

Welcome by IASS Director



Samantha Lopez
Director

International students are an essential part of our community and culture at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV). Their background, perspective, experiences, goals, and dreams strengthen our university as a whole and make everyone’s learning experience richer.

We understand that the international student population has a very distinct set of needs. IASS has a committed and dedicated staff at both campuses to provide them with strong support services, information, and guidance they need throughout their study at UTRGV.

IASS Services

The mission of the Office of the International Admissions and Student Services is to provide support to our UTRGV international student population.

Our services include:

Advising on international admissions requirements from the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Conducting orientation and cultural events to help our international students to integrate and adjust to the new academic, cultural, and social life at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

Serving as a liaison with our U.S. governmental agencies, U.S. Consulates, and sponsors that support international student education.

Connecting our international student population with the community, volunteer programs, student organizations, and campus services available to them.

IASS Vision

The vision of International Student and Admissions Services is to nurture and develop international students by providing a top quality education and enhance their personal and professional development skills in a diverse and safe environment. Our aim is for our international students and to become transformative leaders – agents of change throughout the world.

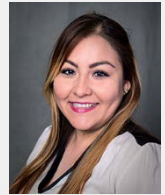
IASS Team Leaders



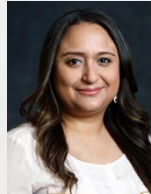
Erika Carrizales
International Admissions Specialist



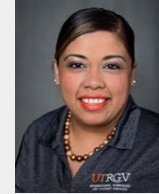
Carlos Rios
Assistant Director



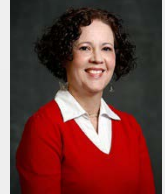
Jessica Cantu
International Admissions Specialist



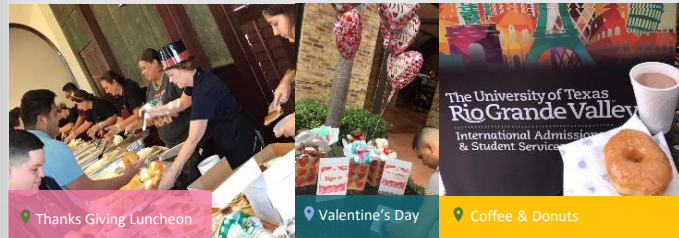
Nora Cruz Dole
International Student Advisor



Nellie Leyva
International Student Advisor



Grisel Portilla
International Student Advisor



IASS Team Achievements

IASS has increased international student engagement activities sponsored by IASS and successful collaboration with faculty, departments, and campus and external organizations.

Improved office efficiency
IASS has scanned over 1,000 student files into image-now



Conducted top quality cultural events, and other support as needed to help our international students to integrate into the academic, cultural, and social life at UTRGV.

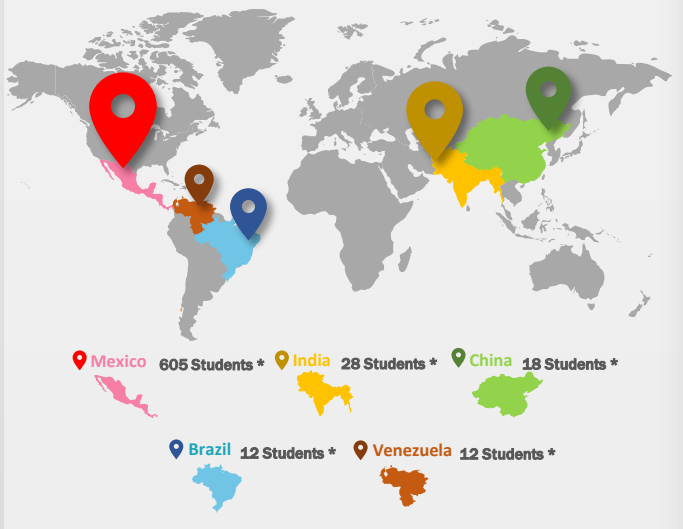


IASS has been able to secure funding for international student scholarships by working collaborate with other agencies, grants, and UTRGV internal student funding.

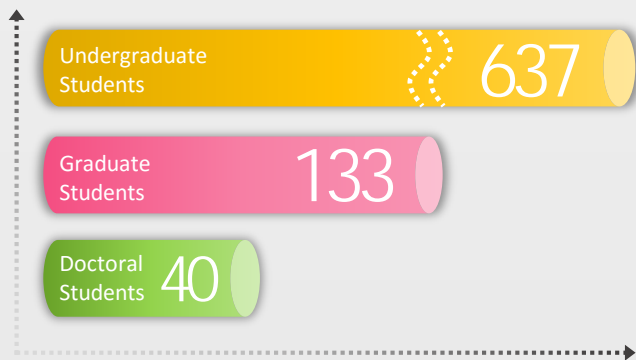


IASS is currently using a google analytics to monitor the traffic on our webpages

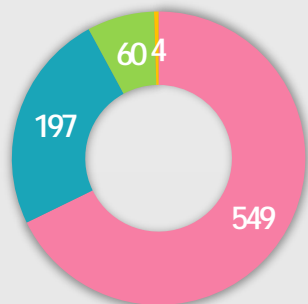
Top 5 Places of Origin



Academic Level

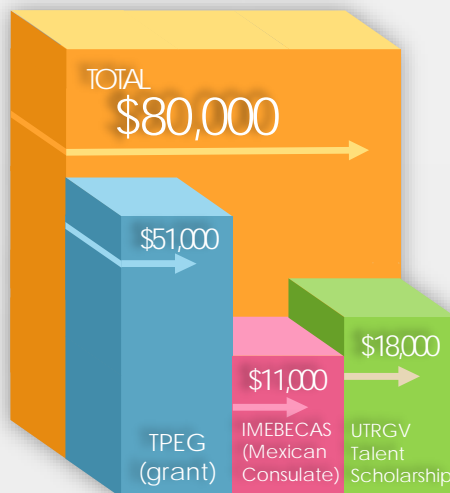


Enrollment by Campus



- Edinburg
- Brownsville
- Brownsville & Edinburg
- Other

Scholarships Awarded to International Students



IASS Accomplishments

- IASS served **3,467** international students from Sept. 2016 – April 2017, at both campus locations.
- IASS had **220** international graduates for Fall & Spring.
- IASS successfully processed **297** OPT applications with USCIS.
- IASS processed **323** employment authorization forms.

IASS held the following workshops at both campus locations.

- A comprehensive International Student Orientation (graduate and undergraduate)
 - Curricular Practical Trainings
 - Optional Practical Trainings
 - Employment Options after Graduation by an immigration attorney.
 - AHP Insurance Coverage Information Workshop
- IASS was able to nominate 14 UTRGV international student applications to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). Four students from UTRGV were selected to receive a full year of free tuition. **This award will total to: \$22,202.** The award will be given to students FY -17-18 academic year.
 - IASS supported the creation of the Association for International Students (AIS) at UTRGV. This is departmental sponsored organization. Grisel Portilla, International Student Advisor was chosen as the Advisor's organization.

