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00:00:13.320 --> 00:00:24.030

Leah Mason: Hello everyone, and thank you for tuning into the *Open Doors* international scholars webinar my name is Leah Mason and I am the research lead at the Institute of International Education (IIE).

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00:00:24.660 --> 00:00:36.510

Leah Mason: I am joined today by Mirka Martel Head of Research, Evaluation and Learning at IIE presenting *Open Doors* data for international scholars in the United States in 2020/2021.

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00:00:37.710 --> 00:00:43.740

Leah Mason: The webinar today, which is being recorded is part of the IIE Network Engagement Series.

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Leah Mason: The IIE Network is IIE's long established global membership association of over 10,000 international education professionals from more than 1,500 organizations and institutions.

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Leah Mason: Through our IIE network we share knowledge, expertise, best practices, resources, data, and other timely information that are designed to help organizations and campuses that are working to strategize

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Leah Mason: and actualize international education efforts, including building international and academic partnerships, recruiting international students, and advocating for study abroad and student mobility.

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00:01:25.080 --> 00:01:31.500

Leah Mason: It is the best way to connect with IIE and have access to all of our programs, resources, and events.

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Leah Mason: Membership is set up by the institution or organization. A primary member contact can assign additional designees and will receive membership benefits, including, professional resources, which includes access to the IIE network engagement series with exclusive content for members, including webinar recordings and briefings. Members receive the IIE interactive weekly digital newsletter that provides updates on IIE and Community opportunities and timely information on global news and trends within the higher education community.

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Leah Mason: Members will receive free print copies and digital access to IIE's core publications to include the *Open Doors* report and the bi-annual IIE Networker magazine.

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00:02:16.740 --> 00:02:21.330

Leah Mason: Research benefits include access to Members only *Open Doors* data online,

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00:02:22.980 --> 00:02:31.710

Leah Mason: Access to attend the research roundtables led by IIE Research, Evaluation, and Learning unit covering data driven topics such as international student mobility.

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00:02:32.790 --> 00:02:48.810

Leah Mason: Organizational visibility benefits include promoting programs and events, contributing to IIE publications through articles submissions for the magazine, briefing papers, and blogs. Nomination for the annual IIE Heiskell Awards for Innovation in International Education.

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00:02:50.490 --> 00:03:02.490

Leah Mason: Benefits for students at your institution include exclusive funding opportunities for institutions and students such as the IIE American Passport Project and the emergency student fund grants.

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00:03:03.270 --> 00:03:08.940

Leah Mason: Enhanced online directories to assist students to find intensive English or study abroad programs.

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00:03:09.870 --> 00:03:18.090

Leah Mason: And finally, Member exclusive discounts include priority registration and discounts on conferences and events, custom research data reports, global outreach and recruitment services, IIE's J-1 exchange visitor visa sponsorship program and advertising options in its publications and online directories outlined on IIE's media guide.

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00:03:31.890 --> 00:03:43.470

Leah Mason: Visit the website or email membership@iie.org if you wish to check membership status, renew your membership, update list of Member designees, or to join today.

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00:03:44.550 --> 00:03:51.750

Leah Mason: Mirka will begin with a 15-minute overview of the *Open Doors* data, then we invite you to participate in the Q&A portion. Please feel free to enter your questions at the bottom of the screen and we will try to address them as soon as possible, at the end of the presentation. Now I'd like to turn it over to Dr. Mirka Martel.

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00:04:05.160 --> 00:04:10.860

Mirka Martel: Thank you, Leah and Hello everyone, and thank you so much for joining our webinar today.

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00:04:11.490 --> 00:04:23.100

Mirka Martel: So today we're going to be talking about the *Open Doors* project. The *Open Doors* project is the most comprehensive resource on international student and scholar mobility flows to the United States and U.S. students studying abroad for academic credit. *Open Doors* is produced by the Institute of International Education, or IIE, with support from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. For today's presentation I'm going to be focusing on the international scholar survey, the fourth survey in our *Open Doors* project, so we're going to start by providing an overview of the survey.

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00:04:53.280 --> 00:05:07.380

Mirka Martel: First, we're going to look at who received the survey. The *Open Doors* international scholar survey was sent to nearly 1,700 U.S. higher education institutions that reported hosting an international scholar.

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00:05:07.800 --> 00:05:18.060

Mirka Martel: Now, as you can see, on the map these institutions are in every state in the country and really go to various different institutions across the United States.

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00:05:19.200 --> 00:05:28.770

Mirka Martel: Next, who did we count in the scholar survey. Our definition of an international scholar has not changed. It includes individuals at institutions in the United States, on nonimmigrant visas, who conduct temporary academic activities such as research or teaching and are not enrolled as a student at that institution.

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00:05:42.780 --> 00:05:51.450

Mirka Martel: So, these can include post-doctoral scholars visiting lecturers and researchers short term scholars or visiting specialists.

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00:05:52.620 --> 00:06:06.390

Mirka Martel: Finally, this is the second year that the *Open Doors* Scholars survey shows the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey covered July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

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00:06:07.050 --> 00:06:18.240

Mirka Martel: And as we will see in the data findings, the COVID-19 pandemic really affected international scholar appointments and experiences throughout this reporting period.

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00:06:19.440 --> 00:06:24.480

Mirka Martel: So, now we're going to turn to the data for *Open Doors* international scholars.

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Mirka Martel: In 2020/21, There were 85,538 international scholars in the United States or at U.S. higher education institutions, a decrease of 31% from the previous year.

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Mirka Martel: Most institutions indicated that the primary reason for this decline was the COVID-19 pandemic and that it was a continued decline recorded from the previous year.

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00:06:56.190 --> 00:07:09.600

Mirka Martel: Now, over 20 years of looking at international scholars data we have seen progressive growth to a high of over 136,000 in the 2018/2019 reporting period.

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00:07:10.140 --> 00:07:23.490

Mirka Martel: However, in the past two years, the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic depicted here in yellow has significantly affected the number of international scholars at U.S. higher education institutions.

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00:07:25.200 --> 00:07:41.550

Mirka Martel: Before the COVID-19 pandemic there had been an incremental increase in the number of international scholars, ranging from point 0.3% in 2016/17 to 1% in 2018/19 then in 2019/20, the total number of scholars decreased by 10% and now this year, the total has decreased by 31%.

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00:07:52.290 --> 00:07:59.640

Mirka Martel: From this year and last year's data, we know that many scholars cancelled or deferred their plans.

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00:07:59.970 --> 00:08:16.230

Mirka Martel: Further, this year, and last year, almost half of the reporting institutions noted that they had frozen new scholar appointments or applications further decreasing the total number of new international scholars.

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00:08:18.870 --> 00:08:31.260

Mirka Martel: International scholars in the United States were primarily from China and India, and together these two countries made up over 45% of all international scholars.

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00:08:31.920 --> 00:08:42.990

Mirka Martel: However, we can also see in this map that international scholars continued to pursue research and teaching activities in the United States from every region in the world.

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Mirka Martel: Looking at our top places of origin, we see a large decline in total international scholars from China over the last two years.

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00:08:55.530 --> 00:09:03.180

Mirka Martel: In comparison, we did not necessarily see the same level of decline in the total number of scholars from other places, including India.

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00:09:03.930 --> 00:09:13.110

Mirka Martel: This indicates differences in travel restrictions and realities, due to the COVID-19 pandemic in different regions and places of origin.

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00:09:13.740 --> 00:09:33.390

Mirka Martel: Scholar appointments and travel from China were halted as early as January 2020. We already saw this decline last year in comparison other places of origin, including India and Brazil, so varying restrictions throughout 2020 and 2021.

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00:09:35.610 --> 00:09:47.700

Mirka Martel: When we look at the regions of origin of international scholars, we see the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically on the total number of international scholars from Asia.

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00:09:48.540 --> 00:10:01.350

Mirka Martel: Before COVID-19 the total number of international scholars from Asia, increased significantly to over 80,000 international scholars from Asia alone in 2018/19.

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00:10:02.340 --> 00:10:11.940

Mirka Martel: However, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have significantly decreased these numbers in the last two years, as you can see, and read in the chart.

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00:10:12.780 --> 00:10:25.740

Mirka Martel: Comparatively, when we look at Europe, we have seen a downward trend in international scholars, in the last five years, and the COVID-19 pandemic potentially exacerbated this affect.

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00:10:28.140 --> 00:10:41.370

Mirka Martel: International scholars in the United States conducted activities at U.S. institutions in California, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, and many other states.

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00:10:41.790 --> 00:10:59.910

Mirka Martel: These top five states made up approximately 44% of all international scholars at U.S. colleges and universities, however, as you can see, we did see that there were decreases across the board of the total numbers of international scholars in the states.

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00:11:01.920 --> 00:11:07.560

Mirka Martel: Now we're going to look at the types of activities that international scholars pursued in 2020/21.

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Mirka Martel: Most scholars, or three out of four, conducted research in the United States.

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Mirka Martel: Now research has traditionally been the primary activity of international scholars in the United States, followed by teaching, and also a combination of research and teaching.

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00:11:32.670 --> 00:11:33.300

Mirka Martel: So, all of these categories, primarily the top three have all declined. However, what we saw when we compare last year's data 2019/20 to this year is data 2020/21

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Mirka Martel: we do see that research declined at a sharper rate and so we're seeing a smaller proportion of research activity as a proportion of the total

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00:12:01.710 --> 00:12:11.520

Mirka Martel: mobility. Most scholars most international scholars are conducting activities specializing in STEM fields including physical and life sciences, engineering, health professions, and math and computer science. A smaller portion of scholars have conducted activities in 2020/21 related to the social sciences and business and management.

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00:12:31.860 --> 00:12:40.380

Mirka Martel: Again, what we did is we looked at a five-year trajectory looking from 2016/17 to 2020/21. And, again, here in that five year trajectory we see that there has been growth in international scholar specializations in physical and life sciences and engineering.

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00:12:53.160 --> 00:13:09.990

Mirka Martel: These fields of study we saw were on an upward trajectory before the COVID-19 pandemic. The past two years, depicted in teal on this graph, show the primary cause or effect of COVID-19 on these fields of study.

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00:13:11.010 --> 00:13:20.760

Mirka Martel: In comparison, when we look at health professions this specialization has actually been on a downward trend, even before the COVID-19 pandemic.

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00:13:21.510 --> 00:13:38.250

Mirka Martel: And finally, you can see that other specializations, including social sciences and some other fields have been relatively flat in the past few years, and so what we're seeing here is that the declines are primarily potentially due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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00:13:42.930 --> 00:13:52.830

Mirka Martel: For the past two years, we have added a question to the international scholar survey to ask about the duration of the appointment of the international scholar.

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Mirka Martel: Now, this is a newer data that we have, but we do think it's quite interesting, this is the total duration of the appointment. Meaning if an appointment is extended, the full length is considered.

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Mirka Martel: In 2020/21, we found that about half of all international scholars or 47% were on appointments in the United States for one up to three years, or what we categorize as mid-length.

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00:14:23.340 --> 00:14:37.650

Mirka Martel: We also saw that another 29% were on long-term appointments of over three years and, additionally, about one in five international scholars were on appointments of less than one year.

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00:14:40.770 --> 00:14:49.590

Mirka Martel: Now we have found this trend to change even since last year and we attributed this to the effect of COVID-19.

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00:14:50.850 --> 00:14:51.990

Mirka Martel: On the left, you have the 2019/20 data and, if we look at all of the international scholars in each year, we see that a larger proportion of scholars in 2019/20 were on short-term appointments.

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00:15:05.760 --> 00:15:11.910

Mirka Martel: This means that these international scholars would likely have left and returned home.

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00:15:12.570 --> 00:15:27.360

Mirka Martel: However, as we know it from our data they have not necessarily been replaced by as many new scholars on short-term appointments and as a result, this category as a proportion of the total has decreased.

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00:15:28.170 --> 00:15:33.570

Mirka Martel: The number of mid-term and long-term scholars, as a result has increased.

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Mirka Martel: But that is primarily because these types of scholars are likely to have been in the United States before the COVID-19 pandemic for longer appointments.

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00:15:43.650 --> 00:15:49.920

Mirka Martel: We also will see that there is the potential that many institutions noted that scholar appointments have been extended.

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Mirka Martel: So, scholar appointments may have also been getting longer as institutions have given the opportunity for international scholars to remain in the United States and extend their appointments.

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Mirka Martel: But overall, what we're seeing here is that a much smaller proportion of short-term international scholar appointments are happening in 2020/21 very likely, because many new scholar appointments may have been cancelled or deferred or the process may have been frozen altogether.

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00:16:26.490 --> 00:16:38.430

Mirka Martel: As with last year, we continue to see that the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are affecting all factors related to international scholars at U.S. colleges and universities.

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Mirka Martel: Now we are including here the last two years of data in the international scholar survey, we have been specifically asking about how the pandemic has been affecting factors related to international scholars.

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00:16:54.510 --> 00:17:12.870

Mirka Martel: We see here over two years of data that the adverse factors affecting us institutions regarding international scholars have not dissipated and are at times even more exacerbated, then in 2019/20.

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Mirka Martel: For example, in 2020/21, we found that institutions continued to face fully or partially closed facilities in 2020/21 and continue to focus on supporting international scholars among shifting guidelines.

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Mirka Martel: Most importantly, perhaps here is the last statistic which shows that in 2019/20 and 2020/21.

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Mirka Martel: Almost half of all of the reporting institutions to the international scholar survey noted that they had frozen new scholar appointments or applications.

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00:17:47.460 --> 00:18:02.130

Mirka Martel: This points to now a two-year halt in new international scholars coming to the United States and does affect the pipeline of international scholars teaching and conducting research at U.S. colleges and universities.

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00:18:04.380 --> 00:18:14.970

Mirka Martel: Now, before I conclude today, I want to share the myriad ways U.S. institutions reported supporting international scholars amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Mirka Martel: Again, here we are showing two years of data to highlight the extensive efforts U.S. colleges and universities have taken to support international scholars.

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00:18:29.190 --> 00:18:40.140

Mirka Martel: The 2020/21 data shows an increase in the support provided to international scholars related to health, safety and well-being related to virtual collaboration,

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Mirka Martel: and travel restrictions and visa policies, it is also encouraging to see that 62% of U.S. institutions continue to report extending the appointments of international scholars already in the United States.

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00:18:59.400 --> 00:19:13.110

Mirka Martel: We welcome you to please visit our *Open Doors* website to explore this new data and to continue to be a part of the conversation by sharing your thoughts about the data that we presented here on social media.

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00:19:14.010 --> 00:19:19.590

Mirka Martel: And finally, I wanted to share that the *Open Doors* 2021 publication is here.

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Mirka Martel: This year's publication includes special sections for each survey called COVID-19 in context, and it provides additional analysis and insights into the data this year.

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00:19:33.900 --> 00:19:52.770

Mirka Martel: The *Open Doors* 2021 publication is a wonderful resource and you can purchase your copy now in our bookstore the publications were just delivered to our offices this week and I'm happy to share that IIE Network Members will be receiving their copies soon.

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00:19:55.230 --> 00:20:05.100

Mirka Martel: We want to thank all of the U.S. colleges and universities, who completed the international scholar survey, many of whom are listening to the webinar today.

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00:20:05.970 --> 00:20:12.480

Mirka Martel: As always, we also want to thank our colleagues at the Department of State who continue to support our work.

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00:20:13.200 --> 00:20:23.070

Mirka Martel: And finally, I want to thank our *Open Doors* team, which is incredible and has put together all of the data and the analysis and the presentation, for today.

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00:20:23.520 --> 00:20:35.910

Mirka Martel: Colleagues, on the *Open Doors* team include Leah Mason, who is joining me on the webinar today, Natalya Andrejko, Ashley Holanda, who works on our website and Nora Nemeth.

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00:20:36.390 --> 00:20:47.940

Mirka Martel: And finally, would it not be a better time for our research specialist, Julie Baer, to return from her maternity leave, on the day of the international scholars webinars, so, welcome back Julie.

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00:20:48.360 --> 00:20:53.850

Mirka Martel: So now I'm going to invite Leah back to the webinar and perhaps we can answer some of your questions.

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Leah Mason: Please feel free to write your questions into the Q & A field at the bottom of your screen.

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Mirka Martel: So perhaps Leah while we're waiting, what I can also share is all of the data that is available on the *Open Doors* website.

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Mirka Martel: One of the things we have done in the last two years, is to make some really exciting changes to the website and updates to the website.

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Mirka Martel: So, not only will you be able to see infographics for the international scholars data which you can then share on social media and share with your colleagues,

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00:21:39.390 --> 00:21:50.250

Mirka Martel: but we also have exciting data in our Tableau tables and in our interactive tables related to much of the data that we looked at today, so you can, for example, look at.

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00:21:50.610 --> 00:22:05.340

Mirka Martel: longitudinal data of total international scholar numbers but also data related to places of origin related to the type of activity and related to some of the other information we shared today.

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00:22:05.850 --> 00:22:18.840

Mirka Martel: Finally, I also wanted to share that in honor of this release today, we also updated our annual release page, and so you will now see that the annual release button at the top right of your website will have additional information for each of our surveys, so not only our November release of the International Students Census and the Study Abroad Survey. But also, additional information for our international scholars release today and our release of the Intensive English programs or IEP data which traditionally happens in May at NAFSA.

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00:22:43.800 --> 00:22:56.160

Mirka Martel: So we do welcome you to look at this new feature of our website you'll see there are both key findings infographics and other resources that you can use to really dive into this data further.

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00:22:57.960 --> 00:23:13.530

Leah Mason: Thank you, Mirka we have several questions coming into the chat so I'm going to start with the first one, I know everyone is eagerly awaiting when our surveys will open, and so there was a question about are the surveys for international students, U.S. study abroad and scholars open yet?

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00:23:14.850 --> 00:23:25.080

Mirka Martel: That's a great question! So, every year we do an extensive review process of our surveys and, as you all can imagine over the last two years, these efforts have doubled down to really ensure that we are asking the right questions. Now for those of you who have answered the survey, and thank you for answering the surveys, every year, you will note that last year we had some special questions related to COVID-19 on all of our surveys, all four of our surveys had special questions related to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and, as a result, we are taking a look at those surveys again.

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00:23:54.270 --> 00:24:04.680

Mirka Martel: So, we are still working on updating some of the surveys and some of the documentation for all of you, so that they are very easy to answer, and we will be releasing the International Students Census survey and the Study Abroad Survey in early March, the International scholar survey, you may know, is not released until July.

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00:24:17.550 --> 00:24:29.940

Leah Mason: Thank you, Mirka. For the release that we heard today on international scholars, did it contain information on Fulbright scholar awards or top producing institutions for Fulbright student and scholar programs?

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Mirka Martel: So, we do not have specific data for programs. We do consider the information to be for all international scholars that are at U.S. higher education institutions.

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Mirka Martel: If you purchase the *Open Doors* publication, you will see some of the leading institutions that hosts international scholars.

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00:24:50.850 --> 00:25:08.670

Mirka Martel: However, we do not do this by programs or by type of program. So, what you will mainly see is that the over 85,000 international scholars that were hosted by U.S. colleges and universities would span any type of activity, including Fulbright.

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00:25:10.830 --> 00:25:28.740

Leah Mason: Thank you, I have another question here, asking will there be an *Open Doors* International Students Census webinar this year. So, I'm wondering if this may be a reference to how to fill out the survey or the release of the findings, and maybe you would like to address one or both.

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Mirka Martel: Yeah, that's a great point. Again we do very much take into consideration and take into mind that each of these surveys

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Mirka Martel: is necessary to review every year and to make sure that all of our *Open Doors* respondents and all of you at U.S. colleges and universities have the necessary information in order so fill out these surveys.

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00:25:51.900 --> 00:26:10.500

Mirka Martel: And so we are putting together resources, we are working through whether that is a webinar, a fact sheet, or a tutorial and online video tutorial for us to be able to really give you all of the information and answer all of your questions about how to answer the surveys each year.

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00:26:11.760 --> 00:26:17.400

Leah Mason: Great one more survey related point, I just want to add, because I think it came into the chat earlier

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00:26:18.030 --> 00:26:36.420

Leah Mason: is that if you do need to change your contact information for any of our surveys that are out, please send us an email at opendoors@iie.org or wait until you receive the survey invitation and in that invitation is a place to change the contacts directly in the survey.

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00:26:37.830 --> 00:26:43.800

Mirka Martel: I will also say that we've also made additions to the *Open Doors* website. So, for those of you who receive information about the surveys in particular the Census Study Abroad and Intensive English programs or IEP,

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Mirka Martel: when you receive that information in early March there will also be a plethora of resources that are on our website.

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Mirka Martel: In terms of how to answer the surveys and, again, there we have both worksheets, documentation for how to fill out the survey, as well as other resources, including FAQs and other information.

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00:27:16.500 --> 00:27:28.410

Mirka Martel: And I will just say that our team is absolutely stellar. We always have Natalya Andrejko, Julie Baer, Nora Nemeth and others who are available to answer your questions.

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00:27:28.740 --> 00:27:39.510

Mirka Martel: And we also know that in the last year, there have been more questions because of some of the changes we have made, and some of the additional data we've been asking about related to COVID-19.

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00:27:39.810 --> 00:27:48.120

Mirka Martel: So, we do encourage you to check out all of these resources, but if you still have a question, please just reach out to opendoors@iie.org.

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00:27:48.390 --> 00:27:57.000

Mirka Martel: Or, because we can answer your question and, if you have a special circumstance, or you have a discussion that you would like to have we would really be happy to have that discussion with you.

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00:27:58.020 --> 00:28:06.300

Leah Mason: Great Mirka, I want to turn back to the data! Even though we're excited about the new surveys launching, there are lots of questions here about the data that I want to make sure we get through.

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00:28:06.960 --> 00:28:21.180

Leah Mason: One is just really orienting users to where to find it. So, is it possible to have specific information or access to the scholars database? I would like to know what are the top receiving U.S. institutions for Mexican scholars, for example.

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00:28:22.110 --> 00:28:31.710

Mirka Martel: So that's a great question, there is some information that is available on our website and so again, if you go to opendoorsdata.org

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Mirka Martel: you can access that information, you can go to the middle of the screen or to the toolbar at the top and choose international scholars and then you can find some of the basic information.

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00:28:45.180 --> 00:28:58.830

Mirka Martel: By place of origin, for example, for totals for the place of origin or some of the leading institutions, for example. Additional data is available in the *Open Doors 2021* publication, which is now out.

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00:28:59.280 --> 00:29:10.050

Mirka Martel: Now what I will say is we don't necessarily do every analysis of all of our data by places of origin or other information, so the one thing I will share is if you have a specific request, if you have a request for some version, or some look at the data analysis of the data that you don't see on our website,

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00:29:22.260 --> 00:29:32.340

Mirka Martel: And would be interested in, we again welcome you to reach out to our team, and I believe there is both a custom data request form that you can fill out.

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00:29:32.610 --> 00:29:44.430

Mirka Martel: Or you can just reach out to opendoors@iie.org and we will take you to the right resource. Leah Maybe you can also elaborate on this a bit more about how we can do some custom analyses.

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00:29:45.030 --> 00:29:49.290

Leah Mason: Sure, on our website, we do have a space where you can request a custom data report, there is a form that we ask you to fill out and it's very important to us that you be as specific as possible, so what country you're looking for what piece of information.

148

00:30:01.380 --> 00:30:15.060

Leah Mason: and also the purpose, why you are going to be using, how you will be using that information. Should we be able to run that analysis and provide a quote, as you know, our data is collected in aggregate so that is the format of much of the data that we are able to provide. So keeping that in mind when you're thinking about your request is really helpful.

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00:30:22.920 --> 00:30:32.040

Leah Mason: We're happy to sit down and have a conversation with you quickly to figure out is this data available, and what that would look like and then provide you with a quote for that cost.

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00:30:34.770 --> 00:30:45.750

Mirka Martel: There is also additional analysis that we can do by, of course, the type of institution, for example, institutional type has been a fascinating analysis that we've been doing more recently, regional analysis, analysis by different places in the country.

154

00:30:54.480 --> 00:31:06.000

Mirka Martel: Just for those who are who are in the research which most people I think on this webinar are, our unit of analysis is always the institution itself that is who we receive data from.

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00:31:06.240 --> 00:31:18.840

Mirka Martel: And so, there is there are different analyses that we can do by the characteristics of that institution by size, by type, by sector, so those are the types of analyses we can do readily.

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00:31:19.080 --> 00:31:32.220

Mirka Martel: When there is other analysis that is potentially down to the individual student, it is not as possible for us to do this type of analysis, specifically because most of our aggregate findings are at the institutional level.

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00:31:34.830 --> 00:31:44.160

Leah Mason: Thank you, Mirka. We have some questions that are more regional or country focused, so one here that I have for you is in relation to Canada.

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00:31:45.150 --> 00:31:52.050

Leah Mason: First of all, the respondent says very helpful presentation, great job. For Canada you show that there is a 12% decline in scholars, do you have any additional insight to the main reason, in addition to COVID there was also social unrest in the last year. Is there an indication of how each of these elements affected the scholar mobility?

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00:32:11.100 --> 00:32:15.780

Mirka Martel: It's a great question and I think that there are multiple factors.

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00:32:16.350 --> 00:32:27.420

Mirka Martel: I think we've been looking at the trends by place of origin for international scholars, but also for international students, and so I think when looking at inbound mobility,

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00:32:27.870 --> 00:32:34.440

Mirka Martel: for various groups, we always look at the factors that are happening in that place of origin or that region.

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00:32:34.710 --> 00:32:43.800

Mirka Martel: And in Canada overall what we've seen is that the decline, there has been a decline, but that decline has been smaller relative to other countries.

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00:32:44.070 --> 00:32:55.260

Mirka Martel: And we have been looking at what some of those factors may be now, we do not ask institutions for each place of origin, what that specific one factor or primary factor is.

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00:32:55.680 --> 00:33:06.840

Mirka Martel: On the whole, on aggregate we have been able to kind of see that COVID-19 is the primary impact, but it is absolutely possible that there are other factors that have affected the total number of international scholars from Canada, who are at U.S. higher education institutions.

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00:33:14.820 --> 00:33:29.940

Mirka Martel: I will again note, however, that the biggest findings for Canada, that we have seen not only for international scholars data but also for International Student data is that, in comparison to other places of origin, these declines have been much smaller.

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00:33:31.590 --> 00:33:36.510

Leah Mason: Going along the lines of declines from specific countries,

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00:33:38.010 --> 00:33:53.640

Leah Mason: could you elaborate on what type of questions are we asking? Do we ask about the potential impact of specific policies or sentiment around declining numbers, or is there any other insight that we're gathering in the survey?

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00:33:54.330 --> 00:33:55.470

Mirka Martel: So, we are very mindful of the length of the survey.

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00:33:58.560 --> 00:34:12.210

Mirka Martel: The International scholars survey asks many different questions. You can only imagine when we're asking about aggregate data for every place of origin in the world, that this is quite a lot of data. For those of you who answered the survey,

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00:34:12.480 --> 00:34:24.570

Mirka Martel: know that it is quite a feat to compile all of this data so, unfortunately, we do not always have the space to ask the specific factors, policy related factors, climate geopolitical related factors that may be affecting our data. When it came to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was such a global shock to all mobility and all international educational exchange

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00:34:41.130 --> 00:34:51.420

Mirka Martel: that we really needed to look at this factor, but it has been, even that in itself has been quite a temporary effect that we've been looking at some of the effects.

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00:34:51.600 --> 00:35:00.480

Mirka Martel: So, unfortunately, we do not currently have a question in the survey that specifically asks about what the primary factors are.

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00:35:01.170 --> 00:35:13.440

Mirka Martel: But we think this is fascinating research, and we know that some other researchers are doing incredible research around international research collaborations and international scholars on the whole.

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00:35:14.010 --> 00:35:29.100

Mirka Martel: So, we do hope that *Open Doors* data is a contributor to some of this analysis but, however, we also know that there are limitations to the amount of information, we can collect through this survey.

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00:35:30.570 --> 00:35:46.320

Leah Mason: Thank you. Turning away from places of origin and more to the mode of instruction and how universities were operating was data collected on the virtual and or hybrid courses provided by institutions and, if so, could you expand on this area?

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00:35:47.190 --> 00:35:59.550

Mirka Martel: So, we did not collect information, specifically on the hybrid versus in person. It's actually a fascinating piece and you've given me an idea of potentially looking at this in the future.

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00:35:59.820 --> 00:36:10.020

Mirka Martel: We know just from the support given by U.S. colleges and universities to international scholars in the in the one statistic I shared that

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00:36:10.470 --> 00:36:20.880

Mirka Martel: a number of U.S. colleges or a majority of U.S. colleges and universities noted that they were providing support to international scholars on online collaboration and online

teaching and whether that was access to online resources such as libraries or labs or whether it was kind of the reality of teaching online.

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00:36:34.050 --> 00:36:44.190

Mirka Martel: It can, all of that can, be encompassed in that statistic, but we did find that over half of U.S. colleges and universities were providing support to international scholars around virtual collaboration.

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00:36:44.940 --> 00:37:00.990

Mirka Martel: Now the other surveys that IIE conducts, including the fall enrollment survey, including our IIE COVID-19 snapshots series, we have been asking overall around virtual versus hybrid versus in person, and we did find in our COVID-19 report if you remember, Leah, that in the 2020/21 academic year, the vast majority of U.S. higher education institutions, most of whom were probably the ones who were hosting international scholars were still largely virtual.

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00:37:28.530 --> 00:37:35.910

Mirka Martel: And so, the time period that we're looking at here, which is summer of 2020 to summer of 2021 would include that academic year, where I believe it was 90 or over 90% of institutions that were still operating in a virtual space. Now while we have seen more recently in our fall snapshots survey for the 2021/22 academic year, what we actually have seen here is a larger move to hybrid or some institutions even being in person.

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00:38:05.310 --> 00:38:11.190

Mirka Martel: So, I could see this now affecting the information, but that is combining data from different sources.

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00:38:11.850 --> 00:38:17.910

Mirka Martel: It is just that we know that the population of U.S. colleges and universities do answer these surveys.

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00:38:18.480 --> 00:38:31.080

Mirka Martel: And so, we can look at some of the comparisons. So I guess my short answer is that, through our COVID-19 survey, we did see that a very large percentage of these institutions were virtual and so,

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00:38:31.560 --> 00:38:43.980

Mirka Martel: the conclusion that we can make is that a majority of instead of these institutions were likely supporting international scholars in virtual teaching or other types of online collaboration.

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00:38:45.720 --> 00:38:54.660

Leah Mason: Thank you, Mirka. Going a bit broader here we have someone who is a new professional in the field of international education - welcome to the field.

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00:38:55.080 --> 00:39:05.130

Leah Mason: Based on the data presented today, in anticipated growth of the industry post pandemic, what areas do you believe need support within international education?

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00:39:06.360 --> 00:39:15.120

Mirka Martel: So I think that that's a great question, I think that there have been a lot of realities related to the COVID-19 pandemic, but there have also been a lot of learnings.

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00:39:15.510 --> 00:39:26.940

Mirka Martel: And I think, particularly, the last data point that we have that we had that we presented related to the support given to international scholars amid COVID-19

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00:39:27.390 --> 00:39:40.620

Mirka Martel: are areas that we should be considering moving forward. I think it's quite remarkable and impressive that U.S. colleges and universities have been in large part, providing amazing communication to international scholars and international students on their health and well-being. I have seen that this has been a larger theme in the field and has been a larger conversation and discussion around mental health,

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00:39:58.080 --> 00:40:07.260

Mirka Martel: around the international education experience, and I think it's pretty impressive to see that this support is also being given to international scholars

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00:40:07.710 --> 00:40:19.320

Mirka Martel: who are coming to the United States to conduct research to teach and that that support for health and well-being is also being extended, not only to students but to scholars alike.

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00:40:20.130 --> 00:40:31.380

Mirka Martel: And I think the second area that I definitely see as being a theme moving forward is related to online and virtual collaboration. I think that, while of one is not a replacement,

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00:40:31.800 --> 00:40:42.330

Mirka Martel: virtual is not a replacement of in person, it is a complement. I think that we should be thinking about moving forward, how these types of virtual collaboration can happen.

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00:40:44.940 --> 00:40:50.220

Leah Mason: Thank you, Mirka. Our last question unless there's any others - quick type them in right now -

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00:40:50.820 --> 00:40:59.640

Leah Mason: but the last question I'm seeing in the screen right now is: Will there be a recording made available today? Yes, I can say we will

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00:41:00.030 --> 00:41:11.010

Leah Mason: have this recording made available. It will appear on our scholars annual release page, so that you will be able to view it and listen alongside your exploration of the data.

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00:41:12.540 --> 00:41:28.740

Mirka Martel: Great! The one thing I will add is, I know it's still a few months from now, but IIE is going to be hosting a session on international scholars at NAFSA 2022, and so we will be bringing up a lot of these topics and others.

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00:41:29.220 --> 00:41:38.130

Mirka Martel: We're very excited to have this session, in coordination with some of our colleagues from U.S. higher education institutions, so please look out for that.

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00:41:38.340 --> 00:41:57.180

Mirka Martel: We look to continue to have conversations around international scholars, around the topics and the themes that we share today, and to also continue the conversation particularly going into this next academic year and the next cycle of collecting data on international scholars.

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00:42:01.110 --> 00:42:09.420

Leah Mason: Great! There are no further questions, so thank you all for joining us today and feel free to access the webinar on our website after today.

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00:42:10.200 --> 00:42:11.700

Mirka Martel: Thank you, everybody.