

## Fall 2023 Snapshot on International Student Enrollment

### Introduction

The *Fall 2023 Snapshot on International Student Enrollment* presents the responses of over 630 U.S. higher education institutions on current patterns in international student enrollment for the 2023/24 academic year. The report, conducted by IIE and ten partner higher education associations, complements *Open Doors 2023*, which provides comprehensive data on international students from the previous year (2022/23 academic year). As the Snapshot Survey represents a subset of the more than 2,800 institutions surveyed by *Open Doors*, the full picture of 2023/24 enrollment will be analyzed in *Open Doors 2024*.

### Key Findings

The *Fall 2023 Snapshot* indicates continued growth of international students studying at U.S. higher education institutions in the 2023/24 academic year. Over 630 institutions, accounting for 57 percent of all international students reported in *Open Doors 2023*, participated in the survey.

#### International student totals grow by 8 percent in the 2023/24 academic year:

- An 8 percent growth in international students (undergraduate, graduate, non-degree, and Optional Practical Training [OPT]) builds on the 12 percent growth reported in 2022/23 and the 4 percent growth in 2021/22 (*Open Doors*). 95 percent of enrolled international students are in the United States studying on campus.
- International student enrollment grew at the undergraduate (+3 percent) and graduate (+7 percent) levels.
- The number of international students pursuing employment opportunities following their academic studies on OPT increased by 17 percent. This is likely driven by the surge in the number of graduate students reported in both *Open Doors 2022* and 2023, many of whom are opting to gain work experience in the United States.

#### New enrollments of international students at U.S. institutions increase by 2 percent in 2023/24:

- The 2 percent growth builds on the 14 percent growth in 2022/23 and the 80 percent rebound in 2021/22 after travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic (*Open Doors*).
- 57 percent of institutions report an increase in new international student enrollment, 13 percent indicate the number to be the same as last year, and 30 percent report a decrease.
- 36 percent of institutions note increases in new Chinese students, up from 29 percent last year (*Fall 2022 Snapshot*). 51 percent of institutions note increases in new Indian students, a slight decrease from 56 percent the previous year (*Fall 2022 Snapshot*).

#### 92 percent of U.S. institutions would like to grow their international student totals in the next five years:

- To increase capacity, institutions note the need to hire additional support services staff, expand student housing, and add majors. Among the 8 percent of institutions not planning to increase enrollment, the most cited reason was that these institutions had already met their enrollment goals.

#### Among all places of origin, India continues to be the highest priority for undergraduate and graduate recruitment:

- Institutions are prioritizing undergraduate outreach in India (70 percent), Vietnam (66 percent), China (53 percent), and South Korea (53 percent). Graduate recruitment is focused on India (80 percent), China (46 percent), Vietnam (42 percent), and Nigeria (40 percent).
- 85 percent of reporting institutions indicate that financial support for their international student recruitment efforts is the same or higher than in the previous year.
- U.S. institutions report working with current international students, building international partnerships, and conducting in-person recruitment events to support outreach and recruitment.