in 2021/22 and 350 in 2022/23.
 - In 2021/22, returned to an in-person format after three semesters online.
 - Collaborated with Mizzou Abroad and other campus partners to host International Field Day, which helps connect new international and domestic students.
- **Completed the third and fourth years of the \$mart Work Mizzou fellowship program**, facilitating on-campus employment for first semester international freshmen and transfer undergraduate students.
- **Collaborated with the Office of the University Registrar to offer smoother withdrawal process for international students.** The new process reduces paperwork and overall time spent on the task by students and ensures compliance with F-1 and J-1 enrollment requirements.
- **Hosted faculty delegation from Uzbekistan.** Four faculty members were placed at MU for a five-month faculty enrichment program through American Councils for International Education to experience U.S. higher education teaching methodologies and establish new collaborations with American faculty.
- **Facilitated scholar transfer process to the new MU NextGen Precision Health**, which hosted 17 J-1 research scholars in 2022/23.

Ongoing support programs

- **Assisted international students, scholars and campus departments** in understanding the changing federal policies related to F/J/H programs.
- **Provided immigration workshops led by attorneys** to provide students and scholars with information about immigration options after graduation or employment.
- **Continued administration of the [Curator's Grant-in-Aid Scholarship](#)**, providing critical assistance to international students with demonstrated financial need.
- **Presented a workshop** on J-1 and H-1B scholars processes during Staff Development Week and a session for international postdocs during National Postdoc Appreciation Week.
- **Continued extensive support** to campus stakeholders who work with international students.
- **Added OPT STEM workshops** to the weekly OPT workshop sessions to provide more detailed information for students pursuing OPT STEM extension.
- **Continued collaboration with Residential Life** to offer a smooth transition to campus for new students.

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

- **Hosted in-person visits** with two sponsors in 2021/22 and 17 in 2022/23, as well as six virtual visits.
- **Participated in 10 virtual recruitment fairs** and presented in six webinars.
- **Developed new proposals** with 10 sponsor programs in 2021/22 and seven in 2022/23.
- **Presented sessions for national conferences** on topics covering sponsor program policies, the state of the field, engaging students virtually, post-pandemic recruitment and providing support to students from Afghanistan and Ukraine.
- **Coordinated [South Korean Education Influencers Program visit to MU](#)** in collaboration with the Asian Affairs Center. Through this three-day intensive program administered by American Councils for International Education and the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, 10 professionals from South Korea visited MU in April 2023 to develop a better understanding of the U.S. college experience.
- **Facilitated placement of Uzbek faculty members.** Submitted RFP, identified co-mentors and managed placement logistics for four faculty members from Uzbekistan placed at MU for a five-month faculty enrichment program through American Councils for International Education.

Provided personal attention for students

- **Hosted virtual events** such as pre-arrival information sessions and Curricular Practical Training and Academic Training webinars for students.
- **Organized in-person events** including specialized orientation sessions (two in 2021/22 and four in 2022/23), sponsored student lunches (10 in 2021/22 and 14 in 2022/23) and student game nights (two each in 2021/22 and 2022/23).
- **Continued to gauge student satisfaction through surveys** and identity areas for growth.

Crisis management support

Provided intensive crisis management support to Afghan and Ukrainian students and their families.

- **Developed an emergency fund framework that:**
 - Raised over \$200,000.
 - Disbursed over \$100,000 in aid to students and family members.
 - Supported humanitarian parole applications for Afghan students' family members.
 - Provided financial support for evacuations for family members.
- **Created a pro bono immigration support network:**
 - Comprised of seven law firms and one nongovernmental organization.
 - Filed more than 30 humanitarian parole applications for students' family members.
 - Facilitated immigration webinar consultations by licensed immigration attorneys on asylum, humanitarian parole and temporary protected status.
- **Built a humanitarian parole sponsor support network:**
 - More than 30 individuals in the mid-Missouri community, including MU faculty and staff, volunteered to act as sponsors for humanitarian parole applicants.
 - Coordinated outreach webinars for potential sponsors with assistance from several immigration attorneys.
 - Based on the annual cost to support 60 individual humanitarian parolees, sponsors demonstrated combined adequate funds of more than \$815,000 to support our Afghan student family members seeking to evacuate.

Fast facts: International students and scholars

Refer to the [Open Doors: Mizzou report](#) for the latest data on international students and scholars at Mizzou.

Center for English Language Learning

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 extracurriculars, 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.

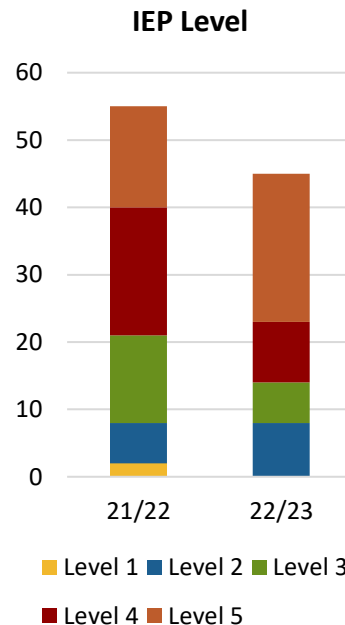
Intensive English Program

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 or advanced English proficiency are placed in one of five levels based on the results of a 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 2021/22, 37 students from 20 countries made up 55 enrollments.** Of these students:
 - 12 planned to go to MU.
 - 10 were Fulbright students admitted as long-term English grantees. They studied in the Intensive English Program for two sessions (January–July 2022). All were admitted to graduate programs throughout the United States, and one student continued their studies at MU in public health.
 - 16 students came to study English for other reasons.
- **During 2022/23, 31 students from 15 countries made up 45 enrollments.** Of these students:
 - 18 planned to go to MU; 5 have now matriculated.
 - 5 were Fulbright students admitted as long-term English grantees. They studied in the Intensive English Program for two sessions (January–July 2023). All were admitted to graduate programs throughout the United States.
 - 8 students came to study English for other reasons.



Special programs

During July 2021, January 2022 and January 2023, the Center for English Language Learning taught an online English language course for the Universidad Catolica Boliviana in Tarija, Bolivia. The focus of the

course was on building the students' English conversational skills. The courses were a great experience for all involved. Course enrollment:

- July 2021: 16
- January 2022: 12
- January 2023: 21

Learn more about this collaboration with the Universidad Catolica Boliviana:

- Article: [Estudiantes de Inglés VI de la UCB Tarija reciben certificación por parte de la Universidad de Missouri](#)
- Video: [Nuestros estudiantes reciben formación en Inglés Avanzado - Nivel B2 con profesores americanos](#)

Academic Integration @ MU

The Academic Integration @ MU 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 2021/22, all 4 students admitted to and enrolled in courses at MU completed the program. In 2022/23, 5 of the 6 students admitted to and enrolled in courses at MU completed the program. The other student is enrolled in their final required AIM course for fall 2023.

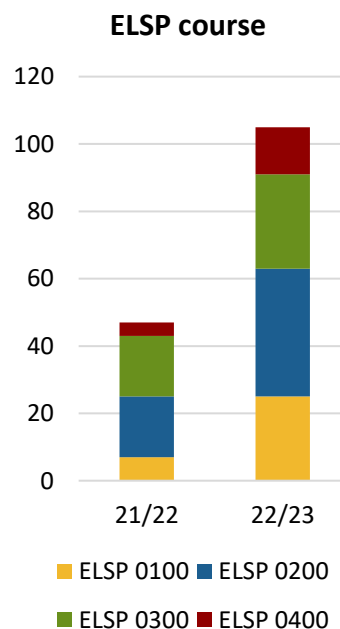
English Language Support Program

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 2021/22, **28 students from 15 countries made up 47 enrollments.**
- During 2022/23, **61 students from 25 countries made up 105 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



Challenges in the post-pandemic era

The COVID-19 pandemic greatly affected enrollment in the Intensive English Program and English Language Support Program. Many students have continued to face challenges with getting a visa appointment as there are backlogs and limited schedules. Students have also faced issues with international travel. The center continues to support students in every way that we can.

Fast facts

Intensive English Program

Countries of origin	21/22	22/23
Afghanistan	1	5
Angola	2	-
Botswana	1	-
Chad	1	-
Chile	2	-
China	4	6
Colombia	3	-
DR Congo	3	1
East Timor	1	-
Ecuador	-	1
Haiti	-	3
Iraq	1	-
Lao	1	-
Mexico	-	1
Moldova	-	1
Mongolia	-	1
Nepal	-	1
Pakistan	1	1
Panama	-	1
Russia	-	1
Rwanda	1	-
Saudi Arabia	2	2
South Korea	7	5
Sudan	2	-
Sweden	1	-
Togo	1	-
United States	-	1
Venezuela	1	-
Vietnam	1	-
TOTAL	37	31

Visa type	21/22	22/23
F-1	14	14
F-2	-	2
J-1	11	7
J-2	1	1
H-4	-	1
Permanent resident	9	5
U.S. citizen	2	1
TOTAL	37	31

English Language Support Program

Countries of origin	21/22	22/23
Afghanistan	1	1
Angola	-	1
Argentina	1	1
Bangladesh	-	1
Brazil	2	-
China	8	20
Colombia	-	3
Congo	1	-
Croatia	-	1
Egypt	-	2
France	-	1
Ghana	-	1
Iceland	1	-
India	-	3
Indonesia	1	3
Iran	2	1
Israel	-	1
Italy	-	3
Japan	2	1
Kuwait	-	1
Mali	1	-
Mexico	1	-
Nepal	-	1
Pakistan	2	1
Poland	-	1
Russia	-	2
Saudi Arabia	-	2
South Korea	1	4
Turkey	-	1
United States	2	-
Uzbekistan	-	4
Vietnam	2	-
TOTAL	28	61

Level	21/22	22/23
Undergraduate	22	46
Graduate	4	15
Exchange	2	-
TOTAL	28	61

Asian Affairs Center

The [Asian Affairs Center](#) serves as a bridge between MU and Asia, providing training programs for Asian students and professionals, as well as volunteer and study opportunities for Mizzou students.

Developed and maintained close ties with MU partners and alumni in the Pacific Rim

The Asian Affairs Center is dedicated to cultivating and overseeing partnerships that foster academic, research, economic, cultural and diversity opportunities between Missouri and Asia.

- **Consistently organized both online and in-person meetings and information sessions** for partner universities and alumni groups in China, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, South Korea and Uzbekistan.
- **Initiated or assisted in establishing or renewing international memorandums of understanding** with the following institutions and organizations in 2022/23:
 - Dong-Eui University Office of International Affairs | Busan, South Korea — new agreement with Asian Affairs Center
 - Guangdong University of Foreign Studies | Guangzhou, China — new campus-level agreement
 - King Mongkuk's University Technology-Thonburi Faculty of Industrial Education and Technology | Bangkok, Thailand — renewal agreement for Asian Affairs Center's [Global Leadership Program](#)
 - Kokugakuin University | Tokyo, Japan — renewal campus-level agreement
 - Kongju National University School of Policy Convergence and Public Affairs | Gongju, South Korea — new agreement with Truman School of Government and Public Affairs
 - Korea Foundation — new agreement for Asian Affairs Center's [LEAD Program](#)
 - Korea Maritime and Ocean University | Busan, South Korea — new study abroad exchange agreement
 - Kyungpook National University | Daegu, South Korea — new study abroad exchange agreement
 - Mokpo Maritime University | Mokpo, South Korea — renewal campus-level agreement
 - National Institute for International Education | South Korea — renewal agreement for [EPIK program](#)
 - POSTECH: Pohang University of Science and Technology | Pohang, South Korea — renewal UM System agreement, new study abroad exchange agreement

Delivered a range of short- and long-term training programs

The center offers professional development and educational opportunities to Asian partner institutions, government officials, professionals and university students.

- **The [Global Leadership Program](#)** for government officials, professionals, higher education faculty and research scholars is designed to enhance global competency and cross-cultural community skills.
- **Education programs for students at MU's partner universities in Asia** aim to enhance academic and leadership capabilities, language and communication skills and cross-cultural competence. The programs also provide professional immersion opportunities.

- [Lead, Engage, Advance and Discover](#) is a semester-long program designed to develop students' global leadership and instill the confidence and skills to become cross-culturally competent.
- The [Global Business Program](#) was offered for students at the University of Nagano (Japan). In 2022, 29 students participated online June 13–July 21. In 2023, 33 students participated on MU's campus June 11–24.
- The American Graduate Academics and Pedagogy program was provided online for 25 graduate students at Shanghai Normal University School of Humanities (China) Oct. 18, 2021–Jan. 28, 2022, and April 4–June 24, 2022.
- A Summer Conference on Food and Health Sciences was held on MU's campus for 35 dietician students from the University of Nagano (Japan) June 18–29, 2023.
- The second Summer Conference on Global Nursing and Health Education for Jinju Health College (South Korea) hosted 75 students on MU's campus June 16–July 2, 2023.
- The [Junior Leaders Program](#) is an online education program for children (K–8) of alumni and friends in Asia. Five consecutive seven-week sessions were offered in 2021/22.

Connected the campus and community to Asia

The center connects MU students and faculty and the Columbia community to Asia through outreach and engagement programs and referrals to Asian studies programs at MU. Additionally, we facilitate opportunities for teaching or study abroad opportunities in Asia.

- **Coordinated [South Korean Education Influencers Program visit to MU](#)** in collaboration with ISSS. Through this three-day intensive program administered by American Councils for International Education and the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, 10 professionals from South Korea visited MU in April 2023 to develop a better understanding of the U.S. college experience.
- **Arranged for MU students and graduates to teach English in public schools in Korea** through the [EPIK program](#) with an official agreement with the National Institute for International Education in South Korea.
- **Provided opportunities for MU students to engage in cultural exchange** without leaving campus through [volunteer programs](#) like the Collegiate Ambassador Program and Conversation Partner Program.
- **Collaborated with the Columbia Chinese Language School** to provide opportunities for community members to learn Chinese language and culture.

Promoted awareness and appreciation of Asia and its various cultures on campus and in the community

- **Cosponsored the first [Yun Posun Institute for Democracy–University of Missouri Joint Conference](#)** on elections and democracy with the Truman School of Government and Public Affairs and Institute for Korean Studies on Nov. 10, 2022, at MU.
- **Continually support activities of MU's Asian student organizations**, including Japanese Student Association, Korean Student Association, and Chinese Students and Scholars Association.
 - CSSA's Chinese New Year Festival, Jan. 20, 2023
- **Hosted community screenings of Asian films** through Ragtag Cinema's [Show Me Series](#):
 - October 2021: "Far East Deep South"
 - April 2022: "Chilsu and Mansu:"
 - September 2022: "The Man Standing Next"
 - April 2023: "Shoplifters"

- **Collaborated with the Gateway Korea Foundation** to promote the awareness of Korean culture and cross-cultural appreciation through events, webinars and film screenings. This included a webinar series on the Asian diaspora on April 13 and May 4, 2023.

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 the State of Missouri and City of Columbia sister partnerships in Japan and South Korea.

- **Worked with the Korean Consulate General–Chicago** to have Columbia [selected as an overseas polling location](#) for the 2022 South Korean presidential election.
- **Maintained communication with Asian consulates in Chicago**, namely the Chinese and Korean consulates general, to explore educational, economic and cultural opportunities for the university and state of Missouri.
- **Coordinated a trade mission visit to Kansas City** in September 2022 for the governor of Jeollanam-do Province, the sister province of the State of Missouri in South Korea.
- **Organized a webinar**, “Literary Works by Newly-Literate Grandmothers from Suncheon, South Korea,” in collaboration with the Gateway Korea Foundation in October 2022 with Suncheon City, Columbia’s sister city in South Korea.

Fast facts

Participants by program

Program	21/22	22/23
Visiting scholars	116	95
GLP	93	95
FDP	23	-
Partner university students	146	210
GBP	29	33
LEAD	14	67
AGAP	25	-
JHC	78	75
FHS	-	35
K–12	25	-
JLP	25	-
TOTAL	287	305

Participants by country

Program	21/22	22/23
Visiting scholars	116	95
South Korea	96	87
China	5	7
Mongolia	12	1
Thailand	3	-
Partner university students	146	210
South Korea	92	138
Japan	29	72
China	25	-
K–12	25	-
China	17	-
South Korea	6	-
Mongolia	2	-
TOTAL	287	305

Study Abroad

Returned to in-person outreach programming on campus

Following more than a year of outreach programming and events taking place virtually, fall 2021 saw a return to in-person campus activities for Mizzou Study Abroad. Following the safety guidelines outlined in the university's Show Me Renewal plan, the 2021 Mizzou Abroad Fair saw record attendance with more than 700 attendees stopping by to learn more about study abroad opportunities. In fall 2021, Mizzou Abroad also brought back International Field Day during Welcome Week, expanding the event in collaboration with International Student and Scholar Services and the Missouri International Student Council to help connect new international and domestic students. International Field Day is now a recurring [Welcome Week tradition](#).

Began strategic collaboration with Missouri University of Science and Technology

In April 2022, MU International Programs began a study abroad collaboration with the Missouri University of Science and Technology. Initially set up for 18 months, this partnership extends Mizzou Abroad's robust program portfolio and student support services to all Missouri S&T students. Through the partnership, S&T students continue to have access to exchange programs with top engineering universities around the world, as well as to many of MU's faculty-led, affiliated and direct-enroll programs. The first S&T faculty-led program developed through the collaboration — [Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation in Ecuador](#) — had 14 participants (10 from S&T and four from MU).

Developed new programs focused on global health solutions

Consistent with MU's focus to provide health solutions to the most complex global health challenges of our time, Mizzou Abroad partnered with the School of Health Professions and Sinclair School of Nursing to design and run two new global health short-term faculty-led programs. During winter break 2022, 10 MU students earned credit in health science while learning about the health care system and practices of Costa Rica. During summer 2022, 38 students studied nursing ethics from a global perspective in Italy.

Created new Global Research program in Sweden

In partnership with the MU Office of Undergraduate Research, Office of Global and National Fellowships and MedOpp Advising Office, Mizzou Abroad successfully opened the first [Global Research program](#) in Stockholm, Sweden. Global Research programs allow students to participate in hands-on research while experiencing a new culture. The inaugural cohort included 10 students from STEM-focused majors across a variety of academic departments. They engaged in biomedical research at the Karolinska Institute, Sweden's largest center for medical and academic research, and immersed themselves in the local culture through excursions and field trips.

Designed new study abroad program for first year students

Mizzou Abroad designed its first study abroad program specifically for first year students in collaboration with the College of Arts and Science and Division of Student Affairs. Led by the vice chancellor for student affairs, the program offered a one credit hour interdisciplinary undergraduate course that introduced competencies in personal leadership and wellness in a global setting. In spring 2023, a cohort of 18 students participated in a six-week pre-departure seminar and a 10-day intensive study abroad experience in Costa Rica.

Launched virtual exchange with legacy partner in South Africa

A new virtual student exchange program with MU's longtime partner the University of the Western Cape in South Africa provides students from both institutions with outstanding online courses that can help them achieve their academic goals. Open to undergraduate and graduate students, the program had a successful launch in fall 2021 and one graduate student from UWC completed four MU statistics courses during the 2021/22 academic year.

Became founding member of leading international engineering consortium

In fall 2022, MU was invited to join the IES Abroad Engineering Consortium to provide transformative study abroad opportunities for engineering students from around the world. MU joins a select group of U.S. universities including Penn State, University of Illinois–Chicago, Lehigh University, Howard University and Spelman College. The international universities in the consortium include HTW Berlin University of Applied Sciences (Germany), IQS School of Engineering (Spain) and University of Cape Town (South Africa). Two MU representatives attended the first consortium meeting at Dublin City University in Ireland in November 2022.

Represented MU at the Global Inclusion 2022 conference

MU International Programs was a bronze sponsor of Diversity Abroad's [Global Inclusion 2022](#) conference in San Francisco. This annual event brings together universities from around the world to discuss strategies and best practices to advance access and inclusion in global education. Mizzou Abroad and the MU Center for Academic Success and Excellence co-led a presentation, "Creating Trust-Based Relationships to Advance Inclusive Excellence in Education Abroad," that shared success stories and lessons learned from campus collaborations to increase the number of underrepresented students who study abroad at MU.

Fast facts: Study abroad

Refer to the [Open Doors: Mizzou report](#) for the latest data on study abroad participation at Mizzou.

International Health, Safety and 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 for MU students, non-enrolled participants, and faculty and staff who participate on study abroad or student university-related international travel programs. The office is responsible for maintaining and implementing the [MU Student 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.

In collaboration with colleagues across campus, university experts, colleagues in the U.S. and abroad, and individual participants and their families, the office facilitates travel abroad that supports the academic mission of the university; maximizes the health, safety and security of travelers; and helps protect the university from liability. Primary responsibilities include:

- Monitoring world events and assessing and mitigating health, safety and security risks.
- Responding to student, faculty and staff incidents and emergencies abroad 24/7.
- Developing and distributing health, safety and security training for students, faculty and staff.
- Facilitating compliance with student-related U.S. federal laws such as ADA, FERPA and the Clery Act, as well as with University of Missouri policies governing student, faculty and staff conduct.
- Developing, maintaining and implementing emergency response plans for university-related international travel.

Assessed and mitigated risk for study abroad and university-related international travel

A core function of the office is to provide focused, on-going monitoring and assessment of world events to identify and mitigate health, safety and security risks for MU's international travelers. In 2021/22, COVID-19 continued to be a major focus of these efforts. In February 2022, analysis expanded to include the Russia-Ukraine war.

- **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, COVID-19 metrics (e.g., the Harvard/Brown University framework), COVID-19 hospital projections from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, and national and international news sources. In addition, the office conducted on-going nationwide benchmarking with peer universities.
 - During 2021/22, MU re-opened all 350+ study abroad programs. All study abroad and university-related travel programs required review and approval by the Student Travel Abroad Review Committee and the Office of the Provost. International Health, Safety and Security provided timely updates regarding rapidly evolving responses to COVID-19 for the 51 relevant countries, including feasibility assessments two weeks prior to program start dates.
 - Collected and reviewed COVID-19 contingency plans and student support information from more than 100 MU partner universities abroad, program providers and MU faculty-led programs. Then included this information in the Student Travel Abroad

- Review Committee process and provided guidance regarding MU’s expectations for student support.
 - Revised the COVID-19 risk and liability waiver for each study abroad application cycle to clarify behavioral expectations and responsibilities for program participants to reflect the stage of the COVID-19 pandemic at that time. The waiver was discontinued when the U.S. COVID Public Health Emergency ended in May 2023.
 - Guided updates to COVID-19 preparation and materials to respond to changing guidance regarding the pandemic in the U.S. and abroad. This included updating the student international travel review criteria to exclude CDC Level 3 advisories for COVID-19 and ongoing updates to health, safety and security training.
- **Developed key indicators and decision points** in response to the Russia-Ukraine war for continued approval of study abroad programs and university-related international travel in Europe.
- **Expanded responsibilities to provide comprehensive health, safety and security support** for other UM System campuses.
 - As part of International Program’s partnership with Missouri S&T, in 2022/23 the office’s responsibilities significantly expanded to include all Missouri S&T students, non-enrolled participants, and faculty and staff who participate on study abroad or university-related international travel programs. This included conducting safety and security assessments and providing risk mitigation guidance.
 - In 2022/23, the office also provided risk assessment and recommendations for maximizing student safety for all University of Missouri–Kansas City study abroad programs.
- **Monitored world events and assessed and mitigated risks in all locations** where MU and S&T students traveled on study abroad and university-related international travel programs. In addition to COVID-19 and the Russia-Ukraine war, on-going holistic health, safety and security analysis and risk mitigation included, but was not limited to, crime, terrorism, civil unrest, health risks, kidnapping and hostage taking, risk of wrongful detention and natural disasters.

Supported travel registration

- **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, in compliance with the University of Missouri Collected Rules and Regulations. There were 129 registrants in 2021/22 and 264 in 2022/23.
 - Collaborated with the Office of Institutional Research to utilize the International Travel Registry to facilitate OFAC compliance by identifying and providing additional review and guidance for students traveling to sanctioned countries.
- **Managed the [Domestic Travel Registry](#)** to track approved, university-related domestic travel for 1,029 students in 2021/22 and 1,662 students in 2022/23. This centralized database better positions the university to communicate with students in response to an event that may negatively impact their health, safety or security.
 - Collaborated with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Analytics to utilize Domestic Travel Registry data for university-wide reporting for the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements.
- **Conducted campuswide outreach** to increase knowledge about the travel registries and university resources to support university-related international travel.

Distributed key health and safety information to travelers

- **Managed AlertTraveler software** available to all MU students participating on study 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 [Riskline](#), a premier provider of global risk intelligence.
 - Check-in feature allowing travelers to instantly confirm their safety in the event of a critical incident, such as a natural disaster or terrorist attack.
 - At-a-glance local safety information, city and country intelligence, city safety ratings and scores, and other related health, safety and security topics for any given destination around the world.

Provided 24/7 crisis response for study abroad and university-related international travel

- **Developed and implemented specific COVID-19 contingency plans** outlining policies and procedures for support and assistance for MU students participating in study abroad programs led by MU faculty and staff or administered by partner organizations and universities abroad.
- **Managed emergency response.** Collaborated with the vice provost for International Program and 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 health, safety and security incidents impacting MU students abroad and faculty and staff traveling with them, ranging in severity from moderate to high. This included assisting several travelers who contracted COVID-19 abroad.
- **Revised and expanded MU's emergency response protocols** and program leader training for study abroad and university-related international travel programs to strengthen preparation and resources. While students are expected to behave responsibly regarding their own health and safety, program leaders are professionally responsible for serving as a resource for students and providing assistance and support in case of an emergency.
 - Collaborated with colleagues in the Counseling Center, Student Health Center, Office of Institutional Equity, Student Affairs, UM System Office of the General Counsel and UM System Office of Risk and Insurance Management to review and update the [Health and Safety Field Guide for Program Leaders](#) and the mandatory program leader health and safety workshops to enhance resources to respond to incidents and emergencies impacting individual students or entire programs.
- **Maintained university-wide student international travel incident database.** This database tracks the type, frequency and severity of incidents impacting MU travelers abroad. Materials and training for program leaders and participants are 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 students participating in study abroad and university-related international travel programs as well as domestic travel registrants.

Developed and presented health, safety and security training

- **Provided COVID-19 case study-based workshops and pre-departure briefings** for program leaders and students participating in study abroad and university-related international travel programs. Program leader workshops focused on responding to the ever-changing concerns related to the pandemic, including an increase in student mental health issues. Student briefings

covered topics such as entry requirements, host country COVID-19 prevention measures, penalties for noncompliance and maintaining mental health and wellness.

- **Provided general and country-specific pre-travel health information** in collaboration with the Student Health Center.
- **Delivered general health, safety and security information** through the mandatory [Mizzou Abroad Orientation](#).
- **Represented MU as experts in the field** by providing conference presentations, workshops and training sessions; serving on national committees; and co-authoring publications.

Developed resources, guidelines and policies to support student health, safety and security abroad

- **Collaborated with UM System Offices of the General Counsel and Risk and Insurance Management to:**
 - Develop policies governing minors participating on study abroad programs.
 - Update policies governing housing safety and security abroad.
 - Establish communications guidelines for cell and satellite phones for MU faculty and staff members leading programs abroad.
 - Develop and disseminate information about post-travel trip interruption insurance to all UM System study abroad offices. This insurance covers the cost of housing and transportation in case of a serious illness, not limited to COVID-19.
- **Codified criteria for reviewing student disciplinary records** to determine eligibility for study abroad in collaboration with the Division of Student Affairs.
- **Updated the MU Student International Travel Policy** to reflect the present stage of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Partnered with the Disability Center** to develop and distribute information regarding the specific physical and mental rigors of individual study abroad programs to help students make informed decisions when choosing programs.
- **Expanded web resources to support student mental health and students with disabilities** participating in study abroad and university-related international travel programs in collaboration with Mizzou Study Abroad, Disability Center, Counseling Center and other campus experts.
 - Collaborated with the Disability Center to identify gaps in resources and expand information regarding bringing medications abroad and to develop resources about bringing service or emotional support animals abroad.