Enrollment
In fall 2015, OISS served a total number of 4033 international students, scholars, and their families at the University of Delaware.

A total of 3272 international students represented 94 different countries at the University. Of this number, 1353 were at the graduate level, 713 at the undergraduate level, and 788 were non-degree English Language Institute students. 418 students were on Optional Practical Training at the time of data collection.

There has been an increase in the both the number of undergraduate and graduate international students from 2014 into 2015: the undergraduate student population has increased about 3%, while the graduate student population rose 4.7% from 2014.

There was a slight decline in the number of students enrolled in language training at the English Language Institute. Total enrollment at the ELI in the 2015 fall semester fell about 17.8% from 2014, mostly due to a decrease in the number of students from Saudi Arabia.

In the last three years, the overall international student population has remained relatively steady, reaching more than 3,000 each year. However, with each passing year there has been a slight decline in the F-1 student population. In 2013, the international student population stood at 3,484. In 2014, it fell to 3,338. In 2015, that number again decreased to 3,272, a 6% decline from 2013. However, diversity remains steady from 2013 to 2015, with international students attending the University of Delaware representing an average of 93 different countries. Furthermore, while there has been a slight decrease in the number of F-1 international students, the overall population that the OISS serves has surpassed last year’s total and now stands at 4,033.

National Origin
Our population represented 10 new countries of origin this year, including Algeria, Eritrea, Guinea, Mongolia, Qatar, Romania, Serbia, Swaziland, Sweden, and Ukraine with new students coming in at the graduate, undergraduate, and language training levels.

The top sending countries during the fall 2015 semester (excluding students on OPT) remain China (59.3%), Saudi Arabia (8.5%), and India (5.2%). The distribution among individual levels of study have remained relatively stable. Notably:

- Among undergraduates:
  - Chinese students remained at 70% of the population, the same as in 2014.
  - Brazil and Saudi Arabia also remained steady from 2014 to 2015 as the second and third most popular countries of origin, with Brazil rising 1.2%, to 4.8%, and Saudi Arabia remaining around 3%.
• Among graduates:
  o Chinese students remained the most popular country of origin, declining only a slight 0.8% from 2014, to 58.8%.
  o India and South Korea remained the second and third most popular countries of origin from 2014, at 10.3% and 3%, respectively.

• Among language training students at the English Language Institute:
  o Chinese students continued to make up the largest percentage of the student population, rising to 50%.
  o Saudi Arabia and Kuwait continued as the second and third most popular countries of origin, respectively. The Saudi population fell to 26% of the student population, while Kuwait increased slightly to 6.7%.

Field of Study
Overall, the Colleges of Engineering (691), Business and Economics (561), Arts and Sciences (510) and Agriculture and Natural Resources (105) enrolled the largest numbers of international students at UD.

At the graduate level, Engineering students make up 37% of the graduate international student population, while Business and Arts and Sciences are represented by about 24% of the population.

At the undergraduate level, Business students make up 33% of the undergraduate international student population, followed by Engineering at 26% and Arts and Sciences at around 25%.

Employment
418 students took advantage of practical training opportunities in 2015.

International Scholars
OISS supports UD departments and units who host international researchers, faculty, and employees with a variety of services. This fall, there were 250 international visiting scholars and 61 H-1B employees at the University. 79% were research scholars, 18% were short-term scholars, 1.6% were professors, and 1% were specialists. The number of J-1 scholars has increased 23% from last year, and we are happy to report that UD welcomed scholars from 6 new countries, including Albania, Guyana, Israel, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Sweden.

Dependents
OISS also provided advising services and supporting programming to 450 international family members on F-2 and J-2 visas.

Regulatory Work and Compliance
OISS advises international students, visiting scholars, dependents, and University departments on compliance with U.S. immigration laws and regulations related to F, J and H visa categories. On a daily basis, advisors address numerous different types of non-immigrant compliance cases, such as visa adjustments, on-campus employment, travel, and re-entry into the country. International Student and Scholar Advisors at OISS serve as Designated School Officials (DSO) and Alternate Responsible Officers (ARO) for the university and are required by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to maintain current knowledge of F-1 and J-1 visas regulation.
As part of its federal reporting requirements, OISS is responsible for maintaining and updating more than 3,000 international student records in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) every semester. For international students at the English Language Institute, OISS runs the registration process and Government Check-in every 8 weeks throughout the year.

OISS also advises and liaises with academic departments regularly on matters pertaining the immigration status of international students and scholars at UD. This includes coordinating and processing of immigration documents as well as keeping the university community informed of changes and trends in immigration laws, rules, and regulations through training and information sessions every semester.

Programming and Outreach

In collaboration with various campus and community partners, OISS successfully organized and hosted over 100 programs and activities dedicated to international students, scholars, and their families in 2015. While the main role of the office is to help the international community understand immigration regulations and maintain legal visa status in the United States, OISS also offers a series of programs and services to promote international understanding across campus, support academic success, and connect the international community to the Greater Newark area. These programs included but were not limited to: academic and job searching workshops, academic success sessions, acculturation programs, field trips, and other social events. Some of the most popular OISS signature programs that help foster student engagement and cross-cultural awareness on campus are the Weekly International Coffee Hour, Thanksgiving Dinner programs, and the annual International Student Essay Contest, in which over a 100 international students submitted stories about their experiences at UD and in the U.S. since its inception in 2013. The weekly International Coffee Hour is open to both international and domestic students, faculty and staff, and has become one of the most successful programs at UD. Held every Friday from 4:00 to 6:00 PM during the fall and spring semesters, this popular event regularly draws over 125 in attendance each week as participants come to OISS to interact with each other, make friends and learn about different cultures and traditions around the world. In 2015, over 5,500 international and local participants attended programs, workshops and activities organized by OISS.

In 2015, the weekly International Coffee Hour grew in popularity among other UD departments and offices, as well as outside organizations, which have sponsored every Coffee Hour in the fall and spring semesters and reserved sponsorships for the year ahead. In 2015, OISS partnered with the Department of Student Life and co-hosted bus trips to both NYC and Washington DC; over 50 students participated in the NYC trip, and over 80 students participated in the trip to Washington DC.

Communication Strategy

Communications produced and delivered by the Office for International Students & Scholars serve the following four strategic goals.

- The first and foremost is to ensure that international students, scholars, employees, and their families receive the information they need to maintain legal status in the United States.
- OISS also collaborates with more than a dozen partner units across campus that support academic success and social well-being for the entire campus community. Messages which introduce these resources and promote key programs sponsored by these departments are woven into our communication plan.
- Alongside the programming team, OISS communications seek to foster a sense of community and
belonging amongst the international population at UD.

- Finally, communications produced by the office share the story of international students and scholars with the larger domestic population. This supports the University Strategic Plan, *Delaware Will Shine’s*, goals of encouraging an inclusive and welcoming campus and cultivating a student body of global citizens.

Understanding that methods of communication differ widely by personal preference, cultural practice, and country-specific access, OISS adopts a multi-faceted approach to keeping the International community at UD well-informed and engaged. The office maintains a presence on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram, in addition to communicating via its website, the University’s online news source, UD Daily, a weekly e-newsletter and program-specific messages via Constant Contact and text-based email.

With close to 1,000 followers, OISS’s most popular social media platform, Facebook, has an average weekly reach of over 3,000. Audience members hail from 45 countries across six continents, with the top ten reported countries being the United States, Brazil, Egypt, India, Colombia, Turkey, Mexico, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Iran. The majority of followers speak English, Chinese, and Arabic. Forty-nine percent range from age 29-34, 35% age 18-24, and close to 9% age 35 and above. The platform’s most engaging campaigns continue to be a weekly “Friends of OISS” post and photo album of images from International Coffee Hour. This suggests that, above all else, students, scholars, and families use the page to build and reinforce community with one another and with globally-focused Americans.

OISS weekly e-Newsletters, delivered each Thursday morning, contain time-specific information on programs, immigration deadlines, and important messages for the entire international community. The office works with its partner units across campus to ensure that this information not only pertains to OISS-specific messages, but to other resources available throughout the University. These newsletters have an open rate ranging from 43% to 60%, meaning that approximately 1,190-1,650 students and scholars view these pertinent details each week.

The OISS website has received approximately 4,000 independent views in its lifetime, with an average session duration of one minute and five seconds. Beyond the site’s homepage, International Students and Scholars most often visit pages including resources on taxes, employment and CPT/OPT, pre-arrival and arrival information, for specific forms, as well as for details on OISS staff. The OISS events page is often visited after a first or second page interaction on the site. Approximately 63 percent of users on the OISS website are returning visitors, meaning that many consistently rely on www.udel.edu/oiss for updated information both on their immigration status and staying connected through OISS programs and events. Users of the OISS website are fairly evenly split between males and females, with 61 percent of users aged 18-34. Closely mirroring international student and scholar demographics, top users hail from the United States, China, India, Singapore, Turkey, and South Korea.

During the 2015 fall semester, the OISS Front Desk provided support to UD’s international student and scholar population by responding to more than 4,000 email inquiries and assisting approximately 3,700 walk-ins.

**Contribution to the Local Economy**

According to NAFSA: Association of International Educators’ estimated economic impact formula, it is estimated that UD’s international students contributed over $100 million to the local economy in the 2014-2015 academic year.