

KEY FIGURES

MARCH 2019



5,100,000

international students
around the world



343,000

foreign students
in France

FRANCE

1st

non-English-speaking
host country



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FRANCE

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FOREWORD

Welcome to France!

More and more students around the world are choosing to study abroad. Already 5.1 million students each year are crossing borders to earn a degree, a sign of the growing interconnection of higher education systems, the expansion of study opportunities, and a globalization of career outlets. But though it is becoming increasingly common, **degree-seeking mobility** is still a fact for only a small minority of students—**just 2.3% of the globe's student population** in 2016.

The latest available figures (2016) show a continuance of the broad trends of international student mobility: the **appeal of English-speaking countries** (United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada) persists; Europe remains the leading host region; and **half of all mobile students come from Asia–Oceania** (China and India, in particular).

New countries active in mobility

At the same time, strong growth in mobility can be seen from new players (**China, Russia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia**) that are pursuing ambitious policies and using student mobility as a tool of influence and soft power. Even smaller countries (Israel, Hungary) are adopting strategies to attract the global mobile elite. To varying degrees, all are offering scholarships, developing new curricula in English, investing in support infrastructure, and publicizing their renewed appeal. As a result of this activity, **regional hubs** are emerging (**Turkey, Malaysia, United Arab Emirates, Morocco**), altering flows through the regionalization of mobility and rivaling the major host countries.

France's appeal

In this context of heightened global competition, **France continues to occupy an enviable position. As the world's fourth-largest host country, and the top non-English-speaking country**, France offers an unparalleled student experience by virtue of the fact that its excellent system of higher education is largely

underwritten by the state. International students can train in disciplines in which France is a world leader, in an environment acclaimed by students and tourists from all corners of the globe. These strengths, as well as its central role in the French-speaking world and its international cultural influence, are why **France attracts students from every continent and region**. As a sign that France's appeal continues to rise, **the number of foreign students enrolled in licence (bachelor's) programs has risen 19% in three years**. Indian students, who will make up a growing share of mobility in coming years, are coming to France in increasing numbers.

In parallel, more and more French students are heading abroad. **Outward mobility of French students increased by 50% between 2011 and 2016**, reaching 90,000 students and putting France in sixth place among sending countries worldwide and in first place in the Erasmus+ context.

The Welcome to France strategy

The **new strategy** announced recently by Prime Minister Édouard Philippe at a meeting of French-language universities organized by Campus France aims to respond to the foregoing challenges and sets the goal of **welcoming 500,000 international students to France in 2027**. This can be done by improving support services, simplifying visa procedures, facilitating access to housing, widening the options for learning French as a foreign language, expanding the number of programs taught in English, implementing differential tuition rates (while tripling the number of scholarships and tuition grants), and building joint programs and campuses in Africa. All of these are essential steps in moving to a new level of inbound student mobility and solidifying France's position among the major host countries.

Béatrice Khaiat,
Director-General, Campus France

5,100,000
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
AROUND THE WORLD



1

STUDENT MOBILITY WORLDWIDE

The world's international student population expanded by 50% in the 10 years between 2006 and 2016. It is expected to continue to grow through 2030, though at a slower rate. The number of students pursuing a degree abroad has risen even faster, moving from 2.9 million in 2006 to 5.1 million in 2016. That number should reach 10.2 million in 2030.

The leading host countries are the same as in preceding years. France remains the leading non-English-speaking destination, behind the trio of the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia. Germany and Russia are hot on France's heels, welcoming nearly as many international students to their postsecondary institutions.

With respect to outward mobility, China and India continue to send the largest numbers of students, outpacing Germany and South Korea. Nigeria has shown strong growth in outward mobility and is now the fifth-largest sending country

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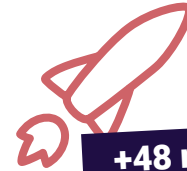
THE STUDENT POPULATION

In just 10 years (2006-2016), the number of the world's postsecondary students grew by **nearly 50%**, from 146 million to 218 million, a rate of 4.1% per year. The increase was concentrated in Asia-Oceania (69% of the total), particularly China (29%) and India (27%). The global student population should continue to expand in coming years, though at a slower rate, to reach **265 million by 2030**.



218 million

**postsecondary students
in the world in 2016**

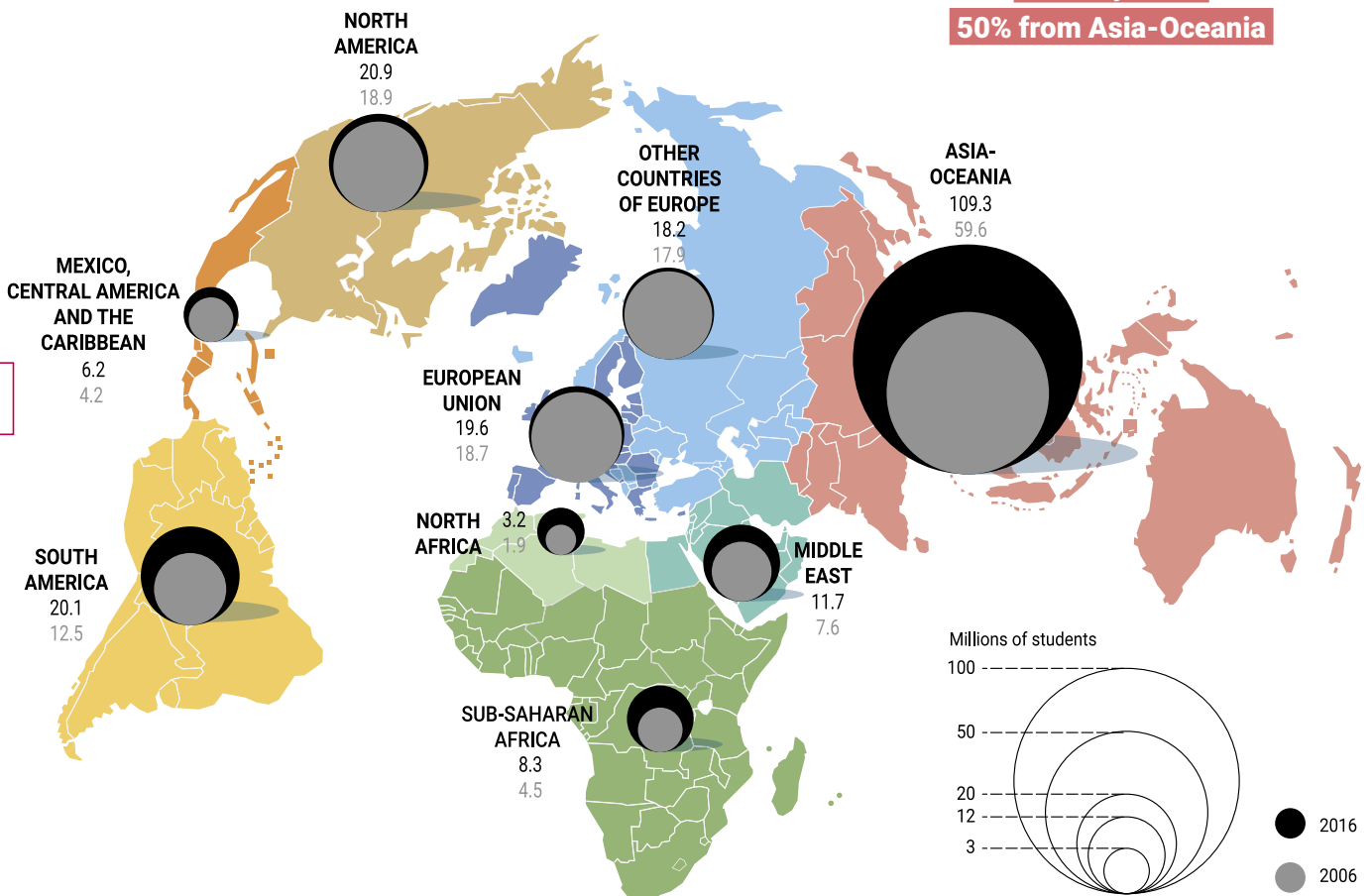


+48 million

more by 2030

50% from Asia-Oceania

► Change in student population (2006–2016)



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, January 2019..

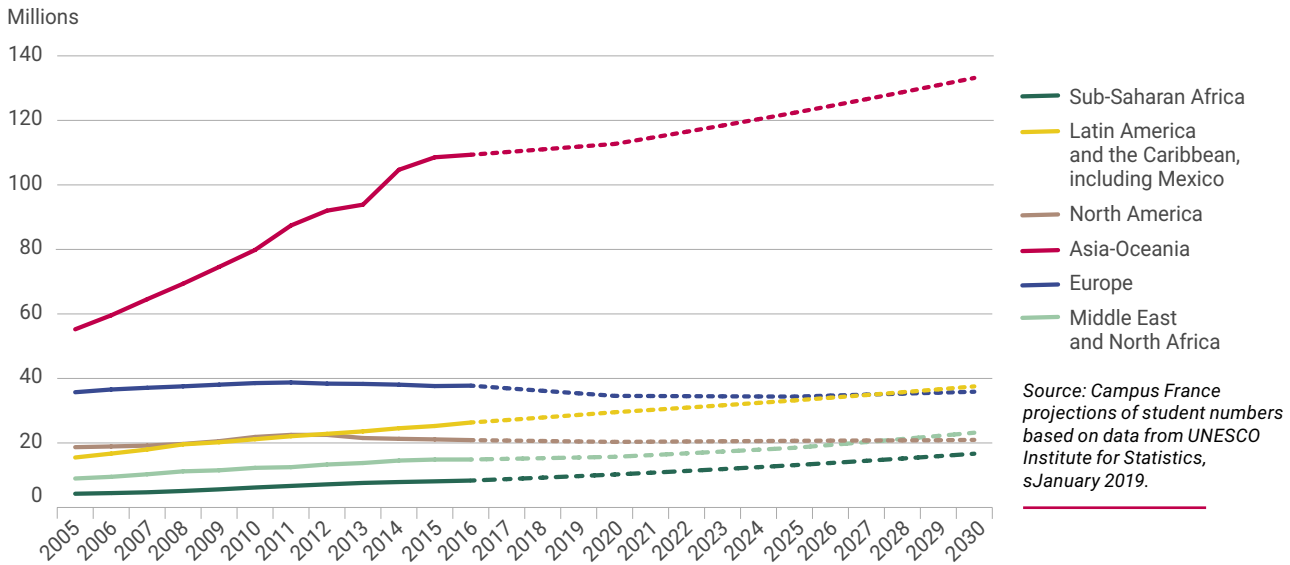
THE STUDENT POPULATION IN 2030

In 2030, the majority of postsecondary students will still be found in Asia-Oceania. The countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), and Latin America and the Caribbean will experience rapid growth. Europe and North America will see their numbers dwindle as part of a broader demographic slowdown.

DEFINITIONS

- **University-age population:** Individuals aged 18 to 23.
- **Rate of enrollment in higher education:** Number of students enrolled in higher education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the population aged 18 to 23.

► Number of postsecondary students by 2030, by world region



ASIA-OCEANIA

China and India accounted for 70% of the total number of students in Asia-Oceania in 2016. Over the period 2006–2016, the number of students in the region expanded by 84%, particularly in China (+87%) and India (+152%). **With the expected drop in university-age**

students, growth should slow. The period 2016–2030 is expected to reveal more moderate growth in student numbers (+22%). **Educating growing numbers of students will be a major social challenge in Asia,** especially in India.

EUROPE

The apparent stability in the number of **students from non-EU countries in Europe** in 2006–2016 masks very different dynamics. For example, **the drop in the number of students in Russia (–32.5%) is offset by the rapid increase in the student population in Turkey (+185%),**

bringing the totals to 6,182,300 in 2006 and 6,689,185 in 2016. The number of European students will fall through 2025, before beginning a mild recovery through 2030.

AMERICAS

The university-age population in **North America** has dipped slightly since 2012. **The share of postsecondary students in the population aged 18–23 is high (70%),** reflecting the presence in the region of academic centers that **attract large numbers of international students.** By 2030, student populations should stabilize or perhaps shrink slightly.

are found in Mexico (73% in 2016). The number of students in that country swelled by 78% between 2006 and 2016, reaching 4,244,401. **The region's student population grew fast over the period 2005–2016, outpacing growth in the population aged 18–23 (+70% and +4.5%, respectively).** The rate of enrollment in higher education rose from 25% in 2005 to 40% in 2016.

In **South America,** Brazil's numbers rose 69% between 2006 and 2016 to reach 8.3 million students. Most students in the **Central America and Caribbean** region

AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST

The countries of the **Middle East and North Africa** experienced rapid growth in their student populations between 2005 and 2016, moving from 8.9 to 14.9 million students (+65%). The student population in the **Middle East** is concentrated in Iran, which accounts for 37% of the region's students (4,348,594). In **North Africa,** the largest number of students is found in Algeria (46%, or 1,439,594 students). Slowing of the growth in student enrollments, coupled with the drop in the population aged 18–23, **presages slower growth in student numbers.**

Postsecondary enrollments in Sub-Saharan Africa (8.3 million in 2016) represent only 7% of the university-age population, which is expanding rapidly: from 89 million in 2005 to an expected 173 million in 2030 (+94%). The number of students in **Sub-Saharan Africa** practically doubled between 2005 and 2016 (+96%) and should double again by 2030. The goal of ensuring greater access to higher education will therefore collide with the rapid growth of the university-age population.

STUDENT MOBILITY

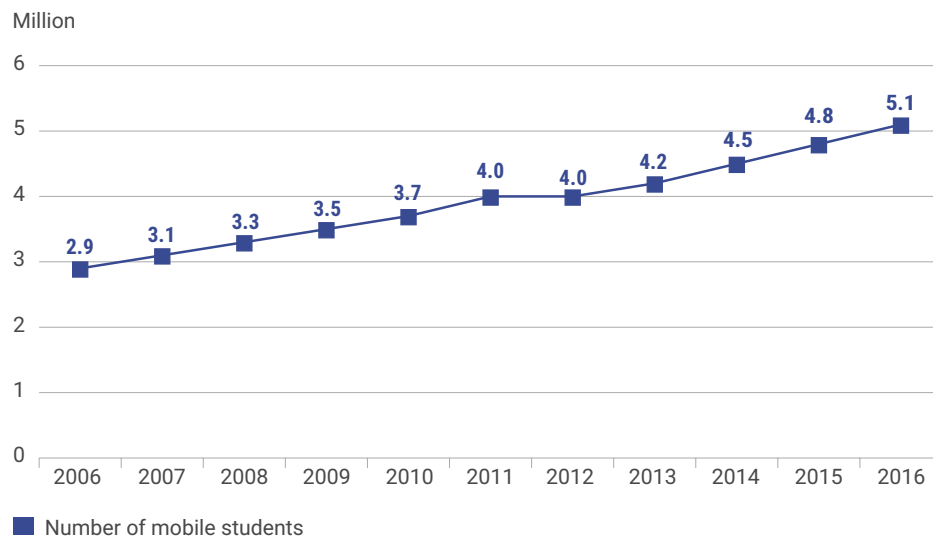
The number of internationally mobile degree-seeking students is growing steadily. In 2016, the globe counted nearly **5.1 million mobile degree-seeking students** out of a total population of 218 million postsecondary students. That represents an increase of 77% over the 2.9 million mobile degree seekers in 2006. Over the period, the **annual average growth was 5.1%**. The share of mobile students as a percentage of all students rose slightly from 2% in 2006 to 2.3% in 2016. At this pace, the number of **mobile students should exceed 10 million by 2030—3.9% of the world's postsecondary students**.



2.3%

of the world's
postsecondary students
were mobile in 2016

► Change in international degree-seeking mobility (2006–2016)



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, January 2019.

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INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOBILITY IN 2030

Despite an expected slowdown in growth of the global student population during the period 2016–2030, **the number of mobile students should continue to grow rapidly (+5% per year)** in response to the recruitment strategies of host countries and increased competition. The number of internationally mobile degree-seeking students will double to 10.2 million by 2030.

In 2030



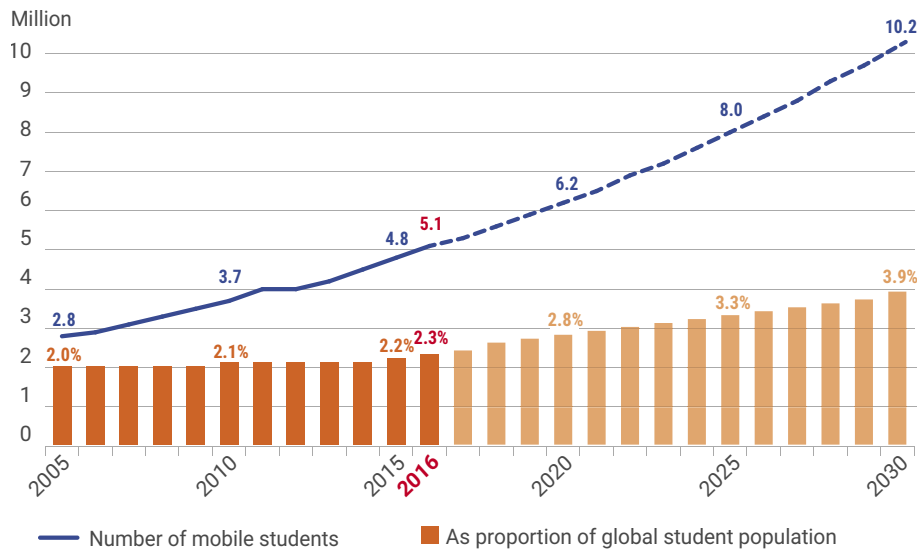
More than 10 million
mobile students



Nearly 4% of students

will have crossed
a border to study

► Projected growth in international degree-seeking mobility by 2030



Source: Campus France projections from data from UNESCO Institute for Statistics, January 2019, based on assumed annual growth of 5.1% over the period 2017–2030.

The expansion of higher education across the globe, competition among institutions of higher education, institutional internationalization strategies, and the proliferation of equivalency agreements have combined to produce rapid growth in degree-seeking mobility.

At the same time, the massive investment in higher education seen in middle-income countries such as Malaysia and Morocco has contributed to the creation of **regional education hubs** that offer growing numbers of students in countries surrounding the hub the possibility of postsecondary study outside their country of origin, and, in so doing, encourage student mobility. **Students in such regions enjoy the option of quality higher education close to home and at lower cost than in the traditional host countries.**

However, the capacity of middle-income countries to absorb the steep increase in the number of regional students and to compete with the university systems of the richest countries must be viewed relatively. The latter will continue to attract the majority of mobile students for the foreseeable future.

DEFINITIONS

- **Internationally mobile degree-seeking student:** An internationally mobile student is one who crosses a national or territorial border for the purpose of pursuing higher education and who enrolls in an academic program **leading to a degree** outside his country of origin. Students engaged in short periods of mobility not leading to a degree in the host country are not included in this definition.

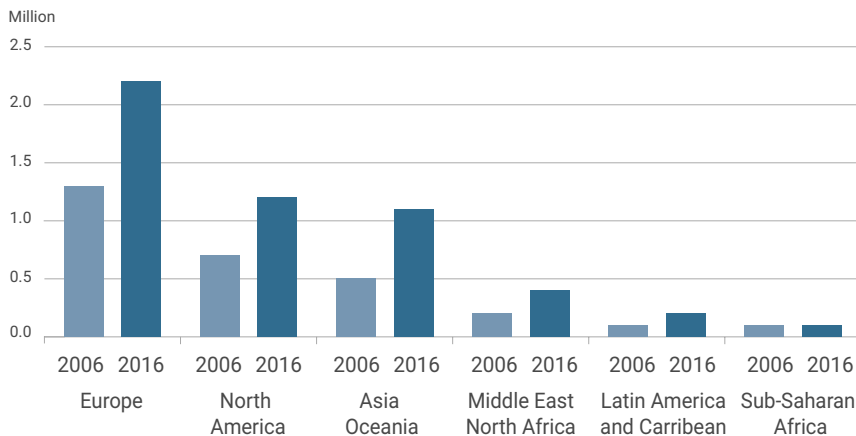
STUDENT MOBILITY BY GEOGRAPHIC REGION

Europe and North America remain the centers of international student recruitment. Together, the two regions hosted 66% (3.4 million) of all internationally mobile students in 2016. Inbound mobility to these regions has risen rapidly: Between 2006 and 2016, the number of inbound students rose 63% in Europe and 78% in North America.

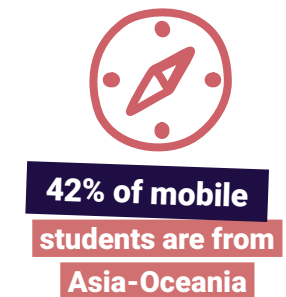
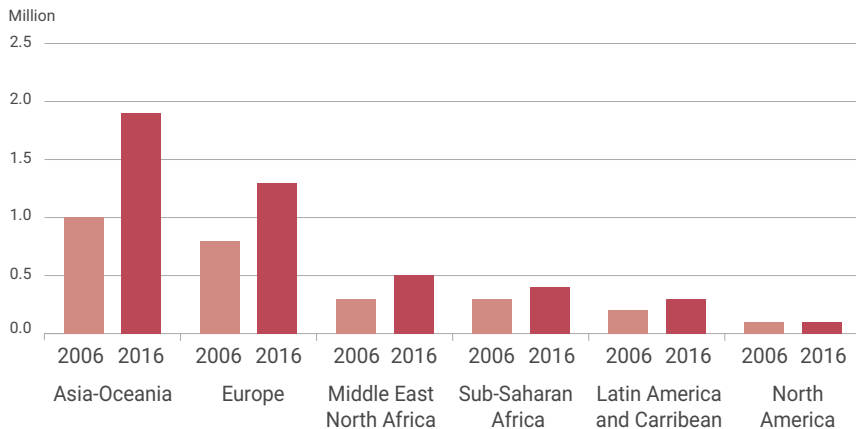
These shares have nevertheless decreased slightly in recent years in response to **the emergence of new hubs.**

► Inbound and outbound mobility by geographic region (2006–2016)

INBOUND MOBILITY



OUTBOUND MOBILITY



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, January 2019.

42% (1.9 million) of internationally mobile students come from Asia-Oceania and 28% (1.3 million) from Europe. The number of mobile students from these regions has grown rapidly. Between 2006 and 2016, it increased by 87% for Asia-Oceania and 68% for Europe.

Asia-Oceania is also experiencing rapid growth in the number of inbound students, hosting more in 2016 than in 2006. It is now the third host region.

Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, and Latin America carry less weight in global student mobility, both inbound and outbound. Yet their rates of growth have been considerable. The MENA countries, for example, saw growth of 121% in inbound students between 2006 and 2016, and 111% in outbound students.

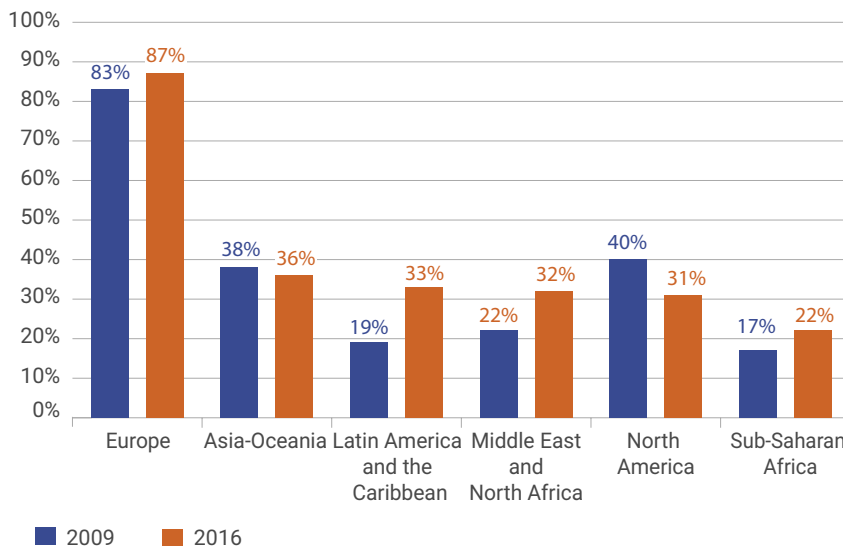
MOBILITY WITHIN REGIONS

In 2016, **47% of mobile students did not leave their region of origin**. That is, nearly half of all mobility experiences occur within a single geographic region. Several explanations suggest themselves: the cost of mobility, family strategies, immigration policies, access to the job market, and educational cooperation within regions.



**87% of mobile
european students
stays in Europe (2016)**

► Share of students who are mobile within their region



Note: The increase in Latin America and the Caribbean is explained in part by the absence of 2009 data for Argentina.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, January 2019.

Large disparities exist between regions. For example, only 22% of students from Sub-Saharan Africa choose to study in another country of the region, whereas 36% of students from Asia-Oceania remain within their region.

Europe stands out as an example of regionalized student mobility. In 2016, it hosted almost nine in ten (87%) mobile European students. The explanation lies in the policies pursued by the European Union, notably the harmonization of higher education systems (the Bologna process), the creation of a European higher education space, the vitality of the Erasmus program, and the creation of “European universities” (see pages 32–35).

Some geographic areas have experienced a **“retraction” in their mobility pattern**.¹ Thus in 2016, 27% of mobile students from MENA countries remained within the region, compared with 16% in 2009. **The emergence**

of regional education hubs plays a role in reinforcing intra-regional mobility. New educational offerings of high quality are in fact developing in nearby countries and competing with the large host countries, most of which are in Europe and North America. Such hubs are found in the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Singapore, and Qatar.²

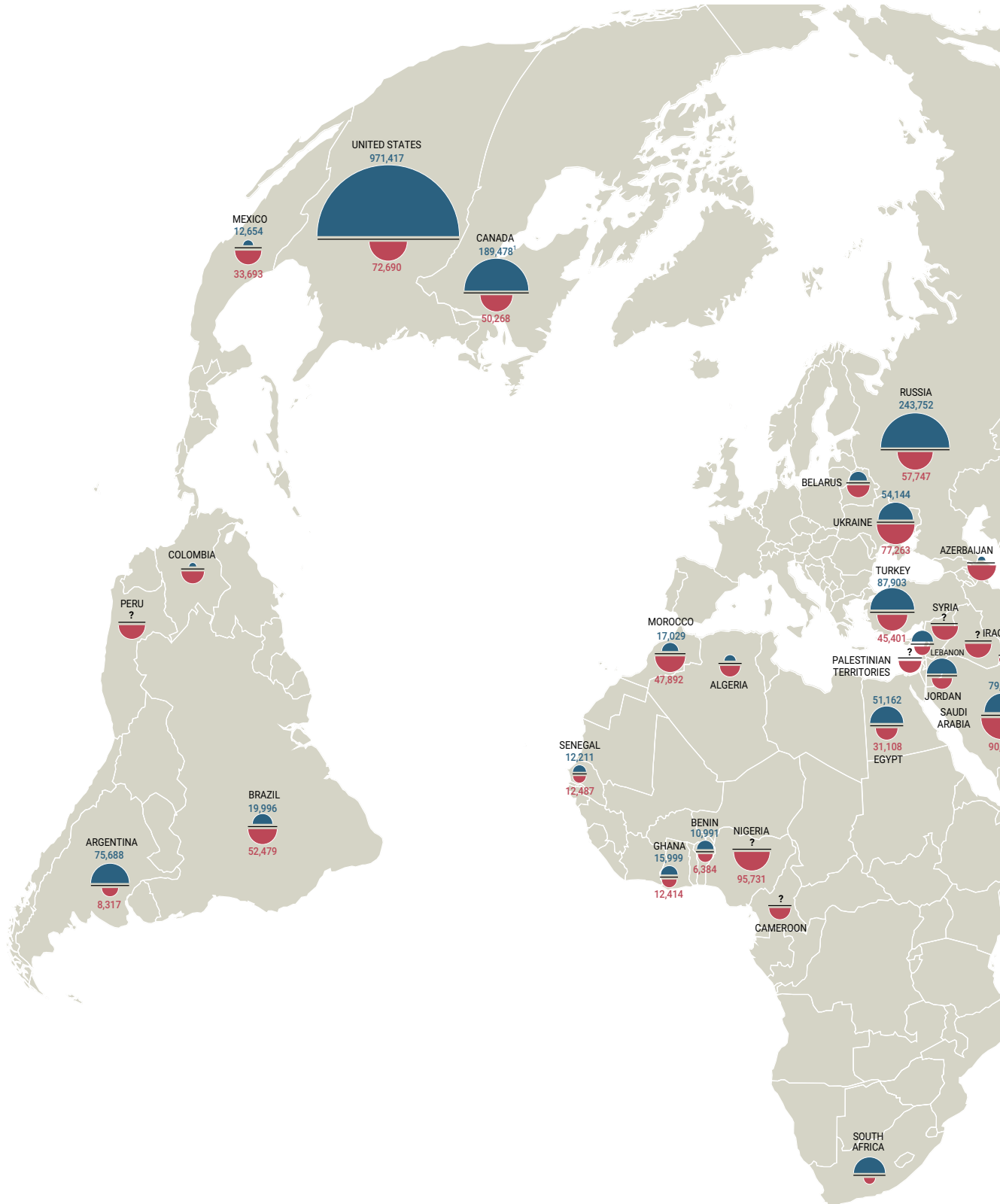
Only North America and Asia-Oceania are experiencing a slight reduction in intra-regional mobility. In Asia, this is explained by the lower mutual attraction between Japan and South Korea; in North America, Canadians are diversifying their study destinations. Fewer Canadians are heading for the United States and more for countries outside the region (e.g., Ireland and Saudi Arabia, among others).

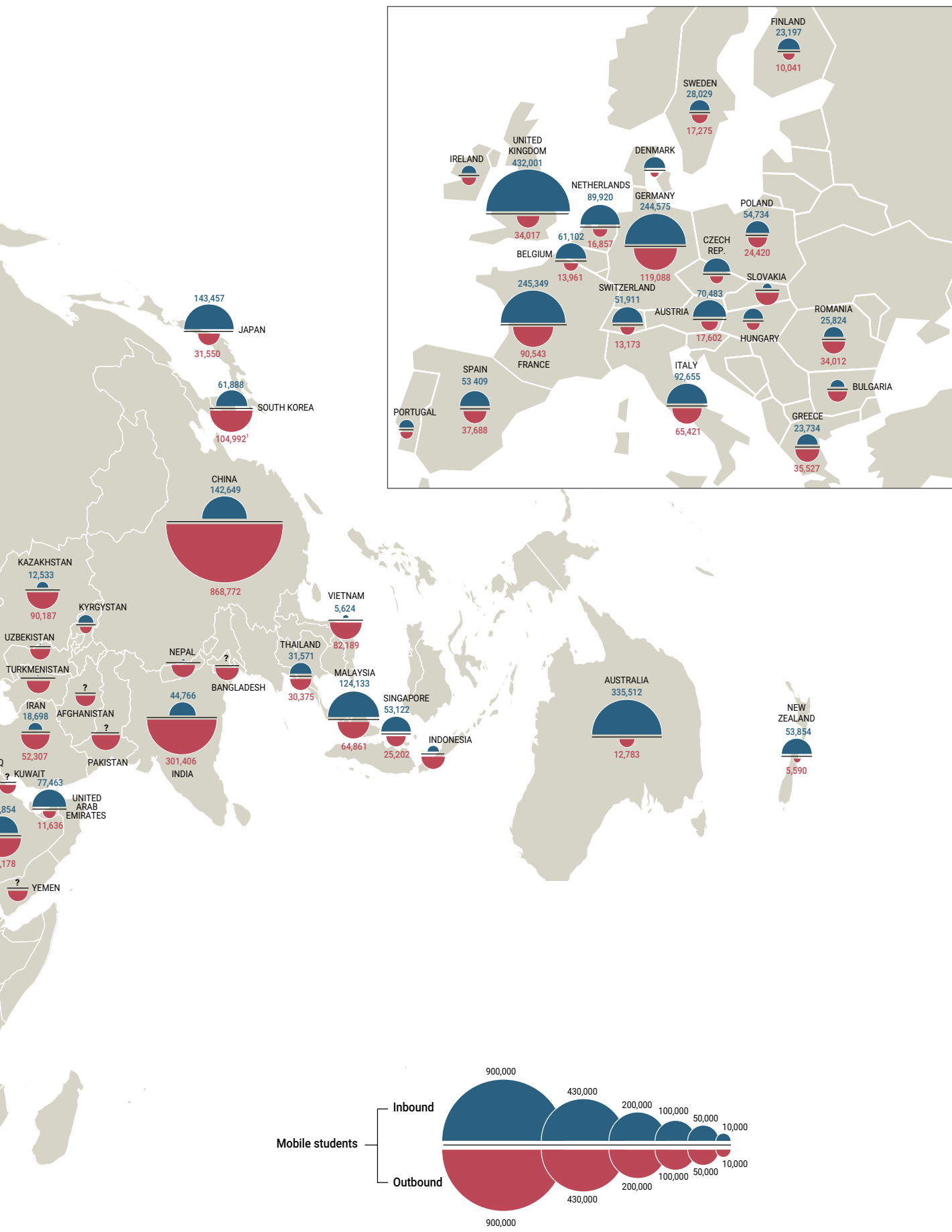
1- France Stratégie (2016). *L'enseignement supérieur par-delà les frontières. L'urgence d'une stratégie*, pages 61-62.

2- Cross-Border Education Research Team, <http://cbert.org/resources-data/educational-hubs/>

STUDENT MOBILITY

► Leading countries of origin and host countries in international degree-seeking mobility





Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, January 2019.

INBOUND STUDENT MOBILITY

Top 20 host countries for internationally mobile degree-seeking students in 2016

Host country	International students hosted	Change 2011-2016	Rank	
			2011	2016
United States	971,417	+37%	1	1
United Kingdom	432,001	+3%	2	2
Australia	335,512	+28%	4	3
France¹	245,349	-9%	3	4
Germany ¹	244,575	-	NA	5
Russia	243,752	+47%	5	6
Canada ²	189,478	+57%	7	7
Japan	143,457	-5%	6	8
China ³	142,649	+74%	8	9
Malaysia	124,133	+95%	12	10
Italy	92,655	+26%	9	11
Netherlands	89,920	+134%	20	12
Turkey	87,903	+182%	27	13
Saudi Arabia	79,854	+129%	24	14
United Arab Emirates	77,463	+59%	16	15
Argentina	75,688	-	NA	16
Austria	70,483	+0%	10	17
South Korea	61,888	-1%	13	18
Belgium	61,102	+61%	22	19
Poland	54,734	+164%	32	20
Total, World	5,085,893	+28%		

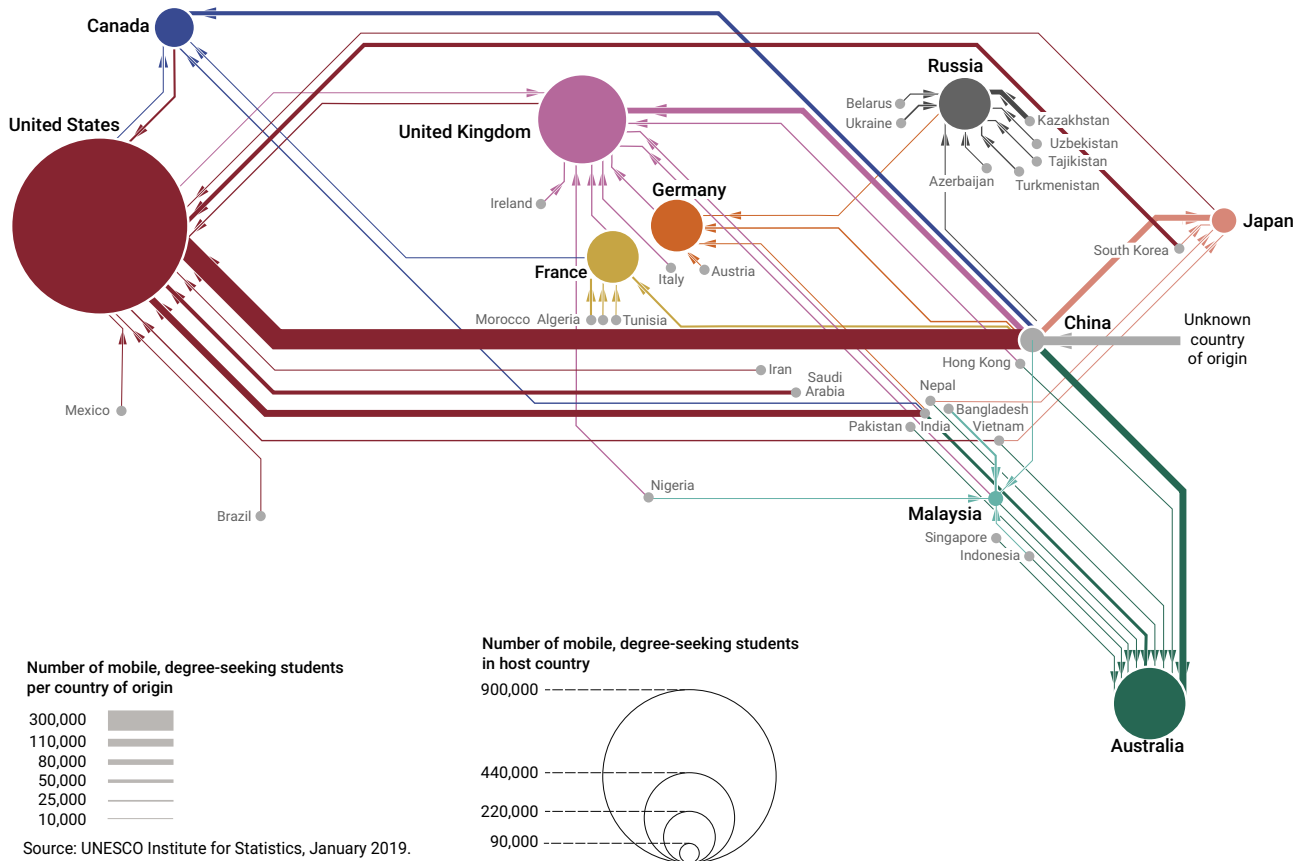
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, January 2019.

1- For France and Germany, UNESCO's counting methodology was modified in 2013.

2- National estimate.

3- Including Hong Kong and Macau.

► **Leading countries of origin of internationally mobile degree-seeking students in top 10 host countries**



Over the five years between 2011 and 2016, international mobility increased markedly (+28%, 5% per year). The ranks of the top nine host countries remained unchanged. Three English-speaking countries occupy the top slots. In the lead, the United States continued to attract students at a rate that exceeded the worldwide growth in mobile students. Germany and Russia drew closer to France, which retained fourth place. Lower in the ranking, China's increase in hosted students over the

five years was well above the worldwide rate of mobility growth. But the fastest growth in Asia was shown by Malaysia, which moved into the top 10 host countries and established itself as a new regional hub. Turkey, Poland, the Netherlands, and Saudi Arabia recorded the largest percentage increases in numbers of students hosted. Argentina, for which UNESCO published data for the first time, ranked 16. Ukraine, New Zealand, and Spain all dropped out of the top 20.

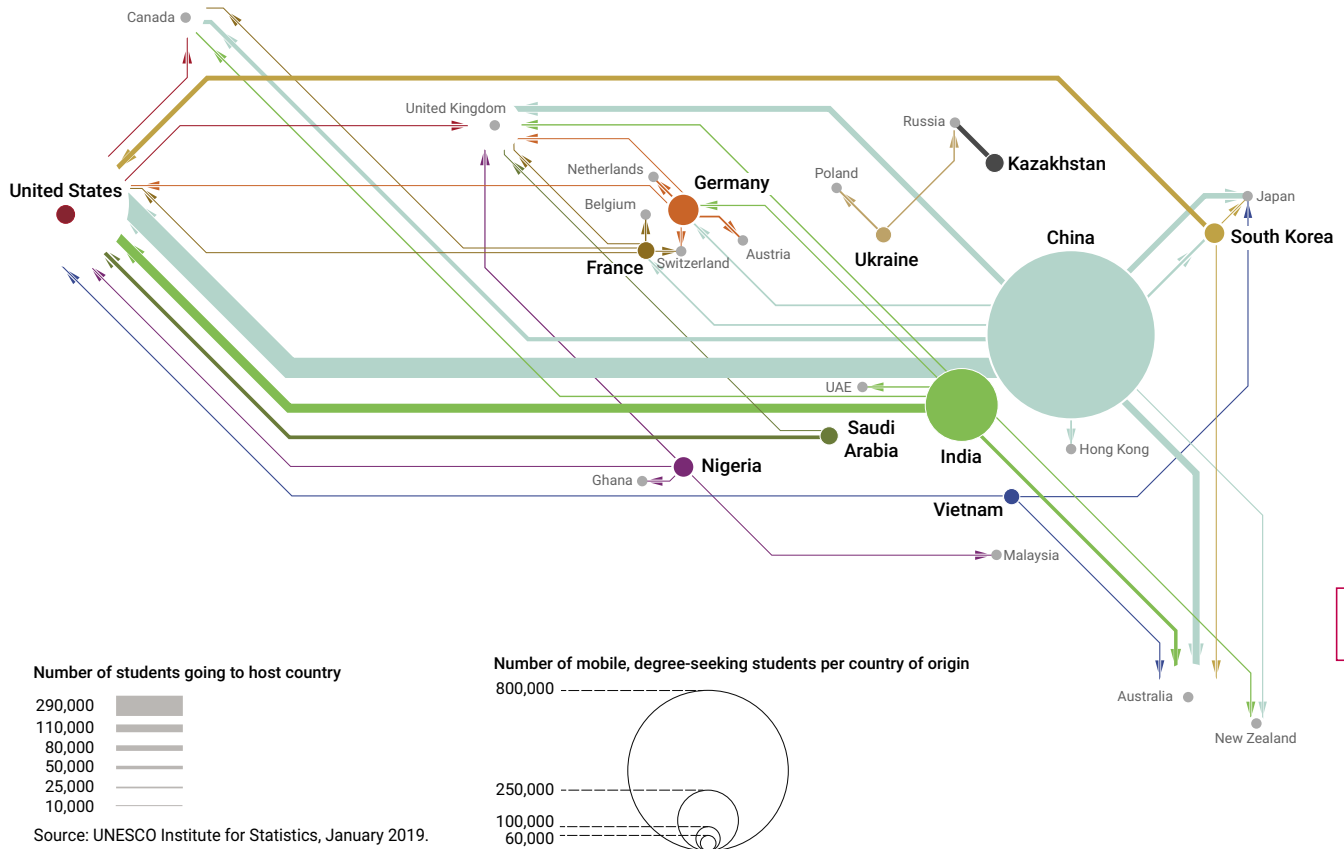
OUTBOUND STUDENT MOBILITY

Top 20 countries of origin of internationally mobile degree-seeking students in 2016

Country of origin	Internationally mobile students	Change, 2011-2016	Rank	
			2011	2016
China	868,772	+32%	1	1
India	301,406	+46%	2	2
Germany	119,088	+4%	4	3
South Korea	104,992	-18%	3	4
Nigeria	95,731	+69%	8	5
France	90,543	+50%	6	6
Kazakhstan	90,187	+113%	17	7
Saudi Arabia	90,178	+74%	10	8
Vietnam	82,159	+58%	9	9
Ukraine	77,263	+108%	20	10
Unites States	72,690	+15%	5	11
Italy	65,421	+50%	16	12
Malaysia	64,861	+9%	7	13
Bangladesh	61,430	+165%	44	14
Russia	57,747	+12%	11	15
Pakistan	52,956	+33%	19	16
Brazil	52,479	+46%	22	17
Iran	52,307	+4%	12	18
Canada	50,268	+9%	14	19
Nepal	49,417	+67%	27	20
Total, World	5,085,893	+28%		

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, January 2019.

► **Leading destinations of mobile degree-seeking students from top 10 countries of origin**



By far the largest numbers of internationally mobile students come from China and India, which also have the largest numbers of students in their systems of higher education—44,218,390 and 32,391,800 students, respectively. Despite already high numbers of students studying abroad, the two countries continue to chalk up strong growth in outbound mobility, together accounting for almost one in four students pursuing a degree abroad.

With growth almost twice the world average, France remains the sixth-largest country of origin. Bangladesh advanced the farthest in the ranking, owing mainly to steep increases in students abroad in 2013 and 2014. Malaysia captured most of that increased mobility.² Ukraine and Kazakhstan also recorded strong

growth, but in steadier increments over the five years. South Korea is the only country in the top 20 to have experienced a drop in outbound mobility over the five years. The declines in the number of Korean students traveling to the United States and Japan were especially steep (–16% and –50%, respectively). It is also true that Korea’s population is shrinking.

In 2016, **Bangladesh, Brazil, and Nepal made their first appearance in the ranking**, displacing Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Morocco.

Germany, France, and China are the only three countries that rank high both as host and sending countries.

2- The phenomenon can probably be traced to a change in the method of counting Bangladeshi students traveling to Malaysia.

LEADERS IN INBOUND MOBILITY: DYNAMICS AND STRATEGIES

UNITED STATES

#1 HOST COUNTRY

#11 SENDING COUNTRY

19,288,424 students¹
971,417 inbound students
72,690 outbound students



Country of origin	Students hosted	%
China	318,414	33%
India	135,733	14%
South Korea	60,454	6%

The United States is the **world leader in inbound mobility** (971,417 international students in 2016), having recorded a 7% increase in the last year of the period and 37% since 2011. Over the period 2011–2016, the total number of postsecondary students in the United States dropped 8%. As a result, **the share of international students in the U.S. student body rose rapidly, from 3.4% to 5% in five years.**

The United States is not a major force in outbound degree-seeking mobility. Only 73,527 U.S. students went elsewhere for their degree in 2016. U.S. students are much more likely to participate in short exchanges; 176,890 of them spent a short, nondegree stay in a European university during the 2015–2016 academic year.²

The appeal of U.S. higher education is conceived broadly as a way of pursuing **foreign policy goals and promoting the values and the national security of the United States.** Mobility is managed by individual institutions as a function of their independent development strategies. U.S. universities manage the world's largest number of branch campuses (see p. 21), which helps them consolidate their position as **leaders in international student mobility.** Recent measures by the Trump administration may account for an unprecedented drop in new arrivals in favor of Canada, a phenomenon that has yet to be confirmed by official data.

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UNITED KINGDOM

#2 HOST COUNTRY

#31 SENDING COUNTRY

2,387,280 students
432,001 inbound students
34,017 outbound students



Country of origin	Students hosted	%
China	106,547	25%
Malaysia	17,360	4%
India	16,655	4%

The United Kingdom has long had a **strong international presence** in higher education, as in other areas. Its scheduled withdrawal from the European Union nevertheless places the country in an **uncertain position.** The challenges it is facing threaten its place on the world scene. Notable among those challenges are the economic growth of China, India, and other emerging countries; the rise of independence movements within the country; and the migration crisis and the reactions it has elicited from Britons.

In this context, the **excellence of British higher education and the appeal it exerts on students throughout the world are strengths upon which the United Kingdom intends to rely.** The British Council has adopted a

strategic plan for 2018–2020³ that identifies areas for priority action: emerging economies (particularly China, India, Niger, Turkey, and Indonesia), but also the European Union, Russia, and neighboring countries.

The plan places particular emphasis on **relations with China,** given the country's weight in inbound mobility. The British Council intends to develop a five-year strategy to support Beijing in its internationalization effort. It is also working to promote the English language in China and seeking to establish the U.K. as the preferred site for language learning. But the country's major challenge remains that of protecting and developing inbound mobility in the highly uncertain environment created by Brexit.

1- The data on pages 18–25 are from 2016, except for Germany (2015) and for the student population of Nigeria (2011). UNESCO Institute for Statistics, January 2019.

2- IIE Center for Academic Mobility Research and Impact (2018). A World on the Move. Trends in Global Student Mobility, 2, 2018, p. 7.

3- <https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/2018-20-corporate-plan.pdf>

AUSTRALIA

#3 HOST COUNTRY

#79 SENDING COUNTRY

1,918,625 students
335,512 inbound students
12,783 outbound students



Country of origin	Students hosted	%
China	122,298	36%
India	46,316	14%
Malaysia	15,319	5%

Foreign students are a substantial source of income for Australia. In 2017, tuition payments by **inbound international students brought in €18 billion, 4.7% of Australia's total exports**. Attracting international students is therefore an important economic issue, as well as an **instrument of Australia's policy of influence in the Asia-Oceania region**.

The vast majority (85%) of international students in Australia come from within the region. Among them, the populations of Indian, Pakistani, Filipino, and even Nepalese students have grown since 2011. Beyond Asia-Oceania, sizeable growth has been seen among Nigerians (+399%, 1,632 students in 2016), Kuwaitis (+233%, 1,073 students), and Italians (+201%, 1,332

students). At a time when China is seeking to reduce the number of students it sends abroad, **Australia will have to diversify its sources of international students**.

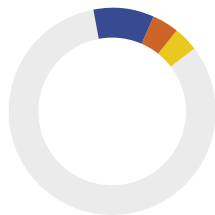
Despite the availability of government grants for this purpose, relatively **few Australians study abroad** (0.7% of the student population). Most of those who do choose North America (36%), the European Union (31%), or Asia-Oceania (27%). More than two-thirds (68%) enroll in one of three countries: the United States, New Zealand, or the United Kingdom.

GERMANY

#5 HOST COUNTRY

#3 SENDING COUNTRY

3,403,084 students
244,575 inbound students
119,088 outbound students



Country of origin	Students hosted	%
China	23,630	10%
Russia	9,953	4%
India	9,896	4%

Germany welcomed 244,575 international students in 2016, an increase of 18% over 2011. It now follows close behind France in the ranking of top host countries. The origins of Germany's international students are quite diverse. Among the largest sources are China (10%), Russia (4%), India (4%), and France (3%).

The **German government's Exzellenzinitiative** program is encouraging the creation of world-class universities. In addition, **minimal tuition charges** (except in Baden-Württemberg) and the opportunity for finding a job after graduation, thanks to **German employers' need for labor**, no doubt influence international students' choices.

Germany is also the third-largest country for outbound degree-seeking mobility (119,088), after India and China. This fact underlines the **marked mobility of German**

students, most of whom nevertheless remain in western Europe: notably Austria (23%), the Netherlands (20%), the United Kingdom (12%), and Switzerland (10%).

Germany's internationalization strategy rests in large part on a **proactive scholarship policy**. The German academic exchange service (DAAD) is one of the world's largest sources of scholarships—for both in- and outbound students (139,758 scholarships, of which 61,528 for inbound mobility in 2017⁴).

LEADERS IN INBOUND MOBILITY: DYNAMICS AND STRATEGIES

RUSSIA

#6 HOST COUNTRY

#15 SENDING COUNTRY

6,182,300 students
243,752 inbound students
57,747 outbound students



Country of origin	Students hosted	%
Kazakhstan	69,895	29%
Ukraine	22,440	9%
Uzbekistan	19,893	8%

With a **47% increase in inbound international students** between 2011 and 2016, Russia now trails France and Germany very closely in the ranks of leading host countries. Its pattern of recruitment, however, does not compete directly with those of the major receiving countries: **52% of the students Russia hosts come from the Commonwealth of Independent States**, reflecting historic ties and, to a certain extent, linguistic affinities. Also notable between 2011 and 2016 is **strong growth from the countries of Central Asia**: Kazakhstan (+134%), Turkmenistan (+140%), and Tajikistan (+143%).

Russian students participate in relatively small numbers in international degree-seeking mobility (0.9% of the student population). Yet their number grew over the period (+12%). **Three in five Russian students choose the**

European Union. Their primary destinations are Germany (17%) and the Czech Republic (10%). The United States (9%) is in third place.

Increasing the drawing power of the country's higher education system is a major challenge for Russia, which would like **international students to become a source of income as well as a means of countering the sharp demographic decline** that Russia is experiencing. Indeed, Russia's student population has been smaller than Turkey's since 2016. Yet efforts to internationalize Russia's universities run up against the paltry resources allocated to higher education, the system's poor competitiveness, and the country's ambivalent image on the international scene.

CANADA

#7 HOST COUNTRY

#19 SENDING COUNTRY

1,593,383 students
189,478 inbound students
50,268 outbound students



Country of origin	Students hosted	%
China	63,129	33%
India	19,905	11%
France	15,603	8%

Known for the quality of its university system, Canada is attracting growing numbers of mobile students. For several years, the federal government has been honing its international recruitment strategy, **developing a distinctive brand, and identifying priority targets**—among them Brazil, China, India, and Mexico.

Those efforts appear to be paying off. **More than half (56%) of the foreign students in Canada hail from Asia-Oceania**, and flows of students from China, India, and Vietnam grew by 132% to 157% between 2011 and 2016. Also notable were marked increases in students from Brazil and Nigeria (+369% and +195%).

This trend is expected to continue in coming years as a result of the international situation. **Canada's positive**

image has been reinforced by Brexit and by the election of Donald Trump in the United States.

Outbound Canadian students tend to head for the other large English-speaking host countries—57% to the United States, 12% to the United Kingdom, and 8% to Australia. **France is the fourth-most-popular destination** (1,486 students in 2016). Several countries seem to have become more prized recently. Over the five-year period, enrollments of Canadian students in Saudi Arabia, India, and Ireland grew by +373%, +93%, and +92%, respectively.

MALAYSIA

#10 HOST COUNTRY

#13 SENDING COUNTRY

1,336,550 students
124,133 inbound students
64,861 outbound students



Country of origin	Students hosted	%
Bangladesh	34,155	28%
Nigeria	14,705	12%
China	10,961	9%

The latest entry into the top 10 host countries, Malaysia has also undergone the most substantial growth (+95%) in its international student population over the five-year period. That growth was due primarily to a **significant influx of students from Bangladesh**, who make up more than a quarter of the international students in Malaysia. The long-standing presence in the country of a sizeable Bangladeshi immigrant population has facilitated the influx. The same logic holds for the increases in Chinese and Indian students.⁵

Reinforcing Malaysia's drawing power is a university system based on the Anglo-American model and the widespread use of English as a language of instruction. The language factor certainly explains a part of its

success in recruiting students from Nigeria, for example. It also attracts many students from countries with large Muslim communities, such as Pakistan and Yemen.

Malaysia is often described as a **regional education hub**. In fact, modestly priced **degree programs offered in Malaysia by Australian, British, and Chinese universities** contribute substantially to the country's appeal.

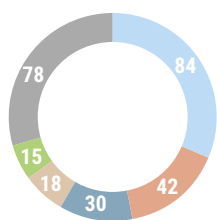
Outbound mobility has held steady at nearly 65,000 students, lagging behind the world average. **Two-thirds of Malaysia's outbound student mobility is to English-speaking countries**, notably the United Kingdom, Australia, and the United States.

"OFFSHORING" OF HIGHER EDUCATION

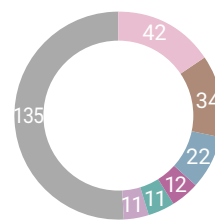
For the past few years, new education hubs have been appearing in countries that have been sources of strong outbound mobility. Far from competing with the major host countries, these hubs are instead the result of the **growing internationalization of institutions in those countries**. Increasingly, institutions in major receiving countries are seeking to establish branch campuses in sending countries. In so doing, they simultaneously reinforce the influence of the home country and the recruiting ambitions of the country hosting the branch.

The offshoring of higher education—or, more broadly, **transnational education**—appears in various forms: inter-institutional academic cooperation, joint degrees, distance education, and so on.⁶ Its best-documented form is probably the **branch campus**. Not surprisingly, the countries of origin of most branch campuses are the highest-ranking host countries (see page 14), whereas most such campuses are sited in the highest-ranking sending countries (see page 16).

► Countries of origin and host countries of offshore campuses



- United States
- United Kingdom
- France
- Russia
- Australia
- Other countries



- China
- United Arab Emirates
- Former Soviet Republics*
- Malaysia
- Qatar
- Singapore
- Other countries

Source : Cross-Border Education Research Team, C-BERT Branch Campus Listing, 2017. <http://cbert.org/branchcampuses.php>
*The former Soviet Republics concerned are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine.

5- The sharp growth in the number of Bangladeshi, Indian, and Chinese students in Malaysia may also be explained by a change in the method of counting international students in the country.

6- Universities UK International, *The Scale of UK Higher Education Transnational Education 2015-16. Trend Analysis of HESA Data*, 2018.

LEADERS IN INBOUND MOBILITY: DYNAMICS AND STRATEGIES

NETHERLANDS

#12 HOST COUNTRY

#66 SENDING COUNTRY

836,946 students
89,920 inbound students
16,857 outbound students



Country of origin	Students hosted	%
Germany	23,579	26%
China	4,804	5%
Belgium	2,677	3%

The Netherlands has a long tradition of internationalized higher education. Its recruitment strategy rests on **the quality of its programs**, especially the many programs taught in English (1,979 programs). Internationalization is also seen as a means of increasing the supply of education—quantitatively and qualitatively.

The country would like to **diversify its international student population** and, specifically, to reduce its “dependence” on German and Belgian students (29% of inbound students). Diversification would allow the country to prioritize cultural exchanges and to leverage the rich life experiences of Netherlands students of immigrant backgrounds.

The Netherlands is targeting several countries with which it has historical ties (South Africa and Indonesia), seeks to strengthen exchanges (China, India, Turkey), or is conducting development activities. The majority of scholarships and cooperative programs are dedicated to these ends.

In view of the advanced state of internationalization of many Dutch universities (58% of the students at Maastricht University are internationals), **efforts are increasingly oriented toward outbound mobility**.

TURKEY

#13 HOST COUNTRY

#25 SENDING COUNTRY

6,689,185 students
87,903 inbound students
45,401 outbound students



Country of origin	Students hosted	%
Azerbaijan	12,504	14%
Turkmenistan	9,903	11%
Syria	9,689	11%

Of the top 20 host countries, Turkey achieved **the fastest growth over the five-year period**. Two-thirds of the students it welcomes come from countries in **Central Asia, the Middle East, and southeastern Europe**. The influx of Syrians since 2011 has also been a major factor. Also notable, however, is **growth in the number of students from Africa**. Whereas Africans made up just 3% of Turkey’s international students in 2011, their percentage had risen to 13% by 2016.

Inversely, **Turkey’s outbound mobility has slipped slightly** (–3% between 2011 and 2016). Twenty-two percent of outbound Turkish students choose the United States; 70% choose Europe (48% EU). Over the five years,

mobile Turks tended to turn away from the countries of western Europe (–64% to Sweden, –41% to Norway, –22% to Belgium and Austria) in favor of central and eastern Europe (+384% to North Macedonia, +224% to Poland, +42% to Ukraine).

The recruitment policy of Turkish higher education is directly correlated with Ankara’s national-influence strategy, which focuses on Central Asia, Eastern Europe, and the African continent. International students can be expected to continue to flow into Turkey, thanks to generous scholarship programs and an affordable cost of living.

SAUDI ARABIA

#14 HOST COUNTRY

#8 SENDING COUNTRY

1,622,441 students
79,854 inbound students
90,178 outbound students



Country of origin	Students hosted	%
Syria	9,552	12%
Yemen	9,519	12%
Egypt	4,886	6%

Saudi students are increasingly mobile (+74% over the five years). **The United States has long been their top destination**, and that trend solidified after 2011. Forty-five percent of mobile Saudi students chose the United States in 2011; 65% in 2016. A full 86% choose one of the major English-speaking host countries. A substantial scholarship program has provided support for outbound mobility since 2005, reflecting the kingdom's **need for qualified workers knowledgeable about the world**.

For several years, Saudi Arabia has been investing just as heavily in raising the appeal of its own higher education system by offering, in addition to traditional religious studies, generous scholarships for programs taught

in English in modern facilities. In inbound mobility, the kingdom perceives **an instrument of influence but also a means of diversifying its economy**.

In five years, **Saudi Arabia moved up 11 places** in the host-country ranking, reaching 14th place in 2016. **Nearly half of the international students in Saudi Arabia come from the Middle East**, notably Syria and Yemen. **Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia** are also important sources of students, with strong growth in the numbers of students from Sudan, Nigeria, Mauritania, Indonesia, India, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

#15 HOST COUNTRY

#89 SENDING COUNTRY

159,553 students
77,463 inbound students
11,636 outbound students



Country of origin	Students hosted	%
India	13,370	17%
Syria	6,592	9%
Jordan	6,107	8%

Like Saudi Arabia, the UAE is a new force in international student mobility. Its strength lies in its **capacity to attract foreign institutions**. Branch campuses of Indian, Australian, American, British, and French institutions have opened in the UAE, taking advantage of the free zones of Dubai and Ras-al-Khaimah.

Between 2011 and 2016, **the number of students hosted by the UAE grew 59% to reach 77,463**. **Half of those students came from the Middle East, primarily Syria and Jordan**. Twenty-seven percent of inbound students came from Asia-Oceania, with healthy growth in flows from India, the Philippines, and China. The Emirates are also beginning to extend their recruitment to Africa (11%

of recruitment in 2016), principally Sudan, Nigeria, and the Comoros.

In 2016, **7.3% of the UAE's student population participated in outbound mobility** (compared with the world average of 2.3%), and the number of students pursuing a program abroad has risen steadily: +38% between 2011 and 2016. Sixty-nine percent of outbound students choose one of the major English-speaking host countries—**the United Kingdom for almost a third of them**. Growing numbers are choosing India (+202%), Saudi Arabia (+246%), and Malaysia (+196%).

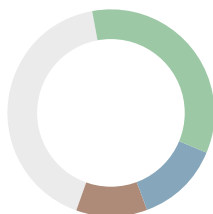
LEADING COUNTRIES FOR OUTBOUND MOBILITY: DYNAMICS AND STRATEGIES

CHINA

#1 SENDING COUNTRY

#8 HOST COUNTRY

44,218,390 students
868,772 outbound students
142,649 inbound students



Host country	Students sent	%
United States	318,414	37%
Australia	122,298	14%
United Kingdom	106,547	12%

Source of by far the largest number of mobile degree-seeking students in 2016, China sends 2% of its student population abroad to be educated, 44% of them to North America. Strong growth occurred over the five years in Chinese student flows to Canada (+126%, 63,129 students in 2016) and Italy (+121%, 13,787 students). On the other hand, Chinese students seem to be turning away from Thailand (-41%, 5,501), Sweden (-40%, 2,439), and Japan -19%, 76,537).

This burgeoning mobility is explained by the emergence of a new middle class that is investing heavily in education and for whom **American education is the standard**. Also notable are the efforts made to recruit Chinese students by universities in the English-speaking countries.

Growth in Chinese mobility may soon slow, however, as Beijing seeks to promote cooperative programs sited within China, to reinforce the scientific quality of its universities, and to limit departures abroad.

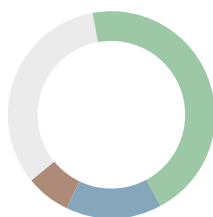
In fact, the government's new strategy emphasizes inbound mobility. **The number of foreign students in China grew by 74% between 2011 and 2016**. According to China's Ministry of Education, 60% of those students came from Asia and 16% from Europe. **The apparent objective is to make China a vital player in world higher education**. Witness the wider range of its institutions, greater efforts to communicate with foreign institutions and students, and the establishment of cooperative programs, especially with Africa and countries linked to its One Belt, One Road initiative.⁸

INDIA

#2 SENDING COUNTRY

#29 HOST COUNTRY

32,391,800 students
301,406 outbound students
44,766 inbound students



Host country	Students sent	%
United States	135,733	45%
Australia	46,316	15%
Canada	19,905	7%

India is the origin of the second-largest contingent of outbound students. Because the population of Indian students of university age between 2006 and 2016 expanded far beyond the capacity of domestic institutions to absorb them, students left their country to study abroad. The term "**brain drain**" refers to the low number of research scholars in India and to the fact that only 0.3% of enrollments in Indian higher education are at the doctoral level. In France, **79% of Indian students are enrolled in master and doctoral programs**, compared with just 21% at the undergraduate level.

The United States and the Commonwealth countries attract the vast majority (83%) of Indian students, largely

because of the common language and the presence of an Indian diaspora in some countries. Restrictions on the issuance of work visas upon completion of studies have **dimmed the appeal of the United Kingdom** (-57% drop in Indian students between 2011 and 2016), helping to steer outbound students toward Australia (+229%) and Canada (+145%). France recorded a 49% gain in inbound Indian students between 2011 and 2016.

India, like China, seeks to open its system of higher education to cooperative arrangements by hosting **branch campuses** and encouraging **joint degrees and other partnerships with foreign institutions**.

8- Otherwise known as the New Silk Road, the One Belt policy was launched by Beijing in 2013. Although its primary focus is transportation, it also includes a higher education component.

NIGERIA

#5 SENDING COUNTRY

1,513,371 students
95,731 outbound students⁹



Host country	Students sent	%
United Kingdom	16,072	17%
Malaysia	14,705	15%
Ghana	11,945	12%

Nigeria sends more students abroad than any other African country, and it did so at a rising rate between 2011 and 2016 (+69%). As a result of rapid population growth, Nigeria may have a **university-age population of 23 million by 2020** (+30% from 2010⁹), suggesting continued growth in outbound student mobility in coming years.

The historic ties between the United Kingdom and Nigeria, combined with the prestige of the British university system, explain the orientation of outbound

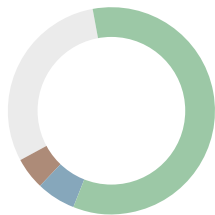
students toward Great Britain. Branch campuses in Malaysia also exert a strong pull: programs there are less expensive than in the UK, they are taught in English, and they are offered in a country whose most professed religion is Islam. The third-ranking host country for mobile Nigerians is Ghana (12%) by reason of the recognition of diplomas, geographic proximity, the good reputation of Ghanaian universities, and the presence of World Bank centers of excellence.

MOROCCO

#21 SENDING COUNTRY

#44 HOST COUNTRY

974,240 students
47,892 outbound students
17,029 inbound students



Host country	Students sent	%
France	28,012	59%
Germany	2,631	6%
Ukraine	2,348	5%

Historically the source of sizeable flows of students to France, Morocco is drawing increasing numbers of students from Sub-Saharan Africa into its own system of higher education. The kingdom has entered into bilateral agreements with its neighbors south of the Sahara and is offering scholarships to African students. Morocco's ambition is to become an **education hub that attracts talent from across the continent**.

The country's strategy is not to compete with South-North mobility but to **encourage South-South mobility that complements Europe, particularly France**. Morocco has therefore developed a recruitment strategy aimed at its French-speaking neighbors, within the context of a broader African cooperation policy. **The kingdom is**

emphasizing its linguistic, geographic, and political affinities with Sub-Saharan countries, offering students a low-cost educational alternative of increasingly good quality.

However, Morocco's offerings are hobbled by lack of degree recognition by other countries (such as Côte d'Ivoire) and uncertain job prospects for graduates. Yet the country's appeal has grown in recent years thanks to the reform of its private higher education system, degrees from which are becoming more widely recognized, and a generous **policy of scholarships, which are granted to nearly 80% of foreign students in the public system**.

⁹- No data are available on international students in Nigeria.

10- United Nations, 2017, World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, pages 276–77.

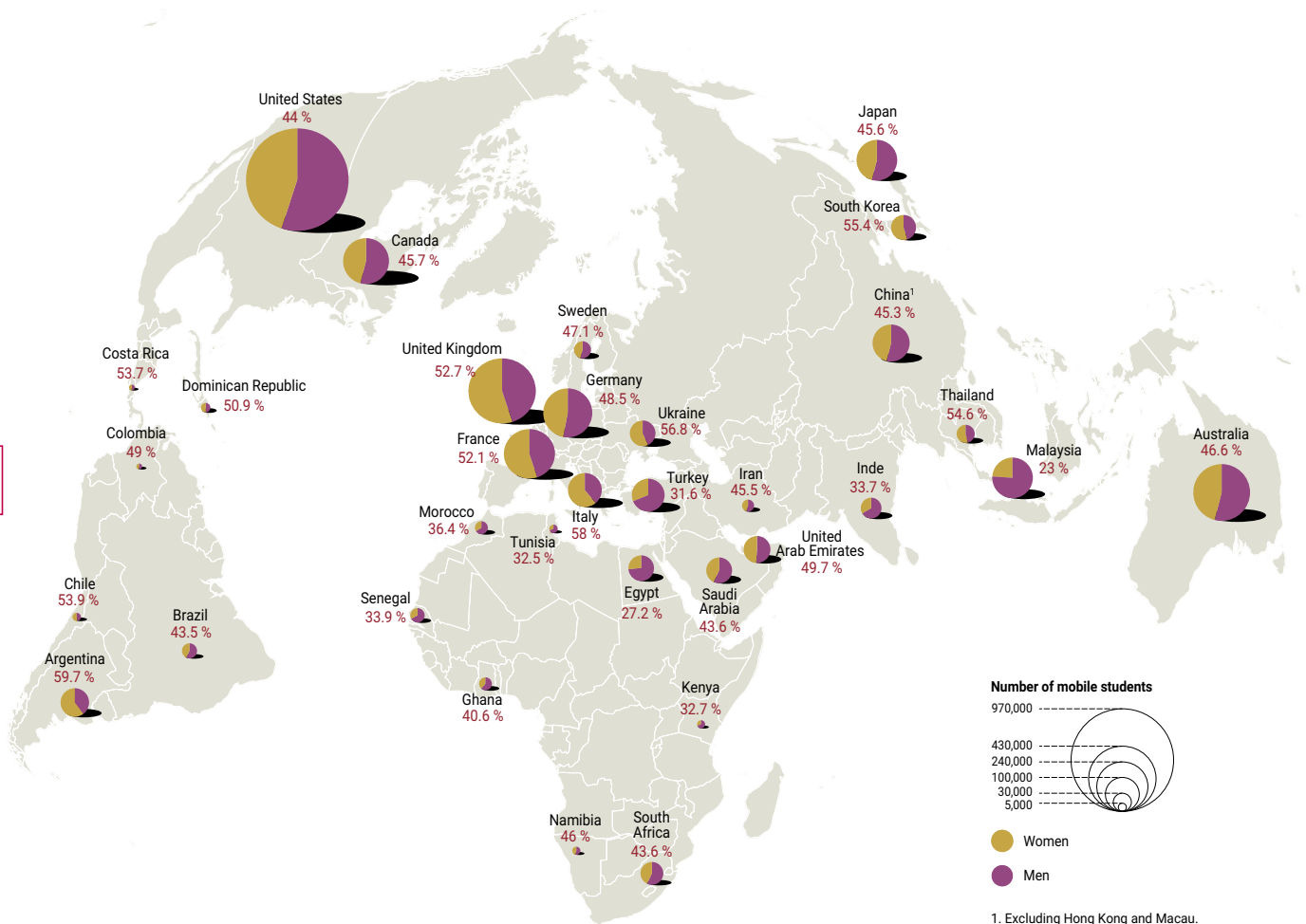
MOBILITY PATTERNS OF FEMALE STUDENTS

Patterns of global student mobility reveal disparities in **gender distribution**. Men and women do not participate equally in mobility: women constitute just 47% of mobile students, whereas they represent 51% of all postsecondary students worldwide.



52% of the foreign students hosted in France are women

► Proportion of mobile female students, by host country



In some cases, student mobility accentuates national gender inequalities. The countries of North Africa (including Egypt) and Sub-Saharan Africa host relatively few mobile female students. Only 36% of the international students in Morocco are women (although women make up 47% of the postsecondary population in the country), 32% in Tunisia (63%), and 27% in Egypt (50%). Likewise, Malaysia receives very few female students (23%), whereas women make up 50% of the country's student body. These disparities are explained

by the countries of origin of the hosted students, where the proportion of women in higher education is below the world average.

Inversely, 55% of the foreign students in South Korea are women, whereas only 41% of the country's student body is female. European countries are roughly in balance. **In France, for example, 52% of inbound international students are women, and women make up 54% of all students in French higher education.**

FEMALE FOREIGN STUDENTS IN FRANCE²

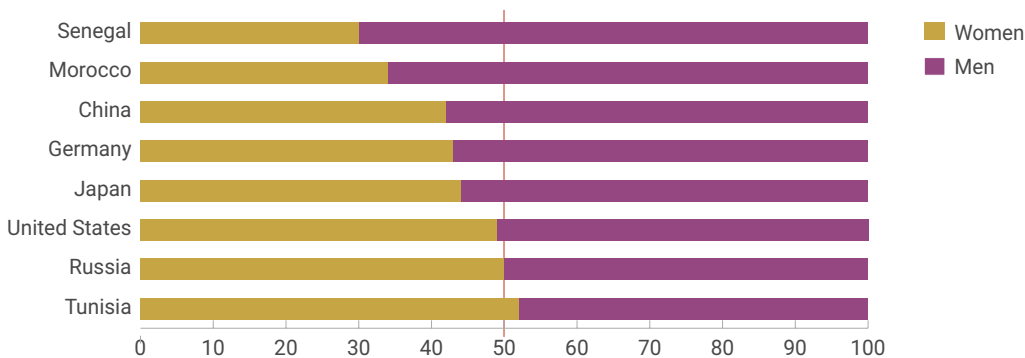
The proportions of women among North African students studying in France are lower than in their societies of origin: 55% of Tunisian students in France are women, whereas women make up 68% of Tunisia's postsecondary student population. The corresponding proportions in Algeria are 48% and 62%. An opposite dynamic is at work in the countries of the former Soviet Union but also in the European Union, Japan, the United

States, and China. This may be explained by the strong representation of women in the humanities, social sciences, literature, and languages, all areas for which French higher education is well known worldwide.



63% of Chinese students in France are women

► Female and male foreign students in the exact sciences at French universities (2017–2018)



Source : MESRI-SIES 2018.

The proportion of women in the postsecondary foreign student body varies by degree level (bachelor, master, doctorate). Generally, the proportion drops at higher levels: **56% of hosted students at the bachelor level are women, 53% at the master level, and 48% at the doctoral level.** Tunisia is an exception, in that female doctoral candidates (67%) are overrepresented compared with their numbers at other levels.

The proportion of women among mobile students does not vary only with country of origin, host country, and degree level. The discipline studied also plays an important role. **Women enroll in science programs at lower rates than men, gravitating instead toward the humanities, social sciences, and literature.**

Breakdowns of men and women by academic discipline differ depending on country of origin. Only 30% of the Senegalese students studying one of the exact sciences at France's universities are women, compared with 52% for Tunisia. But the phenomenon is not limited to the hard sciences: 72% of the Chinese students studying

law, political science, economics, or business and public administration are women. Women are also heavily overrepresented among inbound Russians (71%), Germans (66%), and Japanese (65%). Taken together, these proportions indicate foreign students' special attraction for French programs in the humanities, social sciences, and literature.



67% of Tunisian doctoral candidates in France are women

2- For the difference between international students and foreign students, see the glossary on page 58.

1,635,000

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

IN THE EUROPEAN UNION



2

STUDENT MOBILITY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union hosts 1,635,000 degree-seeking international students, making it the world's top destination for educational mobility. The number of international students enrolled at EU institutions rose 31% between 2011 and 2016.

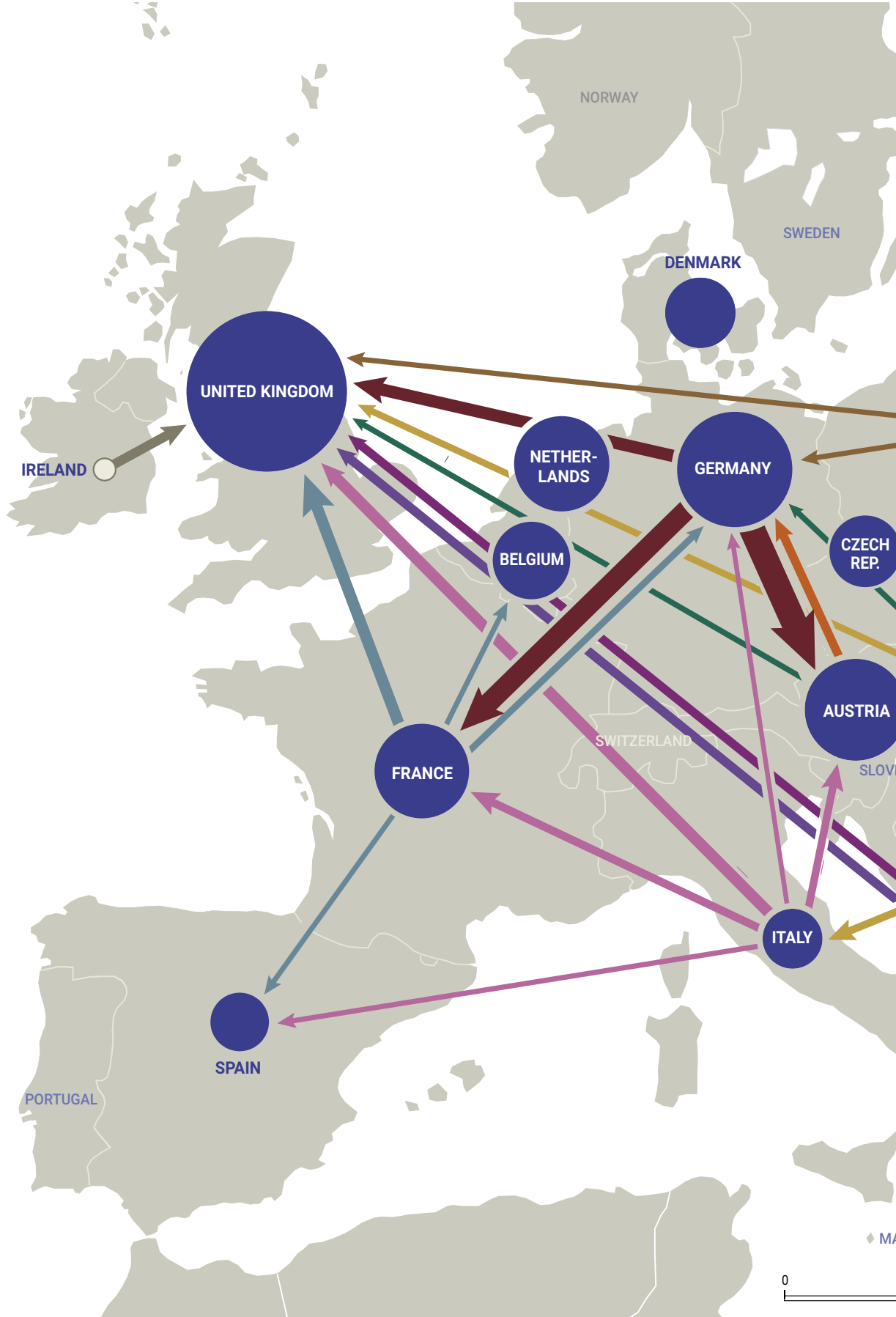
Of the international students in the EU, one in three comes from an EU country. That share rises to half if one counts European countries that are not members of the Union. Asia-Oceania, Africa, and the Middle East also send large numbers of students to the EU, whereas inflows from the Americas remain relatively small – less than one in ten.

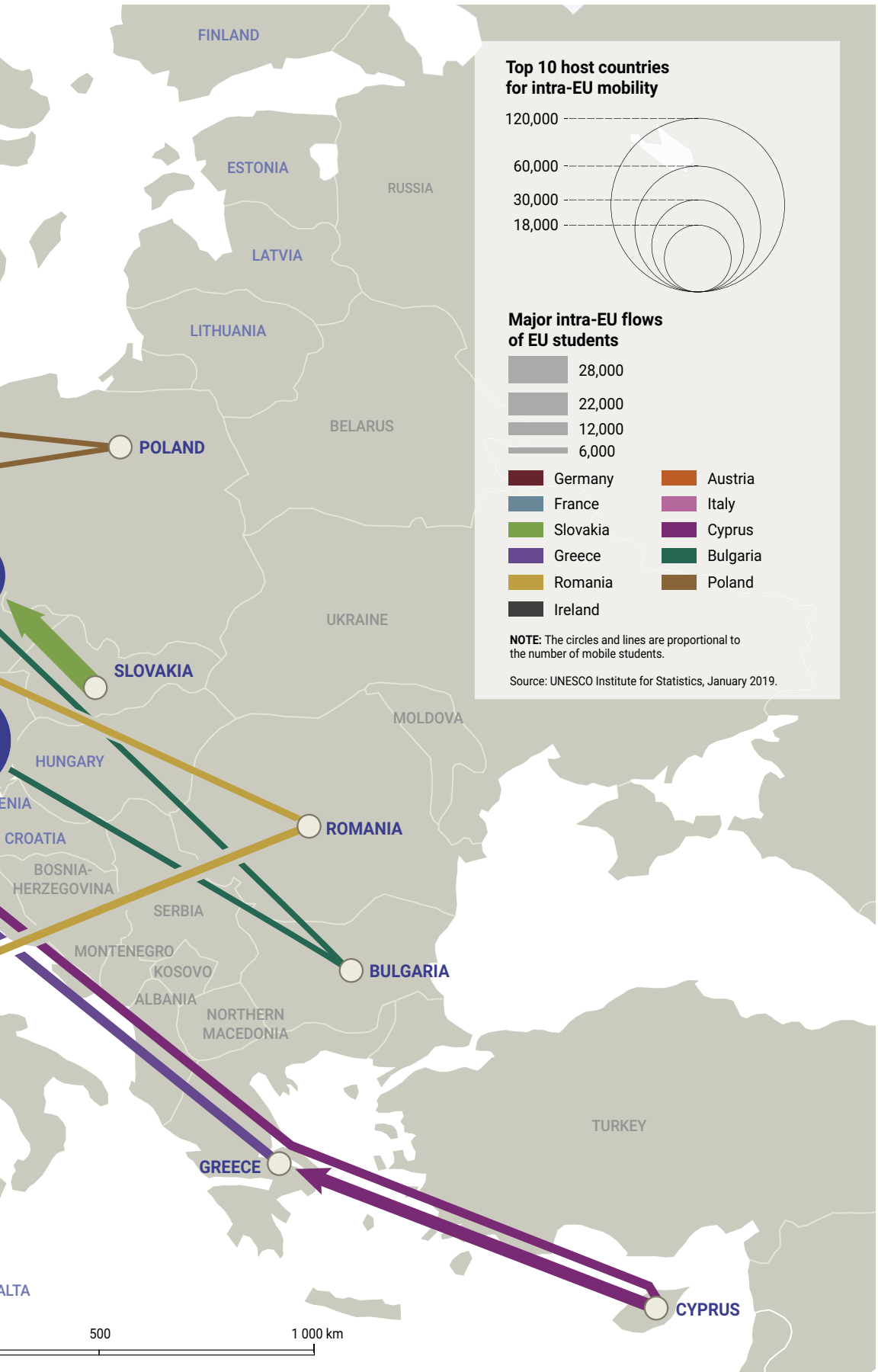
An engine of mobility within Europe, the Erasmus+ program has contributed to the development of intra-European exchanges. The program enables a growing number of students to take part in academic stays and internships in 33 partner countries. France is the top sending country under Erasmus+ and the fourth-largest host country. But it is one of the few countries in the program to host fewer students in 2016 than it did in 2011.

Degree-seeking mobility within the European Union	30
Mobility under Erasmus+	34

DEGREE-SEEKING MOBILITY WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION

► EU students: Major flows and host countries





DEGREE-SEEKING MOBILITY WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION

THE EUROPEAN UNION, THE WORLD LEADER IN HOSTING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Nearly **1,635,000** were involved in degree-seeking mobility within the EU in 2016, a third of all the mobile students in the world. The second-largest host region, North America, welcomed 1,161,000 students—one in four mobile students.

The international students who choose an EU member for their mobility experience tend to favor western

Europe. In fact, the **United Kingdom, France, and Germany together receive more than half (56%) of all inbound mobility** in the EU, more than the other 25 countries of the zone combined.

France is the second-most-popular destination for students in the EU.

► Top 10 hosts of mobile degree-seeking students among the members of the European Union (2016)

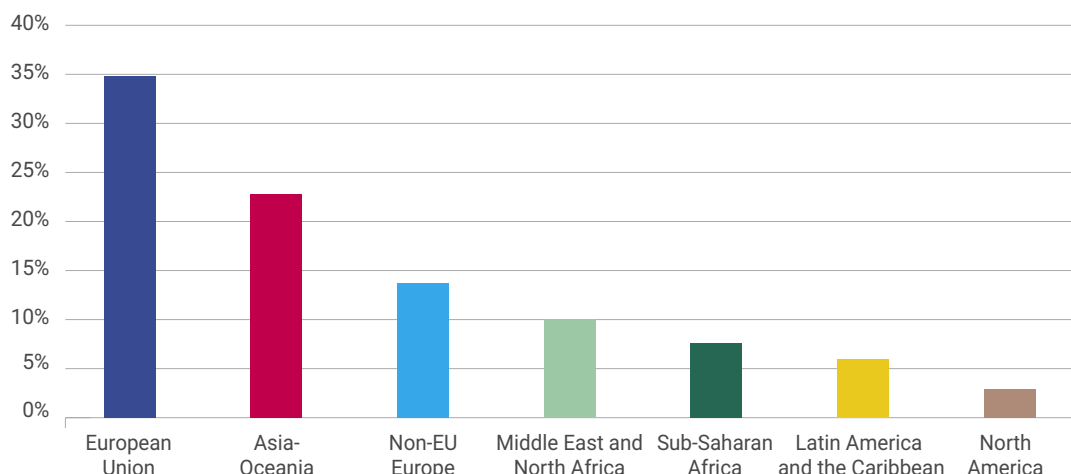
Country	Number of students hosted	% of EU total
1 United Kingdom	432,141	26%
2 France	245,349	15%
3 Germany	244,575	15%
4 Italy	92,655	6%
5 Netherlands	89,920	5%
6 Austria	70,483	4%
7 Belgium	61,102	4%
8 Poland	54,734	3%
9 Spain	53,409	3%
10 Czech Republic	42,812	3%
Total, UE	1,634,913	100%

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, January 2019.

Fifty-eight percent of EU students seeking a degree abroad choose another EU country for their studies. If all of Europe is included, the rate rises to 87%—that is, 87% of European students who study abroad for a degree

do so in Europe. By volume, the countries that send the most students into the EU are located in Asia-Oceania and non-EU Europe.

► Regions of origin of international students in the European Union



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, December 2018.

EU STUDENTS IN FRANCE

► Top 10 countries of origin of EU students in France

Country	Number of students sent	% of EU students
1 Italy	13,341	21%
2 Germany	8,459	13%
3 Spain	7,826	12%
4 Portugal	5,901	9%
5 Belgium	4,798	8%
6 United Kingdom	4,213	7%
7 Romania	4,093	6%
8 Greece	2,331	4%
9 Poland	2,314	4%
10 Switzerland	2,117	3%
Total, EU students	63,135	100%

Source : MESRI-SIES 2018.

More than one in five EU students in France is Italian. The six top-ranking countries are located in western Europe and either share a border with France or (in the case of Portugal) are close by.

THE EXACT SCIENCES ARE LESS-OFTEN CHOSEN BY EUROPEAN STUDENTS

EU students are distributed similarly to other foreign students within French higher education. **Eighty-six percent are enrolled in public institutions, slightly more than the average of all foreign students (84%).** Students from member countries of the EU are slightly less well-represented in engineering schools and are proportionally more numerous in universities.

However, **EU students tend to choose different programs than students from other geographic areas.** Whereas EU students **favor the humanities and social sciences** (16%), languages (15%), and law/political science (14%), the **other groups prefer the exact sciences** (23%), economics and management (16%), and the humanities/social sciences (13%).

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

In a speech entitled "Initiative for Europe" delivered at the Sorbonne on September 26, 2017, French president Emmanuel Macron proposed the creation of European universities: **"A network of universities from several European countries,** implementing a curriculum where every student will study abroad and will take courses in at least two languages. [These European universities] will also be sites of educational innovation and research excellence."²

The European universities will take form of networks based on a very high level of integration of curricula,

tools, degrees, and capacity for research and innovation. The plans call for institutions of excellence in teaching, research, and innovation on a European scale. To bring them to fruition, France will provide €100 million in support over ten years.

The European Commission has published **a 2019 call for pilot projects in the amount of €60 million for 12 European university alliances.** Their objective will be to surpass existing models of cooperation to accomplish the long-term vision of "European universities."³

2- <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2018/01/09/initiative-pour-l-europe-discours-d-emmanuel-macron-pour-une-europe-souveraine-unie-democratique>.
3- <http://www.agence-erasmus.fr/actualite/881/appele-a-propositions-2019-universites-europeennes-et-opportunités-enseignement-superieur-2019>.

ERASMUS+ MOBILITY



312,347
mobile students

under Erasmus+ in 2016

► Top 10 Erasmus+ host countries (2011–2016)

Host country	2016		2011		Change, 2011-2016
	Number of students	Share	Number of students	Share	
Spain	47,138	15%	39,300	16%	+20%
Germany	32,876	11%	27,872	11%	+18%
United Kingdom	31,243	10%	25,760	10%	+21%
France	27,742	9%	28,964	11%	-4%
Italy	25,108	8%	20,204	8%	+24%
Poland	16,081	5%	8,972	4%	+79%
Portugal	13,982	4%	9,167	4%	+53%
Netherlands	13,931	4%	9,892	4%	+41%
Belgium	10,453	3%	8,593	3%	+22%
Sweden	10,340	3%	10,354	4%	0%
Total	312,347	100%	252,827	100%	+24%

Source: European Commission.

► Top 10 countries of origin of Erasmus+ students (2011–2016)

Country of origin	2016		2011		Change, 2011-2016
	Number of students	Share	Number of students	Share	
France	43,796	14%	33,269	13%	+32%
Germany	40,629	13%	33,363	13%	+22%
Spain	39,759	13%	39,545	16%	+1%
Italy	35,371	11%	23,377	9%	+51%
Turkey	16,889	5%	11,826	5%	+43%
United Kingdom	16,414	5%	13,662	5%	+20%
Poland	15,316	5%	15,315	6%	0%
Netherlands	13,783	4%	9,310	4%	+48%
Belgium	9,220	3%	7,091	3%	+30%
Portugal	9,091	3%	6,484	3%	+40%
Total	312,347	100%	252,827	100%	+24%

Source: European Commission

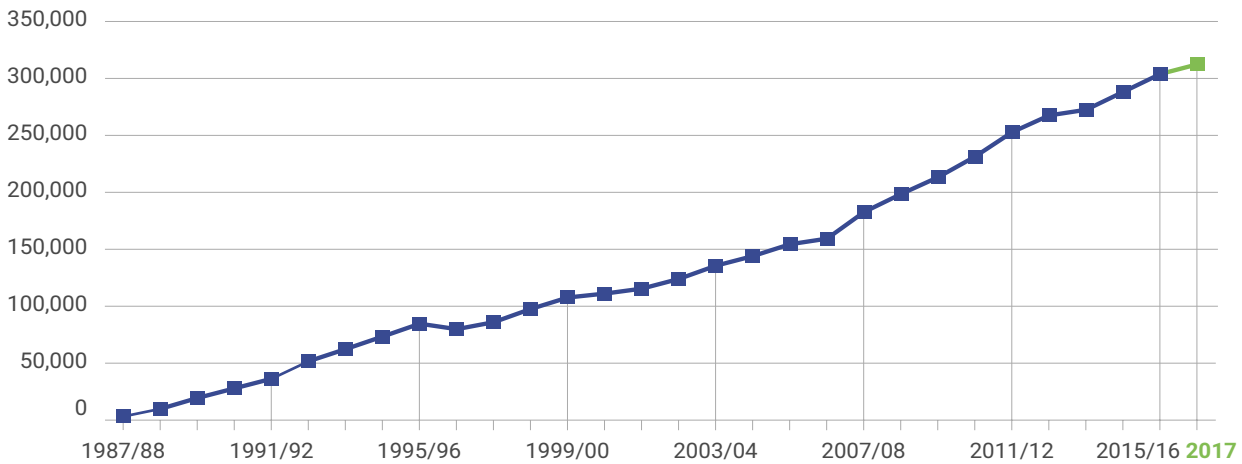
Since 2014, France has been the top country of origin of Erasmus+ students, trailed by Germany and Spain. Spain remains the top host country, well ahead of Germany, the United Kingdom, and France, which is one of the few countries (along with Turkey, Denmark, and Sweden) to experience a drop in hosted students between 2011 and 2016.

The largest flows are between Italy and Spain, France and Spain, and France and the United Kingdom. Erasmus+ mobility is distinct from degree-seeking mobility within the EU, for which the largest flows are between Germany and Austria and between Germany and France (see map, pages 30–31).

In the Brexit context, financing for programs in the United Kingdom is in place for 2019 but uncertain for succeeding years.¹

1- On January 30, 2019, the European Commission approved a financing proposal to put in place a set of emergency measures for ongoing projects. March 29, 2019.

► Change in number of Erasmus+ students by year



Source: European Commission.

The number of students benefitting from the Erasmus+ program increased almost every year between 1987 and 2016. The number of students who have participated in

the program since its creation in 1987 reached 4.4 million in 2015–2016 across a European space that gradually expanded to include 33 countries.

► Top 10 host countries showing the highest rates of growth

Country	Growth in number of students hosted, 2011-2016	% growth
Spain	+7,838	+20%
Poland	+7,109	+79%
United Kingdom	+5,483	+21%
Germany	+5,004	+18%
Italy	+4,904	+24%
Portugal	+4,795	+52%
Czech Republic	+4,263	+73%
Netherlands	+4,039	+41%
Norway	+2,269	+52%
Hungary	+2,250	+60%
Grand total	+59,520	+24%

Source: European Commission.

The number of students participating in Erasmus+ mobility programs increased 24% between 2011 and 2016. Spain confirmed its spot as the leading Erasmus+ destination, recording the largest gain of the 33 countries participating in the program. Poland registered the second-largest gain in absolute numbers and the highest percentage increase in numbers since 2011, with Turkish and Spanish students together making up half of Erasmus+ mobility in Poland. France experienced a drop in the number of Erasmus+ students hosted. It ranked next to last in terms of growth over the five-year period.

FRANCE AND ERASMUS+ MOBILITY IN 2016

► 5 top destinations of French participants in Erasmus+

Country	Number of students	Share
Spain	7,804	18%
United Kingdom	7,770	18%
Germany	4,784	11%
Italy	2,820	6%
Ireland	2,417	6%
Total	43,796	100%

Source: European Commission.

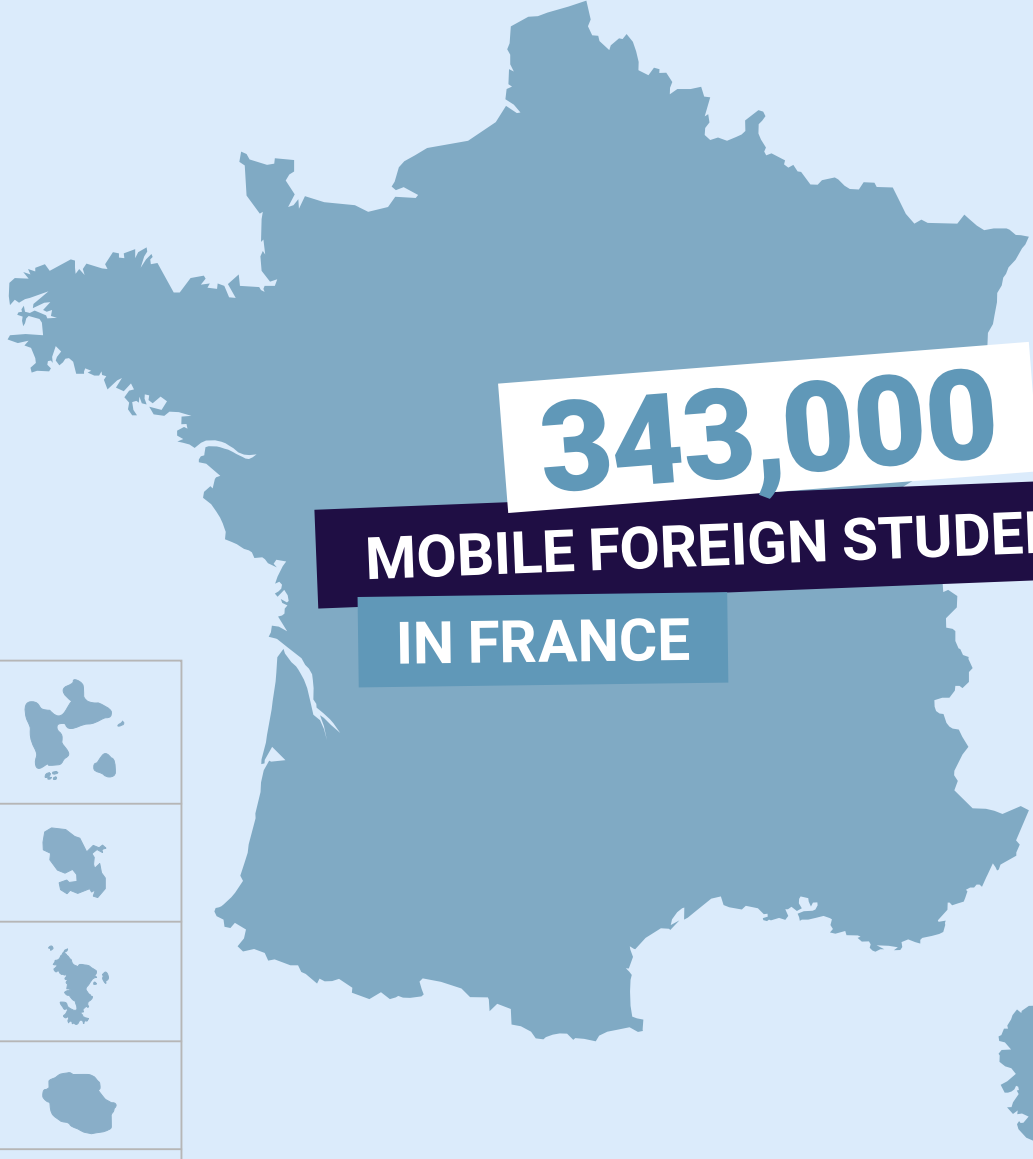
► 5 top countries of origin of Erasmus+ students in France

Country	Number of students	Share
Germany	5,442	20%
Italy	4,254	15%
United Kingdom	3,900	14%
Spain	3,793	14%
Belgium	1,381	5%
Total	27,742	100%

Source: European Commission.

In 2016, Spain overtook the United Kingdom to become the top destination of French participants in Erasmus+, while the ranks of the other destinations in the top 5 remained unchanged from 2015.

The largest contingents of Erasmus+ students coming to France in 2016 remained Germans, Italians, and British, despite drops from the previous year. By contrast, the fourth-place Spanish and fifth-place Belgians increased their numbers.



343,000

MOBILE FOREIGN STUDENTS

IN FRANCE

3

STUDENT MOBILITY IN FRANCE

343,000 foreign students are presently enrolled in the French higher education system (2017–2018 figures). That represents growth of 4.5% from the previous year, a rate below the world average but high enough to allow France to maintain its rank among the major host countries.

46% of the foreign students in France come from the African continent, but there are signs of diversification. France is now drawing more Italian, Portuguese, American, and Indian students than it did five years ago. It is also notable that the number of foreign doctoral candidates in France continues to rise. The number is now 29,500, or 42% of all doctoral students in France.

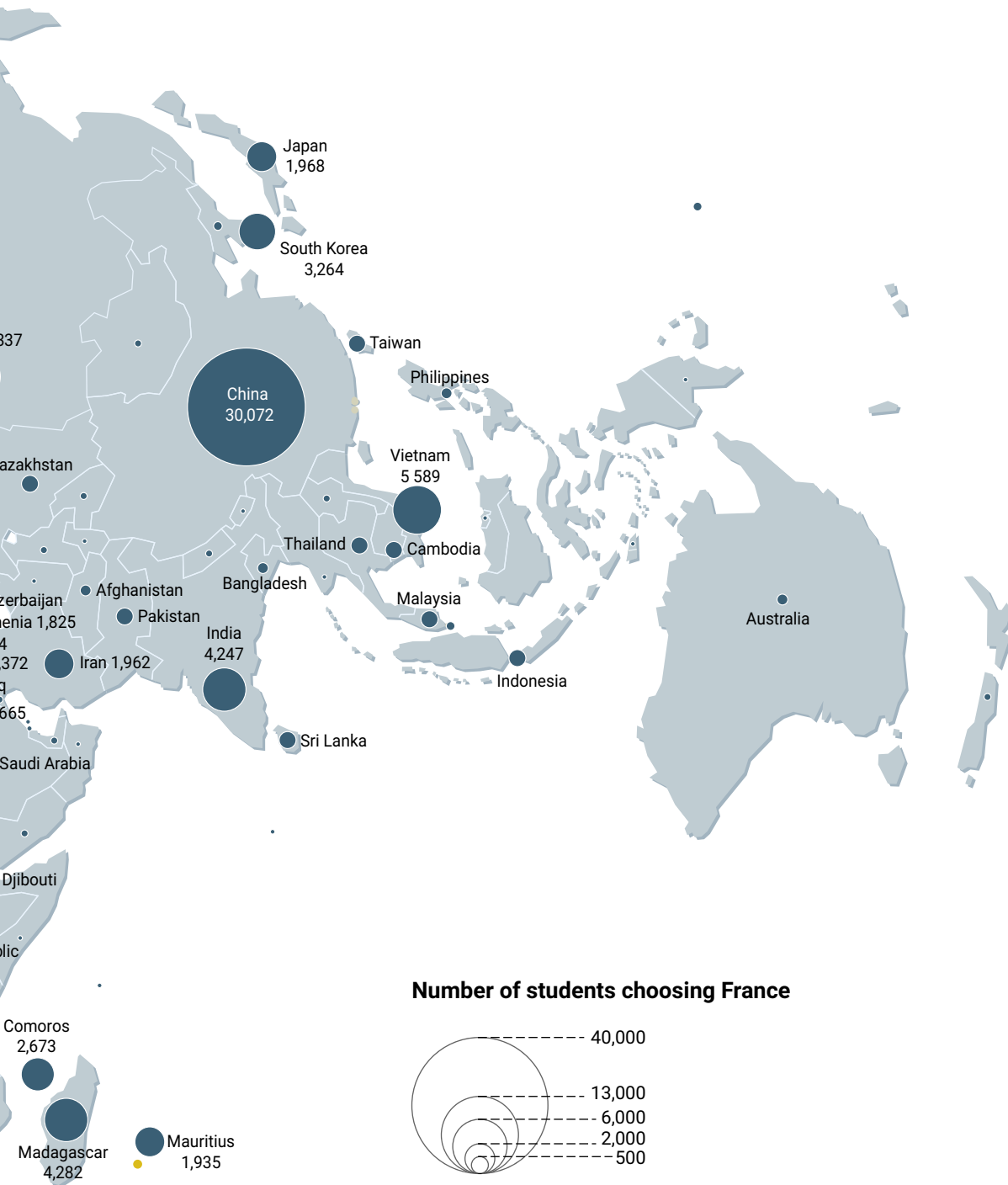
At the same time, French students are increasingly mobile: 91,000 of them went abroad in pursuit of a degree in 2016, 70% more than in 2006. The vast majority (95%) chose another European country, the United States, or Canada for their study abroad.

Origin of foreign students in France	38
Visas granted to foreign students	43
Inbound international student mobility by French region	44
Foreign students in French institutions	46
Foreign students enrolled in universities	48
Doctoral mobility in France	50
Mobility of researchers	52
Outbound mobility of French students	53
France's appeal	56
Top 20 countries of origin of international students	59

ORIGIN OF FOREIGN STUDENTS IN FRANCE



- 1: Albania
- 2: Moldova
- 3: Serbia
- 4: Czech Republic
- 5: Hungary
- 6: Austria
- 7: Andorra
- 8: Kosovo
- 9: Monaco
- 10: Slovakia

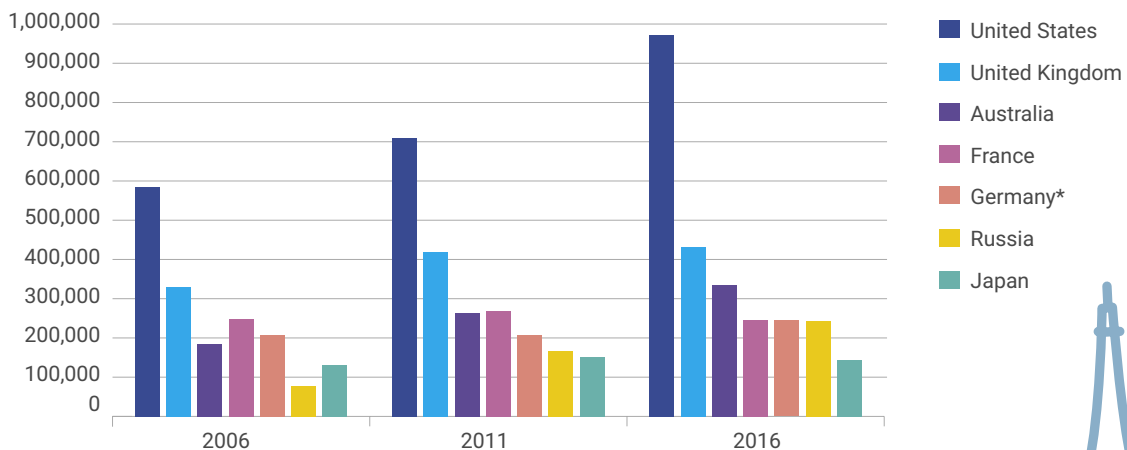


NOTE: Circle size is proportional to the number of students represented.

Sources : MESRI-SIES 2018.

FRANCE'S PLACE IN WORLDWIDE STUDENT MOBILITY

► Change in inbound international students, by major host country



* Data for Germany in 2006 and 2011 are from earlier collections.
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, January 2019.



REDUCTION IN FRANCE'S SHARE IN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOBILITY

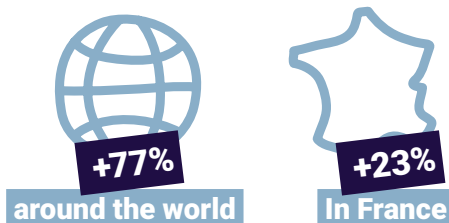
Global student mobility grew 77% in the space of ten years, reaching 5 million in 2016¹ (see page 10). During the same period, the number of students coming to France rose only 23%, lowering France's share in international mobility from 9% to 5%².

Mobility to France thus grew, but more slowly than to other countries. The same pattern was shown by the

United Kingdom (11% in 2006 vs. 8% in 2016) and Japan (5% in 2006 vs. 3% in 2016).

By contrast, some host countries experienced faster growth than the world average and are now attracting a larger share of mobile students than they did ten years ago. Among those countries are Australia and Russia.

Growth in international student numbers over 10 years (2006–2016)³



DEFINITION

• **Foreign student in France:** France's Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation defines a foreign student as any individual of foreign nationality enrolled in a postsecondary program of at least one year's duration and leading to a degree. In contrast to UNESCO's definition, the crossing of an international border is not a defining criterion.

For additional details, consult the methodology, page 58.

1- Cf. page 10.
2- The drop is partly due to a change in UNESCO's counting method in 2013.
3- Sources: UNESCO for global mobility; MESRI-SIES for mobility to France.

ORIGIN OF FOREIGN STUDENTS IN FRANCE



Top 25 countries of origin of foreign students in France (2017-2018)

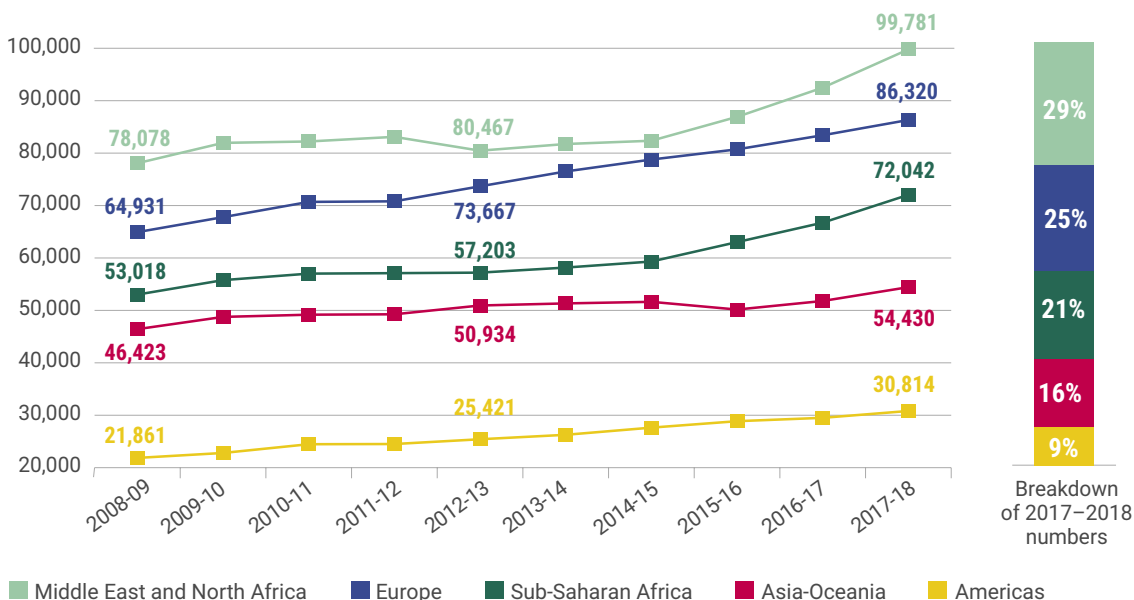
Country of origin	Number of students	Share	Change over 5 years (2012-2017) ¹	Change in rank	
				2012	2017
Morocco	39,855	12%	+24%	1	1
Algeria	30,521	9%	+34%	3	2
China	30,072	9%	-1%	2	3
Italy	13,341	4%	+58%	7	4
Tunisia	12,842	4%	+8%	4	5
Senegal	10,974	3%	+22%	5	6
Germany	8,459	2%	-4%	6	7
Côte d'Ivoire	8,085	2%	+80%	16	8
Spain	7,826	2%	+32%	10	9
Cameroon	6,878	2%	-7%	8	10
United States	6,264	2%	+33%	13	11
Portugal	5,901	2%	+51%	20	12
Lebanon	5,665	2%	+24%	14	13
Vietnam	5,589	2%	-11%	9	14
Brazil	5,423	2%	+10%	12	15
Russia	5,337	2%	+7%	11	16
Congo, Rep.	4,875	1%	+45%	24	17
Belgium	4,798	1%	+22%	19	18
Gabon	4,549	1%	+11%	18	19
Madagascar	4,282	1%	+4%	17	20
India	4,247	1%	+90%	32	21
United Kingdom	4,213	1%	+12%	23	22
Colombia	4,183	1%	+29%	25	23
Guinea	4,152	1%	+9%	22	24
Romania	4,093	1%	-10%	15	25
Total	343,386	100%	+19%	-	-

Source: MESRI-SIES 2018.

1- See page 58 for methodology.

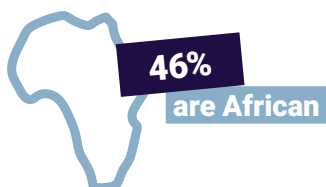
ORIGIN OF FOREIGN STUDENTS IN FRANCE

Foreign students in France, evolution and distribution by region of origin



Source: MESRI-SIES 2018.

Of the foreign students in France...



MORE ITALIAN AND INDIAN STUDENTS ARE COMING TO FRANCE; FLOWS FROM CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE ARE DWINDLING

France is one of the only countries in the world to attract students from every continent. Although their distribution by geographic origin has remained generally stable over ten years, somewhat faster growth can be detected in student flows from the Americas, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the European continent.

46% of the foreign students in France are Africans. Over five years, flows from several of the continent's countries have grown substantially. **Algeria** surpassed China to join **Morocco** at the top of the ranking, and students from **Côte d'Ivoire** and the **Republic of Congo** increased their numbers by 80% and 45%, respectively, over 2012. The number of students traveling to France from the **Democratic Republic of Congo** grew 99% over five years to reach 2,071 in 2017. By contrast, **Cameroon** and **Mauritania** sent fewer students than they did five years ago (-7% and -12%, respectively).

India is making a remarkable breakthrough. With its numbers swelling 90% over five years, India now ranks 21st among the countries of origin of foreign students in France. Meanwhile, China's numbers have stagnated, and Vietnam dropped to 14th place.

In Europe, the strongest growth in volume of students is seen in the EU countries: Italy, Portugal, and Spain, as well as Belgium and the United Kingdom. **Students from the countries of central and eastern Europe, however, are less likely** than they were in 2012 to enroll in a program in France. Dips were recorded in flows from Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, Germany, Moldova, the Czech Republic, and Hungary.

UNESCO's figures indicate a reorientation of students from these countries toward **northern and eastern Europe, where programs in English are well developed** (notably Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden, Poland, and Romania). Spain, like France, finds itself hosting fewer students from these countries than previously.

VISAS GRANTED TO FOREIGN STUDENTS

► Student visas granted in 2017, by type and duration

Type of visa	Number granted in 2017	Change from 2015
Study	109,054	+12%
Short stay	11,357	-5%
Long stay	97,697	+14%
Internship	4,575	-6%
Short stay	2,244	-25%
Long stay	2,331	+26%
Total	113,629	+11%

Source: Interior Ministry 2018.



97,697
long-stay study visas were granted in 2017

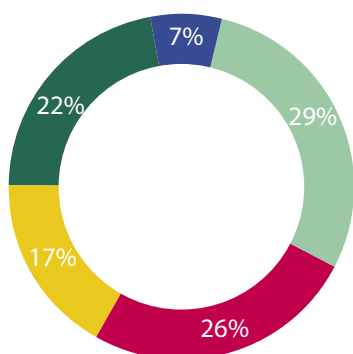
EXPANSION IN LONG-STAY STUDY VISAS

113,629 student visas were granted in 2017 for purposes of academic study or internships. That number includes short stays (less than three months) and long stays (more than three months).

86% of the total (97,697) were long-stay study visas. Internships (both short and long) make up only 4% of the visas issued.

Since 2015, the number of visas issued to students and interns has grown by 11%. Long-term visas account for the growth: +14% for study visas and +26% for internship visas. By contrast, the number of short-stay visas dropped substantially.

► Long-stay study visas, by region



■ Middle East and North Africa
 ■ Asia-Oceania
 ■ Americas
■ Sub-Saharan Africa
 ■ Europe

Source: Interior ministry 2018.

In 2017, 41% of long-stay study visas were issued in Africa. It was on the African continent, as well as in the Middle East, that the greatest growth in visa issuance occurred between 2015 and 2017 (+36% in the Middle East and North Africa; +32% in Sub-Saharan Africa).

Inversely, fewer long-term study visas were delivered in 2017 than in 2015 (-8%).

INBOUND INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOBILITY BY FRENCH REGION



6 French regions
attract 80% of
foreign students

FOREIGN STUDENTS ARE UNEVENLY DISTRIBUTED ACROSS FRANCE

Eighty percent of foreign students (compared with 73% of all postsecondary students) are enrolled in just 6 of France's 18 regions: Île-de-France, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Occitanie, Grand Est, Hauts-de-France, and Nouvelle-Aquitaine. The first two alone account for almost half (48%) of enrollments.

Overall, 13% of France's student population is foreign. Yet the proportion of foreign students is higher in some regions. **Île-de-France and Grand Est have a higher proportion of foreign students** because they are home to the academies of Paris (19% foreign students) and Strasbourg (16%).

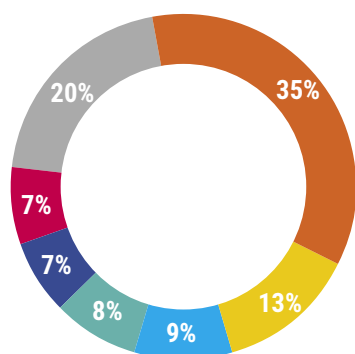
Bourgogne-Franche-Comté is the only region to have seen its foreign student population drop between 2014 and 2017 (-1%). In the other direction, the overseas regions recorded substantial increases, particularly french Guiana (+79% over the three years).

► Distribution of foreign students by academy and region

Region/academy	Foreign students	% non-EU students	Change, (2014-2017) ¹
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes	44,665	82%	+16%
Clermont-Ferrand	4,906	88%	+5%
Grenoble	12,399	79%	+17%
Lyon	27,360	83%	+18%
Bourgogne-Franche-Comté	7,024	85%	-1%
Besançon	3,789	89%	+9%
Dijon	3,235	80%	-10%
Brittany (Rennes)	11,187	83%	+4%
Centre-Val de Loire (Orléans-Tours)	6,885	87%	+26%
Corsica	354	70%	+9%
Grand Est	28,784	78%	+16%
Nancy-Metz	11,269	80%	+16%
Reims	4,176	89%	+16%
Strasbourg	13,339	72%	+16%
Hauts-de-France	25,444	89%	+24%
Amiens	4,883	92%	+8%
Lille	20,561	88%	+29%
Île-de-France	119,587	80%	+14%
Créteil	22,614	86%	+11%
Paris	69,608	76%	+15%
Versailles	27,365	83%	+13%
Normandy	10,256	88%	+7%
Caen	2,514	87%	+4%
Rouen	7,742	89%	+7%
Nouvelle-Aquitaine	23,217	79%	+17%
Bordeaux	14,475	76%	+27%
Limoges	2,600	85%	+3%
Poitiers	6,142	86%	+2%
Occitanie	31,533	80%	+12%
Montpellier	15,606	80%	+19%
Toulouse	15,927	79%	+7%
Pays de la Loire (Nantes)	12,337	87%	+14%
Région Sud	19,590	78%	+14%
Aix-Marseille	10,961	80%	+11%
Nice	8,629	75%	+18%
Metropolitan France	340,863	81%	+14%
Overseas departments and regions	2,523	92%	+42%
Metropolitan France, overseas departments and regions	343,386	81%	+15%

Source : MESRI-SIES 2018.

► Distribution of foreign students by host region (2017-2018)

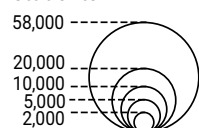


■ Île-de-France ■ Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
■ Occitanie ■ Grand Est
■ Hauts-de-France ■ Nouvelle-Aquitaine
■ Other regions

Source: MESRI-SIES 2018.

► Foreign students in the academies and their share in the total student population

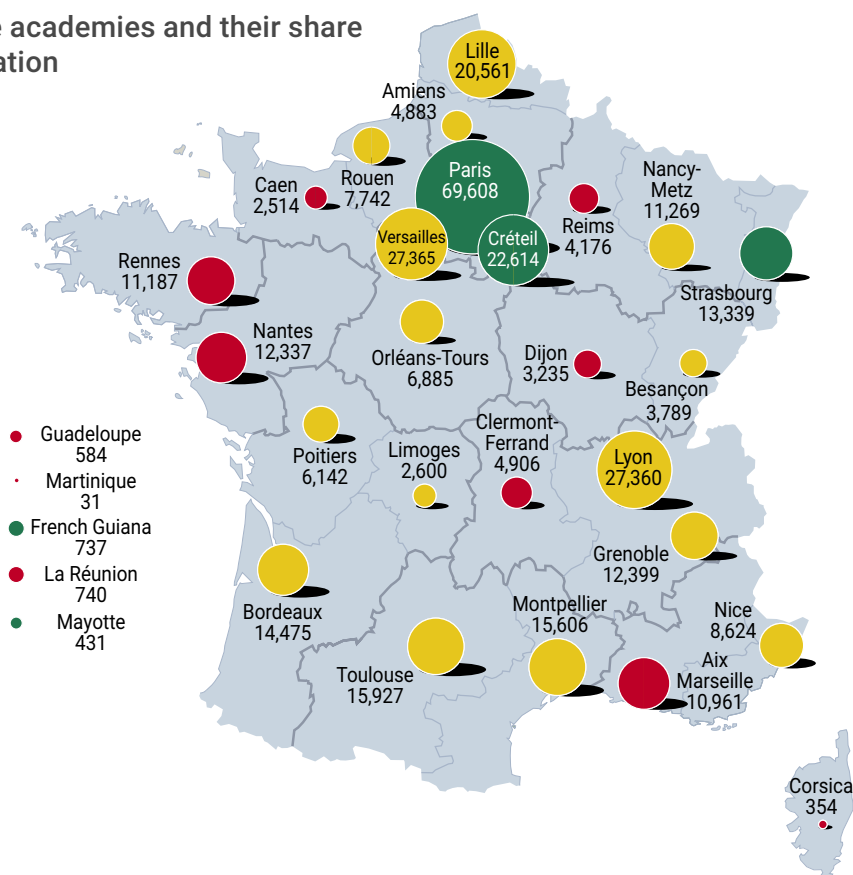
Circles are proportional to the number of students



Share of foreign students as proportion of all students in the academy

- Lower than French average
- Close to the average (13%)
- Higher than average

0 100 200 km



Source: MESRI-SIES 2018.

Role of regions and metropolitan areas in promoting French higher education abroad

Within the broader context of **strengthening the role of France's regions and metropolitan areas in higher education and research**, the governmental office responsible for promoting external relations among France's local governments and foreign counterparts (DAECT-MEAE) commissioned Campus France, in partnership with Régions de France and *France Urbaine*, to conduct a **regional study of the international mobility of students and scholars**. Sixteen regions and two metropolitan areas participated in the study, which was published by Campus France in June 2018.

The study revealed great diversity in the resources and initiatives deployed by France's subnational governments to support international mobility in higher education.

- **The regions focus on financing for outbound student mobility.** The annual average funding is €4.16 million, most of it in the form of grants for study or internships.
- **Inbound mobility of scholars** (postdocs and established researchers) is also supported—at an average annual rate of €919,000. In addition to providing support for researchers' salaries, some regions fund **local support services** for researchers (e.g., temporary

housing, family assistance).

- **Inbound student mobility**, on the other hand, receives less support. The regions allocate an average of only €167,000 per year for this purpose.

The Campus France study revealed the lack of access to accurate and harmonized data on mobility of students and scholars at the regional level. Most regions also lack knowledge and awareness about their image abroad. Some, however, are creating **informational and promotional tools to increase the appeal of their area**, notably in the eyes of foreign students and scholars.

For their part—and despite the fact that higher education is not within their usual purview—**some metropolitan areas have taken action to attract foreign students and scholars** through measures to facilitate their arrival and integration. Examples include **one-stop shops** (Lyon and Nantes), **help in locating housing** (Toulouse), **buddy systems** (Nancy), **services for researchers' families** (Lille), and even the **construction of new housing for foreign students and scholars** (Nantes, Rennes, Strasbourg).

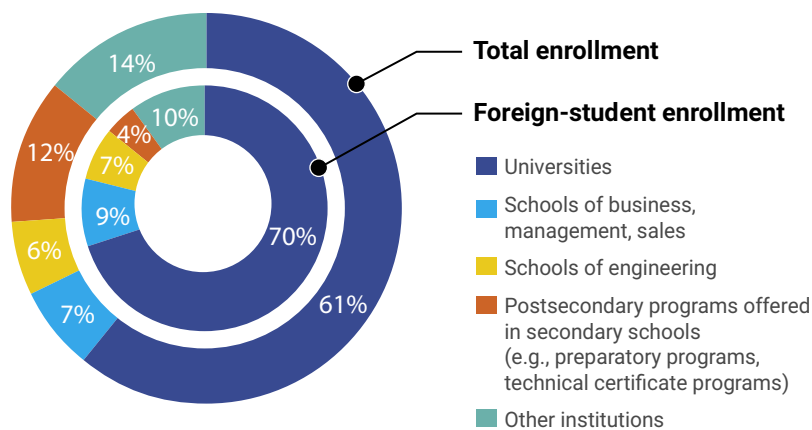
FOREIGN STUDENTS IN FRENCH INSTITUTIONS

THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN STUDENTS IS RISING FASTER THAN OVERALL POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENTS

The 343,386 foreign students enrolled in French institutions in 2017–2018 represent **13% of total enrollment in French higher education**. Last year, the number of foreign students increased faster than overall enrollment (+4.5% vs. +1.4%).¹

Seventy percent of foreign students are enrolled in universities, where they represent 15% of the university student population. **The share of foreign students is also high in schools of business (17%) and engineering (16%).**²

► Breakdown of foreign-student enrollment and total enrollment by type of institution



Source: MESRI-SIES 2018.

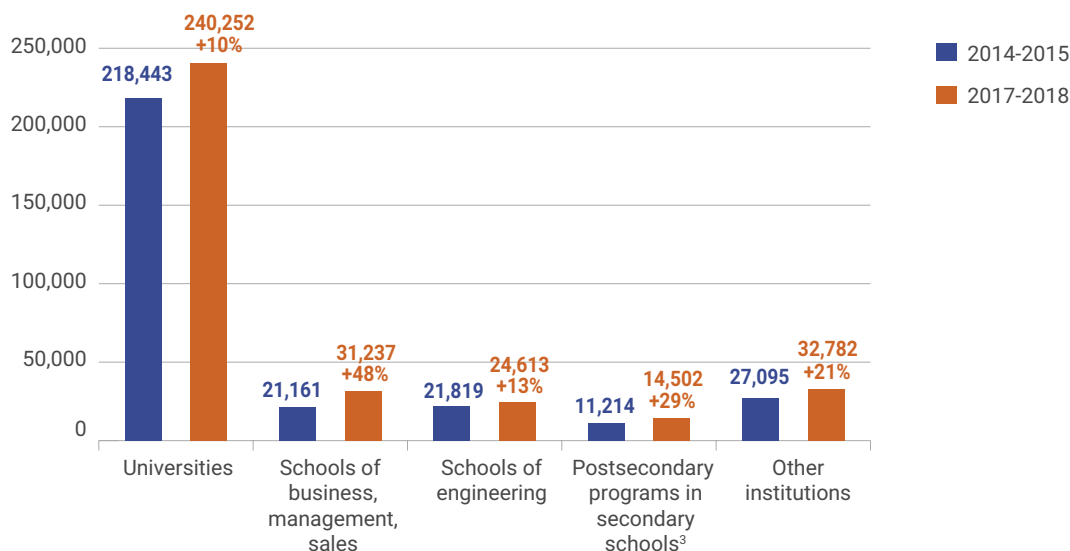


13%
of all postsecondary students in France are foreign

Foreign students account for:

- 15% of university enrollments
- 17% of enrollments at business schools
- 16% of enrollments at engineering schools

► Change in foreign student enrollments by type of institution (2014–2017)³



1- Change measured using constant sample scope. See methodology, page 58.

2- The category "engineering schools" does not include university-based engineering programs. However, it does include non-engineering programs offered by engineering schools.

3- For methodology behind changes, see page 58.

► Breakdown of foreign students in France by region of origin and type of host institution

Region of origin	University	School of business/management	School of engineering	Secondary school	Other institutions	Total
Middle East and North Africa	75%	8%	10%	4%	7%	100%
Sub-Saharan Africa	76%	7%	5%	6%	6%	100%
Europe	71%	8%	5%	5%	11%	100%
Americas	64%	7%	10%	3%	16%	100%
Asia-Oceania	55%	18%	11%	2%	14%	100%
Total	70%	9%	7%	4%	10%	100%

Source : MESRI-SIES 2018.

UNIVERSITIES ARE FAVORED BY AFRICAN STUDENTS

Foreign students are distributed differently among institutions depending on their region of origin. **Students from Africa and the Middle East are proportionally more numerous at universities** than are foreign students as a whole.

At business schools, students from Asia-Oceania are the most heavily represented (18%). **Engineering schools tend to attract students Latin America (12%) and Asia-Oceania (11%)**. Students from Sub-Saharan Africa and non-EU Europe are present in relatively high numbers in postsecondary programs offered in secondary schools (e.g., preparatory programs, technical certificate programs).

► The most heavily represented foreign nationalities in French business and engineering schools

Origin	Total enrollment in French institutions	Enrollment in business schools	
		Number	%
India	4,247	1,676	39%
China	30,071	6,488	22%
Taiwan	1,201	232	19%
Germany	8,459	1,142	14%
Netherlands	1,305	164	13%

Origin	Total enrollment in French institutions	Enrollment in engineering schools	
		Number	%
Brazil	5,423	1,263	23%
India	4,247	674	16%
Mexico	3,119	442	14%
Lebanon	5,665	744	13%
China	30,071	3,762	13%

Source : MESRI-SIES 2018. Note: Only countries sending at least a thousand students to France are taken into account.

BRAZILIAN AND INDIAN STUDENTS ARE PRESENT IN LARGE NUMBERS IN ENGINEERING SCHOOLS

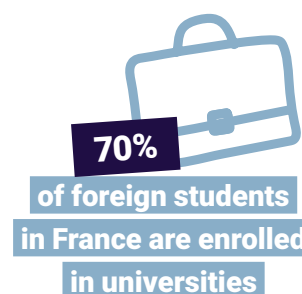
Some national contingents of foreign students tend to choose schools of business or engineering in much greater numbers than the 9% and 7% of total foreign-student enrollments would suggest. Many students from these groups choose the schools they do because of inter-institutional partnerships or dual-degree programs. Thus, **39% of Indian students and 22% of Chinese students are enrolled in a school of business**. Similarly, 23% of

Brazilian students and 16% of Indian students choose schools of engineering.

As another example of national differences, **Korean, Taiwanese, and Japanese students opt for schools of art and architecture** at a higher rate than the average for all foreign students (21%, 19%, and 17%, respectively, against the average of 3%).

FOREIGN STUDENTS ENROLLED IN UNIVERSITIES

In 2017–2018, **240,052 foreign students were enrolled in French universities**. Algerians, Moroccans, Chinese, and Italians together constituted a third of the total.



Foreign-student university enrollments by degree level

Degree level	2017-2018		Change over 3 years	% of total enrollments
	Number of students	%		
Licence (bachelor)	117,215	49%	+19%	12%
Master	99,187	41%	+4%	17%
Doctorate	23,850	10%	-5%	41%
Total	240,252	100%	+10%	15%

Source : MESRI-SIES 2018.

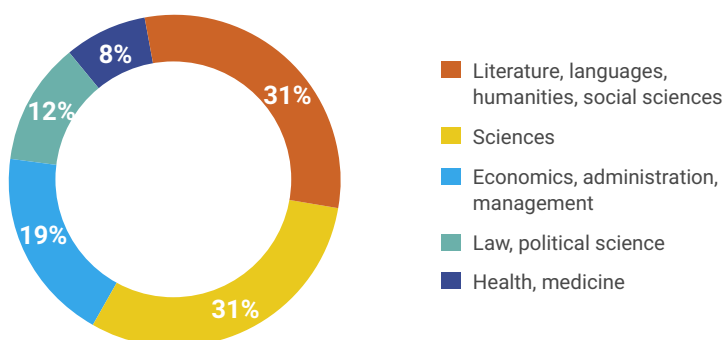
GROWING NUMBERS OF FOREIGN STUDENTS ENROLLED AT UNIVERSITIES

In 2017–2018, 49% of the foreign students at France’s universities were enrolled in *licence* (bachelor’s) programs, 41% in master’s programs, and 10% in doctoral programs. Since 2014, the breakdown of foreign students by degree level has followed the same trend as that of total enrollments at French universities: **the numbers in licence programs have risen the fastest** (+19% for foreign

students, +10% for all), while doctoral enrollments have shrunk identically for both groups (–5%).

It is important to note, however, that **the higher the degree level, the greater the share of foreign students in total enrollments**. Thus 12% of *licence* students in France are foreign, compared with 41% of doctoral students.¹

Foreign-student university enrollments, by discipline



Source : MESRI-SIES 2018.

1- This figure represents only doctoral candidates enrolled in universities. Figures on all doctoral candidates are presented on page 50.

GROWTH OF FOREIGN ENROLLMENTS IN THE EXACT SCIENCES

The 10% growth in foreign-student enrollments in universities occurred largely in **the sciences (73,709 students, +19% over three years)**. Foreign students enrolling to pursue a licence in health were also more numerous than in 2014 (5,040 students, +23%).

In the other direction, **significant drops occurred at the doctoral level** in law and political science (2,621 students, -12% over three years) and in economics, administration, and management (1,746 students, -8%). Doctoral enrollments in the exact sciences held up better. They were 11,749 in 2017–2018, just 1% less than in 2014–2015.

Foreign students at French universities:

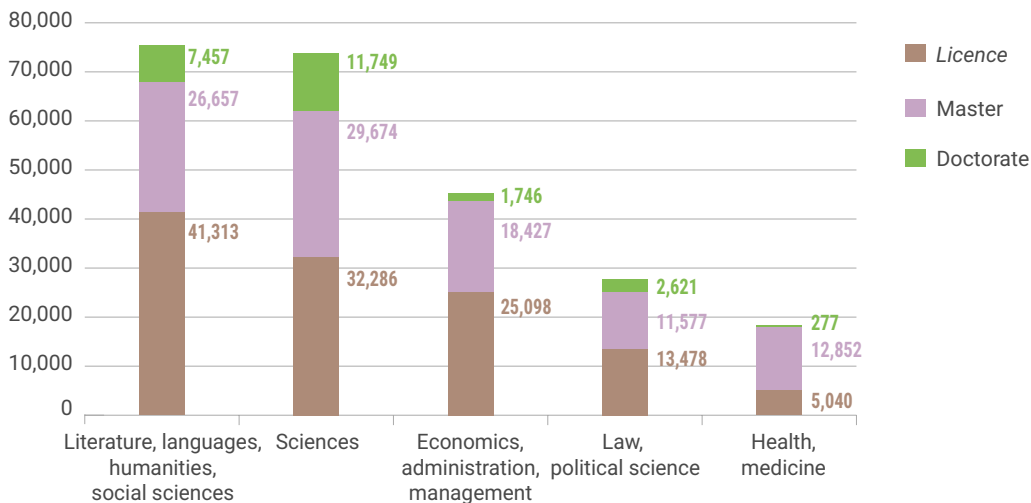


31%
in the sciences



8%
in health and medicine

Foreign-student university enrollments, by discipline and degree level



Source: MESRI-SIES 2018.

42% OF STUDENTS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA CHOOSE THE SCIENCES

The breakdown of foreign students by discipline varies by region. **Students from the Americas show a strong tendency (51%) to choose literature, languages, the humanities, and the social sciences** (including 61% of North American students). The average of all regions is 31%.

Students from the Middle East and North Africa are more inclined than those from other regions to pursue one of

the exact sciences. Forty-two percent of the university students from this region choose an exact science.

Economics-related disciplines draw disproportionate numbers of students from Asia–Oceania and Sub-Saharan Africa. Twenty-three percent of them choose such a field, compared with 19% of foreign students on average.

DOCTORAL MOBILITY IN FRANCE



42%

of the doctoral candidates
in France are foreign



-8%

fewer foreign doctoral candidates
in France between 2012 and 2017

France attracts **fewer foreign doctoral candidates than five years ago (-8% between 2012 and 2017)**. In 2018, 29,500 foreign doctoral students were enrolled in 267 doctoral departments, following a ten-year drop in the total number of doctoral candidates in France.¹ A shortening of the dissertation period, particularly in the humanities and social sciences contributed to this reduction automatically, but the parallel drop in the number of initial enrollments observed in 2016 (16,800, -15% from 2009) reveals a substantive change. Over the coming decade, the Ministry of Higher Education

foresees an increase in enrollments at the *licence* and master levels, accompanied by a continued fall in doctoral enrollments: 8,000 fewer students overall are expected to pursue a doctorate in 2027 than do so today (-13%). **The share of foreign students in doctoral enrollments, after rising steeply during the 2000s, has been relatively stable since 2009, standing presently at 42%.²** In 2016–2017, 1,419 new doctoral candidates enrolled through international joint dissertation programs, a figure that represents 8% of all new enrollments.³ A quarter of the winners of CIFRE doctoral grants are foreigners.⁴

► Change in enrollments of foreign students at university doctoral programs, by broad field (2012–2017)

	2017-2018		2012-2013		Change, 2012-2017
	Number	Share	Number	Share	
Sciences	11,749	49%	11,672	45%	+0,7%
Literature, humanities and social sciences	7,457	31%	8,640	33%	-13.7%
Law, political science	2,621	11%	3,149	12%	-16.8%
Economics, administration, management	1,746	7%	2,028	8%	-13.9%
Health, medicine	277	1%	391	2%	-2.2%
TOTAL	23,850	100%	25,880	100%	-7.8%

Field: universities; source: MESRI-SIES 2018.

The exact sciences enroll one of every two foreign doctoral candidates. The sciences are the only field to have maintained steady enrollments over the five years.

► Number of foreign doctoral candidates at French universities, by region of origin (2012–2018)

	2017-2018		2012-2013		Change, 2012-2017
	Number	Share	Number	Share	
EU28	4,876	20%	4,747	18,3%	+3%
Americas	2,912	12%	2,897	11,2%	+1%
Non-EU Europe	1,375	6%	1,432	5,5%	-4%
Asia-Oceania	4,307	18%	4,541	17,5%	-5%
Sub-Saharan Africa	3,456	14%	3,740	14,5%	-8%
Middle East	2,718	11%	3,234	12,5%	-16%
North Africa	4,206	18%	5,289	20,4%	-20%
TOTAL	23,850	100%	25,880	100%	-8%

Field: universities; source: MESRI-SIES 2018.



after the United States and the United Kingdom and ahead of Australia and Germany⁵



► Top 20 countries of origin of foreign doctoral candidates enrolled at French universities

Rank	Country of origin	2017-2018		Change, 2012-2017
		Number of doctoral candidates	Doctoral candidates as % of mobile students	
1	China	1,981	12%	+1%
2	Italy	1,784	19%	+20%
3	Tunisia	1,477	16%	-33%
4	Lebanon	1,466	37%	+3%
5	Algeria	1,465	5%	-23%
6	Morocco	1,102	4%	+5%
7	Brazil	753	22%	+1%
8	Vietnam	737	18%	-20%
9	Spain	614	11%	+65%
10	Germany	516	9%	+1%
11	Iran	503	33%	-17%
12	India	502	36%	+41%
13	Senegal	482	6%	-29%
14	Russia	480	12%	+4%
15	Colombia	454	15%	-7%
16	Cameroon	417	10%	-12%
17	Côte d'Ivoire	406	7%	+31%
18	Mexico	396	19%	+38%
19	Greece	369	19%	-12%
20	Gabon	307	9%	-34%

Field: universities; source: MESRI-SIES 2018.

China remains the leading country of origin of international doctoral candidates at France's universities, but advances have been slight in recent years. Italy has assumed second place, as Tunisia, which was in first place in 2012, has dropped to number three, not far ahead of Lebanon and Algeria. Mobility from certain countries is distinctive in ways other than sheer volume. Doctoral studies play a prominent role in mobility from Lebanon (37% of all Lebanese students

in France are doctoral candidates), India (36%), Iran (33%), and Brazil (22%)—far above the 10% average level. Although candidates from these countries are enrolled primarily in the sciences, particularly Indians (88%) and Chinese (65%), doctorates in literature and social sciences are also popular choices among Brazilians (44%), Iranians (44%), and Italians (43%).

1- The 29,500 figure includes foreign doctoral candidates at universities and other postsecondary institutions, as estimated by MESRI-SIES (2018). Approximately 80% (23 850) of foreign doctoral candidates are enrolled at universities.

2- The share is 41% for doctoral candidates enrolled at universities.

3- International joint dissertation programs allow doctoral candidates to work in two institutions in different countries, with a dissertation adviser at each institution. The specific terms of the joint arrangement are spelled out in an agreement. Successful candidates receive two doctorates, one from each participating institution.

4- CIFRE is an acronym for "industry contracts for training through research." The arrangements enable candidates to prepare their dissertation while working under contract at a firm. The firm, in turn, receives a public subsidy.

5- 2015 OECD data, extracted in 2019.

MOBILITY OF RESEARCHERS

On June 2, 2017, following the decision of the United States to abandon the Paris Agreement, French president Emmanuel Macron appealed to the world's scientists and engineers to join France in "working toward concrete solutions to climate change."¹ In 2018, 32 high-level scientists were selected from among hundreds of applicants to pursue their research in France under the umbrella of the CNRS (national center for scientific research).

In addition to these prestigious fellowships, steps were taken to co-finance 20 doctoral candidates and 20 postdocs, and to finance 40 short research visits and master's scholarships, management of which was entrusted to Campus France.

In 2015, France ranked eighth in the world in the number of researchers, with **277,600 researchers, of whom 36% were foreign** (as of December 31, 2015).² Most of the latter hailed from Europe, particularly the countries of the EU. **Seventeen percent of the permanent junior research staff hired by public institutions in 2016 were foreign nationals.** An identical share (17%) of doctoral recipients of French nationality were working abroad a year after receiving their doctorate. For doctoral recipients of foreign nationality, the share working abroad after one year was 59%.³

The idea of developing a **European research space** appeared in the 1970s. The idea centers on establishing a **common labor market for researchers.** Currently, the



In 2017, France issued about 6,330

scientific visas to researchers

from outside Europe⁷

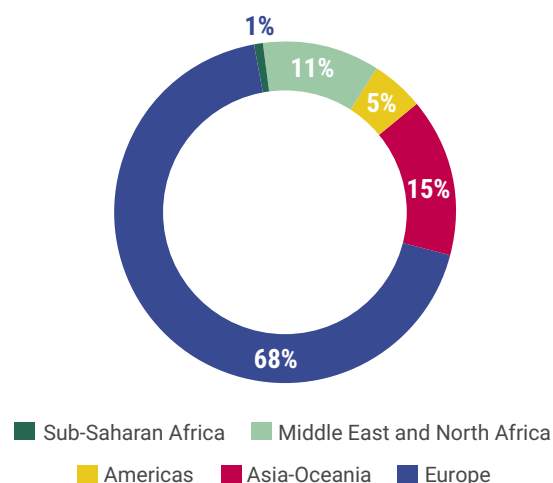
Euraxess platform (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu>), coordinated in France by CPU, the conference of French university presidents, is responsible for promoting mobility of researchers at the pan-European level.⁴ Since 2014 in France, the Horizon 2020 framework program (<http://www.horizon2020.gouv.fr>) has supported research mobility and innovation. A primary goal of the mobility and innovation pursued by Horizon 2020 is to encourage research in response to the major social challenges of the present day.⁵ The same goal is one of the chief aims of pending legislation on research programming. Finally, PAUSE, a public program of emergency aid and assistance to exiled scientists, was established in January 2017 to offer financial support to research organizations that take in scientists displaced by emergencies⁶.

The Hubert Curien Partnerships for research exchanges

In 2018, 1,330 exchange projects were conducted under the Hubert Curien Partnerships, resulting in mobility experiences for nearly 4,000 researchers.⁸

The partnerships are joint research projects proposed by two research teams, one French, the other foreign. Successful proposals receive financial support from two French ministries, the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation. The support provided is intended to finance the projects' "international add-on"—chiefly the travel expenses of participating researchers. Through the program, the two ministries are encouraging the development of bilateral scientific exchanges with almost 60 partner countries all around the world. The mobility component of the partnerships is managed by Campus France.

► Host country, by region



1- The president's speech of June 2, 2017, which concluded with a call to "Make our planet great again," was covered widely by world media.

2- *In the number of researchers, France trails China, the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom, and three other countries*

3- *Report on the state of scientific employment in France ("L'État de l'emploi scientifique en France"), MESRI-SIES, 2018.*

4- *Ibid.*

5- <http://www.horizon2020.gouv.fr>

6- <https://www.college-de-france.fr/site/programme-pause/index.htm>

7- The four largest groups in the pool of long-stay visa recipients were Indians, Chinese, Brazilians, and Americans.s

8- Les PHC sont des programmes d'échanges scientifiques bilatéraux du ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères (MEAE), gérés par Campus France.

OUTBOUND MOBILITY OF FRENCH STUDENTS

THE PLACE OF FRENCH STUDENTS IN GLOBAL MOBILITY

The sixth-largest source of internationally mobile students, France has experienced steady growth in the number of its nationals who study abroad (+70% between 2006 and 2016). That growth, which is close to the worldwide average (+75% during the same period), has allowed France to hold its place among the top countries of origin of mobile degree-seeking students.

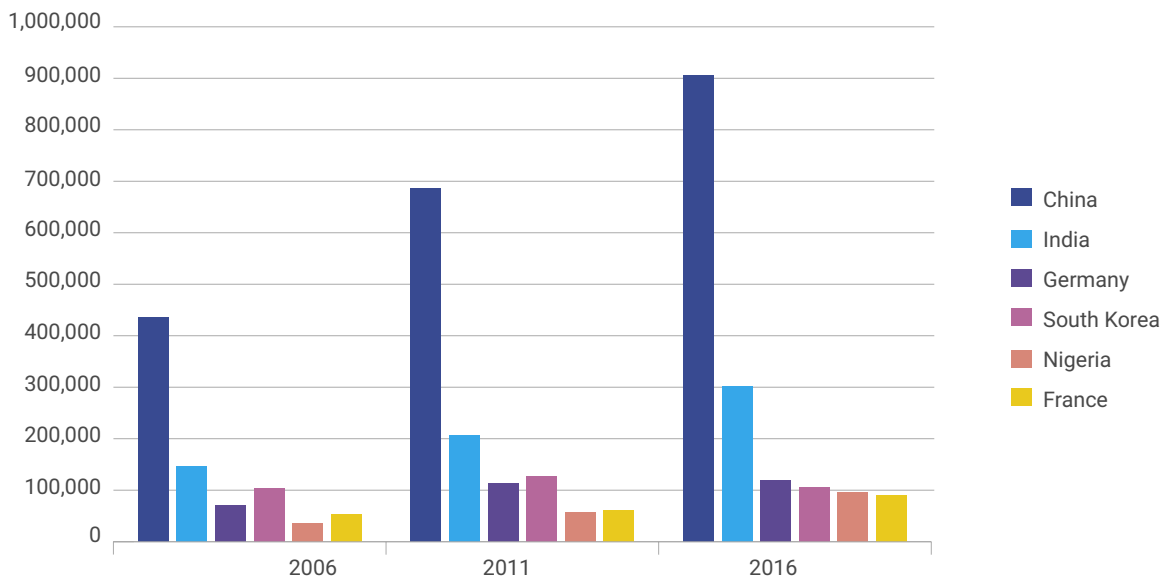
Within Europe, French students are the second-most-likely to go abroad, after Germans and ahead of Ukrainians. A total of 90,543 French students were pursuing a degree abroad in 2016, representing **2% of global degree-seeking student mobility**. France hosts 155,000 more degree-seeking students than it sends, a number that has held steady since 2013.

France is one of only three countries to appear in both the top 10 host countries and top 10 sending countries. (The other two are Germany and China.)



91,000 French students
pursuing a degree
outside France

► Outbound mobility of French students and of students from other major sending countries (2006–2016)



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, February 2019.

OUTBOUND MOBILITY OF FRENCH STUDENTS

► Destinations of outbound degree-seeking French students

Rank	Destination	Number, 2016	Change, 2011-2016	Rank	
				2011	2016
1	Belgium	16,856	+212%	5	1
2	Canada	15,603	+87%	2	2
3	United Kingdom	12,076	-8%	1	3
4	Switzerland	9,652	+43%	4	4
5	Germany	6,955	+16%*	-	5
6	United States	6,473	-19%	3	6
7	Spain	5,434	+158%	6	7
8	Romania	2,169	+211%	9	8
9	Australia	1,566	+18%	7	9
10	Netherlands	1,430	+128%	11	10
11	Italy	1,364	+25%	8	11
12	Luxembourg	984	+11%*	70	12
13	Japan	695	+1%	10	13
14	Hungary	588	+205%	20	14
15	Ireland	581	+15%	12	15
16	Denmark	573	+118%	19	16
17	Poland	497	+71%	18	17
18	Austria	478	+17%	14	18
19	Portugal	463	+27%	15	19
20	Sweden	440	0%	13	20
21	Saudi Arabia	424	+224%	28	21
22	Argentina	416	NA	-	22
23	Morocco	368	+110%	63	23
24	New Zealand	333	+8%	16	24
25	Brazil	301	+2%	17	25
GRAND TOTAL		90,543	+50%		

*Change 2014–2016 (for lack of earlier data).

NA = Data not available.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, February 2019.

Of the four leading destinations for French students, three are French-speaking and three border France. Belgium is the top host country for French students, having tripled its numbers in the five years between 2011

and 2016. Most French students enroll at institutions in Wallonia or Brussels and gravitate toward programs in art or allied health.¹



3 French-speaking countries are among the top 4 destinations for French students



#1 Belgium hosted three times as many French students in 2016 as in 2011



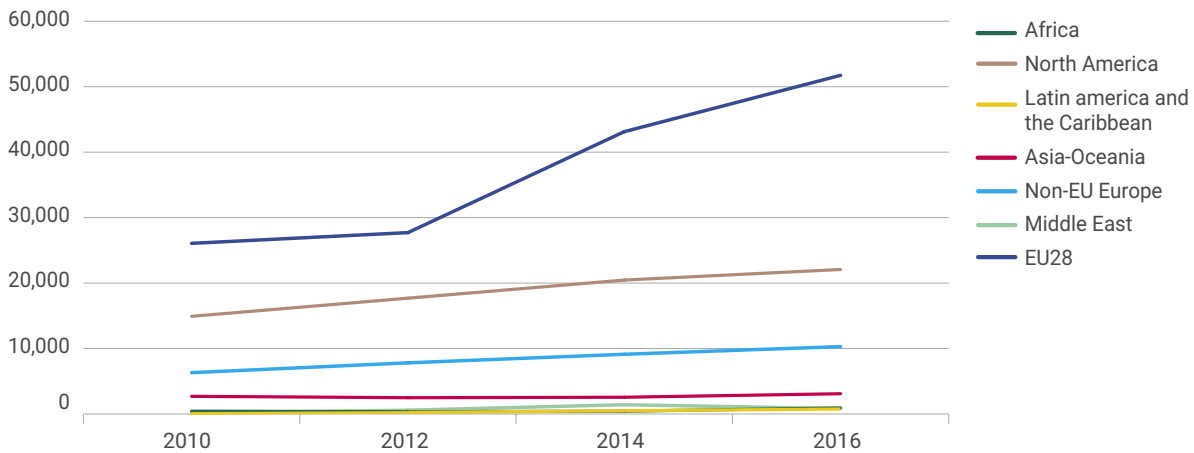
69% of mobile French students choose Europe for their study abroad

Romania and Hungary are also increasingly popular with French students, drawing approximately three times as many students in 2016 as they did five years before. Romania's appeal is explained largely by the possibility to pursue medical studies in French and English. Hungary is also developing programs in medicine and other disciplines, taught in English.

Among the European countries favored by French students, **Spain, the Netherlands, and Denmark have also shown strong growth**, with increases of between 118% and 158% over the 2011–2016 period.

Some English-speaking destinations, including **the United Kingdom and the United States, have slipped, whereas others (Canada and Australia) have experienced two-digit growth.**

► Regional destinations of French students seeking degrees abroad (2010–2016)



UNESCO Institute for Statistics, February 2019.

In 2016, **French students seeking a degree outside France gravitated toward three world regions: the EU, North America, and non-EU Europe.** These three areas host nearly 95% of outbound French students. Within Europe (the destination of 69% of students), mobility was facilitated by the adoption of a harmonized system of degrees under the Bologna process that began in the mid-1990s. European students have enjoyed a “borderless space” since 1999. By 2015, that space had grown to include 48 countries.

The increase in the number of French students in North America is due solely to the **strong growth in mobility to Canada**, which more than makes up for the **slide in those choosing the United States.** Flow of degree-seeking French students to Asia-Oceania were relative stable between 2010 and 2014 but swelled (+21%) between 2014 and 2016.

Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East draw few French students. These regions account for less than 2% of outbound French mobility.

FRANCE'S APPEAL

#6 ECONOMY IN THE WORLD

France's **economy ranks sixth in the world** and second in Europe in GDP. France is also Europe's second-largest market, with more than 67 million consumers¹.

France is the world's #4 exporter of services² and Europe's #1 destination for industrial investment³.

#1 TOURIST DESTINATION IN THE WORLD

France was the world's top tourist destination in 2017, with 87 million international visitors. (It ranked #3 in tourist spending, at €54 billion.)

Tourism accounted for 7.3% of France's GDP in 2015, according to the Ministry of Economy and Finance.



PARIS: WORLD'S #2 STUDENT CITY

Paris is ranked the world's 2nd best student city⁵.

Three other French cities are in the top 100: Lyon (42nd), Toulouse (78th), and Montpellier (97th).

EXCELLENT PROGRAMS, SUBSIDIZED BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT⁶

The heart of France's system of higher education is a network of **more than 3,500 public and private institutions** that offer **top-quality programs** at all levels and in all disciplines.

Students from countries in the European Economic Area are subject to the same tuition rates as French students, whereas students from outside the area pay higher rates. The maximum annual tuition paid by French and EEA students in public institutions is €380. The balance of the cost of their education is subsidized by the French government. Even students from outside the EEA pay only about a third of the true cost of their education in French public institutions.

A RICH ARRAY OF PROGRAMS TAUGHT IN ENGLISH

French institutions offer **more than 1,400 programs taught in English.**

A catalogue of those programs is available at www.taughtie.campusfrance.org.

ADVANCED RESEARCH

With **63 Nobel prizes and 13 Fields medals**, France has a long tradition of scientific and scholarly excellence.

More than half of the research performed in France takes place in universities.

France's national center for scientific research (CNRS) is the world's leading research organization⁷.

Many other French research institutions are renowned at the international level, such as CEA, CIRAD, CNES, IFEMER, INRA, INRIA, INSERM, IRD, and the Institut Pasteur.

#1 NON-ENGLISH-SPEAKING HOST OF FOREIGN STUDENTS

A few facts about the French language⁴:

- **5th most widely spoken language in the world, with 300 million speakers**
- 2nd working language in most international organizations
- 2nd language of international news
- 3rd business language
- 4th Internet language

125 million people use French in apprenticeships, and 51 million of them are studying French as a foreign language.

French is the language of instruction in 32 nations around the world. Eighty-one million students at all levels are studying and preparing for their careers in French.

Each year, **more than 500,000 people** come to France to learn French or to participate in cultural activities offered in French by branches of the *Institut français* and by *Alliances Françaises*.

WORLD-CLASS COMPANIES ON THE CUTTING EDGE

France is home to 29 of the world's top 500 companies.⁸ Several French industrial groups are the world leaders in their sector, with facilities all over the world. Prominent examples are Airbus (aeronautics), Total (energy), Orange (telecommunications), Sanofi (health), LVMH (luxury goods), L'Oréal (cosmetics), and Danone (food products).

AN ENVIRONMENT FAVORING INNOVATION AND YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

France hosts **more of the top 100 corporate innovators than any other European country**⁹. It ranks 4th worldwide in international patent filings¹⁰. Seventy-one competitiveness clusters make up an attractive ecosystem of startups, laboratories, universities, and large firms.

#FrenchTech, with €200 million in investments, supports the development of ambitious startups and draws young talent.

French
a major advantage
in a globalized world

France
a study destination
on which students agree

9 out of 10 international students are satisfied with their stay in France and would recommend it to others¹¹.

5,3%
of GDP devoted to education

 **CNRS**
#1 research organization
in the world

CAMPUS FRANCE

- 220 staff in France
- 256 offices in 126 countries
- 365 French higher education institutions in the Campus France Forum
- 60 events around the world drawing 720,000 visitors
- 30,000 students in mobility programs directly managed by Campus France
- 1.7 million followers of Campus France on social networks
- 270,000 alumni in 120 countries

1- IMF, Eurostat, 2014.

2- WTO 2017.

3- EY 2018.

4- Observatoire de la langue française, *La langue française dans le monde*, Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), 2018.

5- QS Best Student Cities Ranking, 2017.

6- www.campusfrance.org/fr/enseignement-superieur-francais

7- Nature Index, 2015.

8- Fortune Global 500, 2016.

9- Top 100, Global Innovators Report, 2016.

10- MESRI, 2017.

11- *Baromètre Campus France-Kantar, 2018. France's Image and Appeal in the Eyes of International Students: Highlights of the 2017 Campus France Kantar Sofres poll.*

METHODOLOGY

In pursuit of its mission to promote French higher education abroad and to support international students in France, Campus France collects and analyzes international and national data on student mobility. Through these activities, the agency helps institutions and organizations to plan and implement programs in educational mobility.

In preparing this report, Campus France's research office relied on four primary sources of data:

- The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (ISU)
- The office of information systems and statistical research of the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation (MESRI-SIES)
- The European Commission's report on Erasmus+ mobility
- Surveys and studies carried out by Campus France's research office.

Glossary

- **Internationally mobile degree-seeking student:** As adopted by ISU, an international student (or student in international mobility) is a student who has crossed a national or territorial border for the purpose of pursuing higher education and who is enrolled in an educational program outside his or her country of origin. The student's origin is determined primarily by the country in which the student's secondary school diploma was earned.

Only students whose mobility is undertaken in pursuit of a degree are counted—that is, students enrolled in a program leading to a postsecondary degree or diploma. Students participating in exchange programs are excluded from these figures.

- **Foreign student in France:** As adopted by MESRI-SIES, this phrase refers to students who claim a nationality other than French and are enrolled in a French institution of higher education for a program of at least one (academic) year and leading to a French national diploma (*diplôme national*). Distance education, continuing education, work/study, and apprenticeship programs are included.

- **Erasmus+ student:** This phrase designates a student present, by virtue of an exchange, in a partner university or school of the Erasmus+ program. After completing courses (or other units) in the host institution, the student obtains ECTS credits that are then counted by his or her home institution toward a degree.

Methodological comments

- **The world regions used in this report** are the same as those used by France's Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE). Several features of that division are notable:

> Mexico is included in Latin America and the Caribbean.

> Egypt is included as part of the Middle East.

> Non-EU Europe comprises the countries of the Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) and of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan).

- In 2018, **MESRI-SIES widened the scope of its student data collection** to include a larger number of institutions, notably schools of art and business. Some changes between the data for 2017–2018 and those of previous years may be affected by this expansion of scope. MESRI-SIES has indicated that, using its previous scope of collection, the number of foreign students increased 4.5% between 2016–2017 and 2017–2018.

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TOP 20 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN FRANCE

	UNESCO 2016		Number in French higher education (total and % women)	in universities	in engineering schools	in schools of business, management or sales
	Total outbound mobility	Top 5 destinations				
Morocco	47,892	France 58.5% Germany 5.5% Ukraine 4.9% Italy 4.6% Spain 3.8%	39,855 45%	26,705 46%	4,867 32%	4,142 49%
Algeria	21,924	France 77.6% Canada 2.3% Saudi Arabia 2.3% United Arab Emirates 1.8% Malaysia 1.7%	30,521 48%	27,086 48%	688 32%	723 47%
China	868,772	United States 35.7% Australia 12.9% United Kingdom 10.3% Japan 8.8% Canada 7.0% France (9 th) 2.7%	30,072 63%	16,074 64%	3,762 39%	6,488 74%
Italy	65,421	France 18.5% United Kingdom 13.0% Austria 12.7% Spain 8.8% Germany 8.6%	13,341 60%	9,287 66%	627 26%	1,612 38%
Tunisia	20,089	France 46.8% Germany 13.7% Romania 6.3% Canada 4.9% Italy 4.7%	12,842 55%	9,200 58%	1,468 42%	767 42%
Senegal	12,487	France 59.5% Morocco 8.2% Canada 7.2% United States 5.0% Saudi Arabia 4.5%	10,974 39%	8,624 38%	737 36%	680 51%
Germany	119,088	Austria 23.4% Netherlands 19.8% United Kingdom 10.9% Switzerland 9.7% United States 6.1% France (6 th) 5.3%	8,459 64%	5,849 69%	411 33%	1,142 51%
Côte d'Ivoire	12,229	France 37.8% Morocco 14.4% United States 10.7% Senegal 9.9% Canada 6.1%	8,085 45%	5,946 45%	292 22%	984 48%
Spain	37,688	United Kingdom 20.6% United States 14.4% France 13.6% Germany 13.6% Netherlands 4.1%	7,826 58%	5,364 63%	927 33%	606 48%
Cameroon	25,056	Germany 25.1% France 18.2% Italy 10.4% Belgium 6.5% United States 5.0%	6,878 48%	4,374 50%	756 31%	830 56%
United States	73,527	United Kingdom 21.3% Canada 11.4% Grenada 6.2% Germany 6.2% Argentina 4.8% France 4.7%	6,264 65%	3,235 68%	162 38%	704 53%
Portugal	12,776	United Kingdom 24.1% France 15.2% Spain 12.4% United States 6.8% Brazil 5.7%	5,901 59%	3,957 64%	180 21%	372 51%
Lebanon	16,114	France 26.5% United Arab Emirates 10.0% United States 8.8% Saudi Arabia 8.7% United Kingdom 6.1%	5,665 48%	3,992 52%	744 29%	467 40%
Vietnam	82,159	United States 27.0% Japan 23.3% Australia 17.6% France 5.4% United Kingdom 4.8%	5,589 55%	4,111 59%	589 22%	356 74%
Brazil	52,479	United States 26.2% Argentina 17.6% Portugal 12.1% France 7.9% Germany 7.2%	5,423 53%	3,354 61%	1,263 30%	258 48%
Russia	57,747	Germany 17.2% Czech Republic 10.0% United States 8.9% United Kingdom 6.9% France 6.2%	5,337 71%	3,913 72%	179 48%	484 67%
Congo	8,833	France 27.1% Morocco 10.1% South Africa 7.9% Benin 5.5% India 5.4%	4,875 44%	3,614 44%	132 28%	282 59%
Belgium	13,961	United Kingdom 21.6% Netherlands 19.2% France 17.4% Germany 8.6% United States 6.8%	4,798 53%	3,295 57%	240 21%	445 42%
Gabon	7,026	France 46.9% Ghana 10.0% Morocco 8.8% South Africa 7.3% United States 6.3%	4,549 52%	3,418 52%	207 35%	444 56%
Madagascar	4,469	France 67.5% Saudi Arabia 4.6% Morocco 3.2% United States 2.9% Canada 2.8%	4,282 58%	3,330 59%	153 45%	217 55%

Sample reading: In 2017, 47,892 Moroccan students were pursuing a degree abroad, 58.5% of them in France. Source: UNESCO 2018 (2016 data).

Sample reading: According to MESRI, 39,855 Moroccan students were enrolled in French higher education in 2017–2018, 45% of them women. Of the total, 26,705 were enrolled at a university, 12,069 at the licence level; 791 were pursuing a master's in law or political science. Source: MESRI-SIES 2018.

BREAKDOWN BY ACADEMIC FIELD AND DEGREE LEVEL

	Law, political science	Economics, administration management	Literature, language, humanities, social sciences	Health, medicine	Sciences, physical education	Number for country and at each level	% by level	
MOROCCO	1,650	8,014	3,504	1,967	11,570	26,705	100%	
Licence	763	3,812	1,837	682	4,975	12,069	45%	Morocco
Master	791	4,027	1,438	1,276	6,002	13,534	51%	
Doctorate	96	175	229	9	593	1,102	4%	
% in field	6%	30%	13%	7%	43%	100%		
ALGERIA	1,387	3,516	7,702	2,846	11,635	27,086	100%	
Licence	661	1,822	3,696	779	5,016	11,974	44%	Algeria
Master	609	1,593	3,635	2,041	5,769	13,647	50%	
Doctorate	117	101	371	26	850	1,465	5%	
% in field	5%	13%	28%	11%	43%	100%		
CHINA	360	3,875	6,256	182	5,401	16,074	100%	
Licence	129	2,052	3,525	68	2,125	7,899	49%	China
Master	173	1,729	2,198	100	1,994	6,194	39%	
Doctorate	58	94	533	14	1,282	1,981	12%	
% in field	2%	24%	39%	1%	34%	100%		
ITALY	1,006	828	4,686	902	1,865	9,287	100%	
Licence	514	506	2,467	268	606	4,361	47%	Italy
Master	409	273	1,447	610	403	3,142	34%	
Doctorate	83	49	772	24	856	1,784	19%	
% in field	11%	9%	50%	10%	20%	100%		
TUNISIA	585	1,266	1,902	1,394	4,053	9,200	100%	
Licence	259	523	666	275	1,238	2,961	32%	Tunisia
Master	240	581	841	1,104	1,996	4,762	52%	
Doctorate	86	162	395	15	819	1,477	16%	
% in field	6%	14%	21%	15%	44%	100%		
SENEGAL	1,418	1,565	1,904	215	3,522	8,624	100%	
Licence	603	854	923	55	1,819	4,254	49%	Senegal
Master	687	673	810	153	1,565	3,888	45%	
Doctorate	128	38	171	7	138	482	6%	
% in field	16%	18%	22%	2%	41%	100%		
GERMANY	1,045	827	2,707	394	876	5,849	100%	
Licence	412	423	1,509	137	407	2,888	49%	Germany
Master	592	365	1,010	252	226	2,445	42%	
Doctorate	41	39	188	5	243	516	9%	
% in field	18%	14%	46%	7%	15%	100%		
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	1,665	1,684	1,065	275	1,257	5,946	100%	
Licence	676	962	552	78	674	2,942	49%	Côte d'Ivoire
Master	842	668	397	195	496	2,598	44%	
Doctorate	147	54	116	<5	87	406	7%	
% in field	28%	28%	18%	5%	21%	100%		
SPAIN	532	513	2,595	464	1,260	5,364	100%	
Licence	287	359	1,419	160	505	2,730	51%	Spain
Master	227	136	978	299	380	2,020	38%	
Doctorate	18	18	198	5	375	614	11%	
% in field	10%	10%	48%	9%	23%	100%		
CAMEROON	652	901	811	471	1,539	4,374	100%	
Licence	281	447	376	105	704	1,913	44%	Cameroon
Master	256	402	316	365	705	2,044	47%	
Doctorate	115	52	119	<5	130	417	10%	
% in field	15%	21%	19%	11%	35%	100%		
UNITED STATES	345	264	2,200	74	352	3,235	100%	
Licence	178	153	1,450	27	149	1,957	60%	United States
Master	149	94	645	46	137	1,071	33%	
Doctorate	18	17	105	<5	66	207	6%	
% in field	11%	8%	68%	2%	11%	100%		
PORTUGAL	462	705	1,604	314	872	3,957	100%	
Licence	336	558	1,256	168	600	2,918	74%	Portugal
Master	123	140	311	143	142	859	22%	
Doctorate	<5	7	37	<5	130	180	5%	
% in field	12%	18%	41%	8%	22%	100%		
LEBANON	243	458	532	636	2,123	3,992	100%	
Licence	72	114	177	123	294	780	20%	Lebanon
Master	62	255	204	473	752	1,746	44%	
Doctorate	109	89	151	40	1,077	1,466	37%	
% in field	6%	11%	13%	16%	53%	100%		
VIETNAM	138	1,467	857	190	1,459	4,111	100%	
Licence	36	757	547	37	450	1,827	44%	Vietnam
Master	76	624	221	145	481	1,547	38%	
Doctorate	26	86	89	8	528	737	18%	
% in field	3%	36%	21%	5%	35%	100%		
BRAZIL	459	369	1,687	99	740	3,354	100%	
Licence	181	99	724	40	135	1,179	35%	Brazil
Master	189	237	631	52	313	1,422	42%	
Doctorate	89	33	332	7	292	753	22%	
% in field	14%	11%	50%	3%	22%	100%		
RUSSIA	486	789	1,785	175	678	3,913	100%	
Licence	256	491	945	81	274	2,047	52%	Russia
Master	190	268	651	92	185	1,386	35%	
Doctorate	40	30	189	<5	219	480	12%	
% in field	12%	20%	46%	4%	17%	100%		
CONGO	740	805	671	240	1,158	3,614	100%	
Licence	461	579	454	91	788	2,373	66%	Congo
Master	226	219	172	148	340	1,105	31%	
Doctorate	53	7	45	<5	30	136	4%	
% in field	20%	22%	19%	7%	32%	100%		
BELGIUM	429	387	1,194	608	677	3,295	100%	
Licence	239	229	714	91	371	1,644	50%	Belgium
Master	176	141	388	510	193	1,408	43%	
Doctorate	14	17	92	7	113	243	7%	
% in field	13%	12%	36%	18%	21%	100%		
GABON	658	731	802	78	1,149	3,418	100%	
Licence	333	504	406	28	735	2,006	59%	Gabon
Master	257	208	222	49	369	1,105	32%	
Doctorate	68	19	174	<5	45	307	9%	
% in field	19%	21%	23%	2%	34%	100%		
MADAGASCAR	335	977	687	293	1,038	3,330	100%	
Licence	164	570	430	82	577	1,823	55%	Madagascar
Master	142	385	225	210	397	1,359	41%	
Doctorate	29	22	32	<5	64	148	4%	
% in field	10%	29%	21%	9%	31%	100%		

WELCOME

TO

FRANCE

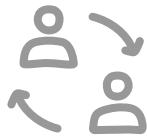
500,000

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY 2027



#1 SIMPLIFY VISA POLICIES

- Give priority to international students in visa applications
- Place visa procedures online
- Set up a one-stop shop to support students upon arrival
- Create a new residency permit that allows graduates to return to France to work



#3 CREATE A LABEL TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

- Ensure that support services meet highest international standards
- Create a label to recognize institutions that meet those standards and to encourage initiatives to improve international student services
- Facilitate access to housing and compliance with administrative procedures



#5 INCREASE FRANCE'S PRESENCE AND INFLUENCE ABROAD

- Expand the educational offerings of French institutions abroad
- Strengthen development policy through a seed fund of €5 million and a support fund of €20 million



#2 DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF PROGRAMS TAUGHT IN ENGLISH AND IN FRENCH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

- Develop more programs in English by removing legal obstacles
- Increase support for English-speaking students seeking to study French as a foreign language



#4 ADOPT DIFFERENTIATED TUITION RATES AND TRIPLE THE NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS

- Set tuition to a third of the real cost of education for students from outside the European Economic Area
- Increase the number of tuition exemptions
- Triple the number of French government scholarships



#6 LAUNCH A GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN

- In 2019, implement the "Choose France" campaign, under the direction of Campus France
- Stimulate interest in coming to France

KEY FIGURES

ON STUDENT MOBILITY

IN THE WORLD

218



MILLION POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS IN THE WORLD IN 2016

50% in Asia-Oceania

5,1



MILLION STUDENTS PURSUING A DEGREE ABROAD IN 2016

+28% from 2011

TOP 5



HOST COUNTRIES:

- ▶ United States: 971,417
- ▶ United Kingdom: 432,001
- ▶ Australia 355,512
- ▶ France 245,349
- ▶ Germany 244,575

IN THE EUROPEAN UNION



1,635,000

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PURSUING A DEGREE IN THE EU IN 2016

THE **EU** IS THE #1 DESTINATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

4,4



MILLION ERASMUS+ STUDENTS BETWEEN 1987 AND 2016

33 participating countries

FRANCE AND ERASMUS+



- ▶ **#4** HOST COUNTRY
- ▶ **#1** SENDING COUNTRY

IN FRANCE



343,000

FOREIGN STUDENTS ENROLLED IN FRANCE

+19% over 5 years



TOP 5

HOSTED NATIONALITIES:

- ▶ Morocco: 39,855
- ▶ Algeria: 30,521
- ▶ China: 30,072
- ▶ Italy: 13,341
- ▶ Tunisia: 12,842



17% OF BUSINESS SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE FOREIGN

16% AT ENGINEERING SCHOOLS

15% AT UNIVERSITIES

**CAMPUS
FRANCE**

campusfrance.org

