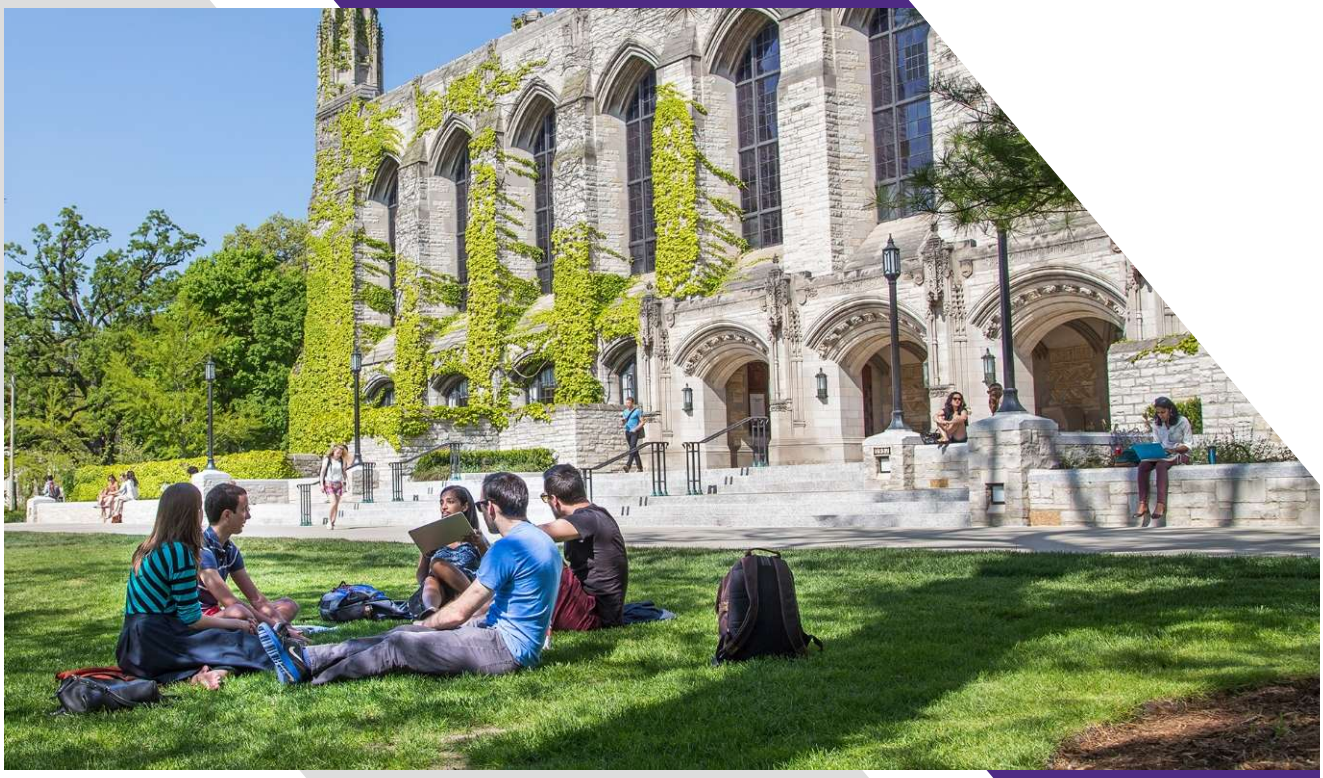


International Student and Scholar Statistics 2025-2026

Northwestern

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR SERVICES

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A Message from the Office of International Student and Scholar Services

The Office of International Student and Scholar Services (OISS) provides professional support and advising services to international students and scholars at Northwestern University regarding their immigration and academic status in the United States. OISS is committed to providing quality immigration advising services and supportive programming to students, scholars and their dependents. Northwestern welcomed 2,245 new international students in the 2025-2026 academic year and sponsors 9,960 people from 151 countries.

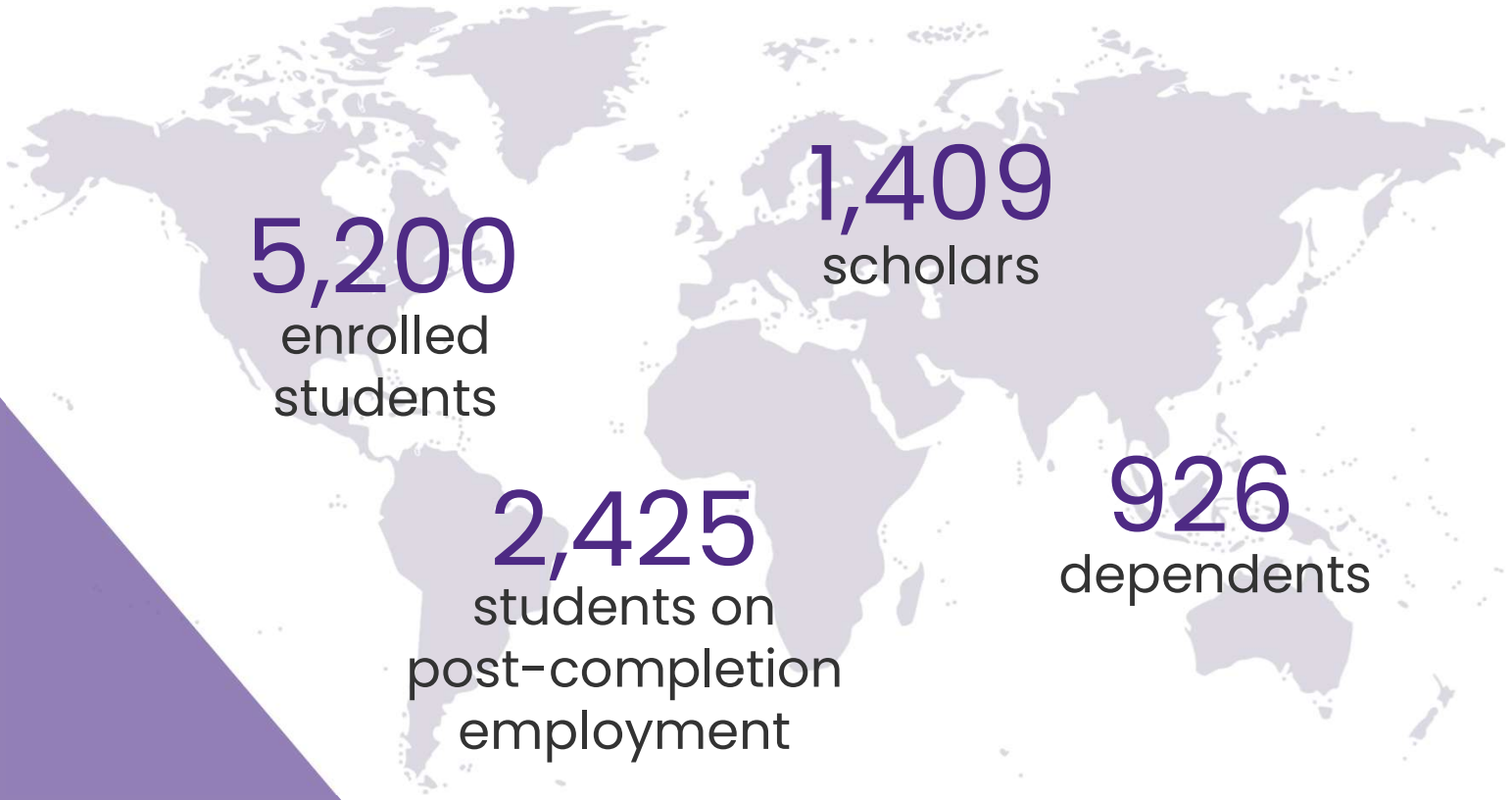
More than 1 million international students are studying at U.S. colleges and universities. International students contribute to culturally diverse campuses, providing authentic opportunities for all students to learn from each other's perspectives and to become better prepared for careers in the global economy. Additionally, international students contributed $42.9 billion to the U.S. economy and supported over 355,000 jobs nationally during the 2024-2025 academic year. Closer to home, international students and their dependents contributed $2.4 billion to the economy in Illinois. Northwestern international students and their dependents contributed nearly $349 million to the local economy and supported 3,690 jobs*. These data reinforce the notion that international students not only bring a diverse perspective to the academic discussion, but also contribute significantly to the national, state and local economies.

Our goal is to help international students, scholars and Northwestern faculty and staff navigate the many complexities associated with student- and employment-based visa classifications. We are committed to providing accurate information and the highest quality of service that reflects institutional policies and evolving federal regulations.



*All data according to a NAFSA: Association of International Educators economic analysis for the 2024-2025 academic year

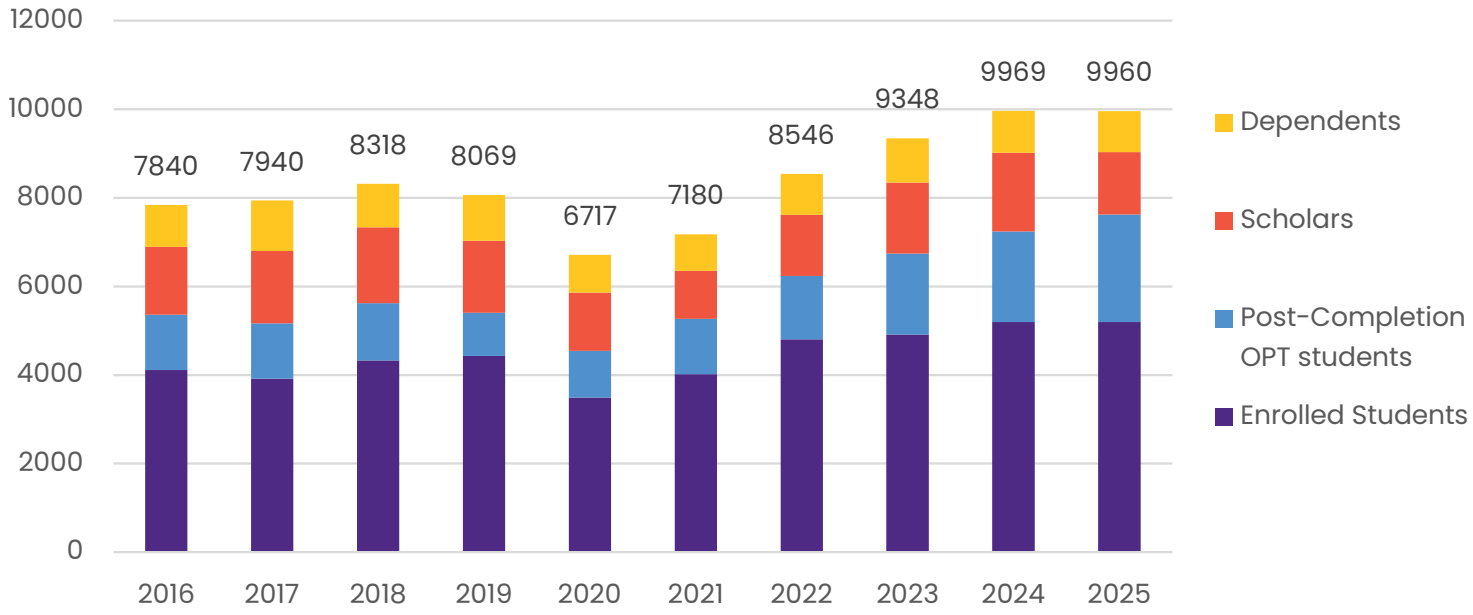
Northwestern's International Community



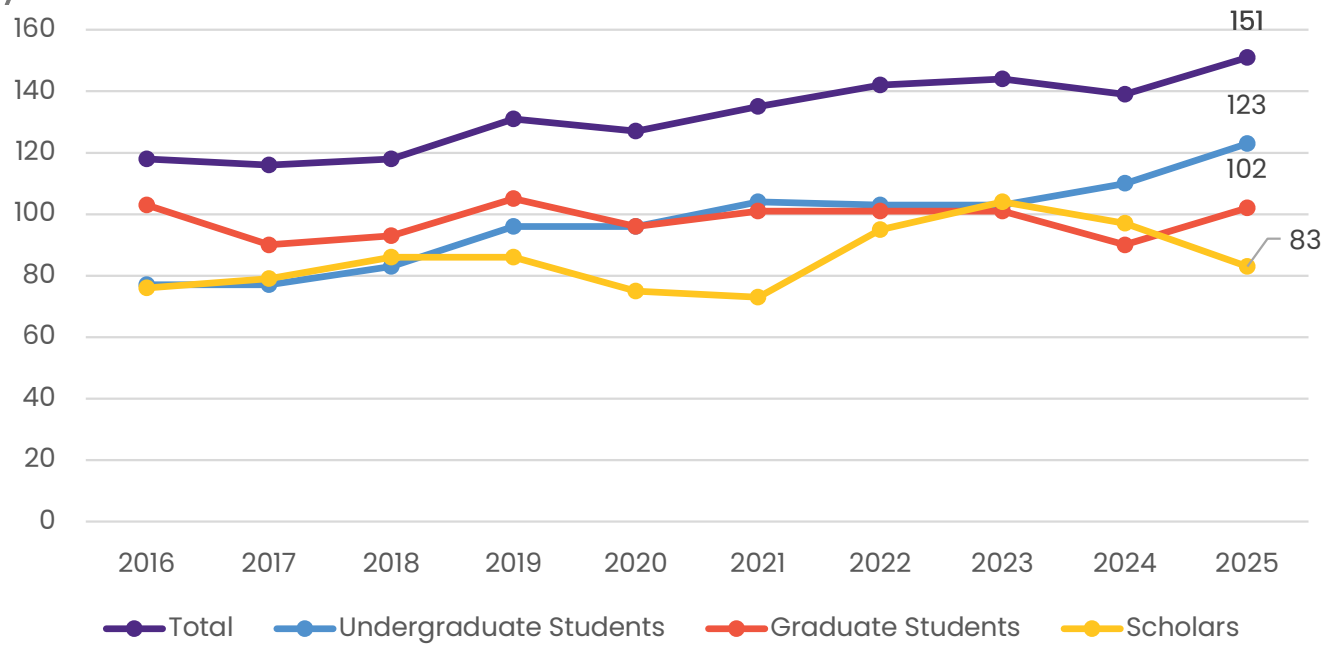
OISS maintains statistics only for members of the Northwestern community who receive visa sponsorship through our office, including F-1 and J-1 students; J-1 scholars; H-1B, TN, O-1 and E-3 employees and their dependents. B-1/WB visa status holders were included in previous reports, but they are excluded from the 2025-2026 report.

Northwestern's International Community

Northwestern's International Community by Category



Number of countries of origin represented by Northwestern students and scholars



Enrolled Students

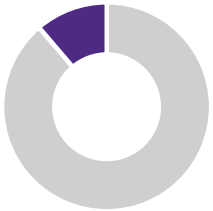


Enrolled students make up the largest part of Northwestern's international community. Representing 138 countries from around the world and enrolling across the University's schools, enrolled international students enrich the academic experience by providing opportunities for all students to learn from each other's unique perspectives and to become better prepared for careers in the global economy. In addition, they make significant contributions to the local economy.

International students may enter the United States on either an F-1 or J-1 non-immigrant student visa to pursue studies in degree-seeking or short-term academic programs. Students are required to enroll in a full course of study during each academic term.



21% of Northwestern students are international



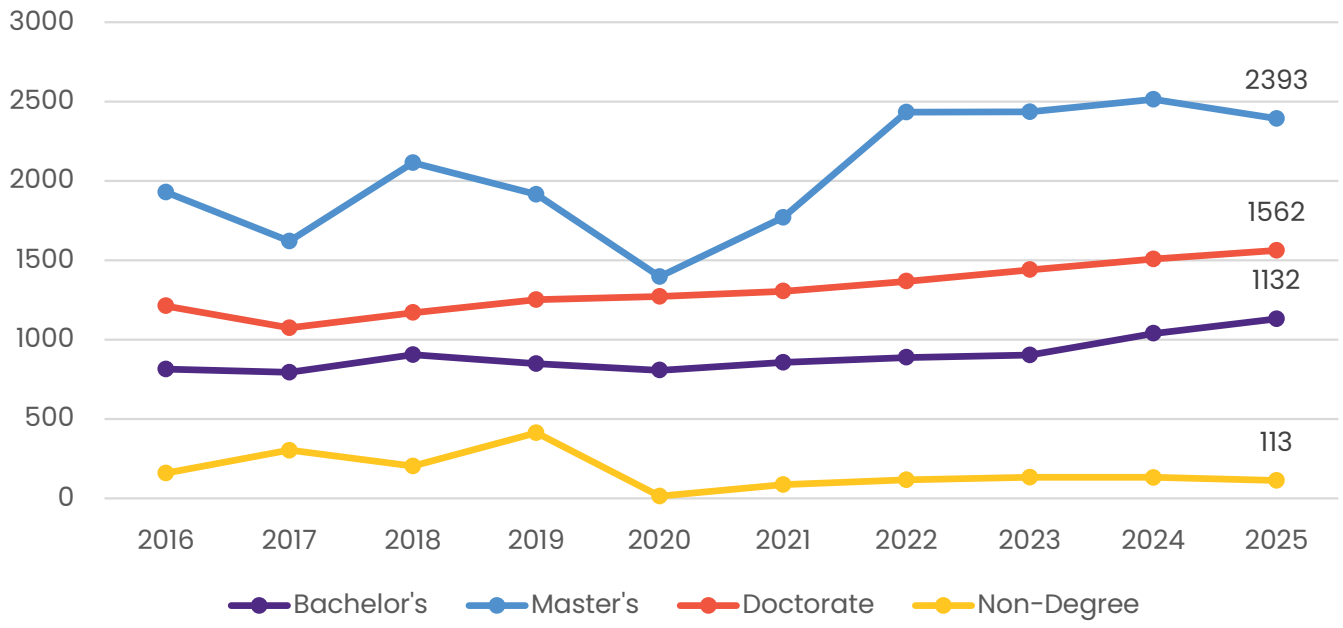
12% of undergraduate students are international



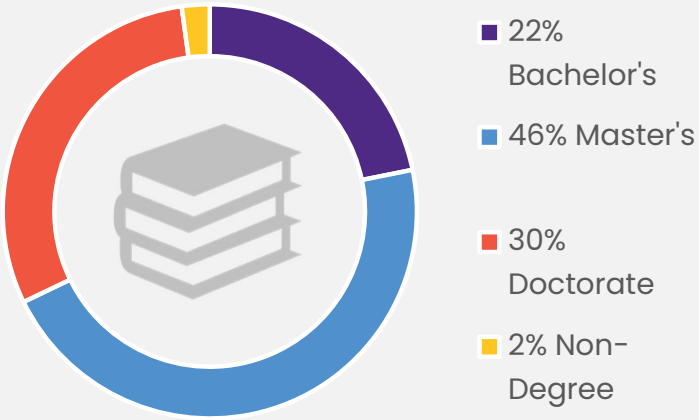
27% of graduate students are international

Enrolled Students

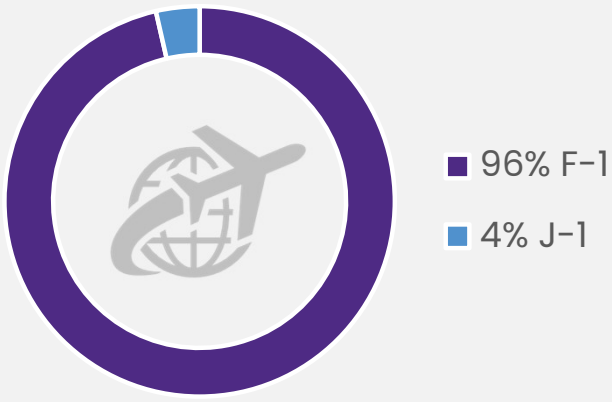
Enrollment Trends by Degree Level



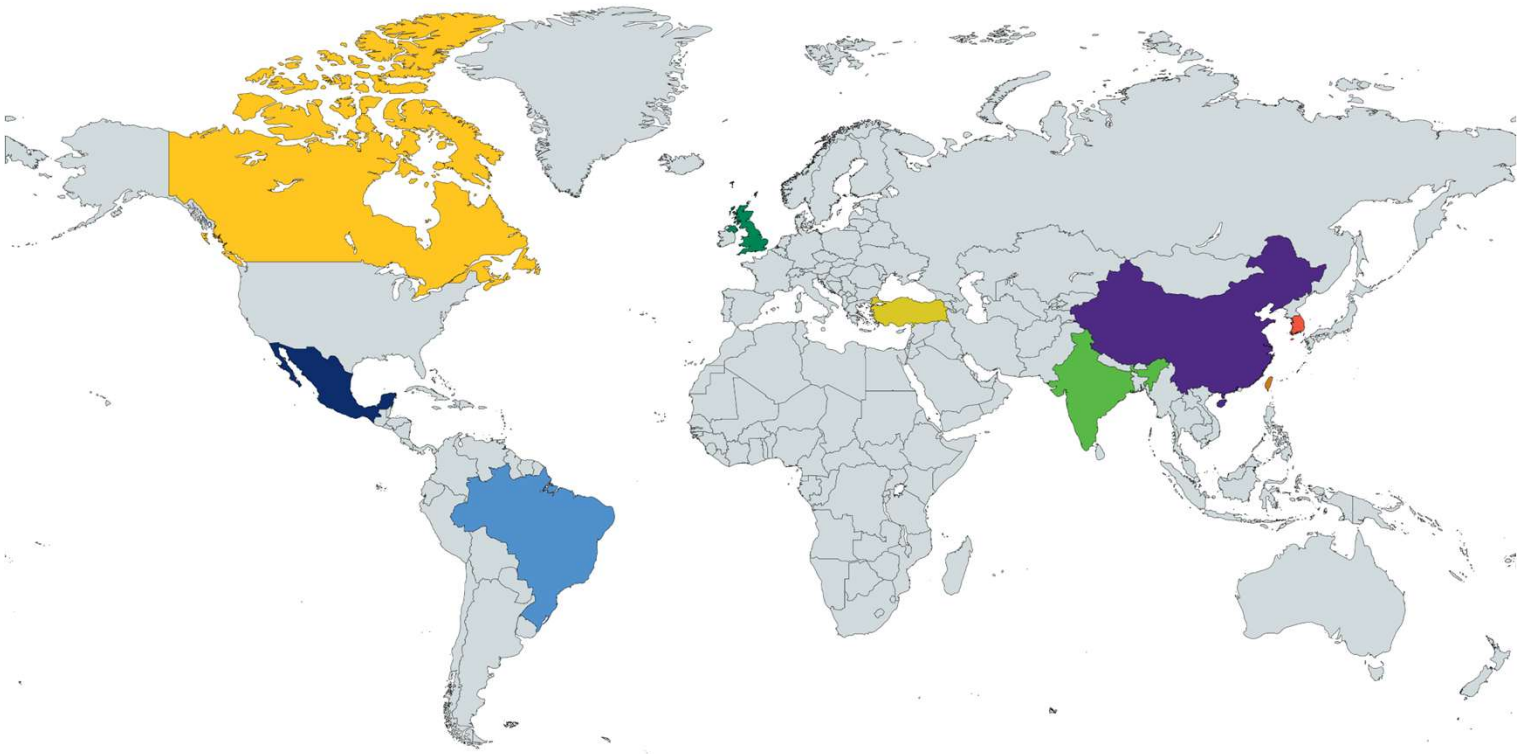
Enrolled Students by Degree Level



Enrolled Students by Visa Type



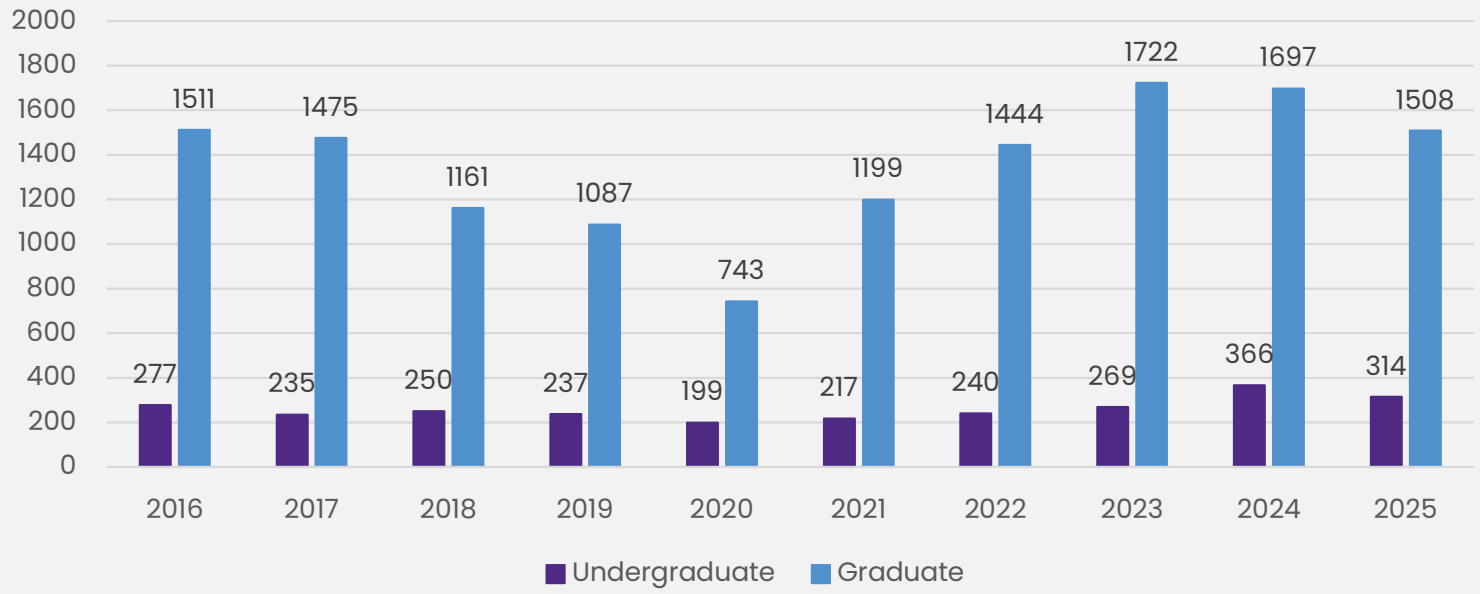
Top 10 Countries of Origin for Students



#1	China	2,169	#6	Taiwan	148
#2	India	669	#7	Mexico	105
#3	South Korea	265	#8	Türkiye	66
#4	Canada	261	#9	Hong Kong	61
#5	Brazil	175	#10	United Kingdom	60

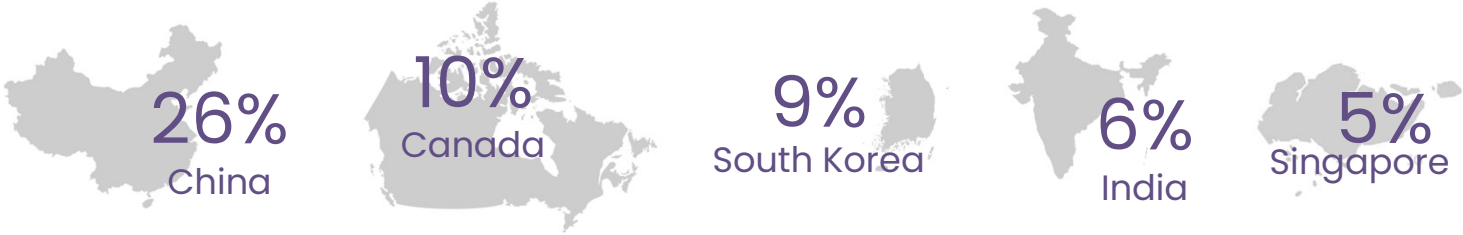
Fall 2025 New Enrollment

New Student Enrollment Trends

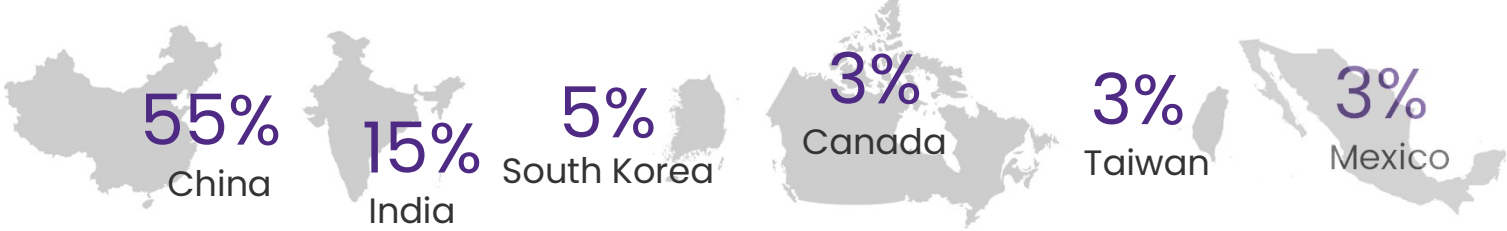


Top Countries for New Students

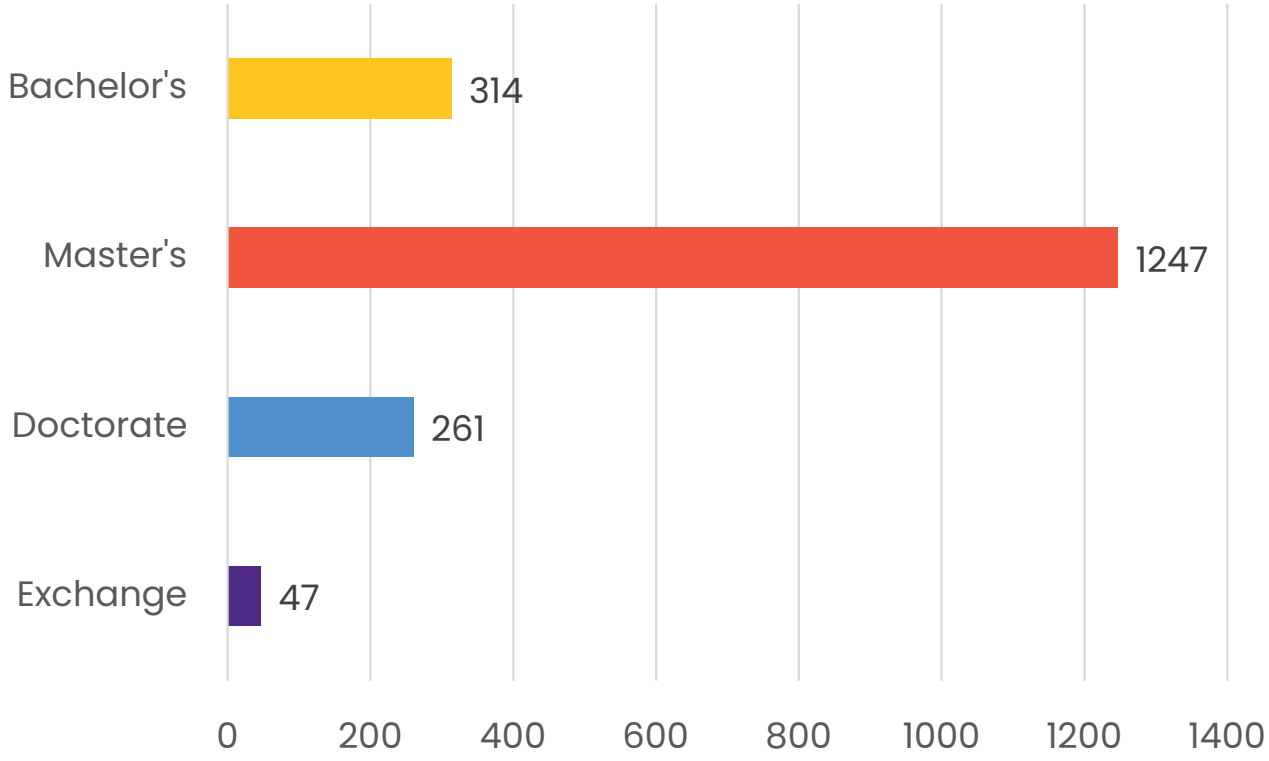
Undergraduate Students



Graduate Students

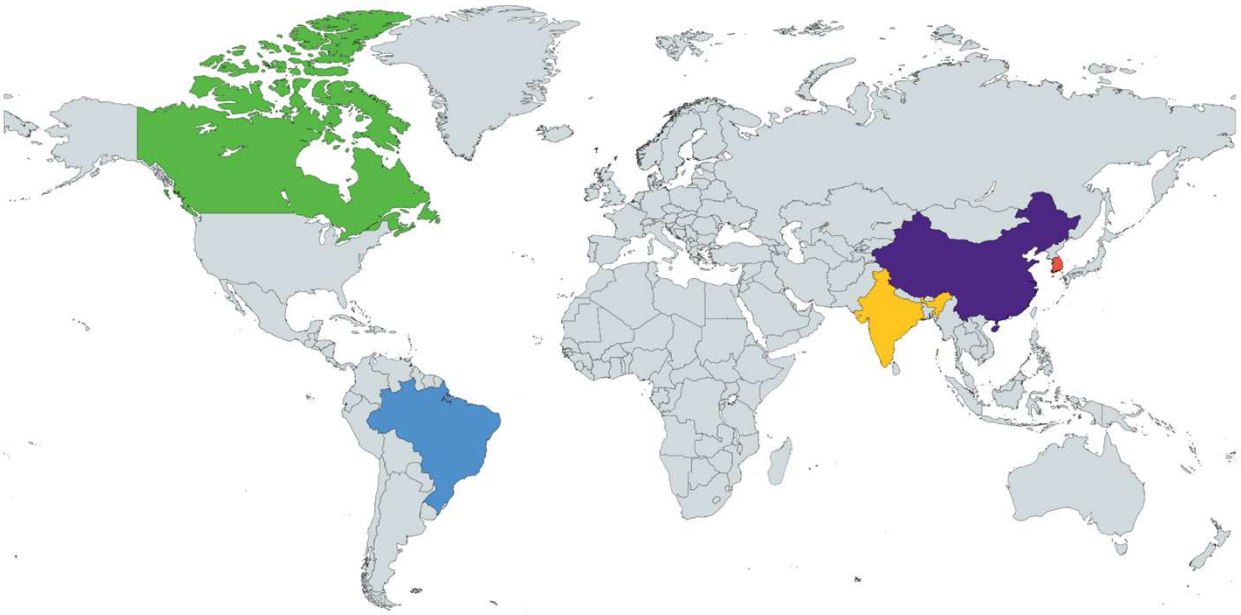


Fall 2025 New Enrollment by Level



Bachelor's Students

Top 5 Countries of Origin



22% China
9% Canada
7% India
7% South Korea
5% Brazil

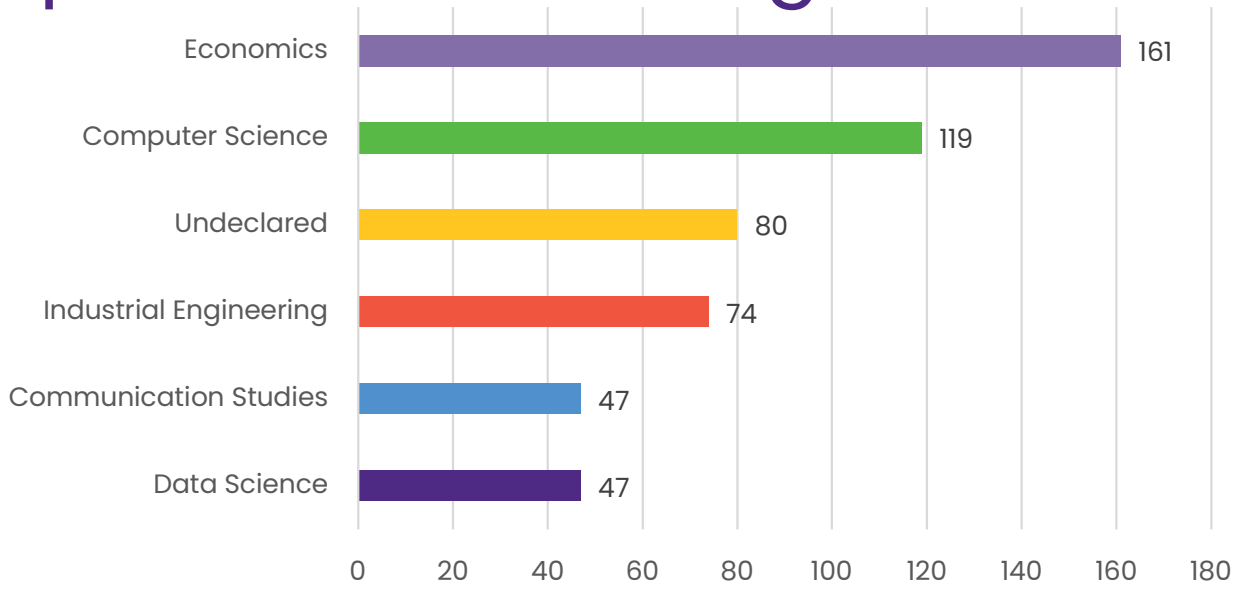
Visa Type



99% F-1 Visa

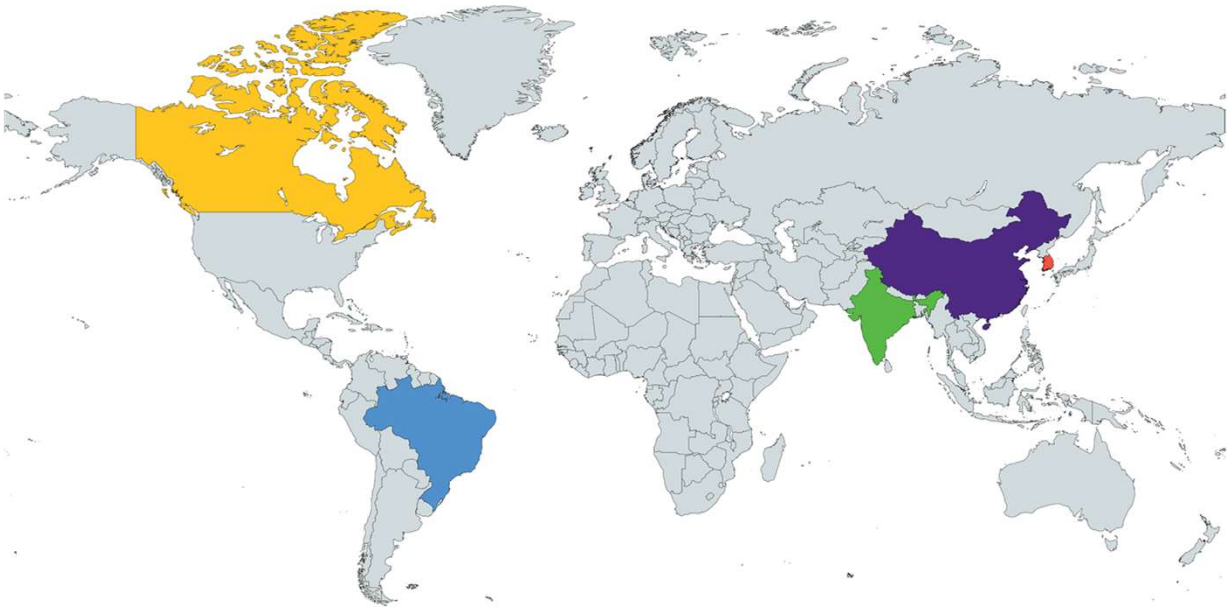
<1% J-1 Visa

Top 5 Academic Programs



Master's Students

Top 5 Countries of Origin



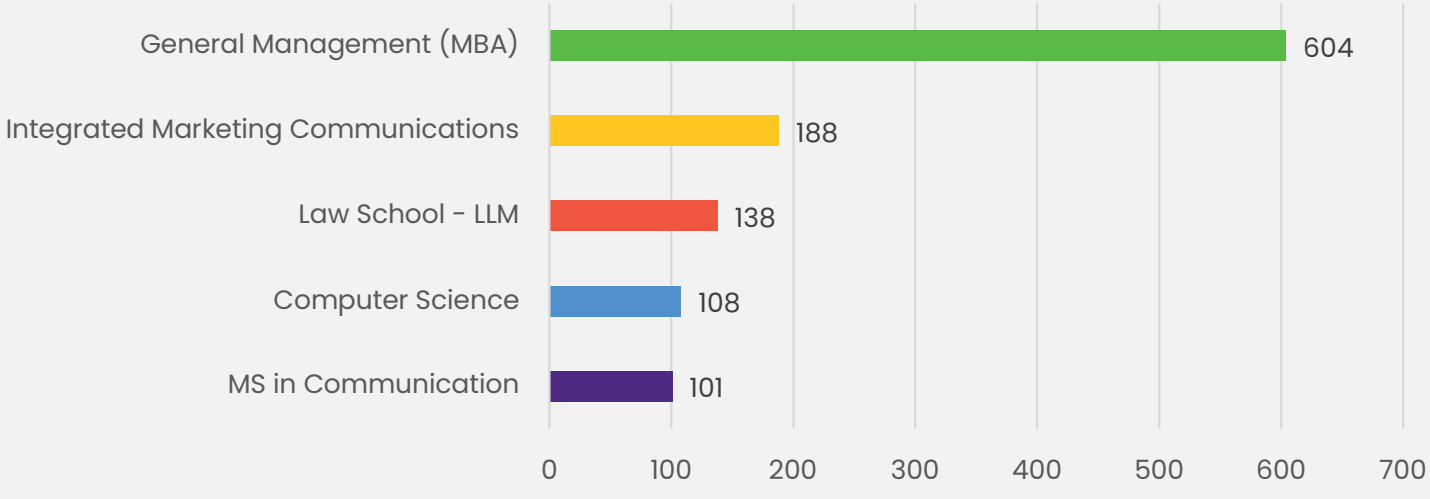
50% China
19% India
4% Canada
3% South Korea
3% Brazil

Visa Type



99% F-1 Visa
1% J-1 Visa

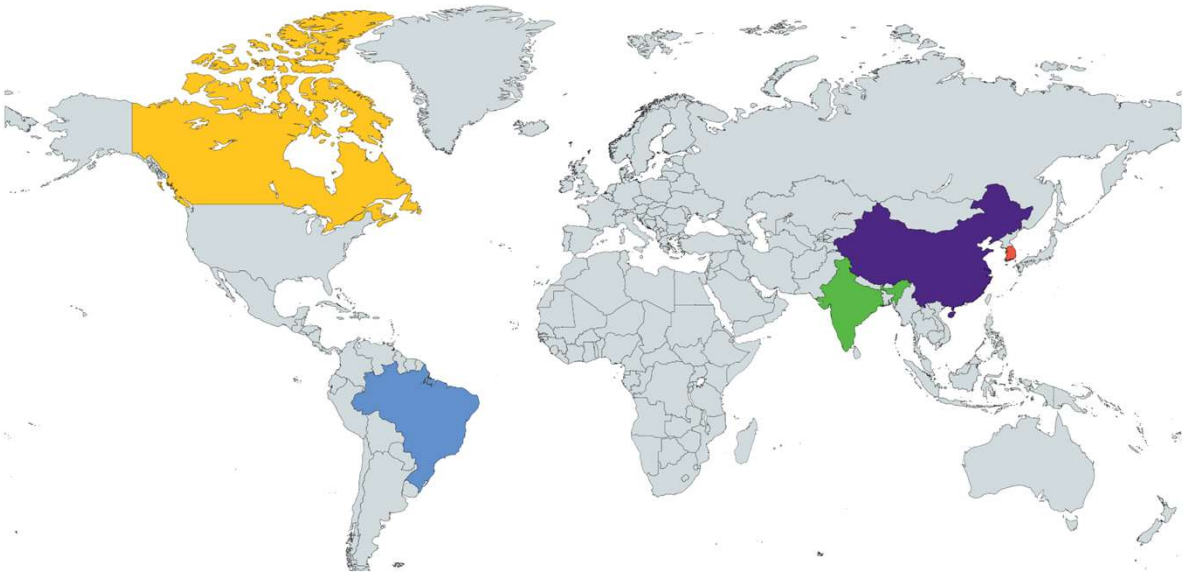
Top 5 Academic Programs



*Including 1-Year, 2-Year, and Executive MBA students

Doctoral Students

Top 5 Countries



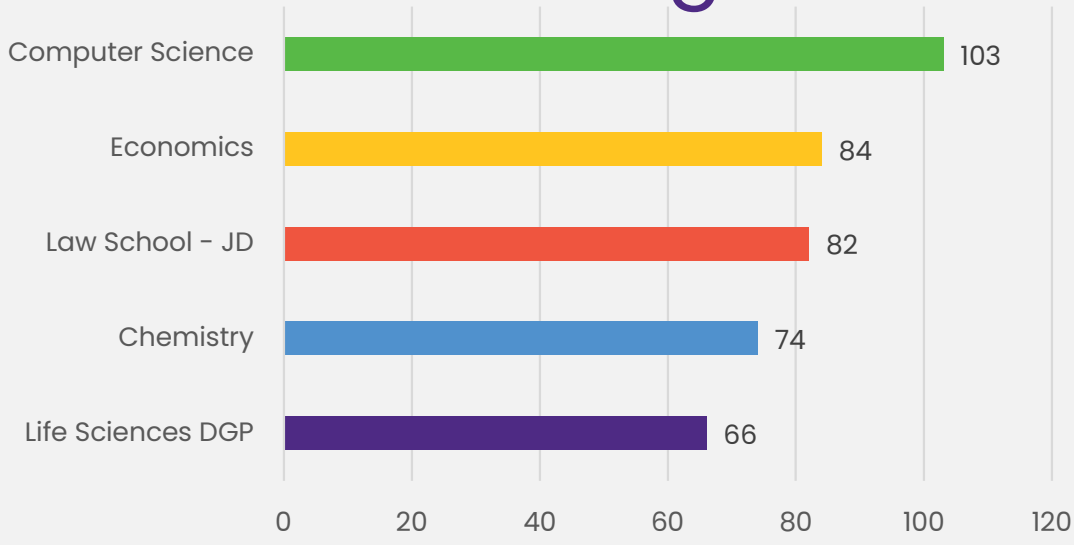
45% China
9% India
7% South Korea
3% Canada
3% Brazil

Visa Type

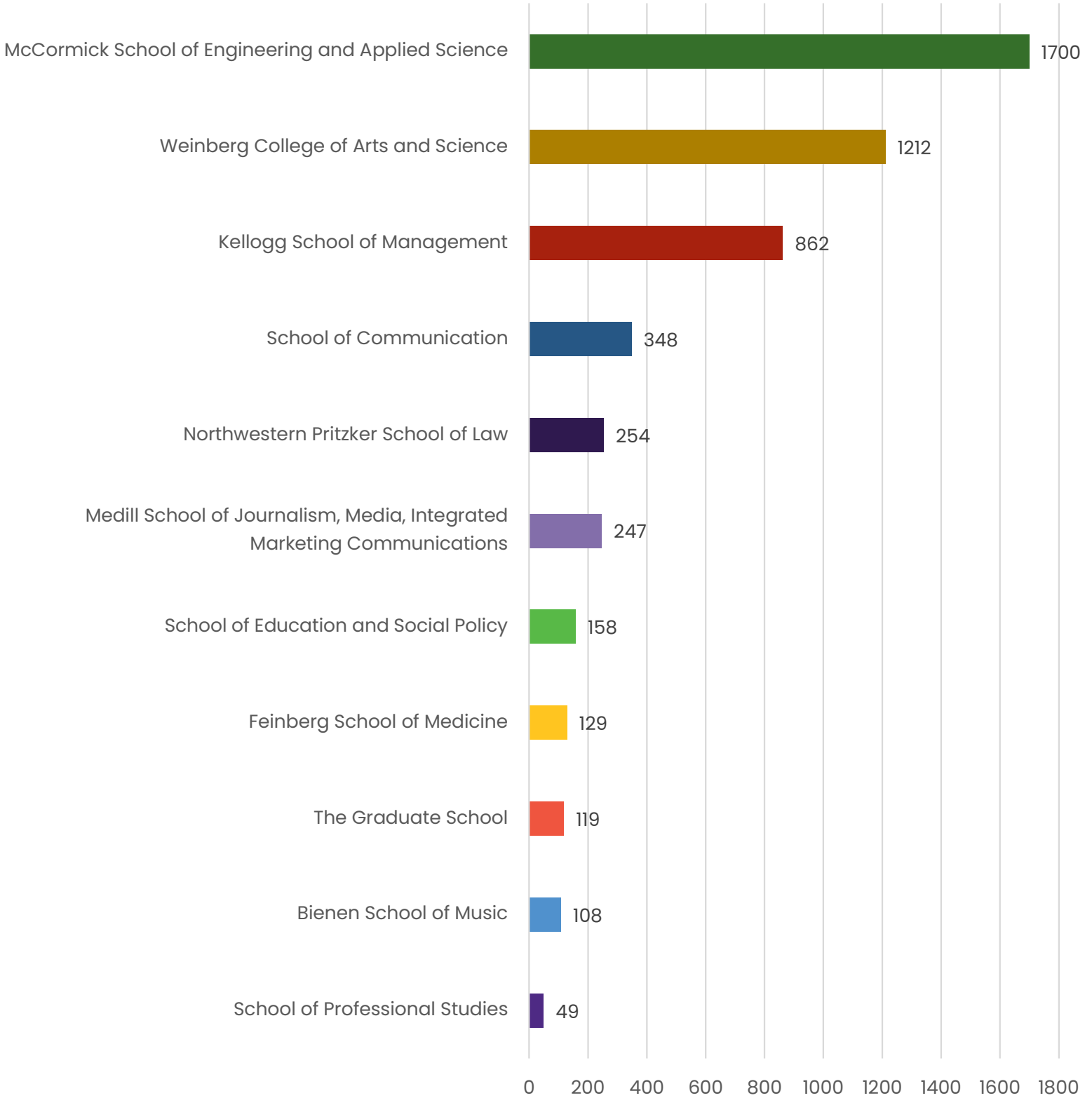


96% F-1 Visa
4% J-1 Visa

Top 5 Academic Programs



Totals by Home School



Enrolled Students

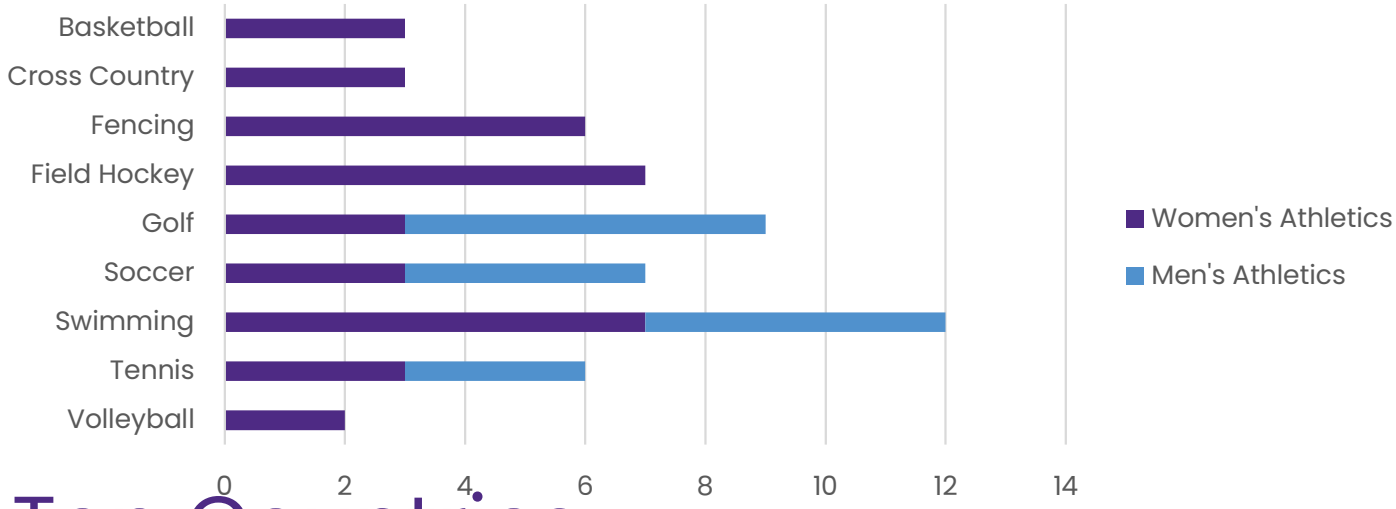
Student-Athletes

Northwestern has NCAA Division I programs in 11 women's sports and eight men's sports, which attract talented student-athletes from around the world. Northwestern has 52 international student-athletes, representing 23 countries and competing in 13 programs.

Go 'Cats!



Athletic Programs



Top Countries



Student Country Listing

Northwestern welcomed its most international student body, with 138 countries represented.

Country	Bachelor's	Master's	Doctorate	Non-Degree	Total
Afghanistan	1				1
Albania				1	1
Angola	1				1
Argentina	4	3	8	5	20
Armenia	6	1	2		9
Australia	13	6	6	6	31
Austria	2	4	2	1	9
Azerbaijan		3		1	4
Bahamas, the		1	1		2
Bangladesh	3	6	12		21
Belarus	3				3
Belgium	1	1	2	1	5
Bolivia		3			3
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2				2
Botswana	3		1		4
Brazil	52	74	49		175
Bulgaria	3		1		4
Burkina Faso	1				1
Burma	2		2		4
Burundi	4				4
Cambodia	5				5
Cameroon	2	2			4
Canada	102	103	53	3	261
Chad			1		1
Chile	5	16	12		33
China	253	1187	703	26	2169
Colombia	5	22	18		45

Country	Bachelor's	Master's	Doctorate	Non-Degree	Total
Congo (Kinshasa)	2				2
Costa Rica	2	2	1		5
Cote D'Ivoire			1		1
Croatia	2				2
Cyprus	2	2			4
Czech Republic	1		1		2
Dominican Republic	4	2			6
Ecuador	1	2	2	1	6
Egypt	4		3		7
El Salvador	1	4			5
Estonia	1	1	1		3
Ethiopia	5	1	6		12
Finland			2		2
France	6	8	13	8	35
Gaza Strip	3				3
Georgia	2				2
Germany	3	23	12	9	47
Ghana	1	6	10		17
Greece	12	1	15		28
Guatemala	1	2	1		4
Guyana			1		1
Haiti	2	1			3
Honduras	3	1	1		5
Hong Kong	34	11	14	2	61
Hungary	2	1	1		4
Iceland	1				1
India	77	448	136	8	669

Country	Bachelor's	Master's	Doctorate	Non-Degree	Total
Indonesia	18	13	6		37
Iran		7	27		34
Iraq	2	1	1		4
Ireland	3	1	2		6
Israel	4	12	9	1	26
Italy	4	10	18	4	36
Jamaica	1		1		2
Japan	17	16	14	4	51
Jordan	2				2
Kazakhstan	6	5	3		14
Kenya	18	1	3		22
Kosovo	1				1
Kuwait	1	1			2
Kyrgyzstan	1				1
Latvia	1		1		2
Lebanon	1	1	6	1	9
Luxembourg			1		1
Macedonia	1		1		2
Malawi	2				2
Malaysia	7	2	3	2	14
Malta	1				1
Mauritius	1		1		2
Mexico	10	68	26	1	105
Moldova	1				1
Mongolia	2	1			3
Montenegro	2				2
Morocco	3		2		5

Country	Bachelor's	Master's	Doctorate	Non-Degree	Total
Mozambique	1				1
Namibia	1				1
Nepal	4	2	2		8
Netherlands	5	4	3		12
New Zealand	6	3	4		13
Niger	1				1
Nigeria	2	10	23		35
Norway	1				1
Oman	1	1			2
Pakistan	4	12	9		25
Panama		1	1		2
Paraguay	2		1		3
Peru	7	23	7		37
Philippines	7	5	6		18
Poland	5	3	6		14
Portugal	2	3	3	4	12
Qatar			1		1
Romania	1	1			2
Russia	6	2	16		24
Rwanda	14		1		15
Saudi Arabia	5	18	4		27
Senegal			1		1
Serbia		2	3		5
Sierra Leone	2				2
Singapore	29	8	12	5	54
Slovakia	1		1		2
Somalia	2				2

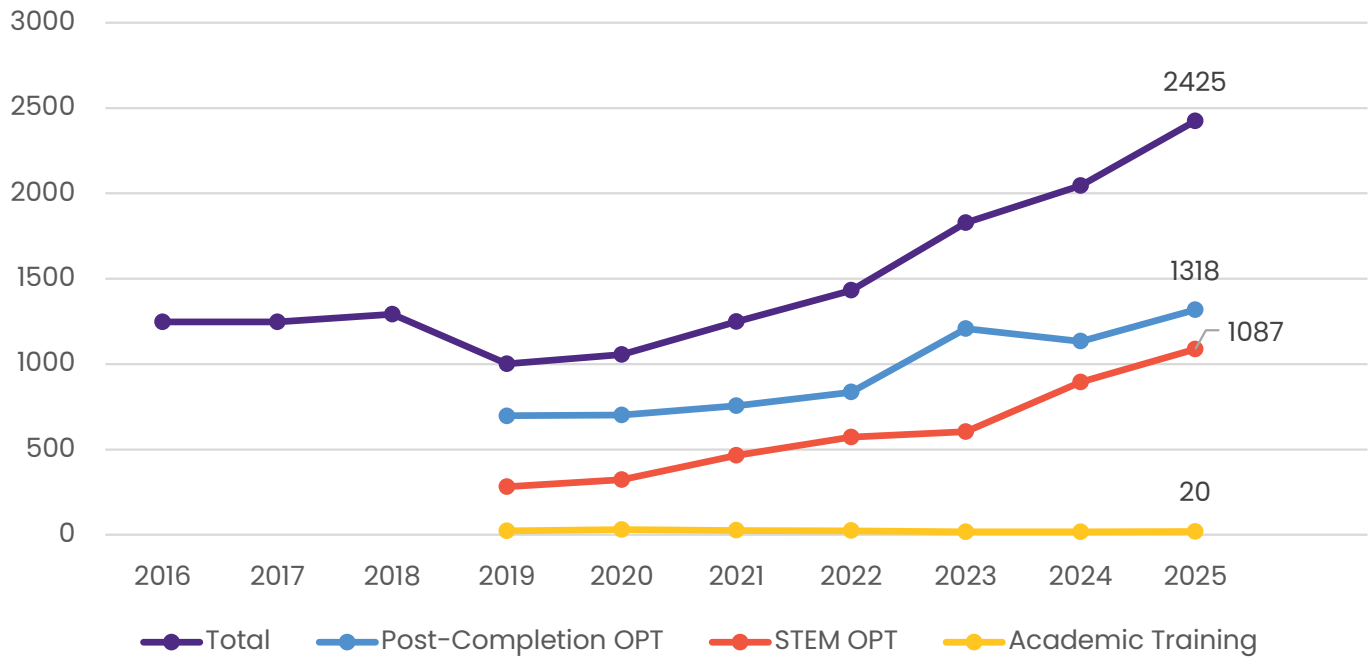
Country	Bachelor's	Master's	Doctorate	Non-Degree	Total
South Africa	2	1	3		6
South Korea	79	79	105	2	265
South Sudan	1				1
Spain	11	4	3	3	21
Sri Lanka	2	1	1		4
Stateless	1				1
Swaziland	1				1
Sweden	1	1	2		4
Switzerland	3	1	3	1	8
Syria	6				6
Taiwan	36	72	37	3	148
Tajikistan	1				1
Tanzania	2	1			3
Thailand	17	18	9	3	47
Togo	1				1
Trinidad And Tobago	1	1			2
Tunisia	2		2		4
Türkiye	32	4	30		66
Turkmenistan			1		1
Uganda	1	1	5		7
Ukraine	11		1	1	13
United Arab Emirates	3				3
United Kingdom	27	11	16	6	60
Uruguay	2		1		3
Uzbekistan	1				1
Venezuela	1	1	2		4
Vietnam	13	10	17		40
West Bank	1				1
Zambia	4				4
Zimbabwe	5	2	1		8

Post-Completion Employment

Upon completion of their degrees, F-1 international students are eligible for 12 months of employment authorization, known as post-completion Optional Practical Training (OPT). Students who have studied in fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) are eligible for an additional 24-month STEM OPT extension. There are Northwestern alumni currently working on OPT in 43 states throughout the United States.

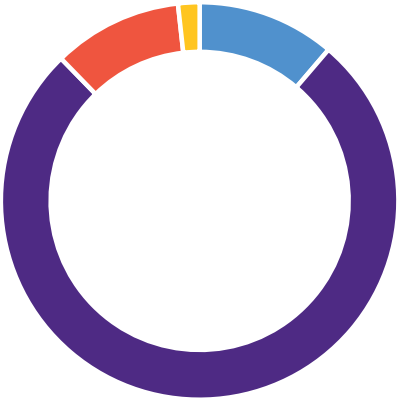
J-1 international students are eligible for employment authorization, known as Academic Training, which can be used during and/or after their studies. The duration of their Academic Training can be up to 36 months, depending on their degree level and the duration of their studies. There are 20 Northwestern alumni currently working on post-completion Academic Training in nine states throughout the United States.

In addition to continuing to provide immigration advisement to this population, OISS is responsible for regular employment reporting and verification during post-completion employment. These services are provided for up to 36 months after graduation from Northwestern.



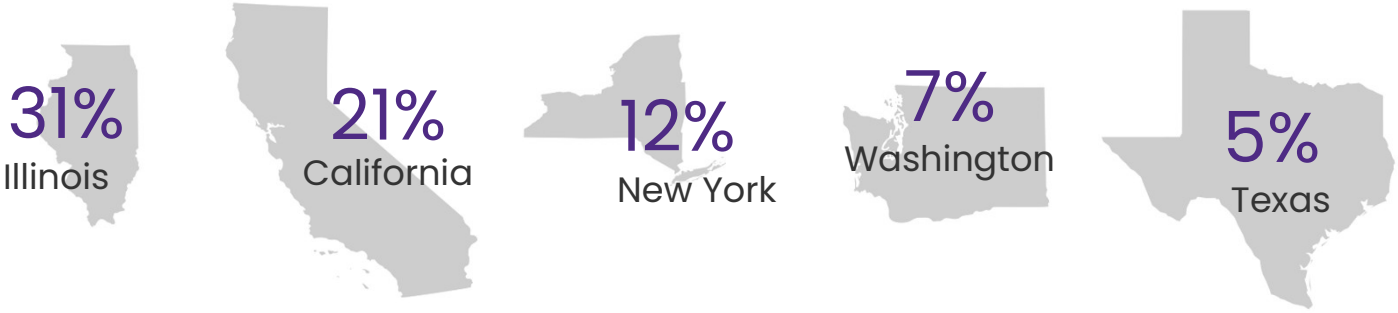
Post-Completion OPT

Degree Level Completed

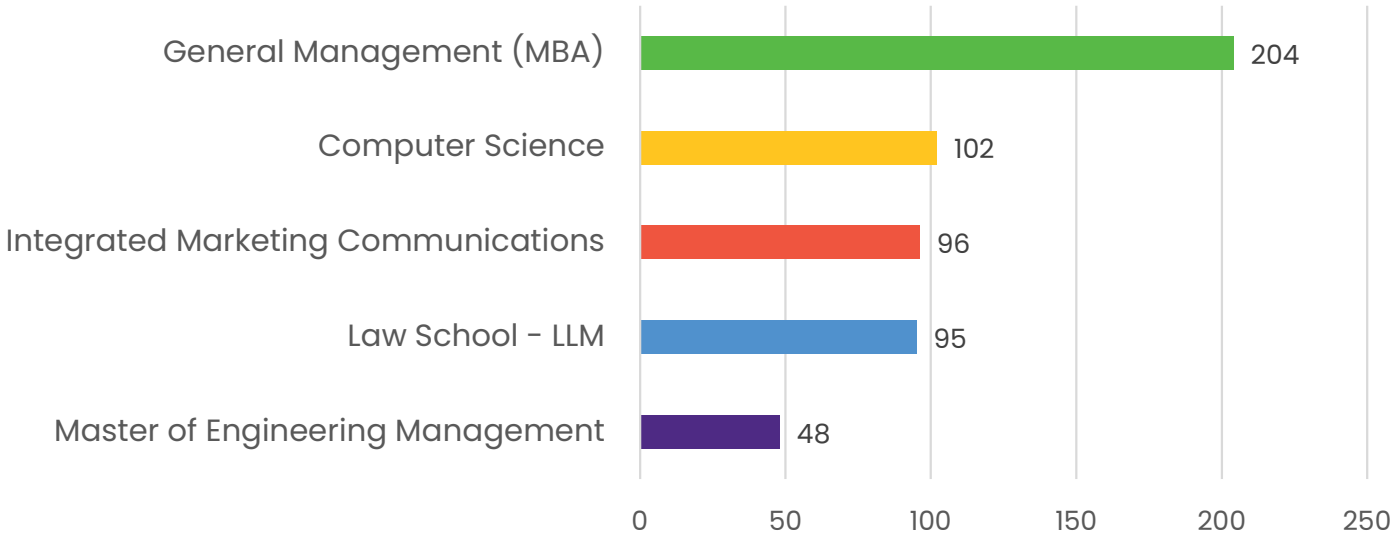


- Bachelor's 11%
- Master's 76%
- Doctorate 10%
- Other 2%

Top States where alumni work on Post-Completion OPT

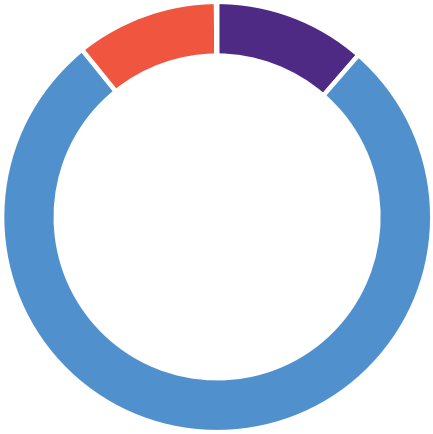


Top 5 Degree Programs Completed by Students on Post-Completion OPT



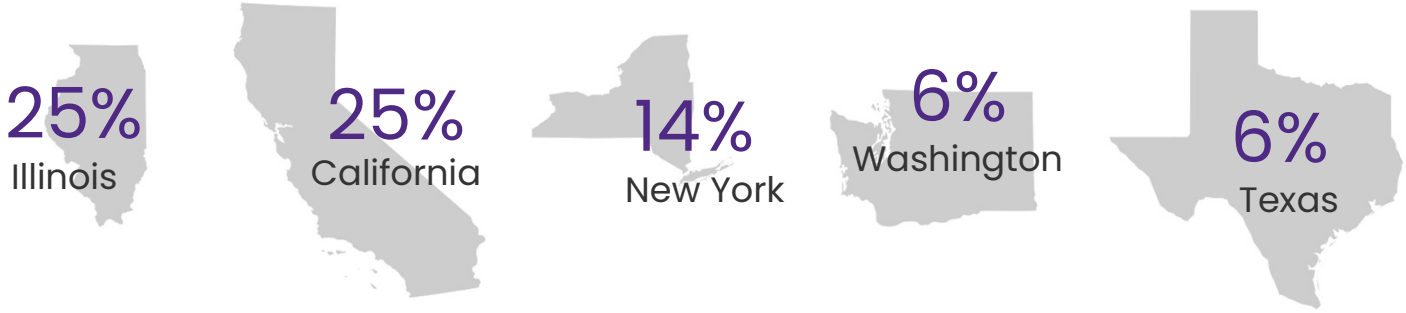
STEM OPT

Degree Level Completed

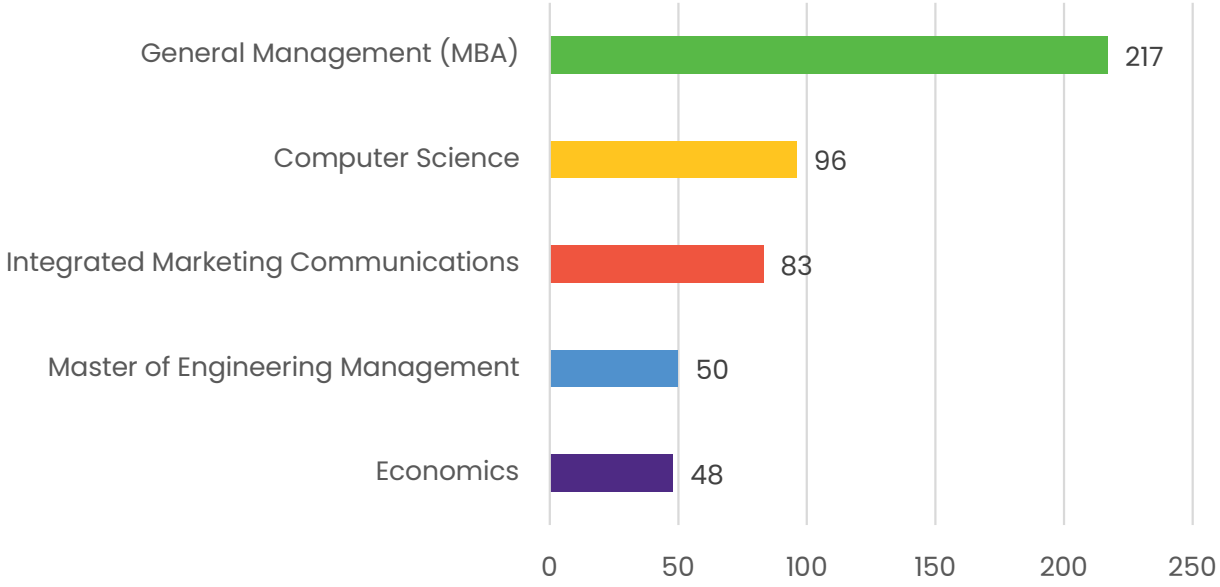


- Bachelor's 14%
- Master's 74%
- Doctorate 12%
- Other <1%

Top States where alumni work on STEM OPT

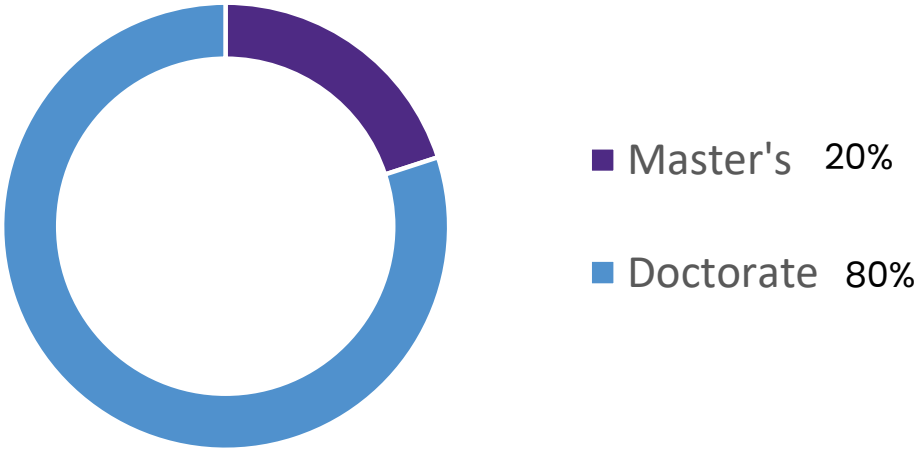


Top 5 Degree Programs Completed by Students on STEM OPT



Post-Completion Academic Training

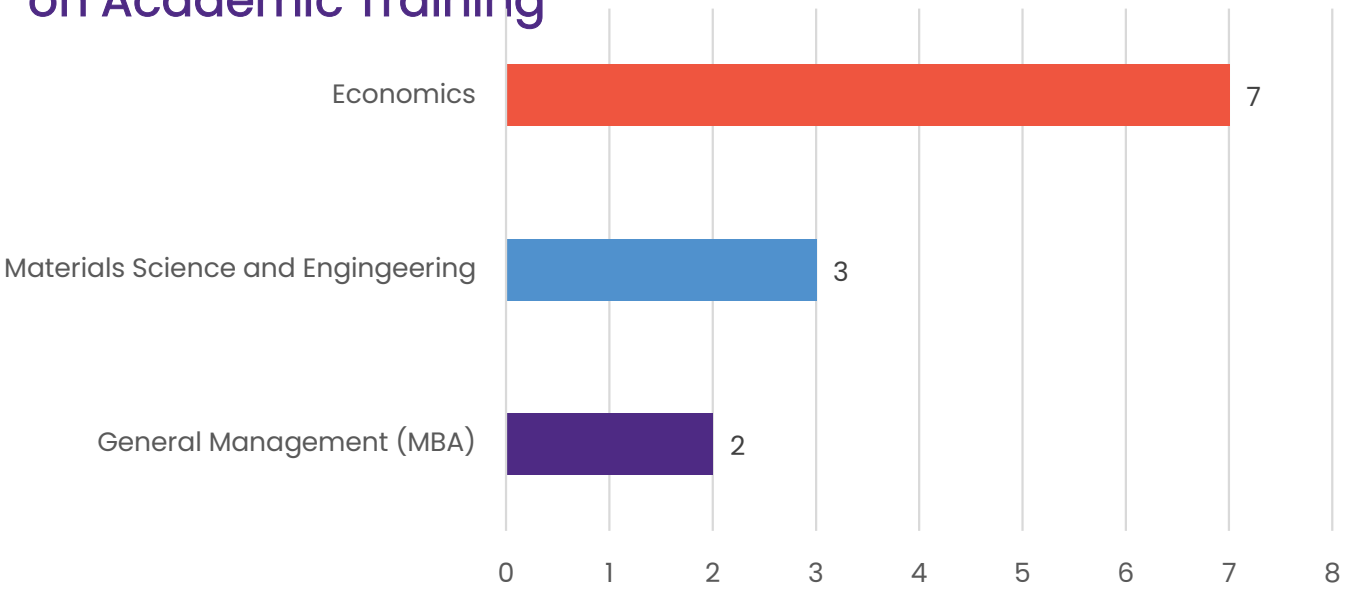
Degree Level Completed



Top States where alumni work on Academic Training



Top 3 Degree Programs Completed by Students on Academic Training



Top 10 Employers of International Alumni

Northwestern international alumni currently are employed by over 800 U.S. employers.

Employer	OPT	STEM OPT	Academic Training	Total
Northwestern University	49	29	3	81
Amazon	43	34		77
Boston Consulting Group	18	21	1	40
Bain & Company	18	19		37
Google	9	14		23
Meta	10	12		22
Microsoft	9	13		22
McKinsey and Company	5	13	1	19
TT Commerce & Global Services LLC	12	5		17
Apple	3	14		17

Scholars



Northwestern University is proud to host hundreds of international scholars each year. Our scholars are a diverse group of employees and visitors who conduct a wide range of activities on campus. They bring unique expertise from 83 countries to contribute to the University in Over 20 different disciplines across 38 administrative and academic units campus-wide.

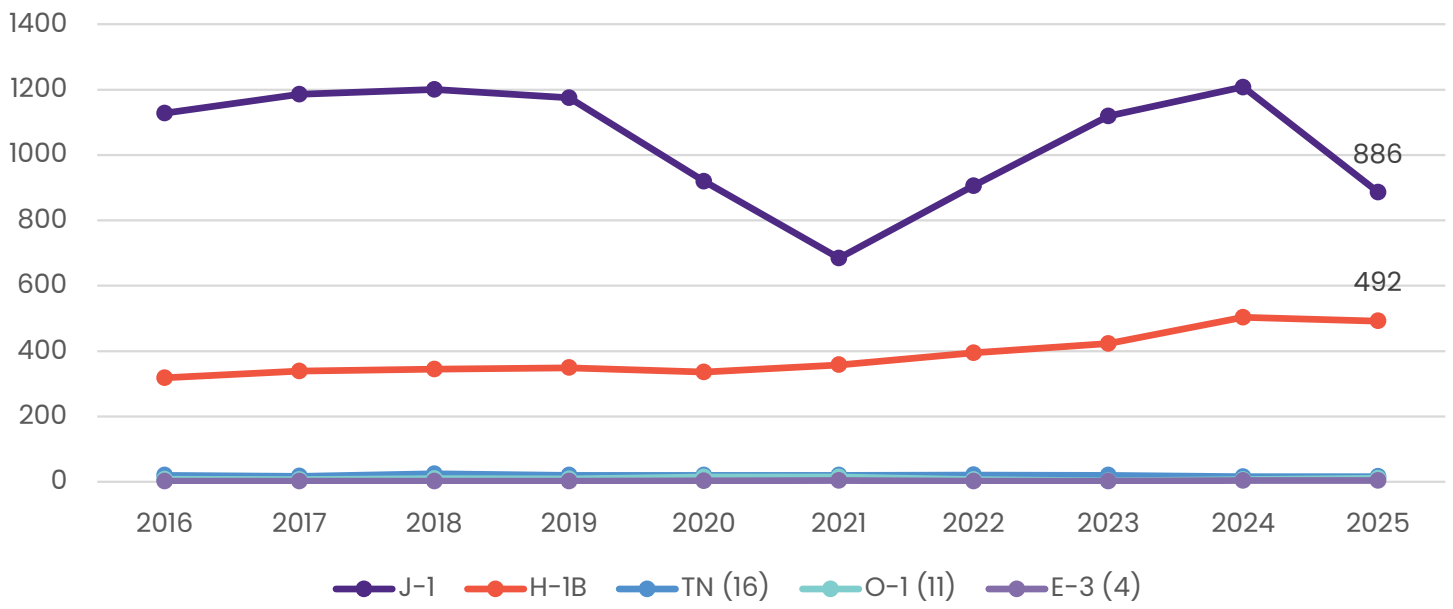
The majority (87%) of the scholar population is on campus to conduct research. These researchers are often appointed as visiting scholars, postdoctoral fellows, or research faculty/staff. Northwestern also hosts scholars to teach undergraduate and graduate students as lecturers, college fellows and teaching faculty. In addition, Northwestern has student interns who engage in internships across campus. Finally, a small group of our scholars are professional staff members who perform specialized services in areas such as Information Technology, Library Sciences and Psychology.

Scholars can come to campus in a variety of immigration statuses. Northwestern University sponsors the following:

- J-1 Exchange Visitors in the Research Scholar, Professor, Short-Term Scholar and Student Intern category. They come to campus for research, teaching and collaboration.
- H-1B employees are professionals hired to work in specialty skill areas.
- E-3 employees are Australian nationals hired to work in specialty skill areas.
- TN scholars are Canadian and Mexican nationals employed on campus.
- O-1 scholars are employees who have attained national or international acclaim for extraordinary achievements.

Scholars

Northwestern Scholars by Visa Type



Primary Activity

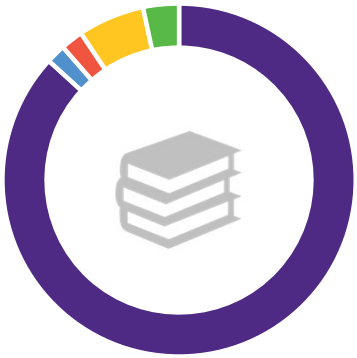
87% Research

6% Teach

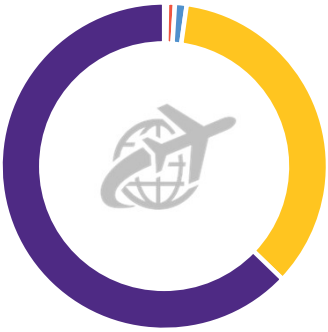
3% Short-Term Visit

2% Administration

2% Research and Teach



Visa Type



63% J-1 Visa

35% H-1B Visa

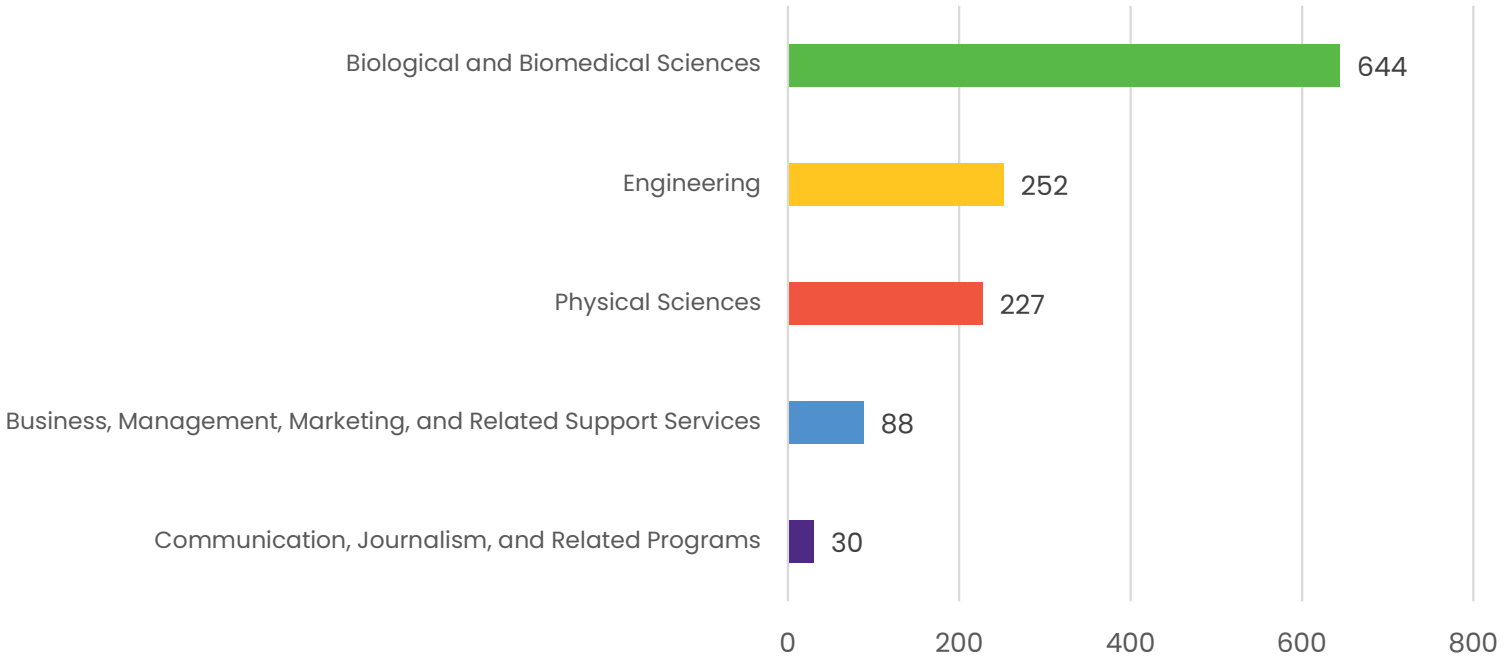
1% TN Visa

<1% O-1 Visa

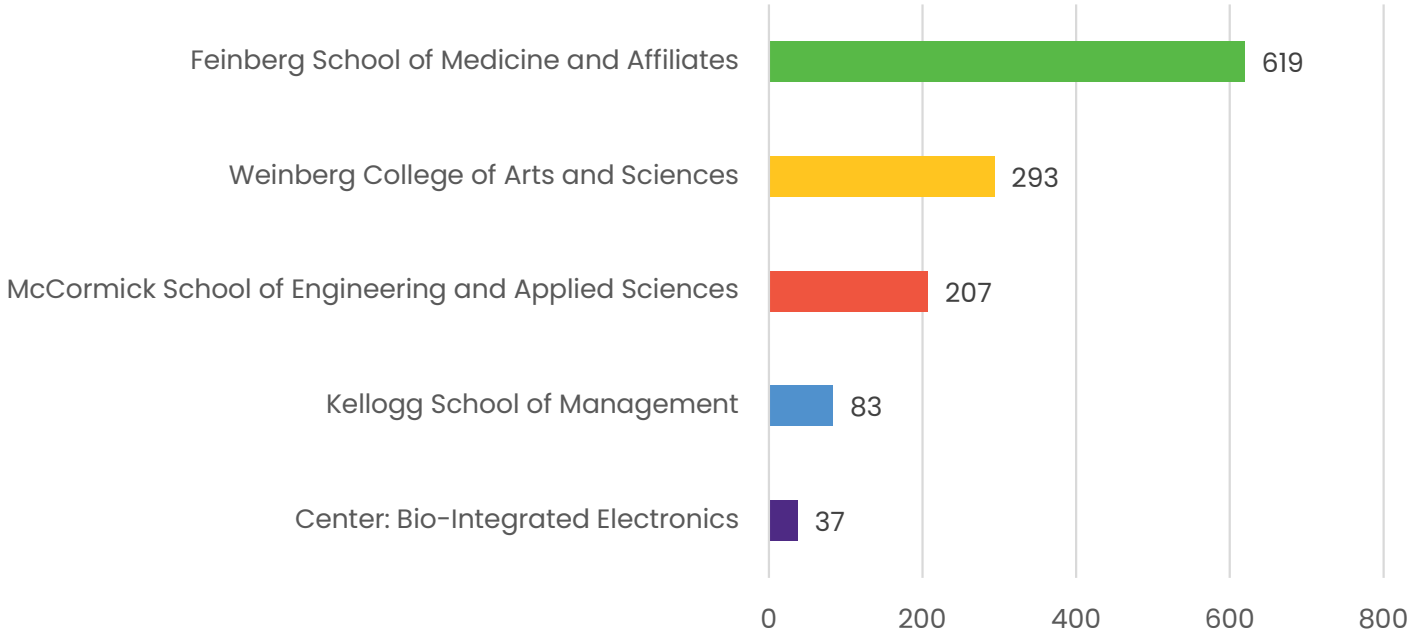
<1% E-3 Visa

Scholars

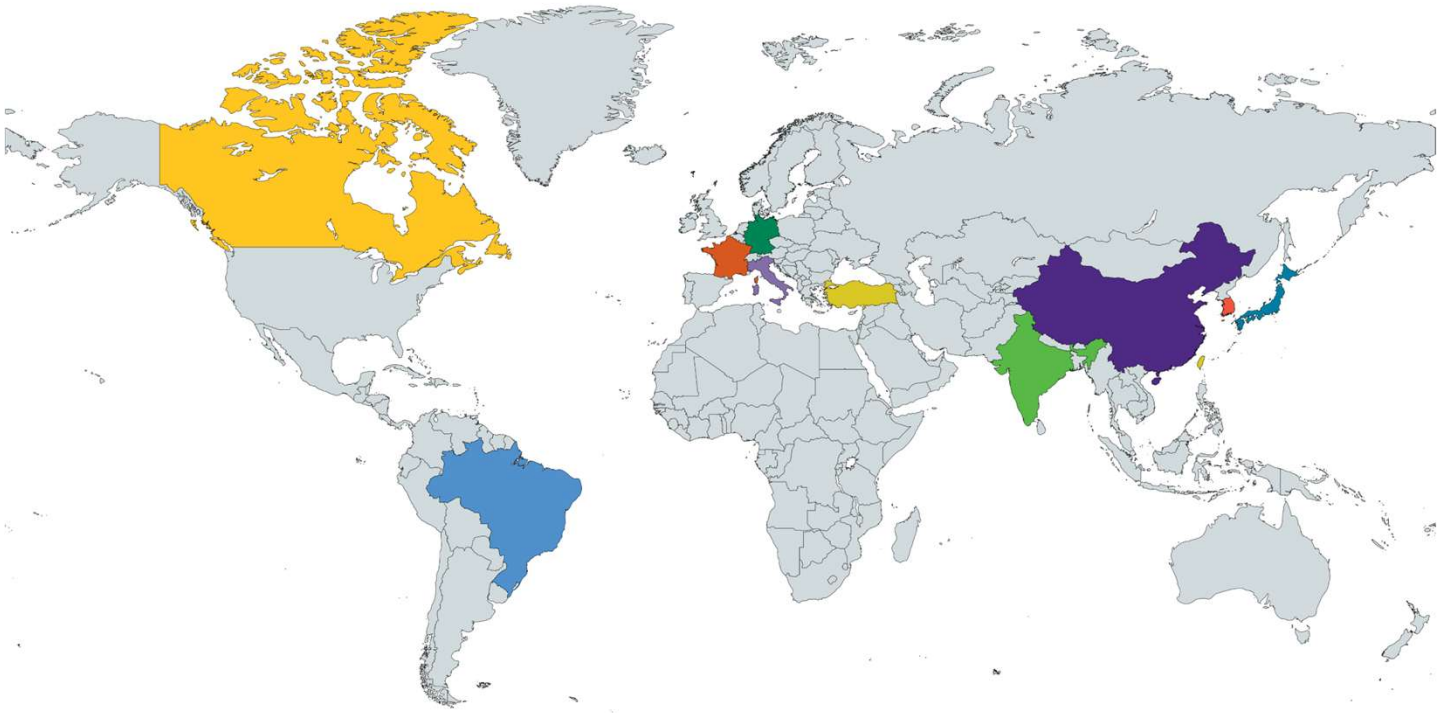
Top 5 Academic Disciplines



Top 5 Northwestern Hosting Units



Top 10 Countries of Origin of Scholars



#1	China	353	#6	Germany	44
#2	India	218	#7	Japan	39
#3	South Korea	132	#8	France	37
#4	Italy	61	#9	Brazil	35
#5	Canada	51	#10	Taiwan	31
			#10	Türkiye	31

Scholar Country Listing 2025

Northwestern hosted a highly diverse group of international scholars, with 83 countries represented.

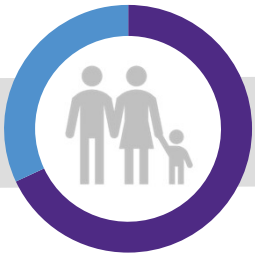
Country	Total	Country	Total
Argentina	9	Finland	2
Armenia	1	France	37
Australia	11	Georgia	1
Austria	5	Germany	44
Bahamas	1	Ghana	4
Bangladesh	5	Greece	10
Belarus	1	Hong Kong	3
Belgium	3	Hungary	1
Benin	1	India	218
Bolivia	1	Indonesia	5
Brazil	35	Iran	34
Britain	2	Iraq	1
Bulgaria	3	Ireland	11
Cameroon	1	Israel	23
Canada	51	Italy	61
Chile	9	Jamaica	3
China	353	Japan	39
Colombia	13	Jordan	4
Denmark	3	Kazakhstan	1
Ecuador	1	Kenya	2
Egypt	10	Lebanon	2
Estonia	1	Liechtenstein	1

Country	Total	Country	Total
Malaysia	5	Singapore	1
Mexico	21	Slovakia	2
Mongolia	2	South Africa	1
Nepal	8	South Korea	132
Netherlands	7	Spain	21
New Zealand	2	Sweden	2
Nigeria	5	Switzerland	7
North Macedonia	1	Syria	1
Norway	2	Taiwan	31
Pakistan	15	Thailand	5
Panama	1	Tunisia	1
Peru	1	Türkiye	31
Philippines	4	Uganda	1
Poland	3	Ukraine	5
Portugal	5	United Kingdom	27
Romania	3	Uruguay	4
Russia	11	Uzbekistan	1
Saudi Arabia	1	Venezuela	1
Senegal	1	Vietnam	8
Serbia	2		

Dependents

Students and scholars (primary visa holders) may bring their spouses and children (under the age of 21) to the United States as dependents to live with them for the duration of their stay. Northwestern currently sponsors 947 dependent spouses and children.

Dependent Status



70% Spouses

30% Children

Activity
of primary visa holder



44% Scholar

56% Student

Visa Type



49% F-2 Visa

40% J-2 Visa

10% H-4 Visa

<1% E-3 Visa

Top 5 Countries



15% China

15% India

9% Japan

8% South Korea

5% Brazil

Methodology

Statistics on Northwestern's international students and scholars were compiled using a combination of internal OISS records and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). To achieve comprehensive, accurate and consistent measures of our community, members were identified and counted using the methodologies outlined below:

Enrolled Students are defined as international students enrolled in coursework who require immigration sponsorship through Northwestern. This includes both degree-seeking and non-degree-seeking students on F-1 and J-1 visas. These numbers include students who engaged in short-term programs in Summer 2025 as well as students who were enrolled in a program in the 2025-2026 academic year. The comparison of enrolled international students to the overall Northwestern population is limited to Fall 2025 enrollments to ensure consistency.

Post-Completion Employment is defined as international students who have completed degree programs and hold employment authorization that requires immigration sponsorship from Northwestern. This includes J-1 students who completed their degree program prior to the 2025-2026 academic year who were on active periods of Academic Training; and F-1 students who completed their degree program prior to the 2025-2026 academic year, and whose Optional Practical Training (OPT) authorization status was either requested, pending, or approved during Fall 2025. Students on approved post-completion OPT who also had a requested or pending status for STEM OPT were counted as post-completion OPT students.

Scholars are defined as international scholars who are not enrolled in coursework and require immigration sponsorship through Northwestern. This includes faculty, staff, postdoctoral fellows, research associates, visiting scholars and other short-term visitors. These numbers include scholars who were active in a program from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. If a scholar changed immigration status during the year, only the most recent status was counted.

Dependents are defined as the spouses and children (under the age of 21) of the enrolled students, post-completion employment students and scholars defined above.

Northwestern

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR SERVICES