OPEN DOORS FACT SHEET: SAUDI ARABIA

INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
Educational Exchange Data from *Open Doors 2013*

In the 2012/13 academic year, **44,566** students from Saudi Arabia were studying in the United States (up 30.5% from the previous year). Saudi Arabia jumped two places to become the fourth leading place of origin for students coming to the United States, and is by a wide margin the first among Middle Eastern countries in terms of sending students to the United States.

Academic Level: The majority of Saudi Arabian students study at the undergraduate level. In 2012/13, their breakdown was as follows:

46.4%	undergraduate
21%	graduate students
30.7%	other
1.9%	OPT (Optional Practical Training)

Historical trends: In the late 1970s, the number of Saudi students in the U.S. increased rapidly, peaking in 1980/81 with 10,440 students. After that, there was a period of fluctuation, until 1993/94, followed by increases until 2001/02. In the 2002/03 academic year, enrollments dropped 25% and continued to decline until 2005/06, when participants in the Saudi Scholarship Program began enrolling on U.S. campuses. In 2005/06, the number of Saudi students in the U.S. rose 14% from the previous year, to a total of 3,448. With the scholarship program in place, the number of students showed a dramatic rise of 129% in 2006/07, when it appeared in the list of top 25 places of origin at #12, and continued to experience double-digit growth in the following four years. With scholarship students in the pipeline for several years, the increase reached 44% in 2010/11. In 2012/13, Saudi Arabia has retained its spot as the fourth leading place of origin for international students for two years in a row.

Year	# of Students From Saudi Arabia	% Change from Previous Year	# of U.S. Study Abroad Students Going to Saudi Arabia
2012/13	44,566	30.5%	n/a
2011/12	34,139	50.4%	25 (up 38.9%)
2010/11	22,704	43.6%	18 (up 28.6%)
2009/10	15,810	24.9%	14 (down 46.2%)
2008/09	12,661	28.2%	26
2007/08	9,873	25.2%	2
2006/07	7,886	128.7%	1
2005/06	3,448	13.6%	3
2004/05	3,035	-13.8%	1
2003/04	3,521	-15.7%	2
2002/03	4,175	-25.2%	2
2001/02	5,579	5.8%	1
2000/01	5,273	2.3%	1
1999/00	5,156	4.6%	2
1998/99	4,931	7.9%	1

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 2012/13 will be reported in *Open Doors 2014*, 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 IIE's Public Affairs office at: +1(212) 984-5360