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The University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) has served international students for over 50 years. The students originate from over 30 different countries globally from all continents. Students have come from Antigua, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, China, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Colombia, Czech Republic, Dominica, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Korea, Saint Lucia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Tanzania, and Vietnam. The students are also regionally distributed as follows Asia (xx%), Africa (xx%), North America (xx%), Europe (xx%), South America (xx%), and Australia (x%). The institution also serves students, who are permanent resident in the United States, and originally came from over 40 different countries. The countries with the highest enrollment of students include Nigeria (xx%), Jamaica (xx%), China (xx%), Cameroon (xx%), and Kenya (xx%). The students are widely dispersed in the areas of their academic pursuits. The specific academic programs that the students are highly engaged in include **Biology**, Engineering, Computer Science, Hotel

and Restaurant Management, Agriculture, Business, Pharmacy, and Marine Estuarine Environmental Sciences. The cultural diversity among the students is overwhelming. Their presence enriches cultural diversity at UMES, exposing the local members of the community to first-hand experiences of their different cultures.

International Student Organizations

International students have the opportunity to participate in international campus clubs. These include African Student Association, Caribbean International Club, and Sudanese Student Association, amongst many others. Students can proudly celebrate their country of origin through presentations, music, food, clothing, and other traditional activities that show case their country of birth. The Center for International Education supports international students with identified engaging activities throughout the year.

Commencement Day Flag Parade

The Commencement Day flag parade is an opportunity for our students to represent and celebrate the different countries of our diverse and global student body, faculty and staff here at the University Of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES). Our graduating students have guests attending from across the US and the world who feel welcomed by the familiar sight of their flag. Mr. and Miss UMES, carrying the United States flags, followed by the Center for International director, a volunteer faculty member, international students, and study abroad participants, lead the flag bearers. The UMES students are volunteer flag bearers. Flag bearers are encouraged to wear traditional dress from their respective countries, resulting in a festive display of cultures and a worthy procession to mark this milestone in the graduates' academic career.

International Education Week

This event is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education with the intent to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences (<https://iew.state.gov/>) Students, faculty, staff at

UMES and the community, participate in this event every November. Celebrations include showcase of global foods, music, cultural artifacts, engaging activities that address global experiences in the forms of workshops, debates, and discussion panels. External international guests, may include diplomats, organizations, businesses, communities, and associations are invited to celebrate the week as well.