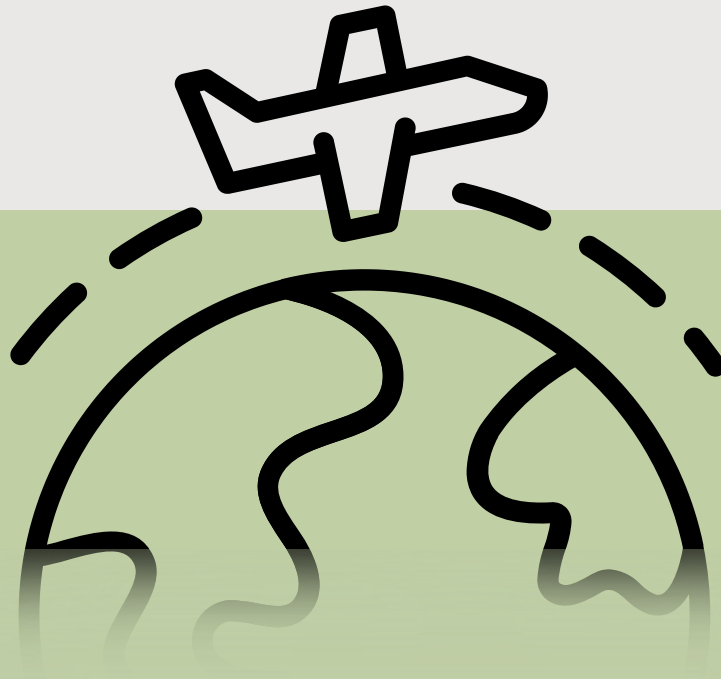




Mānoa Institutional Research Office (MIRO)

- 2023 -

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT REPORT



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KEY TAKEAWAYS

The international student report covers areas such as admission, enrollment, time-to-degree, degrees awarded, GPA, persistence rates, and the campus experience survey data. Below are some key takeaways from the report.

- ✓ Over the past 10 years, the yield rates of International students have been consistently higher than their US counterparts.
- ✓ Canada's enrollment grew the most over the past 5 years while Japan and China (with the highest total enrollment trends) saw the biggest declines.
- ✓ International students completed degrees faster than non-international students, with transfer-freshman and transfer-senior showing 21% and 34% time-to-degree reductions, respectively.
- ✓ In AY 2022-2023, UHM awarded 129 bachelor's degrees (4.2% of total), 137 master's degrees (14% of total), and 46 doctoral degrees (13% of total) to international students.
- ✓ International students consistently achieve higher GPAs than their non-international peers, regardless of academic level.
- ✓ The most recent data shows 1-year persistence rates increased for undergraduate programs, while 6-year graduation rates decreased, and 8-year rates remained stable. Graduate students, including MA and PhD programs, have higher persistence than international undergraduates and their graduation rates have remained stable over the past decade.
- ✓ International students highlight two key factors for a great campus experience: building connections and access to resources.



International Student Overview

International students make up **6%** of the total student population at UH Mānoa. A total of 1,189 international students enrolled in the Fall 2023 semester, comprising 527 undergraduate students and 662 graduate students. Our students come from a diverse array of 125 regions and countries. The top 5 countries international students come from are Japan, China, South Korea (ROK), Canada, and Taiwan. Please note this report identifies non-US citizens as international students .

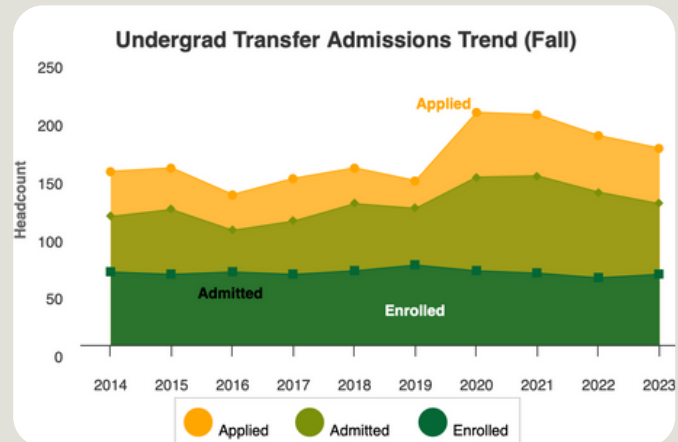
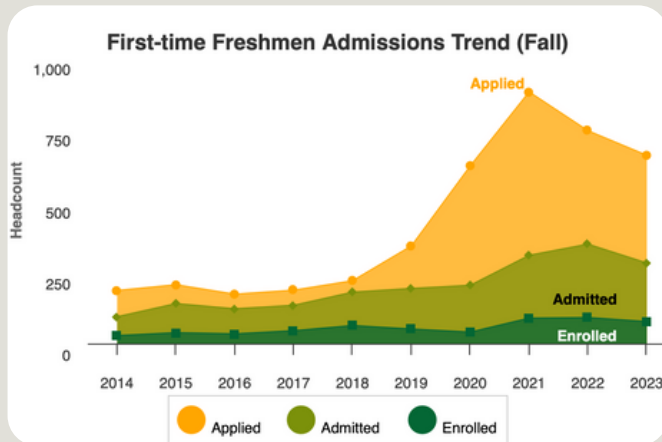
Students came from a total of

125 Regions & Countries

Admission Trends

10-Year Overview

The 10-year **application trend** of international students rose in 2019 and has steadily **decreased** in more recent years. Meanwhile, the 10-year **admission and enrollment trends** of international first-time freshmen show a steady **increase**.



1 of 4
admitted international freshmen decide to enroll (approximately)

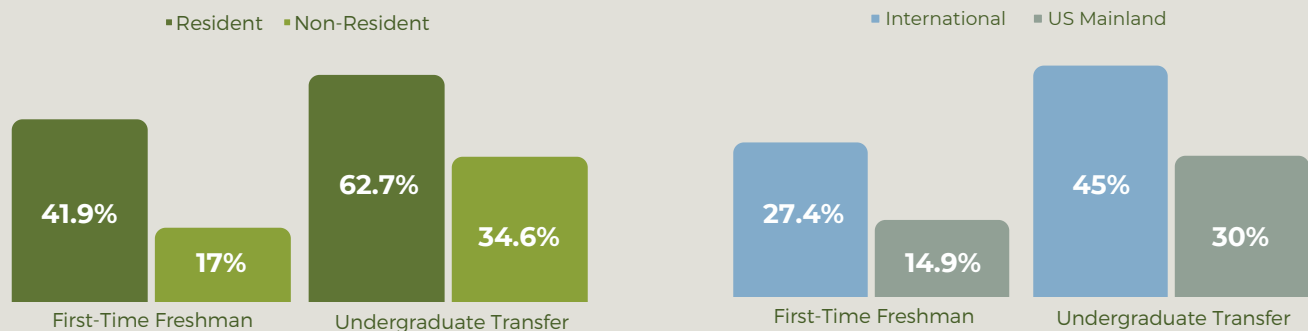
Most Recent Admission Trends

In Fall 2023, we received 659 international first-time freshman applications, with an acceptance rate of 42.8% and a 25% enrollment rate, which means **1 of 4 admitted freshmen decided to enroll**.

For undergraduate transfers, we had 170 applications, with a 72% acceptance rate and a 50% enrollment rate.

Average 10-year Yield Rates

Resident yield rates are higher than non-residents'. Resident first-time freshmen yield rates are 2.5 times higher than non-residents, while resident transfers' rates are twice as high. **For non-residents, international students' yield rates are higher than US mainland students'**. International first-time freshmen have yields nearly double those of US mainland students, and international transfers' rates are 1.5 times higher than US mainland students.



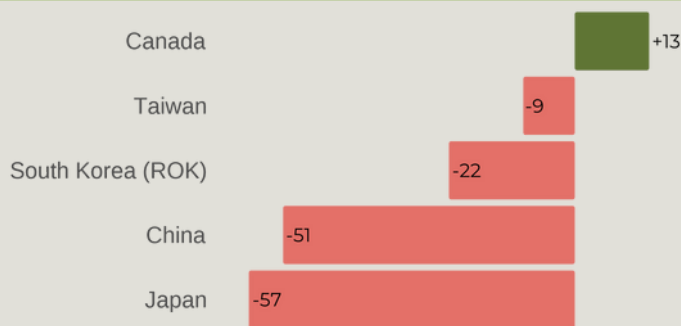
Enrollment by Country

TOP 5 COUNTRIES

Approximately every **2 out of 5** international students are from Japan, China, South Korea (ROK), Canada, & Taiwan (in descending order).



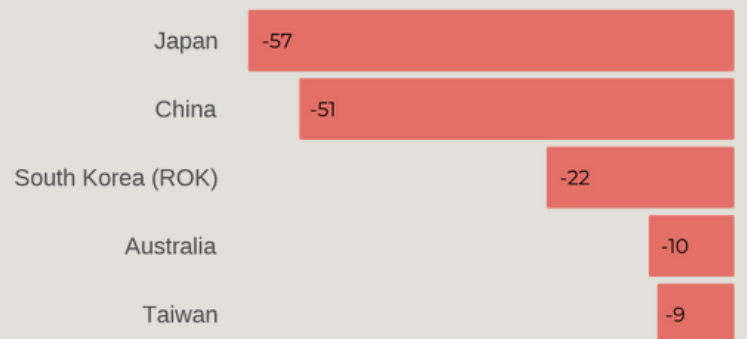
Japan, China, South Korea (ROK), Canada, & Taiwan



(2019-2023)

The **5-year headcount** of the top 5 countries shows a **decreasing trend** of enrollment in all countries except for Canada.

Although **Japan, China, South Korea, and Taiwan** are the top countries where international students were from, they are the top countries with **the biggest drops** in enrollment.



(2019-2023)

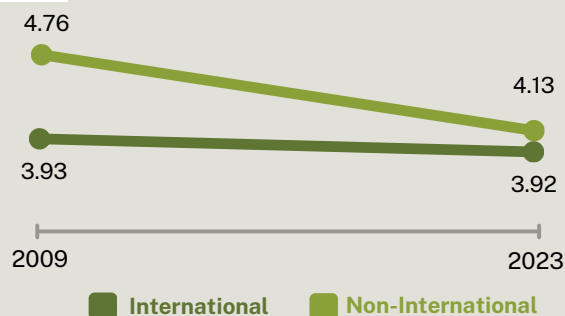


(2019-2023)

Canada has the most increase in enrollment in the recent 5 years, followed by Bangladesh, Lichenstein, Latvia, Kyrgyzstan, Estonia, North Korea (DPRK), Marshall Islands, Iraq, and Iceland. These are only a few of the countries with these increasing trends.

Time-To-Degree

01 First-Time Freshmen (Avg. time to degree)



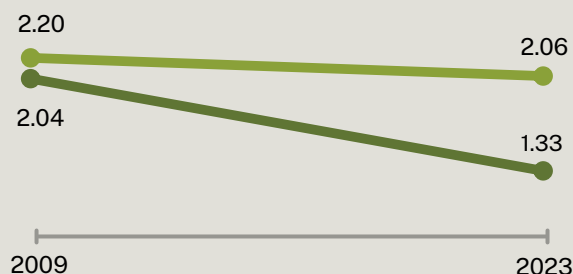
The international student average time-to-degree has decreased, showing timely graduation.

Specifically, international first-time freshmen reduced their average time-to-degree from 3.93 to 3.92 in the past decade.

02 Transfer Freshmen (Avg. time to degree)



03 Transfer Seniors (Avg. time to degree)



Both the international transfer freshmen and international transfer seniors' average time-to-degree showed noticeable progress. **The international transfer freshmen completed their degree in 3.23 years, which is a one-fifths (21%) reduction compared to the data from 2009. The international transfer seniors completed their degree in 1.33 years, demonstrating an impressive one-thirds (34%) reduction from the 2009 data.** The international transfer sophomores completed their degrees in 2.83 years, and international transfer juniors completed theirs in approximately 2 years.

04 Transfer Juniors (Avg. time to degree)



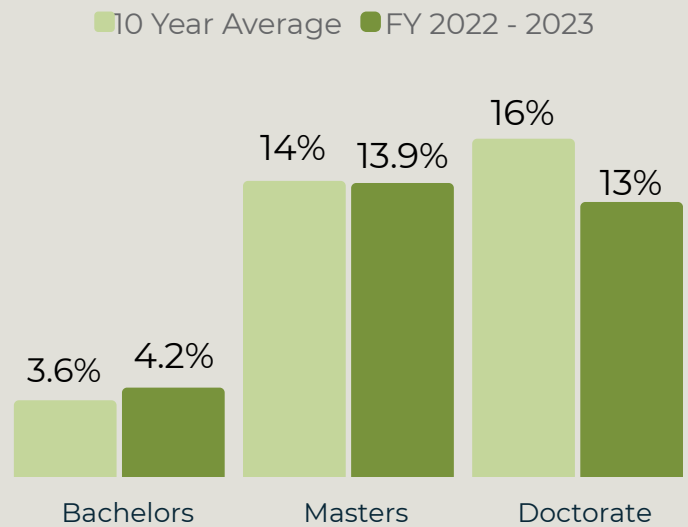
05 Transfer Sophomores (Avg. time to degree)



Degree Awarded

During the AY 2022 to 2023, UHM proudly awarded **129 bachelors' degrees, 137 masters' degrees, and 46 doctoral degrees** to our international students. These degrees consisted of 4.2% of the overall bachelors' degrees awarded, 14% of the masters' degrees awarded, and 13% of the doctoral degrees awarded.

Over the past decade, international students received an average of **3.6% of the overall bachelor's degrees, 14% of the overall master's degrees, and 16% of the overall doctoral degrees**. The proportion of international bachelor's degree recipients has slightly increased over the years. On the other hand, the proportions of international doctoral degree recipients have slightly decreased.



Student Semester Hours (SSH)

Average SSH(All) includes all of the students' semester hours, taking into account any credits they may have transferred from other institutions. While Average SSH(Manoa) refers to the students' semester hours earned within UH Manoa.

In fiscal year 2022-23, their average SSH with transferred credits included was 136 upon graduation. Among the overall average credits, **86 credits** were taken within Manoa only. The average GPA upon graduation was **3.41**.

Table 1: International Undergrad Student Semester Hours by Fiscal Year

Fiscal Year	Number of Degrees	Average SSH (All) ¹	Average SSH (Mānoa) ²	Average GPA ³	Degrees with GPA ⁴
2013-2014	100	141	84	3.36	100
2014-2015	111	141	80	3.21	111
2015-2016	125	138	83	3.35	125
2016-2017	116	139	83	3.22	116
2017-2018	122	139	76	3.29	122
2018-2019	114	139	82	3.40	114
2019-2020	131	137	81	3.31	131
2020-2021	110	137	84	3.48	110
2021-2022	140	140	89	3.47	140
2022-2023	129	136	86	3.41	128

¹ SSH (All) includes transfer credits.

² SSH (Mānoa) only includes credits earned at UH Mānoa (excludes transfer credits).

³ Average cumulative GPA at graduation. If a student receives multiple degrees, their GPA is counted for each degree earned.

⁴ The number of degrees included in the Average GPA calculation. Excludes students who did not have a GPA at graduation.

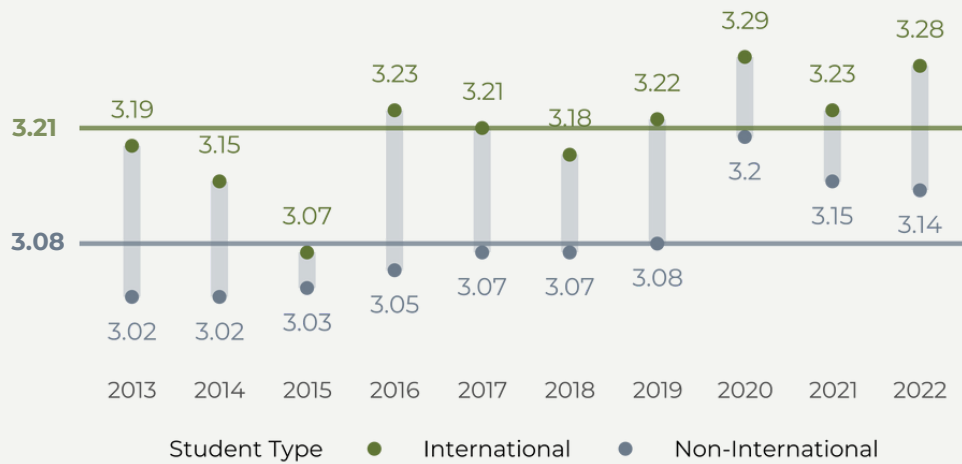
GPA

International students, on average, maintain higher GPA averages compared to Hawai'i and US Mainland students.

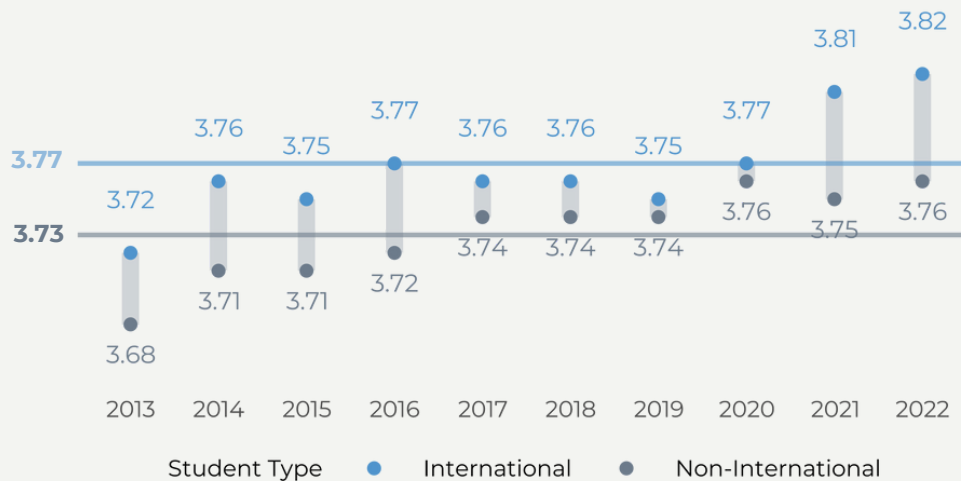
The Fall 2022 average international undergraduate student GPA was 3.28, while the Fall 2022 average international graduate GPA was 3.82

Please note the horizontal lines of the graphs below indicate the 10-year average for International and Non-International students, respectively.

Undergraduate GPA Trend by Geographic Origin

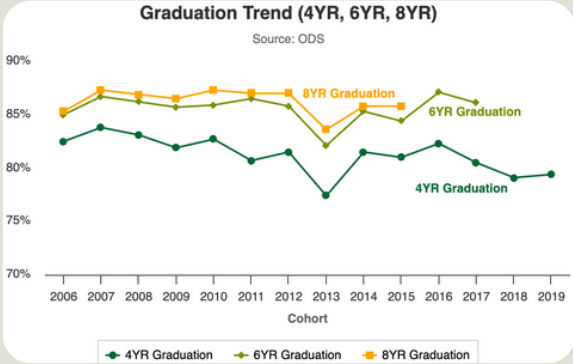
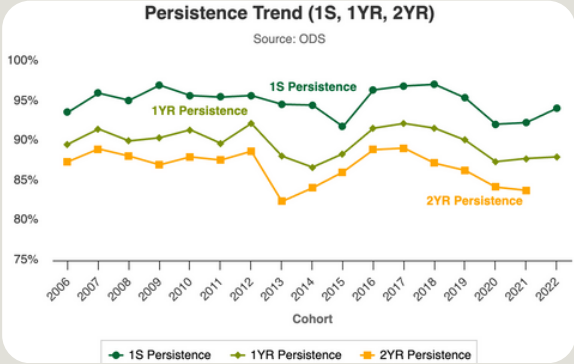


Graduate GPA Trend by Geographic Origin



Undergraduate Persistence Rates


For the Fall 2022 undergraduate student cohort, we observed a **1-year persistence rate of 88%** in international undergraduate students.





Undergraduate Overview

Both the **1-semester and 1-year persistence rates** have exhibited **upward trends** since 2020, with a consistent increase over the past two years (2020-2022). The 2-year persistence rate, however, has shown a decline during this period. As for the **4-year graduation rate**, it has demonstrated an **increase** when compared to the previous year's figure. The 6-year graduation rate has experienced a decrease, and the 8-year graduation rate has remained stable.

Using the most recent cohort for each respective graduation year, the rates are as follows.


 4-Year Graduation Rate:
79.4%
 (Fall 2019 Cohort)

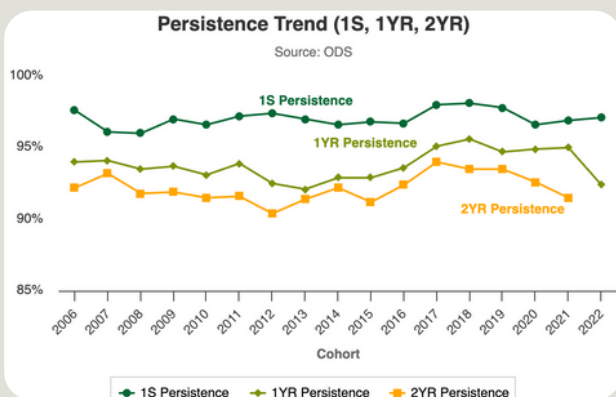

 6-Year Graduation Rate:
86.1%
 (Fall 2017 Cohort)


 8-Year Graduation Rate:
85.8%
 (Fall 2015 Cohort)

Graduate Persistence Rates

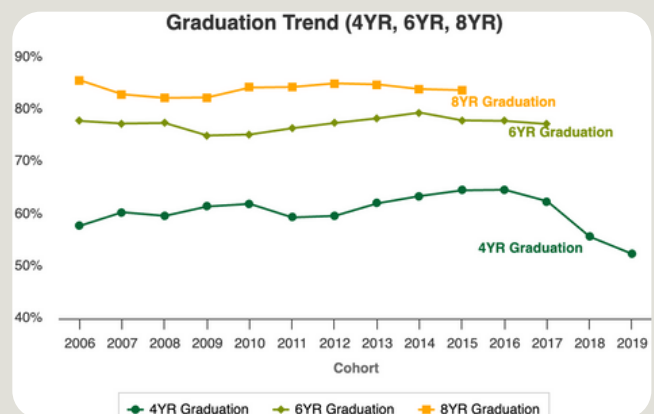
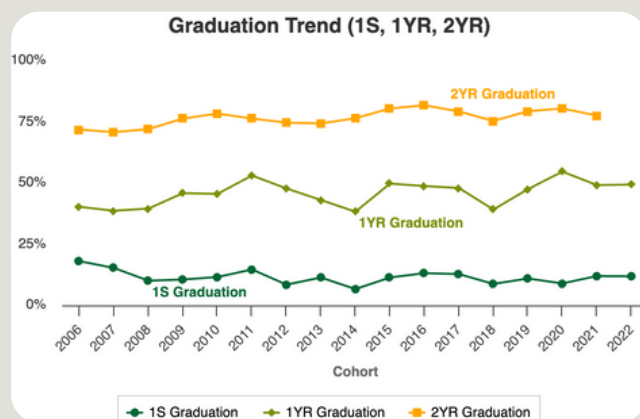
Graduate Student Overview

The 1-semester persistence rate has been increasing from 2021-2022, while 1-year and 2-year persistence rates show a decreasing trend. Both Master's and Doctorate graduation rates remain stable over the past decade.



In the Fall 2022 graduate international student cohort, **we observe a 1-year persistence rate of 92.4%**, marking **the first decline** in the past 10 years.

Over the past decade, **masters' and research doctorate graduation rates** have **generally remained stable**, with the exception of a **decline in research doctorate 4-year graduation rates** since 2015.

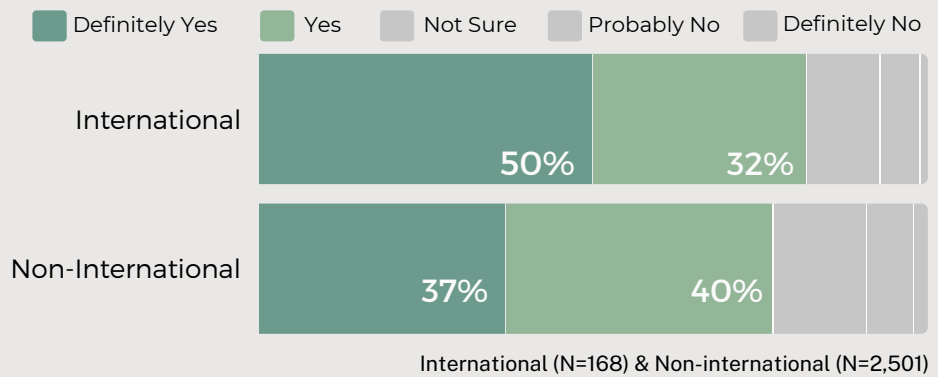


As graduation rates vary by program, the **masters' 2-year graduation rate is 77.6 % (Fall 2021 Cohort)** and the research doctorate **6-year graduation rate is 77.3% (Fall 2017 Cohort)**,

CAMPUS EXPERIENCE SURVEY (2018)

82%

of international students said they would choose to attend UH Mānoa if they could start over again, compared to 77% of Non-International respondents to the same question.



What makes a great campus experience?

Upon observation, there are **two main themes** from the international students' responses.



Building Connections

Building **lifelong friendships** and developing **meaningful relationships** with faculty helps make a great campus experience.



Word Cloud of Key Themes in the Survey Responses

Additionally, diverse courses with affordable cost and friendly and responsive staff also shape the campus experience.



Access to Resources

One of the main resources students desire is **mentorship** such as having tutors, academic advisors, or faculty ready to guide them in their studies.

“It means having that connection that you will always feel **a sense of belonging** to any university you go to and having to **learn from your lecturers** which lessons that you will take on and use everyday at your workplace or life, **socializing** and **making memories.**” [Respondent 6]

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Please note in the following section the student responses are anonymous so as to protect student identity.

Scholarships, Sponsorships & Internships

“Secure funding, Good Standing Course Works, Accessible Facilities with low charge such as parking and clean campus.”

[Respondent 18]



“Students will be exposed to different opportunities (e.g. nomination to some student clubs, **scholarships, sponsorships, internships,** social networking) to prepare for life after graduation...”

[Respondent 3]



“Being able to experience **internship** even though visa status is F-1.”

[Respondent 4]



Immersion in the culture

Students value the experience of living in a foreign country and immersing themselves in a different culture.

“Not only learning knowledge but also the university can provide me a chance to **explore, enjoy life like having some kayak or standing paddling courses.**”

[Respondent 42]



“Students are able to spend great time in the **campus, housing, athletics space.** Also some international students are able to **have some great experiences in other countries**”

[Respondent 2]



Academic and Non-Academic Activities & Events

“Being a grad student, I’m more concerned with the activities in my department. A department with **active seminars and weekly** (academic and non academic) **activities** makes for a great experience.”

[Respondent 8]



“A university that provides opportunities for students not only in terms of **academics** but also in **extra curricular activities.** School spirit, making the students feel welcome, providing services that would help students graduate in time and properly.”

[Respondent 4]



“An engaging and educational degree, as well as **clubs and activities** that are interesting and helpful toward my degree.”

[Respondent 33]



STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Recommendations on Programs, Activities, and Events

"Promoting Hawaiian **culture**, and other cultures on campus - for example, **intercultural potluck party, ukulele night**, etc."

[Respondent 2]



"I want to have extracurricular activities with respect **Native Hawaiian**, e.g. **language, dance** etc."

[Respondent 3]



Activities to connect them with the local culture



Programs with career development

"1. Alumni mentor mentee **program** that match with **major** or interested industry...."

3. Free classes/workshops for practical skills: Excel, Photoshop, how to prepare for career fairs, etc"

[Respondent 9]



"Optional Practical Training programs. [Respondent 18]"

Another said "More programs where students can get to know each other, things that help with career decisions (more career fairs)"

[Respondent 23]



Where To Find Information

"I think Manoa already has many great programs or activities for students to engage or participate in. For example, the Writing Center is great for students to go to if anyone needs a second eye on their writing. Plus, it is free! 2) I think the key here is how to **communicate** and **inform** students about the wonderful programs \events \activities that Manoa offers to students."

[Respondent 2]



"I would love some more student associations, or at least **more information on where I can find them**. As an international student it can be quite hard to know where to go and adapt."

[Respondent 3]



Recommendations

"Desire for different fields of study to work together interdepartmentally"



"As a graduate student, I am a huge fan of research seminars and presentations from all disciplines. I think having a **university-wide list** that allows members of UH-Mānoa to easily find when and where seminars/talks from the many departments are available and open would be a great way to get people exposed to ideas outside of their disciplines."

[Respondent 6]



"Expose the research work that professors are doing. Seek to be multidisciplinary. I know that in some departments, professors have made significant advances in research that can be used by other departments. **Create a research web page** where you can find field connections that can help for research network formation."

[Respondent 4]






Mānoa Institutional Research Office MIRO Analysis Brief

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

For UH Employees and Staff

You can find more information using our International Students Web App in the Decision Support System.

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