

# 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 & Thematic Track 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. The term 'cohort' refers to closed groups selected by the department, whereas 'thematic track' programs are open to any qualified applicant the department wishes to accept.

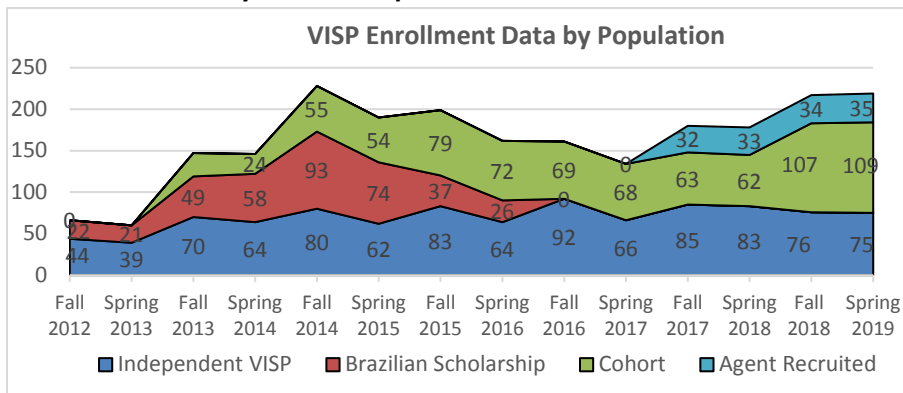
## Program Impacts to Date

- Over 2,200 former participants from 35+ countries
- Almost \$11 million transferred to schools & colleges from cohort and thematic track programs
- 446 former VISP participants later became degree-seeking students in 44 different programs from 9 Schools & Colleges.

## Academic Year VISP Enrollment trends by Student Population

VISP enrollment data is comprised of four groups:

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



## Summer Highlights

- Average enrollment of 114 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), Finance, Mechanical Engineering, Political Science, and Statistics.

## VISP Program Snapshot for Academic Year 2018-19

### Student Profile

- Enrollment for Fall: 217, Spring: 219
- 81% undergraduate level, 19% graduate level
- 18 countries and 77 foreign universities represented
- **Cohorts** from Agricultural & Applied Economics, Economics, Math, Mechanical Engineering, Political Science, Statistics,
- **Average UW-Madison GPA: 3.5**

### Course Enrollment

- VISP participants enrolled in **93** departments of which 78% had ten or fewer enrolled VISP students.
- 72% in the College of Letters & Science
  - 60% of enrollment was L&S cohort students
- 8% in the Wisconsin School of Business
- 8% in the College of Engineering
- 11% 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. In 2019 the program ran with 30 students.
- **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. This program strives to increase international diversity on campus. In 2019 our program had ten students from nine countries.
- **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, Education, Biomass Engineering, and Business.