

International Students in US

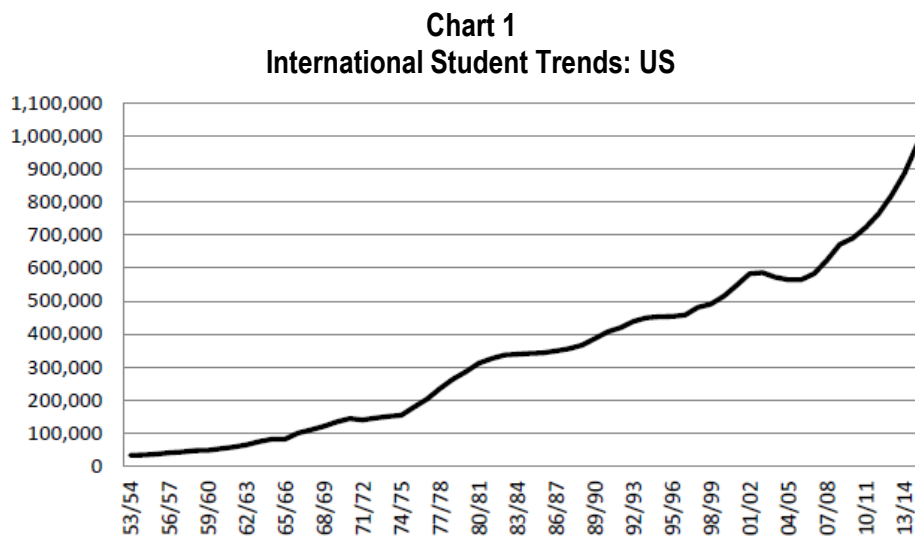
Open Doors 2015

The Institute of International Education released Fast Facts from **Open Doors 2015**¹ in Washington DC on 16 November 2015. The number of international students at US universities and colleges is nearly one million.

Demand, much of it from China and India, drove a 10% increase to 974,926 in the number of international students in US in 2014/15. The number of commencements, a leading indicator, grew 8.8%. With domestic enrolments falling, international students now make up 4.8% of all students in higher education in US, from 4.2% in 2013/14 and 3.9% in 2012/13.

India, China and Brazil account for most of the growth in international students on U.S. campuses. While China remains the top country of origin of international students in the U.S., increasing by 11% to 304,040, India's growth outpaced China's this year, with students from India increasing by 29.4% to a record high of 132,888. This is the highest rate of growth for Indian students in the history of the *Open Doors* project, which spans back to 1954/55. The last time India grew at a comparable rate (29.1) was in 2000/01 when the number of students from India exceeded 50,000 for the first time. In 2014/15, China and India together accounted for 67% of the increase in international students, and they now constitute nearly 45% percent of the total number of international students in U.S. higher education.

Chart 1 **International Student Trends: US** shows the trends in numbers over 50 years, including to the figure 974,926 in 2014/15.



Across all source countries, numbers of undergraduate students grew 7.6% in a year, numbers of postgraduates grew 9.8% and numbers in non-degree programs grew 17.8%.

Students from China now make up 31.2% of all international enrolments, students from India make up 13.6%.

¹ <http://www.iie.org/Research-and-Publications/Open-Doors> downloaded 16 November 2015

Numbers from 16 countries in the top 25 were up, from 6 countries were down, from 3 countries were flat, as in Table 1 **US: Leading Places of Origin** from Fast Facts.

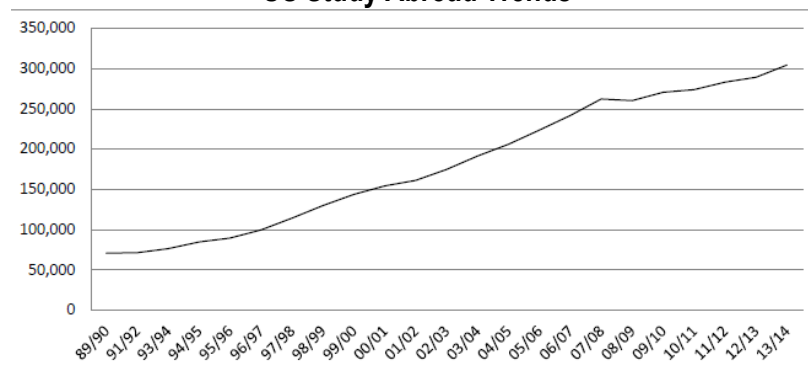
Table 1
US: Leading Places of Origin

		2013/14	2014/15	% of total	% change
	WORLD TOTAL	886,052	974,926	100.0	10.0
1	China	274,439	304,040	31.2	10.8
2	India	102,673	132,888	13.6	29.4
3	South Korea	68,047	63,710	6.5	-6.4
4	Saudi Arabia	53,919	59,945	6.1	11.2
5	Canada	28,304	27,240	2.8	-3.8
6	Brazil	13,286	23,675	2.4	78.2
7	Taiwan	21,266	20,993	2.2	-1.3
8	Japan	19,334	19,064	2.0	-1.4
9	Vietnam	16,579	18,722	1.9	12.9
10	Mexico	14,779	17,052	1.7	15.4
11	Iran	10,194	11,338	1.2	11.2
12	United Kingdom	10,191	10,743	1.1	5.4
13	Turkey	10,821	10,724	1.1	-0.9
14	Germany	10,160	10,193	1.0	0.3
15	Nigeria	7,921	9,494	1.0	19.9
16	Kuwait	7,288	9,034	0.9	24.0
17	France	8,302	8,743	0.9	5.3
18	Indonesia	7,920	8,188	0.8	3.4
19	Nepal	8,155	8,158	0.8	0.0
20	Hong Kong	8,104	8,012	0.8	-1.1
21	Venezuela	7,022	7,890	0.8	12.4
22	Malaysia	6,822	7,231	0.7	6.0
23	Thailand	7,341	7,217	0.7	-1.7
24	Colombia	7,083	7,169	0.7	1.2
25	Spain	5,350	6,143	0.6	14.8

Study Abroad

The Open Doors release also included data on US students studying abroad, in 2013/14. Open Doors reported that 304,467 U.S. students studied abroad for academic credit in 2013/14, an increase of 5.2% over the previous year, as in Chart 2 **US Study Abroad Trends**. (In addition, 22,181 US students participated in non-credit work, internships and volunteering abroad.)

Chart 2
US Study Abroad Trends



Australia as a destination, overtaken by Ireland, dropped another place from eighth to be the ninth most popular destination for US study abroad students, with numbers flat (up 0.6% from 2012/13 to 2013/14), as in Table 2 **US Study Abroad: Leading Destinations**.

Table 2
US Study Abroad: Leading Destinations

DESTINATIONS	2012/13	2013/14	% of Total	% change
1 United Kingdom	36,210	38,250	12.6	5.6
2 Italy	29,848	31,166	10.2	4.4
3 Spain	26,281	26,949	8.9	2.5
4 France	17,210	17,597	5.8	2.2
5 China	14,413	13,763	4.5	-4.5
6 Germany	9,544	10,377	3.4	8.7
7 Ireland	8,084	8,823	2.9	9.1
8 Costa Rica	8,497	8,578	2.8	1.0
9 Australia	8,320	8,369	2.7	0.6
10 Japan	5,758	5,978	2.0	3.8
11 South Africa	5,337	4,968	1.6	-6.9
12 India	4,377	4,583	1.5	4.7
13 Mexico	3,730	4,445	1.5	19.2
14 Argentina	4,549	4,301	1.4	-5.5
15 Brazil	4,223	4,226	1.4	0.1
16 Ecuador	3,438	3,699	1.2	7.6
17 Czech Republic	3,552	3,572	1.2	0.6
18 Denmark	3,302	3,545	1.2	7.4
19 Peru	2,956	3,396	1.1	14.9
20 Chile	2,879	3,333	1.1	15.8
21 South Korea	3,042	3,219	1.1	5.8
22 Greece	2,394	3,066	1.0	28.1
23 New Zealand	2,793	3,021	1.0	8.2
24 Israel	2,798	2,876	0.9	2.8
25 Austria	2,673	2,744	0.9	2.7
WORLD TOTAL	289,408	304,467	100.0	5.2

Open Doors reported that numbers equivalent to 14.8% of completing US domestic undergraduates pursuing bachelor degrees (one in seven) undertook study abroad in 2013/14, from 14.3% a year earlier.

From Australia in 2014, the number of international study experiences undertaken by Australian undergraduate students was equivalent to 16.5% of domestic undergraduate completions in 2014 (one in six), from 14.8% a year earlier.