International Students in the United States – Open Doors 2019 Findings

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Topics:

- *Open Doors* Data
- Using *Open Doors* data
- What are the national trends for international students in the United States?
- Global Mobility
- Questions and Discussion
Open Doors Data
**Open Doors Trivia**

What is the first year of the stand-alone publication now known as *Open Doors*?

- 1919
- 1949
- 1954
- 1972
Thank you for 70 years of Open Doors

1948/49
Education for One World first published

1954/55
Publication expanded and renamed Open Doors

1978
Creation of the Joint Task Force of Data Collection

2000
Launch of International Education Week
Inaugural Open Doors event in Washington, DC.

2018/19
Celebrating 70 years of the Open Doors publication
Open Doors® is a comprehensive information resource on international students and scholars studying or teaching at higher education institutions in the United States, and U.S. students studying abroad for academic credit at their home colleges or universities. This survey of international exchange activity in the United States is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and supported in its implementation by IIE.
Open Doors higher education institutions surveyed
Using *Open Doors* data
How Higher Education Uses Mobility Data

**Benchmarking** internationalization efforts

**Strategic planning** for internationalization

**Recruitment** and enrollment management

**Advocating** for internationalization on campus and in the community
How Researchers Use Mobility Data

**Policy Research**

- Economic impact (IIE & NAFSA)
  - [www.nafsa.org/economicvalue](http://www.nafsa.org/economicvalue)
- *Mapping the Nation* (Asia Society)
  - [Mappingthenation.net](http://Mappingthenation.net)

**Academic Research**

- Determinants of international student flows to the U.S.
- International students and domestic diversity in U.S. higher education
- International student flows into elite and non-elite U.S. higher education
What questions do you want to answer with the data?
What are the national trends for international students in the United States?
Open Doors Trivia

How many international students were in the United States in 2018/19?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New international students</td>
<td>269,383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate international students</td>
<td>431,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrolled international students</td>
<td>872,214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total international students</td>
<td>1,095,299</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1,095,299
International students in 2018/19, an increase of 0.05%
70 years of international students in the United States

1948/49: 25,464
1958/59: 263,938
1968/69:
1978/79: 671,616
1988/89:
1998/99:
2008/09: 1,095,299
2018/19:

#OpenDoorsReport
International students by academic level

- Undergraduate: -2%
- Graduate: -1%
- OPT: +10%
- Non-Degree: -5%

Change in international students arriving on campus for the first time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td>-7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018/19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The U.S. hosts international students from around the globe

China
369,548

India
202,014

South Korea
52,250
China, India, & South Korea remain top places of origin
10 years of growth in students from emerging economies

10-year growth: +90%  +83%  +114%  +205%

Vietnam
Brazil
Nigeria
Bangladesh

08/09  18/19  08/09  18/19  08/09  18/19  08/09  18/19

+83%  +114%  +205%
International students by U.S. state

- California: 161,693
- Massachusetts: 71,098
- New York: 124,277
- Illinois: 53,724
- Texas: 81,893
- Pennsylvania: 51,818

Color legend:
- Dark red: ≥ 50,000
- Orange: 10,000 - 49,999
- Light orange: 5,000 - 9,999
- Yellow: ≤ 4,999

Source: opendoors.iie.org/
International students as share of higher education

Above national average
> 5.5%

Below national average
≤ 5.5%
Leading fields of study

- Engineering: -1%
- Math & Computer Science: +9%
- Business & Management: -7%
- Social Sciences: +1%
What do different students study?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>STEM</th>
<th>Business and Management</th>
<th>Social Sciences</th>
<th>Fine and Applied Arts</th>
<th>All Other Fields</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contribution by international students to the U.S. economy in 2018: $44.7 Billion*

458,290 direct and indirect jobs created or supported in 2018/19**

*U.S. Department of Commerce  
**NAFSA Association of International Educators
International student’s primary source of funding

62% Non-U.S. Funding

- 57% Personal and Family
- 4% Foreign Gov’t or University
- 1% Foreign Private Sponsor
- 0.1% International Organizations
- 21% Current Employment/OPT
- 17% U.S. College or University
- 1% Other Source
What is happening as of in **Fall 2019**
Fall Snapshot Survey:

10 Higher Education Association survey partners distributed in September & October 2019 500+ responses

Key Findings:

1. New enrollment is -0.9%
   Overall enrollment is -1.6%

2. New enrollment varies among institutional characteristics and location

3. Institutions leverage a variety of resources to continue global recruitment and outreach
Targeted outreach and recruitment efforts continue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. High Schools</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Community Colleges</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Multiple factors contribute to shifts in student enrollment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perceived Factors Driving Increases</th>
<th>Perceived Factors Driving Declines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Growing reputation and visibility of institution abroad</td>
<td>Cost of tuition/fees at U.S. host institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth of institutional scholarship opportunities</td>
<td>Enrolment in another country's institutions (other than U.S.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved support for enrolled international students</td>
<td>Enrollment in other U.S. institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased engagement with international alumni</td>
<td>Enrollment in home country's higher education institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased number of linkages with international universities</td>
<td>Feeling unwelcome in the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased partnerships with recruitment agents</td>
<td>Home country political and/or economic problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased recruitment of international students enrolled domestically</td>
<td>Physical safety in the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased support staff for recruitment of int'l students</td>
<td>Securing a job in the United States after studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More active outreach to admitted students</td>
<td>Social and political environment in the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More active recruitment efforts by institution</td>
<td>Visa application process or visa delays/denials</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Institutions are leveraging the following resources to recruit international students:

- **59%** leveraging current international students on their campus.
- **53%** leveraging EducationUSA.
- **47%** leveraging their institution’s alumni.
- **40%** leveraging agents.
Global Mobility
# Top global hosts of international students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Students 2008</th>
<th>Students 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>623,805</td>
<td>1,095,299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>389,330</td>
<td>496,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>233,606</td>
<td>492,185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>France</td>
<td>260,596</td>
<td>435,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>207,194</td>
<td>420,501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>123,901</td>
<td>343,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>123,829</td>
<td>334,497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>60,288</td>
<td>282,002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>39,764</td>
<td>208,901</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Project Atlas, OECD, UNESCO
What do students want?

- High quality academic experiences
- Personal and professional growth, including close interaction with professors doing cutting edge science, research and innovation
- Internships and experiential learning
- Affordability
- Post-study opportunities; skilled migration policies
Questions and Discussion