

Fall 2022 Snapshot on International Student Enrollment

Introduction

The Fall 2022 Snapshot on International Student Enrollment findings are based on responses from over **630 U.S. higher education institutions** on current patterns in international student enrollment as of fall 2022 (2022/23 academic year). The report, conducted by IIE and nine partner higher education associations, is released jointly with and complements *Open Doors 2022*, which provides comprehensive data on international student enrollment from the previous year (2021/22 academic year). As the Snapshot Survey represents a subset of the almost 3,000 institutions surveyed by *Open Doors*, the full picture of 2022/23 enrollment will be analyzed in *Open Doors 2023*.

Key Findings

The Fall 2022 Snapshot on International Student Enrollment findings reflect the continued rebound of international student mobility at U.S. colleges and universities amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 630 institutions, accounting for 52% of all international students in *Open Doors 2022*, participated in the Fall Snapshot.

International student numbers at U.S. colleges and universities continue to rise:

- The total number of international students (all enrolled and Optional Practical Training [OPT]) has increased by nine percent as of fall 2022. This represents continued growth from the four percent noted in 2021/22 (IIE, 2022).
- International student growth is noted across all academic levels, with continued strong growth at the graduate level.
- The number of international students pursuing employment opportunities following their academic studies on OPT has increased by six percent. This is likely driven by the surge in the number of graduate students reported in *Open Doors 2022*, many of whom may be availing themselves of the opportunity to gain work experience in the United States.

New enrollments of international students at U.S. colleges and universities are up:

- Higher education institutions report a seven percent increase in the number of new international students enrolling for the first time at a U.S. institution, a continued increase following the 80 percent rebound in new enrollments in 2021/22 (IIE, 2022).
- Sixty-three percent of institutions report an increase in new international student enrollment, 12 percent indicate the number to be the same as last year, and 24 percent report a decrease.

U.S. higher education institutions are committed to international students studying in person:

- Ninety-nine percent of responding institutions are holding in-person classes or implementing a hybrid model. Less than one percent of institutions cite offering only online classes in fall 2022.
- Ninety-four percent of the reported international students are in the United States on campus.

International student outreach and recruitment is a priority:

- U.S. institutions note prioritizing international student outreach in India, Vietnam, Brazil, and China as well as international students at U.S. high schools.
- For outreach and recruitment to prospective international students, responding institutions report leveraging current international students (64 percent), online recruitment events (53 percent), and international partnerships (53 percent).
- Eighty-seven percent of reporting institutions indicate that financial support for their international student recruitment efforts is the same or higher than in the previous year.