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INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS  
ANNUAL DATA RELEASE

February 5, 2026



2025

*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  
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Census**



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**International  
Scholars  
Survey**





# International Scholars Overview



## Who is Surveyed?

**Close to 1,700**  
higher education  
institutions hosting  
international scholars



## Who is Counted?

### International Scholars

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



## What Time Frame?

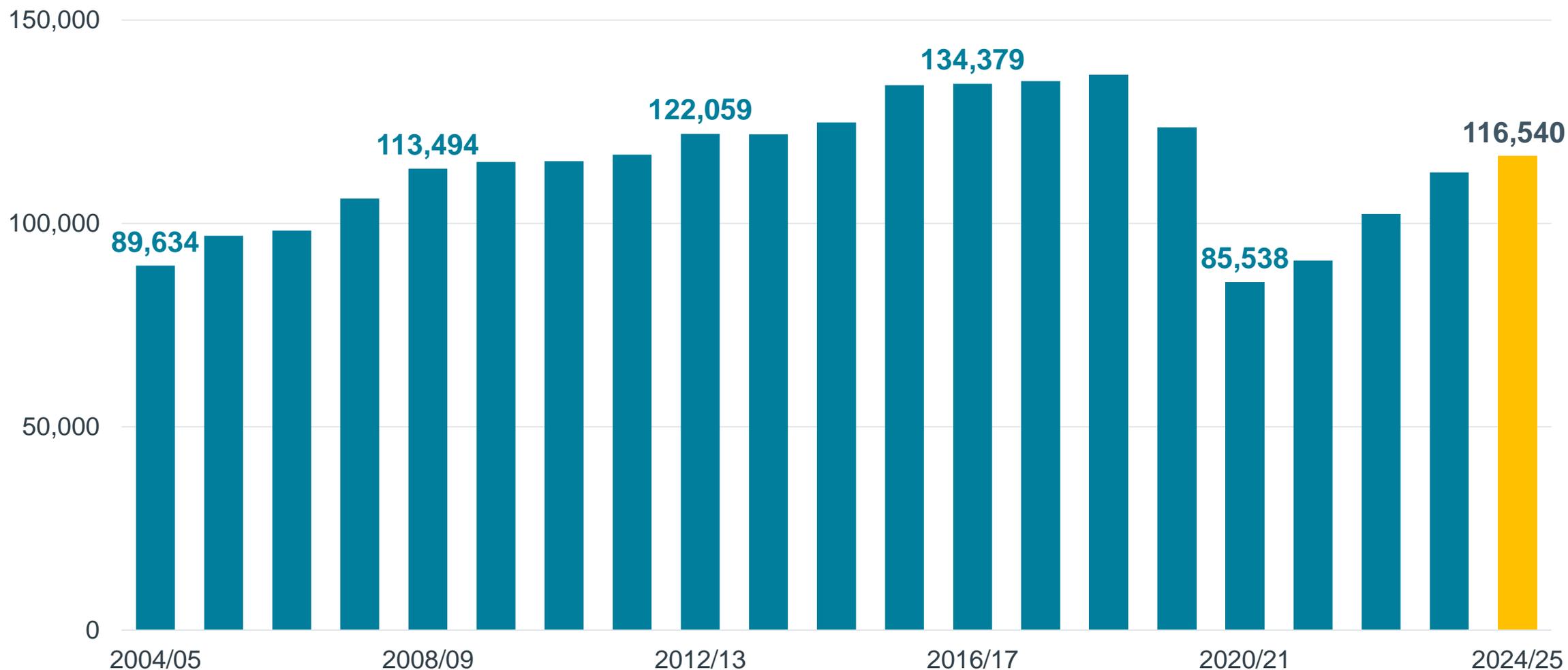
**2024/25**  
**Academic Year**  
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025



**116,540**  
international  
scholars  
at U.S. institutions  
in 2024/25, a  
**4%** increase



# 20 Years of International Scholars Trends

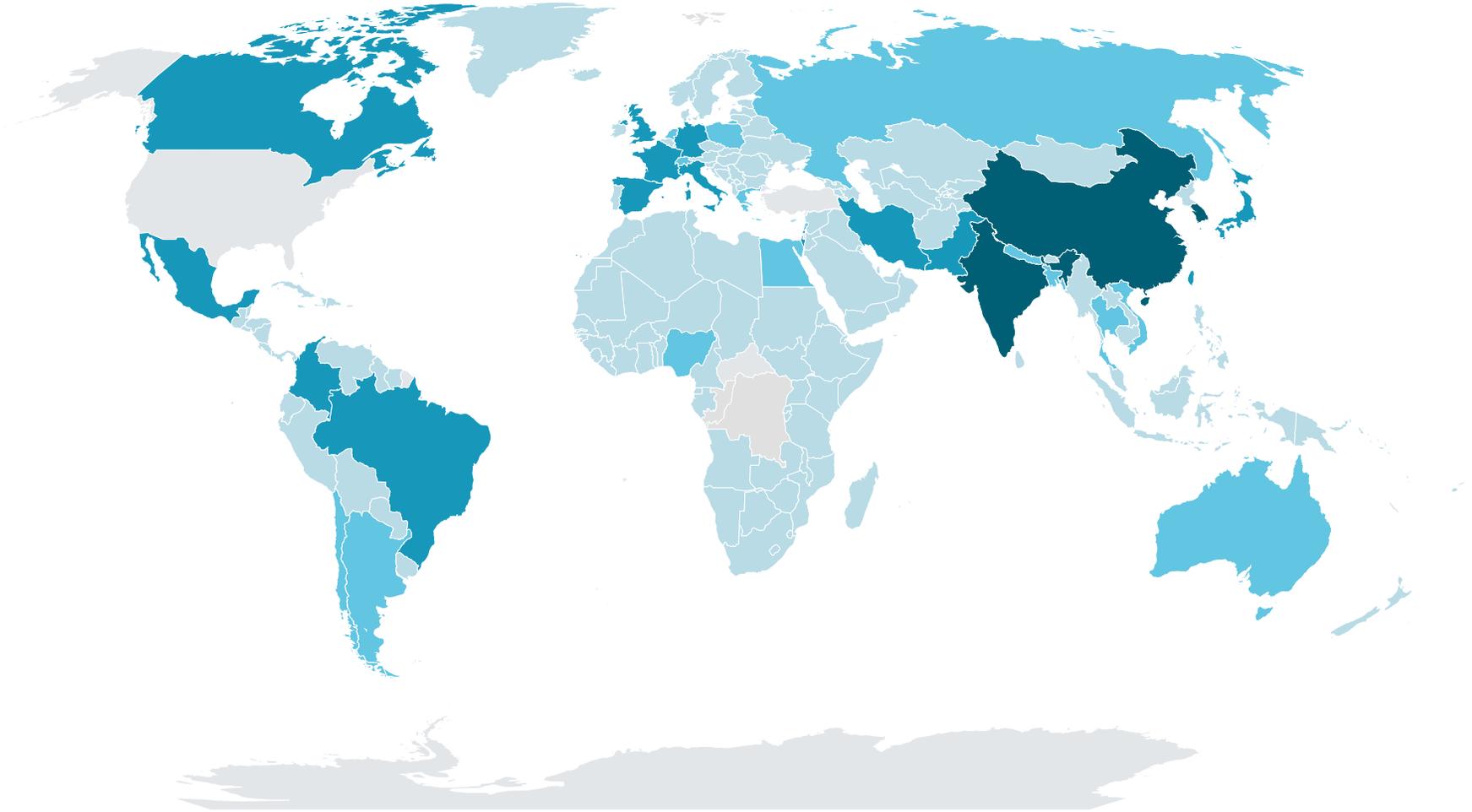
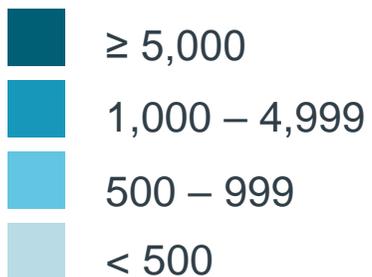




# International Scholars by Place of Origin

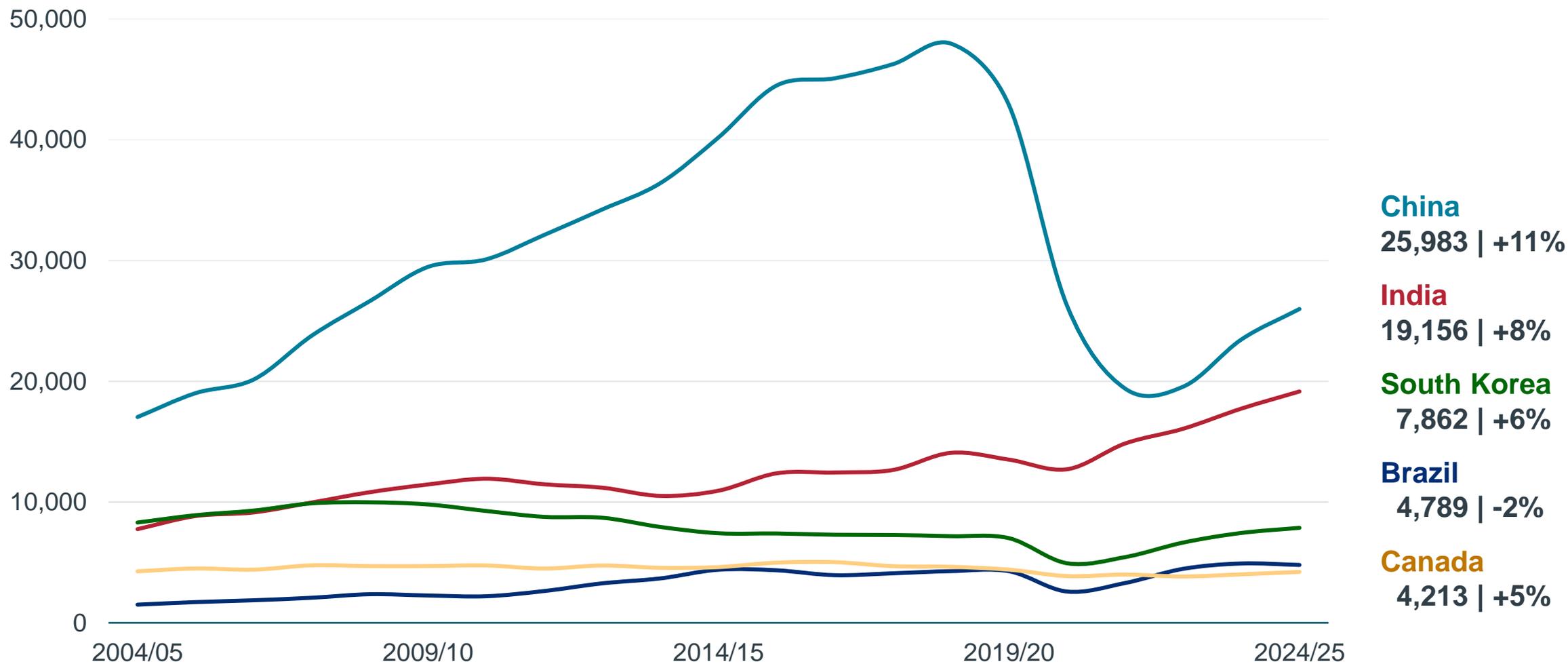
## Top Places of Origin

1	China	25,983
2	India	19,156
3	South Korea	7,862



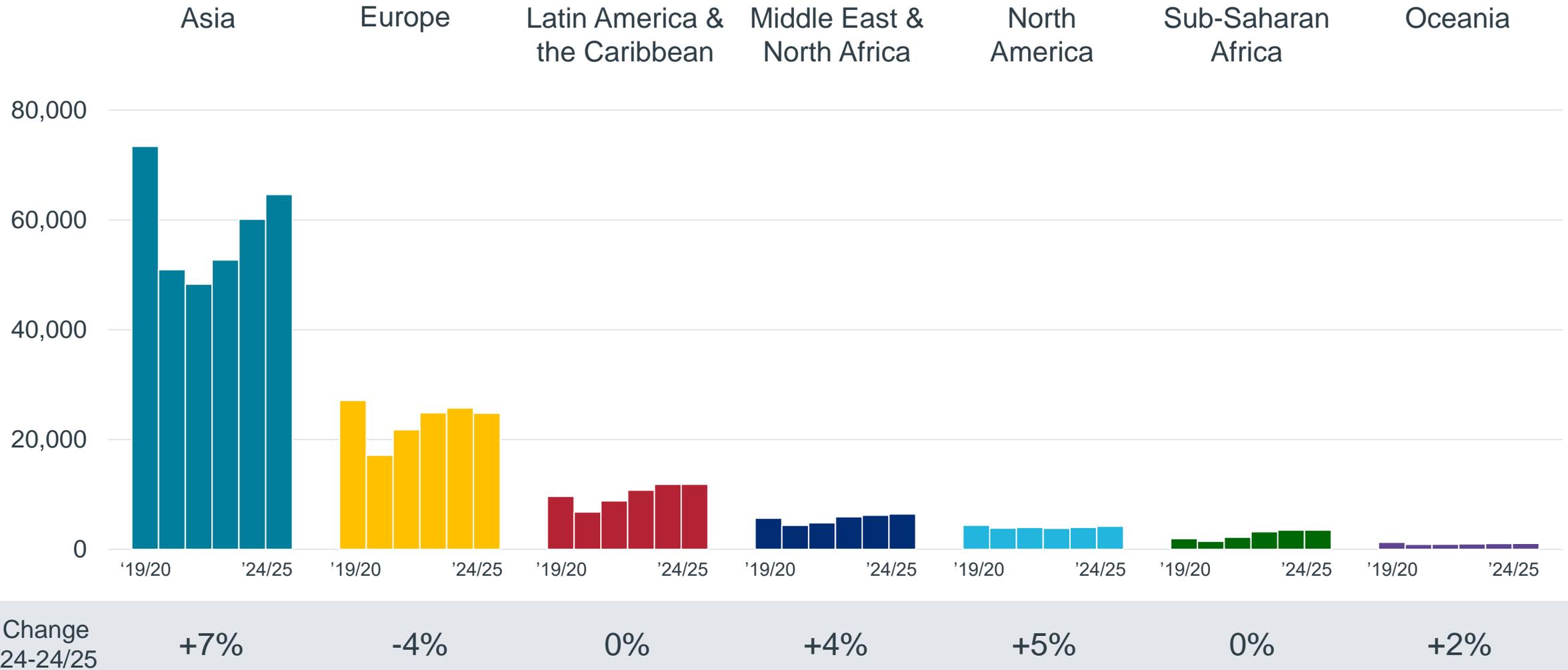


# Leading Places of Origin of International Scholars



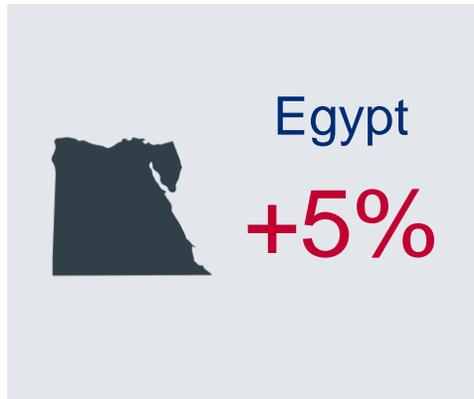


# International Scholars by World Region of Origin





# Leading Places of Origin All-Time Highs





International scholar  
totals increased in

**31**

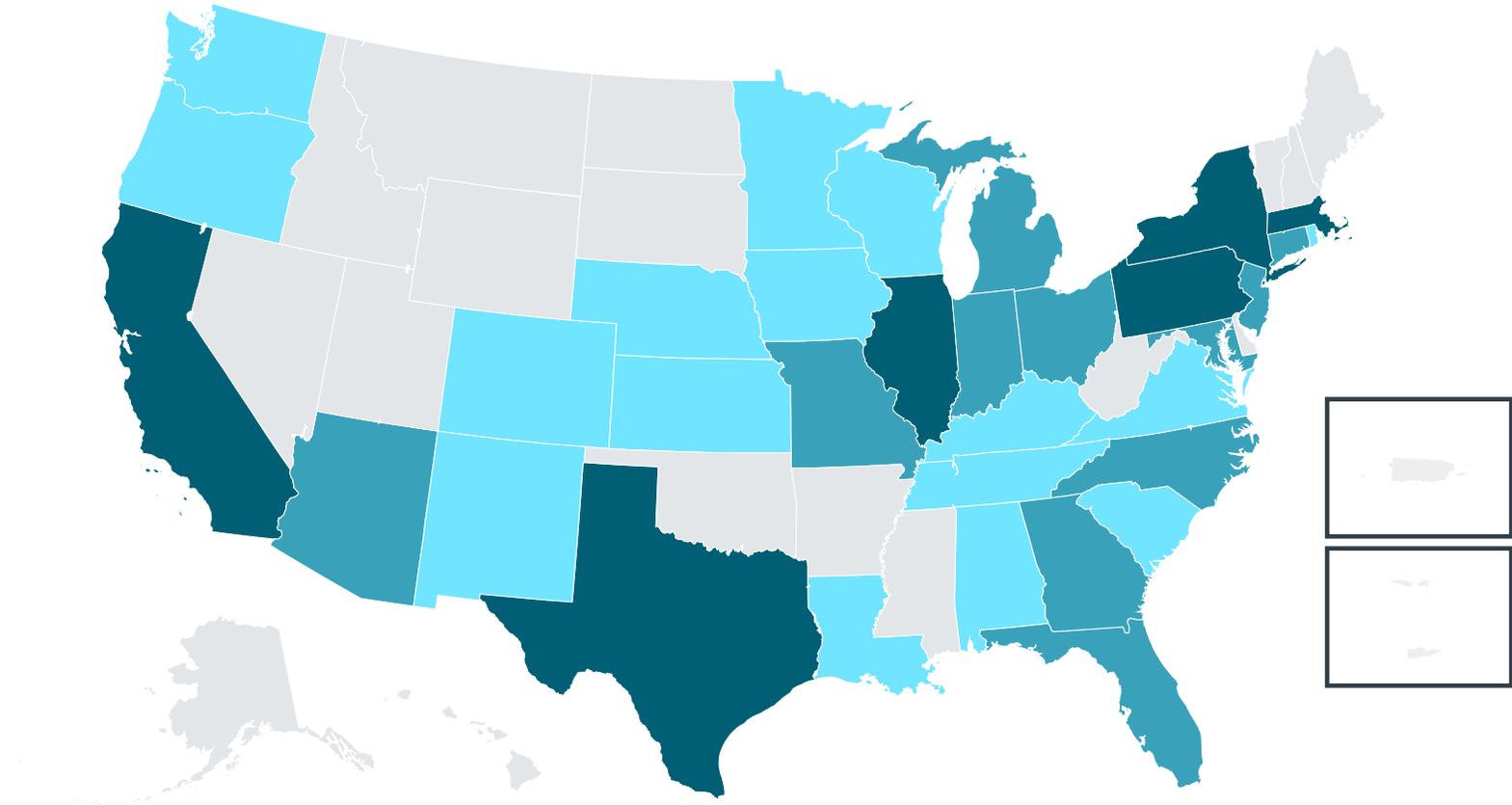
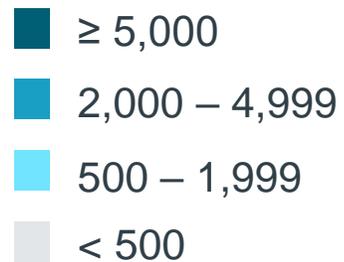
U.S. states



# International Scholars by Leading State

## Top Destination States

- 1 California
- 2 Massachusetts
- 3 New York
- 4 Texas
- 5 Pennsylvania





# Largest Increases in International Scholars by State



**+1,528**

Texas



**+501**

Connecticut



**+454**

Illinois



**+396**

Missouri



**+300**

California



**+277**

Massachusetts



**+216**

Tennessee



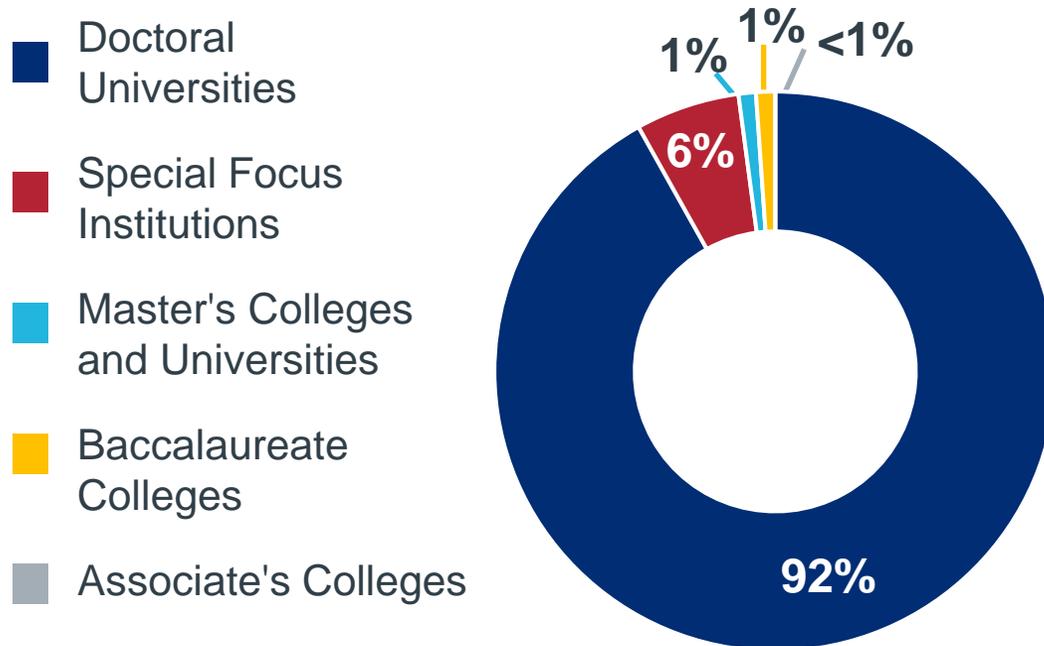
**+208**

New Jersey

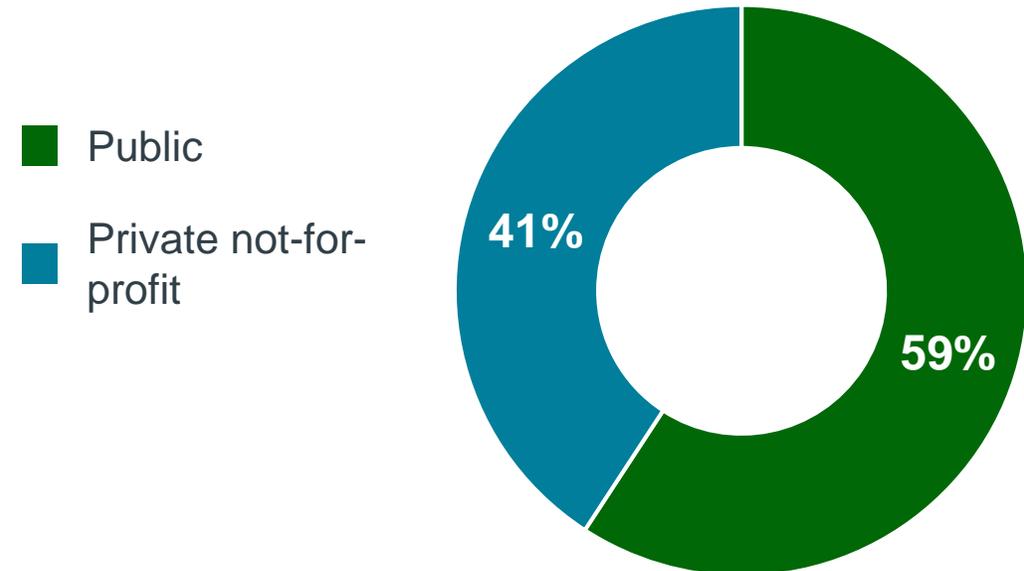


# Institutional Type of International Scholars

## Institutional Type



## Institutional Sector



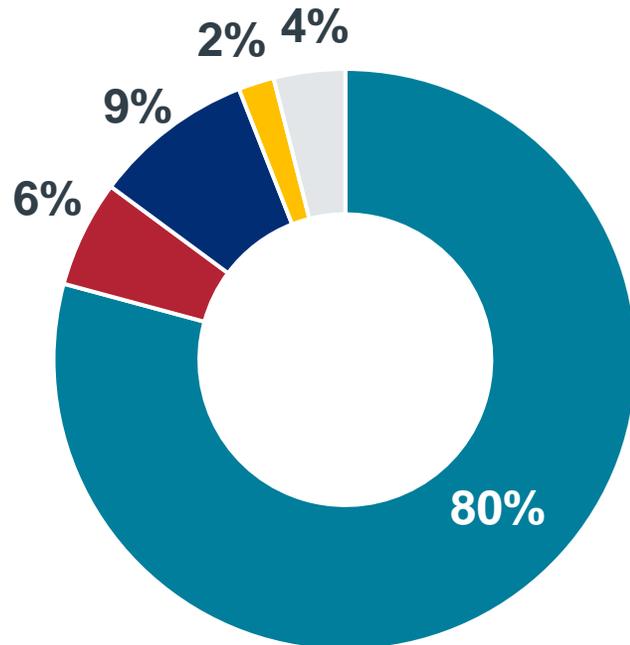


**75%**  
of international  
scholars pursued  
research activities

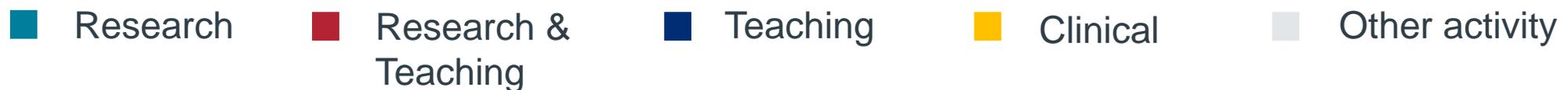
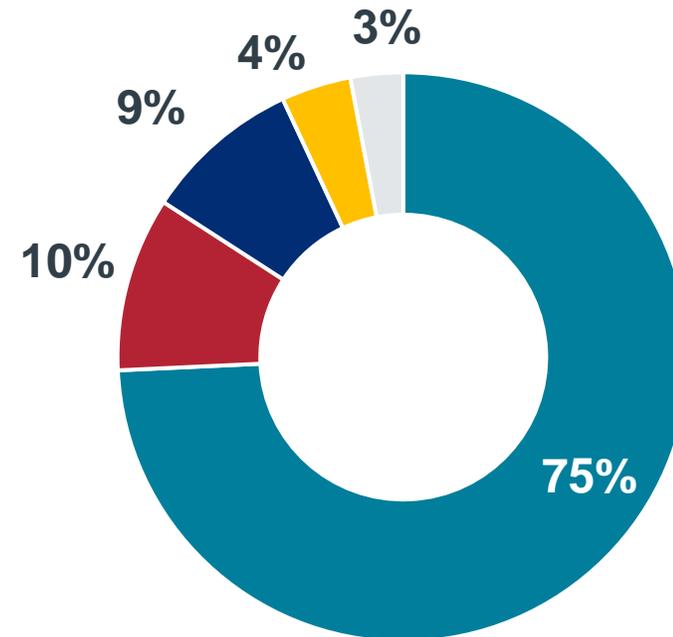


# Primary Function of International Scholars

2019/20



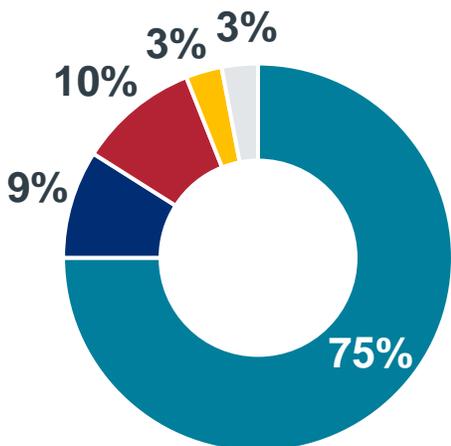
2024/25



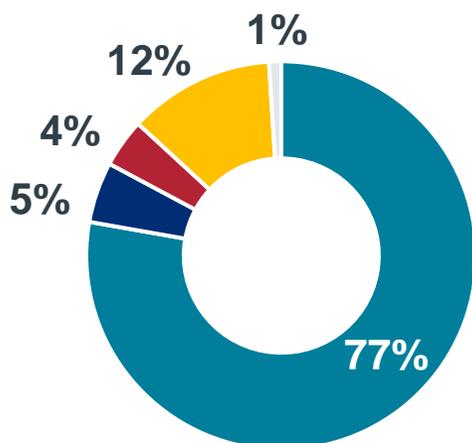


# Primary Function by Type of Institution

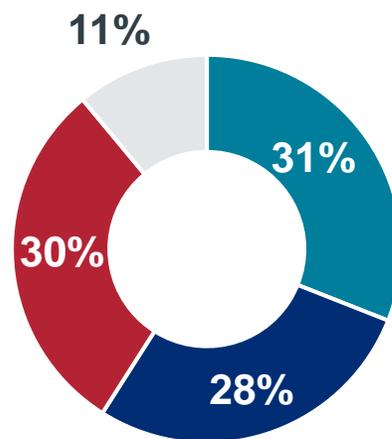
## Doctoral Universities



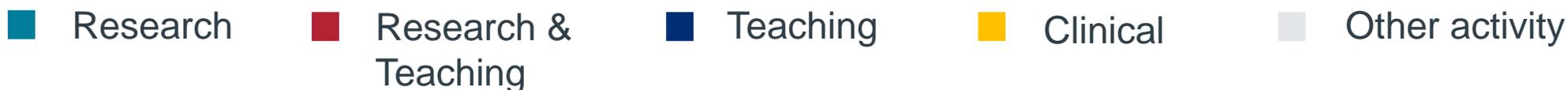
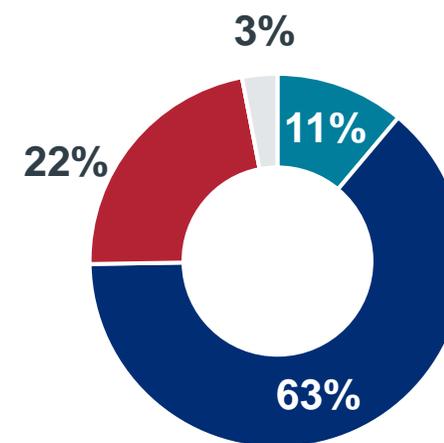
## Special Focus Institutions



## Master's Colleges & Universities



## Baccalaureate Colleges





# Leading Specializations of International Scholars



Physical and  
life sciences

**38%**



Engineering

**15%**



Health  
professions

**13%**



Social  
sciences

**7%**



Math and  
computer science

**6%**



Agriculture

**6%**



Business and  
management

**4%**



Humanities

**3%**

**78%** of international scholars focused their academic activities in STEM fields.

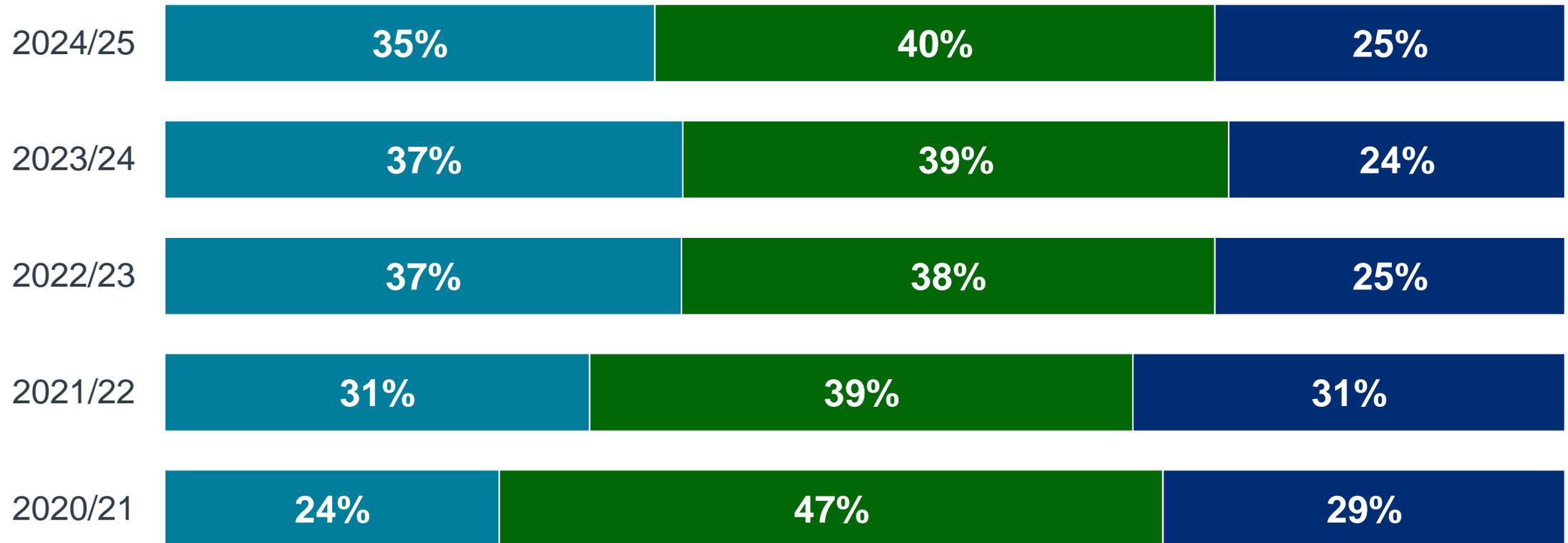


# Duration of International Scholar Appointments

**Short-term**  
(Less than 1 year)

**Mid-length**  
(1 year – up to 3 years)

**Long-term**  
(3 years or more)





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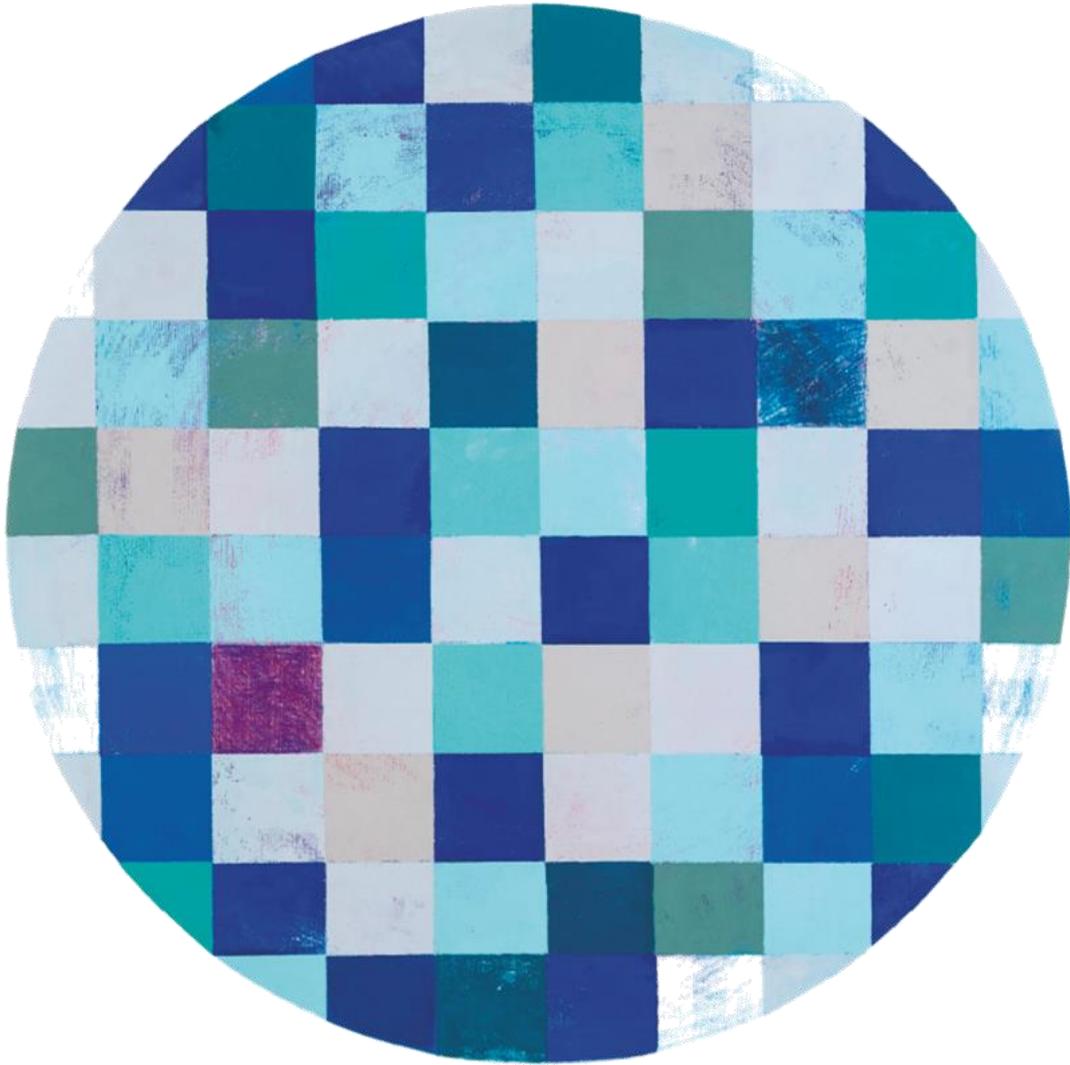
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