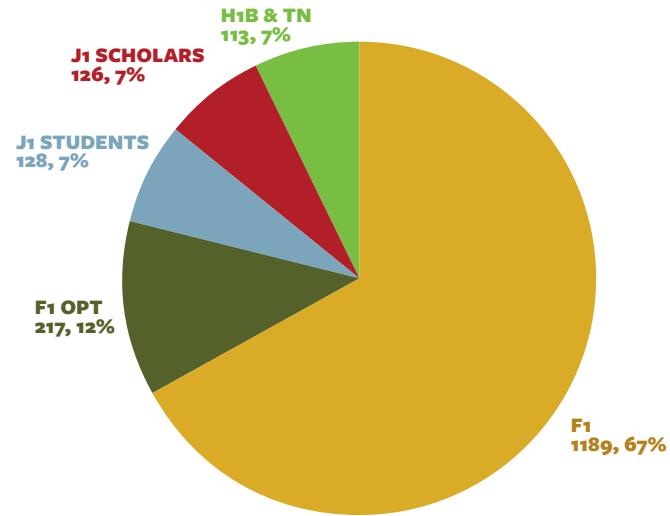
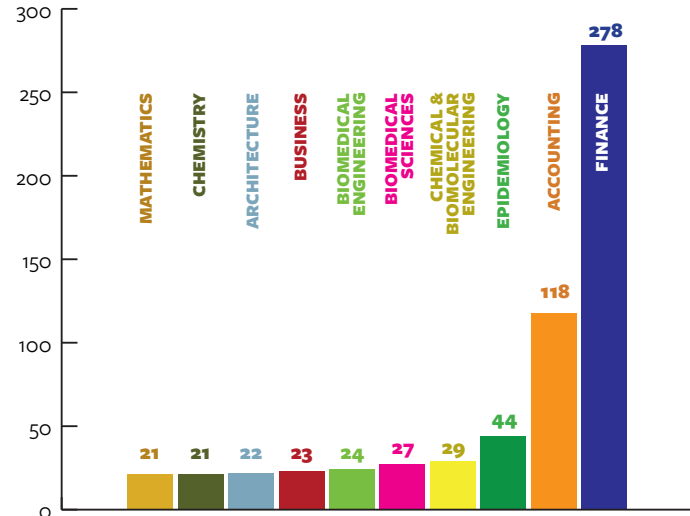


## TULANE'S INTERNATIONAL STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

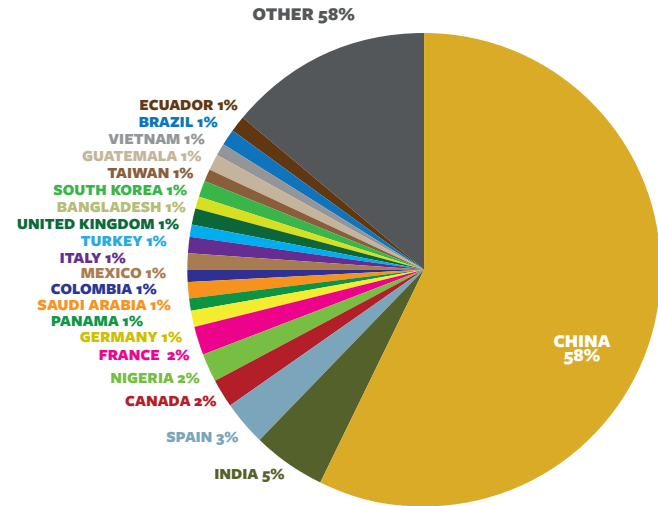
OISS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS, FALL 2018



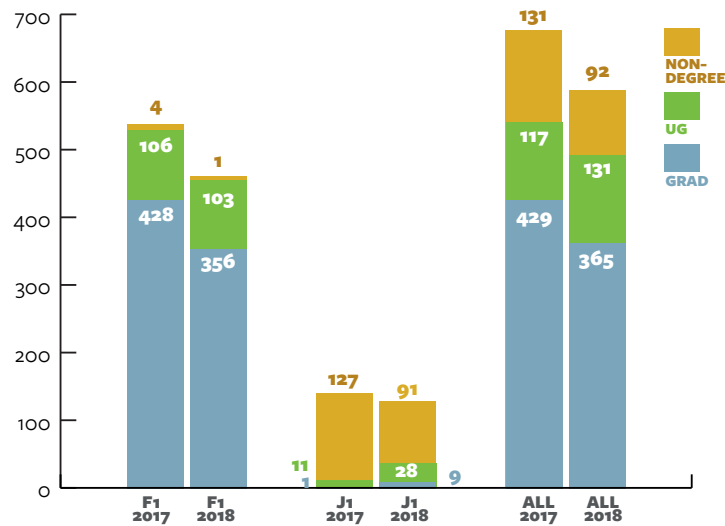
TOP 10 GRADUATE PROGRAMS (OUT OF 67)



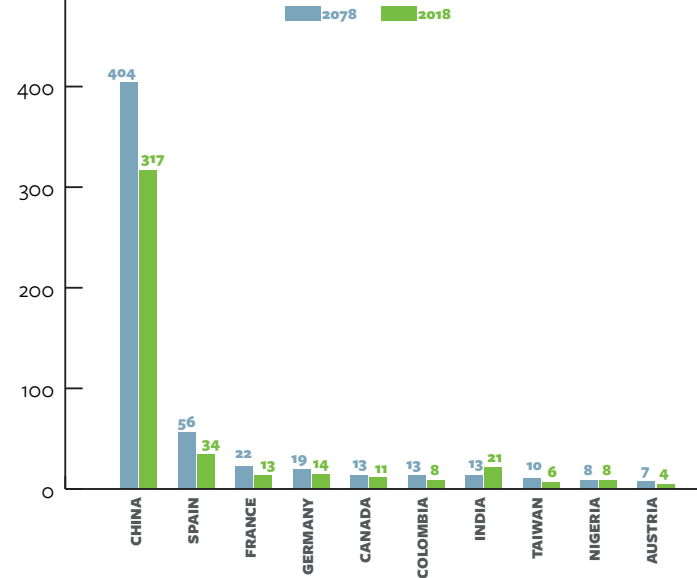
TOP 21 COUNTRIES (AND EVERYONE ELSE)



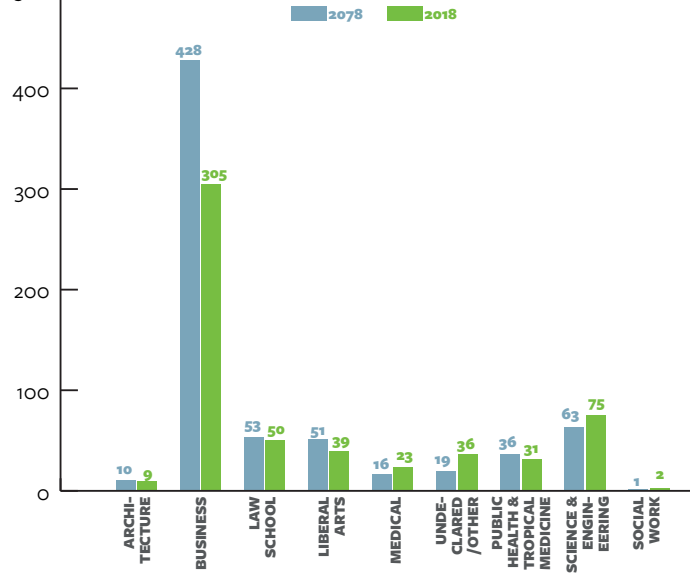
2017 vs. 2018 NEW STUDENTS  
12% DROP, OR -107 STUDENTS



LOSSES AMONG TOP 10 COUNTRIES



SCHOOLS: 2017 vs. 2018



## NEW DATA





ACADEMICS  
— KEY STRENGTHS —

International students are significantly **more satisfied** (93.7% overall satisfaction) with their **access to and perception of the quality of learning opportunities** at Tulane compared to the Global (87.2%) and U.S. (90.6%) averages.

“Tulane is a great university academically speaking and it provides a lot of support for students, making them feel integrated and involved in the community.”

“Tulane is unique in providing both social community and academic excellence. For example, my major has a community by weekly social and lab meetings, which cements the foundation for interactive scholarship experience with graduate students and professors. This is the best learning environment I could ever get!”

In addition, student satisfaction with **virtual learning** (96.2%) and **technology** employed for learning (93.7%) is higher than the Global (91.1%, 90.2%) and U.S. (94.5%, 93.5%) averages.

— AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT —

Tulane scored (94.3%) below the U.S. (95.5%) and North American (94.7%) averages for **perception of professors’ command of English**.

This issue is common at many U.S. institutions. Most international students think that all their professors will be “American”. They will often have an underlying bias against those faculty that they view as being foreign and equate accents with a lack of expertise. **Preparing students before they arrive and promoting international faculty as an asset to their learning is critical to improving this metric.** In fact, this kind of expectation-setting would be helpful for all students at Tulane.

Graduate students expressed concern over **access to research opportunities** (87% satisfaction Tulane, Global 88%, U.S. 88%), managing the **research process** (Tulane 88.2%, Global 89.7%, U.S. 89.5%) and **opportunities to teach** (Tulane 85.7%, U.S. 86.5%).

Based on several comments, it appears that the perceived lack of access to career furthering opportunities in New Orleans is having a negative impact on graduate students’ perception of their overall experience outside of the classroom. In other words, they are not able to clearly connect what they have learned in the classroom to what they will do as a professional. Embedding career resources into the colleges could help facilitate better satisfaction. Having an understanding at the faculty or school administrative level of what a Tulane advanced degree in a particular discipline could mean in a global marketplace is also critical. Think about returning your international students to their home country or region and preparing them for professional success once there. **What do you want them to say about a Tulane graduate in that context?**

“I think that while International students globally have support from Tulane in many subjects, I would like to have access or be connected to professionals that can guide me through process of what happens after my PhD. I know there is a professional counseling system but I think that it is very general and it doesn’t cover the specific needs of my discipline. For example I don’t think the professional would understand how to discuss my options in the realm of Ecology research and my options which range from NGO work, Academia, etc.”

“The classes at Tulane are great. These classes are the ones where one’s effort directly translates to grades. Again, the problem is that there aren’t enough connections for the students to apply their studies on research or work. I went to a career fair with a lot of excitement, and left very disappointed after I found out that majority of the companies that were invited do not offer the employer immigration sponsorship which allows international students to work in the US. I’m not asking Tulane to bring more companies that sponsors, but I wish Tulane could provide more opportunities abroad in places like Hong Kong or Singapore where a lot of STEM majors can intern.”

STUDENT EXPERIENCE  
— KEY STRENGTHS —

Tulane International students scored higher on **overall happiness** (92.7%) compared with the Global (90.8%) and U.S. (91.5%) averages.

“In my opinion the best part of my Tulane experience so far are the facilities and the staff, everyone is always happy to help and everywhere is beautiful and cozy. Also my classmates are just the best!”

The previously discussed academic strengths certainly contribute to this sense of well-being but there are measurable positive contributions made by OISS which deserve recognition. **Pre-arrival Information** (Tulane 91.9%, Global 86.9%, U.S. 89.3%), **Formal Welcome** to campus (Tulane 92.5%, Global 90.1%, U.S. 91.4%), **Study Sense** (preparing them for student life on your campus) (Tulane 90.1%, Global 84.2%, U.S. 88.5%), **Social Activities** (Tulane 89.6%, Global 84.6%, U.S. 87.9%), **Local Orientation** (Tulane 89.2%, Global 85.2%, U.S. 88%) and **Home Friends** (facilitating access to peers from their home culture) (Tulane 90.1%, Global 84.9%, U.S. 84.5%) are all better than the Global and U.S. scores for satisfaction.

“OISS always stand out for their great work.”

“I think Tulane offered very detailed orientation and hosted ample activities to welcome students. It makes me adapt college life more quick and less tough.”

“Tulane gives you an opportunity not only a conducive environment to study but also to fit in the community. 10 students invited to have a dinner at a host house helps a lot. International week makes you feel that your presence is appreciated and we also get a chance to showcase our home culture.”

— AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT —

The Multicultural component of the survey seeks to measure **how much students feel accepted as part of the community and valued for their differences as well as how diverse they view the campus environment to be.** Tulane scored (85.5%) significantly below the Global (91.2%) and U.S. (90.6%) averages.

While difficult to point to one primary contributing factor there are several consistent themes which become apparent through review of the open comments. Many International students view the campus as lacking racial and cultural diversity and they also express a separation between friends from the same country or other countries and people from the U.S. There may also be an implicit socio-economic factor at play as many students expressed dissatisfaction with cost of living related factors

(**Living Cost:** Tulane 66.1%, U.S. 74.4%; **Financial Support:** Tulane 63.1%, U.S. 65.3%; **Earning Money:** Tulane 55.8%, U.S. 66.2%; **Housing Cost:** Tulane 54.3%, U.S. 61.9%) while simultaneously pointing to Greek life and **party culture** on campus as negative influencers.

“The academic resources and the campus help is fantastic but the school lacks diversity and culture. I am not a big fan of the greek life and there are not enough international students, which are the negatives”.

“More help for people that come from poor backgrounds like me. As most people are too wealthy, people like us often feel left behind and ignored.”

“I have made friends with people from other countries and from the United States. I am not satisfied with the idea that there is a trade-off between one or the other. I often find myself having to choose who I would like to spend more time with, international students or american students, and I really think that should not be. There is like a gap between the two.”

The challenges of **not being able to work off-campus** or in workstudy jobs as an international student and the lack of scholarships for international students was highlighted in student comments:

“I would like to pay fewer fees. New Orleans is a very expensive city. Unfortunately, not all the time our parents can help us with extra money and, as F1 Visa student, I cannot get a job. Sometimes it is really hard to arrive at the end of the month.”

“I wish I could live closer to the University. It will give me more time to study. I hope after I will stand on my feet to contribute to Tulane and provide more scholarship opportunities for international students from developing countries to afford tuition and living expenses.”

International students often feel that they are at a disadvantage because they don’t understand how to succeed in their host culture. This can be compounded when they view their host culture as being privileged and homogeneous.

“I believe that it is a place that is very centered on American culture and so I would recommend it to people that are willing to adapt and assimilate to the culture.”

Students also expressed frustration with **being treated differently** than their American peers. This could further contribute to a sense that they do not belong.

“As an international student, I can say that a) having to watch videos regarding the American culture and their attitudes about sexual harassment and such then present a certificate to prove that I did while my fellow American grad students did not, is offensive. b) sharing classes with undergraduate is not appealing to me. However, having to work with renowned faculty is very rewarding.”

Tulane should focus more resources and effort on supporting International students once they arrive. A good rule of thumb could be adapted form the Study Abroad practice of having in-person contact with students within 48 hours of their arrival. This could help improve the First Night score (Tulane 77.1%, Global 83.3%, U.S. 82.6%) which sets expectations of welcome for the rest of the student’s time on campus. It would also be worthwhile to address some of the areas where **Tulane ranked lower in its orientation offerings** (Finance office, Housing office, Bank account, Social orientation, Host friends, Clubs and societies intro).

**Housing condition** (Tulane 76.3%, Global 81.2%, U.S. 83.5% and Eco-friendly attitude (Tulane 83.9%, Global 89%, U.S. 89.7%) are reflective not just of campus issues and practices but perception of the city in general.

“I was just surprised at how bad the house where I live was when I arrived. It is off-campus but very close, I’m just subletting for the first semester. It was just dirty, as if no one had cleaned for weeks. During the moving-out period, the whole street was packed with full trash containers that were never taken out for pick-up, there was dirty stuff everywhere. I’m from a big city so I’m used to seeing trash around, but never expected that from this neighbourhood. That was the only negative experience I had on arrival.”

**Transportation on campus** (Tulane 77.8%, Global 84.2%, U.S. 84.2%) and off campus (Tulane 59.8%, Global 81.7%, U.S. 69.1%) are also significant pain points for International students. While infrastructure in general is a net-negative for the United States, Tulane’s scores are significantly lower than even the U.S. averages. Compared to their home countries, international students feel there is limited access to affordable transportation and living solutions.

“The problem is that most graduate students cannot afford the high rent around the campus either in downtown or uptown. The stipend you got from the RA or TA is comparatively low to the rent you need to pay. The transportation facilities are poor and the school buses hardly keep their schedule.”

Finally, **safety** is a major concern for International students at Tulane (Tulane 83%, Global 93%, U.S. 90.2%). There seems to be a great opportunity to engage the city as part of the learning environment and acculturation to the U.S. for international students. Providing context for poverty, racism, gentrification and violence in an honest and consistent way could potentially reduce the very real concerns about safety and feeling welcome in the community.

“In the whole picture, I think Tulane does well. I love this cute and small university. Professors are good and people there are good. But I am also concerned about the security problem. New Orleans seems to be not so safety. But it’s not the University’s fault. And as a international student from China, I think this too far away from my home. The location is inconvenient, literally.”



Coming Soon! We will be online in the very near future!  
<https://global.tulane.edu/oiss/international-student-experience-data>