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.

Students from China and India accounted for 53% of international students.

LEADING PLACES OF ORIGIN OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, 2020/21

Students from China and India accounted for 53% of international students.

NEW AND CONTINUING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS*

*New international students enrolled for the first time at their U.S. higher education institution.

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

SELECTED FIELDS OF STUDY FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, 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.

In previous years, short-term summer programs comprised 39% of all study abroad programs. In summer 2020, only 1,300 students studied abroad for academic credit, a 99% decline.

In 2019/20, 43% of institutions offered multiple online global learning experiences.

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.