

# UNI: International Education Opportunities

# UNI Office of International Admission

Kristi Marchesani

Director of International Recruitment and Admissions

# Current International Student Population

International Students by Country Fall 2022

Country	N	Country	N	Country	N
Afghanistan	2	Honduras	1	Panama	1
Australia	1	Hong Kong	3	Philippines	2
Austria	1	India	15	Russia	3
Bahamas	1	Iran	2	Saudi Arabia	9
Bahrain	1	Israel	1	Serbia	1
Bangladesh	4	Italy	2	South Africa	1
Belgium	1	Jamaica	1	South Korea	1
Brazil	4	Japan	1	Spain	2
Burundi	1	Kenya	1	Sri Lanka	2
Canada	3	Kosovo	2	Taiwan	2
Chile	1	Kuwait	3	Tanzania	2
China	24	Latvia	1	Trinidad and Tobago	1
Colombia	2	Lebanon	1	Turkey	1
Congo, The Democratic Republic	3	Liberia	1	United Kingdom	3
Denmark	1	Malaysia	2	Venezuela	2
Ethiopia	2	Mexico	1	Zimbabwe	1
Finland	1	New Zealand	1		
France	5	Nigeria	3		
Ghana	2	Pakistan	9		

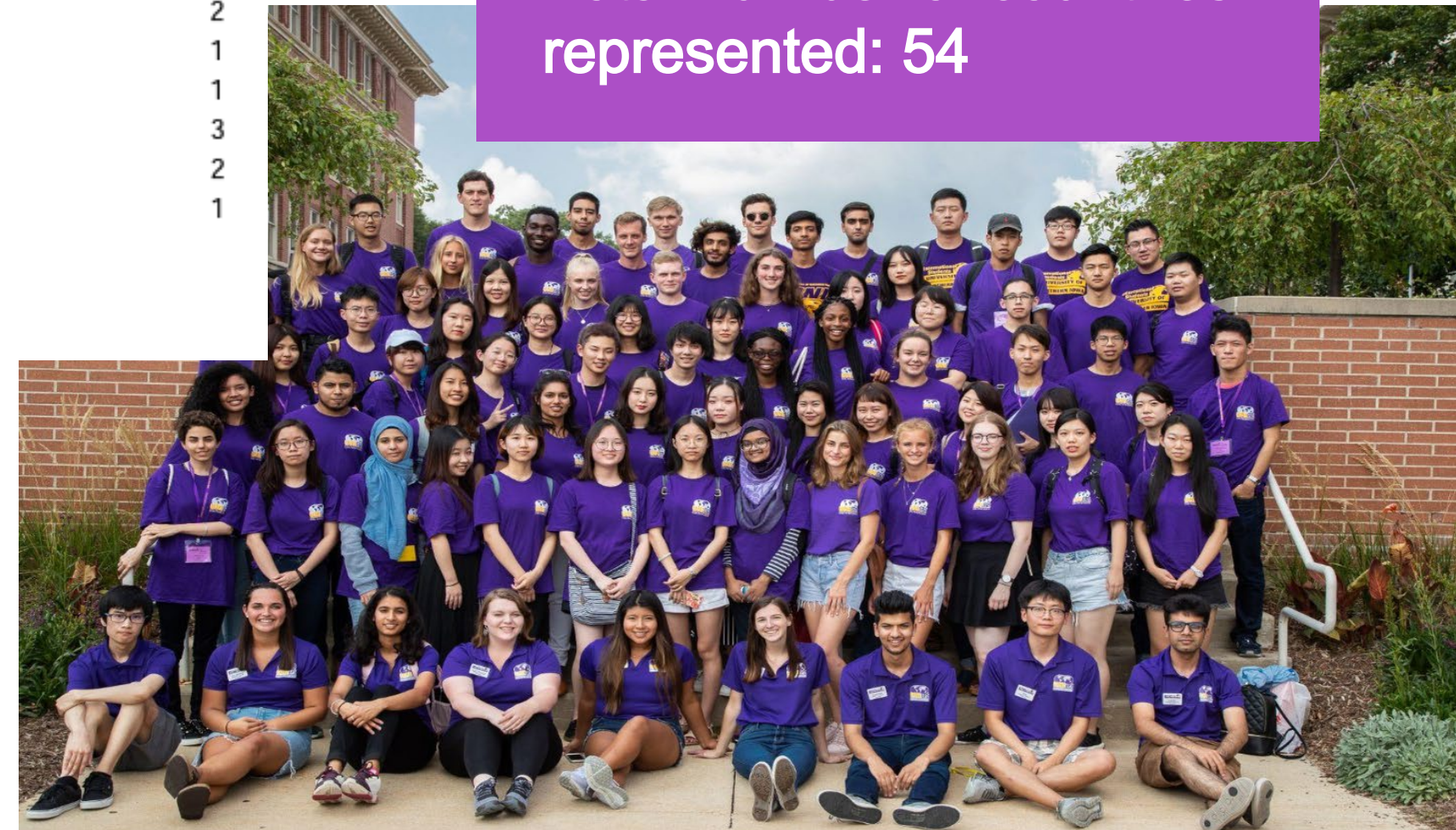
## TOP COUNTRIES

- 1) China
- 2) India
- 3) Pakistan
- 4) Saudi Arabia
- 5) Bangladesh/Brazil

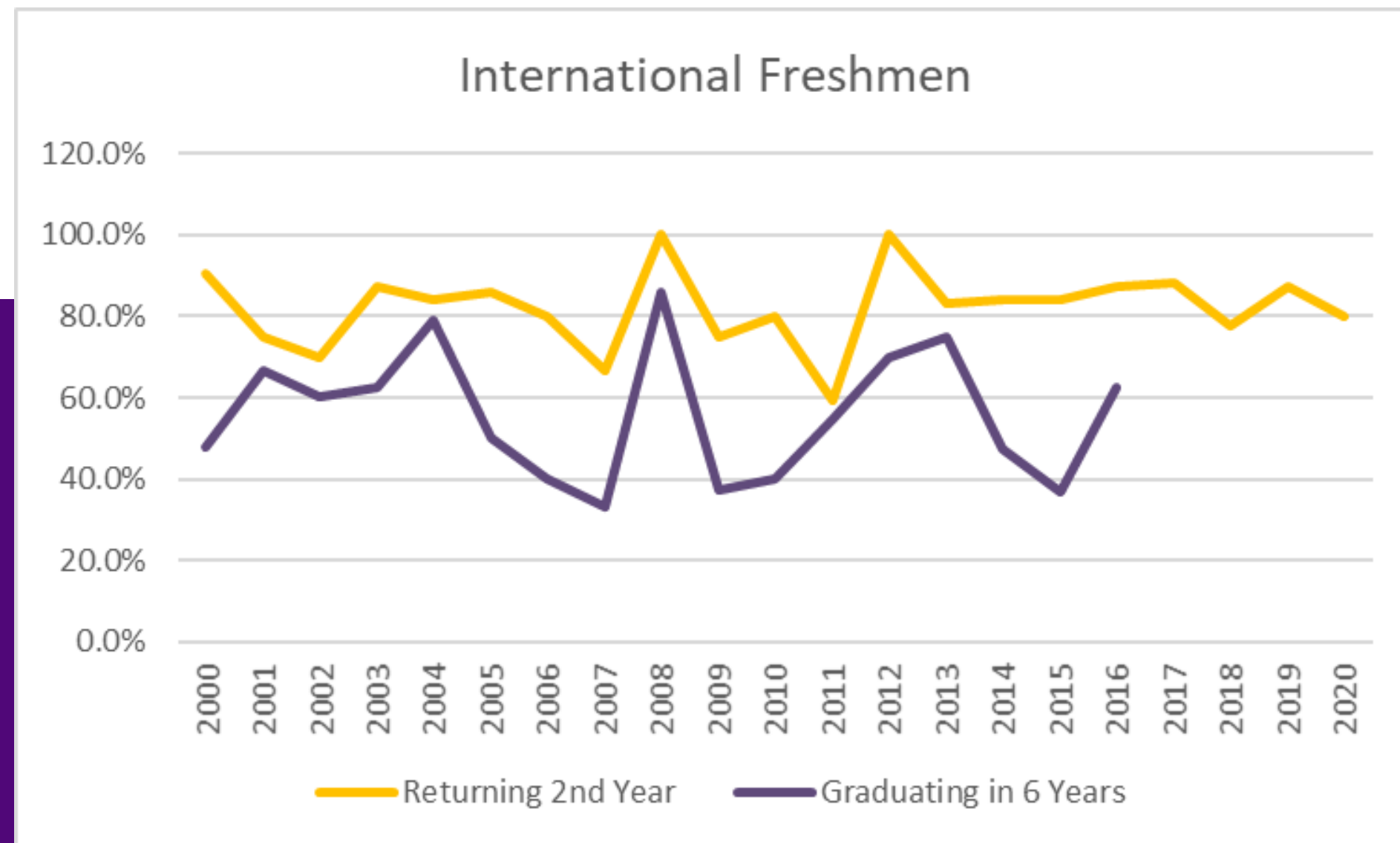
Total number of countries represented: 54

## AREAS OF STUDY

College of Business	33
College of Education	17
College of Humanities, Arts, and Sciences	52



# High Retention Rate for International Students



# Strategies to Attract More Students

## Word of Mouth

- International Student Promoters
- Ambassadors Abroad - study abroad, alumni teaching abroad
- Friends of UNI - Alumni, Faculty/Staff, etc.

## Outreach Overseas

- International Fairs
- High School Visits

## International Partners

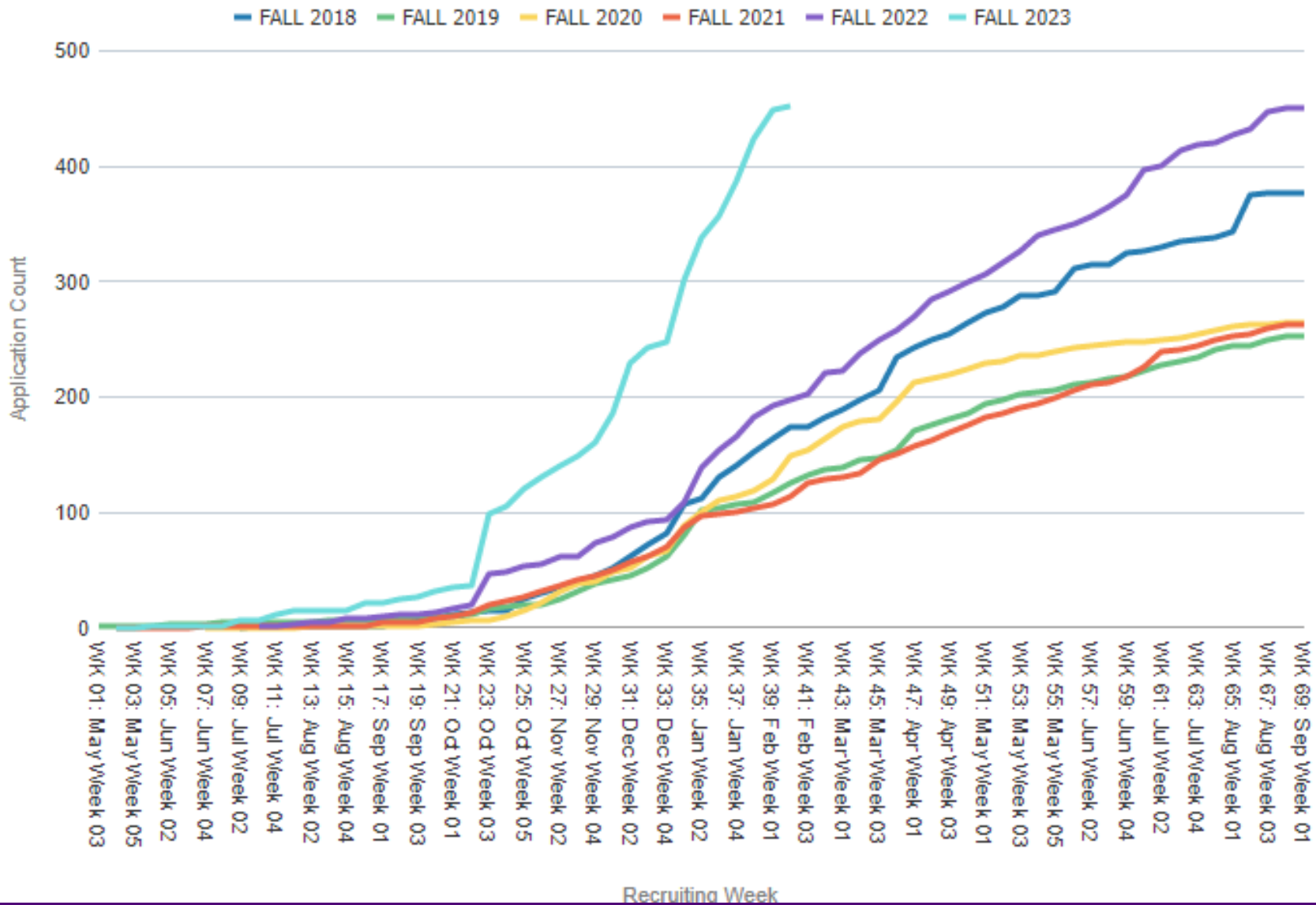
- University Partnerships - 58 signed partnerships
- Iowa Sister States
  - Kosovo - UNI President to visit in May

## Outreach in Iowa

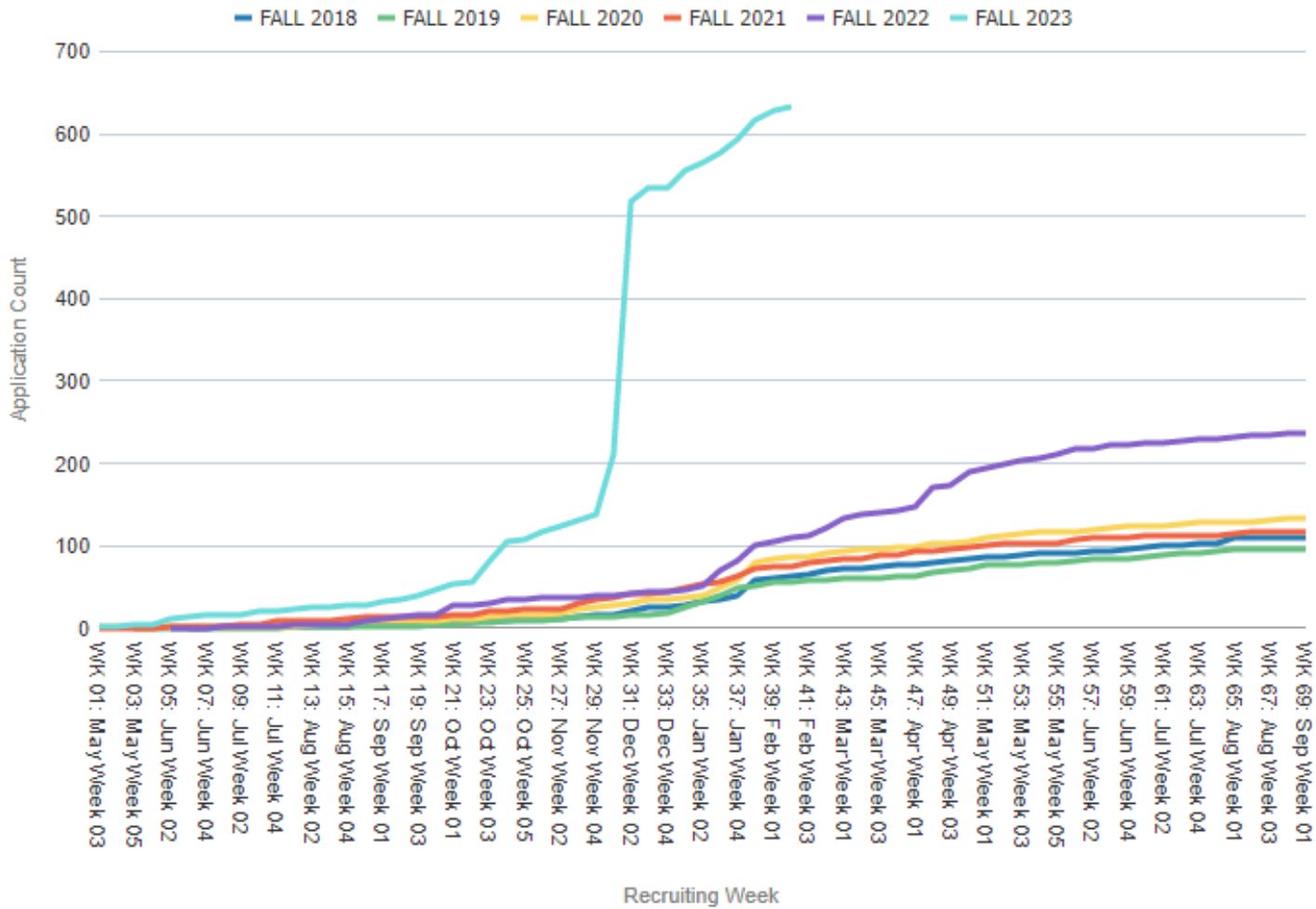
- High School Exchange Students
- Community College Transfers

# Fall 2023 Prospects - The good news!

Undergraduate Applications

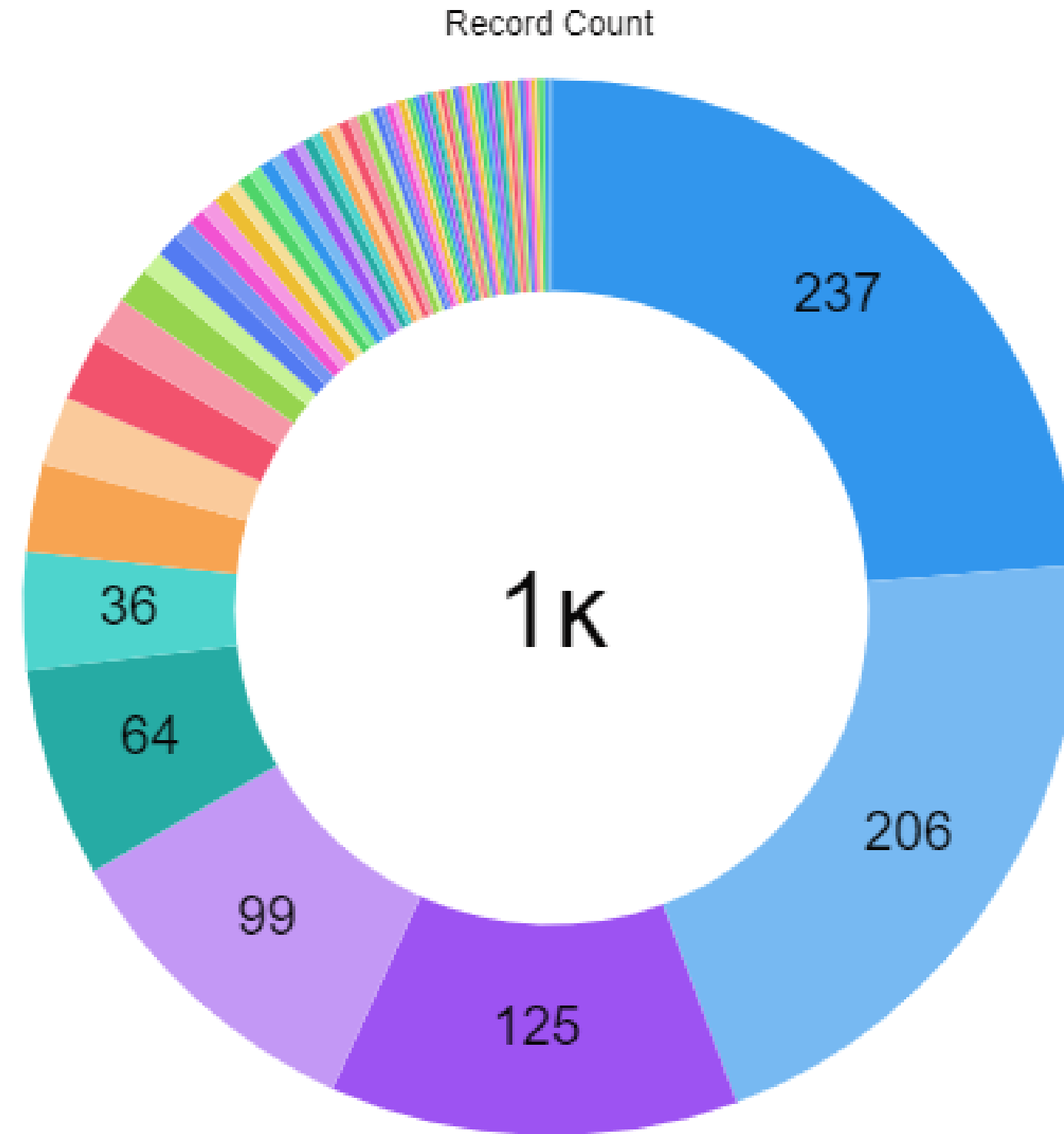


Graduate Applications



# Applications By Country

Applicants/Admits/Commits



[View Report \(ADM International - UGRD Appl by Country\)](#)

# Trends Impacting International Recruitment



**Competition** - Not only U.S. but institutions all over the world

**Fear** - Lots of unknowns and bad news coming from the U.S.

**Financial Instability** - Devaluation of currency, impact of COVID-19

**Impact of Social Media/Pop Culture** - Influenced positively and negatively by what they see

Emiliano - Bridges of Madison County

**Connections** - Students often go where they have (or have built) a connection

Family or friends of immigrants





# University of Northern Iowa™

## International Engagement

Carolina Coronado-Park  
Director of International Engagement



<https://internationalengagement.uni.edu/>

113 Maucker Union Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0164



# Office of International Engagement

Provides comprehensive service and support to UNI international students and visiting scholars.

Our commitment includes:

- English language instruction through the **Culture and Intensive English Program (CIEP)**

- Pre-arrival and Onsite Orientation

- Immigration Advising

- Student Success and Retention Initiatives

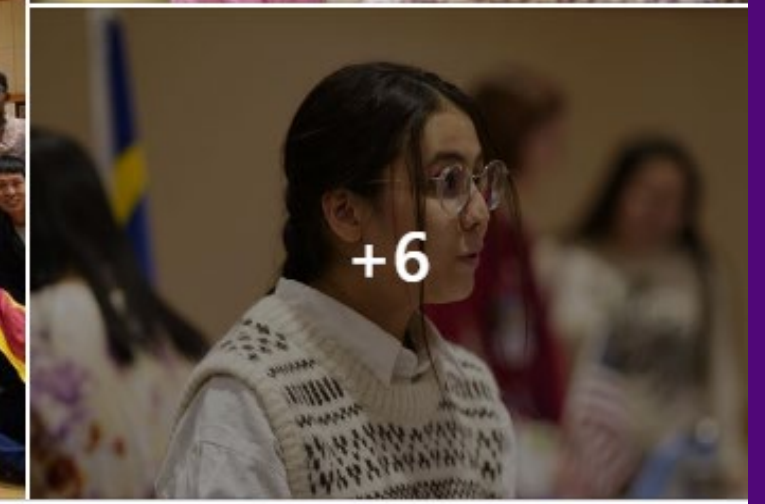
- Global Opportunities Awareness

- Collaboration across campus and in the community towards internationalization and global opportunities

# OIE Services & Support

“Your efforts in giving the orientation to me about library use, interlibrary loan, the internet, bank account, and campus life have made it possible for me to be able to survive in this strange new place. I experienced such an easy transition to living and studying here due to your helpful guidance”...

**Elfa Iftitah (LTE Fulbright Grantee Spring 2022 - Indonesia)**



# Intercultural Activities

## Weekly:

Coffee Hour - Approx. 40-50 attendees  
Talk Tuesday

## Other Opportunities:

Class exchanges and observations (in-person and hybrid)  
Field trips (in state and out of state)  
Volunteering opportunities (food bank, schools, retirement homes, public library, local schools)  
Holiday celebrations - interfaith collaborations

## Annual:

International Education Week (2nd week Nov.)  
Graduation Celebration (May)

# Community Outreach

## Open to UNI and Cedar Valley Community

Conversation Partners Program +60  
International Friendship Family Program +33  
Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) +5

*\* Cultural informants (1,000 classes collaborations + 15 students per semester)*

## Mentoring and Professional Experience

Global Panther Success Team (domestic and int. students)

## Trainings: Customized Programs

On Campus Training - dining center staff, Writing Center (tutors), Housing (RA), CELT and New Faculty Orientation  
Intercultural Communication Training: John Deere, Tyson, etc.

# Testimonials

## Conversation Partner Participants Testimonials

“When there are people who can show you things about yourself and things about the world that you’ve never thought of before —it’s truly something I think people should experience at for least one semester in college. Talking to someone for just an hour a week isn’t a big time commitment, but it can make an incredible difference”

*Milena Naughton, Conversation Partner participant - Social Work Major*



## Host Families Testimonials

“It is awesome! My family and I have done it since 2010. We absolutely love it. The students don't just become friends, they become family. I love meeting people from around the world and learning more about their country and culture.

*Cassandra Tiemessen, International Friendship Program participant*

“It is a way to learn the culture of another person and country. Also sharing our culture with them .”

*Nancy Kalkbrenner , International Friendship Program participant*



# Student Success & Retention

**UNI** / University of Northern Iowa.  
International Engagement

**ACADEMIC COACHING**  
SPRING 2023

MONDAYS - THURSDAYS  
1 - 3 P.M. MAU 113

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS • MULTILINGUAL STUDENTS  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS/STAFF**

**FREE Academic Support**

Walk-ins welcome, but appointments preferred.  
To make an appointment, go to



Academic Coaching - Culture and Intensive English Program.

Co-teaching UNIV Courses: Oral Comm, College Reading & Writing & Strategies for Success.

Mentoring and Advising: Collaboration with Academic Advising, Dean of Students, Tutoring Center, Office of Business Operations, Carrier Services and Academic Colleges.

\* Developing professional readiness mentoring program for senior international and graduate students and Grow Cedar Valley: OPT/ CPT/Internships.

# International Student Challenges

**Lack of local support system** - Students have often just arrived in the U.S., many for the first time. Significant distance from family and friends heightens transition challenges.

**Language/Cultural Understanding** - Students are often using their second language in a new place, trying to get across something that would have been effortless with a first language. Care, empathy, patience, and cultural sensitivity are critical.

**Homesickness/Culture Shock** - Students are dealing with a lot of emotions, and social/cultural adjustments are magnified.

**Finances** - Devaluation of currency, financial challenges at home (without access to need-based aid) can lead to financial stress.

# International Student Contributions

**Foster a Diverse Campus Environment-** In the classroom, dorms, and in all campus spaces, international students enrich peer-to-peer interactions and student learning. A diverse campus prepares students for life in the 21st Century and careers in a global markets.

**Enrich Learning Environment with Cultural Perspectives -** Bringing together people from multiple cultures into one classroom can make for a very productive learning experience - One that reflects the world students will graduate into.

**Attracts the Best of the Best -** Seeking out international students will help to bring in the “best and brightest” students from around the world. Good for school reputation.

**Create Significant Income Opportunities -** It is beneficial for the hosting campus but also for the extended community.

**Significant alumni contributions -** Alumni include successful entrepreneurs, business and community leaders, and university donors. Their success are our success.

**Represent UNI around the world -** International students with great experience help with international recruitment, both formally and informally.



# International Alumni Success Stories

## From the JPEC to the Times Square jumbotron: one UNI alum's journey to success in entrepreneurship

Anna Flanders / Jul 06, 2022



REAL ESTATE

## Lifting Small Enterprise: Elevator Opens Unique Co-Warehousing Space

By: Gabby Hellbusch

November 30, 2022



# Campus Internationalization

## UNI Mission:

The University of Northern Iowa creates, empowers, and innovates to enrich Iowa and beyond.

INCORPORATING GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE INTO TEACHING, LEARNING AND RESEARCH

BUILDING INTERNATIONAL AND INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE AMONG STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF

- ESTABLISHING EDUCATION AND RESEARCH RELATIONSHIP AND **COLLABORATIONS** WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS FOR KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

**Some Examples:** Dual Degrees, Students and Faculty Exchanges, Customized Professional Programs, New UNIV Courses: SLO global perspectives, Micro-credentials, Study Abroad Opportunities, Conferences, and so forth.



# Global Opportunities for UNI Students

Ava Deitrich, TESOL Major

# About Me

Ava Deitrich, 4th Year TESOL and English Major  
Originally from Grinnell, Iowa  
Been involved with the international community  
since my 1st Year at UNI

- International Student Promoters
- International Orientation
- Study Abroad
- Conversation Partner
- Student Worker



# Study Abroad



## Two Countries, One Summer.

### Traveled to Merida, Mexico

- 2 week program focused on history and culture

### Traveled to London, England

- 2 week program focused on cultural norms and linguistics

“A truly amazing, eye opening, and once in a lifetime experience. I would never have been able to travel the world if it wasn't offered as an opportunity at UNI.”

# Working and Learning

## Conversation Partner - CIEP

- Worked one on one with international students learning English through the CIEP Program
- Saudi Arabia (whom I later worked with)
- Japan

## Orientation Programmer - OIE

- Welcome them to UNI!

## Global Panther Success Team Member - OIE

- Work with international students, domestic students, and the UNI community to get students acclimated.

## Student Programming Coordinator - OIE

- Planning events and programming to unite domestic and international student community.



# Working and Learning

## International Student Promoters - Int. Admissions

- Involvement Officer
- President

Promotes UNI to a global audience

Chats 1:1 with prospective students around the world

- UNIBuddy

Personally welcome UNI Admitted International Students via email

Create online materials to promote UNI via Social Media





**THANK YOU!**