

## Mission

The mission of International Student Services (ISS) is to promote international student success, retention, graduation, and life-long learning.

## Learning Outcomes

We accomplish our mission by designing engagement opportunities and experiences so that international students will be able to do the following:

- Feel a connection and sense of belonging at UVU and in our ISS space.
- Have a desire to stay and graduate at UVU.
- Have a broad, full, and engaged experience while at UVU.
- Encourage friends and family to attend UVU.
- Gain the credentials, learning, and experience to achieve life goals.

## Key Programs and Services

### *Student Advisement*

- In International Student Services (ISS), we serve UVU's international students from arrival through alumni relations.
- We also act as the expert on ISS matters for the UVU faculty, staff, and the greater Utah Valley community. Our main impact on students comes by way of one-on-one advisement on matters such as U.S. immigration, employment, scholarships, academic planning, and social adjustment. Legally, international students could not come to UVU without the ISS department.
- All ISS personnel are also Federal Designated School Officials (DSO). Thus, we have a dual reporting line to UVU and to the U.S. Federal Government.

### *International Student Council Mentoring*

- All international students at UVU have been assigned to an International Student Council (ISC) Mentoring group. Each mentoring group is headed by two members of the ISC.
- The ISC Mentors are responsible for onboarding new students and mentoring existing students towards graduation. ISC Mentors make weekly contact with their mentees. Also, each group organizes several monthly activities for their mentoring group.
- For the 2020-2021 academic year, there were over 200 ISC Mentor activities.
- [International Student Council \(ISC\) Video](#)
- [Instagram](#)

### *Annual International Festival*

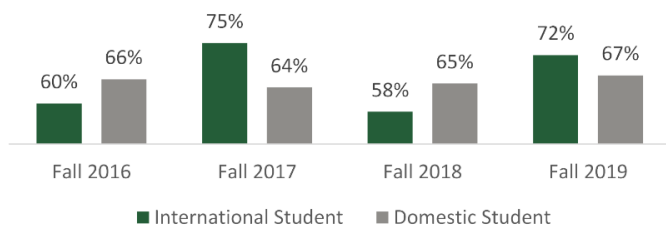
- Every March, the ISS Department and the ISC put on the Annual UVU International Festival, which draws an average audience of over 1,000 students, staff, faculty, and community members.
- The Festival features country booths from 25 different countries and globally themed entertainment. The booths have snacks, games, and country information. 2022 will be the 18th Annual UVU International Festival.
- [Annual International Festival Video](#)



## Key Data

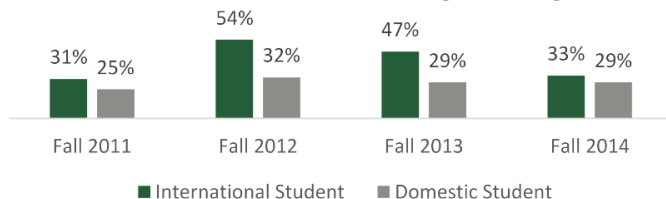
- 560 F-1 international students.
- 80 Countries represented.
- \$9,000,000 annual tuition contribution to University. \$300,000 ISS department operating budget. ROI of 30 times annually.
- 3rd most undergraduate international students in Utah (behind U of U and BYU). Double the number of international students at Weber State University.
- Approximately \$500,000 of non-governmental student financial aid awarded each year.
- Data analysis from Fall 2019 to Fall 2020 shows students who attended at least one ISC Mentoring activity are 35% more likely to persist.

### Fall Cohort Retention Rate

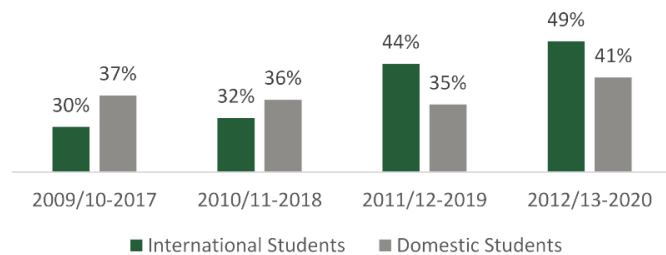


### 6 Year Graduation Rate

*First-Time, Full-Time, Bachelor Degree Seeking*



### 8 Year Outcome Measure



### VICTORIA EKPOMA

*Outstanding Alumni*

Home Country: Nigeria  
Languages: English, Ishan, & Yoruba  
Major: Nursing

As a child growing up on the streets of Lagos Nigeria, Victoria dreamed of someday changing the world by helping everyone around her. While working at the grass roots level to bring healthcare to her local community, her passion for service and excellent work ethic singled her out for an opportunity to study Nursing at UVU as an under-graduate.

At UVU, Victoria has been an exceptional student. True to her dreams she works with the UVU Inclusion committee, the International Student Council, Academic Tutoring and Science/Health departments to help other students achieve academic excellence and to have a richer college experience.

Victoria owes her deepest gratitude to UVU's inclusivity that accepts her as she is and offers her a place to be her best. She has loved and enjoyed the community and belonging that UVU and UVU's Nursing school have provided her since she left her home and family.

"I see friends everywhere at UVU, along the hallways, in the classrooms, and offices," Victoria shared. "I would not have made it this far without them, people who truly care about you and your success, that's family right there."