



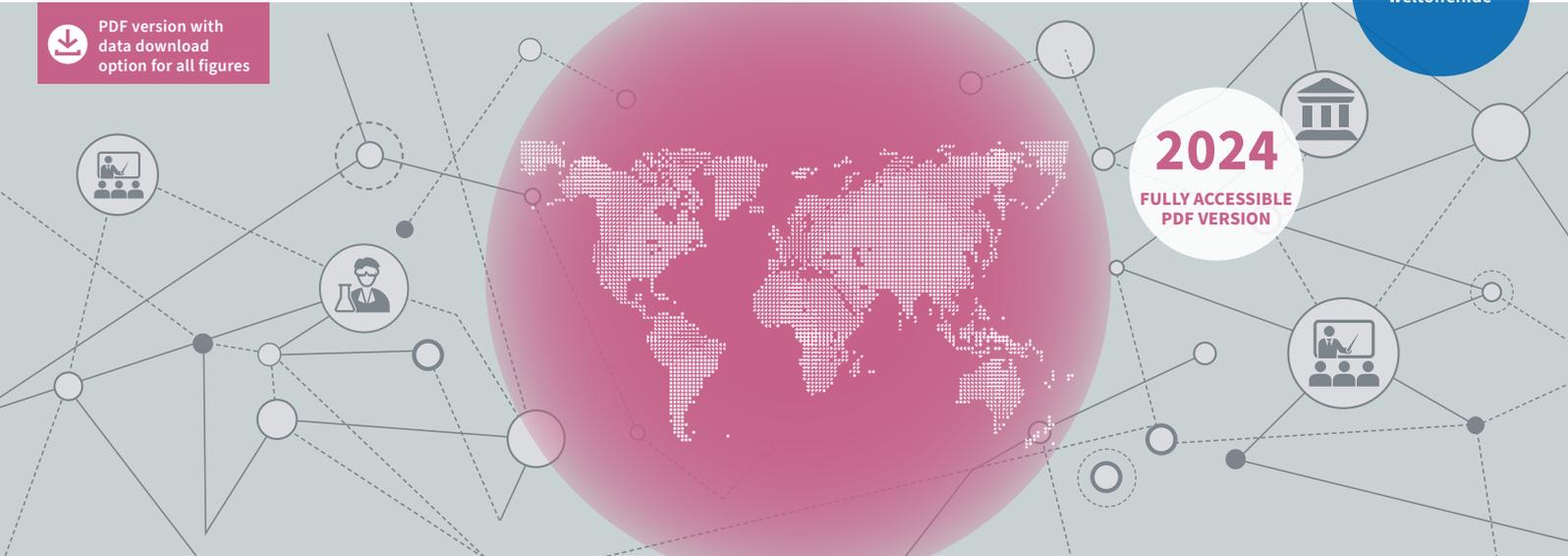
Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

Wissenschaft weltoffen kompakt

Facts and Figures on the International Nature of Studies and Research in Germany and Worldwide



 PDF version with
data download
option for all figures



2024
FULLY ACCESSIBLE
PDF VERSION

English edition



German Centre for
Higher Education Research and Science Studies

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN GERMANY

Key findings

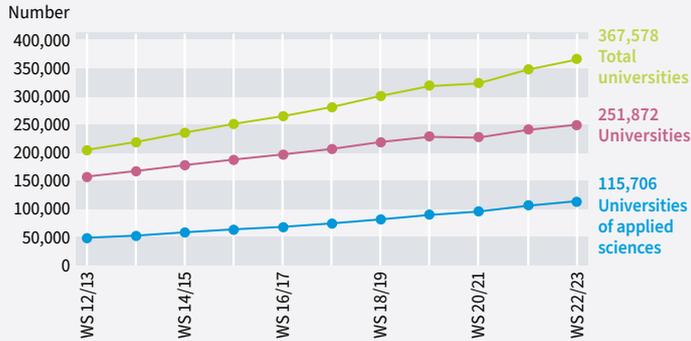
- The **number of international students at German universities** increased significantly again in the winter semester 2022/23 to 367,578 (+5%). They account for 12.6% of all students in Germany; at universities this figure is 14.3%, at universities of applied sciences 10.0%.
- Asia and Pacific represents the **key region of origin** for international students with a share of 32%, followed by students from North Africa and Middle East (19%) and Western Europe (17%). India is the **key country of origin** for the first time, with around 42,600 students or 12% of all international students in Germany. In second and third place are China with around 38,700 (11%) and Syria with around 15,600 students (4%).
- The overwhelming majority (93%) of international students were aiming for a degree in Germany in the winter semester 2022/23; only 7% were exchange or other visiting students not intending to complete a degree in Germany. The decrease in temporary mobility caused by the pandemic has thus almost recovered (WS 2019/20: 8%, WS 2020/21: 4%).
- **36% of international students want to obtain a bachelor's degree and 44% a master's degree.** As for the **subject groups**, engineering (42%) and law, economics and social sciences (25%) are predominant.

Data sources & definitions of terms

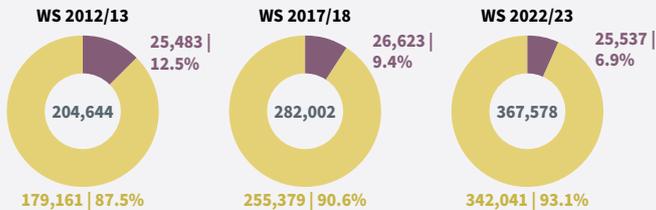
The following data refer to international or internationally mobile students. They are characterised by the fact that they hold foreign citizenship and have acquired their university entrance certificate abroad or supplemented their school qualification acquired abroad by successfully completing a German preparatory course for university admission. In the publications of the Federal Statistical Office, these students are referred to as *Bildungsauslaender*, while *Wissenschaft weltoffen* uses the internationally recognised term “international students”. However, the Federal Statistical Office refers to all students with a foreign university entrance certificate as such, including the corresponding German students. Another group of students with foreign citizenship are *Bildungsinlaender*. These students have obtained their university entrance certificate at a school in Germany or have passed an aptitude or gifted students test here. As they have received all or most of their schooling in Germany, they are not included in the analyses of *Wissenschaft weltoffen*.

Mobility development

1 International students in Germany by type of university, since the winter semester 2012/13¹



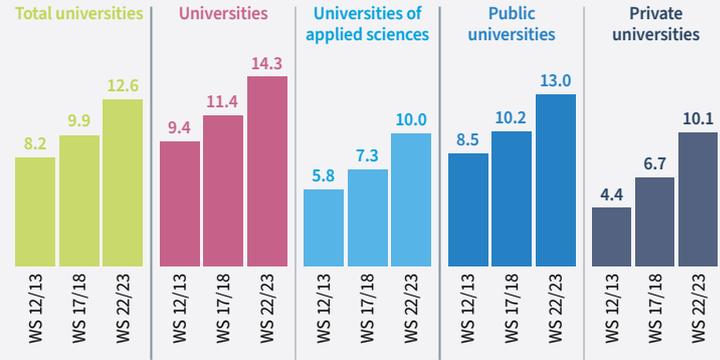
3 Number and proportion of international students by type of mobility, since the winter semester 2012/13



Degree pursued in Germany: X Total ■ Yes ■ No

Number and % of all international students at German universities

2 International students as a proportion of all students by type of university and type of sponsor, since the winter semester 2012/13²



Share of all students in %

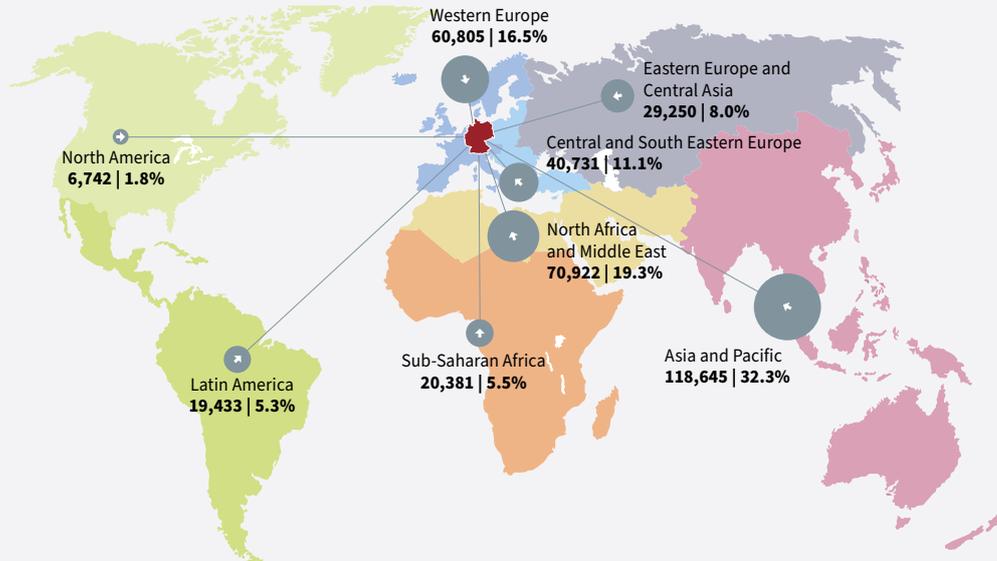
Fig. 1-3

Source: Federal Statistical Office; DZHW calculations

- 1 Values for universities, including colleges of art, music, education and theology.
- 2 Values for universities, including colleges of art, music, education and theology; values for private universities, including church-run universities.

Regions and countries of origin

4 International students by region of origin in the winter semester 2022/23¹



Total international students at German universities: 367,578
(including 669 students who cannot be allocated to a region of origin)

Number and % of all international students at German universities

5 International students by key countries of origin in the winter semester 2022/23¹

Country of origin	Number	Proportion in %
India	42,578	11.6
China	38,743	10.5
Syria	15,563	4.2
Austria	14,762	4.0
Turkey	14,732	4.0
Iran	13,279	3.6
Russia	10,490	2.9
Italy	10,247	2.8
Ukraine	9,069	2.5
Pakistan	8,208	2.2
Egypt	7,777	2.1
Cameroon	7,345	2.0
Morocco	7,045	1.9
France	6,997	1.9
Spain	6,876	1.9
Tunisia	6,661	1.8
South Korea	6,504	1.8
Bangladesh	6,434	1.8
Vietnam	5,844	1.6
US	5,729	1.6
Total	367,578	100

Number and % of all international students at German universities

Types of degree and subject groups

6 International students by type of degree and university in the winter semester 2022/23^{2,3}

Type of degree	Total universities		Universities		Universities of applied sciences	
	Number	Proportion in %	Number	Proportion in %	Number	Proportion in %
Bachelor's degree	132,534	36.1	66,089	26.2	66,445	57.4
Master's degree	160,306	43.6	118,028	46.9	42,278	36.5
Doctorate	30,025	8.2	29,938	11.9	87	0.1
Other type of degree	19,176	5.2	17,771	7.1	1,405	1.2
Not studying for a degree	25,537	6.9	20,046	8.0	5,491	4.7
Total	367,578	100	251,872	100	115,706	100

Number and % of all international students at German universities

7 International students by subject group and type of university in the winter semester 2022/23^{2,3}

Subject group	Total universities		Universities		Universities of applied sciences	
	Number	In %	Number	In %	Number	In %
Engineering	152,945	41.6	92,546	36.7	60,399	52.2
Law, economics and social sciences	93,038	25.3	52,474	20.8	40,564	35.1
Mathematics and natural sciences	42,869	11.7	38,865	15.4	4,004	3.5
Humanities	33,368	9.1	32,363	12.8	1,005	0.9
Medicine and health sciences	17,852	4.9	15,428	6.1	2,424	2.1
Art and art history	17,793	4.8	13,318	5.3	4,475	3.9
Agricultural, forestry and food sciences	8,052	2.2	5,635	2.2	2,417	2.1
Other	1,661	0.5	1,243	0.5	418	0.4
Total	367,578	100	251,872	100	115,706	100

Number and % of all international students at German universities

Fig. 4-7
Source: Federal Statistical Office;
DZHW calculations

- 1 The country of origin is based on the respective citizenship.
- 2 Values for universities, including colleges of art, music, education and theology.
- 3 Deviations from 100% are due to rounding.

Federal states

8 International students by federal state in the winter semesters 2017/18 and 2022/23

Federal state	WS 2017/18		WS 2022/23		Development of the number in %
	Number	In %	Number	In %	
Baden-Wuerttemberg	37,409	10.3	35,846	10.1	-4.2
Bavaria	38,650	9.9	61,379	15.2	+58.8
Berlin	31,176	16.6	40,825	20.5	+31.0
Brandenburg	6,628	13.4	9,644	19.1	+45.5
Bremen	4,498	11.9	5,752	15.3	+27.9
Hamburg	9,311	8.6	12,955	10.8	+39.1
Hesse	23,504	9.0	29,458	11.5	+25.3
Lower Saxony	17,717	8.5	21,235	10.8	+19.9
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	3,155	8.0	3,632	9.5	+15.1
North Rhine-Westphalia	64,307	8.3	78,543	10.5	+22.1
Rhineland-Palatinate	10,194	8.3	13,947	11.9	+36.8
Saarland	3,631	11.6	4,211	13.6	+16.0
Saxony	15,199	13.9	17,125	16.3	+12.7
Saxony-Anhalt	6,475	11.9	9,476	16.2	+46.3
Schleswig-Holstein	3,799	6.1	4,553	6.9	+19.8
Thuringia ¹	6,349	12.7	18,997	14.0	+199.2
Total	282,002	9.9	367,578	12.6	+30.3

Number and % of all students in the respective federal state

Source: Federal Statistical Office; DZHW calculations

9 Incoming Erasmus students by federal state, 2022^{2,3,4,5}

Federal state	Number	In %
Baden-Wuerttemberg	4,835	14.1
Bavaria	4,522	8.2
Berlin	2,884	8.1
Brandenburg	630	7.6
Bremen	417	7.6
Hamburg	749	6.1
Hesse	1,770	6.3
Lower Saxony	1,517	7.2
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	202	5.5
North Rhine-Westphalia	4,246	5.5
Rhineland-Palatinate	1,068	7.8
Saarland	492	11.7
Saxony	1,193	7.1
Saxony-Anhalt	331	3.4
Schleswig-Holstein	370	8.2
Thuringia	567	3.5
Total	25,812	7.4

Number and % of all international students in the respective federal state

Sources: DAAD; Federal Statistical Office

First-year students and graduates

 10 International first-year students and graduates by type of degree, 2012, 2017 and 2022^{6,7}

	2012		2017		2022	
	Number	Proportion in %	Number	Proportion in %	Number	Proportion in %
First-year students						
Bachelor's degree	21,168	26.6	23,550	26.7	29,151	25.4
Master's degree	18,610	23.4	21,509	24.3	42,578	37.1
Doctorate	3,122	3.9	3,307	3.7	3,775	3.3
Other type of degree	3,861	4.9	3,732	4.2	3,357	2.9
Not studying for a degree	32,776	41.2	36,244	41.0	35,878	31.3
Total	79,537	100	88,342	100	114,739	100
Graduates						
Bachelor's degree	7,662	24.9	11,066	26.5	16,155	28.5
Master's degree	10,734	34.8	22,771	54.6	32,075	56.7
Doctorate	4,021	13.1	5,051	12.1	5,532	9.8
Other type of degree	8,389	27.2	2,848	6.8	2,855	5.0
Total	30,806	100	41,736	100	56,617	100

Number and % of all international first-year students and graduates at German universities
Source: Federal Statistical Office; DZHW calculations

- 1 The significant increase in Thuringia is mainly due to the relocation of the headquarters of the "IU International University" from North Rhine-Westphalia to Thuringia.
- 2 The shares of all international students refer to the winter semester 2021/22.
- 3 Erasmus+ statistics from 2022: due to a programme restructuring, the funding period covers 26 months and thus regularly begins on 1 June of the previous year and ends on 31 July of the following year. The start of the first funding period after the programme restructuring was delayed so that, in the 2022 funding period, the visits in the period from 01.09.2021 to 31.10.2023 are shown here.
- 4 Erasmus mobility figures since June 2020 also include visits in hybrid format, i.e. a combination of physical and virtual visits. Purely virtual visits and mobility that did not take place were not counted.
- 5 19 Erasmus students could not be assigned to a federal state.
- 6 First-year students are all students in their first university semester. A cohort comprises the first-year students of a summer semester and the following winter semester (2022 = first-year students summer semester 2022+ winter semester 2022/23). Graduates are all students who have successfully obtained their degree. A graduation year comprises the graduates of a winter semester and the following summer semester (2022 = graduates winter semester 2021/22 + summer semester 2022).
- 7 Deviations from 100% are due to rounding.

GERMAN STUDENTS ABROAD

Key findings

- **In 2021, around 137,700 Germans were studying abroad** and the majority of these students (approx. 90%) were also pursuing a degree abroad. The **key host countries** are Austria, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. In terms of temporary study-related visits abroad, the United Kingdom is in first place, followed by France, Spain, the US and Italy.
- When looking at the **development of degree-related mobility**, it becomes clear that, in the period between 2002 and 2010, that is, during the introduction of the new, tiered study system, above-average growth rates of 10% and more were achieved in one year. Since the introduction of the new degree types, however, the absolute number of German students abroad has not increased further. In 2020, it fell by around 4,000 students due to the pandemic, recovering almost to pre-pandemic levels the following year. Their share of all German students has fallen slightly in recent years, also due to the strong increase in the number of students in Germany up to 2015, and is currently (2021) 5.0%.
- Between 1991 and 2000, the proportion of students on **temporary study-related visits** abroad rose sharply (from 20% to 32%) and stabilised at this level until 2006. From 2009 onwards, a steady decline in the mobility rate can be observed, down to 19% in 2021. However, it should be noted that the values up to 2009 and from 2012 onwards are not directly comparable due to a change in the calculation methodology.

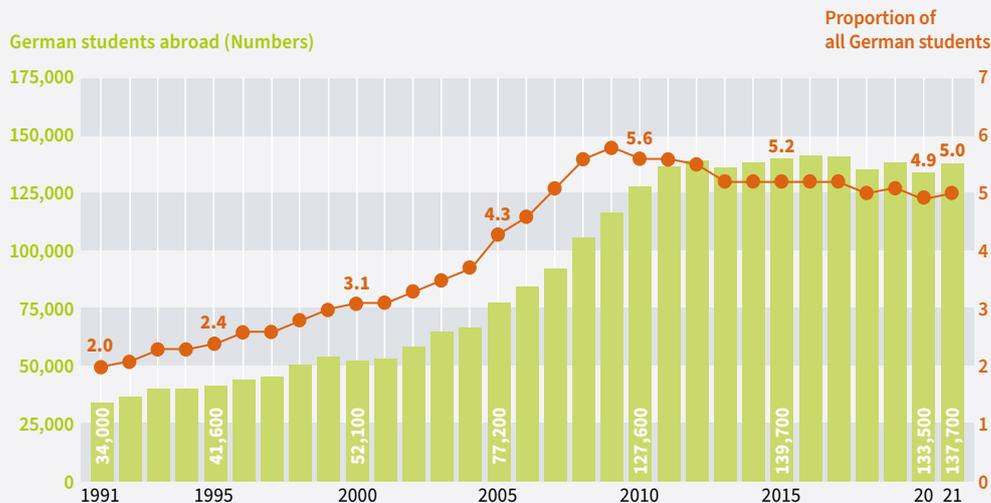
Data sources & definitions of terms

With regard to the international mobility of German students, a distinction is made between temporary study-related visits abroad with a degree in Germany and degree-related international mobility. To collect **data on degree-related international mobility**, the Federal Statistical Office conducts an annual survey with the respective responsible statistical offices in approximately 40 major host countries of German students. The majority of these students (about 90%) are pursuing a degree abroad. The data collected in this manner are therefore interpreted here as data on degree-related international mobility.

To date, there are no reliable official statistics on the total number of **temporary study-related visits abroad** by German students. The data from the social surveys conducted jointly by the German National Association for Student Affairs and the DZHW until 2016 represent the most reliable source of data for this period. Since 2021, the social survey has been continued by “The Student Survey in Germany”. Its current data from 2021 form the basis for the present calculations of the international mobility rate. Only the subsection of Erasmus visits, which account for around a third of all temporary study-related visits abroad by German students, is fully recorded.

Degree-related mobility

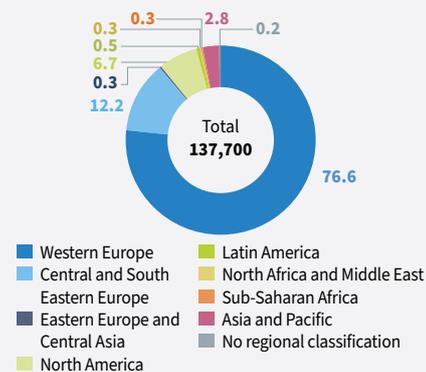
11 German students abroad, since 1991^{1,2}



Source: Federal Statistical Office, 'Deutsche Studierende im Ausland', country-specific reporting periods

- From 2010: including results of the Doctoral Survey, from 2019 including results of the doctoral statistics.
- 2021: 2,589,286 German students at home. German students abroad thus account for 5.0% of all German students at home and abroad.
- In addition to the host countries covered by the Federal Statistical Office, this includes those countries in which, according to UNESCO student statistics, more than ten German students were enrolled in 2020 or 2021.
- Deviations from 100% are due to rounding.

12 German students abroad by host region³ and key host countries, 2021⁴



Top 10 host countries	Number	Proportion in %
Austria	36,095	26.2
Netherlands	24,442	17.8
Switzerland	12,375	9.0
United Kingdom	11,116	8.1
US	8,550	6.2
France	4,566	3.3
Turkey	4,271	3.1
Hungary	3,474	2.5
Denmark	3,281	2.4
Portugal	2,706	2.0

Number and % of all German students abroad
Sources: Federal Statistical Office, 'Deutsche Studierende im Ausland'; UNESCO, student statistics; country-specific reporting periods

Temporary study-related visits abroad

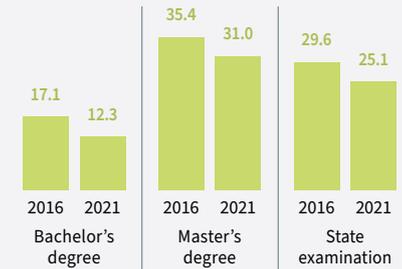
13 Domestic students in later semesters on study-related visits abroad, by type of university, since 1991^{1,2,4}



Share of all domestic students in later semesters in %

Sources: DSW/DZHW Social Surveys 1991–2016; DZHW, the Student Survey in Germany (2021)

14 Share of internationally mobile domestic students in later semesters of all domestic students in later semesters, by type of degree, in 2016 and 2021^{1,3,5,6}

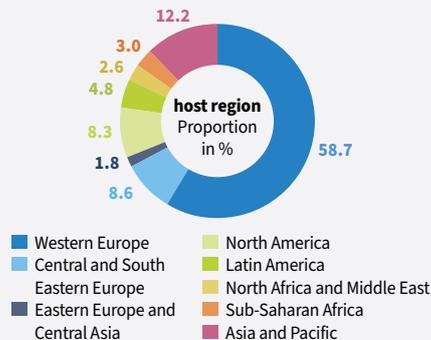


Share of all domestic students in later semesters in %

Sources: DSW/DZHW Social Survey (2016); DZHW, the Student Survey in Germany, (2021)

15 Study-related temporary visits abroad undertaken by domestic students by host region and key host countries, in 2021⁶

Host country	In %	Host country	In %
UK	9.6	Finland	2.7
France	8.9	Norway	2.4
Spain	8.3	China	2.4
US	6.2	Australia	2.2
Italy	4.6	Canada	2.0
Sweden	3.8	Belgium	1.9
Ireland	3.3	Japan	1.8
Austria	3.1	Poland	1.5
Netherlands	3.0	Czech Republic	1.4
Switzerland	2.8	Portugal	1.4



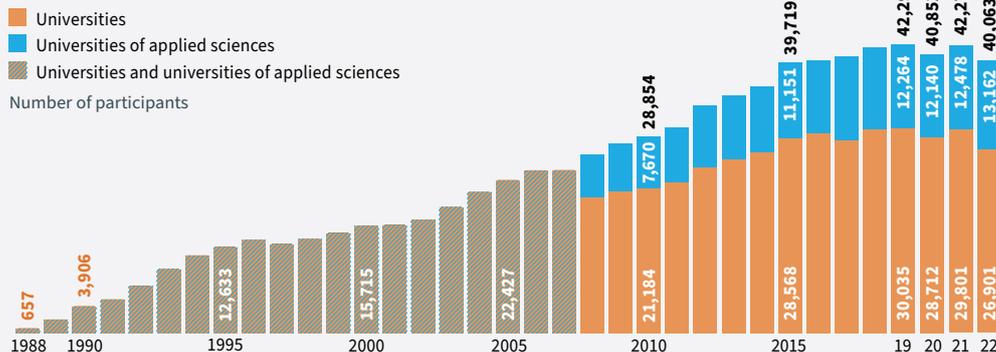
Share of all study-related visits abroad by domestic students in %

Source: DZHW, the Student Survey in Germany (2021)

- The mobility rate of students in later semesters or at the end of their studies makes it possible to assess study-related international mobility over the course of an entire study cycle. It is thus more meaningful than mobility rates in relation to all students. Students in later semesters from 1991 to 1994 are: students from the 8th university semester (university) or 6th university semester (university of applied sciences) (1991: West Germany only); from 1997 to 2009: students from the 9th to 14th university semester (university) or 7th to 11th university semester (university of applied sciences). From 2012: students from the 6th university semester.
- Reference group: from 1991 to 2009: German nationals and *Bildungsinländer*. From 2012: German nationals and *Bildungsinländer*, not including students in part-time, distance learning and on-the-job degree programmes.
- Including students who were undertaking a temporary study-related visit abroad at the time of the survey.
- For statistical reasons, it was not possible to calculate separate quotas for universities and universities of applied sciences for 2012.
- Later semesters: students from the 6th university semester (bachelor's degree), students from the 4th programme semester (master's degree), students from the 9th university semester (state examination).
- Reference group: German nationals and *Bildungsinländer*, not including students in part-time, distance learning and on-the-job degree programmes.

Erasmus visits

16 Erasmus participants from Germany, by type of university, since 1988^{1,2,3}



18 Erasmus participants from Germany by key host countries, 2022^{2,3}

Host country	Number	In %
Spain	6,737	16.8
France	4,628	11.6
United Kingdom	3,611	9.0
Italy	3,363	8.4
Austria	2,373	5.9
Sweden	1,949	4.9
Netherlands	1,821	4.5
Portugal	1,619	4.0
Norway	1,581	3.9
Finland	1,438	3.6
Belgium	1,224	3.1
Turkey	1,210	3.0
Ireland	1,018	2.5
Denmark	939	2.3
Poland	863	2.2
Total	40,063	100

Number of participants and share of all participants in %

17 Average duration of visits abroad of German Erasmus participants, by type of visit, since 2003^{2,3,4}

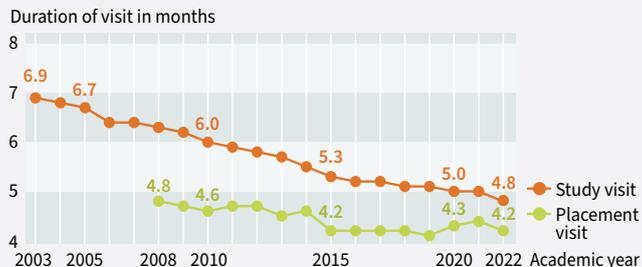


Fig. 16–18

Source: DAAD, Erasmus statistics

- 1 A breakdown of visits by type of university is only possible from 2008 onwards.
- 2 Erasmus statistics until 2014: a funding period starts in the winter semester and ends in the summer semester of the following year. 2014 = winter semester 2013/14 + summer semester 2014. Erasmus+ statistics from 2015 to 2021: an Erasmus funding period starts on 1 June of the previous year and ends on 31 May of the following year (2021 = 1.6.2020 to 31.5.2022). Erasmus+ statistics from 2022: due to a programme restructuring, the funding period covers 26 months and thus regularly begins on 1 June of the previous year and ends on 31 July of the following year. The start of the first funding period after the programme restructuring was delayed so that, in the 2022 funding period, the visits in the period from 01.09.2021 to 31.10.2023 are shown here.
- 3 Erasmus mobility figures since June 2020 also include visits in hybrid format, i.e. a combination of physical and virtual visits. Purely virtual visits and mobility that did not take place were not counted.
- 4 Placement visits have been funded in the Erasmus programme since 2008.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOBILITY

Key findings

- In 2021, around **6.4 million students were enrolled outside their home country**, according to UNESCO. Since 2011, the number of internationally mobile students has increased by around 2.4 million or 59%. Western Europe (30%), Asia and Pacific (20%) and North America (18%) dominate among **host regions**, while Asia and Pacific (41%) stands out among **regions of origin**.
- The **US is the key host country** for internationally mobile students. Around 833,000 or 13% of all international students worldwide were enrolled in the US in 2021. The United Kingdom (9%), Australia, Germany (6% each) and Russia (5%) follow at a considerable distance as host countries.
- The **key country of origin of internationally mobile students is China**. In total, around 1 million, or 16%, of all internationally mobile students came from China in 2021. The countries of origin India (8%), Vietnam, Germany and Uzbekistan (2% each) trail significantly behind.
- The **largest flows of international student mobility** lead from the key country of origin China to the US, but also to the other host countries of the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada. The respective mobility flows result in different **mobility balances** in the various countries. The spectrum ranges from countries such as Australia, with a ratio of only 3% outbound to 97% inbound students among internationally mobile students, to countries such as Uzbekistan, with a ratio of 96% outbound to 4% inbound students.

Data sources & definitions of terms

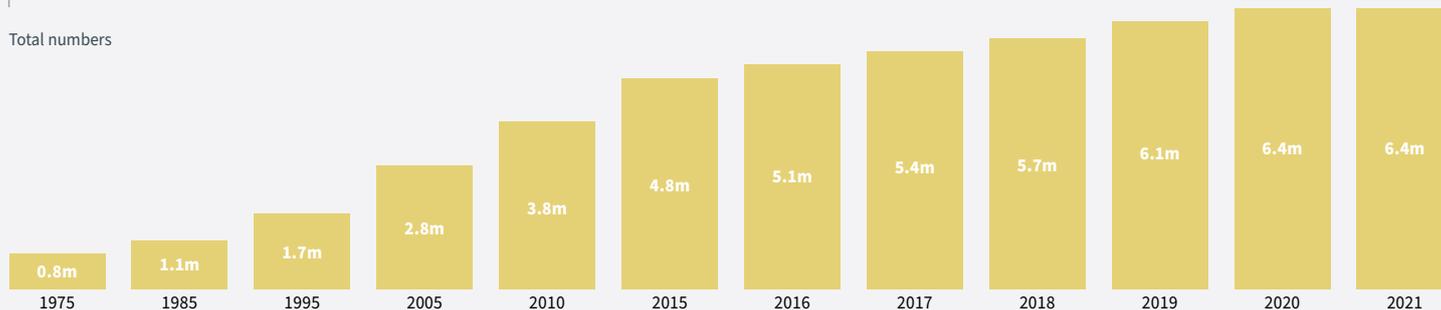
For the presentation of international student mobility, *Wissenschaft weltoffen* uses the **UNESCO statistics on international students**. It should be noted that these figures often differ from the corresponding data in the national statistics as, in some cases, different groups of people are defined as students. As far as possible, UNESCO records internationally mobile students in all countries, in other words, students who did not have their place of residence in the country concerned before taking up their studies and/or who acquired their previous education abroad (referred to as non-resident students). For some countries, such as Italy, Russia, South Korea or Turkey, such data are not available. Their values still refer to the total group of all foreign students who do not have the citizenship of the host country (non-citizen students).

Moreover, the UNESCO statistics are **not based on a complete survey of all mobile students worldwide** but only on their best possible calculation on the basis of the data available in each case. Missing data are estimated. The availability and significance of the data depend heavily on the development of education statistics in the respective countries. Some countries, especially in Latin America and in Africa, are not yet able to provide any data on international students at their universities. Even China, now a major host country, does not yet provide UNESCO with data on the origin of international students in China. This inevitably leads to an underestimation of the importance of certain host countries and regions of origin.

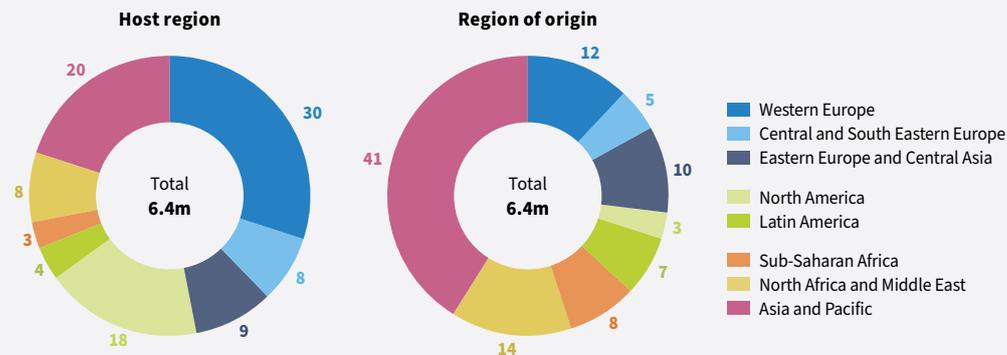
Mobility development and regions of origin

19 International students worldwide since 1975

Total numbers



20 International students by host region and region of origin, 2021



Share of all international students worldwide in %

Fig. 19

Source: UNESCO, student statistics; country-specific reporting periods

Fig. 20

Source: UNESCO, student statistics; country-specific reporting periods; DAAD calculations

The basis for the collection and processing of data is the *International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED)*. With the help of this classification, the international comparability of national data is established. It differs in part from the national statistics so that the UNESCO data sometimes deviate from the national data. Students are defined here as those assigned to ISCED 2011 levels 5 to 8.

22 Key host countries and countries of origin of international students, 2021²

Country of origin	Number	Proportion in %	Host country	Number	Proportion in %
China ⁷	996,116	15.6	US	833,204	13.0
India	508,174	8.0	United Kingdom	600,589	9.4
Vietnam	137,022	2.1	Australia	378,439	5.9
Germany	126,359	2.0	Germany	376,359	5.9
Uzbekistan	109,945	1.7	Russia	321,845	5.0
France	105,790	1.7	Canada	312,630	4.9
US	102,691	1.6	France	252,856	4.0
Syria	99,050	1.6	China ⁷	229,459	3.6
Kazakhstan	91,860	1.4	Turkey	224,048	3.5
South Korea	90,196	1.4	Japan	216,241	3.4
Other countries	4,020,285	62.9	Other countries	2,641,818	41.4

Number and % of all international students worldwide

23 Mobility balances in major host countries and countries of origin, 2021²

Country	Number	Internationally mobile students		Number
		Outgoing	Incoming	
Uzbekistan	109,945	96	4	4,219
Vietnam	137,022	94	6	8,370
India	508,174	91	9	48,035
China ⁷	996,116	81	19	229,459
Kazakhstan ³	91,860	69	31	40,742
South Korea	90,196	43	57	118,528
France	105,790	29	71	252,856
Germany	126,359	25	75	376,359
Turkey	52,171	19	81	224,048
Russia	61,667	16	84	321,845
Canada	48,403	13	87	312,630
Japan	29,385	12	88	216,241
US	102,691	11	89	833,204
United Kingdom	39,651	6	94	600,589
Australia	12,665	3	97	378,439

Number and % of all incoming and outgoing students of the respective country

Fig. 21

Sources: UNESCO, student statistics; Federal Statistical Office, “Deutsche Studierende im Ausland” survey; country-specific reporting periods; DAAD calculations

Fig. 22–23

Source: UNESCO, student statistics; country-specific reporting periods; DAAD calculations

The basis for the collection and processing of data is the *International Standard Classification of Education* (ISCED). With the help of this classification, the international comparability of national data is established. It differs in part from the national statistics so that the UNESCO data sometimes deviate from the national data. Students are defined here as those assigned to ISCED 2011 levels 5 to 8.

- 1 For the sake of clarity, only mobility flows with at least 15,000 internationally mobile students are shown.
- 2 Not including the number of international students in China and Singapore as well as Chinese students in Japan, as no current or no data are available.
- 3 Data on incoming students from 2020, as UNESCO data from 2021 were not (yet) available at the time the manuscript was compiled.
- 4 Including students from Hong Kong and Macao.
- 5 Data from the Federal Statistical Office from 2021, as no UNESCO data for 2021 were (yet) available at the time the manuscript was compiled.
- 6 Unclear whether students from Hong Kong and Macao are included.
- 7 Including Hong Kong and Macao. Mobility between Hong Kong and Macao, as well as from Mainland China to Hong Kong and Macao has been excluded. However, as no country-specific data on incoming students are available for Mainland China, students from Hong Kong and Macao going to Mainland China are still included.

RESEARCHER MOBILITY IN GERMANY

Key findings

- In 2022, **around 63,100 academic and artistic staff with foreign citizenship were employed at German universities**, including around 3,900 international professors. This means that international staff accounted for 14.7% of all academic staff, while the proportion of professors was 7.7%.
- The **key region of origin** of international academic staff is Western Europe. 32% of the total international academic staff and as many as 65% of international professors come from Western European countries. The **key countries of origin** of international academic staff are India (8%), Italy and China (7% each). Most international professors come from Austria (19%), Italy and Switzerland (9% each).
- In 2021, **around 15,900 academics and researchers with foreign citizenship** were employed at the four largest **non-university research institutes**. Since 2012, their number has almost doubled (+96%) so that, in 2021, around 29% of all academics and researchers here came from abroad. EU countries account for 39%, other European countries for 12% of all international academics and researchers.
- In addition to employed international academic staff, **international guest researchers**, whose visits are funded by domestic and foreign organisations, also research and teach in Germany. In 2021, this was around 30,000 visits. Western Europe and Asia and Pacific are the key regions of origin, with shares of 22% each. Conversely, in 2021, only around 5,800 visits by German guest

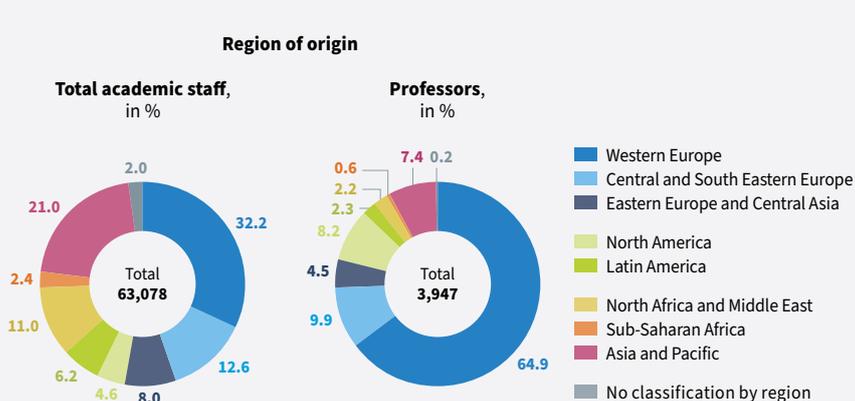
researchers abroad were funded by domestic and foreign organisations due to the pandemic. Western Europe is the key host region (30%), followed by North America (13%) and Central and South Eastern Europe (10%).

Data sources & definitions of terms

Researcher mobility in Germany includes international academics and researchers on the one hand and German academics and researchers abroad on the other. With regard to the former, a distinction is made between international staff at German universities and non-university research institutes, which is recorded by the Federal Statistical Office, and funded visits by international guest researchers. The latter data are collected from the respective funding organisations by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies (DZHW) within the framework of *Wissenschaft weltoffen*. This also includes the funded visits of German academics and researchers abroad. The DAAD and DZHW survey only records visits funded by the organisations surveyed. Visits funded by other German and foreign institutions are not included. The data presented here therefore represent a significant part, but not all, of the funded visits of German and international academics and researchers.

International academic staff at German universities

24 Total international academic staff and international professors at German universities, by region of origin and key countries of origin, 2022^{1,2,3,4}



Country of origin	Total academic staff		Country of origin	Professors	
	Number	In %		Number	In %
India	5,018	8.0	Austria	754	19.1
Italy	4,439	7.0	Italy	340	8.6
China	4,258	6.8	Switzerland	335	8.5
Austria	3,156	5.0	US	274	6.9
Iran	2,708	4.3	Netherlands	254	6.4
Russia	2,649	4.2	France	194	4.9
US	2,419	3.8	United Kingdom	161	4.1
Spain	2,366	3.8	Spain	144	3.6
France	2,224	3.5	Russia	112	2.8
Turkey	2,046	3.2	Greece	98	2.5
United Kingdom	1,558	2.5	China	93	2.4
Greece	1,455	2.3	Belgium	82	2.1
Netherlands	1,361	2.2	Poland	81	2.1
Poland	1,272	2.0	Turkey	56	1.4
Ukraine	1,245	2.0	Canada	51	1.3

Number and % of international academic staff and international professors

25 International and German academic staff at German universities by staff group, 2012, 2017 and 2022^{1,2,3}

Staff group	2022	
	Number	In %
Total German academic staff	365,379	85.3
Thereof: professors	47,214	11.0
Total international academic staff	63,078	14.7
Thereof: professors	3,947	0.9
Thereof: other academic staff	59,131	13.8



Number and % of the total academic staff

% of total academic staff

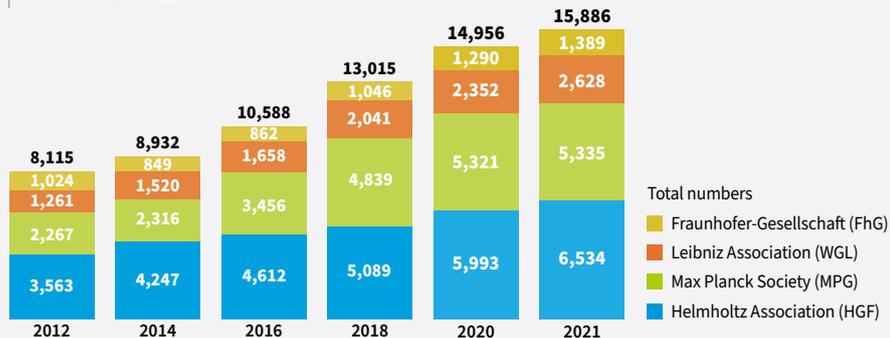
Fig. 24, 25

Source: Federal Statistical Office, university staff statistics

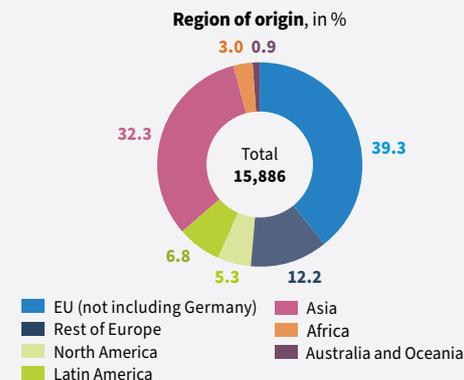
- Total academic staff including professors as well as artistic staff at colleges of art and music.
- International staff = staff with foreign, unclear, unknown or no citizenship (stateless).
- The year corresponds to the calendar year (reference date: 1 December).
- Deviations from 100% are due to rounding.

International academic staff at non-university research institutes

26 International academic staff at the four largest German non-university research institutes, since 2012^{1,2,3}



27 International academic staff at the four largest German non-university research institutes, by region and key countries of origin, 2021^{1,2,4,6}



Total number and % of all regions and countries of origin

Top 10 countries of origin	Number	Proportion in %
India	1,560	9.8
China	1,554	9.8
Italy	1,385	8.7
Russia	799	5.0
Spain	703	4.4
France	702	4.4
US	655	4.1
Iran	558	3.5
Austria	463	2.9
United Kingdom	440	2.8

28 Proportion of international academic staff at the four largest German non-university research institutes, since 2012^{1,2,3}

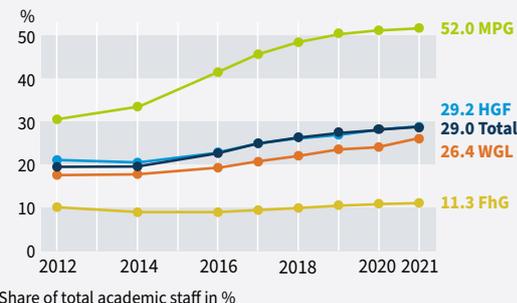


Fig. 26
Source: Federal Statistical Office, statistics on non-university research institutes

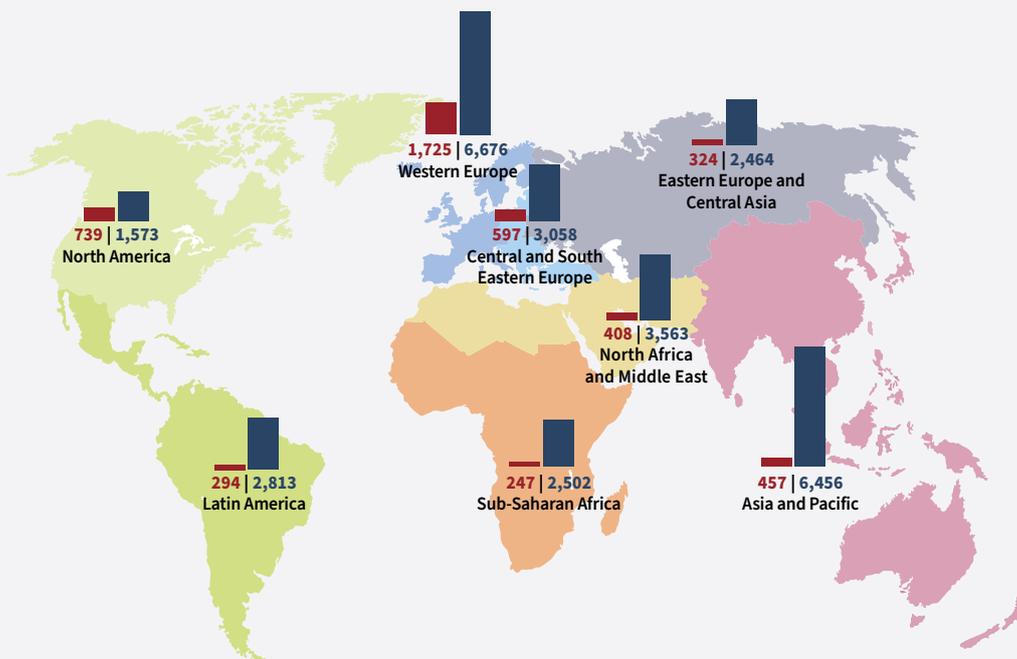
Fig. 27-28
Source: Federal Statistical Office, statistics on non-university research institutes; DZHW calculations

Fig. 29
Source: responses from funding organisations; DZHW calculations

- 1 Data from the Federal Statistical Office on staff at non-university research institutes refer to calendar years and not to academic years (reference date: 1 June).
- 2 International staff = staff with foreign, unclear, unknown or no citizenship (stateless).
- 3 The comparability of time series data before 2014 is limited due to a change in data collection since 2014.
- 4 In the official statistics on non-university research institutes, the origin of international staff is not given by more differentiated regions, but by continents. 11 researchers could not be assigned to a region of origin.
- 5 Foreign funding organisations, with the exception of EU funding within the framework of the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions, generally sponsor visits to Germany by guest researchers from their respective countries of location.
- 6 Deviations from 100% are due to rounding.

Funded guest researchers

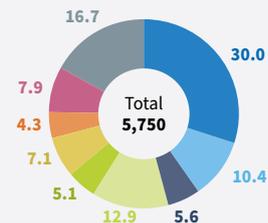
🕒 29 Funded visits of German guest researchers abroad and international guest researchers in Germany, by host region and region of origin, 2021^{5,6}



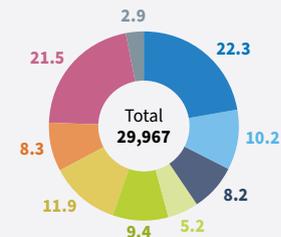
■ Funded German guest researchers abroad
 ■ Funded international guest researchers in Germany

Excluding 959 German and 862 international academics and researchers for whom no information was available regarding their host country or country of origin.

German guest researchers abroad, in %



International guest researchers in Germany, in %



■ Western Europe
 ■ Central and South Eastern Europe
 ■ Eastern Europe and Central Asia
 ■ Latin America
 ■ North Africa and Middle East
 ■ Sub-Saharan Africa
 ■ Asia and Pacific
 ■ North America
 ■ No regional classification

Wissenschaft weltoffen



The main edition of *Wissenschaft weltoffen* contains comprehensive data and facts on the internationalisation of study and research in Germany. At www.wissenschaft-weltoffen.de you can download it as a PDF free of charge. The next issue is scheduled to be published in October 2024.

We also present additional data and information on the *Wissenschaft weltoffen* website. There you will find comprehensive charts, information on other evaluation options and a detailed glossary.

The German Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies (DZHW) has set up a service point to provide advice to support evaluations of data from the *Wissenschaft weltoffen* data pool for individual projects and carry out these evaluations, if required. This service is available free of charge for universities and other public institutions.

Please address your enquiries to:
wissenschaft-weltoffen@dzhw.eu

Editor

DAAD
German Academic
Exchange Service
Kennedyallee 50
D-53175 Bonn
Strategic Planning –
Division S1
www.daad.de

DZHW

German Centre for Higher
Education Research and
Science Studies
Lange Laube 12
D-30159 Hannover
Educational Careers and
Graduate Employment –
Research Area 1
www.dzhw.eu

Publisher

wbv Media
Postfach 10 06 33
D-33506 Bielefeld

Copy editors

Dr. Ulrich Heublein (DZHW)
Dr. Jan Kercher (DAAD)
Naomi Knüttgen (DAAD)

Production

wbv Media, Bielefeld

Layout

zaydesign,
Christiane Zay, Passau

© wbv Media GmbH & Co. KG,
Bielefeld 2024

Edition

1,500 (German)
750 (English)

DOI:

German 10.3278/7004002wkw
English 10.3278/7004002wkew

This publication is available for download at www.wissenschaft-weltoffen.de



This publication is published under the following Creative Commons
copyright license: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/deed.de>

SPONSORED BY THE

The project on which this
publication is based and the
publication itself were funded by
grants from the Federal Ministry of
Education and Research and
the Federal Foreign Office.



Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research



Federal Foreign Office