



OPEN DOORS FACT SHEET: CHINA

INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION Educational Exchange Data from *Open Doors 2014*

In the 2013/14 academic year, **274,439** students from China were studying in the United States (up 16.5% from the previous year). China remains the leading place of origin for students coming to the United States for the fifth year in a row, and Chinese students now make up 31% of international students studying in the U.S.

Academic Level: While a slim majority of Chinese students study at the graduate level, the U.S. continues to experience an upsurge in the number of undergraduate students from China. In 2013/14, their breakdown was as follows: 40.3% undergraduate; 42.1% graduate students; 5.4% other; 12.2% OPT (Optional Practical Training).

Economic Impact: Last year Chinese students in U.S. colleges and universities contributed \$8.04 billion to the U.S. economy. (Source: U.S. Department of Commerce)

Historical trends: China sent no students to the U.S. from the 1950s until 1974/75. In the 1980s, the number of Chinese students grew dramatically, and in 1988/89, China displaced Taiwan as the leading sender, remaining the leading place of origin until it was displaced by Japan in 1994/95. In 1998/99, China became the leading sender again for three years, through 2000/01. In 2001/02, India became the top sender of students to the U.S. and retained that position for eight years, through 2008/09. In 2009/10, China again became the top sending country, and retains that place for the fifth year in a row, after 7 years of double-digit increases.

| Year | # of Students From China | % Change from Previous Year | # of U.S. Study Abroad Students Going to China |
|---------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 2013/14 | 274,439 | 16.5% | n/a |
| 2012/13 | 235,597 | 21.4% | 14,413 (down 3.2%) |
| 2011/12 | 194,029 | 23.1% | 14,887 (up 2.0%) |
| 2010/11 | 157,558 | 23.5% | 14,596 |
| 2009/10 | 127,628 | 29.9% | 13,910 |
| 2008/09 | 98,235 | 21.1% | 13,674 |
| 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 |

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 2013/14 will be reported in *Open Doors 2015*, 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.