

Institute of International Education Reports 343,777 Foreign Students in U.S. Higher Education in 1986 Academic Year

Students from economically expanding Asian nations are the largest and fastest-growing group in the U.S. foreign student population, according to figures released by the Institute of International Education (IIE)—the largest U.S. higher educational agency. IIE conducts the annual census of foreign students in the United States, published as *Open Doors*, with support from the U.S. Information Agency.

Asian Growth Contrasts with Declines in Other World Regions

The People's Republic of China showed the largest percentage increase—up 38.4 percent to 13,980 students. Seven of the ten leading homelands were East and South Asian, all of which displayed significant growth in numbers of foreign students sent in 1986. Taiwan continued to send the largest number of students, with 23,770.

The 9 percent growth in enrollment from South and East Asia to 156,830 students is in sharp contrast to declines in virtually all other major world regions, notably the developing nations of Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East. Overall foreign student enrollment was virtually stagnant at 343,777, up just 0.5 percent from the previous year.

Number of Students from OPEC Nations Falls Off Sharply

Stagnant foreign student enrollment during the eighties is in notable contrast with the OPEC-fueled expansion in foreign

student numbers in the seventies, when the foreign student population expanded 10 percent or more annually. Three major sending countries in the OPEC group, Iran (down 15 percent), Nigeria (down 25 percent) and Venezuela (down 32 percent) declined substantially in 1986.

IIE surveys indicated that two-thirds of all foreign students (230,640) relied upon family and personal funds for their chief source of support. The percentage of students who reported their U.S. college or university or a U.S. private organization as their primary funding resource increased, while numbers assisted by the U.S. government, foreign governments and foreign organizations decreased from the previous year.

Science, Technology and Management-Related Fields Attract 60 percent of All Foreign Students

Engineering was the leading field of study for foreign students (22 percent of total enrollment), followed by business and management (19 percent), mathematics and computer sciences (10 percent), and physical and life sciences (8 percent).

California attracted the largest number of foreign students, 47,586. New York came in second at 31,360, while Texas hosted 26,875 as the third leading state. Miami-Dade Community College was the institution with the largest number of foreign students (4,730), followed by the University of Southern California, University of Texas at

Austin, University of Wisconsin at Madison, and Ohio State University.

Open Doors 1985/86
Available From IIE

Copies of *Open Doors*, a 150-page statistical report with interpretative text, are now available. A check or money order for \$29.95 in U.S. dollars should be sent with your order to the Institute of International Education, Publications Service, 809 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017.

A Survey of Policy Changes
Also Available from IIE

The Institute of International Education has also published a survey of policy changes: *Foreign Students in Public Institutions of Higher Education from 1983 to 1985*, a report authored by William J. McCann, Jr.

This booklet discusses the results of changes towards foreign students in public institutions of higher education.

The survey indicates that U.S. higher education continues to welcome foreign students. However, institutions have had difficulty in sustaining foreign student services at a level that keeps pace with foreign student enrollment increases over the past several years. Colleges and universities are placing greater emphasis on ensuring that foreign students are able to pay for their educational expenses before granting admission.

A Survey of Policy Changes is the eighth in the ongoing series of policy-oriented research reports published by the Institute of International Education (IIE). The Institute's research program, under the direction of Dr.

Elinor Barber, was established to conduct research useful to decision-makers in higher education, government, and the private sector. IIE's research program is made possible by a grant from the Ford Foundation.

Single copies are available free of charge from the Publications Service, Institute of International Education, 809 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017.