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A Message from the Office of International Student & Scholar Services

As part of Northwestern’s Buffett Institute for Global Affairs, the Office of International Student & 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. The OISS is committed to providing quality advising services and supportive programming to students, scholars, and their dependents. **Northwestern welcomed 1,767 new international students in Fall 2021, including 1,459 newly admitted students and 308 continuing students who began their programs remotely last year. The university sponsors nearly 7,200 visitors from over 130 countries.**

Nearly 1 million international students are studying at US 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 $28 billion to the US economy and supported over 306,000 jobs nationally during the 2020-2021 academic year. Closer to home, international students and their dependents contributed $1.3 billion to the economy in Illinois. **Northwestern international students and their dependents contributed nearly $180 million to the local economy and supported over 2,550 jobs**. This reinforces 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 the international students, scholars, and Northwestern faculty and staff navigate the many complexities associated with student and employment-based visa classifications within the Northwestern community. We are committed to providing accurate information and the highest quality of service, taking into account institutional policies and ever-changing federal regulations.

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*According to a NAFSA (Association of International Educators) economic analysis for the 2020-21 academic year*
Northwestern’s International Community

4,020 enrolled students

1,082 scholars

1,249 students on post-completion employment

829 dependents

The OISS maintains statistics only for the 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; B-1 visitors; and any of their dependents.

Many members of Northwestern’s international community receive sponsorship through other entities, including students on F-2, J-2, L-1, L-2, H-1B or H-4 visas; J-1 students with third party sponsorship; undocumented students; employees with an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) including F-1 OPT students, J-2 dependents and asylees; and students or employees holding Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) status. These members of our community are not included in this report.
Northwestern’s International Community

Northwestern’s international community - including students, scholars and their families - is currently made up of **7,180 individuals** from **135 countries**.

The diversity of our community has increased **26%** over the past decade. This can primarily be attributed to a **60% increase in the diversity of our undergraduate students**, who now represent a record **104 countries**. This year, Northwestern is hosting students from **Angola**, **Chad**, **Malta**, **Sierra Leone** and **Somalia** for the first time.
Enrolled Students

Enrolled students make up the largest part of Northwestern’s international community. Representing 124 countries from around the world and enrolling across all of the university’s schools and colleges, 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. They are eligible to work on campus, and after meeting certain academic requirements, are permitted to work off-campus with proper authorization.

International students are an integral part of Northwestern’s student body, accounting for 21% of all full-time students.

21% of Northwestern’s full-time students are international

10% of full-time undergraduate students are international

30% of full-time graduate students are international
Enrolled Students

Degree Level:
- 44% Master's
- 32% Doctorate
- 21% Bachelor's
- 2% Non-degree

Visa Type:
- 95% F-1 Visa
- 5% J-1 Visa

Primary Funding Source:
- 59% Personal/Family
- 37% Northwestern
- 2% Private Sponsor
- 1% Home Gov’t/University

Gender:
- 53% Male
- 47% Female
Fall 2021 New Enrollment

Top Countries for New Students

Undergraduate Students

- **17%**
  - China

- **9%**
  - Canada

- **8%**
  - India

- **6%**
  - South Korea

- **5%**
  - Brazil

Graduate Students

- **51%**
  - China

- **15%**
  - India

- **4%**
  - South Korea

- **4%**
  - Taiwan

- **3%**
  - Canada

*An additional 308 students who had begun their academic programs remotely during the 2020-2021 academic year arrived on campus for the first time in Fall 2021. This included 122 undergraduate students and 186 graduate students.*
Bachelor’s Students

Gender

- 51% Female
- 49% Male

Visa Type

- 100% F-1 Visa
- <1% J-1 Visa

Funding Source

- 73% Personal/Family
- 24% Northwestern
- 2% Home Gov’t/University
- 1% Private Sponsor

Top 5 Countries

- 23% China
- 8% India
- 7% Canada
- 6% South Korea
- 4% Brazil

Top 5 Academic Programs

- Journalism: 5%
- Industrial Engineering: 6%
- Computer Science: 11%
- Economics: 14%
- Undeclared*: 17%

*All students in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Northwestern’s largest undergraduate college, are listed as undeclared. Students go through a process to determine and declare their major within their first 2 years.
Master’s Students

Gender
- 52% Male
- 48% Female

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

Funding Source
- 90% Personal/Family
- 5% Private Sponsor
- 4% Northwestern
- 1% Home Gov’t/University

Top 5 Countries
- 48% China
- 16% India
- 5% Canada
- 3% Taiwan
- 3% Mexico

Top 5 Academic Programs
- Computer Science: 6%
- Project Management: 6%
- Integrated Marketing Communications: 6%
- Law (LLM): 11%
- Business Administration (MBA): 22%
Doctoral Students

Gender
- 57% Male
- 43% Female

Visa Type
- 93% F-1 Visa
- 7% J-1 Visa

Funding Source
- 92% Northwestern
- 6% Personal/Family
- 2% Home Gov’t/University
- <1% Private Sponsor

Top 5 Countries
- 40% China
- 8% India
- 6% South Korea
- 4% Canada
- 3% Turkey

Top 5 Academic Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Engineering &amp; Management Sciences</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<td>Chemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>8%</td>
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</table>
Enrollment by College

Northwestern’s international students are engaged academically across the university’s many schools and colleges. Enrollment data is based on college of admission.

- The Graduate School
- Undergraduate
- Kellogg School of Management
- McCormick School of Engineering
- Pritzker School of Law
- Medill School of Journalism, Media & ICG
- School of Communication
- Bienen School of Music
- Feinberg School of Medicine
- School of Professional Studies
- School of Education & Social Policy
Northwestern | BIENEN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Top Countries

31% China
24% South Korea
9% Canada

Degree Level
51% Master’s
49% Doctorate

Top Academic Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wind &amp; Percussion Instruments</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>String Instruments</td>
<td>29%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Piano</td>
<td>38%</td>
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Northwestern FEINBERG SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Top Countries

57% China 14% Taiwan 14% Canada

Degree Level

90% Doctorate 10% Master's

Top Academic Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prosthetics-Orthotics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physician Assistant</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Therapy</td>
<td>81%</td>
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</table>
Top Countries

- 20% India
- 16% China
- 11% Canada

Degree Level
- 93% Master’s
- 7% Non-Degree

Top Academic Programs

- MBA Exchange: 7%
- Executive MBA (Global Network): 15%
- Business Administration (MBA): 64%
Top Countries

- **61%** China
- **25%** India
- **1%** Taiwan

Degree Level

100% Master’s

Top Academic Programs

- **Engineering Management**: 12%
- **Analytics**: 18%
- **Project Management**: 34%

Enrolled Students
Northwestern | MEDILL
SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM, MEDIA, INTEGRATED MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS

Top Countries

70% China
9% India
6% Taiwan

Degree Level

99% Master’s
1% Non-degree

Top Academic Programs

Journalism 14%
Integrated Marketing Communications 86%

Enrolled Students
Top Countries

48% China
6% Mexico
5% Brazil

Degree Level

83% Master’s
16% Doctorate
1% Non-degree

Top Academic Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Law (MS in Law)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juris Doctor (JD)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law (LLM)</td>
<td>71%</td>
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</table>
Top Countries

- **67%** China
- **4%** India
- **4%** Saudi Arabia

Degree Level

- **90%** Master’s
- **10%** Doctorate

Top Academic Programs

- **Speech, Language, & Learning** 12%
- **Leadership for Creative Enterprises** 29%
- **Communication** 41%
Top Countries

75% China
25% Chile

Top Academic Programs

Education (MSED) 100%

Degree Level
100% Master’s

Enrolled Students
Top Countries

94% China

6% Taiwan

Degree Level

94% Master’s
6% Non-degree

Top Academic Programs

- Non-Degree Special Student: 6%
- Public Policy & Administration: 94%

Enrolled Students
Northwestern | THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Top Countries

47% China
10% India
4% South Korea

Degree Level

75% Doctorate
25% Master’s

Top Academic Programs

<table>
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<th>Program</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>Materials Science &amp; Engineering</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>11%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Enrolled Students
Student Athletes

As Chicago’s Big Ten team, Northwestern Athletics has NCAA Division I programs in 11 women’s sports and 8 men’s sports, which attract talented student athletes from around the world. **Northwestern currently has 51 international student athletes, representing 26 countries and competing in 12 programs. Go ‘Cats!**

Federico Burdisso ’23 of Italy earned two bronze medals in swimming in 2021 at the Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo.

Athletic Programs

Top 5 Countries

14% Canada  
14% United Kingdom  
8% China  
6% Italy  
6% Spain

Enrolled Students
# Top 10 Countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Enrolled Students</th>
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<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>1,594</td>
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<td>#2</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>459</td>
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<tr>
<td>#3</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>207</td>
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<td>#4</td>
<td>South Korea</td>
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<td>Brazil</td>
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<td>#6</td>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>105</td>
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<td>#7</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
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<tr>
<td>#8</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#9</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#10</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Student Country Listing

This year, Northwestern welcomed its most diverse international student body, with students from a record **124 countries**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<th>Master's</th>
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<th>Non-Degree</th>
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Enrolled Students
Post-Completion Employment Students

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 1,223 Northwestern alumni currently working on OPT in 36 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 26 Northwestern alumni currently working on Academic Training in 3 states throughout the United States.**

In addition to continuing to provide immigration advisement to this population, OIIS is responsible for regular employment reporting and verification during each student’s period of post-completion employment. These services are provided for up to 36 months after graduation from Northwestern.
Post-Completion OPT Students

Degree Level

- 65% Master’s
- 19% Doctorate
- 16% Bachelor’s

Gender

- 50% Female
- 50% Male

Top States where alumni work on Post-Completion OPT

- 54% Illinois
- 14% California
- 8% New York
- 6% Washington
- 3% Massachusetts

Top 5 Academic Programs

- Computer Engineering: 4%
- Economics: 4%
- Integrated Marketing Communications: 5%
- Computer Science: 10%
- Business Administration (MBA): 15%
STEM OPT Students

Degree Level
- 55% Master's
- 24% Doctorate
- 21% Bachelor's

Gender
- 58% Male
- 42% Female

Top States where alumni work on STEM OPT
- 32% Illinois
- 26% California
- 8% Washington
- 9% New York
- 4% Texas
- 4% Massachusetts

Top 5 Academic Programs
- Materials Science & Engineering: 5%
- Industrial Engineering & Management Science: 5%
- Economics: 6%
- Computer Science: 9%
- Business Administration (MBA): 16%
Academic Training Students

Degree Level
- 69% Doctorate
- 31% Master’s

Gender
- 69% Male
- 31% Female

Top States where alumni work on Academic Training
- 92% Illinois
- 4% Washington
- 4% Massachusetts

Top 5 Academic Programs

| Program                  | %
|--------------------------|---
| Life Sciences            | 8%
| History                  | 8%
| Economics                | 8%
| Chemistry                | 8%
| Business Administration (MBA) | 19%
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 73 countries to contribute to the university in 20 different disciplines across 35 administrative and academic units campus-wide.

The majority (90%) of the scholar population is on campus to conduct research. These researchers are often appointed as visiting scholars, postdoctoral fellows, or research faculty/staff. We also host scholars to teach undergraduate and graduate students as lecturers, college fellows, and teaching faculty. In addition, we have student interns who conduct 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. J-1 scholars 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.
- **B-1/WB (visa waiver) visitors** are temporary visitors who come to Northwestern for one-time lectures, observation, or meetings.
Scholars

Primary Activity

- 90% Research
- 7% Teaching
- 2% Administration
- <1% Short-Term Visit

Gender

- 61% Male
- 39% Female

Visa Type

- 63% J-1 Visa
- 33% H-1B Visa
- 2% TN Visa
- 1% O-1 Visa
- <1% E-3 Visa
- <1% B-1 Visa or Visa Waiver
Scholars

Top 5 Academic Disciplines

- Social Sciences: 2%
- Business, Management & Marketing: 4%
- Physical Sciences: 17%
- Engineering: 18%
- Biological & Biomedical Sciences: 50%

Top 5 Northwestern Departments

- Querrey Simpson Institute for Bioelectronics: 2%
- Kellogg School of Management: 4%
- McCormick School of Engineering & Applied Science: 15%
- Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences: 22%
- Feinberg School of Medicine (& Affiliates): 45%
Top 10 Countries

1. China 314
2. India 139
3. South Korea 84
4. Italy 44
5. Canada 43
6. Germany 37
7. France 35
8. Japan 35
9. Spain 28
10. United Kingdom 28
Scholar Country Listing

Northwestern continues to welcome a diverse group of international scholars, with 73 countries represented.

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Dependents

Students and scholars (principals) may bring their spouse 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 829 dependent spouses and children, whom the OISS supports by connecting them to local community resources and hosting programs for families.

**Relationship to principal**
- 68% Spouses
- 32% Children

**Activity of principal**
- 52% Scholar
- 48% Student

**Visa Type**
- 59% J-2 Visa
- 34% F-2 Visa
- 5% H-4 Visa
- 0.5% TD Visa
- 0.5% O-3 Visa

**Top 5 Countries**
- 16% China
- 10% India
- 7% South Korea
- 7% Japan
- 6% Israel
Methodology

Statistics on Northwestern’s international students and scholars were compiled using a combination of internal OISS records and the US Department of Homeland Security’s Student & Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). In order 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 visitors 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 2021 as well as students who were enrolled in a program in the 2021-22 academic year.

**Post-Completion Employment Students** are defined as international visitors 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 2021-22 academic year who were on active periods of Academic Training; and F-1 students who completed their degree program prior to the 2021-22 academic year, and whose Optional Practical Training (OPT) authorization status was either requested, pending, or approved during Fall 2021. 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 visitors 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 October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. 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.
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