











OPEN DOORS FACT SHEET: MEXICO

INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION Educational Exchange Data from *Open Doors 2010*

In the 2009/10 academic year, **13,450** students from Mexico were studying in the United States (down 9.4% from the previous year). Mexico is the eight leading place of origin for students coming to the United States, following Saudi Arabia.

Academic Level: The majority of Mexican students study at the undergraduate level. In 2009/10, their breakdown was as follows:

57.4% undergraduate 29.1% graduate students

7.8% other

5.8% OPT (Optional Practical Training)

Historical trends: Mexico's geographic location, with a large and growing population along the border, allows for its students to study at border U.S. institutions. In some instances, students from Mexico are charged in-state tuition and able to cross the border every day, saving room and board. NAFTA has had a major impact on Mexico-U.S. exchanges, driving student numbers up. The number of students from Mexico steadily increased from the mid-1990s through 2008/09, with a small dip in 2006/07, and now a larger decrease in 2009/10.

Year	# of Students from Mexico	% Change from the Previous Year	# of U.S. Study Abroad Students
			Going to Mexico
2009/10	13,450	-9.4%	n/a
2008/09	14,850	0.1%	7,320 (down 26.3%)
2007/08	14,837	7.3%	9,963
2006/07	13,826	-0.8%	9,461
2005/06	13,931	6.6%	10,022
2004/05	13,063	-2.0%	9,247
2003/04	13,329	4.1%	9,293
2002/03	12,801	2.3%	8,775
2001/02	12,518	17.3%	8,078
2000/01	10,670	0.6%	8,360
1999/00	10,607	10.0%	7,374
1998/99	9,641	0.9%	7,363
1997/98	9,559	6.5%	7,574
1996/97	8,975	-	6,685

Note: Study abroad figures from *Open Doors* reflect credit given by U.S. campuses during the survey year to their students who studied abroad in the academic year just completed, including the summer term. Study abroad in 2009/10 will be reported in *Open Doors 2011*, once credit is awarded by the home campus.

Source: *Open Doors: Report on International Educational Exchange*, published annually by IIE with support from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. For more information, including press releases on foreign students in the U.S. and U.S. study abroad, and FAQs, including definitions of foreign students and foreign scholars, visit www.iie.org/opendoors or contact Leena Soman, IIE Public Affairs Manager, at: +1 (212) 984-5360 or lsoman@iie.org.