

opendoors®

2026 REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE

Washington, DC
November 16, 2026

Education USA
USA Study Abroad
iie The Power of International Education

International students

U.S students studying abroad

International Student Census Overview

Who is Surveyed?

Close to 3,000

U.S. higher education institutions

Who is Counted?

International students

Enrolled and on Optional Practical Training (OPT)

What Timeframe?

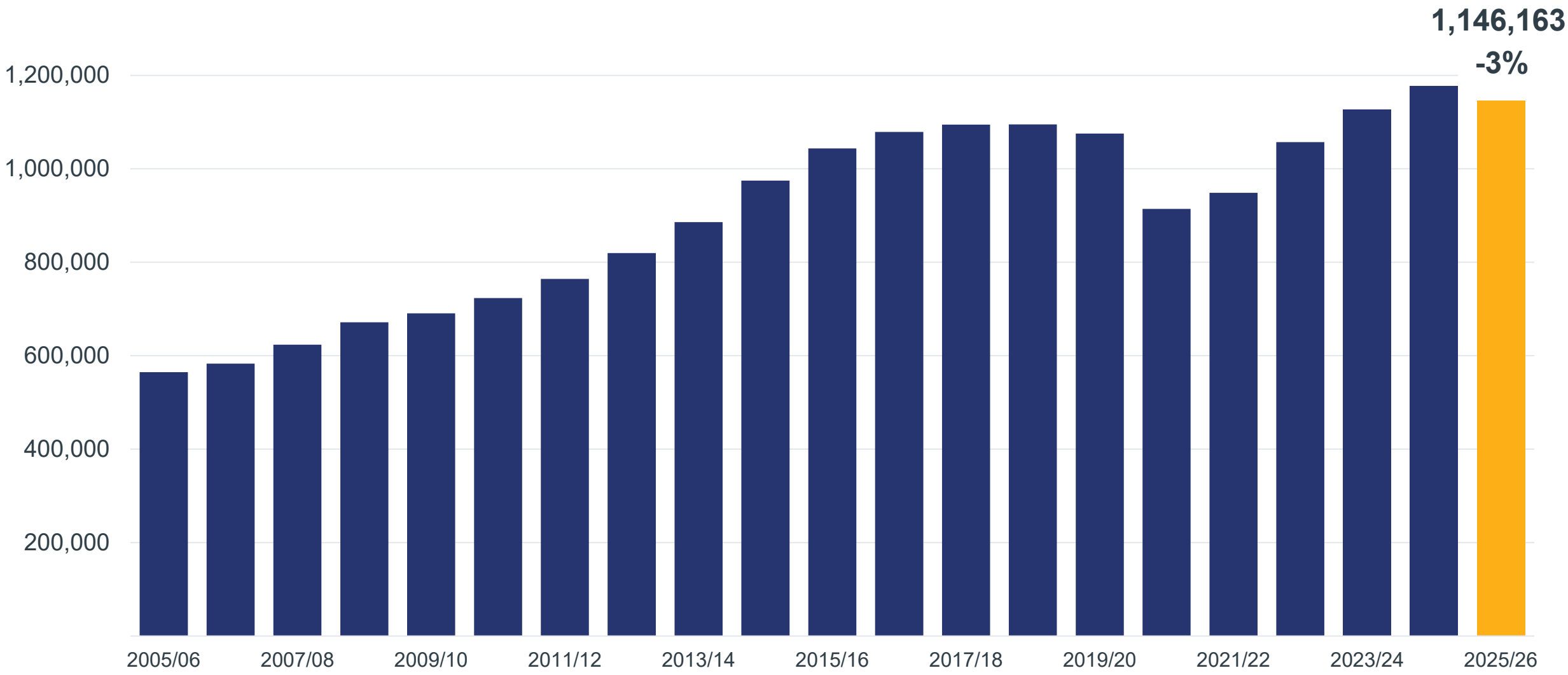
2025/26 academic year



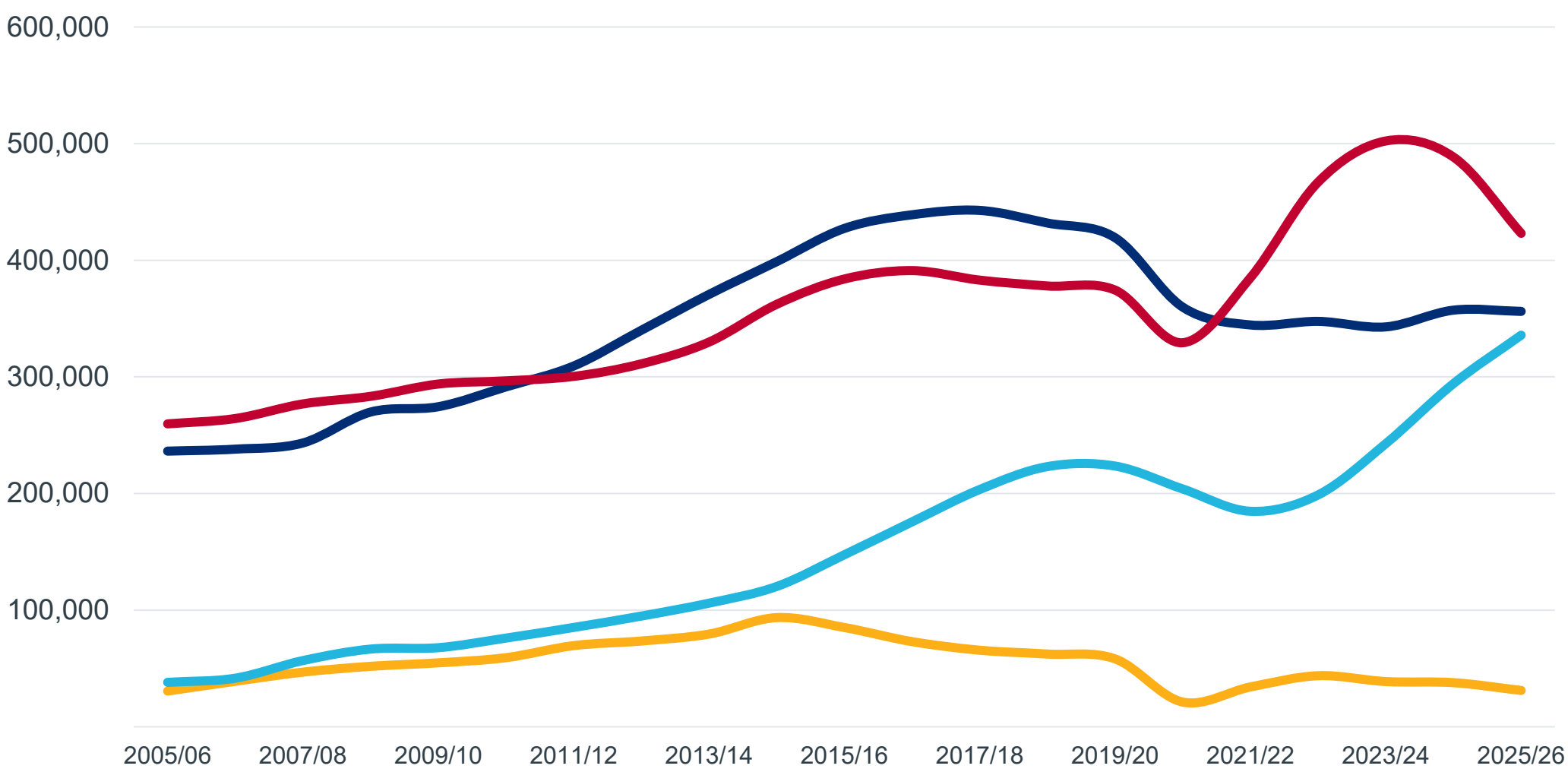
1,146,163 international students

at U.S. colleges and universities in 2025/26

20 Years of International Student Trends



International Students by Academic Level



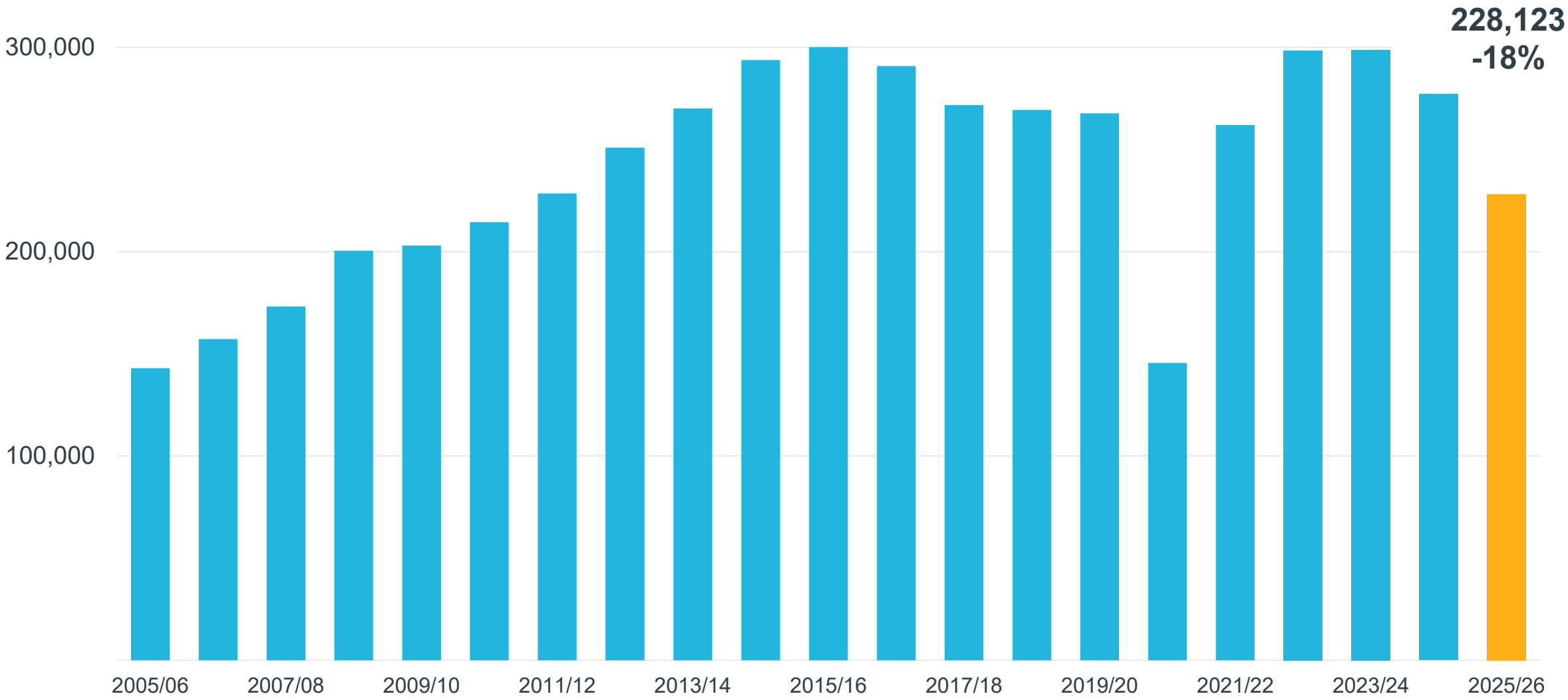
Graduate
423,078
-13%

Undergraduate
356,165
-0.3%

OPT
335,785
+14%

Non-degree
31,135
-18%

International Students New to U.S. Institutions





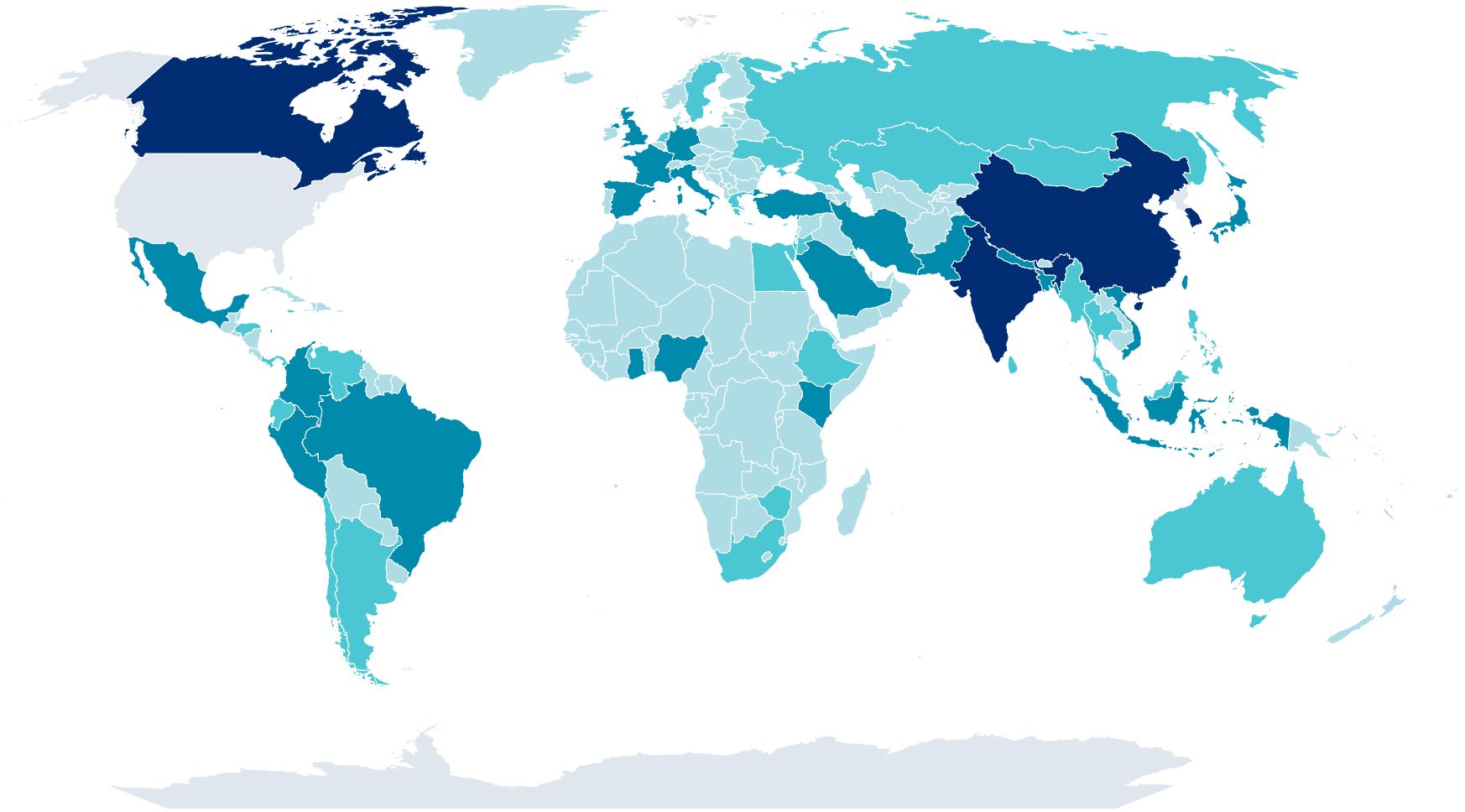
International students came from over

210 places of origin

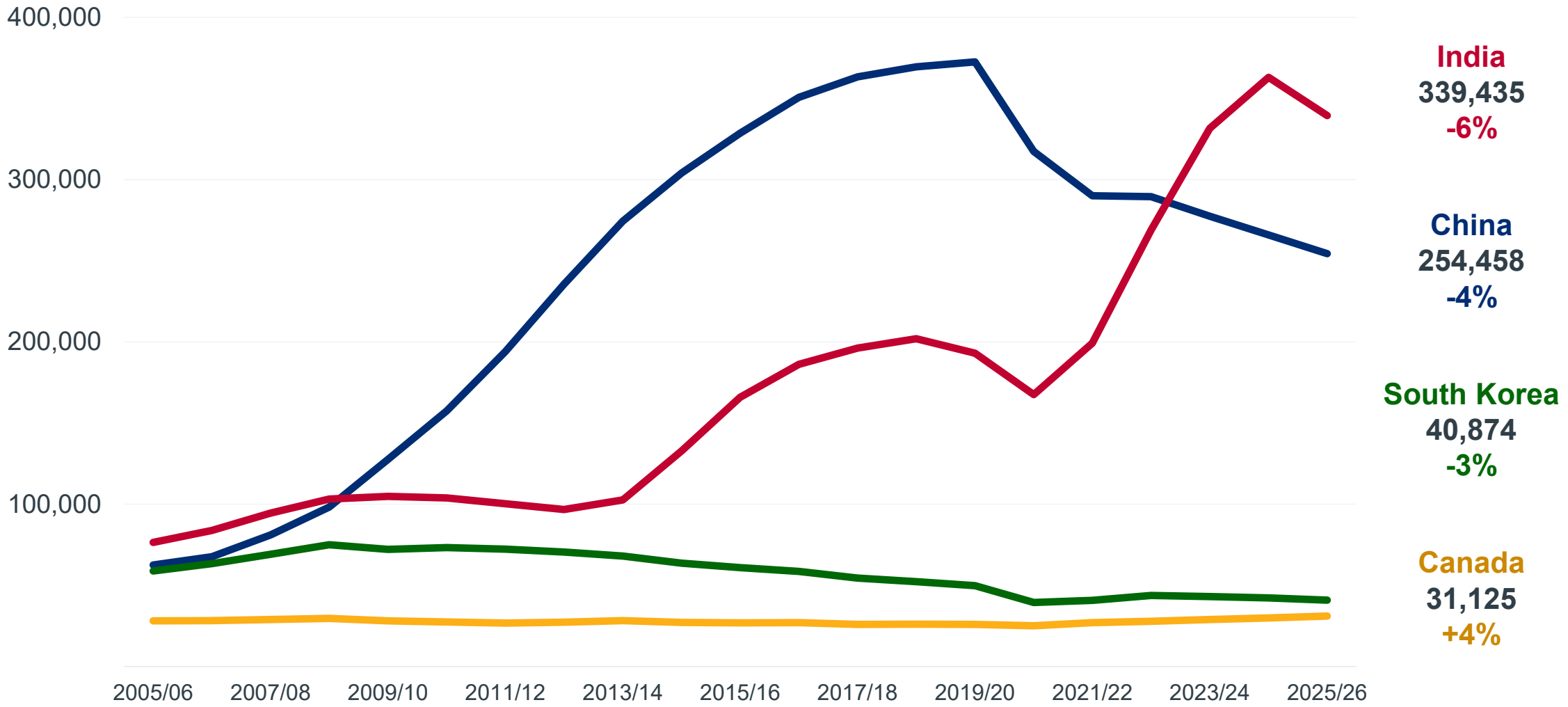
International Students by Place of Origin

Top Places of Origin

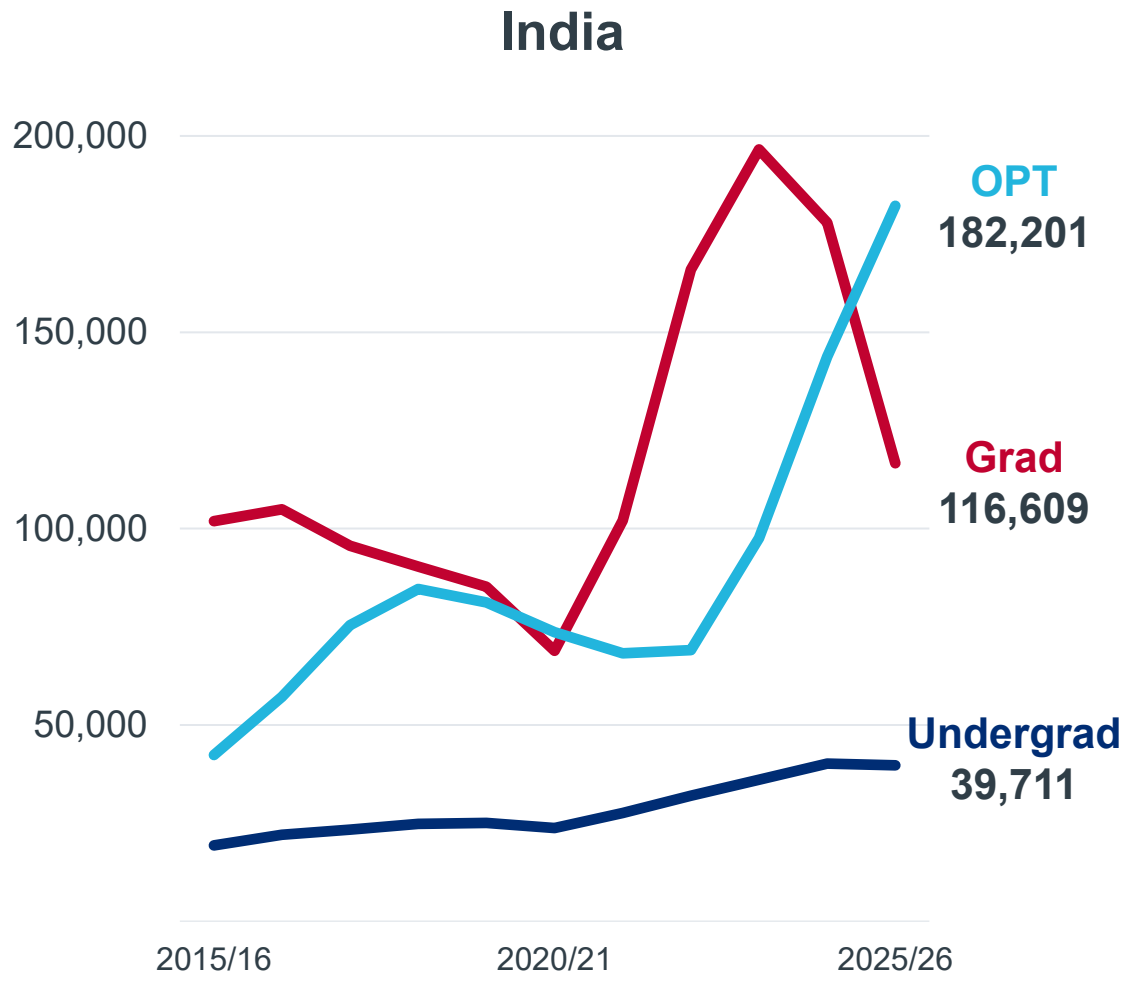
1	India	**339,435**
2	China	**254,458**
3	South Korea	**40,874**
4	Canada	**31,125**

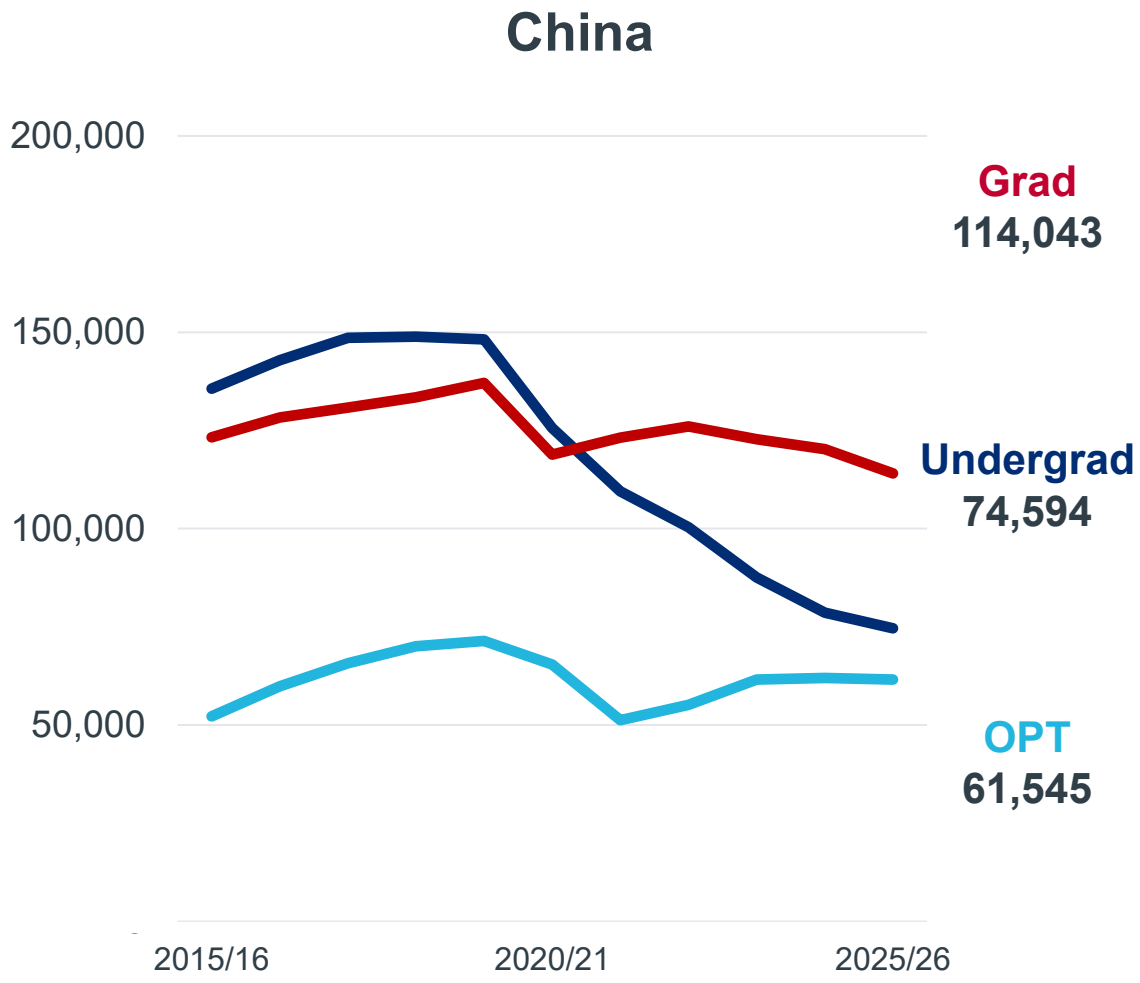


International Students by Top Places of Origin



International Students by Top Places of Origin





Selected Regional Places of Origin

Asia



813,820
-3%

Nepal	29,058
Vietnam	27,257
Bangladesh	22,534
Pakistan	14,340
Philippines	4,581

Europe



91,062
-2%

Italy	6,822
Ukraine	2,379
Azerbaijan	1,393
Portugal	1,167
Belgium	1,116

Latin America & Caribbean



88,418
+1%

Colombia	10,676
Peru	5,875
Ecuador	3,337
Honduras	2,828
Bolivia	1,529

Sub-Saharan Africa



66,992
+2%

Ghana	13,268
Zimbabwe	4,717
Ethiopia	3,511
Dem. Rep. Congo	1,836
Uganda	1,677

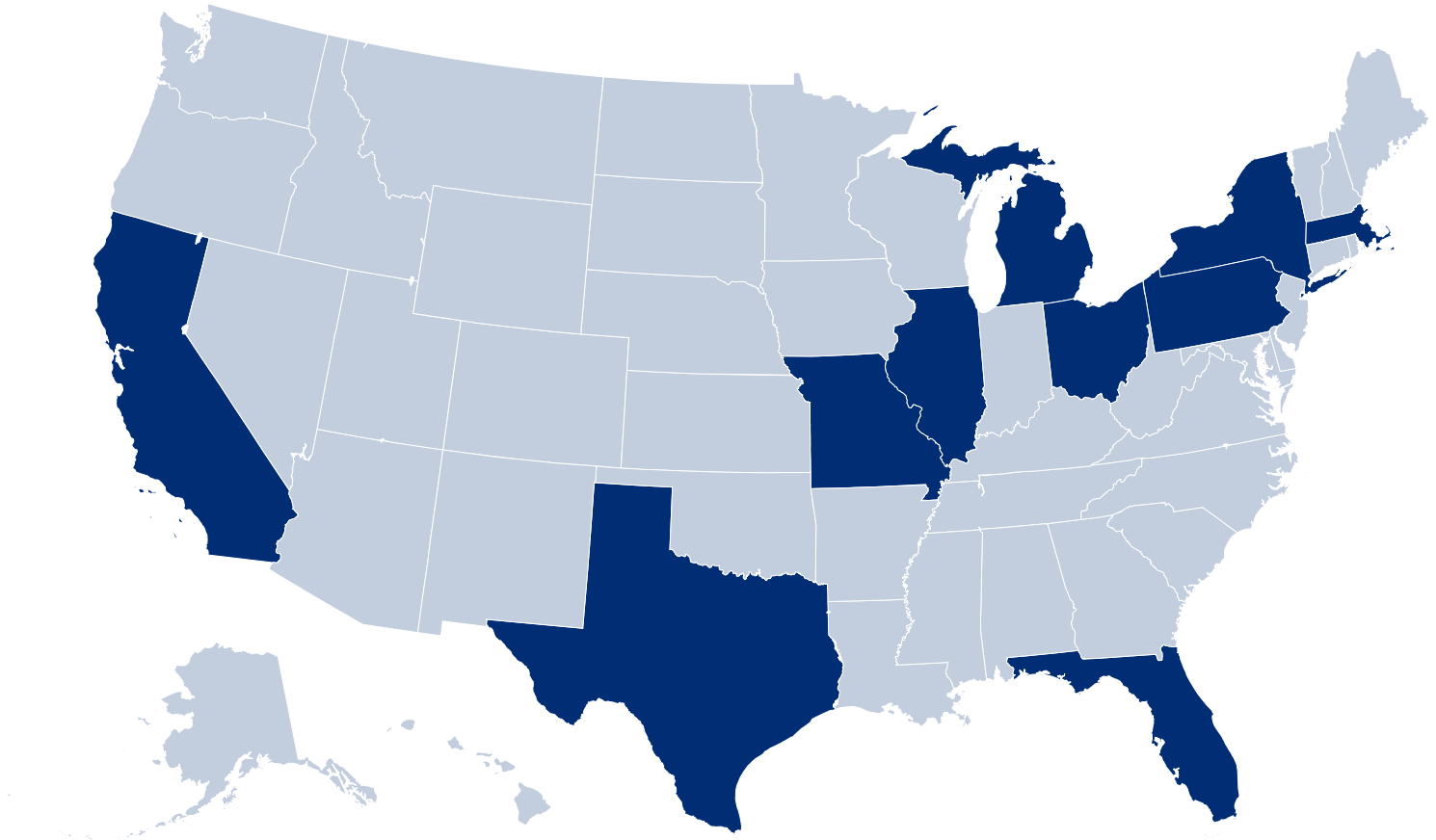


International students make up **6%** of total U.S. higher education

International Student Destinations

Top Destination States

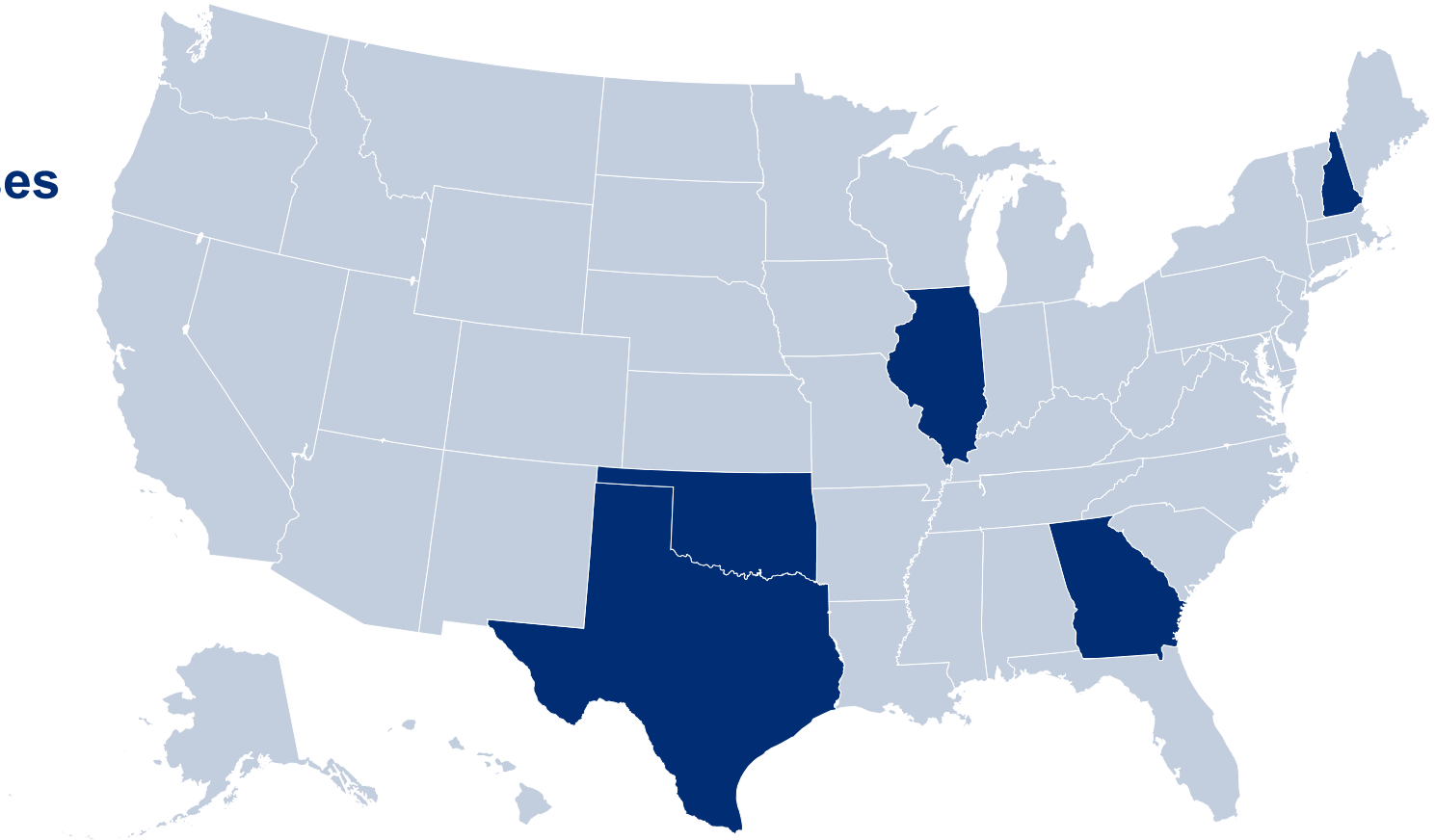
1. New York
2. California
3. Texas
4. Massachusetts
5. Illinois
6. Pennsylvania
7. Florida
8. Michigan
9. Ohio
10. Missouri



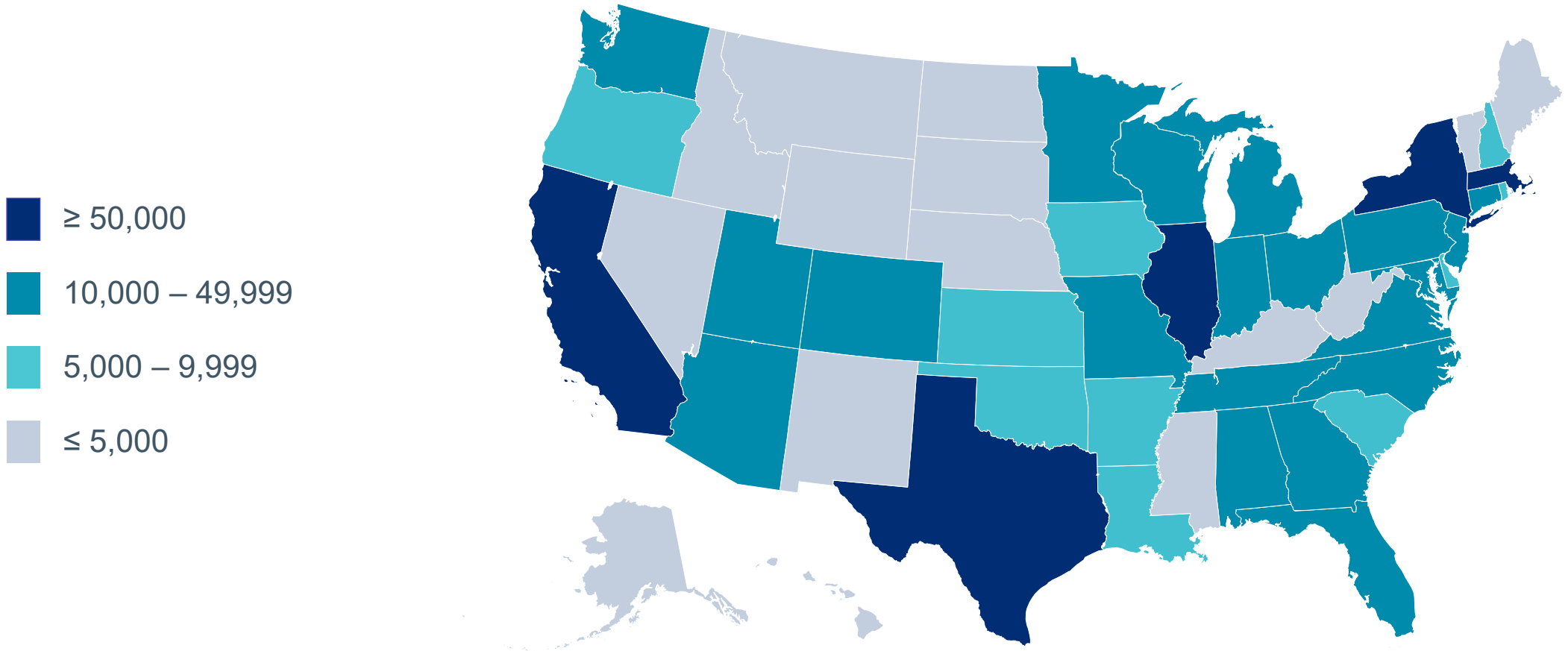
International Student Destinations

States with largest increases

1. Texas
2. New Hampshire
3. Illinois
4. Oklahoma
5. Georgia



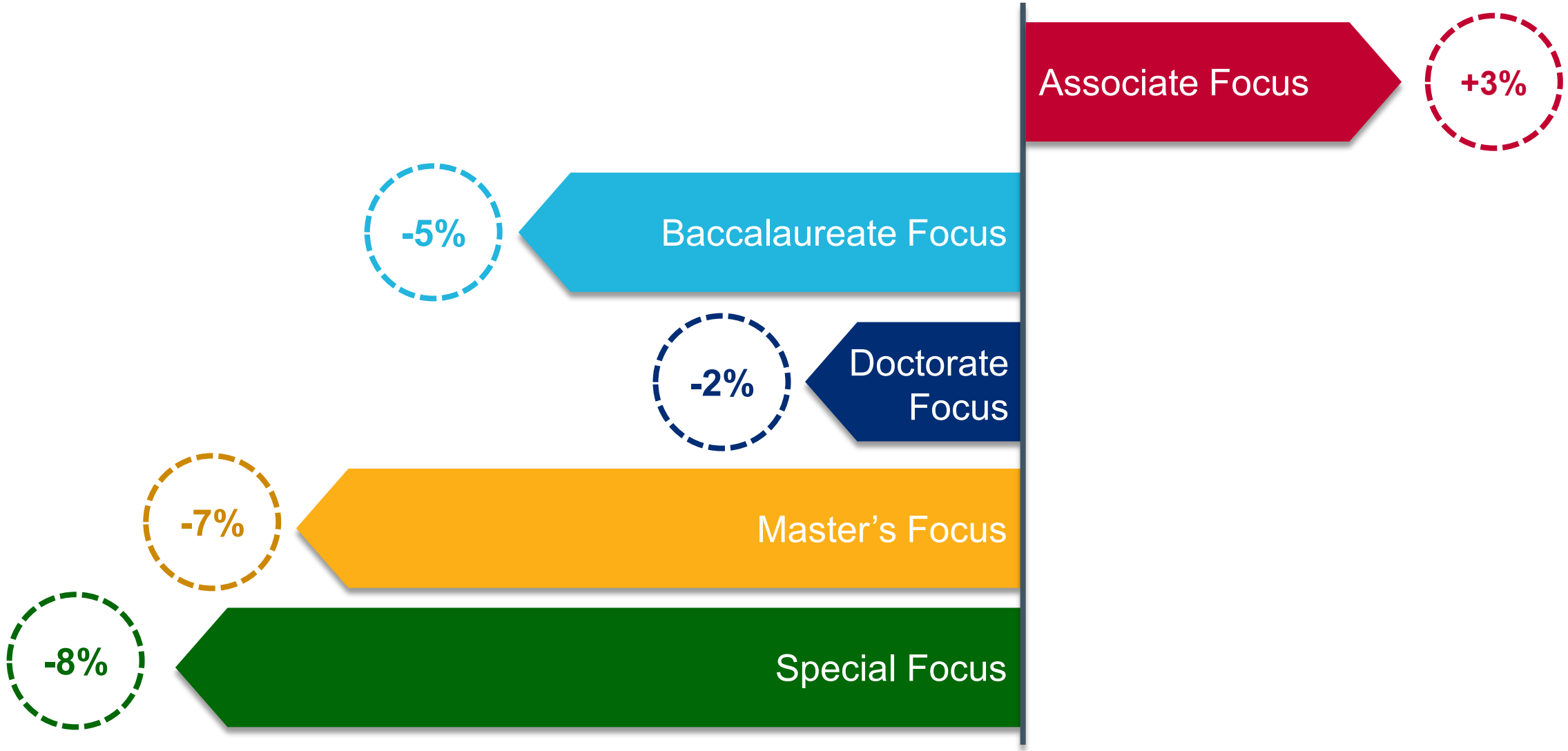
International Student Destinations





59% of international students attend public institutions

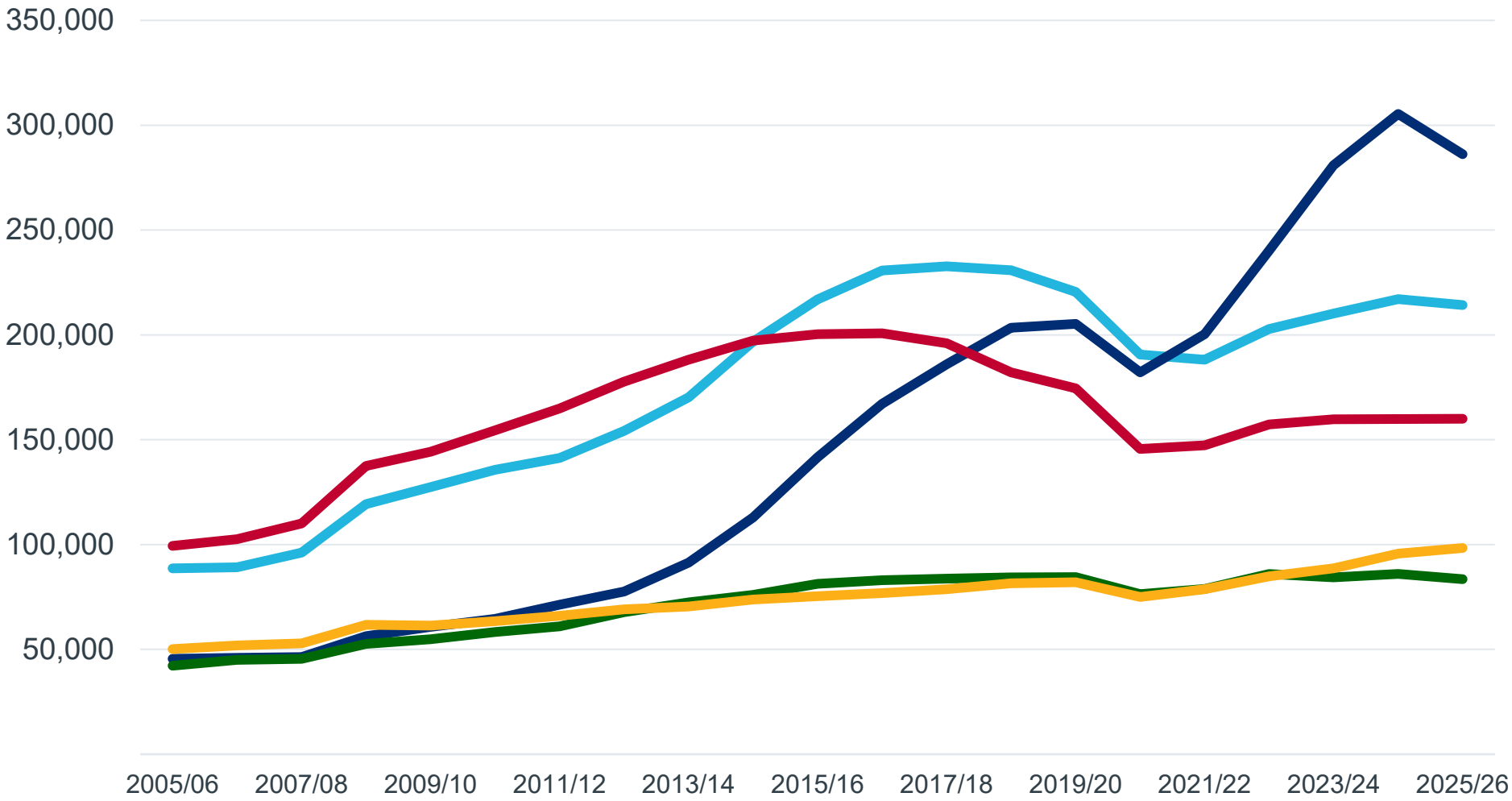
International Students by Institutional Type





57% of international students studied in STEM fields

International Students by Field of Study



Math & Computer Science
286,168 | -6%

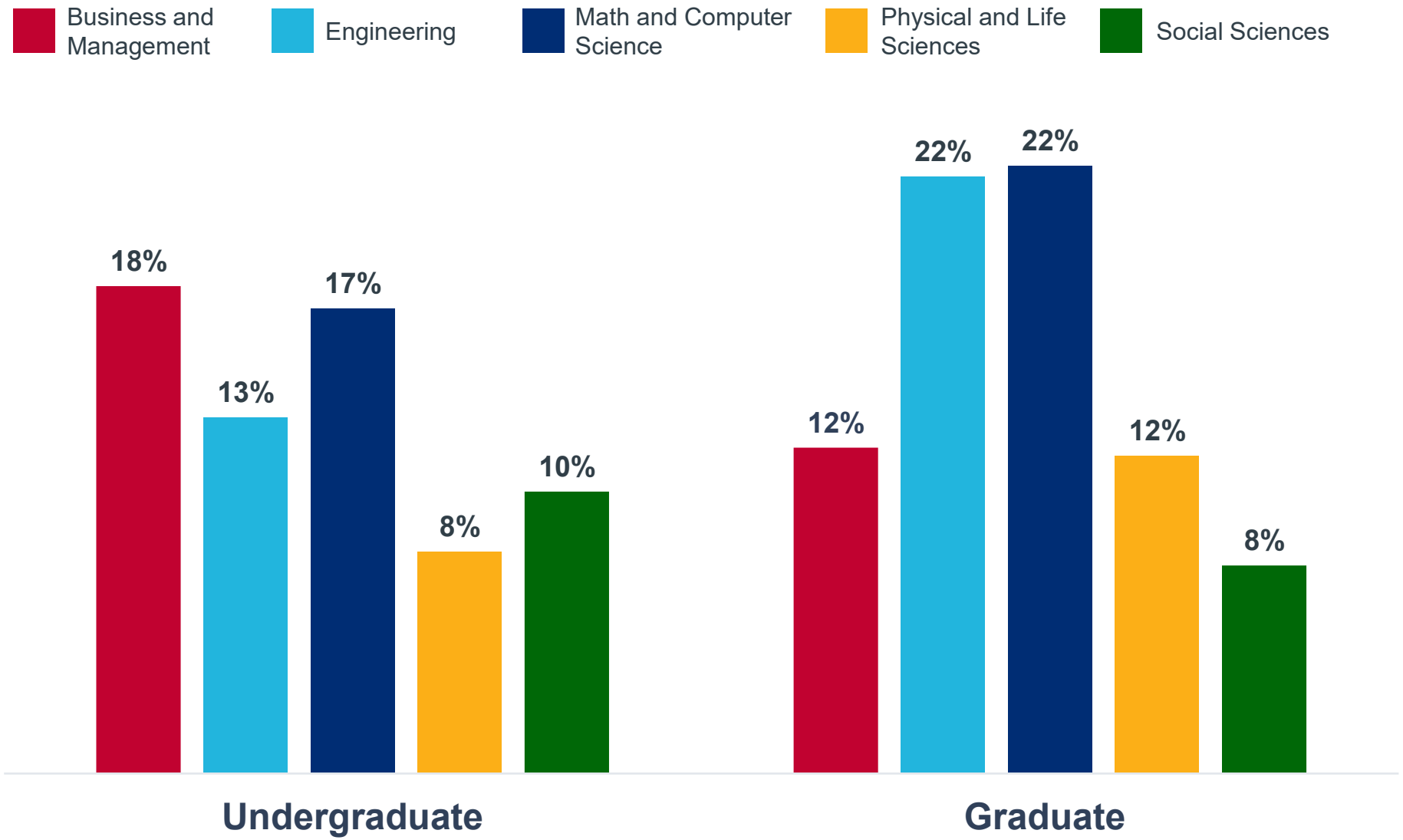
Engineering
214,193 | -1%

Business & Management
160,009 | 0%

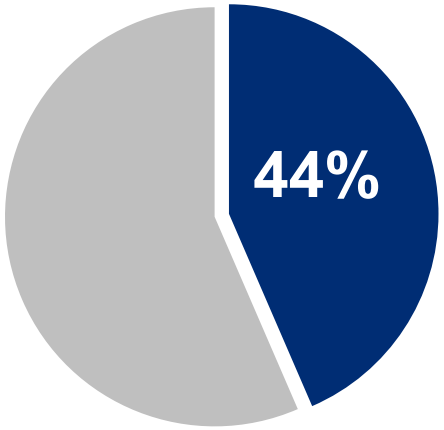
Physical & Life Sciences
98,373 | +3%

Social Sciences
83,550 | -3%

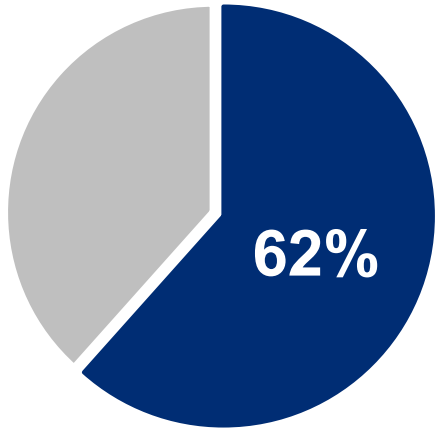
Fields of Study by Academic Level



Undergraduate STEM



Graduate STEM



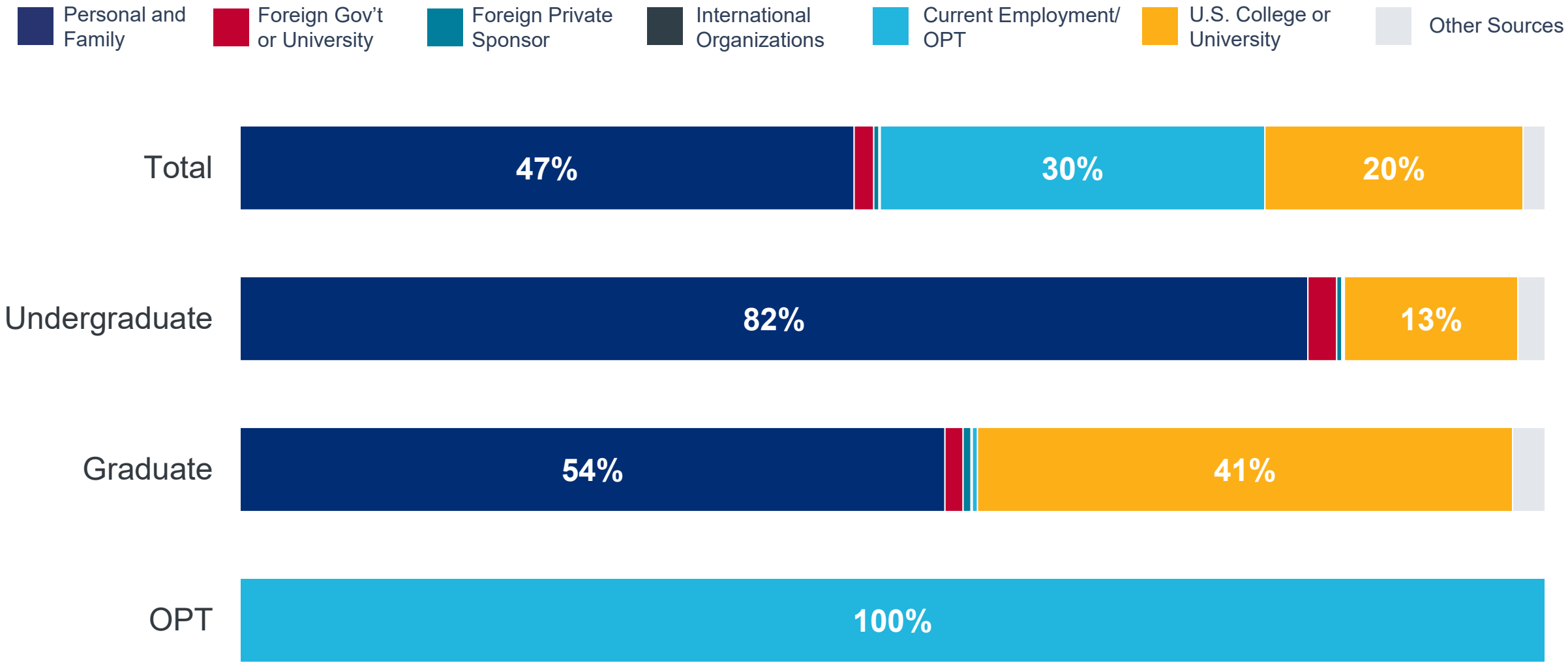


In 2025, international students contributed

$56 billion to the U.S. economy

U.S. Department of Commerce

International Students' Primary Sources of Funding

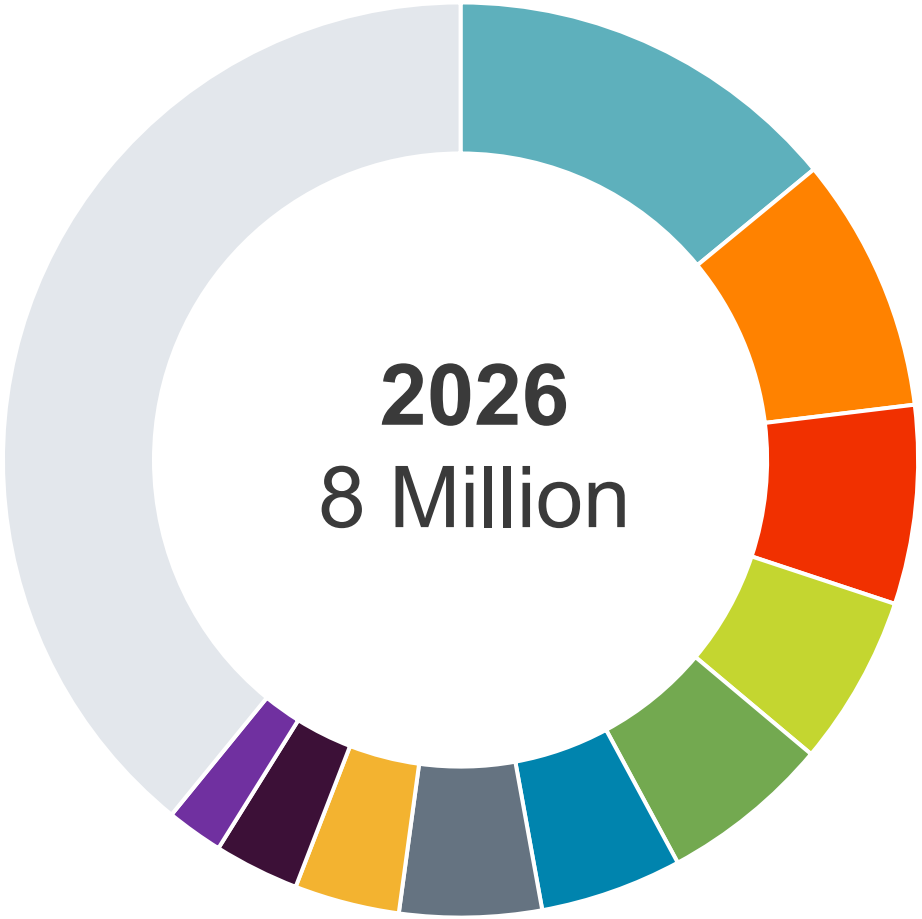




Global Mobility

Top Global Hosts of International Students

United States	14%
United Kingdom	9%
Australia	7%
Canada	6%
France	6%
Germany	5%
China	5%
South Korea	4%
Japan	3%
Spain	2%
All others	39%



Top Global Hosts of International Students

2006
3 Million

United States	565,766
United Kingdom	344,335
France	265,710
Germany	246,334
Canada	166,872
Australia	160,000
China	141,087
Japan	121,812
South Africa	53,733
Italy*	49,090

2026
8 Million

United States	1,146,163
United Kingdom	720,335
Australia	545,259
Canada	487,355
France	443,500
Germany	402,083
China	380,000
South Korea	307,464
Japan	267,895
Spain	171,536



*UNESCO



Fall 2026 Snapshot

AACRAO

AASCU American Association of State Colleges and Universities
Delivering America's Promise

ACE American Council on Education

AIRC The Association of International Enrollment Management

Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities

1976 50 2026

CollegeBoard

CGS Council of Graduate School

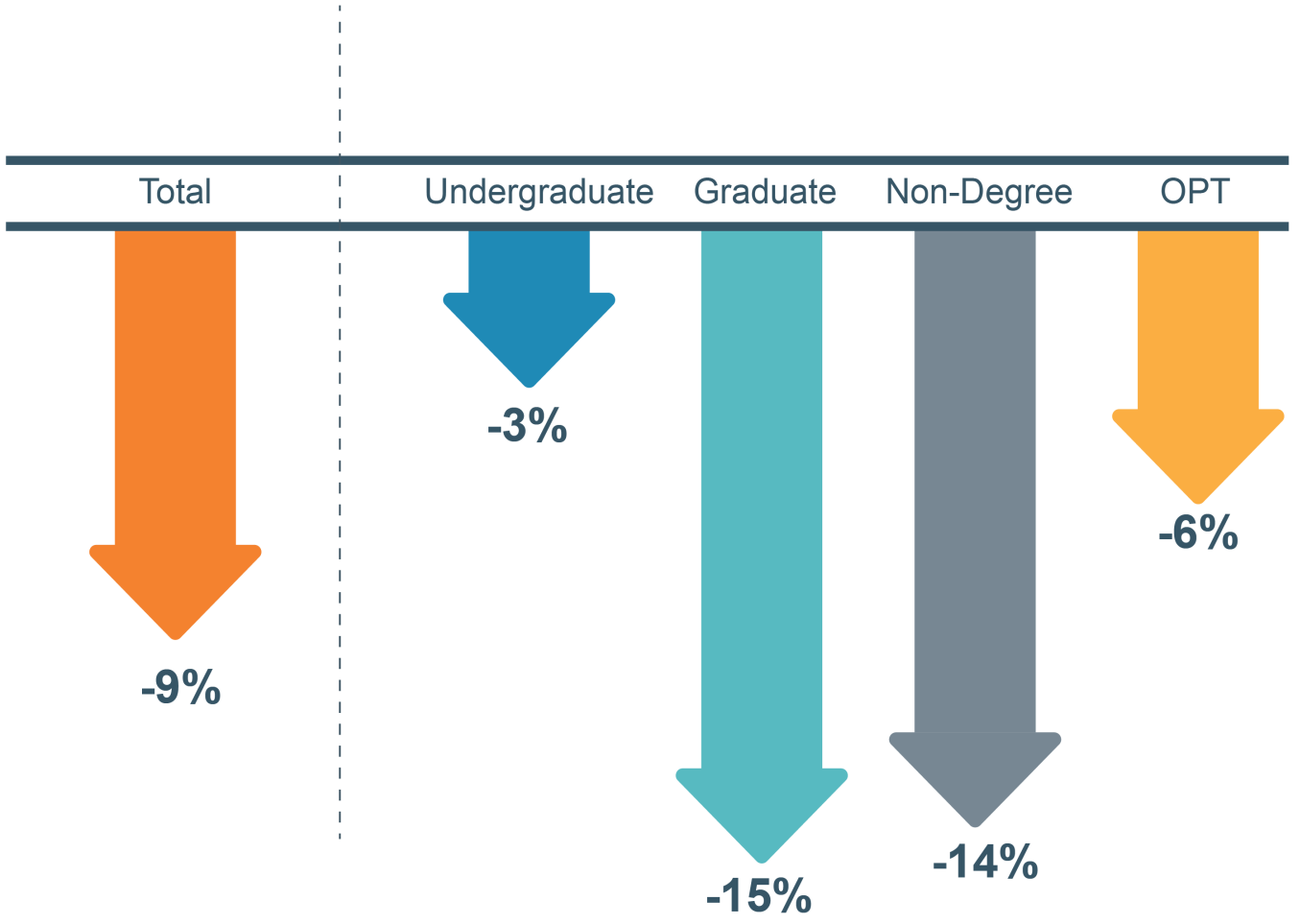
iie The Power of International Education

NACAC National Association for College Admission Counseling

NAFSA

Fall 2026 International Student Enrollment Snapshot

-9%
Total international students



Fall 2026 International Student Enrollment Snapshot



-9%

Total international students

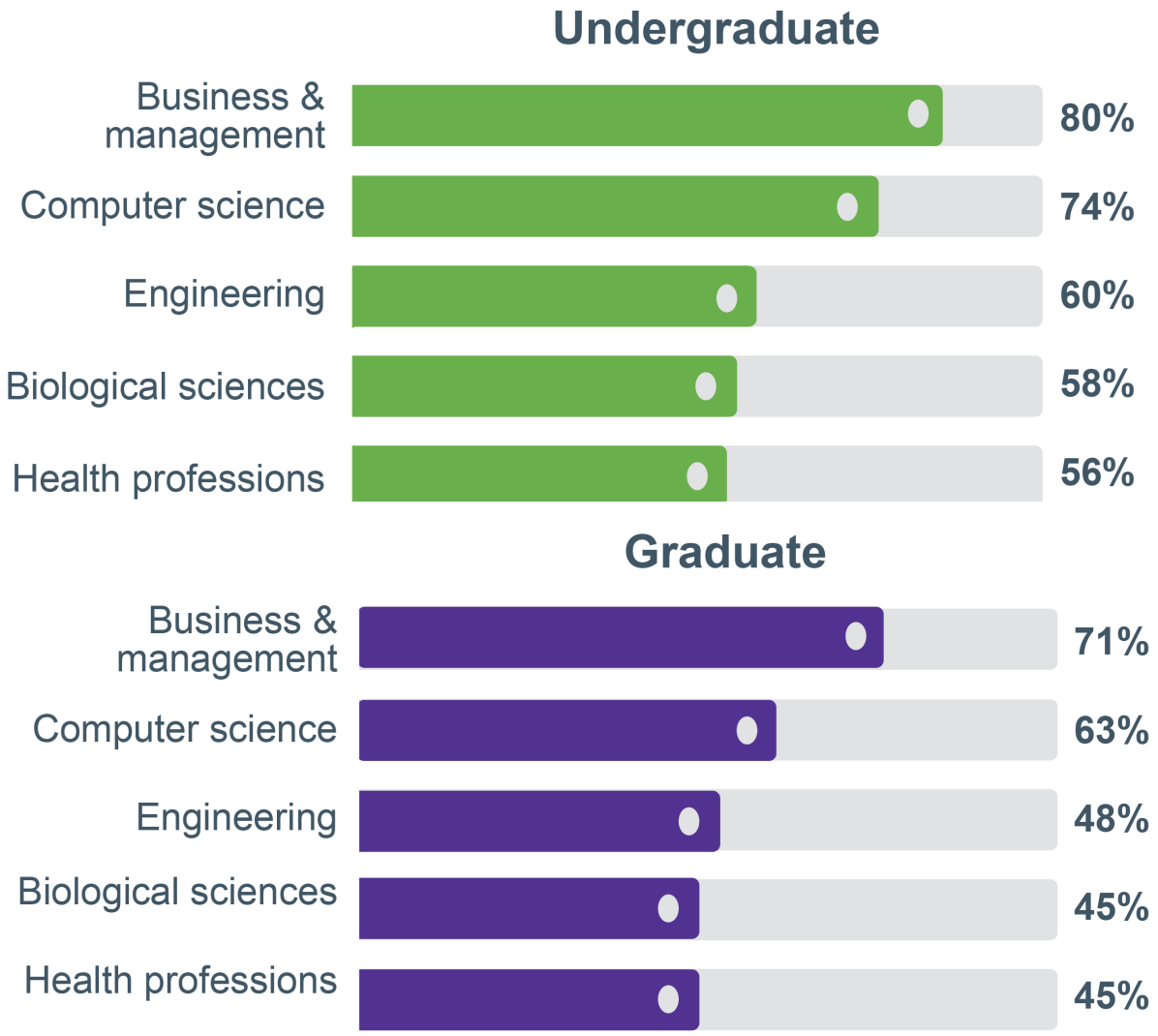


-15%

New international students

Fall 2026 International Student Enrollment Snapshot

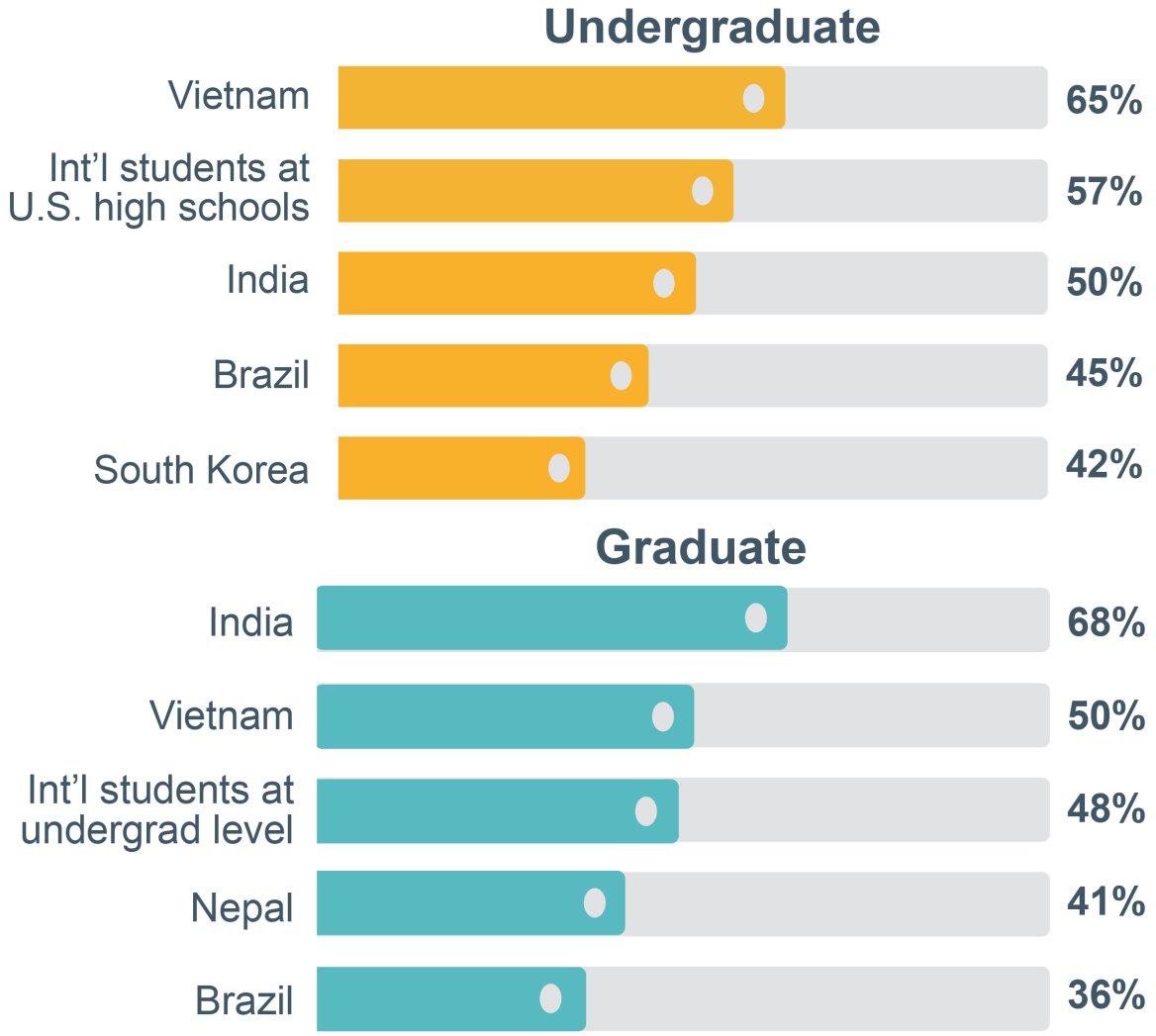
91%
of U.S. colleges and universities cite prioritizing recruitment in STEM fields



Fall 2026 International Student Enrollment Snapshot

81%

of U.S. institutions consider international student recruitment a priority



International students

U.S students studying abroad

U.S. Study Abroad Overview

Who is Surveyed?

Close to 2,000
U.S. higher education institutions

Who is Counted?

U.S. citizens and permanent residents
receiving credit from their home institution for study abroad

What Timeframe?

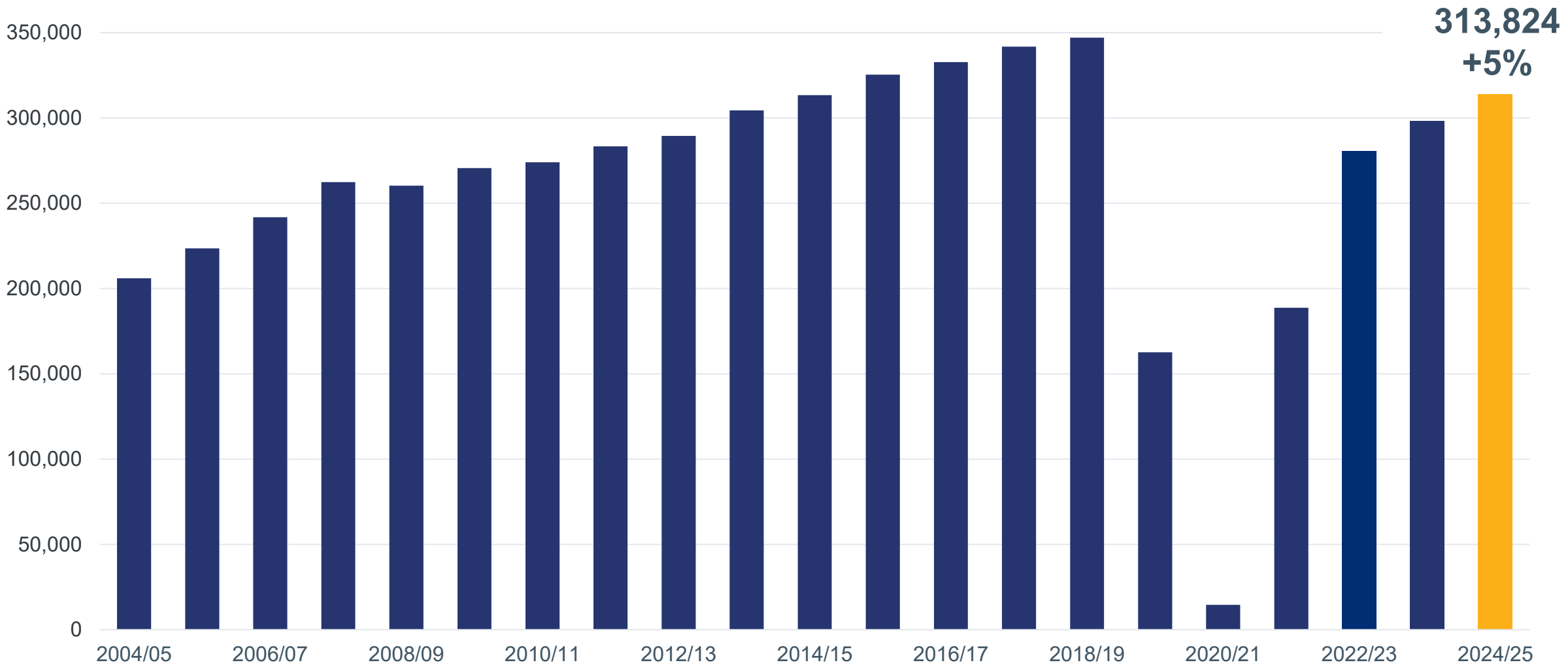
2024/25 academic year
Study abroad from fall 2024 - summer 2025



313,824

U.S. students studied abroad in 2024/25

U.S. Study Abroad Trends

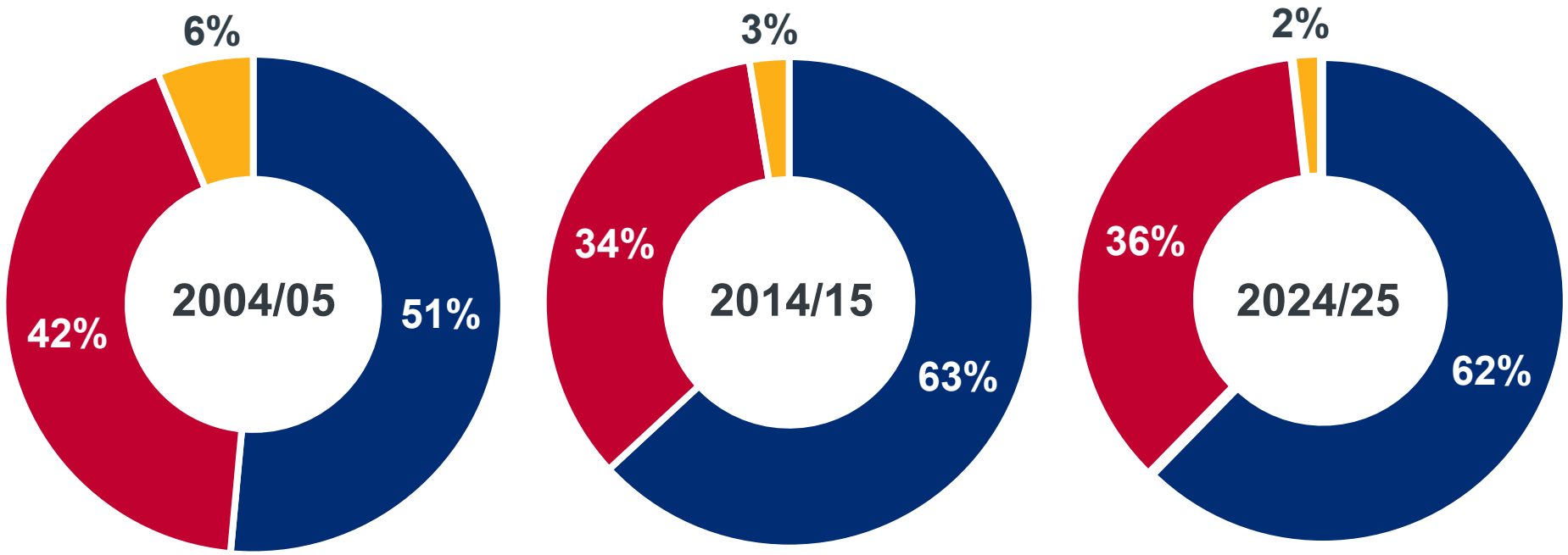


Duration of U.S. Study Abroad

Short-term
8 weeks or less during the academic year or summer

Mid-Length
One/two quarters or semester

Long-term
Academic year or calendar year





U.S. students studied abroad in more than

180 destinations

Selected Regional Destinations

Europe



200,671
+5%

Asia



34,671
+14%

Latin America & Caribbean



31,401
-0.2%

Oceania



11,230
+13%

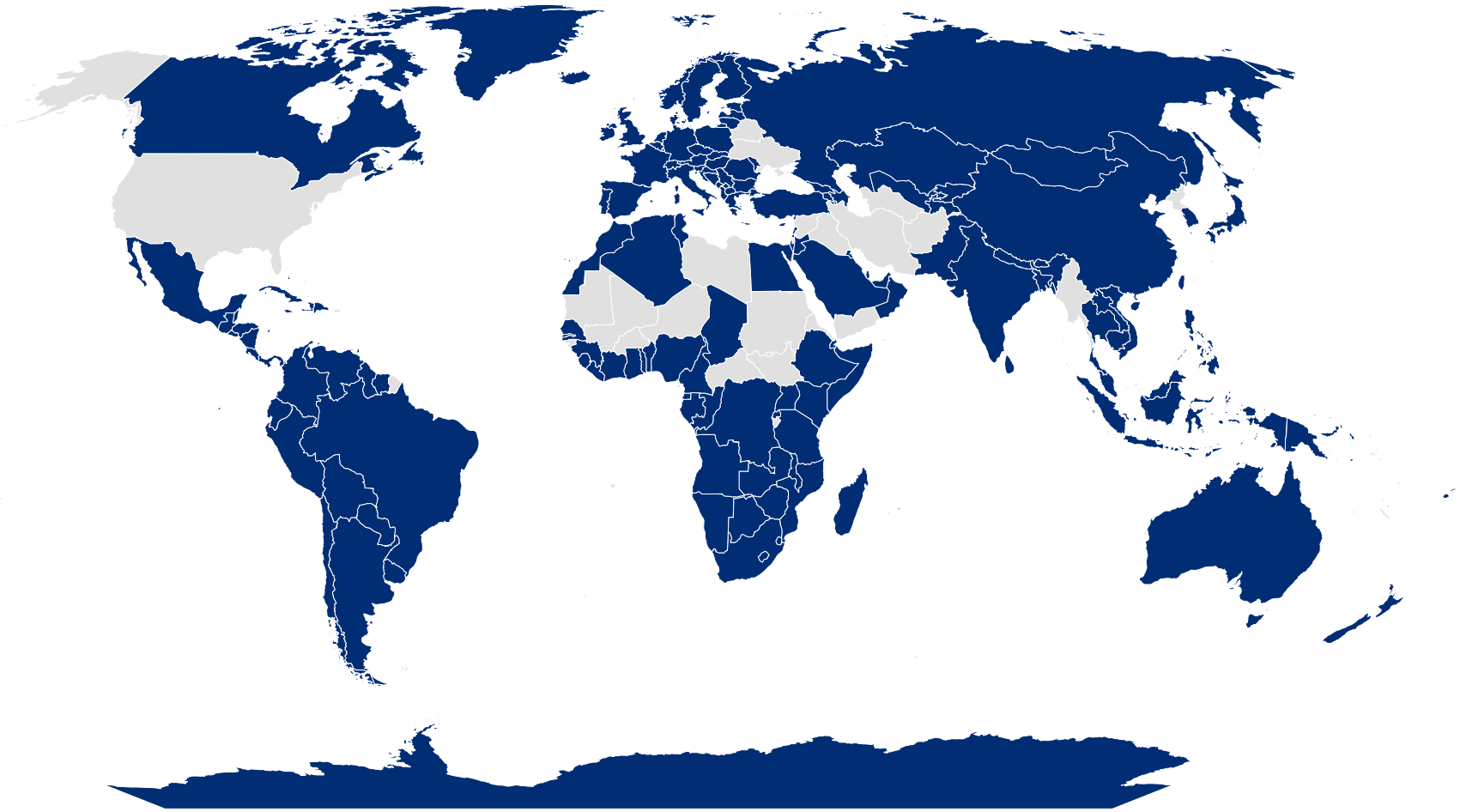
Sub-Saharan Africa



9,617
+6%

Leading U.S. Study Abroad Destinations

1	Italy	46,663
2	Spain	39,794
3	United Kingdom	37,093
4	France	17,490
5	Japan	12,853
6	Ireland	10,535
7	Germany	8,731
8	Australia	7,561
9	South Korea	7,093
10	Greece	7,012



Leading Destinations at All-Time Highs



46,663

Italy



39,794

Spain



12,853

Japan



7,093

South Korea



7,012

Greece



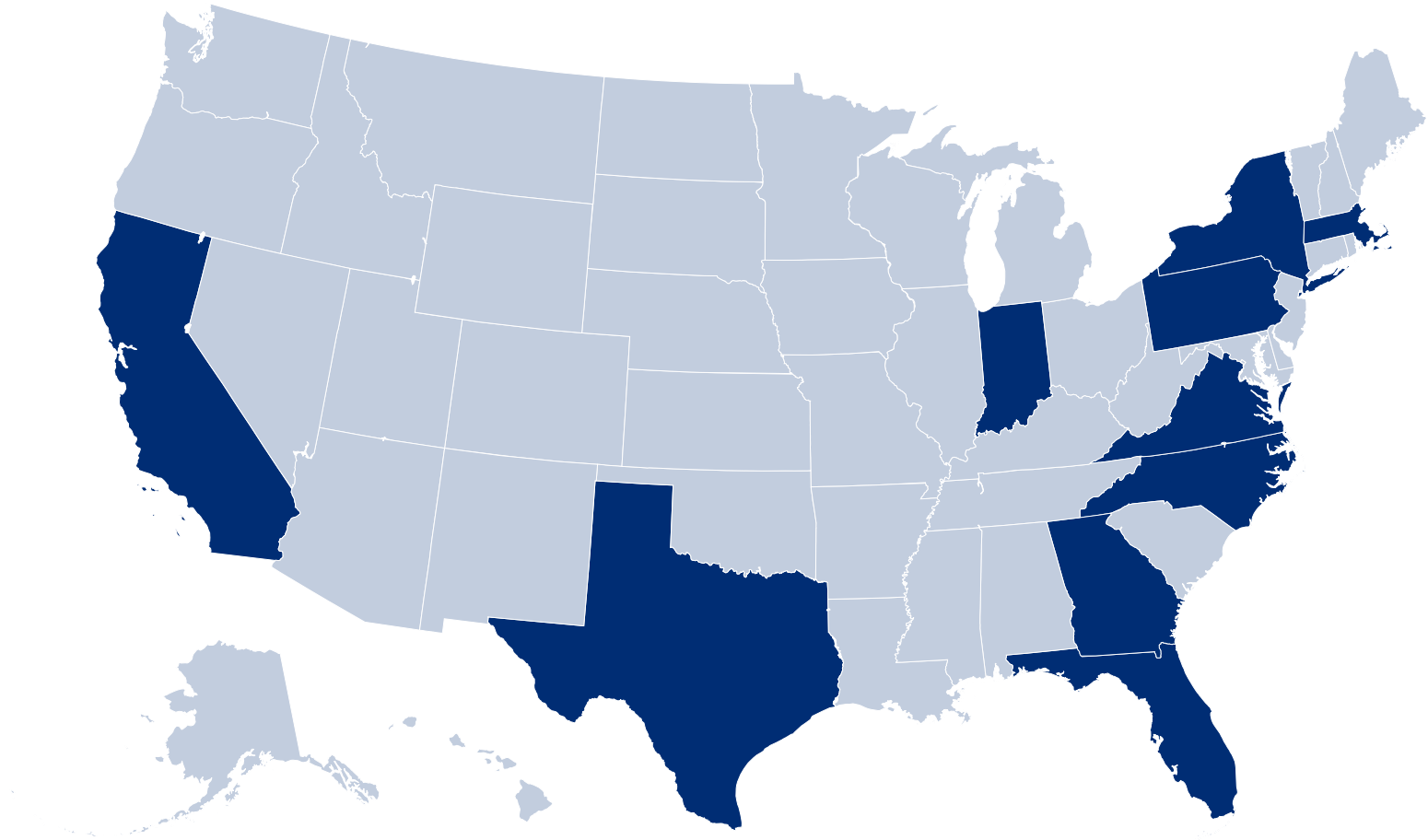
5,999

Denmark

U.S. Study Abroad by U.S. State

Top Sending States

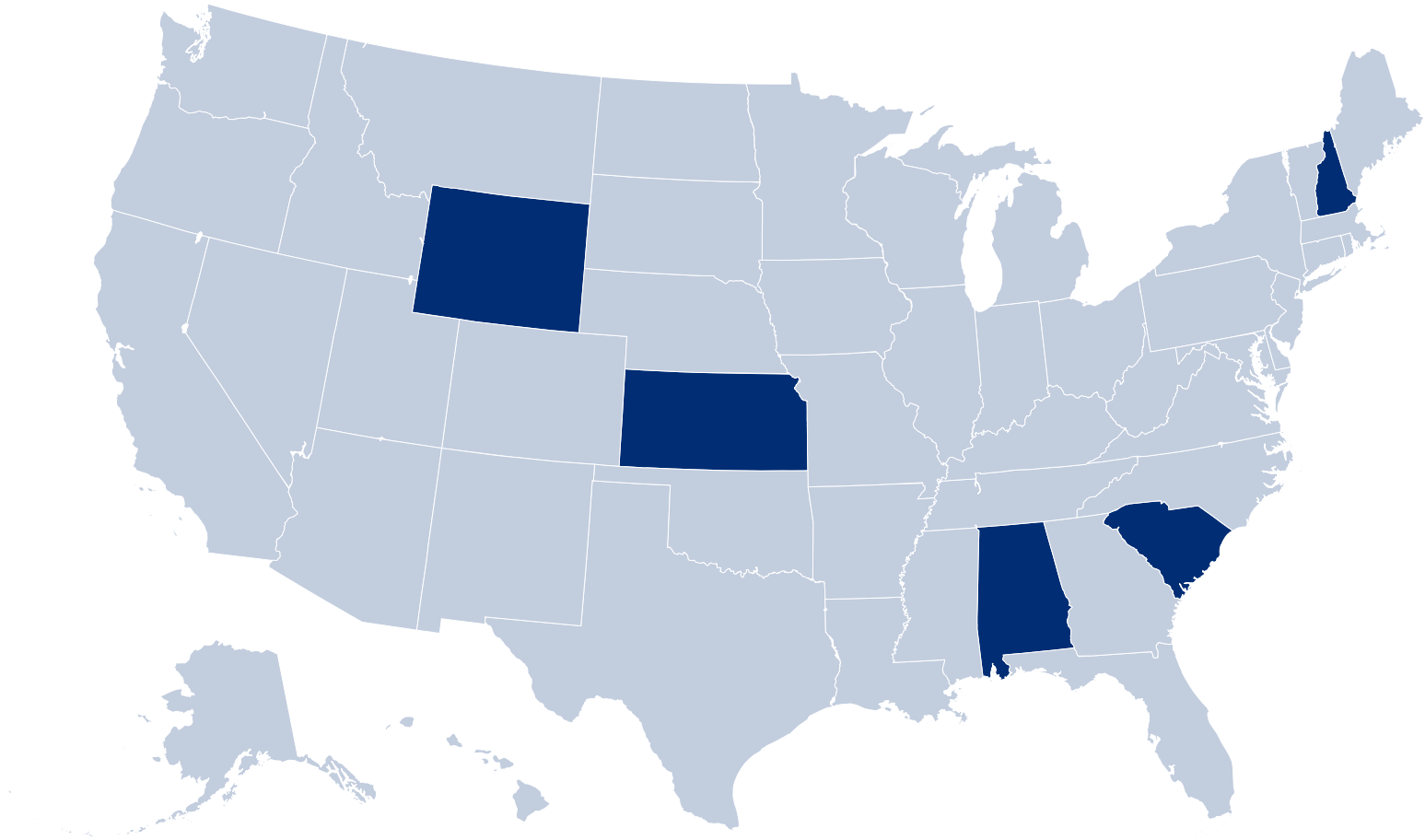
1. California
2. New York
3. Texas
4. Pennsylvania
5. Massachusetts
6. Florida
7. North Carolina
8. Georgia
9. Indiana
10. Virginia



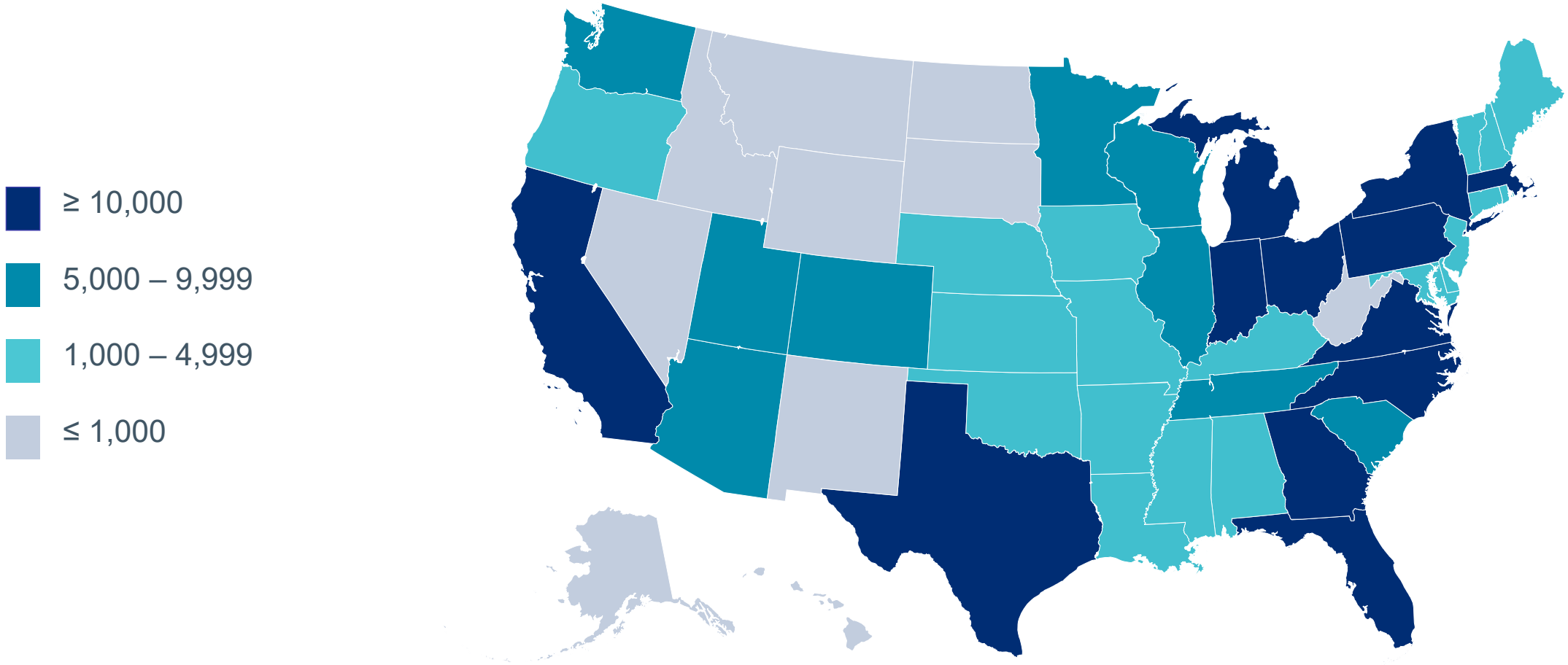
U.S. Study Abroad by U.S. State

States with fastest growth

1. Wyoming
2. New Hampshire
3. Kansas
4. South Carolina
5. Alabama



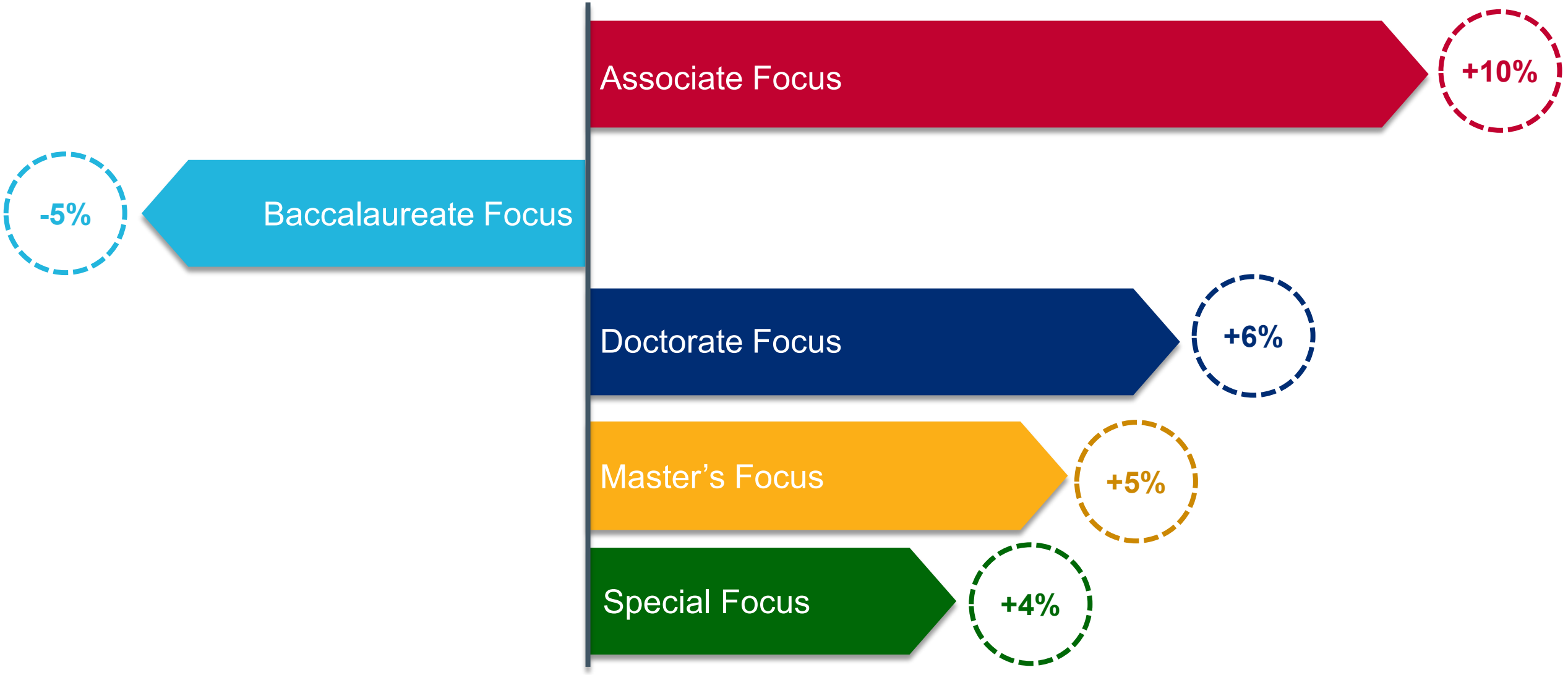
U.S. Study Abroad by U.S. State





59% of U.S. students study abroad from public institutions

U.S. Study Abroad by Institutional Type





1 in 10 U.S. undergraduate students studied abroad in 2024/25

U.S. Study Abroad Fields of Study

Business and Management
23%

Social Sciences
17%

Physical and Life Sciences
8%

Fine and Applied Arts
7%

Engineering
6%

Health Professions
6%

Communications and Journalism
5%

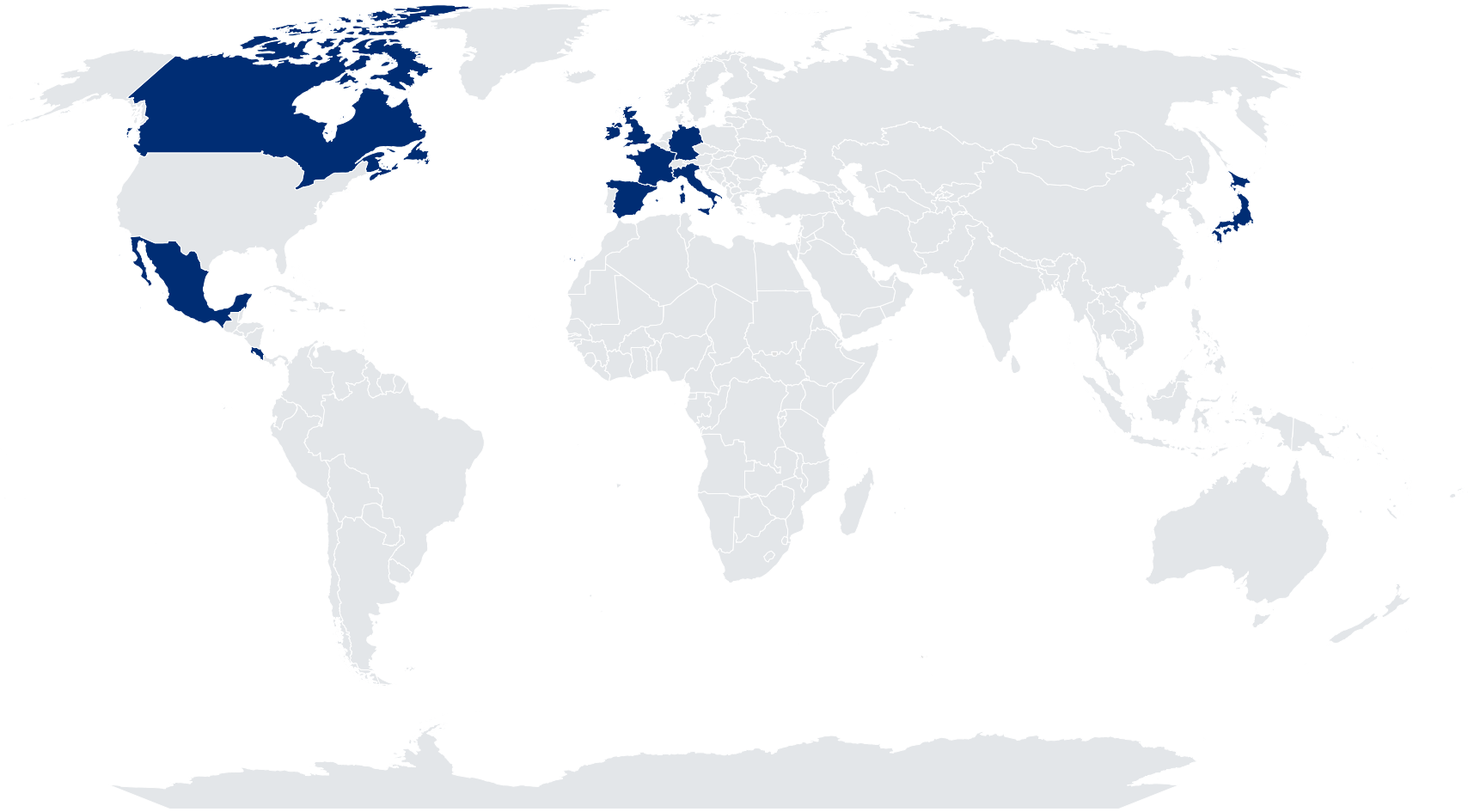
Foreign Language and International Studies
5%



32,992 students participated
in non-credit experiential activities

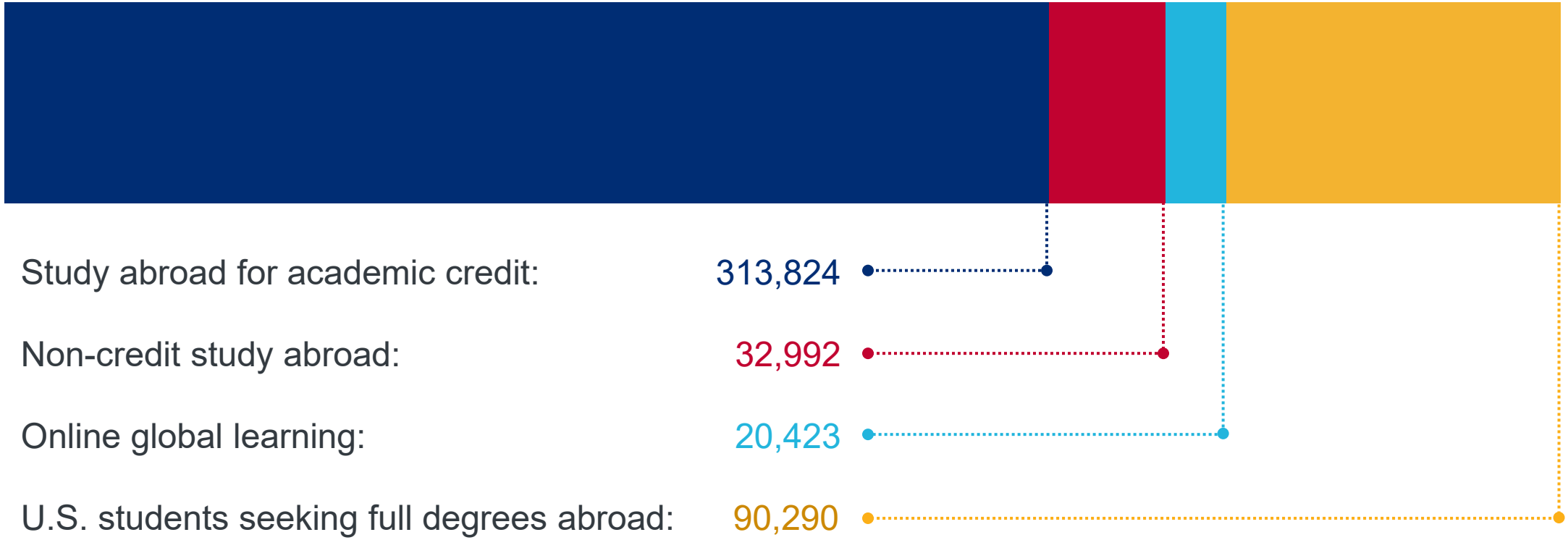
Leading Non-Credit Destinations

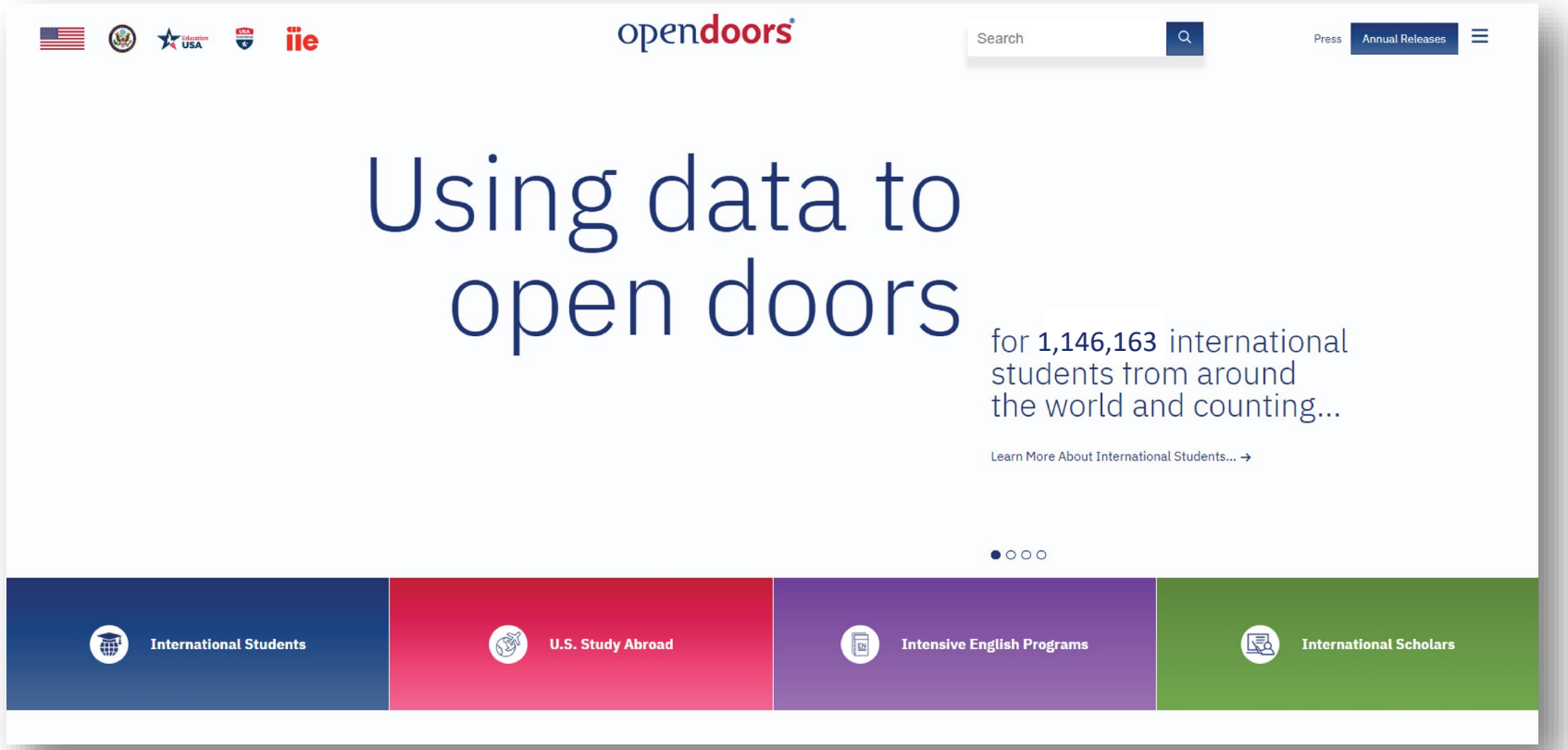
1	Canada	2,728
2	United Kingdom	2,250
3	Italy	1,901
4	Germany	1,242
5	Spain	1,201
6	France	1,129
7	Mexico	1,126
8	Japan	1,070
9	Costa Rica	1,039
10	Ireland	989



Comprehensive View of Study Abroad

More than **457,000** U.S. students engaged in global education experiences in 2024/25





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Golden Sapphire Basket Set with Indigo Lip Wraps, 2017
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