



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAMS



"After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb."

REVELATION 7:9





As the son of Chinese missionaries, born in California, growing up in Kenya, and currently living in a predominantly white small town in Indiana, it's safe to say that I've felt unsure at times. Unsure of where and to what group I belonged; unsure of who to sit with at the dining commons; unsure of what box to check on applications.

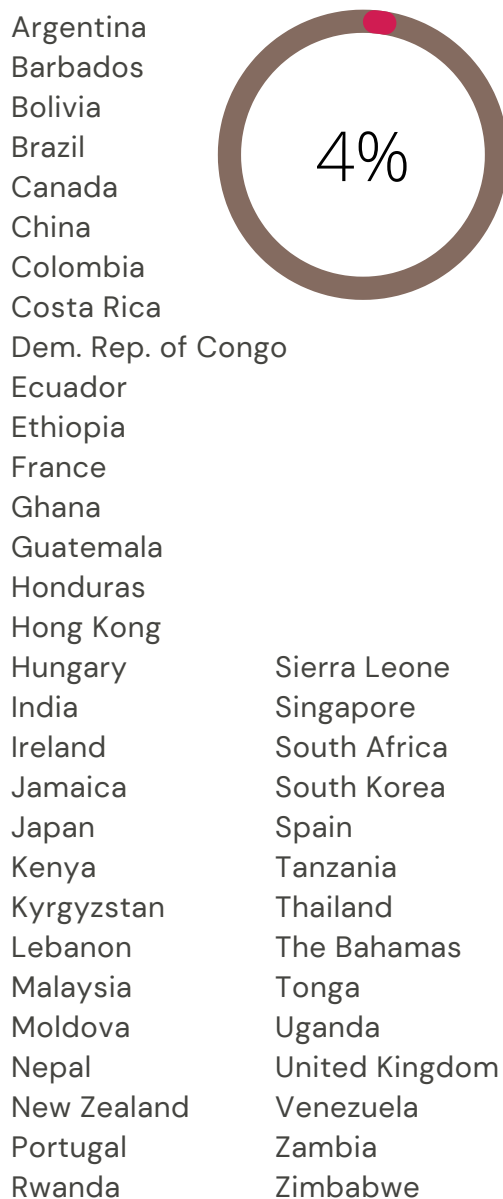
I soon realized that although my eyes are stereotypically Asian, my heart beats to the African drums, my passport is blue, and my daughters are half-white... the Lord says I am a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20). It's this identity founded in Christ, that doesn't neglect my intercultural upbringing, yet draws me to the international student community at Taylor University. I get to mentor 18-year-old Nates, while I seek to unlock their potential, and help them navigate cultural shock and identity crises. And there is nothing more fulfilling than being a part of this beautiful tapestry.

The next few pages are the culmination of decades of work and love that has been poured into our international students, third-culture kids, and missionary kids. So that they too, can find their identity in our Savior while navigating the feeling of (un)belonginess.

Nathan W. Chu, MBA, PDSO
Director of International Student Programs



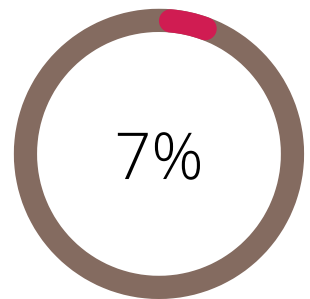
It has been a part of Taylor's legacy to welcome international students from all corners of the world to our campus, making Upland their home away from home. The following list is the passport countries our **international** students have represented for the past four years, making up roughly 4% of our student population each academic year.





Alongside international students, Taylor welcomes a significant number of **missionary and third-culture kids** each year. They represent roughly 7% of our student body. Even though most are American passport holders, they proudly represent the countries where they were raised, including:

Albania
Austria
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Bolivia
Brazil
Cambodia
China
Egypt
Ethiopia
Germany
Haiti
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Japan
Kenya
Kuwait
Malaysia
Mongolia
Mozambique
Niger
Papua New Guinea



Peru
Philippines
Qatar
Russia
Senegal
Thailand
Turkey
Ukraine
United States
Vietnam
Zambia

WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE



INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION



Bags are packed, passports are stamped, loved ones are embraced. It's time to trade comfort for discomfort, a mother tongue for a foreign one, a skin tone that blends in for one that stands out. For many of our international students, this is the case. For others – born in the United States, but who lived overseas for more than half their lives – the question "where's home for you?" feels almost impossible to answer.

International Student Programs works hard to ease this transition to the U.S. by hosting **International Orientation**: a time that provides students and their families a smooth and steady landing. What Americans come in knowing and expecting, our students come in wondering and questioning.

Before New Student Orientation begins, International Student Programs prepares three days packed with on-campus events that equip students with the skills needed to navigate culture shock, living with roommates, studying in a different language, etc. During this time, students are able to connect with one another and are welcomed by the Taylor community.

International Orientation is just the beginning, but we don't want it to be the end. International students are a year-round priority. In order for Taylor to become a place where they can flourish, we have identified our **four biggest needs**. With the appropriate resources, we can make these dreams a reality.

A photograph of two women laughing joyfully. The woman on the left has long dark hair and is wearing a black long-sleeved shirt and dark jeans. She is holding a white pot containing a green plant. The woman on the right has her hair pulled back and is wearing a black turtleneck. She is holding a black pot containing a green plant. The background is a bright blue wall with a pattern of white, translucent, leaf-like shapes. A semi-transparent grey horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text "A PLACE TO FLOURISH" in white, serif, all-caps font.

A PLACE TO FLOURISH



MINIMIZING BARRIERS

When students arrive in the United States, they feel like they are already a few steps behind most of their American peers. Most don't have a driver license or a social security number to help them settle in the country. Our office seeks to facilitate those ordinary daily tasks and minimize the stress it takes to get to the airport, the social security office, a grocery store, or the BMV.

A WAY TO CONNECT

International students are encouraged to and enjoy creating relationships with their American peers. But we often connect best with those that look, live and speak like us. Student-led organizations like **International Student Society** (ISS) and **MuKappa** (MKs/TCKs) exist within the Office of Intercultural Programs to provide a community for our students. These organizations bring a sense of family and connection to our students while challenging them to engage in the world around them.

A PLACE TO GATHER

It's safe to say food goes beyond its nutritional value. Meals are an integral way international students stay connected to their roots and cultural identity. Because most of the food options available on campus aren't accurate representations of what they can find in their home countries, a place to cook and gather for meals is essential to this community.

A PLACE TO REST

Most of our students live thousands of miles away from Taylor. Traveling can take up to three days and most often than not includes crossing an ocean. For many with financial limitations, getting home during breaks is nearly impossible. Many prefer to stay on campus, get a summer job in Upland, or find a host family. Our hope for the future is that we can provide a physical home away from home for those seeking one.

A close-up photograph of three young women with dark hair, smiling warmly at the camera. They are all wearing bright yellow shirts. The woman in the center has long, straight dark hair and is looking directly at the camera. The woman on the left has curly dark hair and is also looking at the camera. The woman on the right has long, wavy dark hair and is looking slightly to the side. A semi-transparent grey banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text 'TELLING OUR STORY' in white, serif, all-caps font.

TELLING OUR STORY

SARAH KABAREGA '23

RWANDA

International Student Programs continuously supports me at Taylor. Through the hard transition from my home country to Taylor, I was able to find a safe place and a community among other International Students. ISP is a continuous reminder that God provides when He calls you to a new place.

JUYOUNG JUNG '25

SOUTH KOREA

A comfortable home in a strange place, and a nest of migrating birds.

KWAME ASAMOAH '23

GHANA

The international students and staff on campus have been my rock. I've lived through several highs and lows with some of these friends that understand how unsettling it can be to make a transition into a different country. They have been the people I turn to whenever life gets difficult, and I'm grateful for that.

ELA ALVARADO '22

HONDURAS

When family felt far away, the international student community has shared their cultures, food, and stories to embrace me as part of the tight-knit body of Christ.





PHOTOGRAPHY BY
GOODNESS KORRIE '24; MARISSA WILLIAMS '23; MARIAH HURST '23
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MARIANA PRATAS '21