
***Foreign Student Flows* Explores Impact of Foreign Students on U.S. Higher Education**

What opportunities and problems do foreign students create for U.S. colleges and universities? What long-term effects are they likely to have on U.S. higher education? How can college and university administrators anticipate future patterns of foreign student enrollment?

Foreign Student Flows, published by the Institute of International Education (IIE), explores these questions in the context of such facts as these:

Worldwide, the United States is overwhelmingly the primary destination of students going abroad.

Approximately two-thirds of the world's foreign students come from developing countries.

Fifteen countries account for 60 percent of foreign students in the United States.

Thirty percent of all foreign students in the United States are enrolled in only one percent of the institutions.

Compared to other host countries, the United States plays an especially important role in educating foreign students in engineering, the natural sciences, law, and social sciences.

The fields in greatest demand by foreign students—engineering and business—are also those in greatest demand by domestic students. Fields less in demand—humanities, health, agriculture, education—are also the same for both groups.

Foreign students are more inclined to opt for science degrees than are domestic students, and thus on the average are getting a more

expensive education than the average American student.

At all degree levels, the proportion of foreign degree recipients who receive any institutional subsidy toward the cost of their education is relatively small.

Foreign Student Flows is the report of a conference designed to deepen understanding of foreign-student issues among college and university administrators responsible for making decisions affecting the quality, scale, and composition of their student bodies and the financial health of their institutions.

IIE organized the conference, held April 13-15, 1984, at the Spring Hill Center, Wayzata, MN, with the support of grants from the Exxon Education Foundation and the General Service Foundation and a subsidy from the Spring Hill Center. It was designed to bring university administrators and international education specialists together with social scientists to identify and analyze foreign-student issues, as they may affect institutional policy, in a systematic way.

The conference was inspired by the reaction among academics to a 1983 IIE study, *Absence of Decision*, by Craufurd Goodwin and Michael Nacht. In the words of IIE Research Director Elinor Barber, "[the authors] found that, by and large, the issue of foreign students has rather low priority for campus policymakers (hence the title of their study) and that, when compelled to think about the issue, policymakers are often at a loss."

In addition to summaries of conference discussions, *Foreign Student Flows* contains

two analyses by social scientists of worldwide and U.S. foreign student flows. They include extensive statistics.

Single copies of *Foreign Student Flows* are available free of charge from the Communications Division of the Institute of

International Education, 809 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017. IIE, founded in 1919, is a private, not-for-profit organization that administers international education and training programs, conducts research, and provides information on international education.