



# International Students & Scholars

ACADEMIC YEAR 2024 – 2025

## Compliance

We educate international students and scholars on how to maintain immigration status. We advise faculty, staff and departments on what is required to host international students and scholars. We ensure that the university is in compliance with immigration regulations.

## Engagement

We provide programming to support the professional and personal development of our international community. We also provide opportunities for our represented countries and cultures to share with the greater campus community. We facilitate ways for our international students and scholars to engage beyond the Lehigh campus.

## Advocacy

We advocate on behalf of our students and scholars regarding immigration, academic and personal matters to ensure that their voices are heard within the Lehigh community and beyond.



## At a Glance

989

International students from 91 countries

140

Scholars from 42 countries

98%

International undergraduate students employed or continuing education (CLASS OF 2023)

80%

International graduate students employed or continuing education (CLASS OF 2023)

## International Community

595

Graduate Students

292

Optional Practical Training (OPT) Students (12 month)\*

394

Undergraduate Students

210

OPT Extension Students\*

140

Scholars

154

Dependents\*\*

\*students work in the United States in their field of study for 1-3 years after graduation

\*\*dependent spouse/children

1,791  
TOTAL

### Optional Practical Training (OPT)

OPT is a type of U.S. work authorization that allows international students on F-1 visas to gain hands-on experience in their field of study, enhancing their skills and employability through real-world training and application.

These are a few examples from the last academic year of places that Lehigh students have worked while on OPT:

- ◆ Amazon
- ◆ Deloitte
- ◆ Deutsche Bank
- ◆ General Electric Company
- ◆ Goldman Sachs
- ◆ Harvard Medical School
- ◆ Intel Corporation
- ◆ Massachusetts General Hospital
- ◆ Mayo Clinic
- ◆ Morgan Stanley
- ◆ VMware, Inc.
- ◆ Wells Fargo

## PROFILE



### Annie Li, '26

**BS, Supply Chain Management**

Annie grew up primarily in China before moving to the United States in 2014. A student at Lehigh's College of Business, her cultural background translates directly to her campus involvement. For the past two years, she has served as an International Orientation Leader, helping newcomers navigate their transition.

Currently, Annie is the president of the Chinese Student and Scholar Association (CSSA), where she fosters community and support among students. Passionate about bridging cultures and enhancing the student experience, Annie is dedicated to creating a welcoming environment for all and leveraging her leadership skills to make a positive impact on campus.

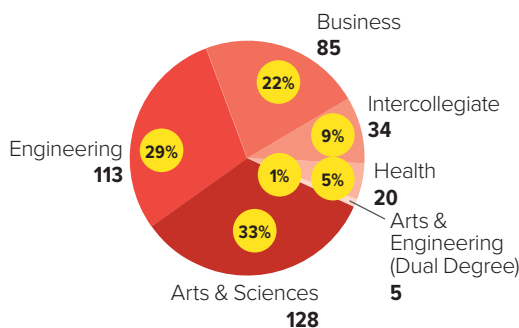
# International Students

## International Students by Country of Origin

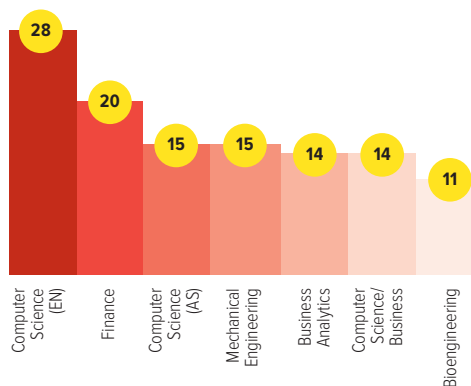
	Under-graduate	Graduate		Under-graduate	Graduate
Afghanistan	0	2	Kuwait	0	1
Argentina	0	3	Kyrgyzstan	3	0
Armenia	1	0	Lebanon	0	1
Australia	1	0	Malaysia	1	0
Austria	1	0	Mauritius	1	0
Azerbaijan	0	3	Mexico	3	5
Bangladesh	9	10	Mongolia	3	1
Barbados	0	1	Montenegro	1	0
Belgium	0	1	Myanmar (Burma)	0	1
Botswana	1	2	Nepal	7	13
Brazil	9	1	Netherlands	2	0
Burundi	1	0	New Zealand	0	1
Cameroon	1	1	Nicaragua	1	0
Canada	8	4	Nigeria	3	23
Chile	2	0	Oman	1	0
China	172	263	Pakistan	0	7
Colombia	3	7	Palestine	0	2
Congo	0	1	Panama	1	0
Costa Rica	1	1	Peru	3	1
Dominican Republic	1	0	Philippines	0	3
Ecuador	2	3	Qatar	0	1
Egypt	1	2	Romania	0	2
El Salvador	0	1	Russia	2	1
Ethiopia	4	3	Rwanda	1	1
Finland	1	1	Saudi Arabia	0	9
France	1	2	Singapore	0	1
Georgia	1	0	South Africa	1	1
Germany	2	4	South Korea	8	7
Ghana	10	11	South Sudan	1	0
Greece	1	2	Spain	2	2
Grenada	1	0	Sri Lanka	0	1
Guatemala	6	0	Taiwan	1	12
Hong Kong	0	3	Tajikistan	0	1
India	16	61	Thailand	3	1
Indonesia	1	2	Trinidad and Tobago	0	1
Iran	0	38	Tunisia	1	0
Iraq	0	1	Turkey	5	13
Ireland	0	1	Ukraine	6	0
Israel	2	0	United Arab Emirates	0	1
Italy	1	1	United Kingdom	2	2
Ivory Coast	0	1	Uzbekistan	0	1
Jamaica	1	0	Vietnam	33	4
Japan	2	0	West Bank	1	0
Jordan	3	6	Zimbabwe	4	5
Kazakhstan	7	0			
Kenya	4	3			

# Undergraduate Students

## Undergraduate Enrollment by College

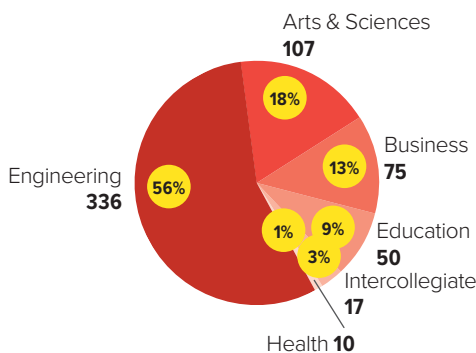


## Undergraduate Top Programs

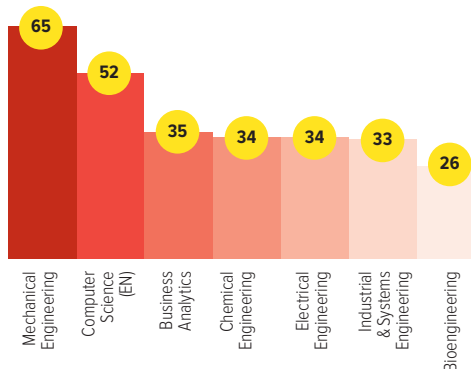


# Graduate Students

## Graduate Enrollment by College



## Graduate Top Programs



## PROFILE



## Sivani Ramachandran

### MS, Bioengineering

Originally from India, Sivani joined Lehigh's masters program in the fall of 2024. She previously served as a research intern, participating in a collaborative initiative with SRM University of Science and Technology in Chennai, India.

Sivani's passion for bioengineering drives her commitment to advancing healthcare solutions, and she aims to leverage her research experiences to contribute to innovative technologies in the field.

With a strong academic background and research skills, she is poised to make a significant impact in bioengineering and beyond.

# International Students Top Countries of Origin

## Undergraduate

- China **172**
- Vietnam **33**
- India **16**
- Ghana **10**
- Bangladesh **9**
- Brazil **9**

## Graduate

- China **263**
- India **61**
- Iran **38**
- Nigeria **23**
- Nepal **13**
- Turkey **13**

# International Scholars

Scholars are non-enrolled individuals who contribute to the Lehigh community in diverse and meaningful ways. This can include faculty, visiting professors, research scientists, postdoctoral scholars, staff members, or participants in Lehigh programs like Global Village, Creative Inquiry's Mountaintop Program, or the Baker Institute's Hatchery Program. Scholars play an important part in the teaching and research mission of Lehigh, and they bring a wide-ranging set of expertise and perspectives that enrich the Lehigh experience for all.

## Examples of Lehigh Scholar Titles/Positions

- ◆ Assistant Professor
- ◆ C.C. Hsiung Visiting Assistant Professor
- ◆ Fulbright Visiting Scholar
- ◆ IGEI Head Mentor
- ◆ Mandela Washington Fellowship Guide
- ◆ Postdoctoral Research Associate
- ◆ Research Scientist and Curriculum Innovation Manager
- ◆ Senior Database Analyst
- ◆ Student Mentor
- ◆ Visiting Assistant Professor

## Scholars by Visa Category

**104**

J-1 (Exchange Visitor Program) scholars\*

**28**

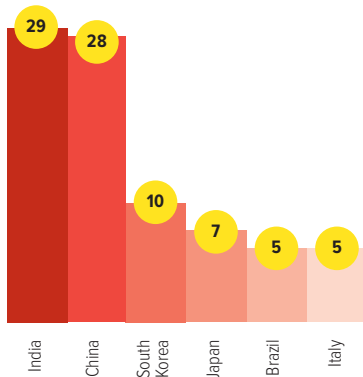
H-1B (Employment Visa) scholars

**8**

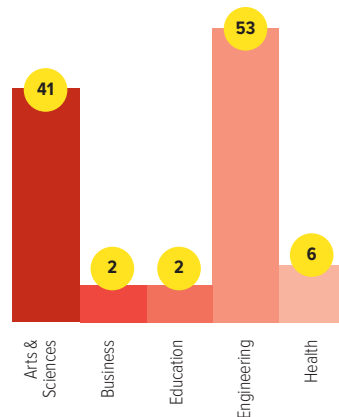
Non-Lehigh sponsored scholars

\*J-1 scholars include research scholars/short-term scholars and student interns

## Top Scholars' Countries of Origin



## Top Scholars by College



## PROFILE



## Franziska Keller

**Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Earth and Environmental Science**

Franzi Keller, a postdoctoral fellow from Germany, conducts research in Lehigh University's Department of Earth and Environmental Science. Supported in part by the Swiss National Science Foundation, Franzi investigates the growth of magma reservoirs beneath major volcanoes, blending theoretical modeling with petrological studies of volcanic rocks.

She has also taught a Lehigh course called "Volcanos and The Ring of Fire," partially about the tectonic belt of volcanoes that encircle the edges the Pacific Ocean.

Since joining Lehigh in August 2023, she has become an active member of the university's Postdoctoral Association, contributing to the community and advancing her expertise within the College of Arts & Sciences.

Originally from the German city of Mainz, Franzi obtained her Ph.D. at ETH Zürich in Switzerland.

## PROFILE



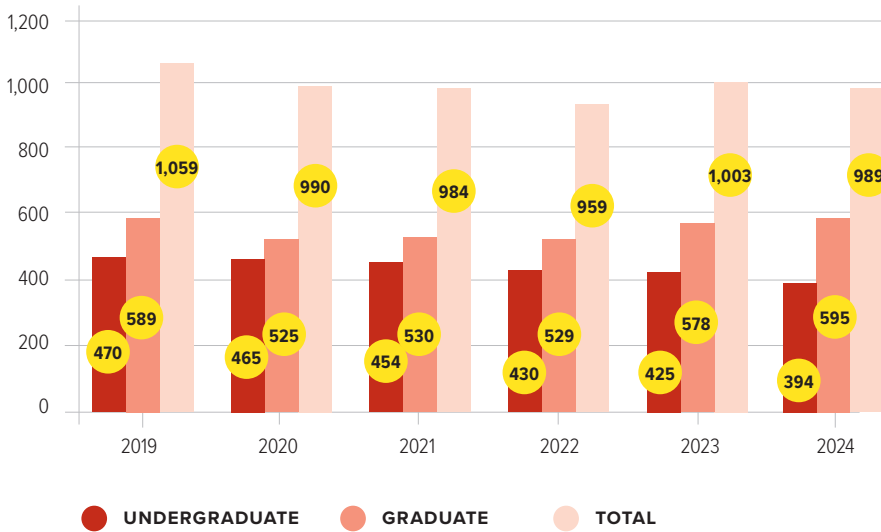
## Fabio Gómez-Rodríguez

**Assistant Professor of Economics, Lehigh College of Business**

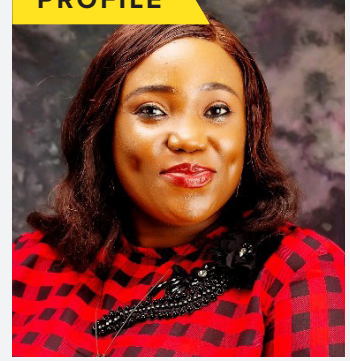
Originally from Costa Rica, Fabio has been an assistant professor at Lehigh's College of Business since 2021. His research applies mathematical and statistical models to study macroeconomic phenomena such as inflation, interest rates, and unemployment. In addition to his work at Lehigh, Fabio has worked for over 10 years as a Research Economist with the Central Bank of Costa Rica. He has published writings about the pass-through effect of the exchange rate on prices in Latin America. Fabio obtained his Ph.D. in economics from Indiana University in 2021 and had previously received his Diploma in Business Mathematics from Technische Universität Darmstadt in Germany.



## International Enrollment Trends



### PROFILE

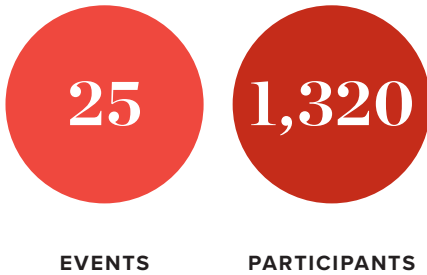


### Chioma Chigozie-Okwum

#### PhD, Computer Science

Chioma Chigozie-Okwum, nicknamed “CyberChioma” for her cybersecurity outreach in Africa, is a third-year Nigerian Ph.D. candidate in Computer Science at Lehigh University. She researches guided user feedback in designing data-driven algorithmic systems and serves as a Research Assistant in the Laboratory for Design Algorithm and Society. Chioma also supports inclusion, diversity, and online safety causes, having been a part of Lehigh’s Global Union and the inaugural International Student Advisory Board. She has also served as a U.N. Youth Representative and an international Orientation Leader at Lehigh. A former IT administrator, assistant professor, and Director of ICT, she’s an experienced researcher and content creator with expertise in cybersecurity risk management, threat analysis, and business continuity planning. She is also a mother of three sons.

## Student Engagement and Programming (AY 2024)



#### Top Events:

- ◆ International Bazaar
- ◆ Friendsgiving
- ◆ International Student Orientation
- ◆ Flag Parade
- ◆ Winter Closet
- ◆ Fika Fridays
- ◆ International Orientation Leader Training

## Economic Impact of International Students

In addition to the immeasurable academic and cultural value that international students add to colleges/universities in the United States, they make an important economic impact. According to NAFSA: Association of International Educators, **for every three international students, one United States job is created** and supported by spending in the higher education, accommodation, dining, retail, transportation, telecommunications and health insurance sectors.

	NATIONAL (AY 2023)	PENNSYLVANIA (AY 2023)	LEHIGH UNIVERSITY (AY 2023)
<b>INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS (TOTAL)</b>	<b>1.1M</b>	<b>50,514</b>	<b>1,003</b>
<b>CONTRIBUTE TO ECONOMY</b>	<b>\$43.8B</b>	<b>\$2.2B</b>	<b>\$62.3M</b>
<b>SUPPORT JOBS (TOTAL)</b>	<b>378K</b>	<b>22K</b>	<b>690</b>