OPEN DOORS FACT SHEET: CHINA

INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
Educational Exchange Data from *Open Doors 2010*

In the 2009/10 academic year, **127,628** students from China were studying in the United States (up 29.9% from the previous year). China is the leading place of origin for students coming to the United States.

Academic Level: While the majority of Chinese students study at the graduate level, the U.S. continues to experience an upsurge in the number of undergraduate students coming from China. In 2009/10, their breakdown was as follows:

31.3%	undergraduate
52.1%	graduate students
8.0%	other
8.6%	OPT (Optional Practical Training)

Historical trends: China sent no students to the U.S. from the 1950s until 1974/75. In the 1980s, numbers of Chinese students grew dramatically, and in 1988/89, China displaced Taiwan as the leading sender and remained the leading place of origin until it was displaced by Japan in 1994/95. In 1998/99, China became the leading sender again until 2001/02. From 2001/02 to 2008/09, India was the only place of origin with more students in the U.S., however China has now displaced India as the leading sender in 2009/10.

Year	# of Students From China	% Change from Previous Year	# of U.S. Study Abroad Students Going to China
2009/10	127,628	29.9%	n/a
2008/09	98,235	21.1%	13,674 (up 3.9%)
2007/08	81,127	19.8%	13,188
2006/07	67,723	8.2%	11,064
2005/06	62,582	0.1%	8,830
2004/05	62,523	1.2%	6,391
2003/04	61,765	-4.6%	4,737
2002/03	64,757	2.4%	2,493
2001/02	63,211	5.5%	3,911
2000/01	59,939	10.0%	2,942
1999/00	54,466	6.8%	2,949
1998/99	51,001	8.6%	2,278
1997/98	46,958	10.5%	2,116
1996/97	42,503	7.3%	1,627
1995/96	39,613	-	1,396

Note: Study abroad figures from *Open Doors* reflect credit given by U.S. campuses during the survey year to their students who studied abroad in the academic year just completed, including the summer term. Study abroad in 2009/10 will be reported in *Open Doors 2011*, once credit is awarded by the home campus. The sharp decline in study abroad during 2002/03 reflects the closing of most programs in China in response to the SARS epidemic. Once programs reopened, the numbers of American students rebounded.

Source: *Open Doors: Report on International Educational Exchange*, published annually by IIE with support from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. For more information, including press releases on foreign students in the U.S. and U.S. study abroad, and FAQs, including definitions of foreign students and foreign scholars, visit www.iie.org/opendoors or contact Leena Soman, IIE Public Affairs Manager, at: +1(212) 984-5360 or lsoman@iie.org.