

Visiting International Student Program (VISP)

Division of Continuing Studies, Adult Career and Special Student Services

Background

The Division of Continuing Studies launched the Visiting International Student Program (VISP) in fall 2012 to assist international students interested in short-term, nondegree study at UW-Madison. Similar to exchange students, VISP participants come to UW-Madison for a study abroad experience before returning to their home institutions to finish their degrees. They are admitted as University Special Students, and typically enroll in upper-level courses across disciplines for one or more terms.

VISP Cohort Program

Developed in summer 2013, the VISP Cohort program admits groups of international students for intensive study within interested departments. Academic departments elect to develop cohorts in collaboration with VISP staff. Students take the majority of their courses within the hosting academic department, but may enroll in other departments to complement their experience.

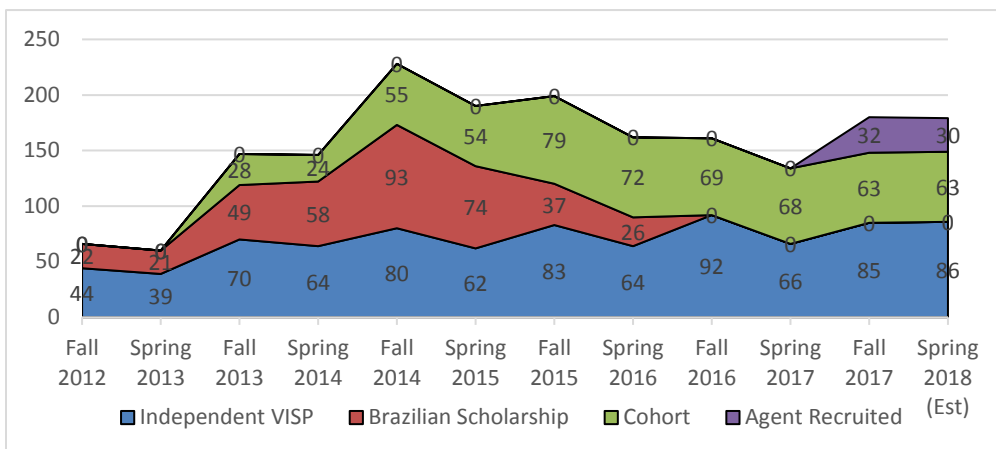
Program Impacts to Date

- Over 1,500 former participants from 25+ countries (DAAD), Brazilian Scholarship Program, Brittingham Viking Organization, Eduardo Neale Silva Memorial fund, Taiwanese Ministry of Education, and more.
- Over \$5 million transferred to schools & colleges from cohort programs
- Participants include scholarship recipients from Fulbright, German Academic Exchange Service
- 235 former VISP participants later became graduate students in 26 programs from 9 Schools & Colleges.

Academic Year Enrollment trends by Student Population

Historical enrollment data is split into four populations:

- Independent VISP:** students who find our program on their own or through a university partnership.
- Cohort:** enrollment is driven by the UW-Madison hosting department (see above).
- The Brazilian Scholarship Program:** students were placed by their scholarship at UW.
- Agent Recruited:** Started in fall 2017 VISP began receiving students recruited from approved educational agents.



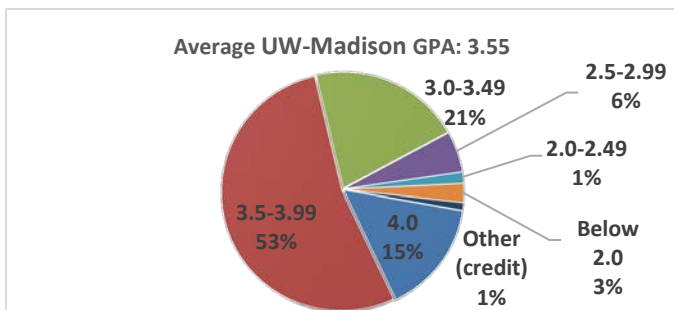
Summer Highlights

- Average enrollment of 125 students each summer since summer 2014, with high cohort participation
- Past summer cohorts** included the departments of Agricultural & Applied Economics, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Engineering Mechanics, English as a Second Language (ESL), Mechanical Engineering, Political Science, and Statistics.

Program Snapshot for Academic Year 2016-17

Student Profile

- Enrollment for Fall: 161 students, Spring 134 students
- 79% undergraduate level, 21% graduate level
- 15 countries and 53 foreign universities represented
- Cohorts** from Mathematics and Statistics.



Course Enrollment

During the 2016-17 academic year VISP participants enrolled in 78 departments of which 90% had ten or fewer enrolled VISP students.

- 80% in the College of Letters & Science
 - 62% of enrollment was L&S cohort students
- 9% in the Wisconsin School of Business
- 5% in the College of Engineering
- 6% other schools/colleges combined