



International Student and Scholar Services

**2021-2022**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

 UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO





## A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR DIRECTOR



It goes without saying that these last two years have been extremely taxing on our international student population, but with these challenges there came the opportunity to reflect and grow. In 2020-2021 our students spread out over the globe with over 400 international students studying from outside of the US. The move to remote sent students into more than 19 different time zones and they encountered a variety of challenges including; flight delays, travel restrictions, US consulate closures, unreliable internet access, and internet privacy concerns. In the 2021-2022 academic year we welcomed many of our students back to campus and have shared in our excitement for being back together in-person. However, as COVID variants continued to drive cases around the world, some students remained dispersed and and have continued to need additional support.

We are thankful to our USF colleagues across campus for their endless care and accommodation as each semester brought new needs and reasons to adapt. We were inspired by our faculty and academic departments for their flexibility in working with students abroad, our Student Life colleagues for their compassion in helping students through whatever challenge arose, and the admission staff as they supported students making their way to the US. The hurdles that were surmounted over the past two academic years would not have been possible without this collaboration.

The global pandemic, along with immigration policy changes and shifting global economics, has impacted student mobility and changed the priorities of our students. The 2021 ACE report, *Toward Greater Inclusion and Success: A New Compact for International Students*,<sup>1</sup> highlights how Universities can invest their resources to recruit international students and ensure they have a positive experience. The New Compact is a holistic view of how student mobility bisects global issues and requires a culturally responsive network to create belonging and engender success.

USF's location, size, and Jesuit values make us well positioned to build an inclusive community with strong support systems. Our emerging Strategic Plan provides us direction and a shared vision for "a radically inclusive... and welcoming campus experience".<sup>2</sup> As we look forward with a heightened sensitivity toward humanizing education, we have the opportunity to build upon what we are already doing to assess where our programs and services meet these needs and where we can do even more. There are two key areas where students have expressed the need for more support:

<sup>1</sup>"New ACE Report Outlines Strategies For Supporting International Students Throughout Lifecycle". 2022. Acenet.Edu. <https://www.acenet.edu/News-Room/Pages/ACE-Report-Outlines-Strategies-for-Supporting-International-Students.aspx>.

<sup>2</sup> USF 2027 Strategic Plan, <https://myusf.usfca.edu/president/strategic-planning/usf-2027-strategic-plan>

**Career Support:** We have seen a steady increase in our students pursuing work opportunities in the US, and our students have consistently expressed how critical this is for them. Gaining practical experience is important for our students to achieve their future goals, and it also gives students a sense of success and an opportunity to engage outside of the classroom. In this report you will see that our employment data shows a significant increase in students seeking Practical Training over the years and highlights both the successes and challenges that students experience.

**Belonging and Connectedness:** The pandemic drove people physically apart, and online mediums make it even harder to navigate language and cultural barriers. Research shows that even without the effects of the pandemic, it can be challenging for international students to find belonging when they do not “belong to one group, culture, or place” and “experience belonging across multiple contexts as they maintain social connections and negotiate identities as they move from place to place” (ACE 2022). As a University we have worked hard and made extraordinary efforts to meet student needs. This past year we coordinated a peer-to-peer Buddy Program, the Cultural Centers continued the popular Cafe International program, and ISSS partnered with the International Student Association, the Indian Student Organization, and the Chinese Student and Scholar Association to connect with and support students. Students have shared that they appreciate these programs and we have found their voices and contributions to be invaluable in shaping them.

We continue to assess the best methods to connect with and serve our students. We have identified two core areas, career support and connectedness to USF, as areas where there is room for us to grow. This is our New Compact, and we look forward to working with our students and our colleagues as we build upon the existing foundation.

Sincerely,



**MARCELLA DEPROTO** | Senior Director, International Student and Scholar Services

## Meet the Staff



**Cynthia Lai**  
Associate Director



**Tina Ricafrente**  
SEVIS Administrator  
and International  
Student Advisor



**Christy Li**  
International  
Student Advisor



**Michelle Sun**  
International  
Student Advisor



**Louise Li**  
Program Assistant



## WHAT WE DO

### UNIVERSITY COMPLIANCE

- Maintain University Certification to host international students
- Mandated reporting in SEVIS
- Regulation interpretation and setting campus policies and practices
- Conducting annual reviews with SEVP, bi-annual F1 recertification, bi-annual J1 redesignation, Department of State annual report, annual PDSO/DSO/RO/ARO certification.

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISING

- Immigration advising, including work authorization
- Processing student immigration requests
- Immigration workshops
- Triage on academic and social support that impacts students immigration status
- Taxes, Social Security and DMV support

### IMMIGRATION POLICY UPDATES

- Engagement with government stakeholders; USCIS, Department of State, Customs and Border Protection, Student and Exchange Visitor Program
- Review policy changes, update ISSS information for students and community

### PROGRAMMING & RETENTION

- International Student Orientation
- Advising the International Student Association
- Support for cultural student organizations
- Job Success Workshop
- International Education Week and Cultural programming
- Participation in campus committees



# ISSS Services

ISSS services are delivered both remotely and in-person. When the U.S. Government allowed for immigration documents to be delivered electronically to students, ISSS was able to provide almost all of our services in a remote format, whereas they had previously needed to come into the office to get their documents with original signatures. Students can still access our services via walk-in at our front desk, email, telephone, and one-on-one appointments. This past year ISSS implemented the Glia chat software. We have found this to be the most effective way to assist a student through our front office because they can chat, voice call, video, and share screens all through the Glia platform. We hope to expand the use of this service in the next year.

ISSS serves students through advising, programming, and collaboration with other offices. However, a large portion of our services focus on student requests, processing, and auditing. This support is an essential function of the ISSS office and fulfills students' needs related to their SEVIS immigration record, work authorization, and required reporting. Without this support students would not be able to maintain their status and full-fill their academic and career goals.

## Student Requests and Processing

Requests from All Students	Additional Requests Fielded for OPT Students	Additional Requests fielded for STEM OPT Students
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Status Verification</li><li>• Travel Endorsement</li><li>• Curricular Practical Training (CPT)</li><li>• On-Campus Work Authorization/SSN Letter</li><li>• I-20/DS-2019 Reprint</li><li>• Program Extension</li><li>• Reduced Course Load</li><li>• Return From Leave of Absence</li><li>• Transfer-in/Transfer Out</li><li>• Change of Education Level</li><li>• Visa support letter</li><li>• Verification letter</li><li>• DMV letter</li><li>• Visiting Student Letter</li><li>• Add dependent</li><li>• Address Report</li><li>• Change of Status</li><li>• J1 Academic Training</li><li>• ITIN Support</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Optional Practical Training (OPT) Recommendation and application</li><li>• OPT Employment reporting review</li><li>• USCIS SEVIS data audit and correction</li><li>• SEVP Portal Account Correction request</li><li>• SEVP Portal Account reset</li><li>• SEVP Portal Account employment update</li><li>• OPT Employment Audit</li><li>• OPT Travel Endorsement</li><li>• Cap Gap Extension - H1B Transition</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• STEM OPT Recommendation and application</li><li>• I-983 Review</li><li>• I-983 Material Change Request</li><li>• STEM Employer Change Report</li><li>• End of STEM Employer Report</li><li>• 6 Month Employment Report</li><li>• 12 Month Employment Report and Evaluation review</li><li>• 18 Month Employment Report</li><li>• 24 Month Employment Report and Evaluation Review</li><li>• USCIS SEVIS data audit and correction</li><li>• SEVP Portal Account Correction request</li><li>• SEVP Portal Account reset</li><li>• SEVP Portal Account employment update</li><li>• STEM OPT Employment Audit</li><li>• STEM OPT Travel Endorsement</li><li>• Cap Gap Extension - H1B Transition</li></ul>

# Immigration Updates in 2021-2022:

This past year there were several immigration policy and practice changes. Some of these changes were related to the COVID-19 pandemic or international crises, others reflect government priorities. When there is an immigration update, ISSS staff respond by researching the changes, implementing new practices, and informing students and colleagues. Below is a list of some of the major policy changes this past year.

<b>New TPS, SSR and DED country designations</b>	Temporary Protected Status (TPS) issued Ukraine, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Cameroon. Special Student Relief (SSR) issued for Ukraine, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Hong Kong. Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) issued for Hong Kong, Liberia and Venezuela
<b>SEVP Policy Extension</b>	SEVP COVID-19 policy extension through the 2021-2022 academic year and later an extension was issued through the 2022-2023 academic year.
<b>Travel Requirements and Restrictions</b>	Changing requirements for travel including COVID vaccination and testing, country specific entry restrictions, and national interest exemptions.
<b>Visa Interview and Application Changes</b>	Department of State updated the measurement of non-immigrant intent for the visa application and allows waiver of the visa interview in some situations.
<b>J1 Academic Training STEM Extension</b>	Department of State issued a temporary policy for J1 visa holders in STEM fields.
<b>USCIS I-765 Online Filing</b>	Form I-765 moved from paper filing to an online filing process changing how students apply for OPT and STEM OPT.
<b>NCAA College Athletes Rule</b>	International student immigration considerations for the new NCAA rule on athletes getting paid for name, image and likeness.
<b>USCIS Change of Status Application Updates</b>	Non-immigrants no longer need to file a bridge application when applying for a change of status to F1 and in some cases can have long gaps in status and still be considered in compliance.
<b>STEM CIP Code Update</b>	The ICE list of STEM designated degrees was updated with 22 new degrees.
<b>Military-Civil Fusion Strategy Proclamation</b>	Suspension of entry of certain Chinese nationals with ties to the military and exemptions for certain individuals.

**2021-2022**  
**International  
Enrollment**

**1,282**

**TOTAL INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

**GRADUATES 637**

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**College of Arts and Sciences - 313**  
**School of Management- 207**  
**Nursing and Health Professions - 29**  
**School of Law - 14**  
**School of Education - 74**

**UNDERGRADS 645**

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**College of Arts and Sciences - 294**  
**School of Management - 345**  
**Nursing and Health Professions - 6**



# International Student Enrollment Trends

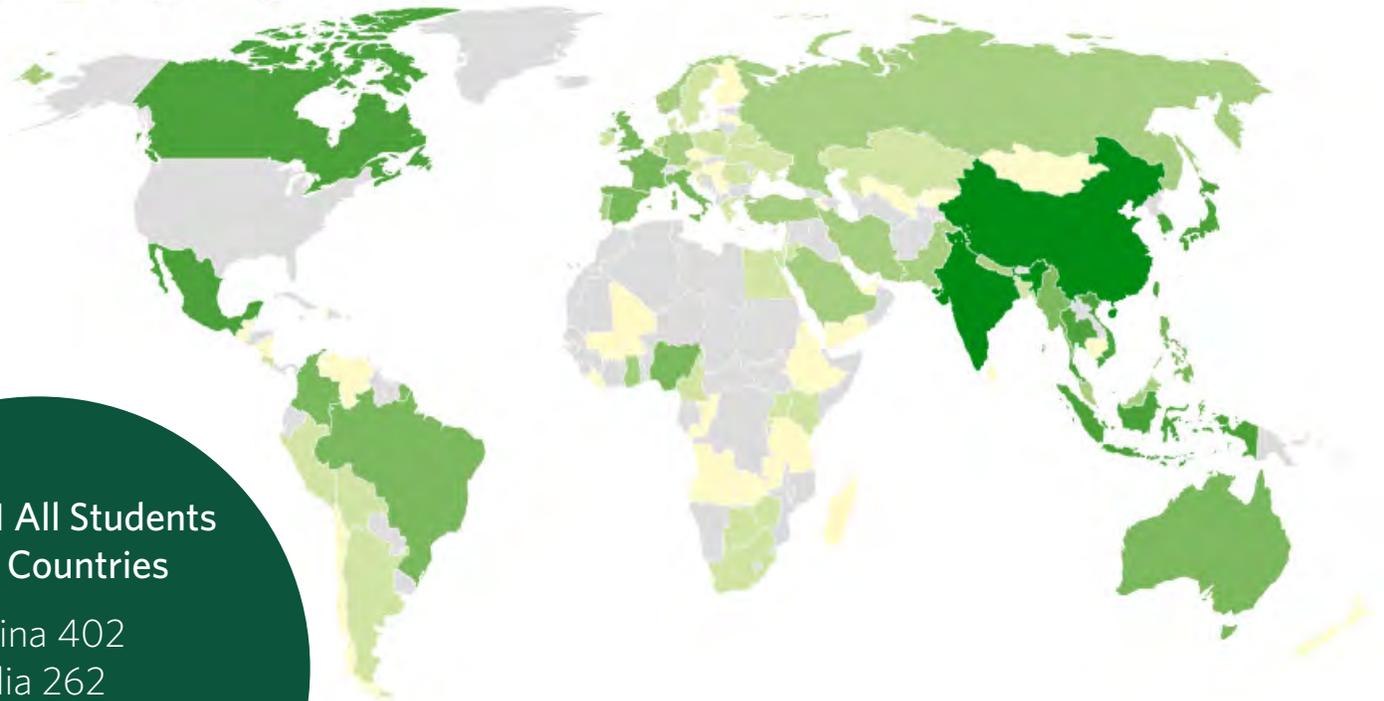
In the 2021-2022 academic year USF had 1282 total international students. This year we saw meaningful growth in our international graduate population and a decline in our international undergraduate population, resulting in an almost even split by degree level. This shift in the USF international population mirrors national trends. The US remains a top education destination and more students are seeking graduate degrees in the US than ever before.

Our graduate students have been largely drawn to the STEM degrees with the most popular degrees being Computer Science, Data Science, Financial Analysis, and Information systems. Our undergraduate students are spread out over 47 majors with the top majors in the School of Management in Finance and Business Administration.

We have students from 103 different countries and saw a notable increase of students from India and a decrease in students from China. We expect there will be a continued increase in students from India in 2022-2023.

## Number of students

1 2-5 6-10 11-20 20-100 >101



## Fall 2021 All Students Top 5 Countries

1. China 402
2. India 262
3. Vietnam 37
4. Taiwan 35
5. Canada 34

## Fall 2021 New Students Top 5 Countries

1. India 201
2. China 112
3. Mexico 23
4. Canada 20
5. Vietnam 18

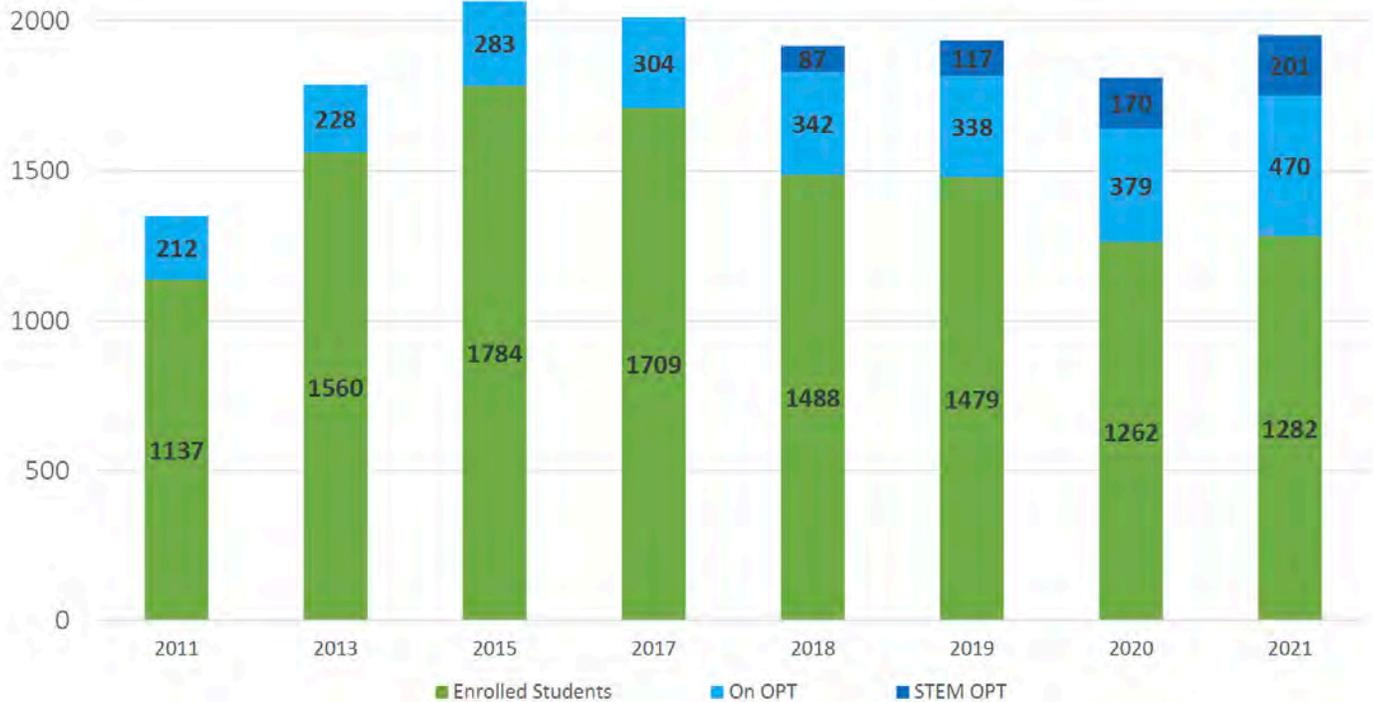
# Enrollment By Country

AFGHANISTAN - 1	EL SALVADOR - 2	LEBANON - 3	SINGAPORE - 15
ANGOLA - 1	ERITREA - 1	LIBERIA - 1	SLOVENIA - 1
ARGENTINA - 3	ETHIOPIA - 1	MACAU - 3	SOUTH AFRICA - 3
ARMENIA - 1	FINLAND - 1	MADAGASCAR - 1	SOUTH KOREA - 24
AUSTRALIA - 10	FRANCE - 12	MALAYSIA - 9	SPAIN - 13
AUSTRIA - 3	GAMBIA - 1	MALI - 1	SRI LANKA - 1
BAHAMAS - 1	GERMANY - 7	MEXICO - 26	SWEDEN - 3
BANGLADESH - 3	GHANA - 7	MONGOLIA - 1	TAIWAN - 35
BELARUS - 3	GREECE - 4	MYANMAR - 17	TANZANIA - 1
BELGIUM - 2	GUATEMALA - 1	NEPAL - 6	THAILAND - 27
BELIZE - 1	HAITI - 1	NETHERLANDS - 5	TURKEY - 8
BOLIVIA - 3	HONG KONG - 18	NEW ZEALAND - 1	UGANDA - 2
BOTSWANA - 2	HUNGARY - 1	NICARAGUA - 1	UKRAINE - 4
BRAZIL - 17	INDIA - 262	NIGERIA - 10	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - 1
BURKINA FASO - 1	INDONESIA - 32	NORWAY - 9	UNITED KINGDOM - 19
CAMBODIA - 1	IRAN - 7	PAKISTAN - 7	UZBEKISTAN - 1
CAMEROON - 2	IRELAND - 3	PERU - 4	VENEZUELA - 1
CANADA - 34	ISRAEL - 2	PHILIPPINES - 17	VIETNAM - 37
CHILE - 1	ITALY - 19	POLAND - 3	YEMEN - 1
CHINA - 402	JAPAN - 20	PORTUGAL - 5	ZAMBIA - 1
COLOMBIA - 11	JORDAN - 2	QATAR - 1	ZIMBABWE - 2
CONGO (KINSASHA, ZAIRE) - 3	KAZAKHSTAN - 2	REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO - 1	
COSTA RICA - 2	KENYA - 2	ROMANIA - 2	<b>TOTAL: 1,282</b>
CROATIA - 3	KOSOVO, REPUBLIC OF - 1	RUSSIA - 7	
CZECH REPUBLIC - 1	KUWAIT - 3	RWANDA - 3	
DENMARK - 3	KYRGYZSTAN - 1	SAUDI ARABIA - 6	
EGYPT - 2	LATVIA - 1	SERBIA - 1	



# International Enrollment Trends

Total International Student Population Over 10 Years



## Enrollment by Degree

### Graduate

Applied Economics - 33  
 Asia Pacific Studies - 6  
 Biology - 1  
 Biotechnology - 11  
 Business Administration - 45  
 Catholic Educational Leadership - 5  
 Chemistry - 4  
 Clinical Nurse Leader (MEO) - 1  
 Clinical Psychology - 5  
 Computer Science - 79  
 Counseling Psychology - 17  
 Data Science - 60  
 Digital Health Informatics - 7  
 Education - 2  
 Education Technology - 4  
 Energy Systems Management - 20  
 Entrepreneurship & Innovation - 32  
 Environmental Management - 9  
 Financial Analysis - 53  
 Health Informatics - 2  
 Higher Ed / Student Affairs - 1  
 Human Rights Education - 2  
 Information Systems - 46  
 Intellectual Property Tech Law - 1  
 International Studies - 17  
 Intl & Development Economics - 15  
 Intl and Multicultural Educ. - 11  
 Intl Transaction & Comp. Law - 4  
 Law - 9  
 Learning and Instruction - 12  
 Marketing Intelligence - 27  
 Migration Studies - 3  
 Museum Studies - 3  
 Nonprofit Administration - 1  
 Organization and Leadership - 10  
 Organization Development - 3  
 Professional Communication - 16  
 Public Health - 14  
 Special Education - 1  
 Sport Management - 27  
 Teach Engl/Speakers Other Lang - 9  
 Urban and Public Affairs - 1  
 Writing - 8  
**Total: 637**

### Undergraduate

Accounting - 15  
 Advertising - 9  
 Architecture - 14  
 Architecture & Community Dsgn - 1  
 Art History & Museum Studies - 1  
 Art History/Arts Management - 1  
 Asian Studies - 1  
 Biology - 23  
 Business Administration - 2  
 Business Analytics - 18  
 Chemistry - 2  
 Chemistry - ACS Certified - 1  
 Communication Studies - 10  
 Computer Science - 49  
 Computer Science (4+1) - 1  
 Data Science - 15  
 Design - 6  
 Economics - 47  
 Engineering - 2  
 English - 5  
 Entrepreneurship & Innovation - 57  
 Environmental Science - 1  
 Environmental Studies - 3  
 Finance - 71  
 Fine Arts - 3  
 History - 6  
 Hospitality Management - 9  
 International Business - 33  
 International Studies - 7  
 Japanese Studies - 1  
 Jesuit Exchange Program - 10  
 Kinesiology - 7  
 Management - 65  
 Marketing - 44  
 Mathematics - 7  
 Media Studies - 8  
 Nursing - 6  
 Perf. Arts & Soc. Justice - 5  
 Philosophy - 4  
 Physics - 6  
 Politics - 2  
 Psychology - 24  
 Sociology - 7  
 Undeclared Arts - 3  
 Undeclared Business - 27  
 Undeclared Sciences - 3  
 Urban Studies - 3  
**Total: 645**

**2021-2022**

# Gaining Practical Experience



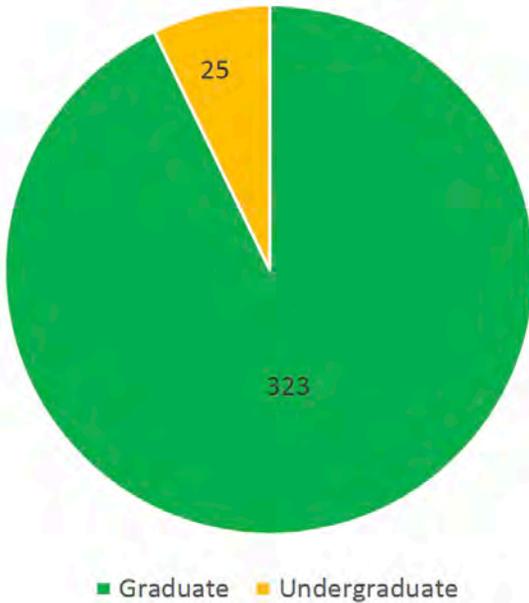
We had more students participate in US based internships and employment opportunities during the 2021-2022 year than in previous years. Engaging in real world experiences related to their field of study is a significant factor in student success and satisfaction.

International students have been successful in getting internships and jobs during their studies and beyond. However, they face additional challenges in the job search process that require more advising, preparation, and persistence. This year ISSS offered 25 OPT and CPT workshops, 3 H1B and Permanent Residency workshops, 2 Job Success Workshops and hundreds of individual advising appointments to assist students with their career goals. Additionally, ISSS partners with each program to clarify degree specific opportunities that enable them to maximize their immigration benefits and fulfill their objectives.

In the past 5 years we have seen stricter reporting requirements and more federal scrutiny around international student immigration regulations. This shift underscores the importance of skilled immigration advising and closely coordinated efforts around campus to ensure students are able to maintain their status and access their benefits in our programs.

# Practical Training During a Student's Program:

Curricular Practical Training Requests by Degree Level



Most international students gain work experience during their studies in two ways, **Curricular Practical Training (CPT)** and **On-Campus Employment**.

**Curricular Practical Training (CPT):** CPT is a type of work authorization based on a class or degree requirement to gain practical experience. In the last five years we have had over a 200% increase in students pursuing CPT. This reinforces how important gaining practical experience is to the students and the academic programs they are in.

**On-Campus Employment:** In the 2021-2022 academic year, 370 international students were employed on-campus in 620 different positions. This year international students made up 16% of our on-campus student employees. International students are more likely to seek on-campus employment given that they have more limited off-campus employment eligibility and these opportunities on-campus help to fill this gap.

**Why are these experiences so important?** Gaining work experience related to their field of study is not only a way for students to connect to the practical side of their curriculum and build their resume, but it also allows international students to build a network and connections off-campus. The added value of building this network enables students to grow personally and professionally, providing more opportunities for belonging and success.

## USF Degrees with the Most Practical Training Authorized During the Degree Program:

1.	MS Data Science	129
2.	MA Sport Management	53
3.	MS Computer Science	26
4.	MS Information Systems	16
5.	MS Energy Systems Management	13
6.	All other degrees	111



The practical training during my MSDS program helps me learn how to apply data science techniques to solve real-world problems. In the real-world, sometimes being able to explain to stakeholders is more important than solving the problems. The practical training helps me learn business logic like that, and it turns out to be critical in my job searching process.

**Jialiang Shi,**  
**MS Data Science**



I attended the MS in Energy Systems Management and we learned how companies were performing before the pandemic, and how the world was embracing renewable energy. During my practical training, I was having hands-on experience on the huge challenges energy companies were facing due to supply chain issues, trade imbalances and market uncertainty. This connection between the theoretical and the practical is vital to have a better understanding of our area of specialization.

**Gustavo Papa de Figueiredo,**  
**MS Energy Systems Management**

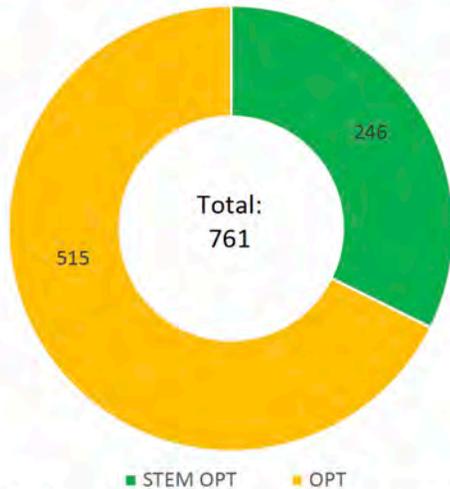


CPT is a great way for students to apply the knowledge they are gaining in classrooms and labs to real life applications. Many students are able to really focus their area of interest through of these opportunities, and they result in wonderful professional development experiences.

**Gian Bruno,**  
**Computer Science Program Manager**

# Practical Training after Program Completion

Total Students on Optional Practical Training and STEM Optional Practical Training

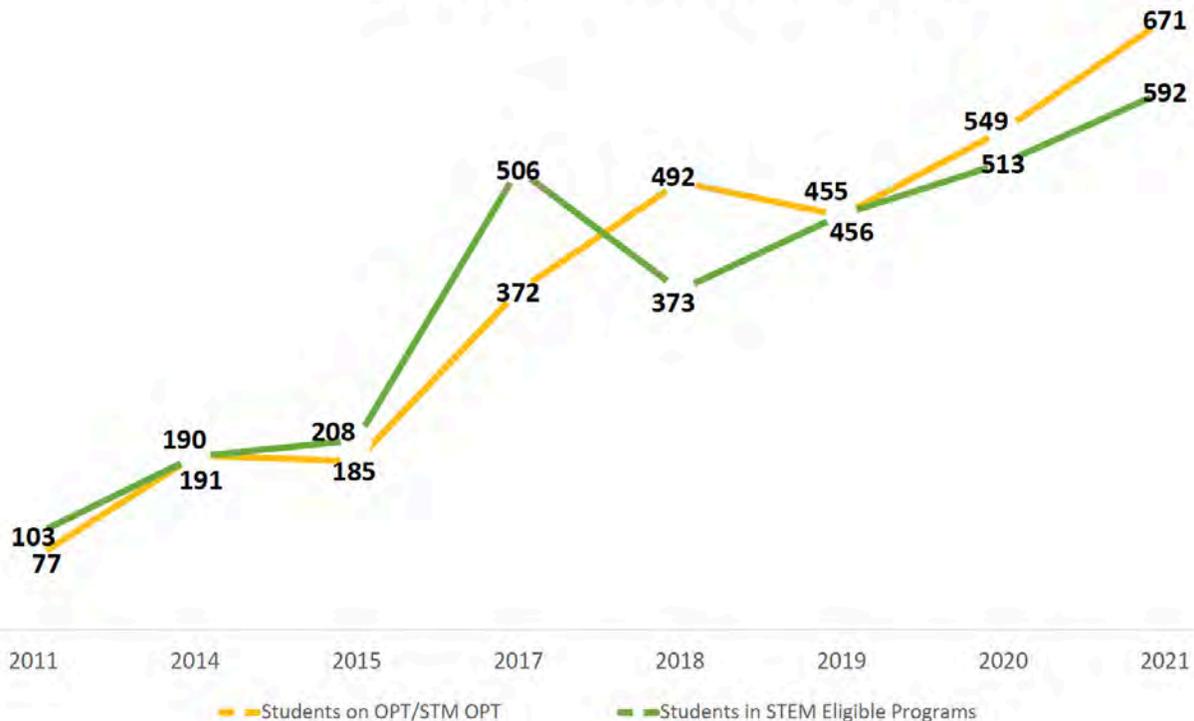


\*In 2021-2022 there were 90 students who received both OPT and STEM OPT for a total of 671 individual students

Post graduation, many students choose to apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT). OPT is an immigration benefit that allows students to apply for 12 months of practical training in the student's field of study. If a student completed a STEM degree then they are also eligible for an additional 24 months of STEM OPT.

We had a total of 761 students on OPT and STEM OPT this past year, 668 individual students (93 were on OPT and transitioned to STEM OPT). This number is up from 549 students last year and 455 students the year before. Our alumni working in the US on OPT continues to grow steadily.

International Student Enrollment in STEM Degrees and the resulting increase in students on OPT and STEM OPT over 10 years



## Top Undergraduate Degrees on OPT/STEM OPT

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1. **Finance**
2. **International Business**
3. **Computer Science**
4. **Marketing**
5. **Entrepreneurship & Innovation**

UG Students on OPT/STEM OPT: 142

## Top Graduate Degrees on OPT/STEM OPT

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1. **Data Science**
2. **Computer Science**
3. **Financial Analysis**
4. **Entrepreneurship & Innovation**
5. **Applied Economics**

Grad Students on OPT/STEM OPT: 626





**2021-2022**

## **Top 10 OPT and STEM OPT Employers\***

In the 2021-2022 students reported over 1000 different employers. ISSS supports students through this work authorization process, reviews their documentation, recommends their employment, reports changes, and continually audits their employment to make sure the students and the University remain in compliance.

- 1. University of San Francisco**
- 2. Amazon**
- 3. Facebook**
- 4. Salesforce**
- 5. SnapLogic**
- 6. University of California**
- 7. Tesla**
- 8. PricewaterhouseCoopers**
- 9. Rakuten**
- 10. Walmart**

\*Data based on individual student OPT and STEM OPT Reporting

# International Student Engagement

Student engagement is an important part of building community and developing leadership skills. This past year we worked with student leaders to pilot a peer-to-peer International Buddy Program, partnered with cultural student clubs, ran a hybrid International Education Week program, and implemented engaging outdoor social activities into our new student orientation program. We have found that the success of a program is highly dependent on student input and leadership. ISSS aims to continue to support our student leaders, and provide new opportunities for leadership, as we work together to improve the international student experience.

The **Working Group on the International Student Experience (WISE)** helped resolve emergent issues during the pandemic such as creating resources for staff and faculty working with students in other countries and timezones. WISE continued their work this year by gathering feedback from students, faculty and staff about how we can best support international students in their career success and how our efforts can be coordinated across campus. WISE is preparing recommendations based on these findings.



## International Student Orientation:

ISSS designed our International Student Orientation in a hybrid format, with a required online module and optional in-person activities. Student feedback showed that students were able to glean some important information but overall demonstrated less comprehension compared to surveys from our in-person orientations. We were pleased to resume our in-person orientation this Fall 2022.



## International Buddy Pilot Program:

The Student Advisory Committee for the Office of International Initiatives developed a one year pilot of a Buddy Program for new international students. The Buddy Program connected new international students with current students to provide a social network. The buddies went on excursions to Ghirardelli Square, Fisherman's Wharf, and Japantown, and also offered met-ups on-campus.

## International Student Association:

ISSS advises the International Student Association (ISA). This year ISA hosted several events for international students including trips to the Museum of Modern Art and Japantown, games and boba on-campus, and an end of year celebration to recognize the hard work of all of their members.



## International Education Week:

This year we celebrated IEW with an online interactive Padlet and several activities including a soccer match, a session on cultural expectations and mental health, and a job success workshop for international students.



“Our international student presence on campus is not only critically important to our mission and values — particularly our commitments to diversity, inclusion, equity, and global justice — but also to our alignment with the growing recognition that Jesuit education is increasing on an international scale. Interculturality goes beyond living in healthy coexistence of multiculturalism. Interculturality involves active steps to go out to meet other cultures with humility and openness. With international students here on campus, it is a great gift that our community in San Francisco allows students and all members of our community to do that right here on the Hilltop.”

President Paul J. Fitzgerald, S.J.  
August 2022