

International Student Enrollment By Year

Enrollment figures measure whether international students are attending U.S. universities in increasing or decreasing numbers. Note that today approximately half of all international students are graduate students. Much discussion has centered around the impact of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on international students. The figures below show a rise over time in international students for most of the post-World War II period. More recently, international student enrollment increased approximately 5 percent a year between the 1996-97 and 2001-02 academic years, according to the Institute of International Education. If that growth rate had continued more than 100,000 additional international students would have enrolled at U.S. universities than did so during the 2004-05 academic year, based on an analysis by the National Foundation for American Policy. In 2002-03, enrollment rates for international students stopped growing (rising only 0.6 percent), and then declined 2.4 percent in 2003-04 and another 1.3 percent in 2004-05.

Academic Year	International Undergraduate Students	International Graduate Students	Other	TOTAL International Students	Annual Percentage Change
1954-55	19,101	12,118	3,012	34,232	-
1959-60	25,164	18,910	4,412	48,486	2.6
1964-65	38,130	35,096	8,774	82,045	9.7
1969-70	63,296	59,112	12,551	134,959	11.2
1979/80	172,378	94,207	19,758	286,343	8.5
1984/85	197,741	122,476	21,895	342,113	0.9
1987/88	176,669	156,366	23,152	356,187	1.9
1988/89	172,551	165,590	28,209	366,354	2.9
1989/90	184,527	169,827	32,495	386,851	5.6
1990/91	189,900	182,130	35,500	407,529	5.3
1991/92	197,070	191,330	31,190	419,585	3.0
1992/93	210,080	193,330	35,210	438,618	4.5
1993/94	213,610	201,030	35,110	449,749	2.5
1994/95	221,500	191,738	39,396	452,635	0.6
1995/96	218,620	190,092	45,075	453,787	0.3
1996/97	218,743	190,244	48,997	457,984	0.9
1997/98	223,276	207,510	50,494	481,280	5.1
1998/99	235,802	211,426	43,706	490,933	2.0
1999/00	237,211	218,219	59,293	514,723	4.8
2000/01	254,429	238,497	54,941	547,867	6.4
2001/02	261,079	264,749	57,168	582,996	6.4
2002/03	260,103	267,876	58,344	586,323	0.6
2003/04	248,200	274,310	49,999	572,509	-2.4
2004/05	239,212	264,410	61,417	565,039	-1.3

Source: *Open Doors 2005*, Institute of International Education