

Why Study in the U.S.?

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If you're thinking of studying in another country, you've probably already weighed the advantages and disadvantages of pursuing a program in the U.S. If you have a specific career choice in mind, you may have found a specialized program only offered at a select U.S. institution; however, you might still worry about whether you'll be accepted or if it's within your budget. Despite these honest concerns, it's important to think ahead and consider the flexibility of U.S. programs, as well as the many financial aid and award opportunities to help meet your future goals.

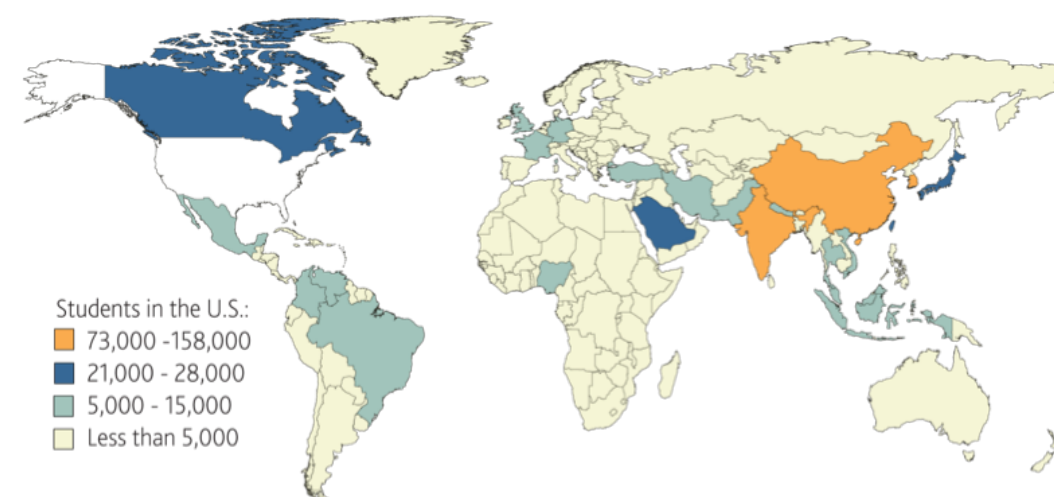
Interest in the U.S. as a study destination remains as strong as ever, with international enrollments at all-time high. There are currently over 723,000 international students from over 200 places of origin studying at U.S. higher institutions, according to the most recent data from IIE's *Open Doors Report*. About equal numbers of students come to pursue undergraduate and graduate degree programs, with a smaller number of students coming just to study English or pursue other non-degree study. Business and management is the most popular field of study for undergraduates, while engineering is the most popular field among graduate students.

Almost two-thirds of international students in the U.S. (64 percent) come from Asia, with China, India and South Korea being the top places of origin.

So, what makes a student choose to study in the U.S.?

The Institute of International Education (IIE) has been conducting surveys since 2009 in cooperation with EducationUSA to gauge prospective students' attitudes and perceptions about studying in the U.S. Over 10,000 students in 20 countries have participated in the surveys to date, more than three-quarters of whom said that the U.S. was their first-choice study abroad destination.

These students were interested in the U.S. for its renowned high quality higher education system and wide range of academic options. Even students from countries that host large numbers of international students, such as the U.K., saw the U.S. as having a



wide range of schools and programs, a high quality higher education system, and many scholarship opportunities. Overall, students perceived a high degree of flexibility within the U.S. education system, where switching fields of study or transferring credits to another institution can be done with relative ease.

At first glance, budgetary constraints may seem overwhelming, but there are many financial resources available to help in your pursuit of U.S. study. While tuition may be expensive, the U.S. also has a wide variety of programs to help you finance your study—through both public and private organizations, as well as colleges and universities themselves. Data from *Open Doors 2011* showed that while the main source of funding for international students to pay for college is personal and family funds, 37 percent of international students were funded by other sources, both U.S. and foreign.

Another option for undergraduates is to begin your studies at a community college, where tuition rates are lower, and transfer to a four-year college or university after two years. Your final degree will come from the four-year school and will be identical to a degree awarded to a student who studied there all four years. Community colleges host about 12 percent of all international students in the U.S.

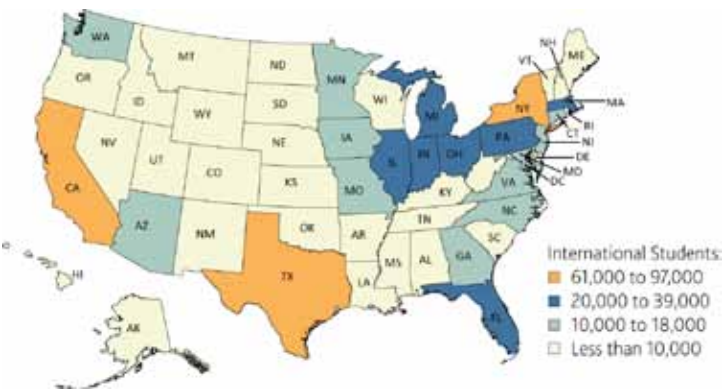
IIE administers many scholarships and grants for international students (for more information, go to www.iie.org), but EducationUSA advisers in your own country can also help you find viable options



tailored to your own academic needs (for more information, see www.educationusa.info).

Regardless of where you choose to go, studying in another country will open many doors for you and provide a memorable experience that can deliver many rewards in the long-term—not only for a future career, but also in your personal life.

Map of the United States



MAP 1
Number of International Students by State

AK Alaska

HI Hawaii

New England	Mid Atlantic	South	Midwest	Southwest	West
CT Connecticut	DE Delaware	AR Arkansas	IA Iowa	AZ Arizona	CA California
MA Massachusetts	MD Maryland	AL Alabama	IN Indiana	OK Oklahoma	CO Colorado
ME Maine	NJ New Jersey	GA Georgia	IL Illinois	NM New Mexico	ID Idaho
NH New Hampshire	NY New York	FL Florida	KS Kansas	TX Texas	MT Montana
RI Rhode Island	PA Pennsylvania	KY Kentucky	MI Michigan		NV Nevada
VT Vermont		LA Louisiana	MN Minnesota		OR Oregon
		MS Mississippi	MO Missouri		UT Utah
		NC North Carolina	ND North Dakota		WY Wyoming
		NE Nebraska	OH Ohio		WA Washington
		WV West Virginia	SD South Dakota		
		SC South Carolina	WI Wisconsin		
		TN Tennessee			
		VA Virginia			

Data from IIE *Open Doors* Publication