
336,985 Foreign Students in U.S. in 1983

"The enormous increase of foreign students which the United States experienced during the Seventies has reached at least a temporary plateau in the worldwide economic recession of the early Eighties," according to Dr. Richard Krasno, President of the Institute of International Education (IIE), the largest U.S. higher educational exchange agency. Dr. Krasno announced the results of the 1982-83 IIE census of foreign students at U.S. colleges and universities. The survey, published annually as *Open Doors*, is conducted with financial assistance from the U.S. Information Agency.

The 1983 total of 336,985 foreign students represented a 3.3 percent increase over the 1982 figure of 326,299. During the latter half of the seventies the rate of growth never fell below 10 percent and twice exceeded 16 percent, but has been decreasing since.

Dr. Krasno attributed the smaller increase largely to the worldwide economic recession, which has particularly affected the developing nations where over 80 percent of foreign students originate. A recent IIE survey of changes in higher education's policies towards foreign students suggests that a second factor in the declining growth rate may be more stringent admissions requirements by American colleges and universities.

Actual declines in foreign student numbers that varied from 6 to 10 percent occurred in the Middle East, Central and North America (Canada). Numbers from Africa, Oceania, and the Caribbean increased minimally (from 0.5 to 2.5 percent).

Increases above 3.3 percent occurred only in Asia, Europe, and South America (where the increase was accounted for almost entirely by one country, Venezuela). The Asian region, which includes several especially populous nations and relatively stronger economies, accounted for most actual foreign student growth. Asian students numbered 119,650 in 1983 (106,160 in 1982), a 12.7 percent increase.

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