

Office of International Education and Development

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

2015–2016 Annual Report



Boone, North Carolina 28608-2083
Fall 2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

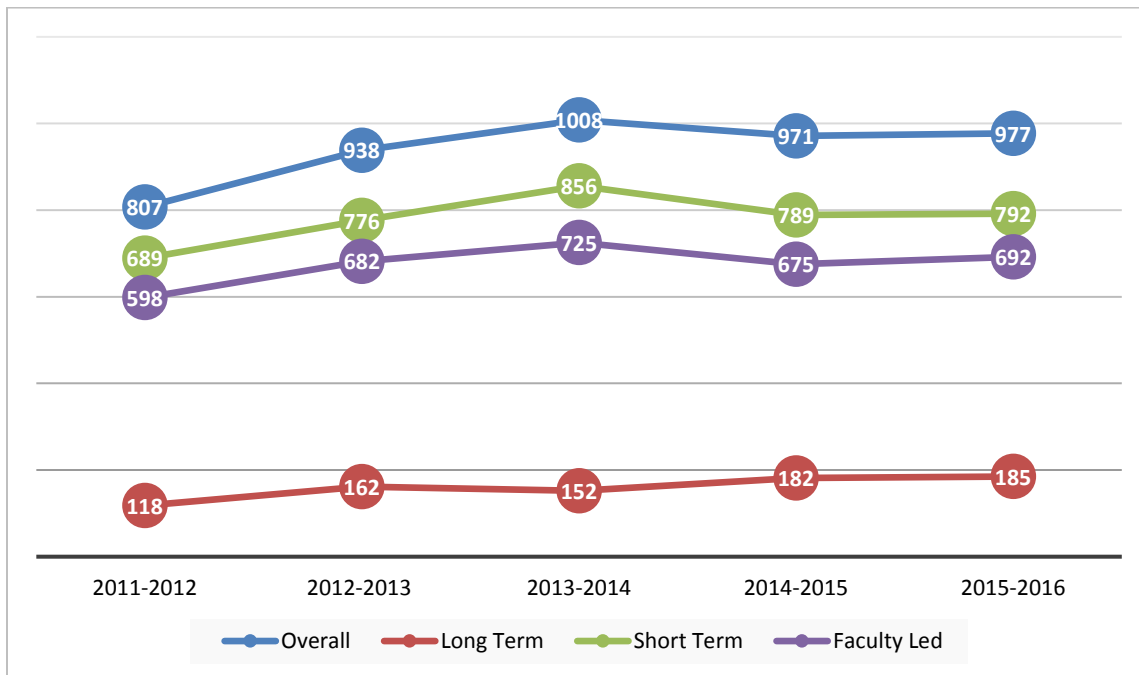
I.	MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.....	3
A.	Education Abroad Opportunities for Students.....	3
B.	Education Abroad Scholarships for Students.....	6
C.	International Students at Appalachian	7
1.	International Students on Campus	7
2.	Appalachian International (INTAPP)	8
D.	International Visiting Scholars and Visitors to Appalachian.....	8
E.	International Outreach to Campus and Community	9
F.	Faculty and Staff Support for International Travel.....	11
G.	OIED Grants and Contracts	11
H.	Customers Served in OIED.....	11
I.	International Travel Insurance for University Personnel.....	12
K.	New Staff Hires	13
II.	MAJOR CHALLENGES.....	13
A.	Scholarships for Students to Study Abroad	13
B.	Scholarships for International Students to Study at Appalachian.....	14
C.	On-campus Housing for International Graduate Students	14

I. MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A. Education Abroad Opportunities for Students

During the 2015–16 academic year, a **total of 977 students studied abroad** for academic credit in various programs.¹ This included 792 students who went abroad on short-term programs and 185 students who studied abroad for semester-long or year-long programs. The number of students who studied abroad during the 2015–16 academic year represents a 21.1% participation rate at Appalachian, a much higher rate than national rate of 14%.² According to the Institute of International Education’s (IIE) *2016 Open Doors Report*, **Appalachian ranks third nationally** among the comprehensive master’s institutions for the number of total undergraduate and graduate students participating in education abroad experiences for academic credit. **The projection for the coming year is to grow the education abroad numbers to between 1,008 and 1,010 students.**

Graph 1: Five-Year Data of Study Abroad Participation by Program Type



¹ This figure is calculated by taking the total number of participants on credit bearing study abroad programs in 2015-2016 which includes students participating on multiple programs. It does not include students who went abroad on non-credit bearing programs.

² This figure is calculated by comparing the number of degree seeking study abroad participants (947) in 2015–2016 with the number of Appalachian degree recipients (4,473) in 2015–2016. Students who participated on multiple programs are only counted once. Although this method produces only an approximate measure of study abroad participation, it is the method currently used in the Institute for international Education Open Doors annual survey. The Open Doors survey is the only national data collection reporting system for study abroad participation of U.S. students and is endorsed by the Section on U.S. Students Abroad of NAFSA: Association of International Educators.

Graph 1 above clearly shows that short-term programs, and specifically faculty-led programs, continue to be the driver of education abroad opportunities for Appalachian students. According to the IIE's 2016 *Open Doors Report*, Appalachian is ranked third nationally among the comprehensive master's institutions for the number of total undergraduate and graduate students participating in short-term education abroad programs for academic credit. **During the 2015–16 academic year, there were 792 participants on short-term programs** (Table 1) and the Education Abroad Programs Committee approved 74 program proposals. The large number of new proposals and new program leaders shows that Appalachian faculty are committed to providing Education Abroad opportunities to the student body and are a voice that students pay attention to. However, we may have reached capacity in the faculty-led programs and do not anticipate any significant growth in the future. While there are several new programs leaders interested in participating in faculty-led programs, there are equally many other seasoned program leaders who are retiring or choosing not to continue offering their programs abroad.

Table 1: Five-Year Short-Term Participation by Program Type

Program Type	Academic Year				
	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12
Affiliated Partners (3rd Party Providers)	24	20	47	Not avail	Not avail
Non-Appalachian Programs	3	9	13	Not avail	Not avail
Faculty-Led Programs	692	675	725	682	598
Independent Study	13	13	12	Not avail	Not avail
Internship	22	17	21	29	6
International Teaching	38	55	33	23	10
Total	792	789	856	776	689

Long-term (Semester and Academic Year) program participation has increased from 118 students in 2011-2012 to 185 students in 2015-2016, representing 18.9% of our total study abroad population (Table 2). Within this growth of long-term participation there has also been a growth in students choosing to participate on Exchange programs at our partner institutions abroad, from 72 students in 2011-2012 to 144 students in 2015-2016. With this growth, Appalachian is still well behind the long-term national average participation rate of 37%. This is an area where Appalachian expects to experience more growth in its education abroad programs in the future. There are new education abroad staff in OIED who have brought new and innovative ideas on recruiting students to study abroad. Their efforts are expected to make a difference in the number of Appalachian students choosing to study abroad for a semester or a year.

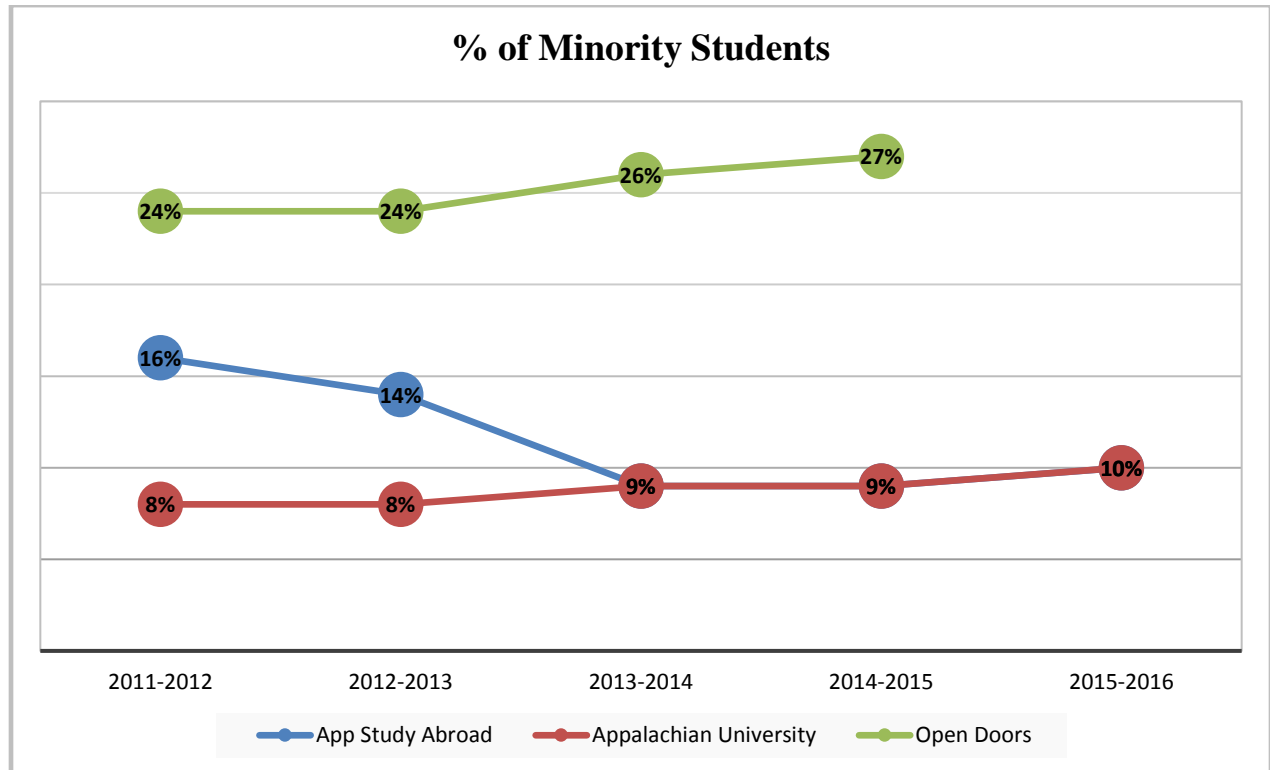
Table 2: Five-Year Long-Term Participation by Program Type

Program Type	Academic Year				
	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12
Affiliated Partners (3rd Party Providers)	24	20	57	Not avail	Not avail
Hybrid	8	10	0	0	0
Exchanges at Partner Institutions	144	139	81	97	72
Non-Appalachian Programs	5	6	13	Not avail	Not avail
Internship	4	8	5	3	Not avail
Total	185	182	152	162	118

A primary focus of OIED has been to find ways to further diversify the students participating in education abroad programs. Diversity participation can be evaluated based upon academic area, gender, and ethnicity, amongst other factors.

The percentage of minority students participating in education abroad programs saw a dip from highs of 16% during the 2011-2013 academic year to the current 10% during the 2015-2016 academic year (Graph 2). This may be partially attributed to the growth in the number of students studying abroad. The good news is that these percentages are increasing slowly. The participation rate has kept up with the percentage of minority students graduating from Appalachian each year. To further increase the percentage of minority student participation in education abroad opportunities OIED has partnered with several units on campus including ACCESS, Multicultural Student Development, and Athletics to encourage and recruit minority students to study abroad.

Graph 2: Five-Year Data of % of Minority Student Study Abroad Participation



Appalachian has made inroads in the percentage of male students participating in education abroad opportunities (Table 3). The national average for male participation in study abroad according to the 2016 *Open Doors Report* was 34.5%.

Table 3: Five-Year Participation by Gender

Gender	Academic Year				
	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12
Females	63%	67%	65%	66%	74%
Males	37%	33%	35%	34%	26%

As the majority of Appalachian students participate in the faculty-led programs, students' participation by college or school is influenced by the number of programs offered by each college/school annually. The participation groups referenced by the *2016 Open Doors Report* academic major classification table (Table 4) shows that in many areas, Appalachian is close to or greater than the national average. Further work needs to be done to identify departments where education abroad participation rates are lower and work with those departments to develop faculty led programs and identify semester programs that are good matches for their students.

Table 4: Five-Year Education Abroad Participation by College/School

College	Academic Year				
	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12
College of Arts & Sciences	321	305	359	301	239
College of Business	185	172	222	201	147
College of Fine & Applied Arts	177	111	166	150	151
College of Education	29	64	109	89	74
College of Health Sciences	74	98	73	81	71
University College	79	94	5	46	68
School of Music	24	17	30	25	27
Graduate Studies	81	100	119	5	3
Non-Degree Seeking Students	7	10	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	41	10
Total	977	971	1008	938	807

Table 5: Participation by Open Doors Academic Major Classification

Program Type	Academic Year			
	2015-2016		2014-2015	
	AppState	National	AppState	National
STEM Fields	20%	TBD	19%	24%
Foreign Lang, Int'l Studies	5%	TBD	5%	8%
Business, Management	25%	TBD	24%	20%
Education	8%	TBD	14%	4%
Social Sciences	15%	TBD	14%	17%
Communication, Journalism	5%	TBD	4%	6%
Humanities	3%	TBD	3%	4%
Fine and Applied Arts	9%	TBD	6%	7%

B. Education Abroad Scholarships for Students

During the 2015-2016 academic year, OIED provided \$58,190 in scholarships to support 68 students to study abroad and international students to continue to study at Appalachian. This number includes OIED's \$10,000 matching support of the France STEM grant. This can be compared to the previous academic year where domestic and international student scholarships totaled \$66,297, provided to 65 students. OIED worked to streamline the application process during this year. Previously, students were required to apply for each scholarship for which they were eligible, leading to a large number of duplicate applications. During the 2015-16 academic year, OIED's Scholarship Committee received 149 applications but could only provide funding for 39% of the applicants. There was a 34% decrease in the applications received compared to the previous academic year (225). It is unknown how much of that

decrease was due to previous double or triple counting of applicants.

In February, OIED also began offering workshops for OIED scholarships and external scholarships. During the reporting period, 29 students took part in five workshops. Efforts will be made to increase awareness in the future. One-on-one advising with Dr. Maria Anastasiou and Ms. Mallory Sadler was also offered beginning in February 2016. A total of 22 students were seen for advice.

Additionally, OIED has intensified efforts to encourage Appalachian students to apply for national prestigious scholarships such as the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. During the 2015-2016 year, OIED began offering workshops and advising specifically for this scholarship program, and three students were awarded the scholarship.

OIED has recently been awarded the Generation Study Abroad Incentive Grant to encourage diversity in study abroad. It will be implemented during the 2016-2017 year.

C. International Students at Appalachian

1. International Students on Campus

186 international students were enrolled at Appalachian during the 2015–16 academic year: 60 undergraduate degree-seeking students, 15 graduate degree-seeking students, 92 exchange students, and 19 post-completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) (see Table 19).

Table 19: International Students at Appalachian

CATEGORY	Academic Year									
	2015-16		2014-15		2013-14		2012-13		2012-12	
	UGrad	Grad	UGrad	Grad	UGrad	Grad	UGrad	Grad	UGrad	Grad
Degree-Seeking Students	60	15	61	27	64	27	61	25	56	17
Exchange Students	87	5	82	1	83	7	78	13	78	20
Post-Completion OPT	19	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	166	20	157	28	147	34	139	38	134	37
	186		185		181		177		171	

Tax Services: To assist international students with their U.S. tax filing, IRS approved representatives were available free of charge again this year. Forty three (43) students and scholars benefitted from this

service, which was offered on Thursdays from February 25 to April 7, 2016. Additional slots were added to accommodate all students with a need.

2. International Appalachian (INTAPP)

INTAPP continues to make strong contributions to support OIED's mission. This academic year, INTAPP recruited approximately 22 new members into the organization. Fourteen (14) were recruited in Fall 2015 and eight in Spring 2016. INTAPP volunteers were present from early morning until late in the evening for the entire week during fall and spring international student orientations. The INTAPP volunteers helped to greet international students at the airport and orient them to the campus and the community. The organization continued its annual tradition of sponsoring internationally themed socials, the Coffee Buzz 5K, and the Global Perspectives Panel. INTAPP also hosted tailgates for the international students to experience American football.

INTAPP remained active, engaging in the following activities: Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 International Orientation; Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 Open House; Tailgating; Homecoming; Global Panel; Culture Crawl; International Thanksgiving; International Ball (Spring); Fall Ball; Fall Camping with Internationals; Alumni Reunion; International Meet & Greet; Fall Recruitment and Retreat; Spring Recruitment and Retreat; High Country World Cup; and Coffee Buzz 5K.

The Third Annual Coffee Buzz 5K to raise money for the Landon Hill Study Abroad Memorial Scholarship Fund was successful again this academic year, with 93 total runners and \$1,663 raised (\$1,255 from registrations and the rest in donations) for the scholarship.

D. International Visiting Scholars and Visitors to Appalachian

International Short-term Visitors: During the reporting period, OIED directly hosted 26 international visitors from 9 countries, including England, Thailand, South Africa, Cuba, India, Vietnam, China, France, and Australia. The duration of stay at Appalachian for these visitors ranged from one day to two weeks. OIED spent a total of \$14,864.58 in hosting these international visitors.

International Visiting Scholars under Exchange Visitor Programs: During the 2015–16 academic year, Appalachian sponsored 8 international visiting professors and 12 international researchers or short-term scholars across campus under the U.S. Department of State's J-1 exchange visitor program (see Table 20). Moreover, OIED hosted 25 scholars under the U.S. Department of State's Mandela Washington Fellowship (MWF) Institute.

Table 20: Visiting Professors and Research Scholars under Appalachian’s Exchange Visitors Program and Other Exchange Visitors Programs

CATEGORY	Academic Year			
	2015-2016	2014-2015	2013-2014	2012-2013
Appalachian J-1 Visiting Professor	20	17	8	6
Fulbright J-1 Scholar	0	1	1	0
Other Programs J-1 Scholar (e.g., U.S. Department of State)	25	50	46	42
TOTAL	45	68	57	58

Immigration Matters for International Visiting Scholars and Faculty Members: During the reporting period, Appalachian paid \$25,889.90 in immigration filing fees. This figure rose from \$13,550 during the previous academic year.

E. International Outreach to Campus and the Community

During the 2015–16 academic year, OIED’s international outreach activities focused on increasing the involvement of international students and scholars in the Appalachian classrooms as guest speakers and presenters and in outreach activities in the local K–12 schools. Intercultural programming was increased for a broader campus audience of students, staff, and faculty, as well as increased collaborations with campus departments in new and continued programs.

International Education Week/Appalachian Global Symposium: OIED sponsored 20 events throughout the International Education Week, including the Annual Appalachian Global Symposium. The Symposium (November 18, 2015) included 29 conference sessions on topics related to the theme “Appalachian’s Global Engagement: Internationalized Teaching, Research, Learning, and Service at Appalachian.” Each of the Symposium sessions was attended by an average of 20 people. Twenty faculty, staff, and student nominees for Global Leadership Awards were recognized at the luncheon for their international research and/or their contribution to internationalizing Appalachian.

In addition to the Appalachian Global Symposium, OIED sponsored the following range of intercultural activities: People of the Planet Soccer Tournament, where more than 57 countries were represented by players; International Education Abroad Fair, featuring representatives of semester and yearlong study abroad opportunities for students; the Latin American film festival; Cuba Answers, a conference sponsored by the Walker College of Business; Festa do Brasil, a one day celebration of Brazilian culture; International Coffee Hour, sponsored by INTAPP which featured international performances by students and community and international foods; and Global Exchange, a monthly event co-sponsored by OIED and INTAPP featuring music, a beginner’s dance lessons, and food from around the world.

Outreach Activities: During the 2015-16 academic year, there were 70 family units and 97 international students and scholars who participated in the International Friendship Program. This is a program that pairs local families with international students and scholars for friendship and cultural exchange. In addition, there were 27 international students and scholars who participated in the Cultural Ambassadors Program, delivering a total of 10 cultural presentations to approximately 350 audience members in local K-12 school groups, community organizations, and Appalachian college classes.

Annual Diversity Celebration: OIED participated in the planning committee for the Annual Diversity Celebration. The music and dance, multicultural food and cultural exhibits allowed Appalachian students, employees, community members and local children to experience world cultures they may not encounter otherwise. This event was attended by approximately 1,800 students, volunteers, Appalachian faculty and staff and community members.

Mandela Washington Fellowship (MWF) Institute Fellows in the Community: OIED took advantage of the presence of the MWF Fellows on our campus to program various activities in the community. These activities helped the MWF Fellows to interact with community members and vice versa. Community service projects were implemented with the Farm Café. Successful Weekend Hosts were also arranged for all participants for two weekends during the MWF Institute. We received positive feedback from families and the Fellows themselves of how valuable the homestay experience was.

Volunteering was a part and parcel of the MWF Institute at Appalachian. MWF Fellows volunteered with the following organizations: Health and Hunger Coalition (rural poverty); Hospitality House (homelessness); Elkland Art Center; Watauga County Habitat for Humanity; Lively Up Organic Farm (non-profit organic agriculture); Crossnore School; Shelter Home of Caldwell County; Caldwell County Yokefellows; Smart Start Caldwell and Caldwell Friends; Hmong Southeast Puavpheej in Hickory, North Carolina; Women's Resource Center of Hickory; Center for New North Carolinians; FaithAction International House; and Community Housing Solution.

Additionally, during the six weeks at Appalachian, MWF Fellows participated in several field visits in the local area and outside. Field visits were conducted to the following organizations: Junaluska Community and Junaluska Heritage Association (rural African American issues); North Carolina Justice Center; North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center--Entrepreneurship & Microenterprise; Disability Rights North Carolina; North Carolina Women United; Health and Hunger Coalition (rural poverty); Hospitality House (homelessness); Wine-to-Water; Watauga County Habitat for Humanity; Hmong Southeast Puavpheej in Hickory, North Carolina; Women's Resource Center of Hickory; Center for New North Carolinians; FaithAction International House; Community Housing Solution; Samaritan's Purse; and Western Youth Network. Through these field visits, Fellows were able to relate some of the information they had learned in class with what was actually happening in community organizations. Additionally, the MWF Fellows were able to observe how American counterparts addressed similar organizational issues to those faced in their home communities. The field visits helped to marry the theory and practice of the Institute topics.

F. Faculty and Staff Support for International Travel

Table 21: Financial Support for Faculty/Staff International Travel by College

University Unit	2015-2016	2014-2015	2013-2014	2012-2013	2011-2012
College of Arts & Sciences	24	12	17	27	7
College of Fine & Applied Arts	7	8	11	13	14
Reich College of Education	9	4	7	4	2
Walker College of Business	2	2	4	2	2
School of Music	3	0	1	2	0
School of Graduate Studies	0	0	0	0	0
University College	0	1	1	7	2
College of Health Sciences	0	0	0	0	1
Honors College	0	0	0	1	2
Other Units in Academic Affairs	6	2	3	5	1
Non-Academic Affairs Units	2	4	0	3	0
TOTAL	53	33	44	64	31

During the 2015–16 academic year, **OIED supported 53 faculty/staff members to travel abroad** to attend conferences, conduct research, teach for short-term, and/or visit partner institutions (see Table 21). This number is higher than the 33 faculty/staff members supported in 2014–15 because OIED did not receive additional funds from Academic Affairs to support faculty to travel in 2014-15. **OIED’s financial support totaled \$60,550 for the 2015–16 academic year** (OIED’s financial support was \$43,455 during the 2014–15 academic year). The deans’ offices and department chairs also provided substantial financial support for these international travels totaling \$69,550 (compared to \$39,828 in the previous academic year). These faculty/staff members traveled to 29 countries in Africa (1), Asia (10), Europe (12), Latin America (3), North America (2), and Oceania (1). The faculty members represented 28 departments across the campus.

G. OIED Grants and Contracts

During the 2015–16 academic year, **OIED submitted five project proposals for funding worth \$347,666**: Mandela Washington Fellowship Institute (\$150,000); Friends of Fulbright Undergraduate Student Exchange Program (\$145,166); Expanding Science Research Opportunities in France for Appalachian Students (\$20,000); Enhancing Student s Research Skills at Appalachian and UDLAP 100 000 Strong Program in Mexico (\$25,000); and IIE Generation Study Abroad Scholarships for Appalachian Students (\$7,500). **Four of the five projects were funded.** These projects helped to supplement OIED operating funds in advancing the internationalization mission of the University and in providing scholarships for Appalachian students to study abroad.

H. Customers Served in OIED

Table 22 shows that between July 2015 and June 2016, we received 2,018 students, faculty, staff, and other visitors. Based on this data, we now know that September, November, February, and April are the peak periods when the office is visited by students, faculty, and staff.

Walk-in advising was not held for the year 2015-2016, which resulted in a large decrease in the amount of traffic OIED received.

Table 22: Persons Served by OIED Staff: 2015–16

OIED Department	2015						2016						Total
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
Associate Vice Chancellor & Front Office	16	21	46	10	18	5	29	43	23	27	17	5	260
International Student and Scholar Services and Outreach	16	31	46	39	42	31	34	62	42	77	39	12	471
Faculty-Led Education Abroad Program	14	7	21	21	32	18	3	34	36	100	43	15	344
Education Abroad	12	61	70	70	95	27	63	69	41	32	39	13	592
Unspecified Visitors	2	32	21	35	42	8	44	49	41	43	29	5	351
Total	60	152	204	175	229	89	173	257	183	279	167	50	2018

I. International Travel Insurance for University Personnel

As per Appalachian policy, all University employees traveling abroad for business are required to be covered by the international insurance policy administered by OIED. Cost for the insurance is covered directly by Appalachian. During the 2015–16 academic year, 169 University employees were covered by the international travel insurance at the cost of \$9,943.20 (see Table 23). During the 2014–15 academic year, 190 University employees were covered by the international insurance at the cost of \$16,101.15. The majority of the individuals covered (94%) were from the Division of Academic Affairs, representing mostly faculty’s international travel. Only 10 employees were covered from other non-Academic Affairs units. This indicates that the policy is still not well known in other non-academic affairs divisions even though OIED has worked with the Controller’s Office to revise the University Travel Authorization Form so that it incorporates a prompt that ask the person completing the form to also complete the International Travel Insurance in the case where the traveler is traveling abroad.

Table 23: 2015–16 International Insurance Coverage by Division

Division	# of Travelers	Cost			
		OIED	Grants	Other	Total Paid
Academic Affairs	159	9502.50			9502.50
Admissions	1	85.80			85.80
Chancellor’s Office	1	39.00			39.00
University Communications	1	50.70			50.70
Student Development	7	265.20			265.50
TOTAL	169	9943.20			9943.20

Table 24: 2015–16 International Insurance Coverage by Unit

Units	# of Travelers	Cost			
		OIED	Grants	Other	Total Paid
College of Arts & Sciences	73	\$4,159.50			\$4159.50
College of Fine & Applied Arts	21	\$2,184.00			\$2184.00
Reich College of Education	18	\$635.70			\$635.70
Walker College of Business	9	\$421.20			\$421.20
Hayes School of Music	3	\$85.80			\$85.80
School of Graduate Studies	2	\$50.70			\$50.70
University College	1	\$11.70			\$11.70
Honors College	2	\$101.40			\$101.40
Beaver College of Health Sciences	5	\$218.40			\$218.40
Belk Library	7	\$702.00			\$702.00
Other Units in Academic Affairs	18	\$932.10			\$932.10
Non-Academic Affairs Units	10	\$440.70			\$440.70
TOTAL	169	9943.20			9943.20

Table 24 shows that by far the top five units from which travelers came during the 2015–16 academic year are the College of Arts and Sciences (43%), College of Fine & Applied Arts (12%), other units in Academic Affairs (11%), Reich College of Education (11%), and Walker College of Business (5%).

J. New Staff Hires

During the reporting period, four new staff persons were hired. These individuals have helped OIED to change its organizational culture. The new hires are:

- Mr. Christopher Lytle, Director of Education Abroad;
- Mr. Evan Lohmann, Assistant Director of Education Abroad;
- Ms. Karen Marshall, Assistant Director of International Student and Scholar Services and Outreach; and
- Ms. Amanda Harvey, Office Manager.

II. MAJOR CHALLENGES

A. Scholarships for Students to Study Abroad

Even though a small scholarship program has been created to support students who are interested in studying abroad, the needs far outweigh current resources available to OIED. For example, during the 2015–16 academic year, OIED received 149 education abroad scholarship applications while we could provide funding to only 39% of the applicants. Availability of scholarships to support students to study abroad is critical for the efforts to increasing the number of Appalachian students who are studying abroad. OIED will continue to work with various units at the University, including the Office of Advancement and individual colleges/schools to raise funds to provide scholarships for students interested in studying abroad.

B. Scholarships for International Students to Study at Appalachian

Scholarships for international students to study at Appalachian continues to be a challenge for the University. Appalachian's ability to attract and retain high quality international students is limited by the fact that there are no scholarships available to support their studies at the University. OIED will continue to work with various units at the University, including the Office of Advancement to raise funds to provide scholarships for degree-seeking international students.

C. On-campus Housing for International Graduate Students

Housing of international graduate students continues to be a great challenge at Appalachian. For many international graduate students, lack of University housing has been a deal breaker and had resulted in these students accepting admission at other universities where on-campus housing is readily available.

Recently, the Office of International Education and Development together with the MBA Program in the Walker College of Business; and the Curriculum and Instruction Department and Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership in the Reich College of Education, established several programmatic relationship with University partners abroad whereby graduate students from a select number of partners will send their students to enroll in Appalachian graduate programs. These arrangements are likely to bring increasing numbers of international graduate students to Appalachian. OIED will continue to work with the Graduate School, the Division of Student Development, the Provost, and the Chancellor's Office to find a long-term solution to address this issue.