

KAUST GIFTED STUDENT PROGRAM ■ ■ **FOUNDATION YEAR 2019-2020**

ANNUAL REPORT



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

I ILLINOIS
Global Education & Training
ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL

KAUST KGSP Foundation Year Program



King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST)

King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) was founded in Saudi Arabia in 2008. A graduate research university of science and technology, KAUST is a catalyst for innovation, economic development, and social prosperity - in Saudi Arabia and the world. The university has a special focus on four areas of global significance: food, water, energy, and the environment.

KAUST Gifted Student Program (KGSP)

The KAUST Gifted Student Program (KGSP) was established in 2008, creating a pool of highly-qualified Saudi students within the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math.

As a fully-funded scholarship, the KGSP Program supports the Kingdom's most talented youth as they earn STEM-based bachelor's degrees at premier U.S. universities, and in preparation for future graduate studies at KAUST.

Throughout their undergraduate programs, recipients receive unmatched academic, developmental, and pre-professional support.

Global Education & Training has hosted three individual cohorts of students from the KGSP program, for each academic year.

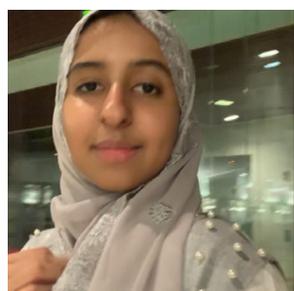
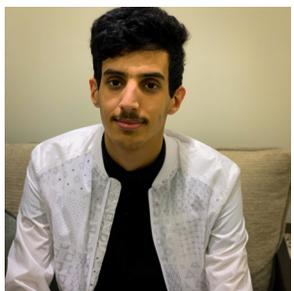
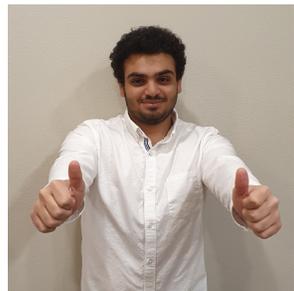
There are six program sites in the United States, with 80 Foundation Year students in total during academic year 2019-2020.





KGSP Foundation Year Students

will acquire the skills necessary to prepare competitive college applications and pursue a successful undergraduate education experience at a top U.S. university.



The University of Illinois

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was a recipient of the Senator Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization in 2008.

Illinois International Programs

Our mission: We will foster an environment of exceptional education and research with global impact, where international perspectives are integral to our institutional culture.

Our vision: Illinois International is at the nexus of all global activities and international studies on the Urbana campus—simultaneously serving as the administrative, programmatic, and strategic unit responsible for many of the international activities Illinois is involved in, both on campus and abroad.

FOUNDATION YEAR COHORT, 2019 - 2020

13 STUDENTS

Program Objectives

Prepare students to achieve superior performance scores in TOEFL and SAT Reasoning and SAT Subject examinations.

Provide classroom & out of classroom experiences to prepare students for success in the U.S. undergraduate system.

Foster development of skills designed to enable a nuanced understanding of the American university system and its learning/teaching methods, while developing a high comfort level in navigating a typical university system and using on-campus resources.

Enhance students' English level proficiency, with emphasis on reading comprehension, writing, note-taking, presentation & STEM communication skills.



Program Objectives



Create and support a collaborative environment with IIE advisors as they provide personalized guidance to the students throughout their university application process.

Assist students in preparing high-quality college applications through combination of coursework & individual advisors.

Equip students with the tools and strategies to address setbacks and challenges academically, culturally, and socially, thereby leading to increased student independence and resiliency.

Support students by means of mentorship, academic programming, and community involvement.

Designated Full-Time Program Coordinator

- **Anna Kasten, KGSP FY Program Coordinator**
 - 27 years at the University of Illinois's Intensive English Institute (1993 to present)
 - International Student Advisor, PDSO (2000-present)
 - IEI / Fulbright - IIE-LTE Student pre-arrival advising, logistics, & support
 - IEI/KGSP Academic Coordinator - for IEI courses (2017-2019)
 - KGSP Foundation Year Academic Reading/ Writing instructor, 2017 & 2018
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Staff Support

- Dr. Matthew Rosenstein, GET Director
 - Denice Crawford, KGSP-IIE Advisor
 - Bridget Sullivan, GET Communications Coordinator
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Additional Programmatic Support

- The Intensive English Institute
- International Student and Scholar Services & Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations
- Faculty & instructors in: Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics, & Physics
- Essay coaches from Writers Workshop
- Tutor Doctor
- Professionals from Dean of Students, Counseling Center, & McKinley Health Center



**200+ hours
of 1:1 advising**



Orientation



Campus acclimation: KGSP students were acquainted with the University of Illinois campus, including main and selected branch libraries.



Health and Safety Orientation: safety briefing with University of Illinois Police Department

- **Visa Check-in**
- **Campus Acclimation**
- **Access**
- **Health and Safety Orientation**
- **Team-Building Exercises**
- **Social Activities**

“Being part of this family has taught me skills that I can use in more than just the academic area of my life. My relationships on a personal level are in a better place than they were, thanks to some of the things I’ve learned from many of you.” - KGSP FY Student

Fall Curriculum

- Academic English and Essay Writing
- Writing Clinic / Workshops
- TOEFL and Advanced Academic English
- SAT (Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, Math and Subject tests), 2 tracks
- Colloquium on American and Academic Culture



Spring Curriculum

- Academic English for University Success
- Introduction to C++, Excel, and Programming
- Colloquium on American and Academic Culture II
- Advanced Academic Success Training- How to be a Successful Undergraduate Student
- University Science Course/Lab/Recitation: Chemistry, Integrative Biology, or Physics



Intercultural Experiences



University RSOs (Registered Student Organizations) - Trip to RSO Involvement Fair at Illini Union

Krannert Center Tour

Field Trip to Franklin STEAM Academy (Champaign middle school)

Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations - American Slang workshop

VR Lab & Innovation Studio Tour

Chicago Field Trip

Saudi National Day on Illinois Quad

Travel Around the World - Illinois International Education Week

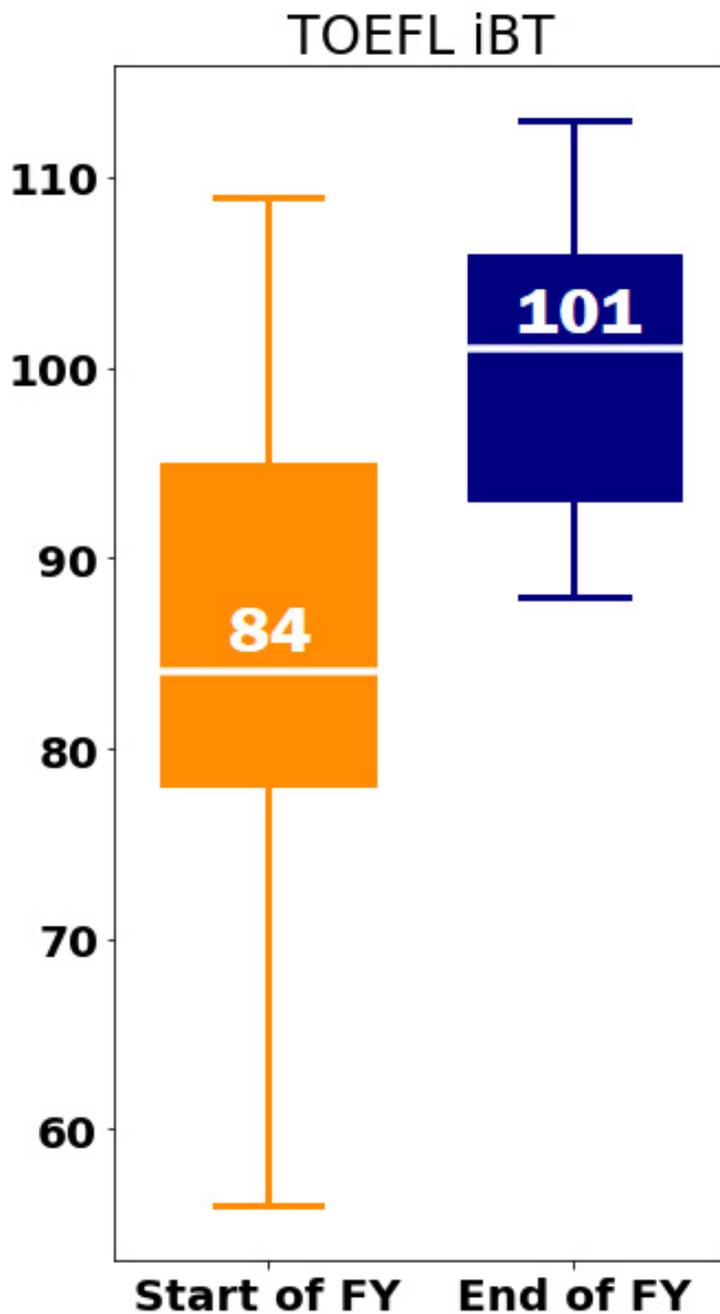
Introduction to International Student & Scholar Services

Counseling Center workshop

YMCA International Dinner

“It’s been a pleasure studying here, and I will genuinely miss it. I take with me fond memories, valuable skills, and I hope to one day leave an impression on others similar to the one you have left on me.” - KGSP FY Student

Outcomes



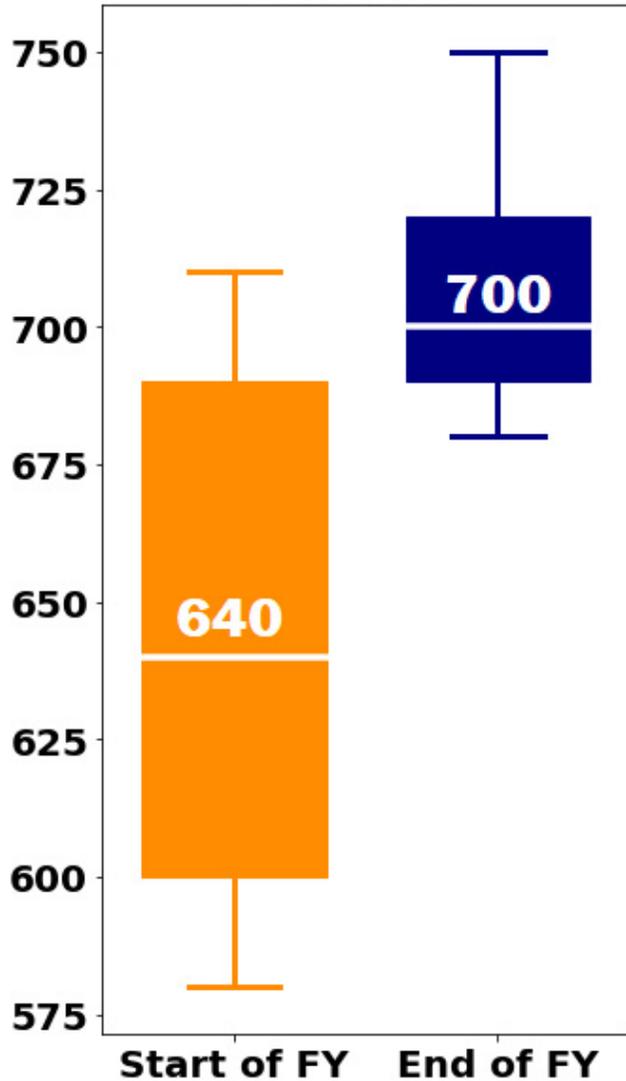
17
median
TOEFL
improvement

16
median
improvement
(students starting
below 84)

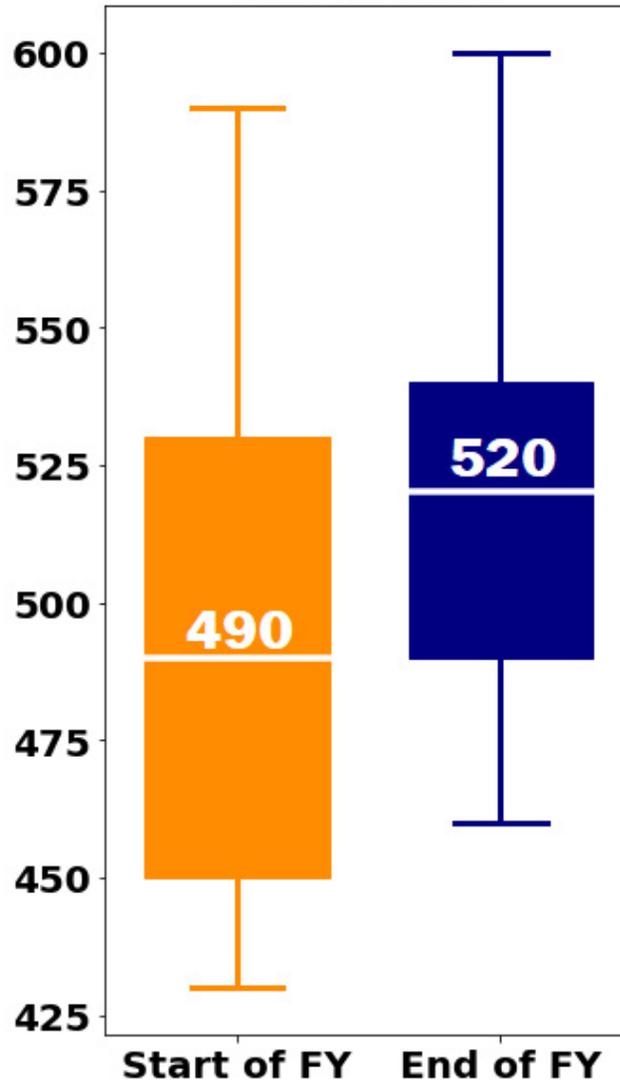
3.46
median GPA

Outcomes

SAT MATH



SAT EBR+W



60

**median math
improvement**

30

**median
ebr+w
improvement**

60

**median total
improvement**

University Placements



Students accepted direct admissions offers from :

Boston University

Colorado School of Mines

North Carolina State University

Penn State University, University Park Campus

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

University of California, Los Angeles

University of Colorado, Boulder

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

COVID-19 Institutional Response

“The COVID-19 global pandemic caused unprecedented public health challenges across the world. In higher education, the crisis also brought concerns and challenges regarding student safety and wellness, as well as academic continuity.

Together, KAUST and the University of Illinois responded immediately to these challenges even as they unfolded rapidly, in order to provide ongoing support to the Saudi students participating in the KAUST Gifted Student Program Foundation Year.

Fortunately, the trust and communication procedures that KAUST and Illinois have established from several years of partnership placed us in an excellent position to meet the challenges.

Importantly, the KGSP students at Illinois were able to sustain their learning and achieve academic success while participating in the KAUST Gifted Student Program Foundation Year.”

Dr. Matt Rosenstein, GET Director



**KAUST Foundation Year 2019-2020
Recognition Ceremony held on Zoom**



“And now, as each one of us will cross a different path and start their own undergraduate journey, always look back and realize how far you have gone. It may seem impossible at the beginning, but it will end quickly with success, just as this foundation year ended.”

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