

Fall 2022 Snapshot on International Student Enrollment

Introduction

The Fall 2022 Snapshot on International Student Enrollment findings are based on responses from over **630 U.S. higher education institutions** on current patterns in international student enrollment as of fall 2022 (2022/23 academic year). The report, conducted by IIE and nine partner higher education associations, is released jointly with and complements *Open Doors 2022*, which provides comprehensive data on international student enrollment from the previous year (2021/22 academic year). As the Snapshot Survey represents a subset of the almost 3,000 institutions surveyed by *Open Doors*, the full picture of 2022/23 enrollment will be analyzed in *Open Doors 2023*.

Key Findings

The Fall 2022 Snapshot on International Student Enrollment findings reflect the continued rebound of international student mobility at U.S. colleges and universities amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 630 institutions, accounting for 52% of all international students in *Open Doors 2022*, participated in the Fall Snapshot.

- **International student numbers at U.S. colleges and universities continue to rise:**
 - The total number of international students (all enrolled and OPT) increased by 9 percent as of fall 2022. This represents continued growth from the 4 percent noted in 2021/22 (*Open Doors 2022*).
 - International student growth was noted across all academic levels, with continued strong growth at the graduate level.
 - The number of international students pursuing employment opportunities following their academic studies on Optional Practical Training (OPT) increased by 6 percent. This is likely driven by the surge in the number of graduate students reported in *Open Doors 2022*, many of whom may be availing themselves of the opportunity to gain work experiences in the United States.
- **New enrollments of international students at U.S. colleges and universities:**
 - Higher education institutions reported a 7 percent increase in the number of new international students enrolling for the first time at a U.S. institution in the United States or online from abroad, a continued increase following the 80 percent rebound in new enrollments in 2021/22 (*Open Doors 2022*).
 - 63 percent of institutions reported an increase in new international student enrollment, 12 percent indicate the number to be the same as last year, and 24 percent report a decrease.
- **U.S. higher education institutions are committed to international students studying in-person:**
 - 99 percent of responding institutions held classes in-person or implemented a hybrid model. Less than one percent of institutions offered online classes only in fall 2022.
 - 94 percent of the reported international students were on campus in the United States.
- **International student outreach and recruitment is a priority in the U.S. and abroad:**
 - U.S. institutions are especially prioritizing international student outreach in India, Vietnam, Brazil, and China as well as to international students at U.S. high schools.
 - For outreach and recruitment to prospective international students, responding institutions reported leveraging current international students (64 percent), online recruitment events (53 percent), and international partnerships (53 percent).
 - 87 percent of reporting institutions indicated that financial support for their student recruitment efforts is the same or higher than in previous years.