



Year in Review

2022 - 2023



UMBC

CENTER FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- | | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|------------------------------|
| 03 | Meet Our Staff | 17 | Global Ambassadors |
| 04 | The Center for Global Engagement | 18 | Building Community on Campus |
| 05 | Education Abroad | 19 | International Recruitment |
| 09 | Scholarships & Grants | 20 | Global Partnerships |
| 11 | A Year in Photos | 23 | English Language Institute |
| 13 | Office of International Students And Scholars | 25 | Special Programs |
| 15 | International Faculty, Staff, and Scholars | | |



MEET OUR STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. David Di Maria

Associate Vice Provost for International Education

Adam Holden

International Partnerships Coordinator

Wanda Meinschein

Business Specialist

Rachel Vandegrift

Administrative & Operations Coordinator

EDUCATION ABROAD

Katherine Heird

Director of Education Abroad & Global Learning

Dr. Brian Souders

Associate Director of Global Learning

Alicyn Curtis

Education Abroad Advisor

Ogonna Owu Jones

Faculty-led Study Abroad Coordinator

ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE & SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Ryan Sheldon

Director of ELI & Special Programs

Sarita Foutz

Program Coordinator

Georges Mushayuma

Marketing & Front Desk Coordinator

Josie Penn

Program Management Specialist

Dr. Kati Milter

ELI Faculty

Christopher McKinnon

ELI Faculty

John Lundquist

ELI Faculty

Matthew Gleason

ELI Faculty

Yolanda Fraction

ELI Faculty

Yolanda Ramos

ELI Faculty

Goldshid Shoushtarian

ELI Faculty

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & SCHOLARS

Vacant

Director of OISS

Dave Anguish

Assistant Director of OISS

Natalie Lobb

Assistant Director of International Recruitment

Sarah Wong

International Student Support Manager

Diane Zeenny Ghorayeb

International Scholar Coordinator

Mercedes Arias

International Student & Scholar Advisor

Sarah Cockcroft

International Student & Scholar Advisor

Victoria Sung

International Student & Scholar Advisor

Brionna Stokes

International Student & Scholar Advisor

Farhan Nadeem

International Student Career Advisor

THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Leading intercultural learning and global academic initiatives by advancing the international exchange of students, scholars, and faculty.

The Center of Global Engagement provides activities, services and advising for study abroad students, international students, international faculty, researchers and scholars at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). We have undergraduate and graduate students from over 100 countries. Our faculty includes scholars from distinguished universities all over the world. Our growing international curriculum prepares our students for a rapidly changing and increasingly interdependent world. The following teams specialize in various fields to promote international education at UMBC:

The Education Abroad Office (EA) helps UMBC students find a summer, winter, semester or academic year study abroad programs to earn credits toward their UMBC degree while having a life-changing experience in dozens of countries around the world. The EA Office also oversees UMBC applications to the U.S. Fulbright Program, Gilman Scholarship, and other scholarship resources for study abroad.

The Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) is dedicated to supporting UMBC's international student and scholar community. The office offers a variety of programming and services to assist students and scholars in pursuit of their academic, personal, and professional goals.

The English Language Institute (ELI) provides high quality training to those who need strengthen their English skills in speaking, listening, reading, writing, and/or grammar for their personal and professional goals. The programs include Intensive English Program (IEP), Academic English Program (AEP), TESOL, Test Prep (TOEFL, IELTS, and GRE), skill-focused training (e.g., Accent Reduction, Professional/Business Writing, Conversation Skills, etc.) and more. The ELI also facilitates internationalization at UMBC through **Special Programs** for international delegations.

In the Center for Global Engagement, the area of **International Partnerships** is the main point of contact for the partnerships that contribute to the work of the English Language Institute (ELI), Education Abroad, International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS), the Fulbright Program, and international research collaborations.

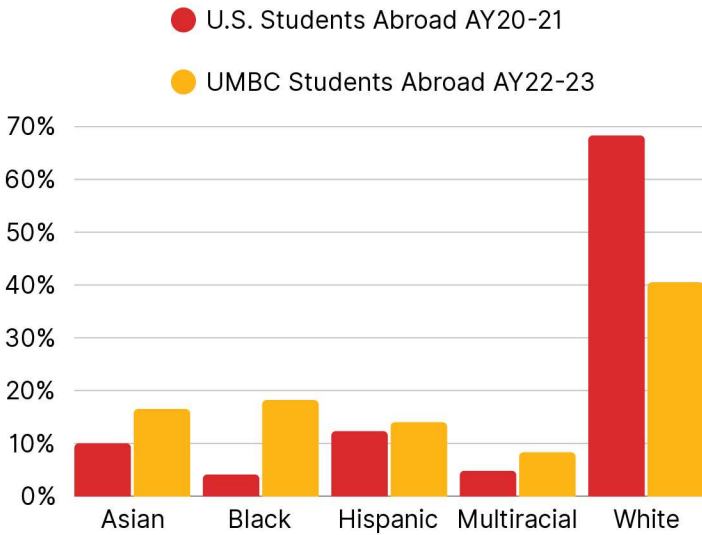
EDUCATION ABROAD

Studying abroad is widely recognized as one of the most effective ways to develop global and intercultural competencies. Not only does it offer an opportunity for students to gain self-confidence and maturity, and create meaningful memories, but it also leads to improved grades and higher graduation rates. Studies also show that students who study abroad:

- earn higher starting salaries
- commit to graduate schools at higher rates
- find employment faster after graduation¹

Our Office is proud of our innovative model for supporting global learning at UMBC: students are supported in all aspects of their programs, including advising on program selection, pre-departure training, and on-site support from UMBC faculty and affiliate partner staff. Our team is dedicated to assisting students with finding funding for their study abroad programs and fellowships. This comprehensive approach improves student outcomes upon their return to the the U.S. and increases their likelihood to embark on future Global Learning opportunities.

We aim to empower students to study abroad, cultivating global skills, boosting self-confidence, and improving academic and graduation outcomes.

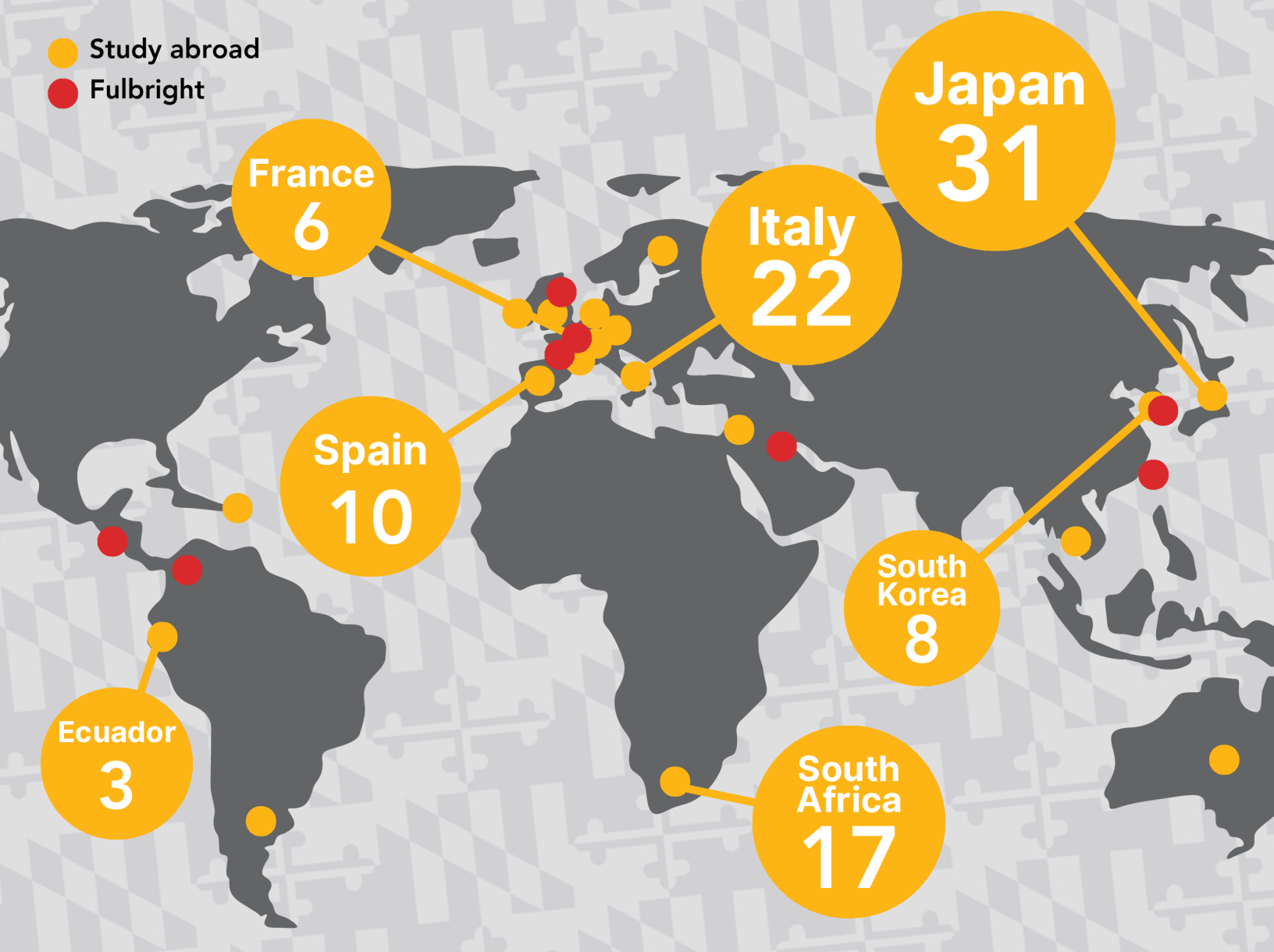


We are proud to support higher rates of minority students studying abroad compared to national averages. (Source: [NAFSA Assoc. for International Educators' Trends in U.S. Study Abroad](#))

1. Source: [UC Merced: What Statistics Shows about Study Abroad Students](#)



● Study abroad
● Fulbright



WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE UMBC STUDENTS?

In AY22-23, 121 UMBC students studied abroad. 8 alumni studied and worked abroad through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

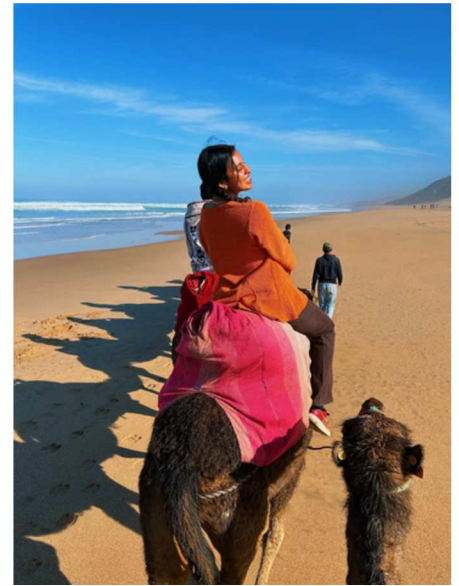
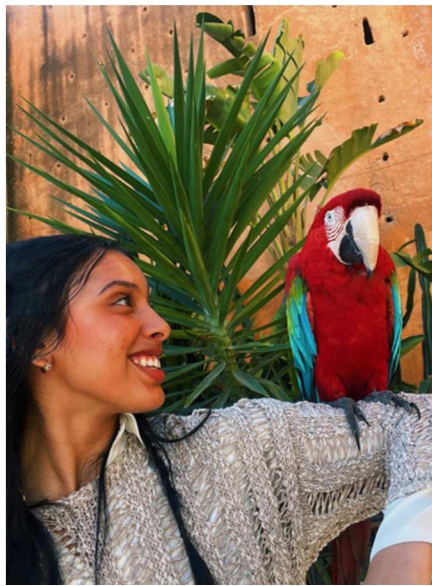
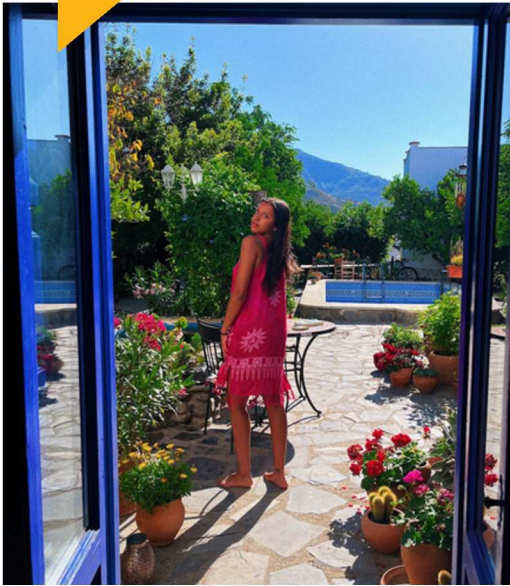
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Colombia
Czech Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Finland
France
Germany
Ireland
Italy

Japan
Jordan
Kuwait
Puerto Rico
South Africa
South Korea
Spain
Switzerland
Taiwan
Thailand
United Kingdom

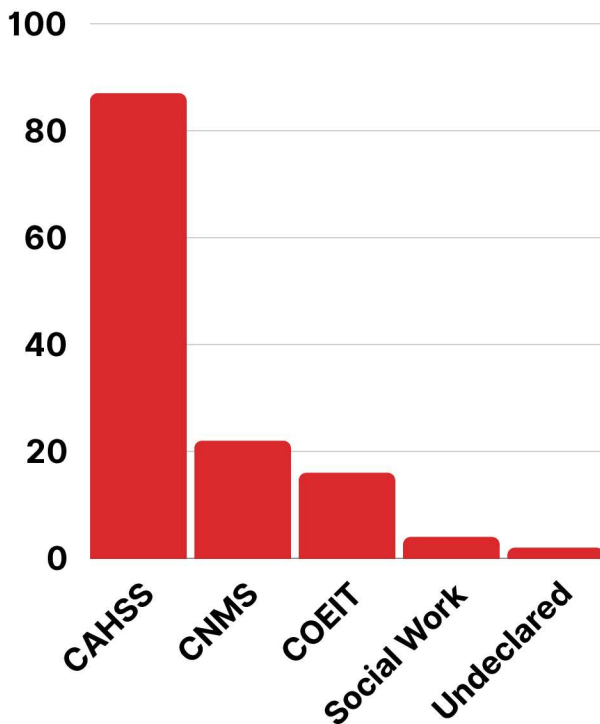
RETRIEVERS AROUND THE WORLD

Ysabella Cordoba, CAHSS '23 took over @umbclife on Instagram in May 2023. Her post was the 2nd highest performing of the year, reaching 6,916+ users and getting 886 likes.

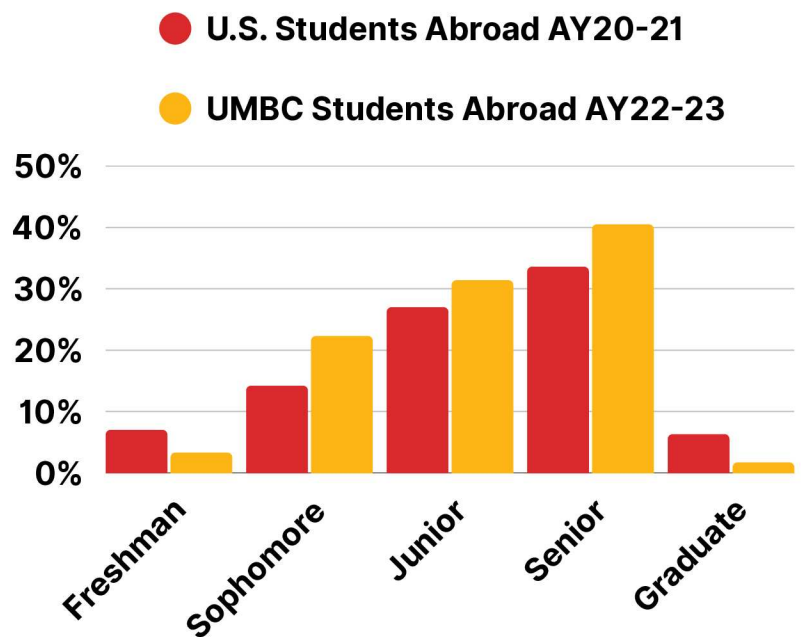
"Hola Retrievers 🐾 My name is Ysabella and I'm a senior at UMBC. I am currently studying abroad in Granada, Spain with AIFS. Here are a few pictures and videos from my travels during my time here (South of Spain, Morocco, London, and Italy). I hope my takeover today encourages you to consider studying abroad!!" - @umbclife



Our students represent multiple UMBC Colleges and Schools while abroad.



26% of UMBC study abroad participants are transfer students



(Source: International Education Exchange Open Doors Report)

44%

UMBC Faculty Led

Short academic programs abroad with other UMBC students, led by a UMBC faculty member

34%

Affiliate Programs

Students enroll with other institutions that offer education abroad experiences

10%

UMBC Direct

Students apply directly to a foreign university and coordinate their own travel logistics

8%

UMBC Teach Abroad

Students earn UMBC credit through international teaching placements

3%

UMBC Exchange

Students study at a foreign university, and a student at that University studies at UMBC

Summer

64%

Spring

15%

Fall

10%

Winter

7%

AY 3%

64%

of participants study
abroad in the
Summer



SCHOLARSHIPS

With the support of the Education Abroad Office, **UMBC students and alumni have secured over \$340,000** towards their programs abroad through Fulbright awards and study abroad scholarships.

UMBC's Center for Global Engagement received **a grant of \$10,000 from the The Sir Cyril Taylor Memorial Scholarship**, administered by the American International Recruitment Council, to support incoming British exchange students from UMBC's partner institutions, Swansea University and the University of Newcastle. These awards financially support under-represented and disadvantaged exchange students.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CAMPUS PARTNERS

The Sondheim Public Affairs Scholars Program awarded more than **\$40,000** to support global learning. The Honors College awarded study abroad scholarships from the Jay Freyman Foundation to **13 students**.

In Fall 2022, **18 UMBC Students** applied to the **Critical Language Scholarship and CLS Spark virtual language exchange program, supported by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs**. The programs promote national security and international relations by increasing the number of Americans studying and mastering critical foreign languages. Among this year's applicants from UMBC:

- 1 student was selected to attend a summer intensive program in Turkey.
- 1 student was selected to study Russian language and culture through CLS Spark.
- 1 student was named a semi-finalist.

UMBC Students also apply for funding from their respective study abroad programs. In AY22-23, **6 students were awarded \$10,800 in affiliate program funding**. The Fund for Education Abroad awarded the **\$5,000 Rainbow Scholarship** to one student for their year-long program in the United Kingdom.



OUR ALUMNI

For 2023-24, two UMBC alumni of the TESOL MA program received the US Department of State funded **English Language Fellows** award to lead curriculum development and teach English as a foreign language. Each award is worth approximately **\$40,000**.

- **Ryan Good '17** Uzbekistan
- **Noora Mahmassani '19** Estonia

FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM

31 Total UMBC applicants to 2023-24 cycle

20 Semi- Finalists

10 UMBC Applicants Selected

2 Alternates Selected

International Education Administrator Awards:

Dr. Nancy Young: France
Former Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Brian Souders: Germany
CGE Associate Director of Global Learning

Faculty Scholar Awards:

Dr. Shimei Pan: Germany
Information Systems

Ms. Corrie Parks: Austria
Museum Curation

Of the 2023-24 cohort of select and alternates, one is an Army veteran, five received UMBC merit scholarships, two were transfer students, and three are first- or second-generation Americans.

Funding amounts vary among grants, but Fulbright estimates the dollar value of each award to be between \$20,000 and \$22,000. As such, we can estimate that our recipients will have been funded for upwards of \$200,000. **Over the past five application cycles, UMBC Fulbright recipients have been awarded more than one million dollars to fund their study, research, or teaching opportunities.**

GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

SPRING 2022

1 Winner
\$5,000 Award

Switzerland

FALL 2022

3 Winners
\$14,000 in Awards

Italy
Jordan
Spain

SPRING 2023

4 Winners
\$12,500 in Awards

Italy (2)
Japan
Thailand

400% increase in applications from Fall 2022

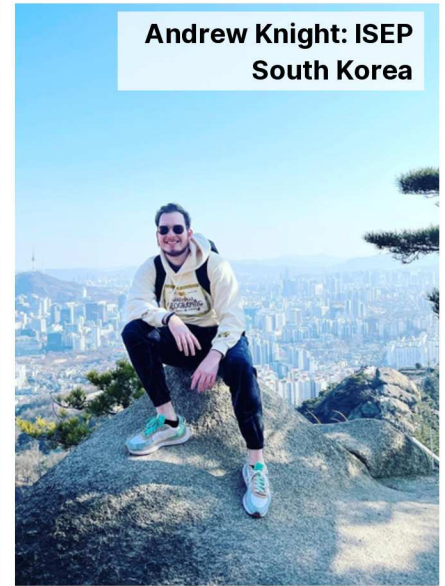


**Education Abroad
and Global
Learning programs
provide
opportunities for
students to create
lifelong memories
abroad!**

**Faculty-Led Study Abroad: Global Community
Engagement and Social Change in South Africa**



**Andrew Knight: ISEP
South Korea**



Siobhan Harvie: IES France



**Faculty-Led Study Abroad: Picturing Italian
Art & Culture in Context in Rome, Italy**



Kristin Betchel: USAC France



Sanyah Batti: USAC Thailand



Kathryn Crummit: USAC France



20 UMBC Staff and Faculty attended NAFSA Association for International Educators Conference in May 2023. Our booth was a popular meeting spot for our partners in the International Education field.



The Center for Global Engagement employed 19 Undergraduate student workers, Graduate Assistants, and Global Ambassadors in AY22-23. We are truly grateful for their hard work that support the mission of CGE and increases our reach across campus and the world. Thank you for all you do!

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| An Dang | Polina Tsygelnikova |
| Andrea Hernandez | Praise Lasekan |
| Brianna Brown | Sai Sourab Ganti |
| Grant Clifton | Sarah Ebrahimi |
| Jervon Drakes | Sayali Pramod |
| Jiwon Choi | Babhulgaonkar |
| Jok Thon | Sirisha |
| Lauren Mister | Tartela Tabassum |
| Madison Pickard | William Mo |
| Mariia Usova | |

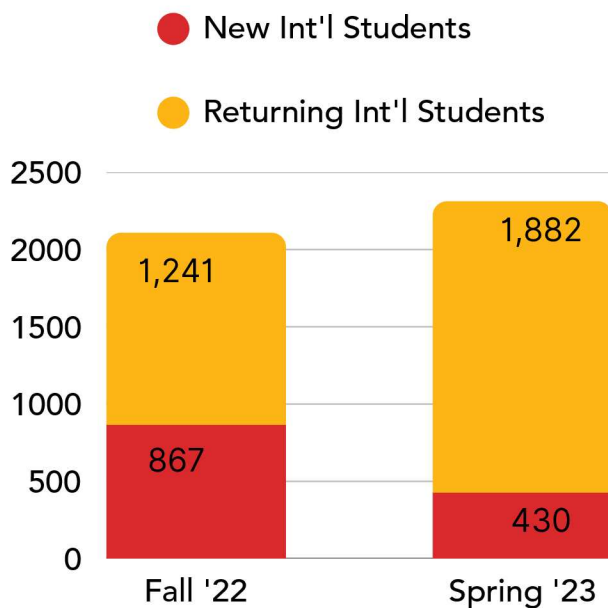


OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS

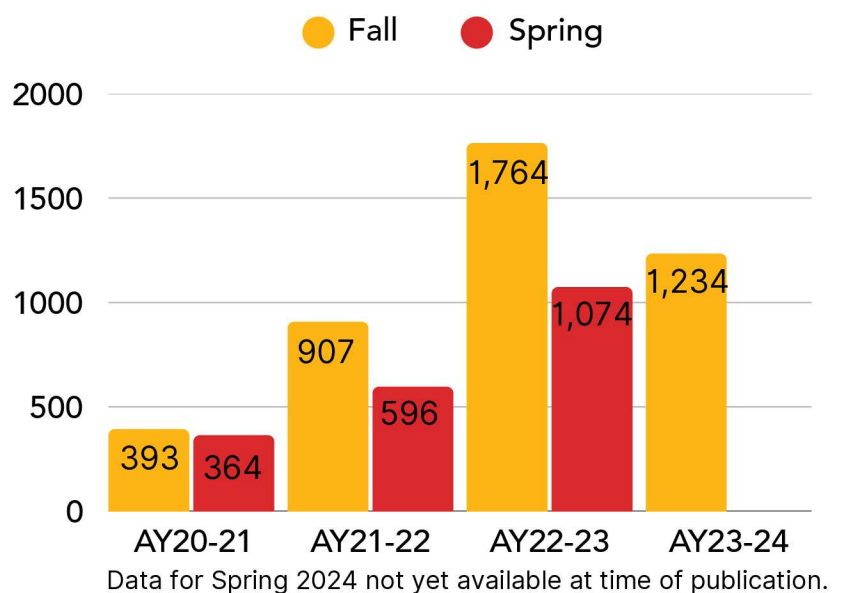
The International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) team at the Center for Global Engagement was renamed as the **Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS)** in Fall 2022. This change represents the comprehensive advising, programming, and other services we offer, which are dedicated to supporting the academic, personal, and professional goals of the international community at UMBC.

In Spring 2023, UMBC was home to 2,390 international students and scholars, representing 99 countries on campus. Our Office oversees the entire immigration process for each student, scholar, and their dependents, including advising appointments and document processing. We also advise them on how to settle in on campus and in the Baltimore region, like getting a cell phone plan, Driver's License, a job, or internship.

International Students Enrolled



I-20s Issued



UMBC International Students on F1 Visas come from 99 countries around the world. The top 5 countries represented on our campus are:



India

1,647 students



China

60 students



Nigeria

87 students



Iran

47 students



Bangladesh

77 students

Learn more about international recruitment on pg. 19!



INTERNATIONAL FACULTY, STAFF, AND SCHOLARS

UMBC is committed to recruiting and retaining a talented and diverse workforce. The Office of International Students and Scholars assists Academic Departments or Offices interested in hiring international individuals for various positions. In AY22-23, OISS filed **50 H1B petitions** in-house and through our immigration attorneys at Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy LLP to hire International Faculty and Staff in specialized career fields.



DID YOU KNOW?

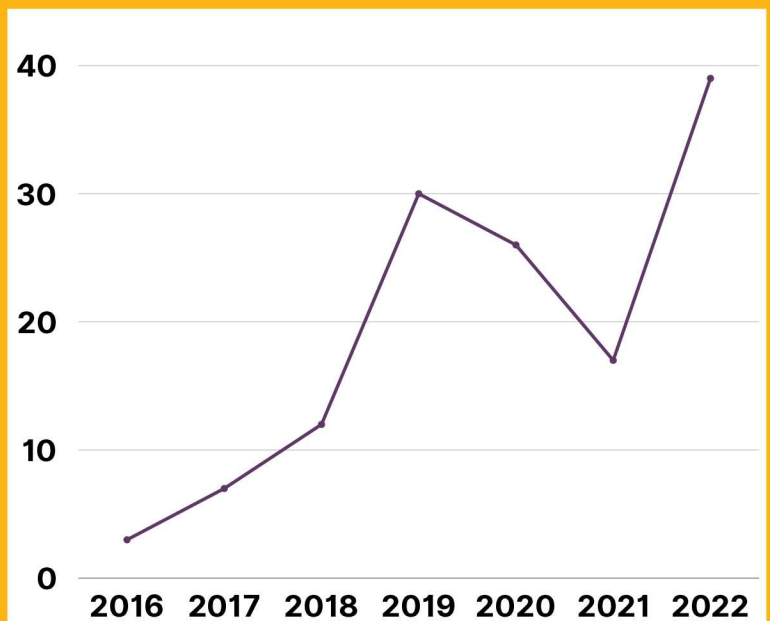
100%

of UMBC colleges and divisions employ International Faculty & Staff

78

J1 Professors, Scholars, and Students were active at UMBC in AY22-23:

- 1 Professor
- 52 Research Scholars
- 8 Short-term Scholars
- 8 Doctorate students
- 8 non-degree seeking students



This graph depicts the amount of **new H1B petitions filed** each calendar year. In 2023, 14 petitions have been filed up to June.



The Office of International Students and Scholars always stays connected with UMBC's **2,300+** current International students, as well as alumni and families:

- 1,300 Instagram Followers (@umbc_iss)
- 8,000+ Email Subscribers receive messages from OISS, including:
 - Current & Admitted Student Newsletters
 - Academic Year & Semester Welcome Messages & Reminders
 - Annual Tax Filing Instructions & Reminders, including direct contacts with our filing agency for International students, Sprintax
 - Other Special Announcements & Event Invitations

In AY22-23, we completed:

1,206

LETTER
REQUESTS

4,338

LIVE CHAT
ADVISING
SESSIONS

120

STEM OPT
APPLICATIONS

336

CPT
APPLICATIONS

696

ADVISING
APPOINTMENTS

2,427

RT TICKETS
RESOLVED

551

OPT
APPLICATIONS

11 GLOBAL AMBASSADORS

UMBC's Global Ambassador Program brings together a diverse group of current international students who help create a welcoming and considerate community for UMBC's international students. The program supports and empowers all international students, graduate and undergraduate, current and future. By sharing their insights and personal experiences, the Global Ambassadors work to ensure that international students feel connected to the campus, in the classroom, and community.

3 #YAWH SCHOLARS

The #YouAreWelcomeHere Scholarship was developed as a result of U.S. higher education institutions' commitment to providing a welcoming, safe and diverse environment to international students.

OUR AMBASSADORS...

- Represent 13 countries and 11 degree programs
- Sent 6,062 messages to prospective & admitted students on Unibuddy in AY22-23

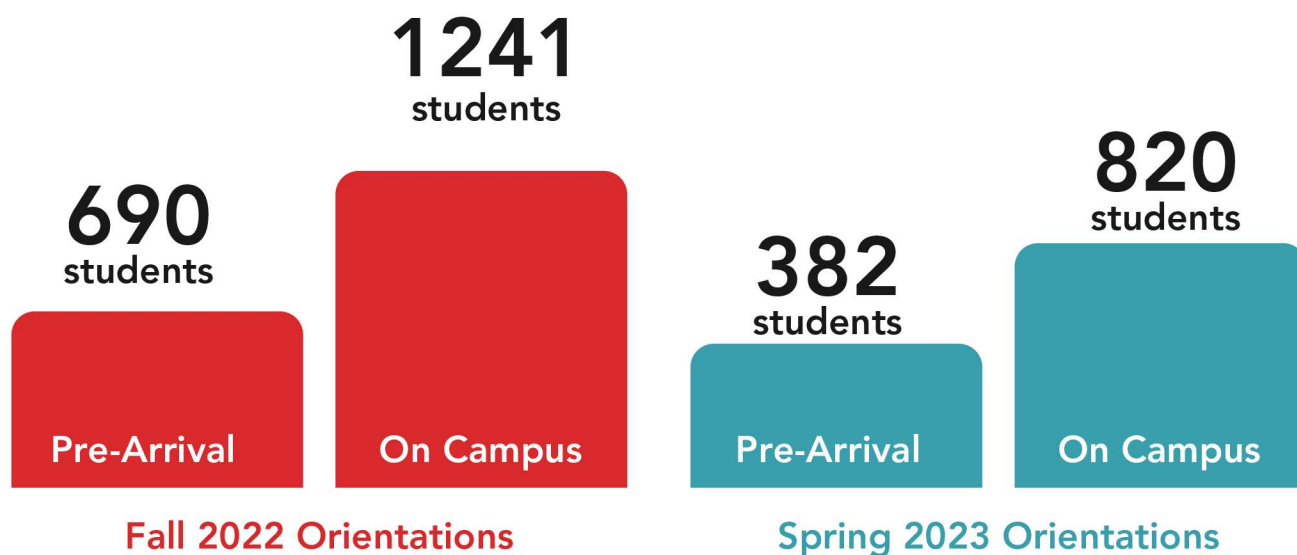




BUILDING COMMUNITY ON CAMPUS

Throughout the Academic Year, The Office of International Students & Scholars hosts events to bring our international community together. These events celebrate students' home cultures, introduce cultural traditions from the United States, and provide opportunities for their academic and professional development. In AY22-23, we have hosted many successful events, many of which attracted hundreds of UMBC's international students and scholars:

- **Fall 2022 Student Welcome Event (395 attendees)**
- **Spring 2023 Summer Send-Off & Travel Signatures (200+ attendees)**
- Apple Picking
- Baltimore Christmas Village Trip
- Lunar New Year Celebration
- Lunar New Year Celebration
- Cherry Blossom Festival Trip
- Winter Break Travel Signatures & Cookies
- International Student Career Conference (with Career Center)
- Cricket World Cup Challenge



INFORMATION SESSIONS

OISS staff began hosting weekly Info Sessions in Spring 2023 for international students admitted for Fall 2023. General Info Sessions, held 3 times per month, cover tips on preparing students for their arrival to campus and provide an introduction to student support and resources at UMBC; Visa Prep Sessions, held once per month, cover information about the application and interview process. Before this schedule, OISS staff hosted individual sessions that attracted over 100 attendees each:

119

International Graduate Student Info Session

154

Budgeting, Cost of Living and Student Resources

102

Parent and Family Session

164

Finding and Getting a Graduate Assistantship

INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT

CGE is committed to enhancing our vibrant campus community through internationalization initiatives that align with UMBC's mission and strategic plan. This year, Adam Julian, Director of OISS, traveled to Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, and Nigeria to participate in recruitment activities with various partners. CGE staff also attended several virtual fairs; some were targeted for key regions for UMBC, such as South Asia and West Africa, while others invited prospective students from around the world. In the upcoming year, we are looking forward to expanding our recruitment travel to more markets.





GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

In UMBC's transition from International Education Services to a Center for Global Engagement, the support provided by Global Partnerships has been critical to this growth and development. Because all areas of Global Engagement rely on partnerships with other institutions, it can be viewed as the glue holding UMBC's Global Engagement efforts together. When done well, partnerships can empower universities like UMBC to do more with less and to build on the complementary strengths and resources of our partners.

The work of Partnerships is fundamental to the day-to-day operations and outcomes of the Center for Global Engagement. Education Abroad & Global Learning relies on a robust global network of existing partnerships with universities, study abroad providers, and other third party organizations to maintain and update its portfolio of study abroad program offerings. The English Language Institute (ELI) depends on partnerships with foreign universities, K-12 school systems, and other third party organizations in order to maintain and build enrollment. Special Programs is a new area in the ELI portfolio and is particularly reliant on a global network of strong partnerships in order to develop these programs. Global Partnerships also provides strong support to the Office of International Students & Scholars partnerships with third parties specializing in international student placement for recruitment and yield purposes.

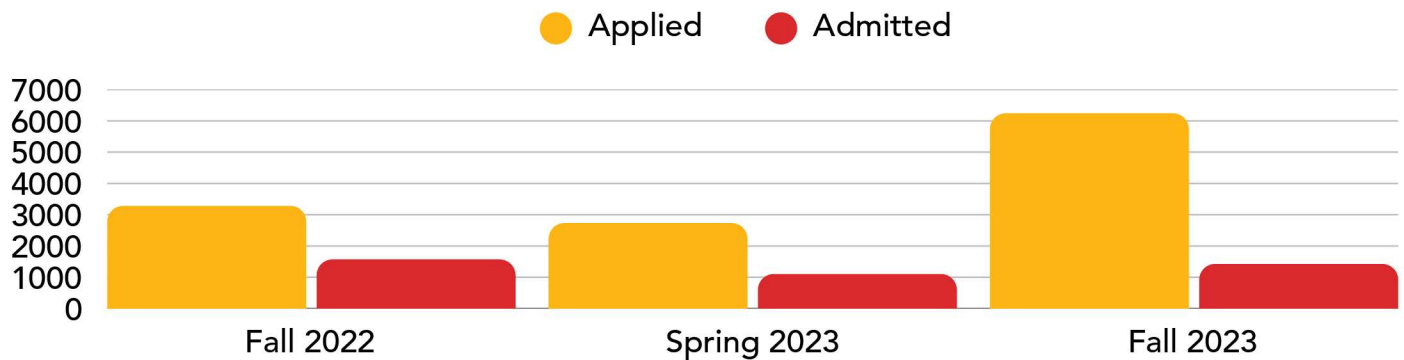
Additionally, Global Partnerships works with an increasing number of UMBC faculty and academic departments in providing a concierge service in taking a new partnership from the initial concept to a final, signed agreement. All of this work involves a breadth and depth of internal collaboration across UMBC divisions, colleges, and departments. This year, the Partnerships team also implemented several measures to add infrastructure to the agreement process. This included building agreement templates and using DocuSign and TerraDotta to standardize the eSignature process. We are confident that with this structure, we will continue building strong partnerships in the coming year.

Global Partnerships empower universities like UMBC to do more with our resources by building on the strengths of our partners.

Externally, Global Partnerships accomplishes this work through:

- on-campus delegation visits
- virtual meetings and training sessions
- group meetings at conferences/symposia
- day-to-day correspondence

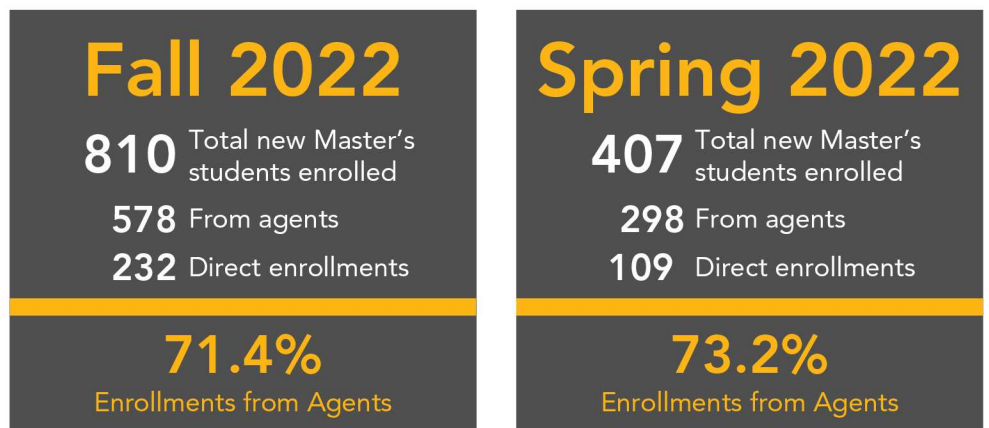
Graduate Applications and Admissions from Agents



Since its inception, Global Partnerships has signed 8 agencies to our portfolio in order to achieve UMBC's international student recruitment goals. With a combined 106 offices in India (our top country of origin for international students at UMBC) and offices in 80+ additional countries, our partners connect us with a diverse network of potential future Retrievers.



Graduate Enrollments from Agents





Spring 2022

- **ELI Agreement:** Johns Hopkins University
- **Academic/Research Agreement:** Federal University of Sao Carlos, Brazil
- **Bilateral Exchange:** Nanzan University, Japan

Summer 2022

- **Academic/Research Agreement:** West University of Timisoara
- **ELI Agreement:** Obirin Gakuen Foundation of America
- **ELI Agreement:** Association of Private High Schools of Kanagawa

Fall 2022

- **ELI Agreement:** Instituto Cultural Peru Norteamericano
- **Internship Agreement:** North American Center of Ecuador
- **Internship Agreement:** Korean Ministry of Education
- **Study Abroad Direct Enrollment:** University of Waikato
- **UMBC Campus Visits:**
 - University of Waikato
 - Kanagawa, Japan Sister State Delegation
 - ISEP France+
 - EducationUSA (with Maryland International Education Consortium)
 - Hauts-de-France Sister State Delegation (with MIEC)

Spring 2023

- **Academic/Research Agreement:** Indonesian National Research and Innovation Agency
- **Partner Visit on UMBC Campus:** Podium Education
- **ELI Agreement:** Kogakuin University
- **Internship Agreement:** Sookmyung Women's University
- **UMBC Campus Visits:**
 - USAC (University Studies Abroad Consortium)
 - WorldStrides
 - Advanced College of Engineering & Management, Nepal
 - USAID (U.S. Agency for International Development), Egypt
 - World Bank & Ministry of Higher Education, Angola
 - Newcastle University
 - German cultural Attache
- **Bilateral Exchange:** Conservatorio Giuseppe Nicolini, Italy

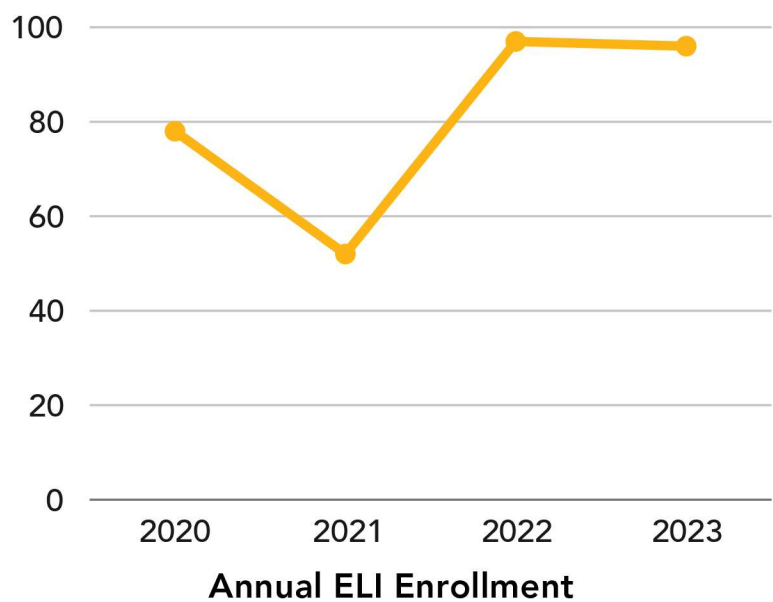
Summer 2023

- **UMBC Campus Visits:**
 - Kassel University, Germany
 - Fulbright Portugal
 - Exchange Visitors, Various
- **Bilateral Exchange Agreement:** University of Porto, Portugal
- **Education Abroad Provider Agreement:** USAC
- **Academic/Research Agreement:** Institute of Mathematics, Czech Academy of Sciences



ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

Despite challenges in recent years from the Covid-19 pandemic and changes to federal and international funding sources, the ELI has managed to sustain its operations and even experience growth with the support of the University.



The English Language Institute (ELI) has been a leader in Intensive English education in our region for over thirty years. During that time our IEP has seen a great deal of change, and taken many different shapes to ensure that we are reaching the demand and the goals of our students. Recent years have presented staunch challenges for international education, and English language programs were no exception.

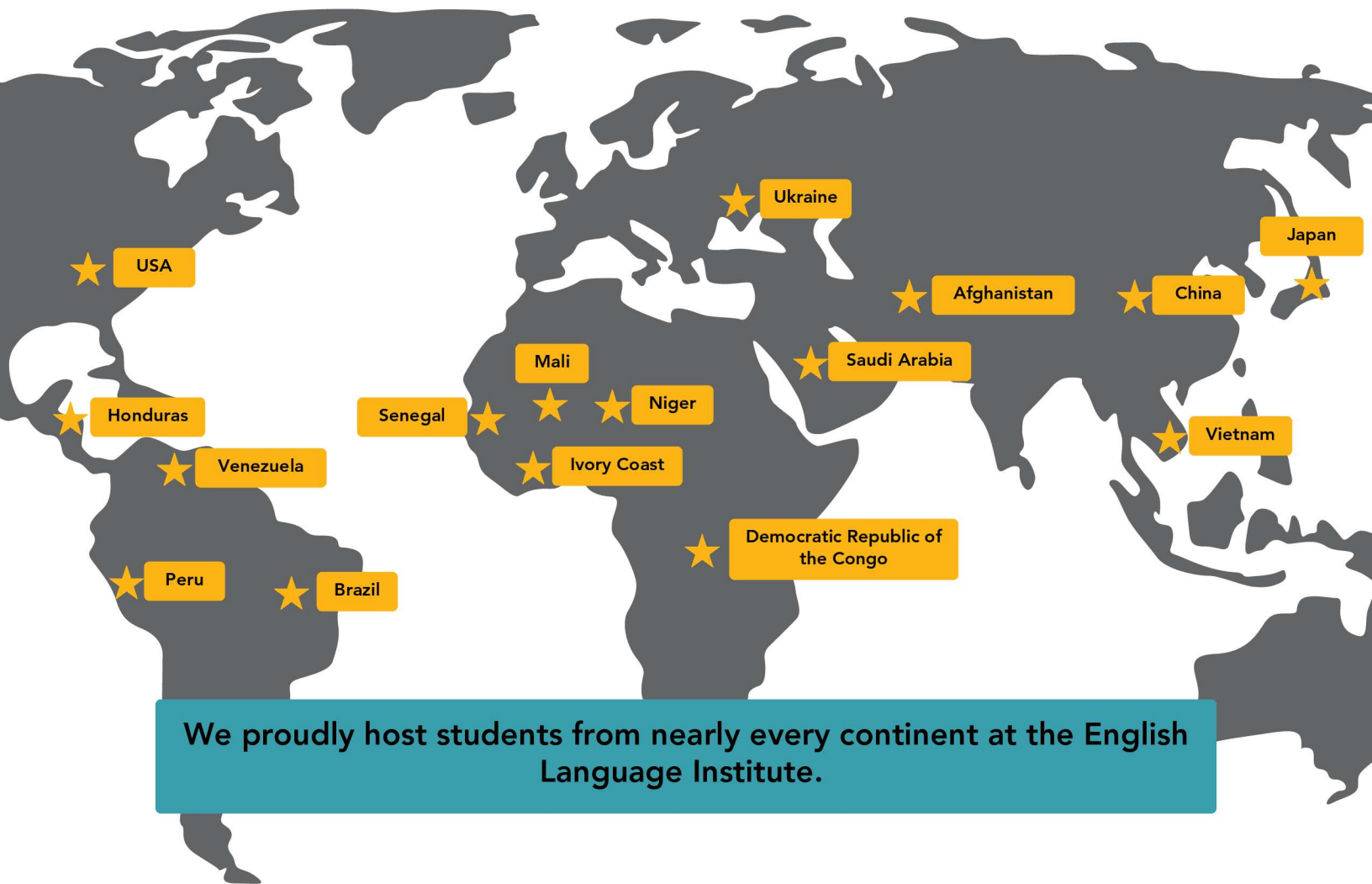
Starting around 2015 and 2016, we started to see a shift in scholarships rates from sponsors such as the Saudi Arabian Cultural Missions, and the Government of Kuwait, leading to rapid decreases in enrollment. Afterwards, changes in administration at the federal level, as well as the on-going pandemic, nearly brought the field to a halt. With the continued support of the University, the ELI was able to keep its doors open, and has now seen growth in enrollment and revenue.

OUR ELI STUDENTS

Many students in the English Language Institute are recent high school or university graduates who hope to attend UMBC or another university in the U.S. Others are professionals taking short-term, intensive English classes to enhance their careers. We also enroll members of the Baltimore community who want to improve their English for employment or daily life in the U.S.



After graduating from the ELI, students take many paths: each semester, we send 2-4 students into undergraduate programs at UMBC, and several more into undergraduate programs at other institutions. Others attend graduate programs or return to their home countries to work.



We proudly host students from nearly every continent at the English Language Institute.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

As we continue to diversify the kinds of programming that the ELI and CGE can offer, we have expanded our portfolio for **Special Programming**. Special Programs are a unique advancement to our internationalization efforts because they can be tailored to the needs of various populations—ranging in size, English proficiency, length of program, or topic.

This year, we have hosted Special Programs ranging from short-term intensive English programs for international high school and university students, to federally sponsored grants for connecting international leaders and innovators with local leaders in Baltimore and Maryland. We are honored to report that the ELI and CGE have been selected to host several prestigious delegations this year. Read on to discover some accomplishments of our Special Programs this year. We are looking forward to another year of robust programs!

OPEN WORLD

The Congressional Office for International Leadership selected CGE to facilitate programming between 5 international delegations and local leadership in specialized fields:

- Cyber Security - Estonia
- American Corners - Azerbaijan
- Information Security - Ukraine
- Inclusivity - Georgia
- Gender-Based Violence - Moldova





MANDELA WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS

The Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders selected UMBC as a Leadership in Civic Engagement Institute for their Summer 2023 Cohort. Our team developed professional development programming in advocacy, strategic planning, organizational development, and community-based organizing for the Fellows, who represented 20 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. After six weeks of programming and cultural immersion at UMBC and around Baltimore, our Fellows concluded the program by attending a summit in Washington, D.C.

Below is a photo of UMBC's own Jok Thon and Blessing Kanayo Ashi with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and other State Department officials. Both Jok and UMBC were acknowledged in an address by Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Elizabeth Allen. In addition to receiving special certificates signed by Secretary Blinken, Fellows received letters signed by Vice President Kamala Harris.



OTHER SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The English Language Institute at the Center for Global Engagement is proud to have supported other programs with various participants and topics this year.

- Johns Hopkins - Bilingual Medical Terminology Course
- Instituto Cultural Peruano Norteamericano (ICPNA)
- J. F. Oberlin University - Machida, Japan
- Seiko Gakuin Consortium - Ongoing partnership with High School in Kanagawa, Japan