
New High of 366,300 Foreign Students Enrolled at U.S. Colleges & Universities

Students from Asia are the fastest growing sector of the U.S. foreign student population, according to the latest annual survey by the Institute of International Education (IIE). Data from *Open Doors 1988-89*, IIE's publication of its annual survey of 2,904 U.S. colleges and universities, shows 366,354 foreign students—a 3% increase over the previous academic year.

The two world regions sending the largest proportions of students to the U.S. continue to be Asia (52%) and Latin America (12%). Europe is in third place (12%), while the Middle East (11%) and Africa (7%) have fallen to fourth and fifth.

Students from China were the largest single group at 29,040. Students from Taiwan followed closely with 28,760. Japanese students showed an impressive growth rate of 33 percent—the highest percentage increase in the survey—to 24,000 students. An unusually high

proportion of Japanese (17%) were enrolled in Intensive English Language Programs.

Effect of Recent Events in China

The effects of recent political upheaval in China on student flows are not yet perceptible. IIE is keeping close watch on this matter through successive surveys of campuses with concentrations of Chinese students. The Institute will issue a report in the near future on the proportion of actual to expected arrivals during the 1989/90 academic year.

Number of Graduate Students Continues to Grow

The trend toward graduate education persists—foreign graduate students increased by 6% to 166,380, while undergraduates at four-year institutions decreased by 4% to 131,900.

Growth in ESL and Practical Training Programs

Both English as a Second Language (ESL) programs and Practical Training showed dramatic increases. There were 24% more foreign students in Intensive English Language Programs (29,747) and 46% more in Practical Training (28,500). Growth in intensive English may precede an expansion in foreign student enrollment in regular academic programs, as intensive ESL is often a prerequisite to full-time academic study for students with less-than-fluent English. As for the increase in practical training, foreign students have long urged the need for greater access to practical training opportunities. Apparently this need is now being met more effectively by U.S. higher education.

Engineering Declines But Still Leads Other Fields

The leading field of study continued to be engineering (20% or 72,710), but its lead over business/management (19% or 69,320) has shrunk to less than one percent. Ten years ago, engineering accounted for almost 27% of the foreign student population and business/management for only 16%.

California, New York, and Texas Lead States

California led all other states with 49,291 foreign students, followed by New York (37,802) and Texas (23,240). Two top ten states, New York and Pennsylvania, saw their foreign student enrollment grow 9% in a single year.

However, numbers in Texas and the District of Columbia (among top ten states) actually decreased.

Ordering Copies of the Report

Open Doors 1988/89 will be available in December. The book is a 150-page report on IIE's annual international student census with extensive explanatory text and over 100 supporting statistical tables and charts. *Open Doors 1988/89* may be ordered from IIE Books, 809 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017-3580. Send a check or money order for \$32.95 with your request.

Leading Places of Origin

		% Change <u>Prev. Yr.</u>
COUNTRIES		
China (PRC)	29,040	15.4
Taiwan (ROC)	28,760	7.9
Japan	24,000	33.0
India	23,350	11.1
Korea, Republic of	20,610	0.4
Malaysia	16,170	(17.0)
Canada	16,030	2.2
Hong Kong	10,560	(0.8)
Iran	8,950	(14.1)
Indonesia	8,720	(3.2)
WORLD REGIONS		
Asia	191,430	6.0
Latin America	45,030	1.1
Europe	42,770	10.2
Middle East	40,200	(7.9)
Africa	26,430	(7.1)
North America	16,730	2.3
Oceania	3,610	(0.3)