Visiting International Student Program (VISP)
Division of Continuing Studies, Adult Career and Special Student Services

Background
The Division of Continuing Studies launched the Visiting International Student Program (VISP) in fall 2012 to assist international students interested in short-term, nondegree study at UW-Madison. Similar to exchange students, VISP participants come to UW-Madison for a study abroad experience before returning to their home institutions to finish their degrees. They are admitted as University Special Students, and typically enroll in upper-level courses across disciplines for one or more terms.

VISP Sponsored Cohort Program
Developed in summer 2013, the VISP Sponsored Cohort program admits groups of international students for intensive study within interested departments. Academic departments elect to develop cohorts in collaboration with VISP staff. Students take the majority of their courses within the hosting academic department, but may enroll in other departments to complement their experience.

Program Impacts to Date
- Over 1,200 former participants from 25+ countries
- Over $4 million transferred to schools & colleges from sponsored cohort programs
- Participants include scholarship recipients from Fulbright, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Brazilian Scholarship Program, Brittingham Viking Organization, Eduardo Neale Silva Memorial fund, Taiwanese Ministry of Education, and funding from their home universities.
- 158 former VISP participants later became graduate students in 22 programs from 9 Schools & Colleges

Historical enrollment data is split into three groups:
- Independent VISP: students who find our program on their own and those who come through an established university partnership.
- Sponsored Cohort: enrollment is driven by the UW-Madison hosting department (see above).
- The Brazilian Scholarship Program: students were placed by the Institute for International Education (IIE) during the program duration.

Summer Highlights
- Flexible summer sessions available for maximum program customization
- Average enrollment of 132 students each summer since summer 2014, with high cohort participation

Student Profile
- Enrollment for Fall: 199 students, Spring 163 students
- 83% undergraduate level, 17% graduate level
- 16 countries and 80 foreign universities represented
- Top 5 countries: China, Brazil, India, Taiwan, South Korea
- Sponsored Cohorts from the Departments of Educational Policy Studies, Mathematics, and Statistics.

Course Enrollment
During the 2015-16 academic year VISP participants enrolled in 99 departments of which 86% had fewer than ten enrolled VISP students.
- 71% in the College of Letters & Science
- 58% of enrollment was L&S cohort students
- 11% in the Wisconsin School of Business
- 10% in the College of Engineering
- 4% in the College of Agricultural & Life Sciences
- 4% other schools/colleges combined

Average UW-Madison GPA: 3.48

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Other (credit)</td>
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University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Continuing Studies Adult Career & Special Student Services 9/16