

Visiting International Student Program (VISP)

Division of Continuing Studies, Adult Career and Special Student Services

Background

Launched in 2012, the Visiting International Student Program (VISP) welcomes international students interested in short-term, nondegree study at UW-Madison. VISP expanded into welcoming noncredit international learners to round out our offerings.

VISP Cohort & Thematic Track Program

The VISP Cohort program admits groups of international students for intensive study within interested departments. Academic departments elect to develop cohorts in collaboration with VISP staff. The term 'cohort' refers to closed groups selected by the department, whereas 'thematic track' programs are open to any qualified applicant the department wishes to accept.

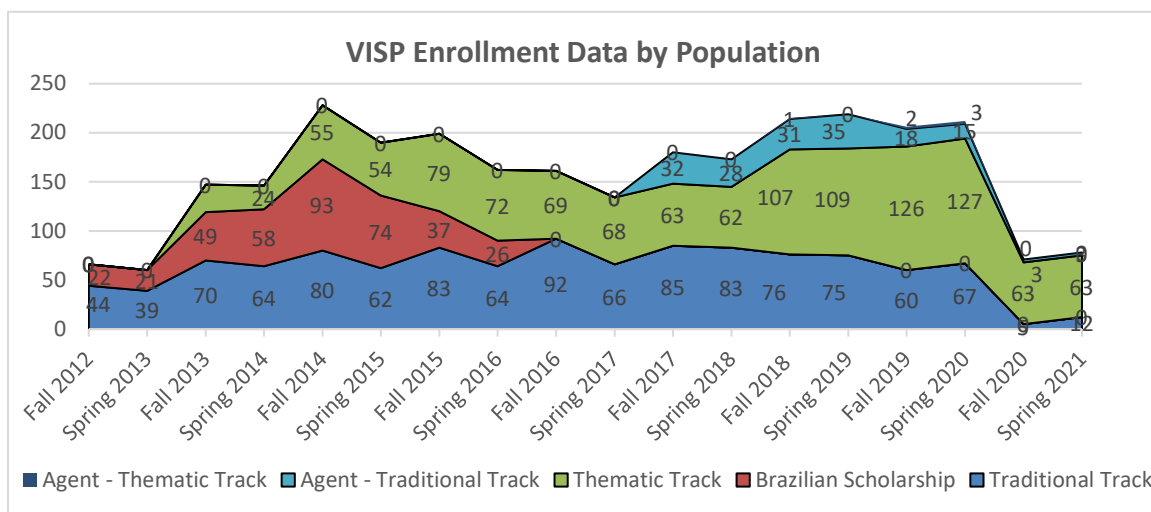
Program Impacts to Date

- Almost 2,500 former participants from 35+ countries
- Almost \$16 million transferred to schools & colleges from cohort and thematic track programs
- 549 former VISP participants later became degree-seeking students in 46 different programs from 9 Schools & Colleges.

Academic Year VISP Enrollment trends by Student Population

VISP enrollment data is comprised of:

- **Traditional Track:** students who find our program or come through a partner university.
- **Cohort & Thematic Track:** enrollment driven by the UW-Madison hosting department.
- **Brazilian Scholarship:** students were placed by their scholarship at UW.
- **Agent Recruited:** Data split between traditional and thematic track.



Summer Highlights

- Average enrollment of 100 students each summer between 2014-2019, with high cohort participation
- **Past summer cohorts** included the departments of Agricultural & Applied Economics, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Engineering Mechanics, English as a Second Language (ESL), Finance, Mechanical Engineering, Political Science, and Statistics.

VISP Program Snapshot for Academic Year 2020-21

Student Profile

- Enrollment for Fall: **71**, Spring: **78**
- 85% undergraduate level, 15% graduate level
- 79% made up of **cohort programs** from Ag & Applied Econ, Economics, Industrial Sys Engr, Mathematics, and Statistics
- **Average UW-Madison GPA: 3.65**

Enrollment Changes due to COVID-19

- Almost 66% decrease in enrollment from 2019-20
- Development of online-only VISP track and accompanying advising tools to accommodate international learners joining us from home.
- 88% of VISP students during AY 2020-21 enrolled online from home via this new option.

Noncredit International Learners

- **Pivot to Virtual Programs:** All program models are running virtual options, resulting in over 190 students from 19 countries.
- **American Culture & English (ACE):** Originally a three-week residential program for pre-college students, ACE's Summer 2021 program was on the theme of Digital Storytelling and had 25 learners creating dynamic videos on many topics.
- **EducationUSA Academy:** Our program was selected as an Academy Host for 2019-2021. This opportunity provides extensive access and support to aid in recruitment from over 400 EducationUSA Advising Centers in over 170 countries around the globe. The virtual spring 2021 theme was on Business & Entrepreneurship.
- **UW Advance:** is a fully customizable noncredit program run through our unit. Virtual offerings included Data Analytics, Agriculture, and English as a Second Language, hosting 89 students from 3 countries.