



# Press Release

## Public Affairs Section

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### **CHINESE STUDENTS STUDYING IN UNITED STATES** **ACHIEVE ALL-TIME HIGHS**

#### **10th Consecutive Year of Growth**

**Beijing, November 18, 2014--** The number of Chinese students enrolled in U.S. institutions of higher education in 2013/14 increased from 235,597 to 274,439. This represents 38,842 additional Chinese students who chose to study in the United States, a 16.5 percent increase, over the previous year. This is according to the *2014 Open Doors Report on International Education Exchange (Open Doors)*, the annual report on international academic mobility published by the Institute of International Education (IIE) with support from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State, which also indicated that China remains first among all countries sending students to the United States.

This year's *Open Doors* report shows that the total number of international students at colleges and universities in the United States increased by eight percent to 886,052 during the 2013/14 academic year. This represents 66,408 more international students enrolled in U.S. higher education - a record high number. Approximately 58 percent of this increase in 2013/14 international students came from China. The strong increase in international student enrollments shows the continued conviction of international students and their parents that a U.S. degree is a sound investment in their future careers.

The release of the 2013/14 data marks the eight consecutive year that *Open Doors* has reported an increase of the total number of international students in U.S. higher education institutions. It is also the tenth consecutive year that *Open Doors* has reported an increase in the total number of Chinese

students studying in U.S. higher education institutions, which has been growing at an average rate of 16.5 percent since 2005.

The new Open Doors data was released on the occasion of the 15th annual celebration of International Education Week, a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education to prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences in the United States. This year's statistics document how much more global U.S. higher education has become since the launch of the initiative. The overall number of international students in the United States has grown by 72 percent since the first International Education Week briefing was held in 2000. There are five times as many Chinese students on U.S. campuses as were reported in Open Doors 2000. The number of U.S. students studying abroad has more than doubled in the last 15 years.

President Obama announced last week new visa policies that will expand student exchanges between the United States and China. He said "I am pleased that we continue to expand the ties between our peoples. The new visa extension that begin... will encourage more exchanges among our students. We welcome more Chinese students to the United States than from any other country... With these visa extensions, we'll give more students this opportunity -- both Chinese and Americans."

The growth in the number of international students studying in the United States is largely driven by sizeable increases in the number of students from China, particularly at the undergraduate level. Chinese student enrollments increased by 18 percent at the undergraduate level and 12 percent at the graduate level.

"International education is crucial to building relationships between people and communities in the United States and around the world. It is through these relationships that together we can solve global challenges like climate change, the spread of pandemic disease, and combatting violent extremism," said Evan M. Ryan, Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs. "We also need to expand access to international education for students from more diverse backgrounds, in more diverse locations of study, getting more diverse types of degrees. Only by engaging multiple perspectives within our societies can we all reap the numerous benefits of international education - increased global competence, self-awareness and resiliency, and the ability to compete in the 21st century economy," Assistant Secretary Ryan remarked.

"International experience is one of the most important components of a 21st century education, and study abroad should be viewed as an essential element of a college degree," remarked IIE's

President Dr. Allan E. Goodman. “Learning how to study and work with people from other countries and cultures also prepares future leaders to contribute to making the world a less dangerous place.”

### **U.S. Students Studying Abroad**

Open Doors also reported that 14,413 American students studied in China in the 2012/13 academic year, a decrease of three percent. China remains the fifth among the leading host destinations for Americans studying abroad behind the UK, France, Italy and Spain, and ahead of Germany, Costa Rica, and Australia. During his recent visit to China President Obama said: “I’m proud that this summer my “100,000 Strong” program reached our goal of more than 100,000 Americans studying in China in recent years.” President Obama’s 100,000 Strong Initiative, now part of a private foundation called the “100,000 Strong Foundation,” continues seeking to prepare the next generation of American experts on China who will be charged with managing the growing political, economic and cultural ties between the United States and China. The initiative also seeks to develop specific opportunities and funding sources for underrepresented students to study in China.

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*The **Open Doors** Report is published by the Institute of International Education, an independent, not-for-profit organization with a network of 19 offices and affiliates worldwide and over 1,200 member institutions. IIE has conducted an annual statistical survey of the international students in the United States since 1919 and in partnership with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs since 1972. **Open Doors** also reports on the number of international scholars at U.S. universities; international students enrolled in pre-academic Intensive English Programs; and on U.S. students studying abroad. Further details on the **Open Doors 2014** surveys and their findings is on the [Open Doors website \(www.iie.org/opendoors\)](http://www.iie.org/opendoors) and the full 100+ page report can be ordered for \$69.95 from [IIE Books \(www.iiebooks.org\)](http://www.iiebooks.org).*

*The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the U.S. Department of State leads a wide range of academic, professional, and cultural exchanges that include approximately 40,000 participants annually, including the flagship Fulbright Program and the International Visitor Leadership Program, with the goal of increasing mutual understanding and respect between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. ECA also sponsors the Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarships for U.S. undergraduates with financial need, administered by IIE, and the Critical Language Scholarship Program in support of U.S. study abroad and the [EducationUSA](http://EducationUSA) network of over 400 advising centers worldwide, which provides information to students around the globe who wish to study in the United States. For more information on the Department of State’s educational and cultural exchange activities, visit [www.exchanges.state.gov](http://www.exchanges.state.gov).*