DAAD

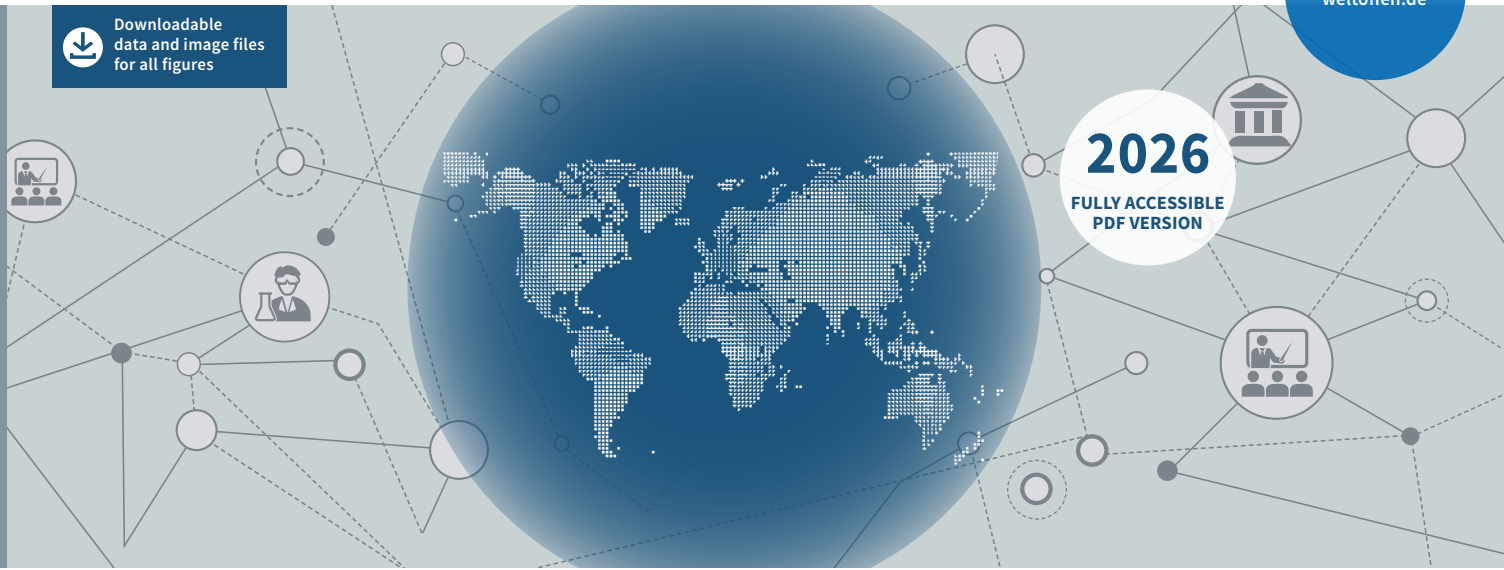
Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

Wissenschaft weltoffen kompakt

Facts and Figures on the Internationalisation of Studies and Research in Germany and Worldwide

wissenschaft-weltoffen.de

Naomi Knüttgen | Nicolai Netz | Jan Kercher | Inessa Fuge



English edition

DZHW German Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOBILITY WORLDWIDE

Key findings

- According to UNESCO, around **7.3 million students were enrolled outside their home country in 2023.** Since 2010, the number of these internationally mobile students has increased by around 3.5 million (+92%) (Fig. 1). Among the **host regions,** Western Europe (30%), Asia and Pacific (19%) and North America (18%) continued to dominate in 2023, whilst among the **regions of origin,** Asia and Pacific (43%) was in first place (Fig. 2).
- The **US is the key host country** for internationally mobile students. Around 957,000, or 13%, of all internationally mobile students worldwide were enrolled in the US in 2023. Trailing behind as host countries were the United Kingdom (10%), Australia, Germany (6% each) and Canada (5%) (Fig. 4).
- The **key country of origin of internationally mobile students is China.** In total, around one million, or 14%, of all students abroad in 2023 came from China. India followed as another major country of origin (11%), with Nigeria, Germany and Vietnam trailing far behind (2% each) (Fig. 4).
- The **largest flows of international student mobility** lead from the key countries of origin, China and India, to the key host countries, the US and the United Kingdom (Fig. 3). The respective **mobility flows** result in different **mobility balances** across the various countries. The spectrum ranges from countries such as Australia, with a ratio of just 3% outgoing to 97% incoming students, to countries such as Nepal or Pakistan, where student mobility is almost exclusively outbound (Fig. 5).

Data and definitions of terms

For the analysis of international student mobility, *Wissenschaft weltoffen* uses the **UNESCO statistics on international students.** Where the relevant countries are able to provide such data, the figures reflect students (and doctoral students) who were not resident in the country in question before taking up their studies and/or who completed their previous education abroad (referred to as non-resident students). However, such data are not available for some countries, meaning that their figures refer to the total group of all foreign students who are not nationals of the respective host country (non-citizen students).

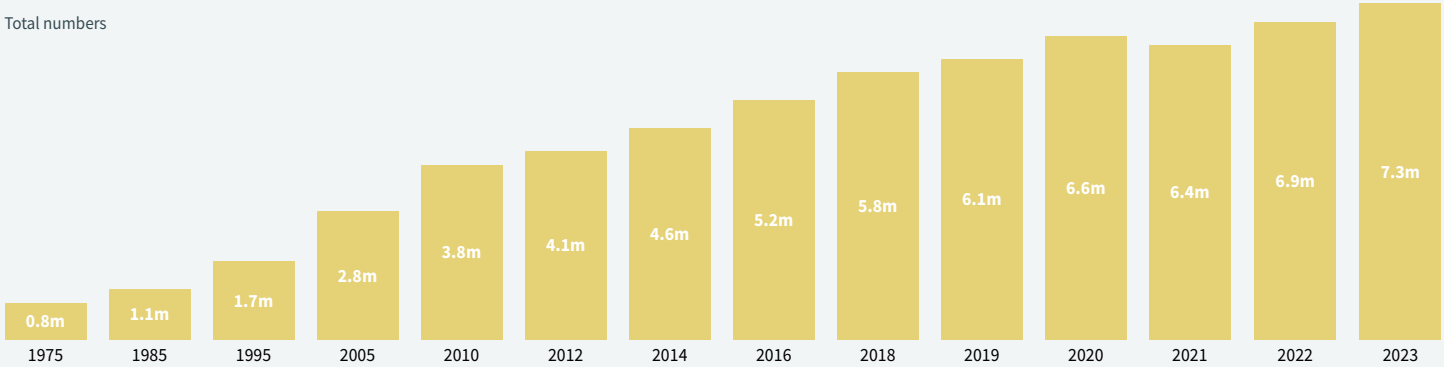
The UNESCO statistics are **not based on a complete survey of all mobile students worldwide** but only on their best possible approximation using the data available in each case. Some missing data are estimated. The availability and quality of the data depend heavily on the development of education statistics in the respective countries. This inevitably leads to an underestimation of the importance of certain host countries and regions of origin.

For more detailed information, see the information boxes on the data, the chapter on methodology and the glossary in the main edition of *Wissenschaft weltoffen*.

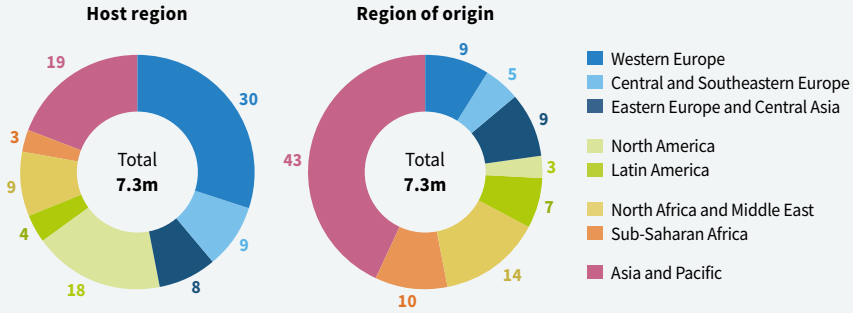
Mobility development and regions of origin

1 International students worldwide since 1975[1]

Total numbers



2 International students by host region and region of origin in 2023



Share of all international students worldwide in %

Fig. 1
Source: UNESCO, student statistics; country-specific reporting periods

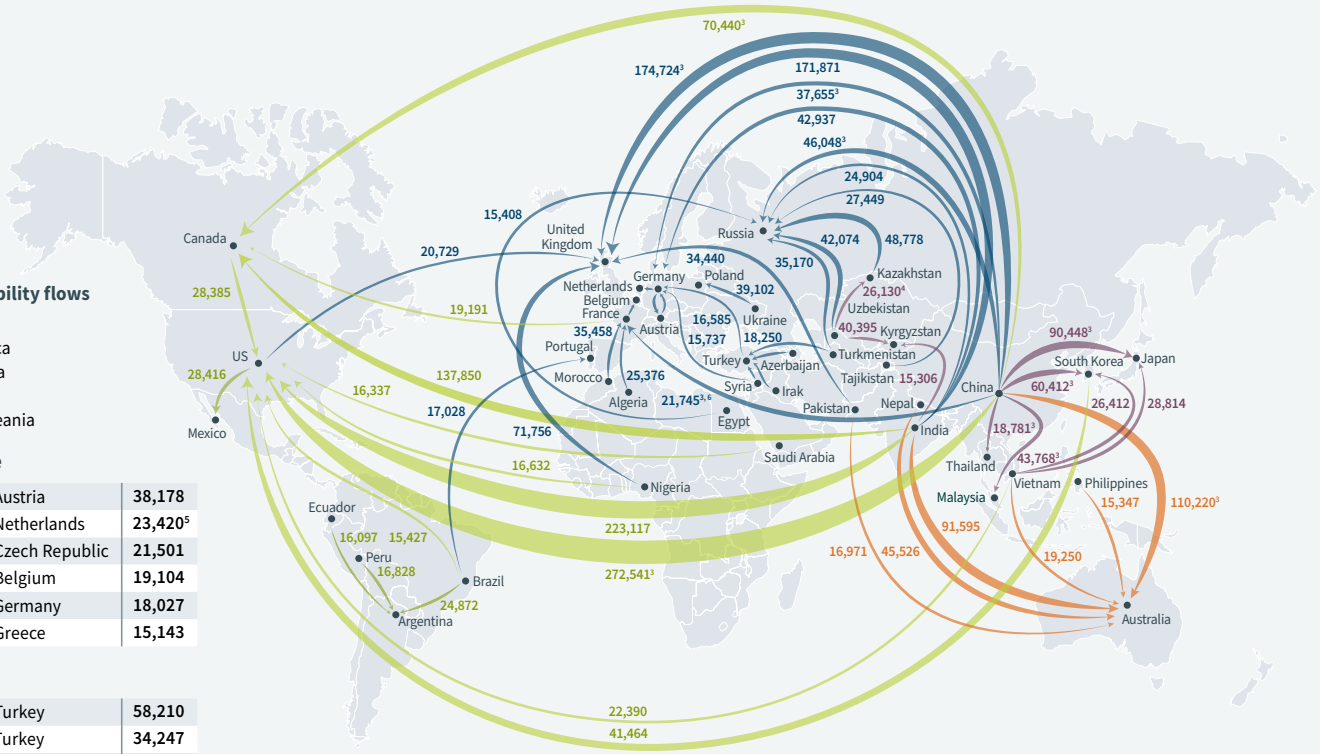
Fig. 2
Sources: UNESCO/OECD, student statistics; Universities of the Netherlands, university staff statistics; country-specific reporting periods; DAAD calculations

The basis for the collection and processing of data is the *International Standard Classification of Education* (ISCED). This classification helps establish the international comparability of national data. Used by UNESCO, it differs in part from the national classifications used. Students are defined here as those assigned to ISCED 2011 levels 5 to 8.

1 Deviations in comparison with previous issues of *Wissenschaft weltoffen* and *Wissenschaft weltoffen kompakt* are due to updates of the UNESCO database.

Host countries and countries of origin

3 Major flows of international student mobility in 2023[1, 2]



Direction of mobility flows

- Europe
- North America
- Latin America
- Asia
- Australia/Oceania

Flows in Europe

Germany	→ Austria	38,178
Germany	→ Netherlands	23,420[5]
Slovakia	→ Czech Republic	21,501
France	→ Belgium	19,104
Austria	→ Germany	18,027
Cyprus	→ Greece	15,143

Other flows

Syria	→ Turkey	58,210
Azerbaijan	→ Turkey	34,247
Iran	→ Turkey	22,632
Irak	→ Turkey	16,172

Number of students

4 Key host countries and countries of origin of international students in 2023[5]

Country of origin	Number	In %
China[7]	1,029,550	14.1
India	834,361	11.4
Nigeria	146,305	2.0
Germany	129,070	1.8
Vietnam	128,240	1.8
Uzbekistan	120,564	1.7
US	118,321	1.6
France	115,166	1.6
Pakistan	114,915	1.6
Nepal	108,282	1.5
Other countries	4,443,299	61.0

Host country	Number	In %
US	956,923	13.1
United Kingdom	748,461	10.3
Australia	467,074	6.4
Germany	423,197	5.8
Canada	389,181	5.3
Russia	336,453	4.6
Turkey	301,634	4.1
France	276,217	3.8
UAE	237,034	3.3
China[7]	208,380	2.9
Other countries	2,943,519	40.4

Number and share of all international students worldwide in %

5 Mobility balances in selected host countries and countries of origin in 2023[2, 5]

	Outgoing		Incoming	
Country	Number	In %		Number
Nepal	108,282	100	0	107
Pakistan	114,915	100	0	389
Uzbekistan	120,564	96	4	4,935
India	834,361	95	5	45,700
Vietnam	128,240	94	6	7,760
China[7]	1,029,550	83	17	208,380
France	115,166	29	71	276,217
Germany	129,070	23	77	423,197
Turkey	67,127	18	82	301,634
Russia	65,592	16	84	336,453
Canada	52,190	12	88	389,181
US	118,321	11	89	956,923
UAE	19,316	8	92	237,034
United Kingdom	40,906	5	95	748,461
Australia	13,402	3	97	467,074

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

Fig. 3–5
Sources: UNESCO/OECD, student statistics; Universities of the Netherlands, university staff statistics; country-specific reporting periods; DAAD calculations

The basis for the collection and processing of data is the *International Standard Classification of Education* (ISCED). This classification helps establish the international comparability of national data. Used by UNESCO, it differs in part from the national classifications used. Students are defined here as those assigned to ISCED 2011 levels 5 to 8.

1 For the sake of clarity, only mobility flows comprising at least 15,000 internationally mobile students are shown.

2 Not including the number of international students in Mainland China and Singapore, as no current or no data are available.

3 Including students from Hong Kong and Macao.

4 Data on incoming students for 2022, as no UNESCO data for 2023 were yet available at the time of writing.

5 To enable a more precise analysis of student data, OECD statistics were used. Unlike UNESCO statistics, these allow for a breakdown by type of degree. The number of international doctoral students in the Netherlands in 2023 was not available in OECD statistics at the time of writing. Therefore, the number of international students in the Netherlands (up to master's level and/or ISCED level 7) has been supplemented for Germany as a country of origin with data on doctoral students released by the UNL (Universities of the Netherlands) for 2023 and with OECD data on doctoral students for 2021 for all countries of origin for which no UNL data were available.

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 was 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.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN GERMANY

Key findings

- The **number of international students at universities in Germany** increased again in the 2024/25 winter semester, that is, to 402,083 (+6% year-on-year) (Fig. 6). At that time, they accounted for 14% of all students in Germany (Fig. 7). The overwhelming majority (94%) of international students were aiming for a degree in Germany in the 2024/25 winter semester (Fig. 8).
- Asia and Pacific was once again the **key region of origin** of international students with a share of 34% (Fig. 9). The **key countries of origin** were India, with around 58,800 students, China, with around 39,000 students, and Turkey, with 20,900 students (Fig. 10).
- **Almost 35% of international students intended to obtain a bachelor's degree and 47% a master's degree** (Fig. 11). As for the **subject groups,** engineering (43%) and law, economics and social sciences (25%) were the top choices (Fig. 12).

STUDENTS FROM GERMANY ABROAD

Key findings

- **International degree mobility: In 2023, around 137,200 Germans were studying abroad.** The share of German students abroad among all German students has fallen slightly since 2009, amounting to 5.2% in 2023 (Fig. 16). The **key host countries** in 2023 were Austria, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the US (Fig. 17).
- **Temporary study-related visits abroad:** Between 1991 and 2000, the share of domestic students on temporary study-related visits abroad rose sharply (from 20% to 32%) and stabilised at this level until 2006. From 2009, however, a steady decline in this mobility rate can be observed, down to 19% in 2021 (Fig. 18). The **key host countries for temporary study-related visits abroad** were the United Kingdom, France, Spain, the US and Italy in 2021 (Fig. 19).

Data and definitions of terms

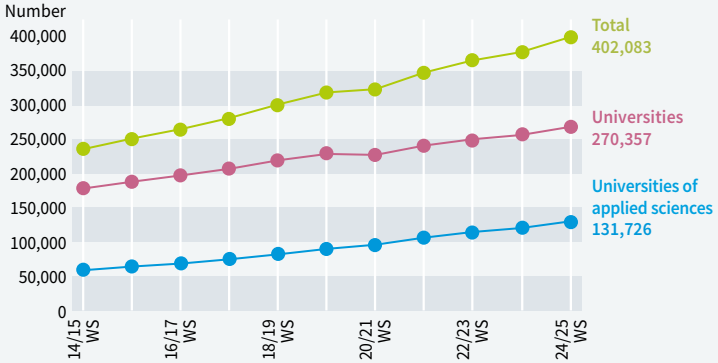
The data from the German Federal Statistical Office on **international students at universities in Germany** refer to students who are foreign nationals and who obtained their university entrance certificate abroad or at a preparatory college in Germany.

With regard to the degree mobility of **students from Germany abroad,** the German Federal Statistical Office conducts an annual survey among the relevant statistical agencies in approximately 40 key host countries.

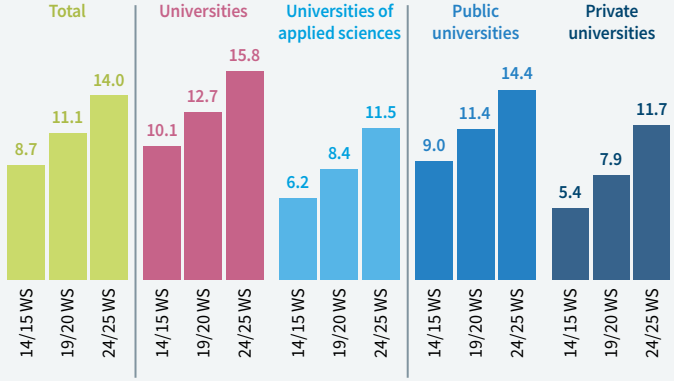
To examine the totality of temporary study-related stays abroad undertaken by domestic students (Germans and "Bildungsinlaender"), the social surveys of the German National Association for Student Affairs (DSW) and DZHW are used for the period up to 2016, and the *Student Survey in Germany* from 2021.

For more detailed information, see the information boxes on the data, the chapter on methodology and the glossary in the main edition of *Wissenschaft weltoffen*.

6 International students in Germany by type of university since the 2014/15 winter semester[1]

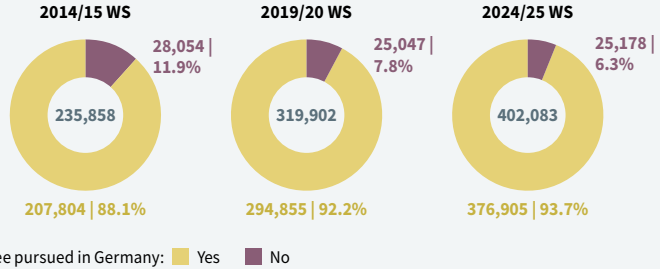


7 International students by type of university and type of sponsorship since the 2014/15 winter semester[1, 2]



Share of all students at the universities of the respective type in %

8 International students by type of mobility since the 2014/15 winter semester



Number and share of all international students at universities in Germany in %

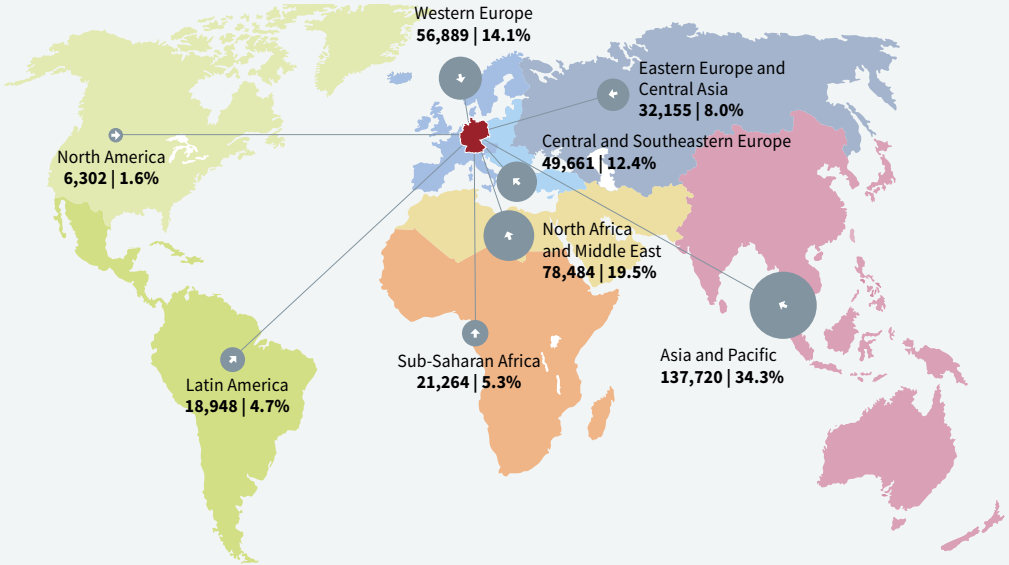
Fig. 6–8
Source: Federal Statistical Office, "Statistik der Studierenden"; DZHW calculations

1 Figures for universities including colleges of art, music, education and theology.

2 Figures for private universities including church-run universities.

Regions and countries of origin

9 International students by region of origin in the 2024/25 winter semester[1, 2]



Total international students at universities in Germany: 402,083
(including 660 students (0.2%) who cannot be assigned to a region of origin)

Number and share of all international students at universities in Germany in %

10 International students by key countries of origin in the 2024/25 winter semester[1]

Country of origin	Number	In %
India	58,833	14.6
China[3]	38,989	9.7
Turkey	20,900	5.2
Iran	17,248	4.3
Austria	15,732	3.9
Pakistan	12,646	3.1
Syria	11,639	2.9
Ukraine	10,615	2.6
Russia	10,612	2.6
Italy	10,192	2.5
Egypt	8,704	2.2
Bangladesh	8,007	2.0
Morocco	7,866	2.0
Tunisia	7,321	1.8
Cameroon	6,837	1.7
Spain	6,664	1.7
South Korea	6,653	1.7
France	6,571	1.6
Vietnam	5,857	1.5
US	5,330	1.3
Other countries	124,867	31.1
Total	**402,083**	**100**

Number and share of all international students at universities in Germany in %

11 International students by type of degree and university in the 2024/25 winter semester[2, 4, 5]

	Total		Universities		Universities of applied sciences	
Type of degree	**Number**	**In %**	**Number**	**In %**	**Number**	**In %**
Bachelor's degree	138,556	34.5	68,277	25.3	70,279	53.4
Master's degree	187,907	46.7	134,427	49.7	53,480	40.6
Doctorate	31,995	8.0	31,822	11.8	173	0.1
Other type of degree	18,447	4.6	16,776	6.2	1,671	1.3
Not studying for a degree	25,178	6.3	19,055	7.0	6,123	4.6
Total	**402,083**	**100**	**270,357**	**100**	**131,726**	**100**

Number and share of all international students at universities in Germany in %

12 International students by subject group and type of university in the 2024/25 winter semester[2, 4]

	Total		Universities		Universities of applied sciences	
Subject group	**Number**	**In %**	**Number**	**In %**	**Number**	**In %**
Engineering	171,619	42.7	102,279	37.8	69,340	52.6
Law, economics and social sciences	101,898	25.3	56,081	20.7	45,817	34.8
Mathematics and natural sciences	47,757	11.9	43,117	15.9	4,640	3.5
Humanities	33,330	8.3	32,281	11.9	1,049	0.8
Medicine and health sciences	18,935	4.7	16,145	6.0	2,790	2.1
Art and art history	18,533	4.6	13,563	5.0	4,970	3.8
Agricultural, forestry and food sciences, veterinary medicine	8,355	2.1	5,772	2.1	2,583	2.0
Other	1,656	0.4	1,119	0.4	537	0.4
Total	**402,083**	**100**	**270,357**	**100**	**131,726**	**100**

Number and share of all international students at universities in Germany in %

Fig. 9–12
Source: Federal Statistical Office, "Statistik der Studierenden"; DZHW calculations

1 The country of origin of students was determined on the basis of their citizenship.

2 Deviations from 100% are due to rounding.

3 Including Hong Kong and Macao.

4 Figures for universities including colleges of art, music, education and theology.

5 In Figure 11 of the May 2026 version, the numbers for the categories "Other type of degree" and "Not studying for a degree" were reversed. This was corrected in the June 2026 version.

Federal states

13 International students by federal state in the 2019/20 and 2024/25 winter semesters

Federal state	2019/20 WS		2024/25 WS		Development of the number in %
	Number	In %	Number	In %	
Baden-Württemberg	36,580	10.2	37,917	10.8	+3.7
Bavaria	46,059	11.7	72,483	17.7	+57.4
Berlin	35,864	18.3	42,721	21.3	+19.1
Brandenburg	7,391	14.9	12,593	23.9	+70.4
Bremen	5,156	13.7	6,611	17.3	+28.2
Hamburg	10,707	9.7	14,396	11.9	+34.5
Hesse	26,471	10.0	32,596	13.4	23.1
Lower Saxony	20,594	9.8	22,408	11.9	+8.8
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	3,594	9.4	3,361	9.3	–6.5
North Rhine-Westphalia	72,287	9.3	81,954	11.6	+13.4
Rhineland-Palatinate	12,542	10.2	14,084	12.8	+12.3
Saarland	4,016	12.8	4,484	15.1	+11.7
Saxony	16,963	15.8	18,728	18.1	+10.4
Saxony-Anhalt	7,565	13.9	10,072	18.3	+33.1
Schleswig-Holstein	4,266	6.6	4,856	7.7	+13.8
Thuringia[1]	9,847	13.2	22,819	14.9	+131.7
Total	**319,902**	**11.1**	**402,083**	**14.0**	**+25.7**

Number and share of all students in the federal state in %

Source: Federal Statistical Office, “Statistik der Studierenden”; DZHW calculations

14 Incoming Erasmus students by federal state in 2024[2, 3, 4]

Federal state	Number	In %
Baden-Württemberg	4,049	10.7
Bavaria	3,846	5.3
Berlin	2,403	5.6
Brandenburg	495	3.9
Bremen	385	5.8
Hamburg	673	4.7
Hesse	1,608	4.9
Lower Saxony	1,272	5.7
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	136	4.0
North Rhine-Westphalia	3,448	4.2
Rhineland-Palatinate	998	7.1
Saarland	293	6.5
Saxony	913	4.9
Saxony-Anhalt	307	3.0
Schleswig-Holstein	336	6.9
Thuringia	574	2.5
Total	**21,736**	**5.4**

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

Source: DAAD, Erasmus statistics; Federal Statistical Office, “Statistik der Studierenden”; DZHW calculations

15 International first-year students and graduates by type of degree in 2014, 2019 and 2024[5,6]

	2014		2019		2024	
First-year students	**Number**	**In %**	**Number**	**In %**	**Number**	**In %**
Bachelor's degree	25,516	27.5	32,622	29.4	33,017	25.5
Master's degree	23,467	25.3	35,252	31.8	53,794	41.5
Doctorate	3,454	3.7	3,473	3.1	3,771	2.9
Other type of degree	4,014	4.3	4,056	3.7	3,444	2.7
Not studying for a degree	36,465	39.2	35,571	32.1	35,672	27.5
Total	**92,916**	**100**	**110,974**	**100**	**129,698**	**100**
Graduates	**Number**	**In %**	**Number**	**In %**	**Number**	**In %**
Bachelor's degree	9,423	27.7	13,392	27.8	17,287	27.1
Master's degree	15,424	45.3	26,955	55.9	37,291	58.4
Doctorate	4,497	13.2	5,222	10.8	6,076	9.5
Other type of degree	4,668	13.7	2,667	5.5	3,243	5.1
Total	**34,012**	**100**	**48,236**	**100**	**63,897**	**100**

Number and share of all international first-year students and graduates at universities in Germany in %

Source: Federal Statistical Office, "Statistik der Studierenden" and "Statistik der Prüfungen"; DZHW calculations

1 The significant increase in Thuringia is mainly due to the rise in student numbers at the IU International University of Applied Sciences.

2 The shares of all international students refer to the 2024/25 winter semester.

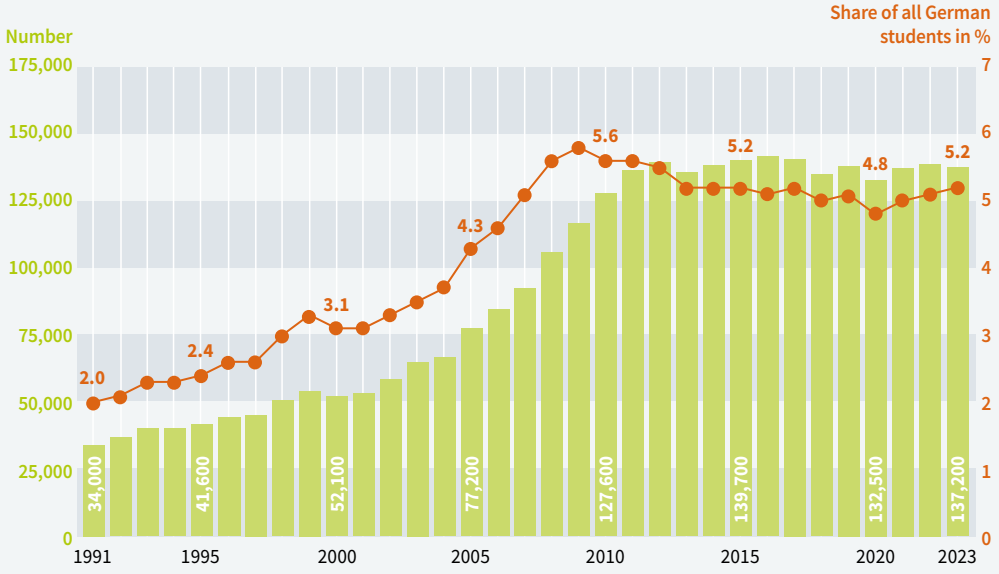
3 The figures shown here represent students from foreign universities who began an Erasmus+ study visit at a university in Germany in the calendar year 2024.

4 Erasmus mobility statistics also include hybrid visits, in other words, combinations of physical and virtual visits.

5 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 (2024 = first-year students SS 2024 + WS 2024/25). Graduates are all former students who have successfully obtained their degree. A graduation year comprises the graduates of a winter semester and the following summer semester (2024 = graduates WS 2023/24 + SS 2024).

6 Deviations from 100% are due to rounding.

16 German students abroad since 1991[1, 2, 3]



Source: Federal Statistical Office, "Deutsche Studierende im Ausland" survey, country-specific reporting periods; DAAD calculations

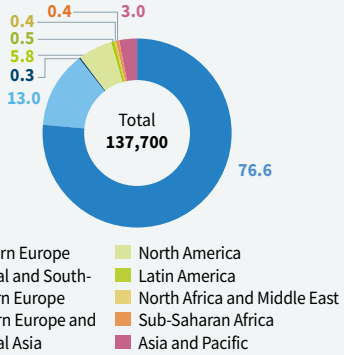
1 Deviations in the total figures compared with previous issues of *Wissenschaft weltoffen* are due to recalculations by the Federal Statistical Office.

2 From 2010, including numbers of doctoral students from the German Federal Statistical Office's survey of doctoral students (*Promovierendenerhebung*); from 2019, including numbers from the official doctoral statistics (*Promovierendenstatistik*).

3 2023: 2,485,617 German students at home. German students abroad thus account for 5.2% of all German students at home and abroad.

4 In addition to the host countries covered by the German Federal Statistical Office, this includes countries in which, according to UNESCO student statistics, more than ten German students were enrolled in 2022 or 2023. This results in a discrepancy in the total number of German students studying abroad compared with Figure 16.

17 German students abroad by host region and key host countries in 2023[4]



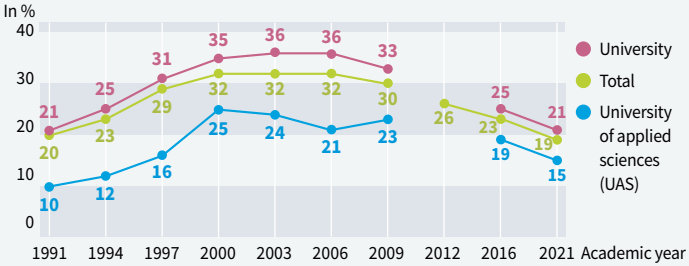
Host country	Number	In %
Austria	40,666	29.5
Netherlands	21,133	15.3
Switzerland	12,599	9.1
United Kingdom	8,415	6.1
US	6,850	5.0
Turkey	4,957	3.6
France	4,235	3.1
Hungary	3,381	2.5
Portugal	3,335	2.4
Denmark	3,170	2.3

Number and share of all German students abroad in %

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

Temporary study-related visits abroad

18 Domestic students in later semesters on temporary study-related visits abroad by type of university since 1991[1, 2, 3, 4]

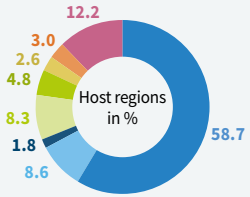


Share of all domestic students in later semesters in %

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

19 Temporary study-related visits abroad of domestic students by host region and key host countries in 2021[2]

Host country	In %	Host country	In %
UK	9.6	Sweden	3.8
France	8.9	Ireland	3.3
Spain	8.3	Austria	3.1
US	6.2	Netherlands	3.0
Italy	4.6	Switzerland	2.8

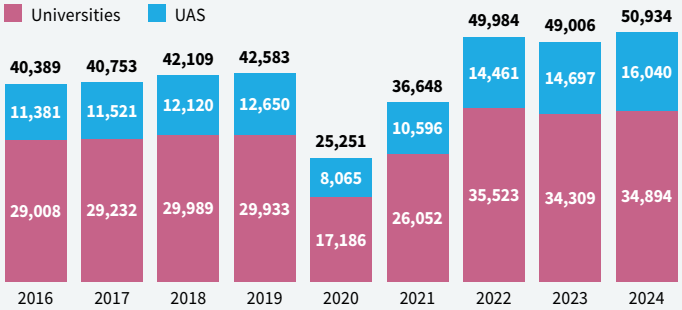




Share of all study-related visits abroad of domestic students in %

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

20 Erasmus participants from Germany by type of university since 2016[5, 6, 7]



Number of Erasmus participants by calender year

Source: DAAD, Erasmus statistics

1 The mobility rate of students in later semesters and thus at the end of their studies provides a rough estimate of study-related international mobility over the course of an entire degree programme. It is more conclusive than mobility rates in relation to all students, many of whom have not yet had the opportunity to study abroad. Students in later semesters from 1991 to 1994 are students from the 8th semester (university) or the 6th semester (UAS) (1991: West Germany only); 1997 to 2009: students from the 9th to the 14th semester (university) or the 7th to the 11th semester (UAS); from 2012: students from the 6th university semester.

2 Reference group: 1991–2009: German nationals and "Bildungsinlaender"; from 2012: German nationals and "Bildungsinlaender", not including students in part-time, distance learning and on-the-job degree programmes.

3 Surveys in 2016 and 2021 include students who were undertaking a temporary study-related visit abroad at the time of the survey.

4 For 2012, no separate rates could be calculated for universities and UAS due to the data situation.

5 The figures shown here represent students at universities in Germany who began an Erasmus+ study visit or a placement visit abroad in the respective calendar year.

6 Erasmus mobility statistics also include hybrid visits, in other words, combinations of physical and virtual visits.

7 Colleges of art and music were added to the universities, whilst other higher education institutions were classified as universities of applied sciences (UAS). Students at colleges of art and music as well as other higher institutions account for approximately 2.8% of all Erasmus visits.

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMICS AND RESEARCHERS IN GERMANY

Key findings

- In 2024, **around 68,300 academic and artistic staff with foreign citizenship were employed at universities in Germany,** including about 4,200 international professors (Fig. 21). International staff accounted for 16% of all academic staff. The share of international professors amounted to 8% (Fig. 23).
- 28% of all international academic staff and 61% of international professors came from Western Europe in 2024. The **key country of origin** of international academic staff overall was India (almost 10%), while most international professors came from Austria (almost 19%) (Fig. 21).
- In 2023, **around 17,500 academic staff with foreign citizenship were employed at the four largest non-university research institutes.** They accounted for around 31% of all academic staff at these institutes (Fig. 24).
- **Around 29,900 visits by international guest researchers to Germany** were sponsored by German and foreign funding organisations in 2023 (Fig. 26).

ACADEMICS AND RESEARCHERS FROM GERMANY ABROAD

Key findings

- **In 2023, around 9,400 researchers from Germany were employed at universities in Switzerland,** followed by Austria (6,600), the United Kingdom (5,100) and the Netherlands (1,700) (Fig. 28). Germans accounted for the highest share of the total international academic staff in Austria (42%) (Fig. 29).
- Around 1,300 German professors were working in Switzerland in 2023, followed by 1,000 in Austria and a good 200 in the Netherlands (Fig. 28). **In Austria, German professors accounted for just under 69% of all international professors.** In Switzerland, the figure was 42% and in the Netherlands a good 27% (Fig. 29).
- **German doctoral students abroad** show similar preferences: Switzerland, Austria, the United Kingdom, the US and the Netherlands were the most popular host countries in 2023 (Fig. 30).
- In 2023, German and foreign funding organisations supported **around 9,800 visits abroad by guest researchers from Germany** (Fig. 31).

Data and definitions of terms

This section analyses **international academics and researchers in Germany** based on data from the German Federal Statistical Office on academic staff with foreign citizenship at universities and non-university research institutes in Germany.

Funded visits by guest researchers from abroad are surveyed annually among the respective funding organisations by the DZHW as part of *Wissenschaft weltoffen*.

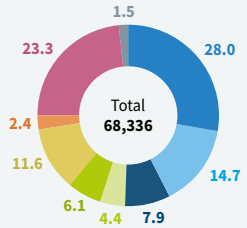
This survey also records funded guest visits by **academics and researchers from Germany abroad.** Data on German academic staff abroad can currently only be provided by the national statistical offices of Austria, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

For more detailed information, see the information boxes on the data, the chapter on methodology and the glossary in the main edition of *Wissenschaft weltoffen*.

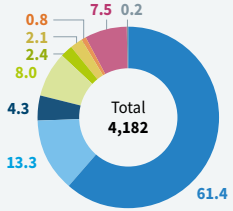
International staff at universities in Germany

21 Total international academic staff and international professors at universities in Germany by region of origin and key countries of origin in 2024[1, 2, 3, 4]

Total international academic staff in %



International professors in %



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

	Total international academic staff	
Country of origin	Number	In %
India	6,547	9.6
China[5]	5,146	7.5
Italy	4,685	6.9
Iran	3,174	4.6
Austria	3,113	4.6
	International professors	
Country of origin	Number	In %
Austria	777	18.6
Italy	359	8.6
Switzerland	329	7.9
US	279	6.7
Netherlands	259	6.2

Number and share of all international academic staff/international professors in %

22 Share of international doctoral students of all doctoral students by subject group in 2024

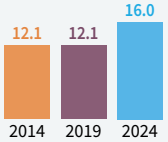
Subject group	In %
Mathematics and natural sciences	34.6
Agricultural, forestry and food sciences, veterinary medicine	29.1
Engineering	29.0
Humanities	28.2
Art and art history	20.9
Law, economics and social sciences	15.0
Medicine and health sciences	14.9
Outside the fields of study structure/ other subjects	32.1
Total	**23.9**

Share of all doctoral students in %

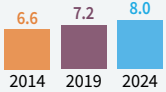
23 International and German academic staff at universities in Germany by staff group in 2014, 2019 and 2024[1, 2, 3]

	2014	2024
Staff group	Number	
Total German academic staff	340,259	357,872
Thereof: professors	42,745	47,896
Total international academic staff	41,010	68,336
Thereof: professors	3,004	4,182

International academic staff



International professors



Share of all academic staff/professors in %

Fig. 21, 23
Source: Federal Statistical Office, "Statistik des Hochschulpersonals"; DZHW calculations

Fig. 22
Source: Federal Statistical Office, "Statistik der Promovierenden"; DZHW calculations

1 Total academic staff including professors as well as artistic staff at colleges of art and music.

2 International staff = staff with foreign, unclear, unknown or no citizenship (stateless).

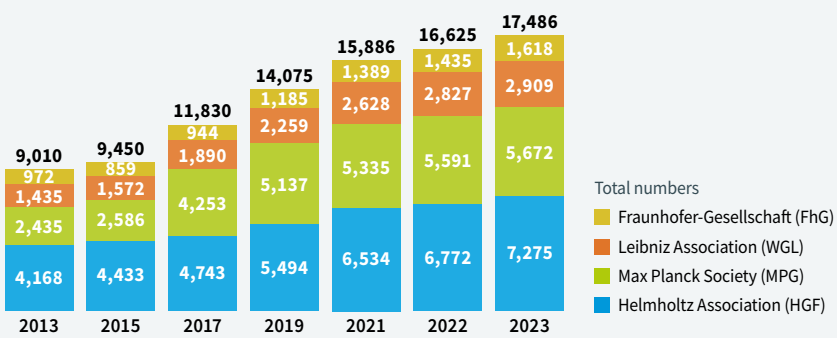
3 The year corresponds to the calendar year (reference date: 1 December).

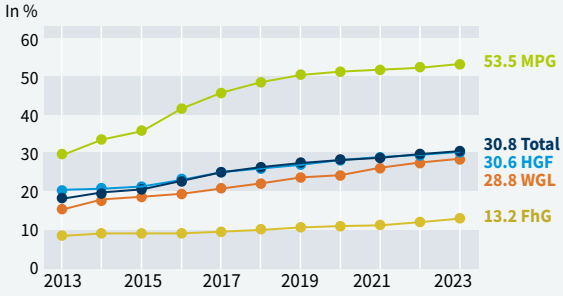
4 Deviations from 100% are due to rounding.

5 Including Hong Kong and Macao.

International academic staff at non-university research institutes

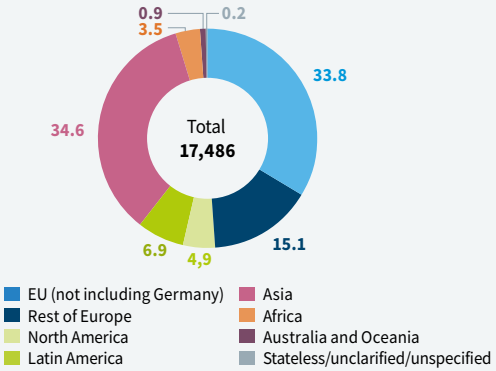
24 International academic staff at the four largest German non-university research institutes since 2013[1, 2, 3, 4]





Share of total academic staff at the respective research institute in %

25 International academic staff at the four largest German non-university research institutes by region and key countries of origin in 2023[1, 2, 4, 5, 6]



Number and share of all regions or countries of origin in %

Country of origin	Number	In %
India	1,952	11.2
China	1,715	9.8
Italy	1,417	8.1
Russia	880	5.0
France	738	4.2
Spain	723	4.1
US	666	3.8
Iran	594	3.4
Turkey	464	2.7
Austria	458	2.6

Fig. 24–25
Source: Federal Statistical Office, "Personal für Forschung und Entwicklung"; DZHW calculations

1 Data from the German 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 for the years before 2014 is limited due to a change in data collection since 2014.

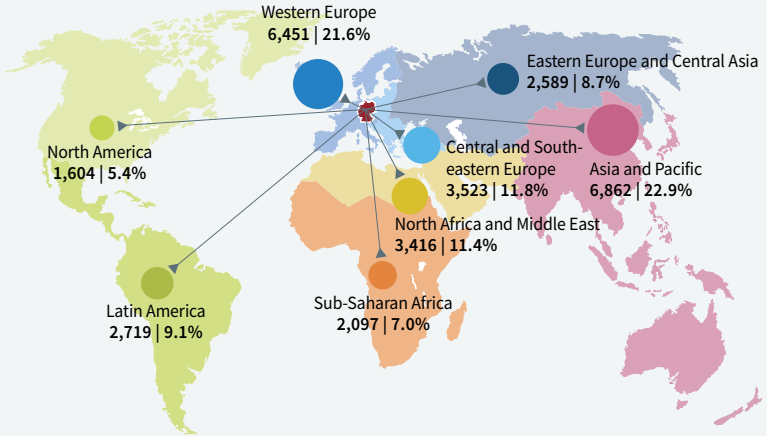
4 The statistics presented here for 2023 were statistically superposed by the German Federal Statistical Office using the cell key method for reasons of data protection. Therefore, the total figure does not correspond to the sum of the figures for the individual non-university research institutes.

5 In the official statistics on non-university research institutes, the origin of international staff is not available by more differentiated regions, but by continents. 37 researchers could not be assigned to any continent.

6 Deviations from 100% are due to rounding.

Guest researchers from abroad in Germany

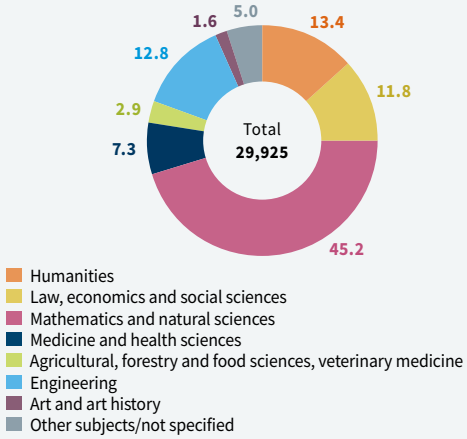
26 Funded visits to Germany undertaken by guest researchers from abroad by region and key countries of origin in 2023[1, 2, 3]



Number and share of all funded visits in Germany in %

Country of origin	Number	In %	Country of origin	Number	In %
India	2,467	8.2	Turkey	683	2.3
China	2,135	7.1	Brazil	671	2.2
Italy	1,716	5.7	Poland	629	2.1
US	1,322	4.4	United Kingdom	599	2.0
Iran	1,041	3.5	Austria	589	2.0
Ukraine	1,026	3.4	Japan	581	1.9
Russia	841	2.8	Other countries	13,333	44.6
France	817	2.7	Not specified	664	2.2
Spain	811	2.7	**Total**	**29,925**	**100**

27 Funded visits to Germany undertaken by guest researchers from abroad by subject group in 2023[2]



Share of all funded visits in Germany in %

Fig. 26–27
Source: DZHW survey, data provided by funding organisations; DZHW calculations

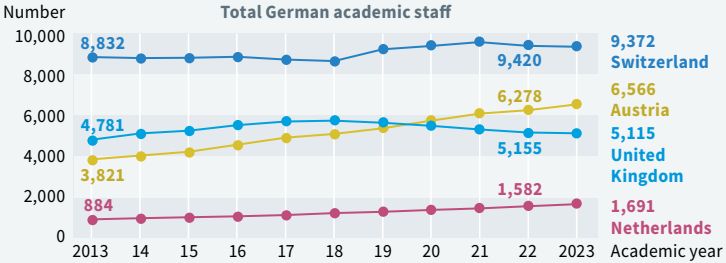
1 Foreign funding organisations, with the exception of EU funding within the framework of the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions, generally sponsor visits to Germany of guest researchers from their respective countries of location.

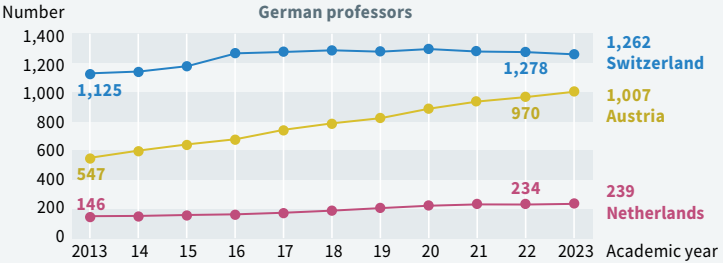
2 Not included are guest visits funded by the Helmholtz Association, Max Planck Society, Leibniz Association and Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft.

3 Deviations from 100% are due to rounding.

German academics and researchers at universities abroad

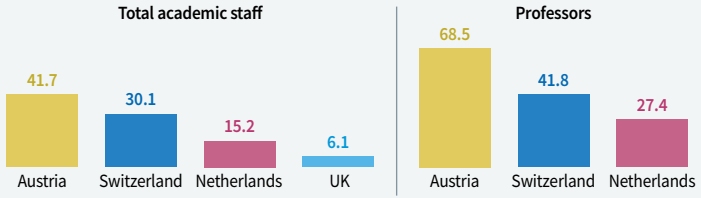
28 Total German academic staff and German professors at universities in selected host countries since 2013[1, 2, 3]





Sources: Statistical offices of Austria, Switzerland and the United Kingdom plus Universities of the Netherlands

29 Share of German academic staff of the total international academic staff and of German professors of the total number of international professors at universities in selected host countries in 2023[1, 2, 3]



Share of the total international academic staff and of all international professors in %

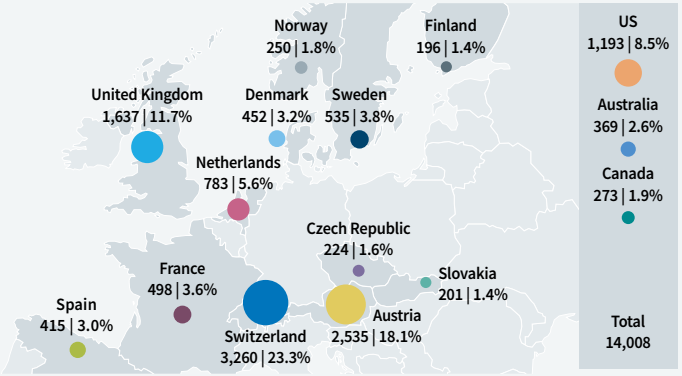
Sources: Statistical offices of Austria, Switzerland and the United Kingdom plus Universities of the Netherlands; DZHW calculations

1 Data from Switzerland do not include members of university leadership.

2 Data from Austria and the Netherlands refer to universities only.

3 Not including information from seven of the eight medical training centres in the Netherlands. Missing data for Utrecht University (2016–2022), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (2019–2022), the University of Amsterdam (2017) and the Open Universiteit (2021-2022) were estimated by Universities of the Netherlands (UNL).

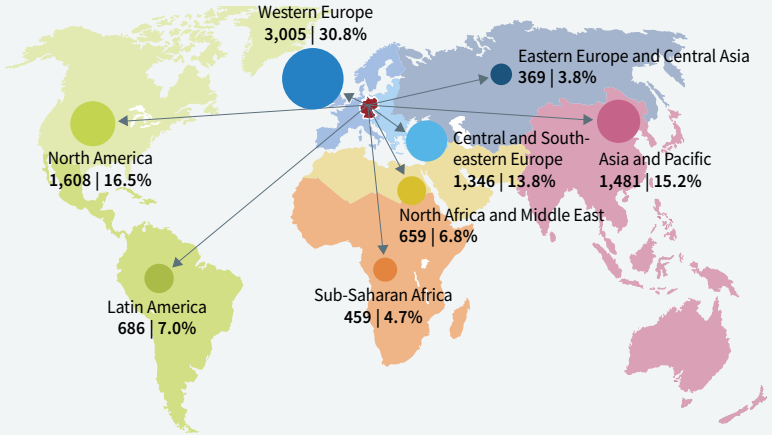
30 German doctoral students at universities in key host countries in 2023



Number and share of all German doctoral students abroad in %

Sources: OECD, student statistics; Federal Statistical Office, "Deutsche Studierende im Ausland" survey; US Department of Homeland Security, Student and Exchange Visitor Information System; Universities of the Netherlands, university staff statistics; DZHW calculations

31 Funded visits abroad undertaken by guest researchers from Germany by host region and key host countries in 2023[1, 2, 3, 4]

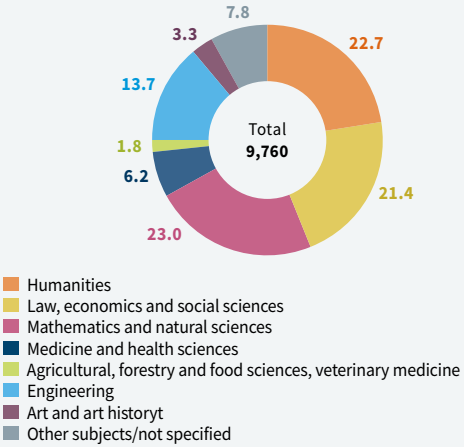


Number and share of all funded visits abroad in %

Host country	Number	In %
US	1,325	13.6
United Kingdom	655	6.7
Japan	450	4.6
Switzerland	426	4.4
France	416	4.3
Italy	368	3.8
Poland	306	3.1
Canada	283	2.9
Turkey	257	2.6

Host country	Number	In %
Brazil	242	2.5
Australia	209	2.1
India	192	2.0
Austria	182	1.9
Greece	174	1.8
China	172	1.8
Other countries	3,956	40.5
Not specified	147	1.5
Total	**9,760**	**100**

32 Funded visits abroad undertaken by guest researchers from Germany by subject group in 2023[3, 4]



Share of all funded visits abroad in %

Fig. 31–32
Source: DZHW survey, data provided by funding organisations; DZHW calculations

1 Foreign funding organisations generally sponsor visits by guest researchers from Germany to their respective countries of location.

2 Data for the DFG only include funded visits abroad undertaken by guest researchers from Germany who received funding in the form of research fellowships.

3 Not included are guest visits funded by the Helmholtz Association, Max Planck Society, Leibniz Association and Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft.

4 Deviations from 100% are due to rounding.

INTERNATIONALISATION STRUCTURES

Key findings

- In 2023, **international administrative staff** accounted for 4.5% of the total administrative staff, numbering around 1,400 employees (Fig. 33). The majority came from Western Europe (34%), Central and Southeastern Europe (26%) and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (11%). The key countries of origin were Austria (8%), the US (7%) and Italy (6%) (Fig. 34).
- **Around 2,800 staff members were employed at the international offices of universities in Germany in 2024.** The largest group of these were employed at large universities (24%), followed by large universities of applied sciences (UAS: 21%) and technical universities (16%) (Fig. 35).
- **A total of 2,381 English-language study programmes** were offered at state-recognised universities as of July 2025, according to the HRK Higher Education Compass. **In 424 cases (18%) these were bachelor's programmes and in 1,928 cases (81%) master's programmes** (Fig. 36). The share of English-language study programmes of all study programmes was the highest in the subject groups of agriculture and forestry (24%), mathematics and natural sciences (21%) as well as economics and law (19%), and by far the lowest in teacher training (2%) (Fig. 37).
- German universities were represented by DAAD-funded **transnational education (TNE) programmes at 41 locations** in 28 countries worldwide, offering 313 degree programmes in 2024. The regional focus of German TNE programmes lies in North Africa and Middle East, as well as Asia and Pacific (Fig. 38). The number of students enrolled in these TNE programmes stood at around 37,700 in 2024. Compared to 2015, this represents an increase of 32% (Fig. 39).

Data and definitions of terms

The term **international administrative staff** refers to employees at universities in Germany who are foreign nationals. The relevant data are taken from the German Federal Statistical Office's statistics on university staff.

The **staff of the international offices** at universities in Germany were recorded as part of an online search conducted by the DZHW on the universities' websites in July 2024. The data collected are limited to public universities, universities of applied sciences (UAS), colleges of art, music and education.

For analyses on **English-language study programmes**, the Higher Education Compass of the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) was consulted. The total number of English-language study programmes includes some courses (>1%) that do not lead to a bachelor's or master's degree. The subject groups correspond to the HRK classification system. Study programmes may be assigned to several subject groups simultaneously in the HRK Higher Education Compass.

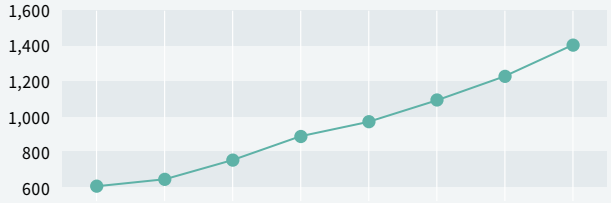
Transnational education (TNE) projects are study programmes for which a university from abroad bears the primary academic responsibility. The data recorded here are based on reports from German universities whose TNE activities are currently funded by the DAAD with funds from the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR), the German Federal Foreign Office (AA) or the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), or were funded by the DAAD during a development phase.

For more detailed information, see the information boxes on the data, the chapter on methodology and the glossary in the main edition of *Wissenschaft weltoffen*.

International administrative staff and staff of international offices at universities in Germany

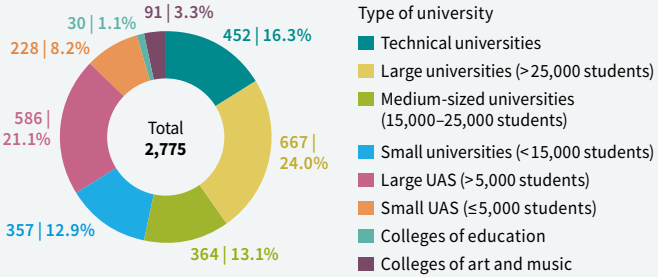
33 International administrative staff at universities in Germany and their share of all administrative staff since 2016

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
In %	3.2	3.2	3.5	3.8	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.5
Number	601	641	751	887	969	1,091	1,228	1,406



Source: Federal Statistical Office, "Statistik des Hochschulpersonals"; DZHW calculations

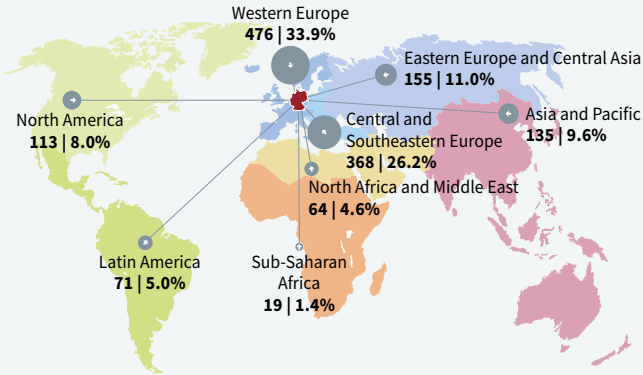
35 Staff at international offices by type and size of university in 2024[2]



Number and share of all staff at international offices at universities in Germany in %

Source: DZHW website searches, information on university websites

34 International administrative staff at universities in Germany by region of origin and key countries of origin in 2023[1]



Number and share of all international administrative staff at universities in Germany in %

Country of origin	Number	In %	Country of origin	Number	In %
Austria	111	7.9	Turkey	52	3.7
US	99	7.0	Greece	45	3.2
Italy	89	6.3	Netherlands	44	3.1
Russia	83	5.9	China	43	3.1
Poland	72	5.1	Not specified	5	0.4
France	59	4.2	**Total**	**1,406**	**100**

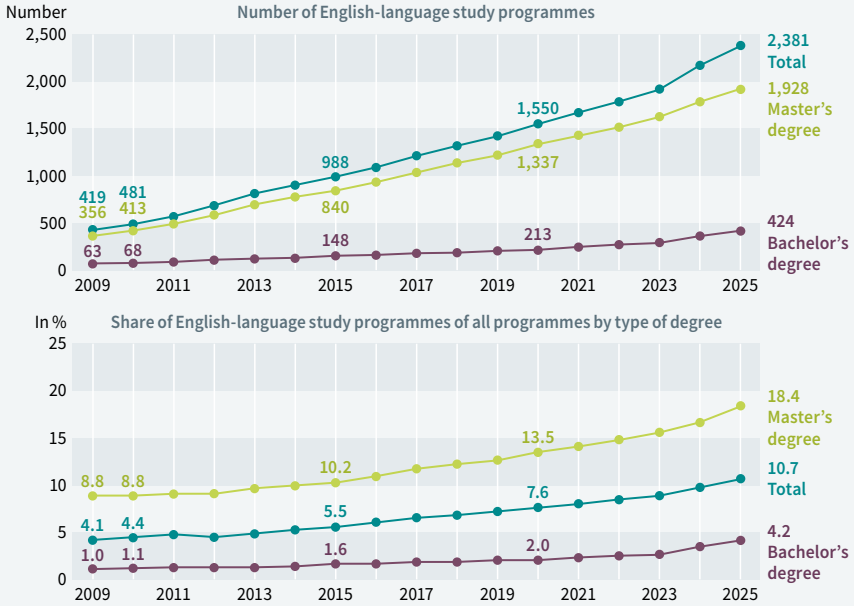
Source: Federal Statistical Office, "Statistik des Hochschulpersonals"; DZHW calculations

1 Deviations from 100% are due to rounding.

2 No staff could be documented for one university of applied sciences (UAS) and one college of art and music because, according to their websites, they did not have an international office at the time of research. Moreover, although they have international offices, no data could be recorded on the staff employed there at two large universities and two large UAS, as this information was not accessible to the general public.

English-language study programmes at universities in Germany

36 English-language study programmes at universities in Germany by type of degree since 2009[1]



37 Share of English-language study programmes of all study programmes by subject group, type of university and university sponsorship in 2025[2,3,4]

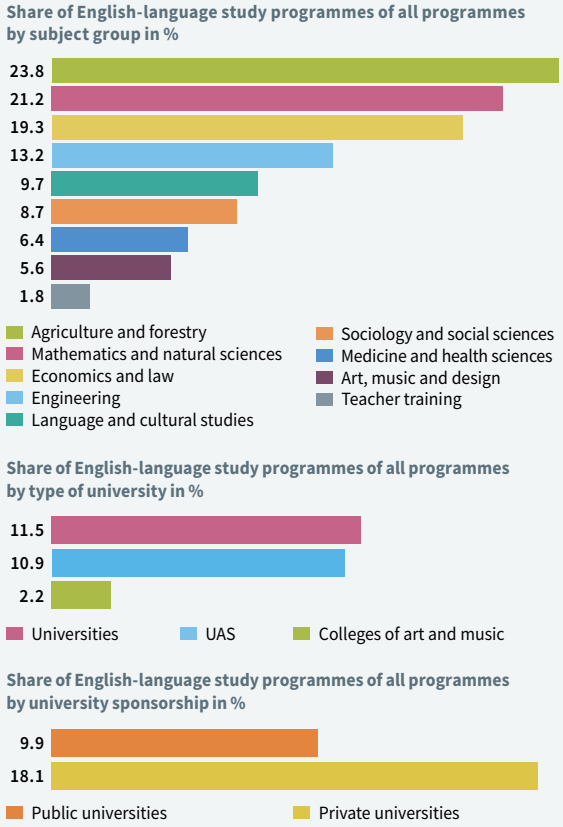


Fig. 36–37
Source: HRK Higher Education Compass; DZHW calculations

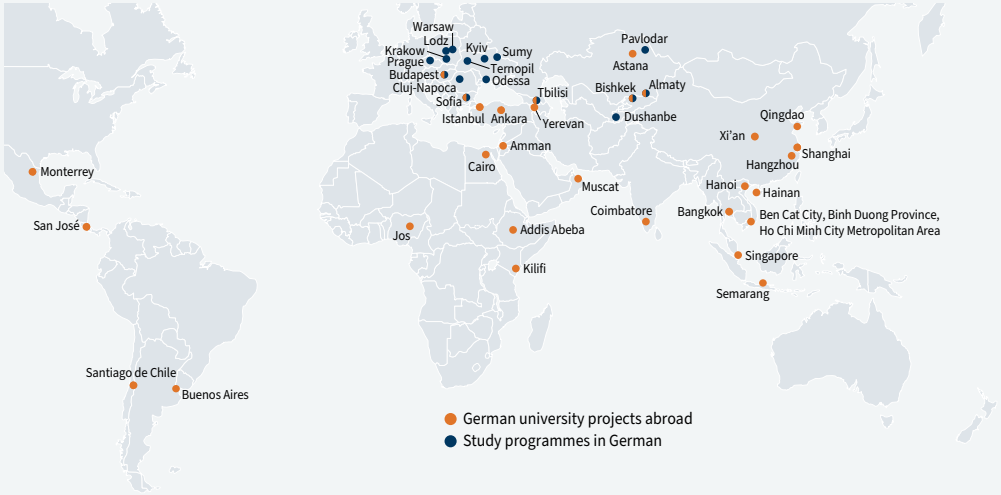
1 Although the category "Total" includes several study programmes that lead to degrees other than bachelor's or master's, 99% of the programmes considered are bachelor's or master's programmes.

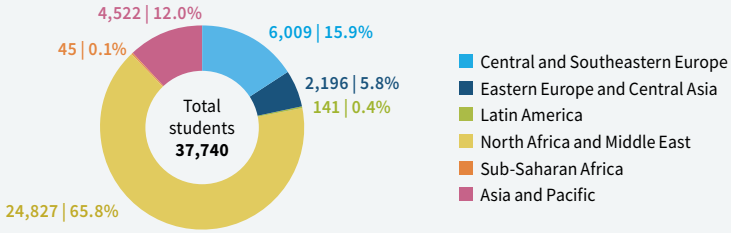
2 Subject groups according to the classification of the German Rectors' Conference (HRK).

3 Including multiple answers, as the study programmes in the Higher Education Compass of the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) can be assigned to several subject groups.

4 Figures for universities including colleges of education and theology. Figures for private universities including church-run universities.

38 Locations of transnational education projects hosted by German universities abroad and students in German TNE projects with current or previous DAAD funding by world region in 2024[1]





Number and share of all students in TNE projects by world region in %

39 Students in German TNE projects with current or previous DAAD funding since 2015[1, 2]

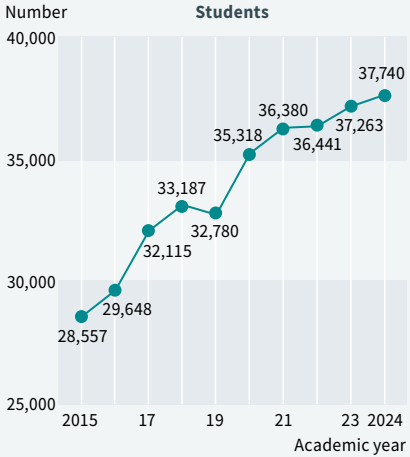


Fig. 38–39
Source: DAAD, TNE statistics

1 As the data from the German University in Cairo were not available in full at the time of going to press, conservative estimates were made for the missing figures, assuming that they would remain at the level of the previous year. In all probability, the actual total figures are slightly higher than the values presented here.

2 An academic year begins in the winter semester and ends in the summer semester of the following year (academic year 2024 = WS 2023/24 and SS 2024).



Wissenschaft weltoffen

The main edition of *Wissenschaft weltoffen* contains more comprehensive data and facts on the internationalisation of study and research in Germany. You can download it as a PDF free of charge at **www.wissenschaft-weltoffen.de**. The next issue is scheduled to be published in October 2026.

We also present additional data and information on the *Wissenschaft weltoffen* website, where you will find comprehensive charts, information on further possibilities to analyse the *Wissenschaft weltoffen* data and a detailed glossary.

The German Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies (DZHW) has set up a service point to provide advice and support for analyses of data from the *Wissenschaft weltoffen* data pool and to 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

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Authors
Naomi Knüttgen (DAAD)
Nicolai Netz (DZHW)
Jan Kercher (DAAD)
Inessa Fuge (DZHW)

Project partners
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