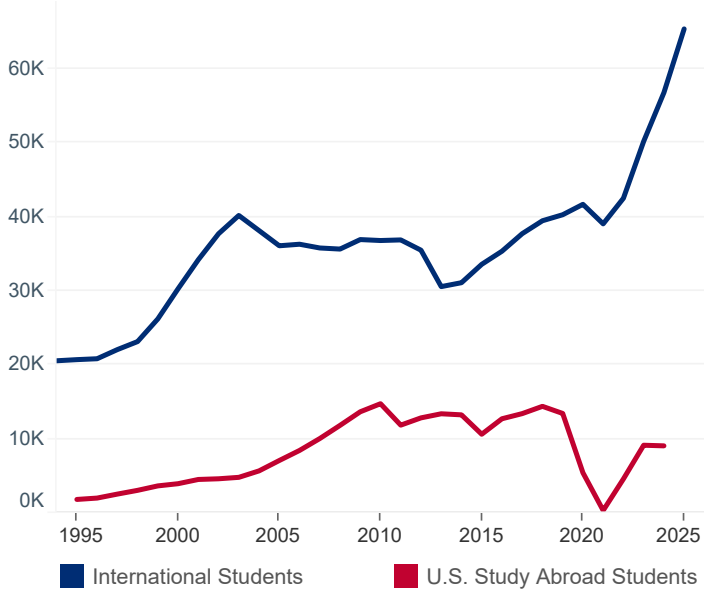
Regions Facts and Figures 2025

AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN

REGIONAL TRENDS



65,385
International Students in 2024/25

15.2%
% Change from Previous Year

9,080
U.S. Study Abroad Students in 2023/24

-0.9%
% Change from Previous Year

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY PLACE OF ORIGIN

Place of Origin	2023/24	2024/25	%Change
Angola	511	478	-6.5%
Benin	260	267	2.7%
Botswana	273	303	11.0%
Burkina Faso	299	309	3.3%
Burundi	199	220	10.6%
Cabo Verde/Cape Verde	51	57	11.8%
Cameroon	981	1,181	20.4%
Central African Republic	20	11	-45.0%
Chad	66	115	74.2%
Comoros	56	22	-60.7%
Congo, Dem. Rep. of the (Kinshasa)	1,738	1,794	3.2%
Congo, Rep. of the (Brazzaville)	180	178	-1.1%
Côte d'Ivoire/Ivory Coast	1,138	1,188	4.4%
Djibouti	9	13	44.4%
Equatorial Guinea	234	217	-7.3%
Eritrea	73	80	9.6%
Eswatini	210	219	4.3%
Ethiopia	3,078	3,395	10.3%
Gabon	250	235	-6.0%
Gambia	363	430	18.5%
Ghana	9,394	12,825	36.5%
Guinea	78	83	6.4%
Guinea-Bissau	11	9	-18.2%
Kenya	4,507	5,337	18.4%
Lesotho	75	70	-6.7%
Liberia	261	290	11.1%

Place of Origin	2023/24	2024/25	%Change
Madagascar	240	251	4.6%
Malawi	502	610	21.5%
Mali	239	249	4.2%
Mauritania	38	37	-2.6%
Mauritius	258	239	-7.4%
Mozambique	175	198	13.1%
Namibia	82	95	15.9%
Niger	171	219	28.1%
Nigeria	20,029	21,847	9.1%
Reunion	8	6	-25.0%
Rwanda	1,311	1,359	3.7%
Saint Helena	3	1	-66.7%
São Tomé & Príncipe	0	1	
Senegal	508	498	-2.0%
Seychelles	17	16	-5.9%
Sierra Leone	385	462	20.0%
Somalia	117	128	9.4%
South Africa	2,814	2,952	4.9%
South Sudan	96	137	42.7%
Sudan	398	417	4.8%
Tanzania	1,027	1,140	11.0%
Togo	240	247	2.9%
Uganda	1,303	1,495	14.7%
Zambia	597	743	24.5%
Zimbabwe	1,907	2,712	42.2%

Source: *Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange*. For more information, visit www.opendoorsdata.org.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY ACADEMIC LEVEL

Sub-Region	Academic Level											
	Undergraduate			Graduate			Non-Degree			OPT		
	2023/24	2024/25	% Change	2023/24	2024/25	% Change	2023/24	2024/25	% Change	2023/24	2024/25	% Change
All Africa, Sub-Saharan	21,083	23,869	13.2%	25,820	29,556	14.5%	1,052	1,136	8.0%	8,825	10,824	22.7%
Central Africa	1,975	2,209	11.8%	781	780	-0.1%	250	303	21.2%	463	440	-5.0%
East Africa	6,036	6,797	12.6%	4,015	4,554	13.4%	162	208	28.4%	1,922	2,178	13.3%
Southern Africa	4,082	4,575	12.1%	2,235	2,844	27.2%	177	154	-13.0%	1,214	1,325	9.1%
West Africa	8,990	10,288	14.4%	18,789	21,378	13.8%	463	471	1.7%	5,226	6,881	31.7%

DESTINATIONS FOR U.S. STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD

Destination	2022/23	2023/24	%Change	Destination	2022/23	2023/24	%Change
Angola	1	2	100.0%	Madagascar	134	97	-27.6%
Benin	15	35	133.3%	Malawi	124	195	57.3%
Botswana	165	203	23.0%	Mali	1	0	-100.0%
Burkina Faso	0	0	0.0%	Mauritania	1	0	-100.0%
Burundi	1	0	-100.0%	Mauritius	12	7	-41.7%
Cabo Verde / Cape Verde	1	13	1200.0%	Mozambique	5	14	180.0%
Cameroon	17	31	82.4%	Namibia	231	247	6.9%
Central African Republic	0	0	0.0%	Niger	0	0	0.0%
Chad	4	9	125.0%	Nigeria	17	13	-23.5%
Comoros	0	0	0.0%	Reunion	0	0	0.0%
Congo, Dem. Rep. of (Kinshasa)	5	3	-40.0%	Rwanda	400	397	-0.8%
Congo, Rep. of (Brazzaville)	2	2	0.0%	Saint Helena	0	0	0.0%
Cote d'Ivoire / Ivory Coast	6	3	-50.0%	São Tomé and Príncipe	0	0	0.0%
Djibouti	1	8	700.0%	Senegal	249	286	14.9%
Equatorial Guinea	17	1	-94.1%	Seychelles	0	0	0.0%
Eritrea	4	0	-100.0%	Sierra Leone	35	40	14.3%
Eswatini	45	25	-44.4%	Somalia	0	1	-
Ethiopia	43	41	-4.7%	South Africa	3,568	3,454	-3.2%
Gabon	0	1	-	South Sudan	1	0	-100.0%
Ghana	1,444	1,394	-3.5%	Sudan	0	0	0.0%
Guinea	0	7	-	Tanzania	910	883	-3.0%
Guinea-Bissau	0	0	0.0%	Togo	14	9	-35.7%
Kenya	1,024	1,141	11.4%	Uganda	359	270	-24.8%
Lesotho	12	9	-25.0%	Zambia	242	147	-39.3%
Liberia	8	11	37.5%	Zimbabwe	37	67	81.1%

Source: *Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange*. For more information, visit www.opendoorsdata.org.