جامعة الملك عبدالله
للعلوم والتقنية
King Abdullah University of
Science and Technology



PRE-UNIVERSITY PROGRAM

KAUST ACADEMY

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VISION

To inspire and empower the next generation of STEM leaders by fostering curiosity, innovation, and a passion for scientific discovery through world-class learning and research experiences.





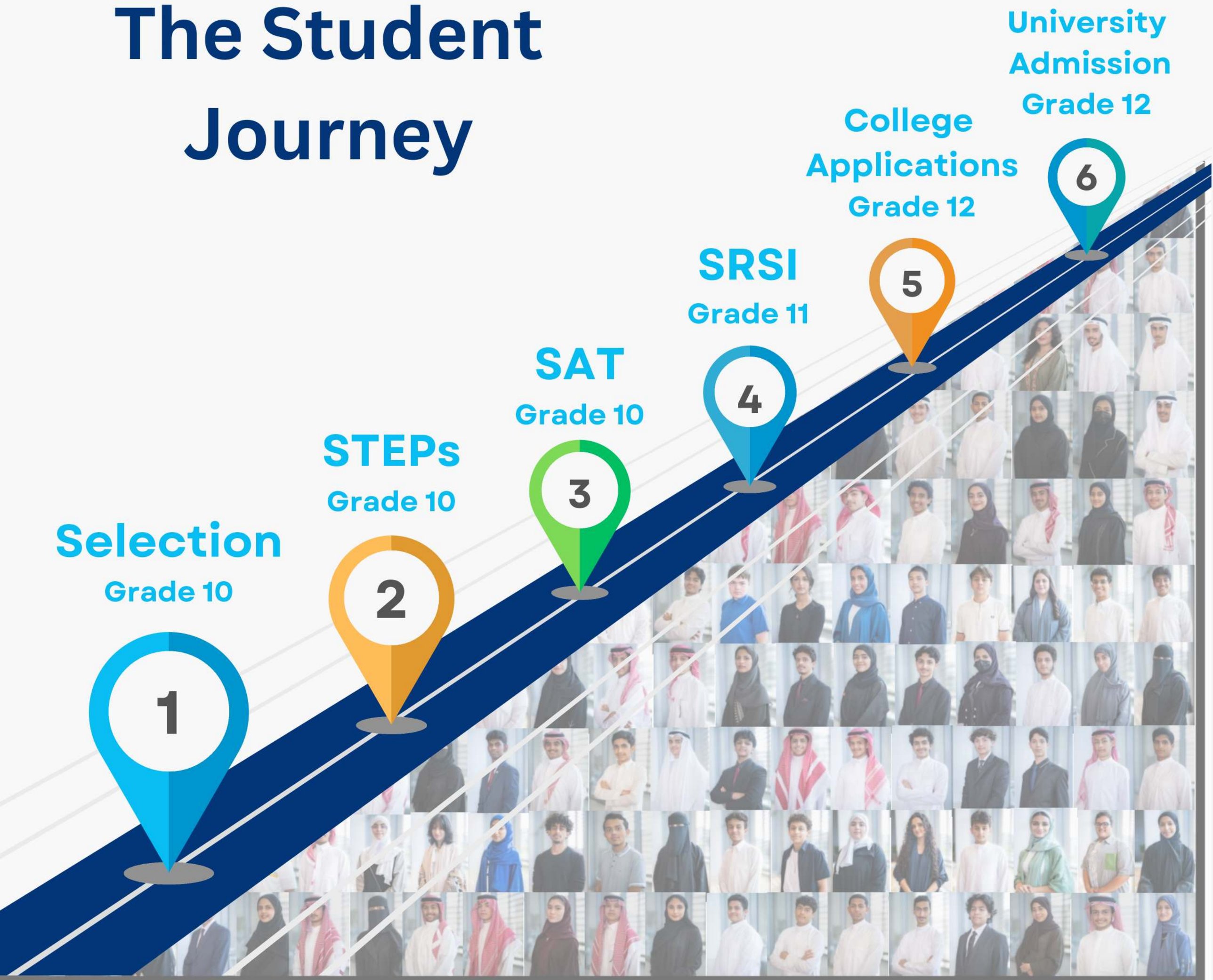


MISSIONS

To provide talented high school students with immersive research, hands-on learning, and mentorship that develop critical thinking, leadership, and problem-solving skills, preparing them to make meaningful contributions to science, technology, and society.

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The Student Journey



STEPS

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Science, Technology, and Entrepreneurship Program

A pre-university STEM program that combines rigorous academics, research, and mentorship to prepare students for success at leading global universities.

About STEPS

STEPS prepares high school students for top universities through advanced STEM education, research experiences, and project-based learning.

Program Highlights

Duration

10 Months (March – January)

Courses

Mathematics • SAT Math • SAT English • programming

Focus

STEM • Research • Innovation

Skills You Will Gain

- Research Skills
- Engineering Design
- Scientific Communication
- Teamwork & Leadership
- Critical Thinking





Daily Experience

Morning

- Advanced Mathematics
- Programming (Python)
- SAT Math / SAT English

Afternoon

- Research Projects
- Team Collaboration
- Apply Knowledge to Real-World Challenges

12:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Mentorship

- Faculty Guidance
- Academic Feedback
- University Preparation

Opening Throughout the Program

Learning Philosophy

Project-Based Learning

Learn by doing through hands-on projects.

Research Mentorship

Guided by KAUST researchers and industry experts.

Team Collaboration

Work in diverse teams to solve complex problems.

Design Thinking

Develop analytical skills to tackle real-world issues.

Independent Growth

Build confidence, curiosity, and a lifelong mindset.

STEPS

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Program Statistics 2026

Male Students

58%

Female Students

42%

Instructors

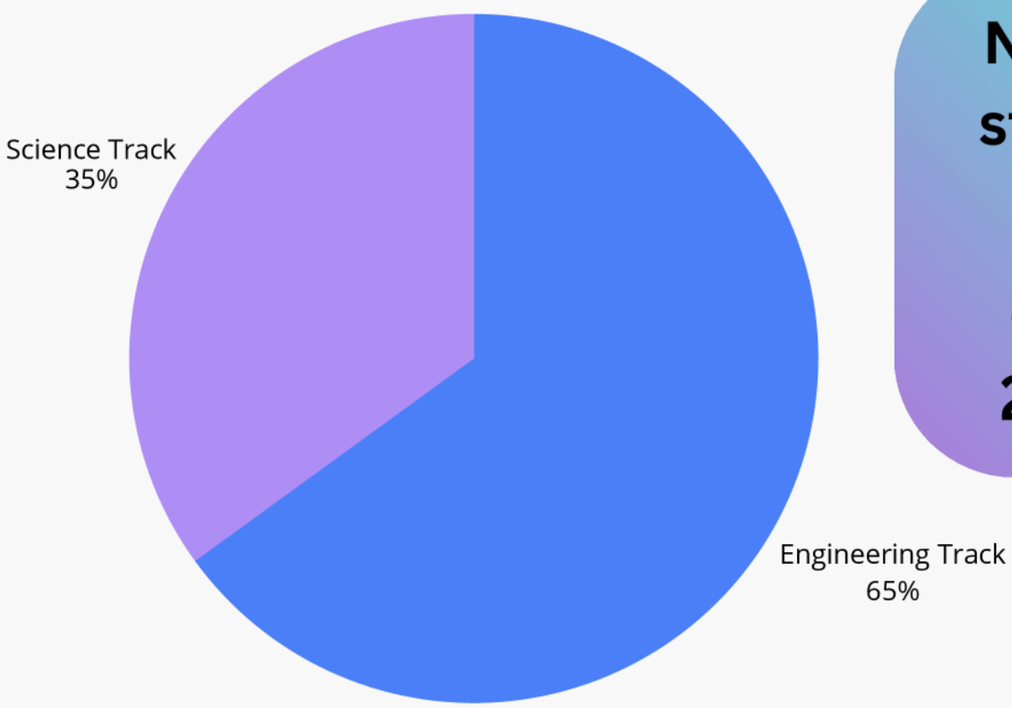
35

international schools

70.83%

Students per Instructor

6.5 : 1



National students

20.17%

Project Teams

35

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SRSI



SRSI

Saudi Research Science Institute

A Flagship STEM Research Program for HighAchieving Students

SRSI Goals:

- **Core Purpose:** A rigorous summer program that guides students through an accelerated, hands-on scientific research process.
- **Track Record:** Has successfully run for 14 years and benefited 604 students.
- **Elite Mentorship & Facilities:** Offers students the chance to conduct research in state-of-the-art laboratories under the guidance of world-renowned KAUST faculty.
- **Holistic Experience:** Combines academic theory courses with practical research and extracurricular events.
- **Skills Developed:** Designed to foster essential leadership and teamwork skills alongside scientific knowledge.

SRSI Program Structure

Pre-SRSI Orientation

Students and their parents receive an online introduction to the program and the KAUST community before arriving on campus.

Week 1: Induction

A two-day induction prepares students for research placements by covering lab safety, laboratory practices, scientific writing, and presentation skills.

Weeks 2 – 5: Research and Mentorship

Students work with KAUST faculty on original, scientifically relevant research. They gain hands-on experience using advanced laboratory techniques and equipment while learning how research is conducted in a world-class academic environment.

Week 6- Final Papers and Oral Presentations, Graduation

During the final week, students write a research paper and present their findings via oral and poster presentations, with top contributions recognized by KAUST researchers at the closing ceremony.

SRSI Alumni Achievements

- **International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF)**
- **National Olympiad for Scientific Creativity (Ibdaa)**

Other Key Program Components

Distinguished Speakers

- Scholars engage with global leaders and Nobel laureates to gain insights into global challenges, emerging STEM trends, and future career paths.

University & Career Prep:

- Provides guidance on top-tier university applications, KAUST scholarships, STEM career trajectories, and competing in national or international science competitions.Support

Extracurricular Enrichment:

- Provides guidance on top-tier university applications, KAUST scholarships, STEM career trajectories, and competing in national or international science competitions.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT



STUDENTS

Students learn in an interactive, student-centered environment that emphasizes active participation, critical thinking, and collaboration. Rather than relying solely on lectures, the program encourages discussion, hands-on activities, teamwork, and problem-solving. This engaging approach allows students to explore STEM concepts, ask questions, and apply their knowledge in meaningful, real-world contexts while learning from both instructors and their peers.

MENTORS

Mentorship is at the heart of the KAUST Gifted Student Program (KGSP). Students receive continuous guidance from dedicated advisors, KAUST faculty, and accomplished alumni who support their academic, professional, and personal growth. Through one-on-one mentoring, career advice, and a strong community of scholars, KGSP equips students with the confidence, skills, and global perspective needed to excel at leading universities and become future leaders in STEM.

STAFF

The KAUST Pre-University Program is supported by a dedicated team of experienced educators, researchers, and mentors who create an engaging and supportive learning experience. Staff encourage curiosity, guide students through hands-on activities, provide personalized feedback, and foster a collaborative atmosphere where every student is empowered to learn, grow, and reach their full potential.

CULTURE

KAUST Academy nurtures a culture of curiosity, inclusivity, and lifelong learning. We celebrate diversity, foster collaboration, and inspire our community to push boundaries and drive positive change through education.

LABS

Students gain hands-on experience in KAUST's state-of-the-art laboratories, where they apply scientific concepts using advanced research equipment and modern technologies. Guided by researchers and instructors, they conduct experiments, analyze data, and explore real-world scientific challenges in a safe, collaborative, and innovation-driven environment.

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BEYOND SUMMER

High School Summer Program (HSSP)

Support That Continues Beyond the Summer Experience





- REMOTE SAT PREPARATION (SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER)
- COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PREPARATION CAMP (NOVEMBER SCHOOL BREAK AT KAUST)
- PERSONALIZED GUIDANCE AND MENTORSHIP FOR APPLICATIONS TO TOP UNIVERSITIES IN THE US AND UK, CONTINUING THROUGH THE FINAL ADMISSIONS DECISIONS (MARCH).

OUTCOMES

Pre-University students have earned national and international recognition through prestigious STEM competitions



183 Grand Awards at Ibdaa

70 awards at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF)

57% of student placements were at Top 50 universities worldwide

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Posters Day

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Posters Day

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CLOSING CEREMONY



WHY VISIT KAUST?



Why Choose Us?

At KAUST, research fuels innovation, empowering scientists and entrepreneurs to develop solutions for a more sustainable and prosperous future.

Step into a world of innovation, discovery, and opportunity at KAUST.

World-Class Research

Explore cutting-edge laboratories and research facilities where scientists tackle some of the world's most pressing challenges. Experience how groundbreaking discoveries in STEM are advancing knowledge and creating real-world impact.

Inspire Your Future

Explore exciting opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics while connecting with mentors and researchers. Gain valuable insights into university pathways, careers, and the future of innovation.

Hands-On STEM Experiences

Participate in interactive workshops, laboratory experiments, and engineering challenges that bring science to life. Develop practical skills while exploring real-world applications of STEM.

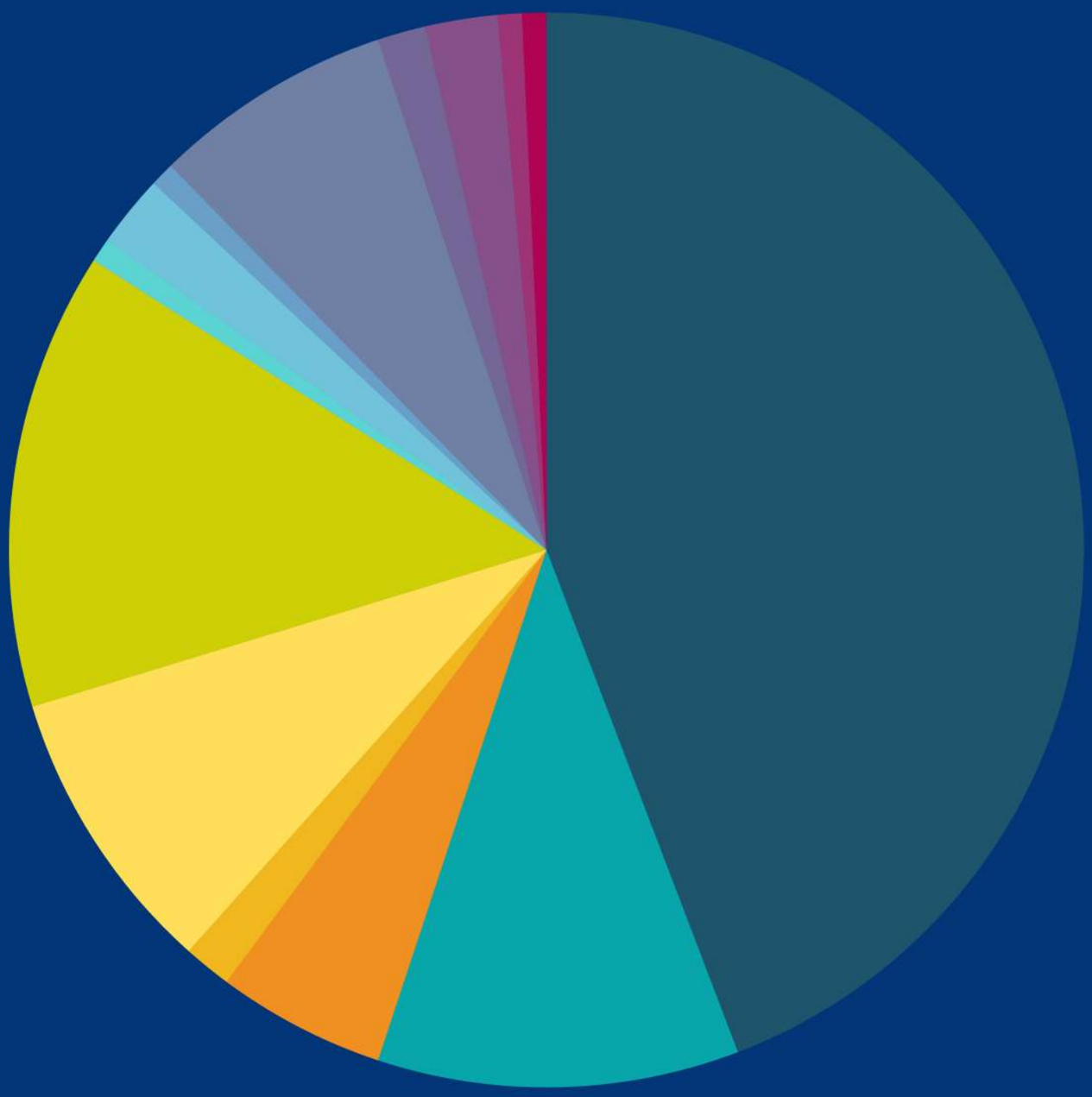
A global community

Become part of a diverse international community where students, researchers, and faculty from over 100 countries collaborate, exchange ideas, and learn from one another in an inclusive environment.

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Acceptance Rates 2025-2026



- University of California San Diego
- University of California, Berkeley
- Columbia University
- Stanford University
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of Washington
- MIT
- University College London
- Cornell University
- University of Toronto
- The University of Chicago
- University of Michigan
- University of Pennsylvania
- Washington University in St. Louis

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Acceptances 2025/2026



Lana Nouri
Stanford University



Tulay Aloufi
Univeristy of Chicago



Faisal Alabdullateef
Columbia



Moneera Alroumi
UC Berkeley



Nydah Alanzi
UCL



Hussain AlSaleh
MIT



Abdulaziz Alabdulaziz
Columbia



Abdullah Alsalem
UCLA

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Acceptances 2025/2026



Abdulaziz Aljoaid
UCLA



Faisal Alasheikh
University of Chicago



Mohammed Baz
Columbia



Norah Altamimi
University of Washington



Amani Alsabi
University of Michigan



Muhammad Alismail
UCLA



Reda Alkhalaf
UCSD



Saad Almalki
UCSD