International Students

914,095 international students enrolled at U.S. higher education institutions and were on Optional Practical Training (OPT) in the 2020/21 academic year.

In 2020/21, the total number of international students declined by 15% from the prior academic year. This decrease was primarily due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Undergraduates made up 39% of all international students in 2020/21.

1 out of 3 international students studied at an institution in California, New York, or Texas.

145,528 international students studied at their U.S. university for the first time in 2020/21.

54% of international students pursued majors in STEM fields.
U.S. Study Abroad

162,633 U.S. students studied abroad for academic credit in the 2019/20 academic year.

In 2019/20, the total number of U.S. students who studied abroad declined by 53% from the prior academic year. This decrease was primarily due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Europe hosted more than half of all U.S. students who studied abroad.

The proportion of underrepresented students studying abroad has increased over the past 10 years.

45% of institutions offered multiple online global learning experiences.

242 institutions reported that more than 10,000 students received academic credit for an online global learning experience.

867 institutions reported that more than 55,000 U.S. students who studied abroad in 2019/20 returned to the United States early due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source: The Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange is a comprehensive information resource on international students and U.S. students studying abroad. It is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and is published by IIE. For more information, visit www.opendoorsdata.org.