Open Doors is produced by the Institute of International Education with the support of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.
International Scholars Overview

Who is Surveyed?

Close to 1,700 U.S. higher education institutions hosting international scholars
International Scholars Overview

Who is Counted?

International Scholars
- Post-doctoral scholars
- Visiting lecturers/professors/faculty
- Visiting researchers
- Short-term scholars
- Visiting specialists

What Timeframe?

2021/22 Academic Year
July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022
U.S. higher education institutions hosted **90,891** international scholars in 2021/22, an increase of **6%**.
20 Years of International Scholars Trends

2001/02: 86,015
2006/07: 98,239
2011/12: 116,917
2016/17: 134,379
2021/22: 90,891

COVID-19 Pandemic:
2020/21: 85,538 scholars (↓31%)
2021/22: 90,891 scholars (↑6%)

opendoorsdata.org | International Scholars, 2021/22
International Scholars by Place of Origin

Top Places of Origin

1. China 19,391
2. India 14,847
3. South Korea 5,439

- ≥ 5,000
- 1,600 – 4,999
- 500 – 1,599
- < 500
Leading Places of Origin of International Scholars

- China: -26%
- India: +17%
- South Korea: +10%
- Canada: +3%
- Germany: +40%
International Scholars by World Region of Origin

% Change 20/21-21/22: -5%, +27%, +30%, +10%, +3%, +50%, +2%
International Scholars by Leading State

Top Destination States
1. California
2. Massachusetts
3. New York
4. Pennsylvania
5. Texas

- ≥ 5,000
- 2,000 – 4,999
- 500 – 1,999
- < 500
Three out of four international scholars pursued research activities.
Primary Function of International Scholars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Research</th>
<th>Teaching</th>
<th>Research &amp; Teaching</th>
<th>Clinical</th>
<th>Other Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019/20</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020/21</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021/22</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Leading Specializations of International Scholars

- **40%** Physical and life sciences
- **15%** Engineering
- **14%** Health professions
- **7%** Social sciences
- **6%** Math and computer science
- **5%** Agriculture
- **3%** Business and management

79% of international scholars focused their academic activities in STEM fields.
Leading Specializations of International Scholars

- Physical & Life Sciences: 36,396
- Engineering: 13,430
- Health Professions: 12,588
- Social Sciences: 6,084
- Math & Computer Science: 5,640
- Agriculture: 4,152
- Business and Management: 3,126
Duration of International Scholar Appointments

- **Short-term** (Less than 1 year): 24% (2020/21), 31% (2021/22)
- **Mid-length** (1 year – up to 3 years): 47% (2020/21), 39% (2021/22)
- **Long-term** (3 years or more): 29% (2020/21), 31% (2021/22)
Fewer institutions hosting international scholars reported adverse effects due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Impacts Institutions Faced Related to International Scholars

- Providing updated information as U.S. policies or guidelines shift:
  - 2019/20: 27%
  - 2020/21: 62%
  - 2021/22: 69%

- Fully or partially closed facilities:
  - 2019/20: 21%
  - 2020/21: 57%
  - 2021/22: 68%

- Freezing new scholar appointments or applications:
  - 2019/20: 68%
  - 2020/21: 45%
  - 2021/22: 46%

- Budget cuts or staff furloughs/layoffs:
  - 2019/20: 56%
  - 2020/21: 30%
  - 2021/22: 20%
95% of institutions reported providing support to international scholars related to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021/22.
Support U.S. Institutions Provided to International Scholars Amid COVID-19

- Providing communications on health, safety, and well-being: 78% (2019/20), 86% (2020/21), 83% (2021/22)
- Providing communications on travel restrictions and visa regulations, policies, and procedures: 79% (2019/20), 85% (2020/21), 80% (2021/22)
- Extending the appointments of scholars: 61% (2019/20), 62% (2020/21), 51% (2021/22)
- Providing resources on delivering remote instruction for scholars who are teaching: 55% (2019/20), 56% (2020/21), 43% (2021/22)
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Open Doors Website

Using data to open doors

for 90,891 international scholars from around the world and counting...

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