









## **OPEN DOORS FACT SHEET: CHINA**

## **INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION Educational Exchange Data from** *Open Doors 2011*

In the 2010/11 academic year, **157,558** students from China were studying in the United States (up 23% from the previous year). China is the leading place of origin for students coming to the United States.

**Academic Level:** While the majority of Chinese students study at the graduate level, the U.S. continues to experience an upsurge in the number of undergraduate students coming from China. In 2010/11, their breakdown was as follows:

36.2% undergraduate48.8% graduate students

6.7% other

8.4% OPT (Optional Practical Training)

**Historical trends:** China sent no students to the U.S. from the 1950s until 1974/75. In the 1980s, numbers of Chinese students grew dramatically, and in 1988/89, China displaced Taiwan as the leading sender remaining the leading place of origin until it was displaced by Japan in 1994/95. In 1998/99, China became the leading sender again for three years, through 2000/01. In 2001/02, India became the top sender of students to the U.S. and retained that position for eight years, through 2008/09. In 2009/10, China again became the top sending country, and retains that place in 2010/11.

Year	# of Students From China	% Change from Previous Year	# of U.S. Study Abroad Students Going to
			China
2010/11	157,558	23.5%	n/a
2009/10	127,628	29.9%	13,910
2008/09	98,235	21.1%	13,674
2007/08	81,127	19.8%	13,188
2006/07	67,723	8.2%	11,064
2005/06	62,582	0.1%	8,830
2004/05	62,523	1.2%	6,391
2003/04	61,765	-4.6%	4,737
2002/03	64,757	2.4%	2,493
2001/02	63,211	5.5%	3,911
2000/01	59,939	10.0%	2,942
1999/00	54,466	6.8%	2,949
1998/99	51,001	8.6%	2,278
1997/98	46,958	10.5%	2,116
1996/97	42,503	7.3%	1,627
1995/96	39,613	-	1,396

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 2010/11 will be reported in *Open Doors 2012*, once credit is awarded by the home campus. The sharp decline in study abroad during 2002/03 reflects the closing of most programs in China in response to the SARS epidemic. Once programs reopened, the numbers of American students rebounded.