

Visiting International Student Program (VISP)

Division of Continuing Studies, Adult Career and Special Student Services

Background

Launched in 2012, the Visiting International Student Program (VISP) welcomes international students interested in short-term, nondegree study at UW-Madison. Our unit has also begun welcoming noncredit international learners to round out our offerings.

VISP Cohort Program

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.

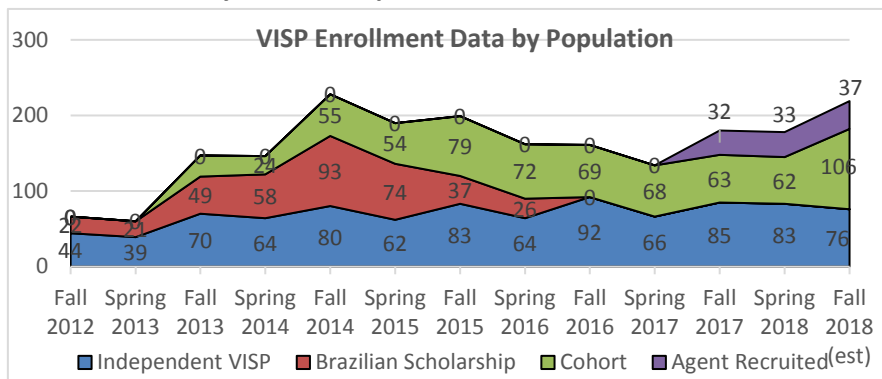
Program Impacts to Date

- Over 1,850 former participants from 30+ countries
- Over \$7 million transferred to schools & colleges from cohort programs
- 307 former VISP participants later became degree-seeking students in 30 different graduate programs from 9 Schools & Colleges.

Academic Year VISP Enrollment trends by Student Population

Historical VISP enrollment data is split into four groups:

- Independent VISP:** students who find our program or come through a partner university.
- Cohort:** enrollment is driven by the UW-Madison hosting department.
- Brazilian Scholarship Program:** students were placed by their scholarship at UW.
- Agent Recruited:** Students recruited by approved educational agents starting fall 2017.



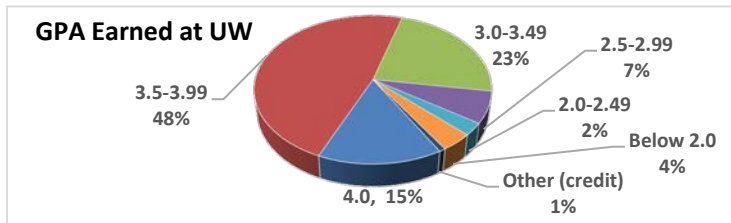
Summer Highlights

- Average enrollment of 115 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.

VISP Program Snapshot for Academic Year 2017-18

Student Profile

- Enrollment for Fall: 180, Spring: 178
- 79% undergraduate level, 21% graduate level
- 13 countries and 75 foreign universities represented
- Cohorts** from Mathematics and Statistics
- Average UW-Madison GPA: 3.47**



Course Enrollment

- VISP participants enrolled in **96** departments of which 82% had ten or fewer enrolled VISP students.
- 73% in the College of Letters & Science
 - 50% of enrollment was L&S cohort students
 - 12% in the Wisconsin School of Business
 - 7% in the College of Engineering
 - 8% other schools/colleges combined

Noncredit International Learners

In addition to our credit-bearing VISP program, our unit also runs noncredit programming for international students.

- American Culture & English (ACE):** a three-week residential program for international high school students. ACE ran in summers 2016 and 2017 for students from China, Singapore, and Taiwan.
- EducationUSA Academy:** Our program was selected as an Academy Host for 2019-2021. This opportunity provides extensive access and support to aid in recruitment from over 400 EducationUSA Advising Centers in over 170 countries around the globe.
- Customized Noncredit Programs:** UW Advance is a fully customizable noncredit program run through our unit. Previous UW Advance groups have focused on topics as varied as Big Data, Agriculture, and Education. To date, UW Advance has welcomed 170 learners.