The **KGSP Foundation Year** at Illinois is a partnership between King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) and the University of Illinois. It is uniquely designed to meet two primary goals:

1) The Foundation Year prepares students for the academic challenge of undergraduate study through university-level coursework in science, math, and writing.

2) The Foundation Year supports students in the preparation and submission of competitive undergraduate applications to gain admission to top U.S. universities.

**2021-2022 KGSP FOUNDATION YEAR COHORT: 11 STUDENTS AT ILLINOIS / 64 TOTAL IN U.S.**
Assist students in preparing high-quality college applications essays through a combination of coursework & individual advising.

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

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.

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

Provide experiences to prepare students for success in the U.S. undergraduate system.

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

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

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is charged by our state to enhance the lives of citizens in Illinois, across the nation and around the world through our leadership in learning, discovery, engagement and economic development.

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL

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

GLOBAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

We provide a gateway to expertise at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign for partners around the world through high-quality training programs.
As we complete our 5th year hosting KGSP Foundation Year students at Illinois, it is an exciting moment for reflection. This year’s program marked a welcome return for students, instructors, and program administrators to a full year of on-campus, in-person interactions. As this report shares, the Illinois KGSP students excelled in pursuit of their academic studies, undergraduate placement goals, and intercultural engagement. Throughout this busy year, they also showed the utmost care and support for one another as a group. My colleagues and I are very proud of their achievements!

At Global Education and Training, we are also proud that our Foundation Year program has fostered a strong institutional partnership between KAUST and Illinois. The number of degree-seeking students at Illinois sponsored by KAUST has grown exponentially, from just 2 students four years ago to over 35 in the upcoming year. This growth demonstrates the commitment to high quality STEM education of both universities, and the mutual familiarity bred through the Foundation Year program collaboration over time.

We wish our Foundation Year students success in their undergraduate studies, and look forward to continued cooperation with KAUST in the years ahead.
PROGRAM SUPPORT
CAMPUS PARTNERSHIPS

Intensive English Institute
Grainger College of Engineering Depts. of Physics and Computer Science
LAS Dept. of Integrative Biology
College of Education
Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning
ATLAS-Teaching & Learning with Technology
Illinois Leadership Center
Illinois Office of Undergraduate Research
Office of Undergraduate Admissions

International Student and Scholar Services
Dean of Students
Counseling Center
McKinley Health Center
Office of Inclusion & Intercultural Relations
Saudi Student Association
University Police
Advanced Tutoring, LLC
Tutor Doctor

“The best part about the Foundation Year program at Illinois is the community, whether with the Saudi association or with IEI you can find welcoming and supportive communities.” – KGSP FY student
ORIENTATION AND CURRICULUM SUMMARY

ORIENTATIONS
- Introduction to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Introduction to Illinois International
- Strategies for Academic Success
- Academic Integrity
- Optimizing Tutoring
- Technology orientation
- Title IX Training

FALL CURRICULUM
- Academic English Reading & Essay Writing
- TOEFL and Advanced Academic English
- SAT (Evidence-Based Reading & Writing, Math Reasoning)
- Pre-Calculus
- Colloquium on American & Academic Culture
- 1-on-1 Essay Coaching (twice weekly)
- Illinois Leadership Certificate

SPRING CURRICULUM
- Academic English for University Success
- Introduction to C++, Excel, and Programming
- College Physics: Mechanics & Heat (Lecture/Lab/Discussion)
- Integrative Biology: Organismal & Evolutionary Biology (Lecture/Lab/Discussion)
- Calculus
- Advanced Academic Success Training (Seminar)
- Illinois Leadership Certificate

“I learned the most from group work in Calculus. The way everyone worked to solve the problems together was so satisfying.”

“Being a part of the Foundation Year opened up opportunities I didn’t have before.”
ASSESSED TASKS

UNIVERSITY PORTFOLIO: Students research in detail key campus resources available at their university and how to access them (i.e. academic advising and tutoring support, mental health and wellness, health clinics, libraries, gyms, etc.) and create an online portfolio that introduces their undergraduate university to new students.

PORTFOLIO PRESENTATION: At the end of the course, students practice their presentations, give/receive peer feedback, and finally present their portfolios.

GOAL OF COURSE
To prepare students to succeed in their upcoming undergraduate experience at U.S. universities. Students familiarize themselves with real-world tools and strategies for living independently as freshmen and navigating a new campus community.

MAJOR UNITS
- Living on Campus
- Health and Wellness
- Campus Culture

MAYMESTER
Ready Set Undergrad!
(2 week customized course)

“I liked the topics of the class and the variety and how open it is . . . students can ask questions about anything and get answers.”

“Foundation Year gave me the opportunity to get used to living on my own and being independent.”
NEW CAMPUS PARTNERSHIPS

Illinois Leadership Center - Experiential learning opportunity
Illinois Office of Undergraduate Research

DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP SKILLS FOR OUR GLOBAL SOCIETY

KGSP FY ILLINOIS LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE

A new partnership with the Illinois Leadership Center (ILC) provided yearlong experiential learning opportunities for KGSP FY students. By attending on-campus workshops with UIUC students, the FY students earned a customized certificate that served as a micro-credential for their college applications.

The ILC Certificate program develops students’ core competencies of community/society, organization, interpersonal/team, and personal/self through training, co-curricular involvement, self-reflection, and coaching. Team-building and leadership exercises are utilized to expand students’ critical thinking, self-reliance, and resiliency skills in a variety of settings.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR FUTURE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

OUR - Introduction to Research Course

In collaboration with the Illinois Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR), KGSP FY students participated in a series of interactive workshops, discussion sections, and assignments in the Spring 2022 semester, culminating in a Final Poster Presentation.

Learning outcomes:
• Increasing scientific literacy skills
• Understanding the process of research design
• Gaining skills in developing research-based questions
• Exploring research interests and identifying areas for future study
• Developing and improving communication and team skills essential to research
STUDENT TESTING OUTCOMES

SAT COMPOSITE SCORES

- AUGUST COMPOSITE SCORE
- BEST COMPOSITE SCORE

* median SAT composite score improvement = 120

TOEFL SCORES

- AUGUST TOEFL SCORE
- BEST TOEFL SCORE

* median TOEFL score improvement = 14

UNIVERSITY PLACEMENT

KGSP FY-Illinois students accepted Fall 2022 admissions offers from:

- Boston University (3 Students)
- Emory University (1 Student)
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2 Students)
- Purdue University (1 Student)
- Virginia Tech (2 Students)
- University of Virginia (1 Student)
- University of Maryland (1 Student)

OVER 35 KGSP STUDENTS WILL ATTEND THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS FALL 2022, INCLUDING 9 FRESHMEN
Foundation Year showed me “life is full of opportunities and full of different people. . .”

STUDENT ACTIVITIES
CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT