



YEAR IN REVIEW



UMBC

CENTER FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

2023-

2024

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Message from the Associate Vice Provost



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As we approach the end of another year, it is my pleasure to share with you the Year in Review for the academic year 2023-2024. This report captures a year marked by remarkable achievements, new initiatives, and our unwavering commitment to facilitating global engagement at UMBC. Through this report, we aim to not only share our accomplishments but also explore new opportunities for collaboration with our campus community.

This year, the Center for Global Engagement has made significant strides in various areas:

- **Supporting International Students and Scholars:** The Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) is supporting a record number of international students, faculty, researchers, and staff, and developed new initiatives to assist their transition to UMBC and the Baltimore region.
- **Expanding Global Learning:** our Education Abroad Office expanded faculty-led study abroad programs, launched the Global Learning Lab to further internationalize our campus, and successfully made UMBC a Top Producing Institution for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.
- **Strengthening Partnerships:** the Office of Global Partnerships continues to build international collaborations between UMBC and international institutions, as well as strengthen existing partnerships through enhanced international student recruitment and yield activities.
- **Enhancing International Programming:** The English Language Institute (ELI) and Special Programs team broadened their reach by doubling our applications to federal grants and increasing enrollment in intercultural and language training programs.

We are grateful for the support from our campus and community partners, whose collaboration and dedication are vital to our mission of advancing global engagement opportunities for all members of the UMBC community. Thank you to Mariia Usova, MFA Intermedia and Digital Arts '25 and Rachel Vandegrift, who created this report. We look forward to continuing our work to support and facilitate global academic initiatives and exchange, and achieve new heights together in 2025.

Dr. David L. Di Maria

Associate Vice Provost for International Education

Meet Our Staff

The Center for Global Engagement facilitates activities, services and advising for study abroad students, international students, and international faculty, researchers and staff at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). Our growing international curriculum prepares our students for a rapidly changing and increasingly interdependent world. The following teams specialize in various fields to promote global engagement at UMBC.

Administration Team

Dr. David L. Di Maria
Associate Vice Provost
for International Education

Rachel Vandegrift
Administrative & Operations Coordinator

Wanda Meinschein
Business Financial Specialist

Education Abroad Office

The Education Abroad Office helps UMBC students find study abroad programs to earn credits toward their UMBC degree while having a life-changing experience abroad. The Office also oversees UMBC applications to the Fulbright Program, Gilman Scholarship, and other scholarship resources for studying, teaching, and research abroad.

Katherine Heird
Director of Education Abroad &
Global Learning

Alicyn Curtis
Education Abroad Advisor

Dr. Brian Souders
Associate Director of Global Learning

Office of Global Partnerships

The Office of Global Partnerships is the main point of contact between UMBC, international academic institutions and governments interested in building collaborations that further the mission of UMBC. The Office also coordinates international student recruitment efforts that enhance our vibrant campus community.

Adam Holden
Director of Global Partnerships

Sarah Wong
International Student Support Manager

Natalie Lobb
Assistant Director of International Recruitment



Office of International Students and Scholars

The Office of International Students and Scholars 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.

Dave Anguish

Director, Office of International Students and Scholars

Sarah Cockcroft

Assistant Director, Office of International Students and Scholars

Diane Zeenny Ghorayeb

International Scholar Coordinator

Danielle Bolden

International Student & Scholar Advisor

Brionna Stokes

International Student & Scholar Advisor

Victoria Sung

International Student & Scholar Advisor

Farhan Nadeem

International Student Career Advisor

English Language Institute and Special Programs

The English Language Institute (ELI) provides high quality training to those who need to strengthen their English skills in speaking, listening, reading, writing, and/or grammar for their personal and professional goals. The ELI also facilitates internationalization at UMBC through special programs for international delegations.

Ryan Sheldon

Director, English Language Institute & Special Programs

Madison Pickard

Assistant Director, Special Programs

Sarita Foutz

Program Coordinator

Georges Mushayuma

Front Desk Coordinator

Josie Penn

Program Management Specialist

Dr. Kati Milter

ELI Faculty

Christopher McKinnon

ELI Faculty

John Lundquist

ELI Faculty

Mark Beachy

ELI Faculty

Collectively, we have studied, worked, or lived in
over 100 countries around the world and we speak a
total of **17 languages!**



Ryan Morales, Spring 2024 - Italy, ISEP Exchange



Madelyn Pollack, Fall 2023 - England, ISA Program



Rayyan Nadeem, Spring 2024 - South Korea, ISEP Direct



Kara Gavin '20 - Fulbright ETA recipient - Taiwan



Kayla Nemirovsky, Spring 2024 - Finland, ISEP Exchange



Erik Martin Schwetje, Summer 2024 - Faculty-led Study Abroad: Intercultural Communication in Morocco & Spain

Education Abroad & Global Learning



Dear UMBC Community,

Academic Year 2023-24 was a landmark year for Education Abroad & Global Learning at UMBC! Together, we've embarked on a journey of growth, innovation, and impactful global engagement. Here's a glimpse into a few highlights:

- We launched the **College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (CAHSS) Global Learning Lab**. This joint initiative between the CGE and the CAHSS Dean's Office created a faculty learning community dedicated to increasing student access to global learning opportunities. The cohort-style semester-long program provided a framework for faculty to exchange best practices and innovative models for integrating global learning into the curriculum.
- We expanded our **Summer Study Abroad Program Portfolio**: Building on our commitment to providing transformative international experiences, we have significantly expanded our summer study abroad program portfolio. From cultural immersion to international field research, these programs offer UMBC students a diverse array of opportunities to broaden their horizons and deepen their understanding of the world.
- UMBC was recognized as a **Fulbright U.S. Student Top Producing Institution!** This prestigious recognition not only underscores our commitment to fostering global citizenship but also celebrates the outstanding achievements of our students and alumni.
- UMBC student enrollment in **study abroad programs grew by more than 30%**.
- UMBC **international exchange** student enrollment **more than doubled**.

These accomplishments are a testament to the dedication, creativity, and collaborative spirit of our UMBC community. As we continue to chart new paths and push the boundaries of global learning, let us seize every opportunity to inspire curiosity, cultivate understanding, and shape a more interconnected world.

Katherine Heird

Director of Education Abroad & Global Learning



Alicyn Curtis welcomes international exchange students to campus

Where in the World are UMBC Students?

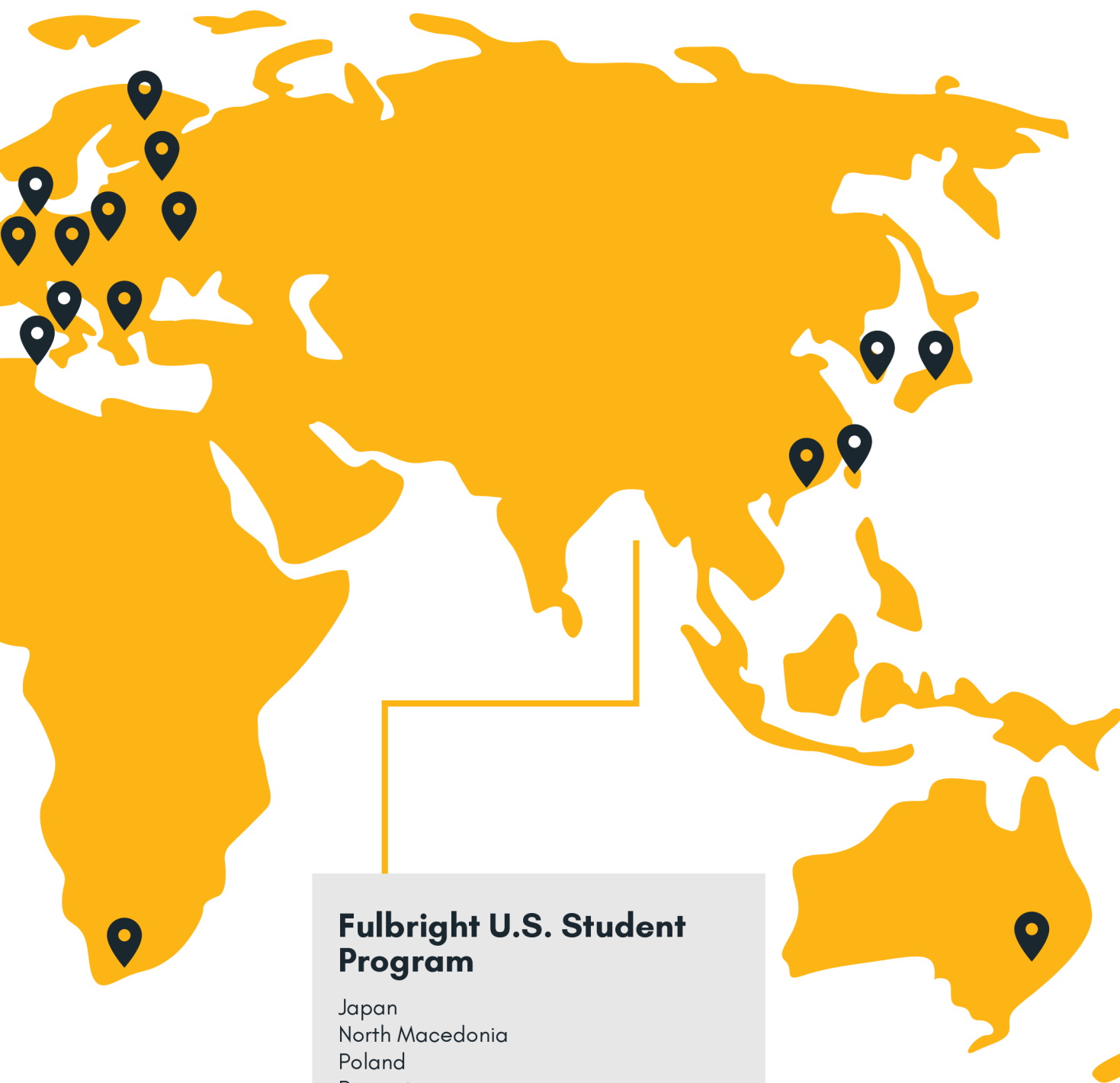
In AY23-24, **156** students studied abroad. **10** alumni studied and worked abroad through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. **22** international exchange students studied at UMBC.

Education Abroad

Australia
Austria
Costa Rica
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Hong Kong
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Malta
Morocco
Netherlands
Senegal
South Africa
South Korea
Spain
Sweden
United Kingdom

International Exchange

Austria
France
Germany
Ghana
Italy
Japan
Netherlands
Portugal
South Korea
Spain
United Kingdom



Fulbright U.S. Student Program

Japan
North Macedonia
Poland
Romania
Slovakia
Taiwan

Education Abroad at a Glance



21.6%
of UMBC study abroad
participants are transfer
students

The median GPA for
UMBC study
abroad students is
3.624

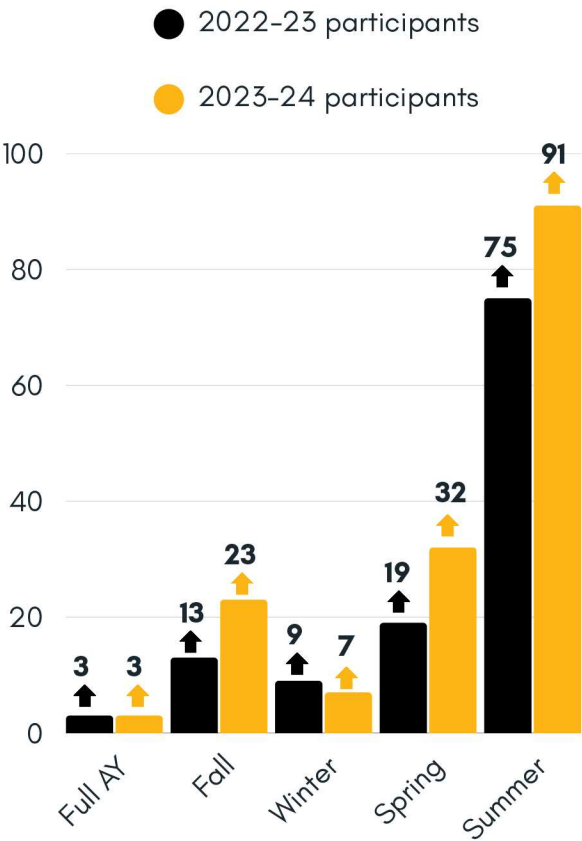


Lia Ward, 2024 – Rome, Italy, AIFS Abroad



Sianna Serio – Fulbright ETA recipient – Slovakia

156 UMBC students studied
abroad in AY23-24, compared
to **119 last year.**





Faculty program leader Kimberly Anderson with UMBC students, Summer 2024 - Picturing Italian Art and Culture in Context in Rome, Italy

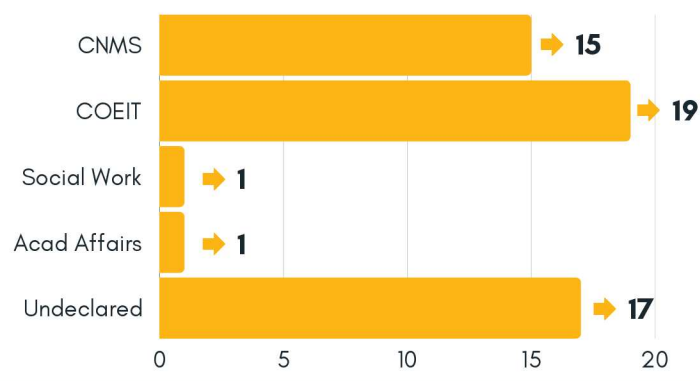
Expanding Opportunities:

1 in 4

UMBC study abroad participants are **first generation college students**

98 of 156

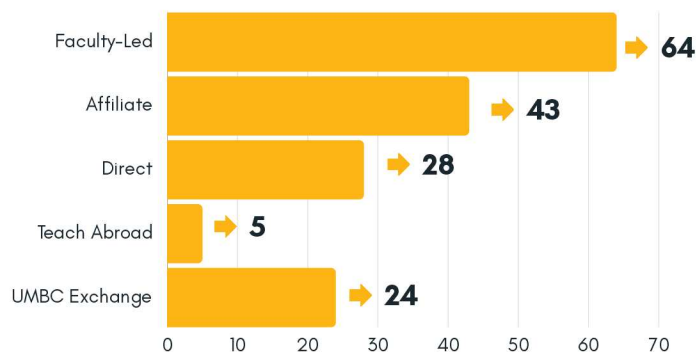
study abroad students are from the **College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences**. Students from all UMBC Schools and Colleges studied abroad this year:



The percentage of UMBC study abroad students **enrolled in exchange programs** increased from

3% in AY22-23 to

14% in AY23-24.



Scholarships for Study Abroad



Dr. Kimberly Moffitt

Dr. Kimberly Moffitt established the College of Arts, Humanities, and the Social Sciences (CAHSS) Dean's Education Abroad Scholarship.

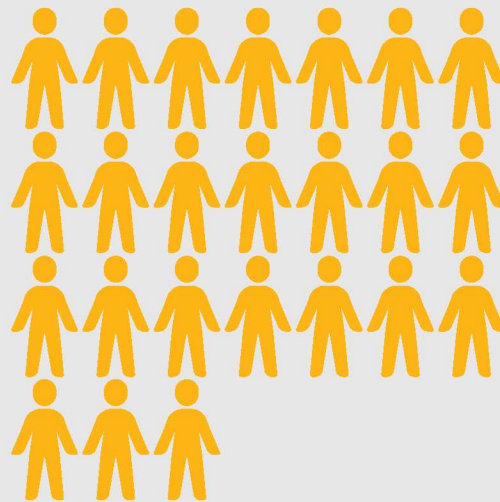
The scholarship guarantees

\$100,000

per year in education abroad scholarship funding for the next four years to help offset the financial costs of studying abroad.

\$1,500 – \$5,000

in awards are available for undergraduate and graduate students with at least one major in CAHSS who need additional financial support to study abroad.



Twenty-four students

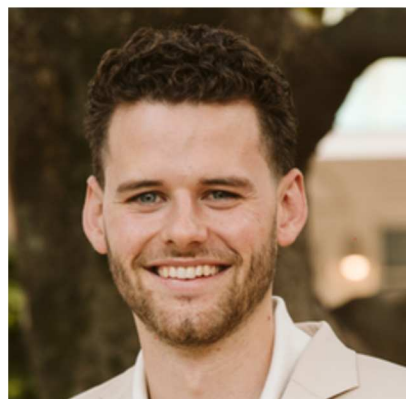
were awarded scholarships in the inaugural round.



Kayla Nemirovsky '26, math and economics, with other UMBC education abroad students at the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa

Meet the CAHSS Dean's Education Abroad Scholarship recipients!

Joseph Patarini '25, environmental science and geography, is one of the CAHSS Dean's Education Abroad Scholarship recipients. "Studying abroad is important to me because **gaining a diverse global perspective is paramount to solving today's top environmental issues.** By getting outside of our comfort zone and exploring new academic opportunities we can deepen our understanding of global interconnectedness," says **Patarini, who will study in Morocco and Spain in summer 2024.** "We can learn from new, diverse perspectives to enhance our problem-solving skills, contributing to a more holistic and adaptable approach."



2023 - 2024 CAHSS Dean's Education Abroad Scholarship recipient (Joseph Patarini)

"This grant **makes it possible for me to study abroad** and make the most of my undergrad experience," says Ria Smith '25, dance, CAHSS Dean's Education Abroad Scholarship summer 2024 recipient to Italy. "I really appreciate how the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences is showing **real commitment to the value of international exposure.**"

Article by: Catalina Sofia Dansberger Duque
Continue reading the full article here:



For the third time in five years, UMBC is named a Fulbright Top Producing Institution!

Ten UMBC Fulbright student recipients researching and teaching English abroad this year helped propel UMBC, once again, to the elite ranks of a **Fulbright Top Producing Institution**. The designation recognizes colleges and universities with the highest number of students selected for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, the U.S. government's flagship international academic exchange program. UMBC first received this designation from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs in 2019 – 2020 and again in 2020 – 2021.

"This achievement is a testament to your institution's deep commitment to international exchange," wrote **Secretary of State Antony Blinken** in a letter to **President Valerie Sheares Ashby**, congratulating her on UMBC's Fulbright Top Producer designation, "and to building lasting connections between the people of the United States and the people of other countries."

"Being named a Top Producing Fulbright Institution is a tremendous honor—it not only shows the world what we already know about our amazing students, but it also lets our current students know that the **Fulbright is a realistic opportunity for them**," says **Brian Souders, Ph.D. '09**, language, literacy, and culture, M.A.'19, TESOL. Souders has led students through the Fulbright application process as UMBC's Fulbright Program advisor for more than a decade.

Article by: *Catalina Sofia Dansberger Duque*
Continue reading the full article here:



2023-2024 UMBC Fulbright U.S. Student recipients. Left to right: Milan Richardson, Nailah-Benā Chambers, Kara Gavin, Paul Ocone, and David Bullman



(L-R) Natalie Lobb, Dr. David Di Maria, Dr. Brian Souders, and Katherine Heird celebrate UMBC's designation as a Top Producing Institution



A Journey of Growth

International journeys offer ample opportunities to stretch yourself—one minute you may be the expert and the next, completely clueless about how something works. Retrievers currently in the Fulbright U.S. Student Program—teaching English or researching around the globe—are finding their balance along the way.



Nailah-Bena Chambers with her host family at a shrimping restaurant where you can catch, cook, and eat the shrimp.



Milan Richardson at Taroko National Park, one of many stops while traveling around Taiwan on a scooter with new friends.



English Teaching Assistants and others from Kinmen and Penghu (two of Taiwan's islands) at a Thanksgiving event.



Tiffany Powell, far right, with her American studies class at Alexandru Ioan Cuza University in Iasi, Romania.



Paul Ocone in front of a display of shikishi, or illustrated boards, at a fan event in April.

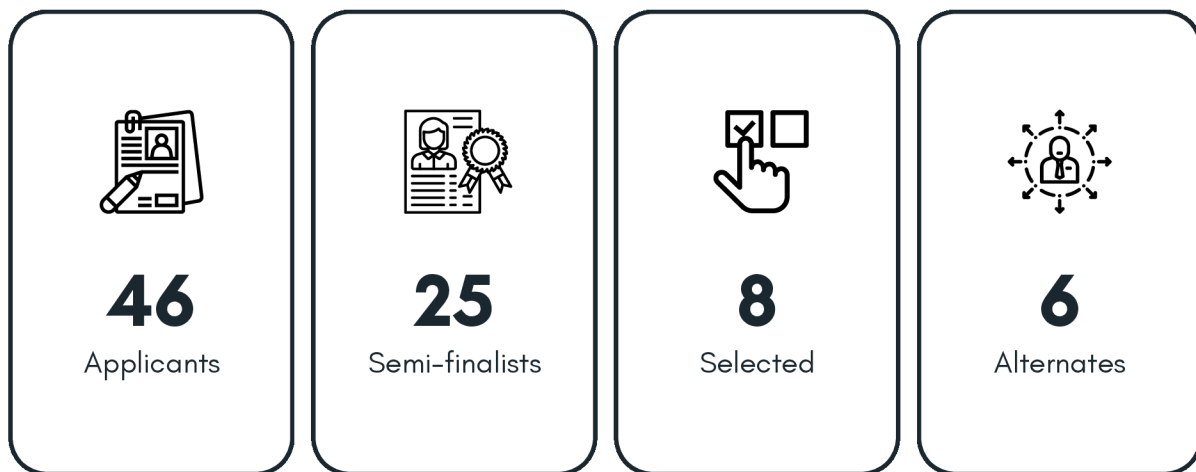
Article by: Catalina Sofia Dansberger Duque
Continue reading the full article here:



Fulbright U.S. Student Program



Funding amounts vary among grants, but Fulbright estimates the dollar value of each award to be between **\$20,000 and \$25,000**. 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. For the AY24-25 application cycle, UMBC produced:



All UMBC colleges are represented by our Fulbright awardees in the following fields:

Research and Study:

- Ancient Studies: Bulgaria
- Biology: France
- Biology: Germany
- Mechanical Engineering: Italy
- Media Communication Studies: North Macedonia
- Public Health/TESOL: Uganda

English Teaching Assistant (ETA):

- Political Science: High School placement in Slovakia
- TESOL: University placement in Bahrain

In 2024, we hosted:

- 26 general and target information sessions in Spring and Summer
- 41 campus committee interviews, bringing together faculty and staff across UMBC

On average:

- 7 drafts reviewed per research award
- 4 drafts reviewed per English teaching award

Average hours needed to advise each Fulbright application:

- ETA Award: 25 hours
- Study Award: 30 hours
- Research Award: 35 hours

Scholar Awards

Two UMBC staff were recipients of the Fulbright **International Education Administrator** awards:

- Dr. Renique Kersh, Vice President for Student Affairs - Germany (via Simmons College)
- Dr. Brian Souders, Associate Director for Global Learning - Germany
- Katherine Heird, Director of Education Abroad and Global Learning - Taiwan

Lynn Cazabon, Professor of Art and Director, Center for Innovation, Research, and Creativity in the Arts was awarded the **Fulbright Scholars Award** to Central Queensland University in Australia.

We welcomed the first ever **Fulbright Scholar in Residence** recipient, **Judith Bündgens Kostens** from the Institute for British and American Studies at the Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany. In Fall 2023, they taught specialist ESL courses for the TESOL MA program as a visiting scholar/professor.

For AY24-25, **Emma Gebhard** received the **Congress-Bundestag Young Professionals Exchange Scholarship**, which awards 75 Americans and 75 Germans the opportunity to study, live, and intern in each others' countries for one year.



Drs. Kersh and Souders pictured with Fulbright colleagues in Germany

Our Alumni Abroad

In 2023, 3 TESOL MA program alumni received **English Language Fellows** awards valued at \$40,000 each:

- Matthew Gleason '18 in Albania
- Ryan Good '17 in Uzbekistan
- Noora Mahmassani '19 in Latvia

Michael Schapiro '19, also an alumnus of the UMBC TESOL MA program and the Fulbright US Student Program ETA award in Colombia (AY19-20), received the **English Language Fellows** award to the Philippines for AY24-25.



Drs. Kersh and Souders pictured with colleagues in Germany

Office of International Students and Scholars



Comprehensive Support

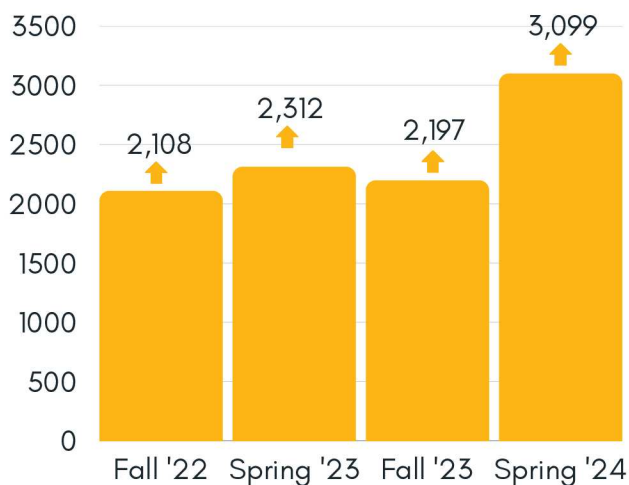
The Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) at UMBC offers support for the international community through immigration advising, activities promoting intercultural connections, and help with employment opportunities like CPT and OPT.

Total F-1 Students:

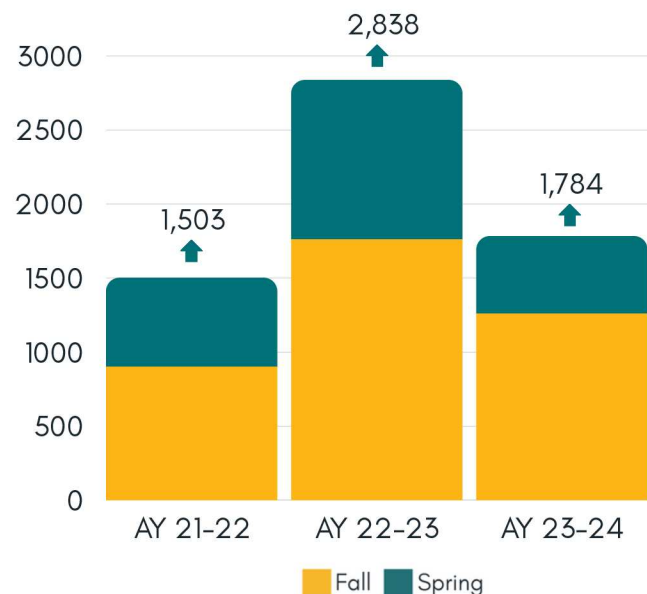
3,099

currently supported by OISS
(including active OPT/STEM OPT)

International Students Enrolled



I-20s Issued



UMBC international students on F-1 visas come from 99 countries around the world. The top 11 countries represented by enrollment on our campus are:

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. India | 5. Iran | 9. Ethiopia |
| 2. Bangladesh | 6. Pakistan | 10. South Korea |
| 3. Nigeria | 7. Vietnam | 11. Malawi |
| 4. China | 8. Nepal | |



OISS at a Glance



International Student Career Support

F-1 students are supported by OISS after their graduation from UMBC for **up to 3 years**. This was a record year for UMBC students on Optional Practical Training (OPT), STEM OPT, and Curricular Practical Training (CPT).

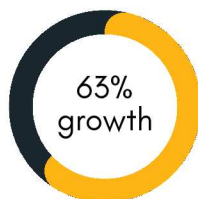
In AY23-24, the OISS student advising team completed:



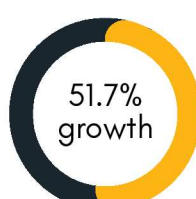
420 STEM OPT applications
120 in AY23-24



1,104 OPT applications
551 in AY23-24



549 CPT applications
336 in AY23-24



1,056 scheduled appointments
696 in AY23-24



2,513 RT tickets
2,427 in AY23-24



808 walk-in advising sessions
New in Spring 2024!

Our Global Ambassadors

At UMBC, three graduate and three undergraduate Global Ambassadors bring together a diverse international student community. They support and empower students across all programs and levels, helping them connect with campus life and enhance their overall UMBC experience through shared insights and experiences



Countries represented:

- India
- Grenada
- Nigeria
- South Korea
- Vietnam

Areas of study:

- Biological Sciences
- Chemical Engineering
- Computer Science
- Data Science
- Engineering
- Management

Did you know?

The CGE Global Ambassadors:

- host and facilitate virtual recruitment sessions, Q&As, and UMBC campus tours
- sent **5,258 direct and group messages** to prospective international students on Unibuddy
- manage the UMBC Unibuddy Community group, with **450+ members**
- serve as **panelists** for pre-departure orientations, welcome events, and orientations
- create content for the **International Insider** email to all international students and **write blogs** to share their experience

Global Peer Navigators

The Global Peer Navigators is a new initiative made possible by collaboration between OISS, the Graduate Student Association, and the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. This team of current international students is committed to providing comprehensive support to newly-arrived international students. Since their Spring 2024 launch, GPNs connect with new students and provide them with peer guidance on successfully transitioning to life at UMBC, through:

- building connections and community between both international and domestic students
- connecting students to resources around campus
- actively destigmatizing the use of mental health resources
- outreach and ongoing communication with new students
- holding office hours to provide peer mentorship to new students

#YouAreWelcomeHere

#YAWH is a welcome message from U.S. higher education institutions to international students around the world. The scholarship supports incoming international students who demonstrate **interest and initiative in promoting intercultural learning and exchange**. UMBC hosted 3 #YouAreWelcomeHere scholarship recipients in AY23-24.



"Studying at UMBC gives me the sense of belonging as an international student... I learn from the perspectives and experiences of my peers, both international and domestic students, which gives an exchange of knowledge beyond the classroom."

Giovanna Orfali, #YAWH Scholar, BA Fine Arts '26

”

Thank You!



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Graduate Assistants and Student Staff for their unwavering support and dedication to the Center for Global Engagement at UMBC. Your contributions are invaluable, and we thank you for your hard work and commitment.

- Reese Brooks
- Jiwon Choi
- Jervon Drakes
- An Dang
- Sourab Ganti
- Devayani Gadgil
- Betty Kyei
- Praise Lasekan
- Lauren Mister
- William Mo
- Lina Mora Oviedo
- Kayla Nemirovsky
- Madison Pickard
- Sirisha
- Tartella Tabassum
- Polina Tsygelnikova
- Mariia Usova

Thank you all for making a difference!



Student Testimonials



An Dang, B.S. Chemical Engineering

"I am an undergraduate research assistant in Dr. Lee Blaney's group in the Chemical, Biochemical and Environmental Engineering department. Our project is in nutrient recovery. I appreciate UMBC's size; we have more opportunities to be involved in multiple aspects, ranging from leadership in student organizations, teaching, to research."

Jiwon Choi, M.P.S. Data Science

"One of my most cherished experiences is participating in the ELI (English Language Institute) during my first semester. Those sessions weren't just about honing my English skills, they were about finding my place in a vibrant community of learners from around the world."

Sourab Ganti, M.S. Engineering Management

"The camaraderie and sense of belonging fostered within the team have provided me with some of the most meaningful friendships I've formed during my time at UMBC. As an international student navigating the intricacies of American culture, the support and companionship offered by my teammates have been invaluable, helping me acclimate to life in the U.S. The camaraderie and sense of belonging fostered has provided me with some of the most meaningful friendships I've formed during my time at UMBC."

Jervon Drakes, B.S. Computer Science

"Upon my arrival at UMBC, I was embraced by a dynamic and multicultural community. My experience has been enriching, transformative, and unforgettable, shaping me into a global citizen ready to tackle the challenges of the future."

Praise Lasekan, B.S. Biological Sciences

"Leaving home in 2021 right after the pandemic was a huge learning curve for me, but when I got onto campus at UMBC, I found my community. Now I am thriving and flourishing, setting myself up for the future I want."

Tartella Tabassum, Ph.D. Information Systems

"UMBC's commitment to developing research-oriented minds is unparalleled. Their dedication to their students is genuinely amazing, creating a climate in which academic development is valued and encouraged. UMBC not only values academic excellence but also recognizes the importance of supporting its diverse student body, making it an excellent fit for both my professional and personal goals."

OISS unites UMBC's international community to celebrate students' home cultures, introduce U.S. traditions, and offer academic and professional development opportunities.

This year, we invited international students to:

- Apple Picking (pictured below)
- Baltimore Christmas Village Trip
- Lunar New Year Celebration
- Cherry Blossom Festival Trip
- Thanksgiving Pie Celebration
- International Student Career Conference (collaboration with Career Center)



All UMBC students with international experiences were invited to celebrate the end of the semester at the **2024 Summer Send-off** – including international students, study abroad alumni, Fulbright recipients and alumni, and more. We distributed **blue and green graduation cords** to symbolize students' various experiences around the globe.



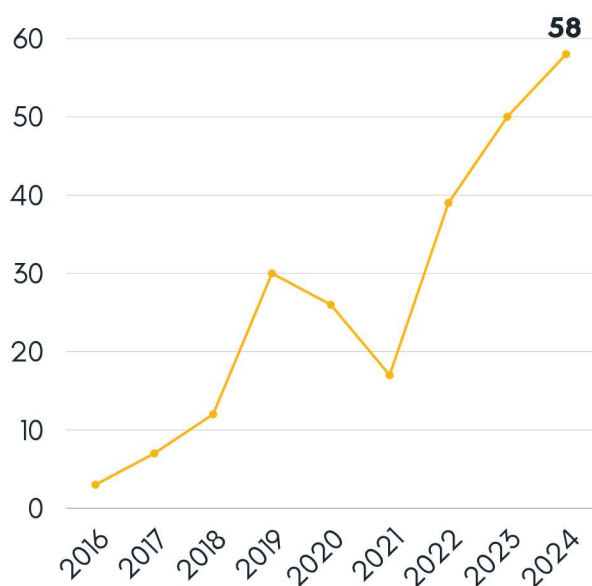
International Faculty, Researchers, and Staff



Comprehensive support

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.

New H-1B petitions filed:



100%

of UMBC colleges and divisions employ international faculty and staff

58

new H-1B petitions filed in AY23-24

72

J-1 professors, research scholars, and short-term scholars hosted by UMBC in AY23-24

20

annual permanent residency applications, coordinated with Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP

15-30

average hours needed to prepare and file each H-1B petition

Immigration training for our campus community

We introduced a **training series** for campus leadership and administrative staff to support international hiring by helping them navigate immigration processes. The series empowered staff with tools to handle complex topics for supporting international faculty, researchers, and staff. The facilitators addressed common challenges and offered practical insights. Key topics included:

- visa categories and processes
- immigration compliance
- navigating changes

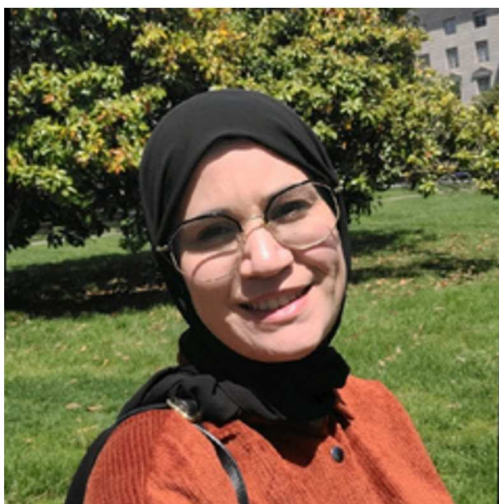
262

**attendees at
monthly trainings
since February**

and...

- International faculty, researchers, and staff are invited to weekly office hours
- J-1 scholars receive bi-monthly newsletters including information on local cultural events and important immigration reminders

J-1 Research Scholar Testimonials



Meet Dr. Ameni Mkaouar

"My experience as a J-1 research scholar at UMBC while conducting research at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center was truly enriching and impactful. **The program offered exceptional support and resources**, fostering a collaborative environment that significantly contributed to my professional growth and development."

J-1 Research Scholar Testimonials



Meet Ms. Lúcia Emília Vieira Guedes

"In the Spring 2024 semester I was a researcher at UMBC and it was an amazing experience. In fact, this amazing experience starts much earlier. During the entire period for arranging the J-1 visa I received excellent guidance resulting in a successful process. **The way I was received and engaged as an international visitor at UMBC is admirable.** Congratulations to everyone involved and thank you for all the support received."



Meet Dr. Dev Raj Sadaula

"I am currently on a J-1 Visa at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and my experience here has been incredibly enriching. The overall environment is both challenging and supportive, fostering growth and innovation. Moreover, the diverse campus community has provided me with invaluable cultural exchange opportunities, broadening my horizons and enhancing my global perspective. **I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a vibrant and dynamic institution.**"



Meet Dr. Xuezhi Cang

"Transitioning to work at UMBC under the H-1B visa was a seamless and supportive experience. The staff at the Center for Global Engagement provided outstanding guidance and made sure every step of my visa process was clear and manageable. I am grateful for their dedication, which has allowed me to focus on my professional contributions without worrying about visa complexities."

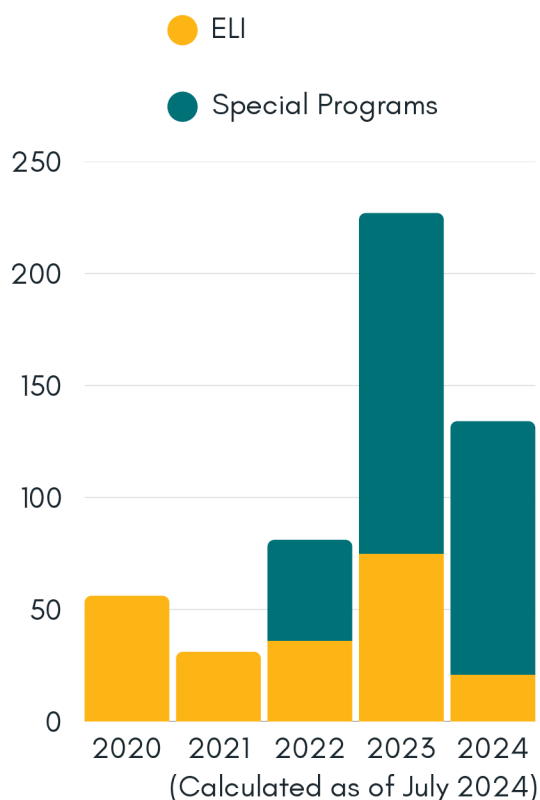
English Language Institute & Special Programs

The English Language Institute (ELI) has been a regional leader in intensive English education for over thirty years, by adapting our programs to meet evolving student needs. Recent years posed significant challenges for international education, impacting English language programs like ours.

Despite these obstacles, the ELI has persevered--we've diversified our offerings through Special Programs tailored to international groups based on size, English proficiency, and topic. This year, our offerings ranged from short-term intensive English programs for international high school and university students to federally sponsored grants connecting global leaders with local counterparts in Baltimore and Maryland.

Our team has expanded to include an additional Graduate Assistant and the inaugural Assistant Director of Special Programs, plus various short-term staff with language proficiencies to meet the varying needs of our program participants. We eagerly anticipate another year of robust programming, continuing our mission to meet the diverse educational needs of our international community.

Student & Participant Enrollment



Awarded



Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders (YALI)

Learn more on page 33!

Awarded



Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence

UMBC will serve as a pre-departure training partner for international professors and scholars before they arrive at their U.S. university placement.

Awarded



Gilman Advisor Workshop

UMBC will host Gilman advisors on campus to provide training for their work with scholarship applicants and recipients.



- Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship
- Fulbright Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) Program
- English Language Certificate Program for Brazilian teachers

This year, ELI Students and Special Programs participants joined us from 49 countries worldwide!





High school students from Kanagawa, Japan explore UMBC campus



YALI 2023 cohort fellows

Did you know? The Special Programs team at CGE...

- **doubled applications to prestigious grant programs** in 2023 through close work with the U.S. State Department, IIE, IREX, Fulbright, and others to support internationalization at UMBC.
- brought participants to Capitol Hill and Annapolis, and **met with elected officials** including Brandon Scott, Mayor of Baltimore, Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor of Maryland, and Susan C. Lee, Secretary of State, Maryland.
- **builds relationships** between UMBC, our international partners, and local organizations in Baltimore and Maryland, including: Unmatched Athlete, Digital Harbor Foundation, Community Works, Habitat Restore, ARC Baltimore, OcaMocha, Backyard Basecamp, Creative Alliance, Maryland Foodbank
- expanded our partnership with the Kanagawa Association of Private Junior/Senior High Schools in Japan, **connecting us with 140 schools.**

This year, we welcome the second cohort of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI)!



MANDELA
WASHINGTON
FELLOWSHIP
FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS

This summer, UMBC's Center for Global Engagement is excited to welcome its second cohort of the prestigious Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, the six-week flagship program of the U.S. Government's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). The new cohort includes **25 innovators from countries across Sub-Saharan Africa representing education, journalism, tech, health care, and more.** The fellows will spend six weeks living at UMBC networking and attending diversity and leadership skills workshops. They will also **meet with campus, local, and state leaders,** learn more about Baltimore's LGBTQ+ leaders of color, developmental disabilities at The ARC Baltimore, trauma-informed practices, and more.

"The fellowship is a beacon of hope," says Jok Thon, M.P.S. '24, entrepreneurship, innovation, and leadership, a 2018 University of Delaware YALI fellow and UMBC's first Global Peaceworker Fellow. Thon is a father of four and the director and founder of Promised Land Primary and Secondary School and Promised Land College in Juba, South Sudan, which has educated over 1500 displaced students. **"As a witness and participant in this transformative experience, I wholeheartedly attest the journey is as profound for the mentors as it is for the fellows."**

These **700 spots across 28 U.S. educational institutions are considered a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,** for both fellows and host institutions, to strengthen connections between the U.S. and Africa and establish enduring partnerships between fellows, local communities, and private businesses through their expertise, perspectives, and experiences. **"YALI is a huge deal in my country and Africa. It's a journey I want to take with my whole community, nation, and the world," says 2023 UMBC YALI fellow Victoria Merab Akinyi.** She is the CEO and co-founder of Streetlights Uganda, a visual and performing arts-based organization empowering children living on the streets with entrepreneurship and life skills to become self-employed and engaged citizens.

Article by: Catalina Sofia Dansberger Duque
Continue reading the full article here:





Victoria Merab Akinyi teaching a fashion design class at Streetlights Uganda



YALI fellows at Baltimore City Hall with Baltimore City Mayor Brandon Scott



YALI fellows at the Oriole Park at Camden Yards in Baltimore City



YALI Fellows on their last days on UMBC campus



(l-r): Jok Thon, YALI fellow Olukayodé Ajini Olofindji from Benin, U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, Undersecretary of State Elizabeth Allen, and YALI fellows Shange-Ndamona Mungoba from Namibia and Khwima Mkamanga from Malawi

International Education Week 2023

A joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Department of Education, International Education Week (IEW) is an opportunity for campuses to celebrate international education in all its forms: curricular, extracurricular, formal, non-formal and everything in between. International Education Week is for everybody!

The International Education Week committee encourages all areas of campus to get involved. We want to celebrate our international community, support international initiatives on campus, and share international experiences with domestic students and communities they might not otherwise be exposed to.

In 2023, we were honored to welcome Deputy Assistant Secretary for Private Sector Exchanges, Rebecca Pasini from the U.S. Department of State as our Keynote Speaker.



Deputy Assistant Secretary Rebecca Pasini pictured with President Valerie es Ashby, Dr. David Di Maria, and Rhonda Convert, Program Specialist, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State



Deputy Assistant Secretary Rebecca Pasini pictured with Mary E. (Mendy) Nitsch, Director, International Affairs, Office of the Maryland Secretary of State, and CGE staff

Featured Events:

- Keynote Speaker Event: U.S. Department of State: The Exchange Visitor Program presentation by Deputy Assistant Secretary for Private Sector Exchanges, Rebecca Pasini
- Faculty/Staff Global Engagement Conference and ACIREMA Cultural Simulation
- Global Opportunities (GO) Fair
- IEW Teaching Kitchen and True Grits IEW food specials
- Celebrate Your Culture Fair
- OCA Mocha "Impact of Where" Open Mic Night and IEW beverage specials
- "States of Becoming": CADVC exhibition feat. contemporary African artists
- Plus - 15 cultural and informational events with UMBC campus partners



Faculty/Staff Global Engagement Conference: ACIREMA



Faculty/Staff Global Engagement Conference



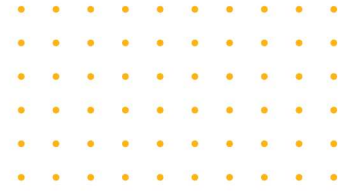
IEW Teaching Kitchen: President Valerie Sheares Ashby pictured with UMBC Students and Staff



IEW Culture Fair

**Stay tuned for International Education Week 2024:
November 18-22!**

Office of Global Partnerships



2023-2024 is the second full year for Global Partnerships at UMBC, and we achieved significant growth and development! Establishing the Office of Global Partnerships as a fourth functional team within CGE represents a significant step forward for internationalization at UMBC.

A collaboration with the Office of Research & Creative Achievement and the Provost's Office resulted in the publication of three new Global Partnerships webpages through which we are providing resources, information, and services that was not previously available, including:

International Agreement Guidelines

Explains the point of contact, signatory, and consults required in order to develop a new international agreement.



International Research at UMBC

Offers resources on international research policies and training, international visitors, and highlights UMBC news related to international research.



International Delegations

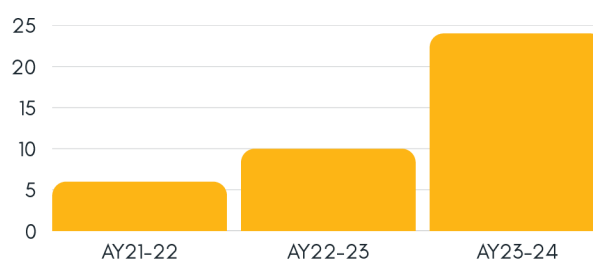
Explains the services and processes for working with the OGP to host a campus visit and resource for partnership development



CGE and UMBC colleagues at the annual NAFSA: Association for International Educators Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana

The Office of Global Partnerships is the main point of contact between UMBC, international academic institutions and governments interested in building collaborations that further the mission of UMBC. **This year, the Office coordinated 24 agreements and contracts:**

Agreements Signed & Renewed



	International Partner	UMBC Partner	Information
Fall 2023	University of Kassel, Germany	Education Abroad & Global Learning	Bilateral Exchange Agreement renewal
	UNICAMP, Brazil	Dr. Tanya Suanders, Language, Literacy, & Culture	Research funding MOU
	Ibn Ghazi Arabic Institute, Morocco	Education Abroad & Global Learning	Faculty Led Study abroad program
	Seiko Gakuin High School, Japan	English Language Institute & Special Programs	Special training program
	Kanagawa Association of Private Junior/Senior High Schools, Japan	English Language Institute & Special Programs	Special training program
	University of Algarve, Portugal	School of Public Policy	Renewal - faculty collaboration, Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)
Spring 2024	University of West Indies, Jamaica	Cybersecurity	Recruit transfer students to 3+1 Cybersecurity MA
	Vellore Institute of Technology- Bangalore, India	Cybersecurity, Data Science, Computer Science	Recruit transfer students to 1+1 Cybersecurity MA
	CEA CAPA	Education Abroad & Global Learning	Faculty Led Study abroad program
	National School of Government, South Africa	English Language Institute & Special Programs	Special training program
	University of Applied Research Development, New Zealand	Dept of Emergency & Disaster Health Systems	Renewal - Recruit students to master's program
	Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain	Chemical, Biochemical, Electrical Engineering	MOU for faculty collaborations
	American Statistical Association	Mathematics & Statistics	MOU to coordinate African International Conference on Statistics
	University of Wales Trinity St. David	Education Abroad & Global Learning	Faculty Led Study abroad program
	Newcastle University, England	Education Abroad & Global Learning	Faculty Led Study abroad program
	Faculty of Science, University of Porto, Portugal	COEIT	Master's student research bilateral exchange
	AIFS Abroad	Education Abroad & Global Learning	Renewal - Provider of study abroad programs
	World Strides	Education Abroad & Global Learning	Renewal - Provider of study abroad programs
	Seiko Gakuin High School, Japan	English Language Institute & Special Programs	Special training program
	AIFS in Ireland	Education Abroad & Global Learning	Faculty Led Study abroad program
	Loughborough University, England	Sarah Jewett, Shriver Center	MOU for faculty collaboration, co host conference

International Recruitment

Visits to international partners by UMBC Staff

- University of Porto, **Portugal**
- Catholic University of **Portugal**
- Catholic University of **Portugal**
- Nanzan University, **Japan**
- Kanagawa Association of Private Junior/Senior High Schools, **Japan**
- IES Abroad, **Argentina** and **Chile**
- Catholic University of **Argentina**

Visits to UMBC Campus by international partners

- Nippon Sport Science University, **Japan**
- University of Porto, **Portugal** (Faculty of Science)
- University of Algarve, **Portugal**
- Ministry of Education & Sport, Government of **Aruba**
- Xiamen University of Technology, **China**
- University of Sao Paulo, **Brazil**
- EducationUSA Advisors from **Zimbabwe, India, Lebanon, Azerbaijan, Hong Kong and Macau**



Natalie Lobb in Ghana with EducationUSA

Virtual international recruitment

- EducationUSA **East Asia Pacific Virtual Fair**
- EducationUSA **Sub Saharan Africa Fair**
- Agent-hosted recruitment fairs
- UMBC **Office of Professional Programs** International Open House

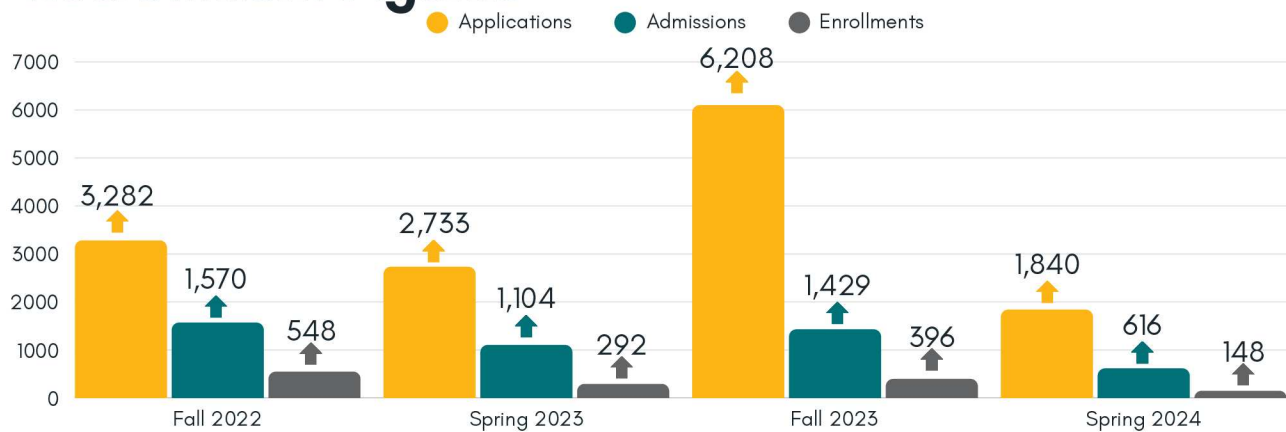
In-person international recruitment

- **Brazil** with EducationUSA
- **Vietnam** with AAE Fairs
- **Ghana** with Education USA
- **Nigeria** with Education USA
- **Nepal**
- **India**



Natalie Lobb with prospective students in Nigeria with EducationUSA

Graduate School Outcomes from International Recruitment Agents



Since its inception, Global Partnerships has collaborated with numerous agencies to achieve UMBC's international student recruitment goals. Our partners, who boast **in-person and virtual presence in 200+ countries**, have significantly contributed to our success. With these collaborative efforts, we connect with a diverse network of potential future Retrievers around the world.

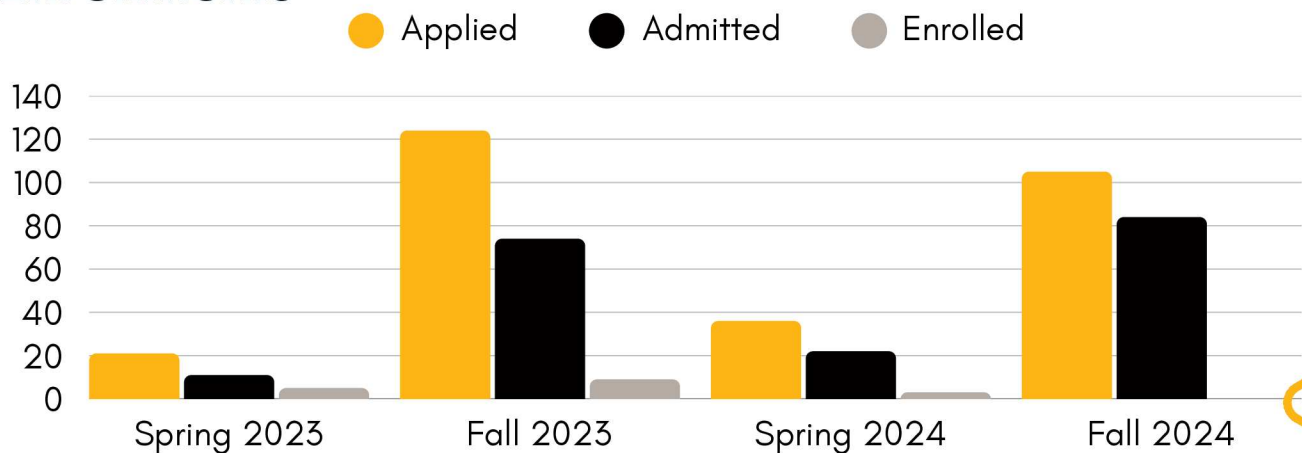


Adam Holden at Catholic University of Portugal International Week



AIRC 2023

Undergraduate Applications, Admissions, and Enrollments



Graduate Admits and Enrollments from Agents

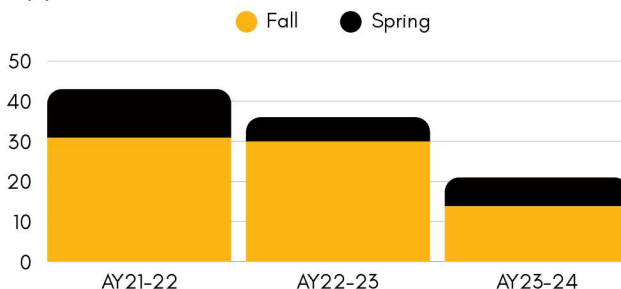
Fall 2022	3,097	Total International Master's Student Admits	767	Total International Master's Student Enrollments
	50.7%	Admits from Agent-recruited applications (1,570 Admits)	71.4%	Enrollments from Agent-recruited applications (548 Enrollments)
Spring 2023	1,977	Total International Master's Student Admits	399	Total International Master's Student Enrollments
	55.8%	Admits from Agent-recruited applications (1,140 Admits)	73.2%	Enrollments from Agent-recruited applications (292 Enrollments)
Fall 2023	2,403	Total International Master's Student Admits	482	Total International Master's Student Enrollments
	59.5%	Admits from Agent-recruited applications (1,429 Admits)	82.2%	Enrollments from Agent-recruited applications (396 Enrollments)
Spring 2024	944	Total International Master's Student Admits	203	Total International Master's Student Enrollments
	65.2%	Admits from Agent-recruited applications (616 Admits)	72.9%	Enrollments from Agent-recruited applications (148 Enrollments)



University of Porto International Week

StudyPortals Enrollments

For international recruitment, the Office of Global Partnerships also relies on StudyPortals, a digital education platform which connects applicants to UMBC.



Intercultural Engagement Prep

In partnership with the Shriver Center, the Center for Global Engagement launched a new pilot program in the Spring of 2024.



”

20 undergraduate and 6 graduate students

participated in the first pilot semester of Intercultural Engagement Prep

What is Intercultural Engagement Prep?

This program offers intercultural citizenship education over the course of a semester in a hybrid, self-paced non-credit PRAC format. As a successor of the UMBC Peace Corps Prep program, it aims to prepare students with the **skills, knowledge, and attitudes applicable to future study abroad, Fulbright, international internship, or Peace Corps experiences.**

The program is open to both undergraduate and graduate students. The first cohort included **8 international students**, who cited the **cultural adjustment training** as a benefit of the course.

The pilot semester focused on the topics of **enhancing cultural self-awareness** and **reinforcing intercultural dialogue** and culminated with the presentation of students' portfolio presentations as a showcase of their work. Students have commented on how the applied nature of the program allowed them to be intentional about **developing their intercultural skills in real life situations.**

Completion of the program allows students to earn the following digital badges:





Thank you to our contributing photographers:

Adam Holden

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Dev Raj Sadaula

Erik Martin Schwetje

Jok Thon

Kara Gavin

Kayla Nemirovsky

Kimberly Anderson

Lia Ward

Lúcia Emília Vieira Guedes

Madelyn Pollack

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