
Research Report Indicates that Quality of U.S. Higher Education is Primary Reason Foreign Nationals Choose to Study in the United States

Choosing Schools From Afar, a new Research Report from the Institute of International Education (IIE), indicates that a large majority—75 percent—of foreign students are satisfied with the U.S. higher educational institutions they selected. However, over half of students want better advance information about living costs, the availability of financial aid, opportunities for employment, interaction with American faculty and students, and the availability of community services for international students. Some 30 percent found U.S. educational costs higher than they anticipated on the basis of the best information available to them in their home countries.

The information about U.S. colleges and universities most frequently used by foreign students in their own countries is that put out by U.S. schools in the form of catalogues and other information materials. Students also obtain important information from friends, relatives, and government and private agencies. They are least disposed to obtain information from recruiting agents.

Choosing Schools From Afar reports that prospective foreign students are often unaware of the resources of U.S. educational advising centers such as those maintained by the U.S. Information Service (USIS) and private agencies. The study suggests that students would benefit if the availability of high-quality information through USIS, IIE, AMIDEAST and other organizations active in counseling overseas were more widely publicized.

The study is based on a survey conducted by Dr. Marianthi Zikopoulos and Dr. Elinor Barber, who direct IIE's research program, under the auspices of the National Liaison Committee. International students and staff of some 33 representative U.S. colleges and universities cooperated in the study. Financial support was provided by the Office of Student Support Services, U.S. Information Agency, and by the College Board.

The new book is tenth in the series of policy-oriented research reports published by the Institute of International Education, the largest U.S. higher educational exchange agency. The Institute's research program was established to conduct studies useful to decision makers in higher education, government, and the private sector.

IIE is widely known for its role in assisting the U.S. Information Agency in the conduct of the Fulbright Program of graduate international exchanges. The Institute serves over 9,000 men and women from the United States and 120 nations each year, administering grants offered by the U.S. and foreign governments, international organizations, corporations, foundations, and universities. IIE provides information on educational exchange to higher education and the public in the United States and abroad.

Single copies of *Choosing Schools From Afar* may be requested free of charge from the Publications Service, Institute of International Education, 809 United Nations Plaza, New York, New York 10017.