

Wissenschaft weltoffen kompakt

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

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INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN GERMANY

Key findings

- The **number of international students at German universities** increased significantly in the winter semester 2021/22, despite the Covid-19 pandemic, to 349,438 (+8%). They account for 11.9% of all students in Germany; at universities this figure is 13.5%, at universities of applied sciences 9.3%.
- Asia and Pacific represents the **key region of origin** for international students with a share of 31%, followed by students from North Africa and Middle East (19%) and Western Europe (17%). The **key country of origin** is China, with around 40,100 students or 12% of all international students in Germany. In second and third place, India follows with around 33,800 (10%) and Syria with around 16,700 students (5%).
- The overwhelming majority (94%) of international students were aiming for a degree in Germany in the winter semester 2021/22; only 6% (still due to the pandemic) are exchange or other visiting students not intending to complete a degree in Germany (winter semester 2019/20: 8%). **37% want to obtain a bachelor's degree and 43% a master's degree.** As for the **subject groups**, engineering (42%) and law, economics and social sciences (25%) dominate among international students.

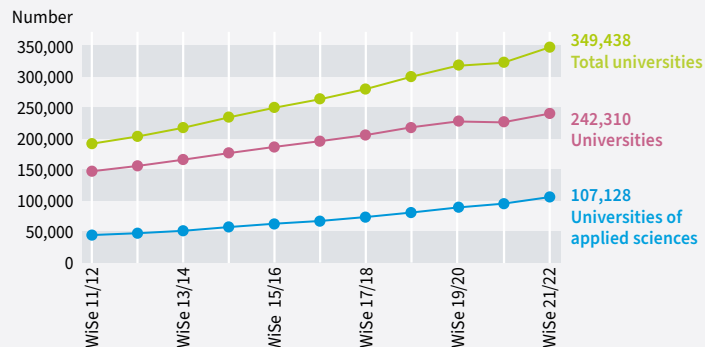
Data sources & definitions of terms

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. They are recorded by the universities in accordance with legal requirements, checked by the State Statistical Offices and passed on to the Federal Statistical Office. In the regular student and graduation statistics of the Federal Statistical Office, these students are referred to as 'Bildungsausländer'; *Wissenschaft weltoffen*, however, uses the internationally common designation.

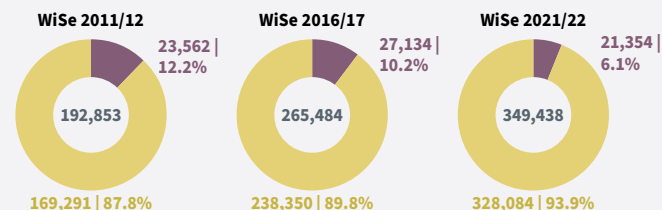
In addition to international students, the official statistics also record students of foreign citizenship who have acquired their university entrance certificate at a school in Germany or taken an aptitude or gifted students test here ('Bildungsinländer'). Together with the international students considered here, they form the group of foreign students.

Mobility development

1 International students in Germany by type of university, since the winter semester 2011/12¹



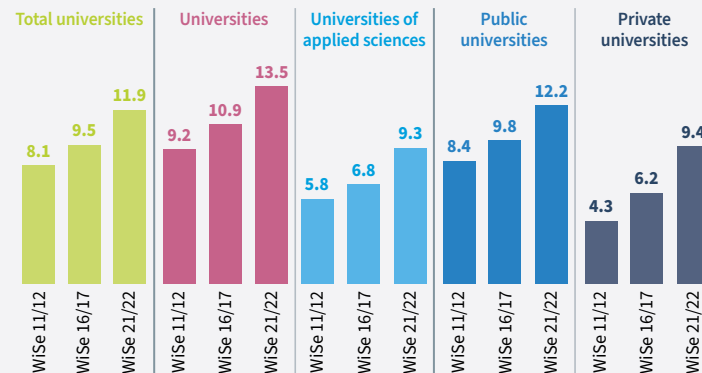
3 Number and proportion of international students by type of mobility, since the winter semester 2011/12



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 2011/12²



In % of all students

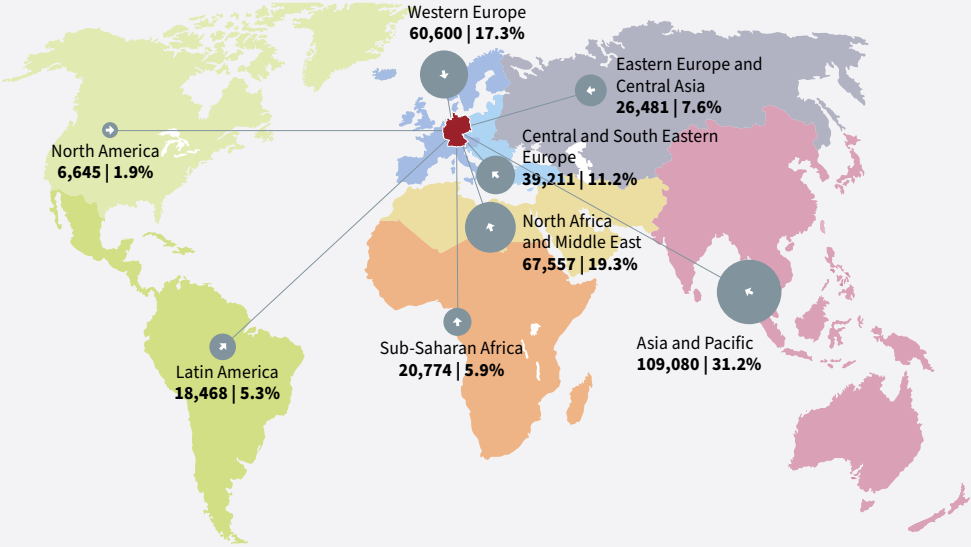
Fig. 1-3

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 2021/22^{1,3}



Total international students at German universities: 349,438
(including 622 students who cannot be allocated to a country of origin)

Number and % of all international students at German universities

5 International students by key countries of origin in the winter semester 2021/22¹

Country of origin	Number	Proportion in %
China	40,055	11.5
India	33,753	9.7
Syria	16,712	4.8
Austria	14,601	4.2
Turkey	12,616	3.6
Iran	11,625	3.3
Russia	10,739	3.1
Italy	9,887	2.8
Cameroon	7,692	2.2
Egypt	7,214	2.1
Pakistan	7,114	2.0
France	7,054	2.0
Spain	6,863	2.0
Tunisia	6,694	1.9
Morocco	6,573	1.9
Ukraine	6,359	1.8
Bangladesh	5,999	1.7
Vietnam	5,943	1.7
US	5,716	1.6
South Korea	5,663	1.6
Total	349,438	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 2021/22^{2,3}

Type of degree	Total universities		Universities		Universities of applied sciences	
	Number	Proportion in %	Number	Proportion in %	Number	Proportion in %
Bachelor's degree	130,478	37.3	66,178	27.3	64,300	60.0
Master's degree	148,901	42.6	112,161	46.3	36,740	34.3
Doctorate	28,745	8.2	28,661	11.8	84	0.1
Other type of degree	19,960	5.7	18,546	7.7	1,414	1.3
Not studying for a degree	21,354	6.1	16,764	6.9	4,590	4.3
Total	349,438	100	242,310	100	107,128	100

Number and % of all international students at German universities

7 International students by subject group and type of university in the winter semester 2021/22^{2,3}

Subject group	Total universities		Universities		Universities of applied sciences	
	Number	In %	Number	In %	Number	In %
Engineering	145,707	41.7	88,624	36.6	57,083	53.3
Law, economics and social sciences	87,350	25.0	50,850	21.0	36,500	34.1
Mathematics and natural sciences	39,854	11.4	35,883	14.8	3,971	3.7
Humanities	31,581	9.0	30,704	12.7	877	0.8
Medicine and health sciences	17,470	5.0	15,256	6.3	2,214	2.1
Art and art history	16,932	4.8	13,036	5.4	3,896	3.6
Agricultural, forestry and food sciences	7,636	2.2	5,489	2.3	2,147	2.0
Other	2,908	0.8	2,468	1.0	440	0.4
Total	349,438	100	242,310	100	107,128	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 2016/17 and 2021/22

Federal state	WiSe 2016/17		WiSe 2021/22		Development of the number in %
	Number	In %	Number	In %	
Baden-Wuerttemberg	37,742	10.4	34,375	9.6	-8.9 
Bavaria	34,553	9.1	55,291	13.7	+60.0 
Berlin	27,733	15.4	39,595	19.4	+42.8 
Brandenburg	6,433	13.1	8,245	16.3	+28.2 
Bremen	4,115	11.3	5,485	14.7	+33.3 
Hamburg	8,639	8.5	12,208	10.2	+41.3 
Hesse	22,483	9.0	28,280	10.8	+25.8 
Lower Saxony	16,036	7.8	20,996	10.6	+30.9 
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	2,678	7.0	3,667	9.4	+36.9 
North Rhine-Westphalia	61,154	7.9	77,199	10.1	+26.2 
Rhineland-Palatinate	9,253	7.6	13,642	11.3	+47.4 
Saarland	3,603	11.6	4,195	13.2	+16.4 
Saxony	15,283	13.7	16,878	15.9	+10.4 
Saxony-Anhalt	6,095	11.2	8,532	15.6	+40.0 
Schleswig-Holstein	3,802	6.3	4,513	6.7	+18.7 
Thuringia	5,882	11.6	16,337	13.1	+177.7 
Total	265,484	9.5	349,438	11.9	+31.6 

Number and % of all students in the federal state
Source: Federal Statistical Office; DZHW calculations

9 Incoming Erasmus students by federal state, 2021^{1,2,3}

Federal state	Number	In %
Baden-Wuerttemberg	3,388	10.2
Bavaria	3,184	6.5
Berlin	2,068	5.7
Brandenburg	464	6.2
Bremen	267	5.1
Hamburg	556	4.9
Hesse	980	3.6
Lower Saxony	837	4.1
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	119	3.3
North Rhine-Westphalia	2,796	3.8
Rhineland-Palatinate	771	5.9
Saarland	251	6.3
Saxony	920	5.6
Saxony-Anhalt	231	3.0
Schleswig-Holstein	221	5.2
Thuringia	302	2.5
Total	17,355	5.3

Number and % of all international students
Sources: DAAD; Federal Statistical Office

First-year students and graduates

 **10** International first-year students and graduates by type of degree, 2011, 2016 and 2021^{4,5}

	2011		2016		2021	
First-year students	Number	Proportion in %	Number	Proportion in %	Number	Proportion in %
Bachelor's degree	19,151	26.3	29,054	28.7	28,298	27.6
Master's degree	15,862	21.8	27,356	27.0	38,847	37.9
Doctorate	3,233	4.4	3,431	3.4	3,661	3.6
Other type of degree	4,012	5.5	3,846	3.8	4,682	4.6
Not studying for a degree	30,628	42.0	37,607	37.1	27,061	26.4
Total	72,886	100	101,294	100	102,549	100
Graduates	Number	Proportion in %	Number	Proportion in %	Number	Proportion in %
Bachelor's degree	7,154	23.5	10,326	26.8	15,604	29.1
Master's degree	8,928	29.4	20,336	52.7	29,839	55.7
Doctorate	3,979	13.1	4,923	12.8	5,480	10.2
Other type of degree	10,325	34.0	3,008	7.8	2,647	4.9
Total	30,386	100	38,593	100	53,570	100

Number and % of all international first-year students and graduates at German universities

Source: Federal Statistical Office; DZHW calculations

- 1 The shares of all international students refer to the winter semester 2020/21.
- 2 Erasmus mobility figures since June 2020 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.
- 3 Due to the pandemic, the Erasmus year 2021 was extended until 31 March 2023. To ensure comparability with previous years, however, only the visits within the otherwise usual period (1.6.2020 to 31.5.2022) were counted here to calculate the figures for the Erasmus year 2021.
- 4 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. 2021 = first-year students SuSe 2021 + WiSe 2021/22. 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. 2021 = graduates WiSe 2020/21 + SuSe 2021.
- 5 Deviations from 100% are due to rounding.

GERMAN STUDENTS ABROAD

Key findings

- **In 2020, around 133,400 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, the United Kingdom and Switzerland. In terms of temporary study-related visits abroad, Spain is in first place, followed by the United Kingdom, France and the US.
- 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 5,000 students due to the pandemic. 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, before dropping to 4.9% in 2020.
- The **development of temporary study-related visits abroad** shows a somewhat different trend. Between 1991 and 2000, the proportion of students on temporary visits abroad rose sharply (from 20% to 32%) and stabilised at this level until 2006. In 2009 and 2012, the figure was somewhat lower, at 30% in each case, falling again in 2016 to 28%.

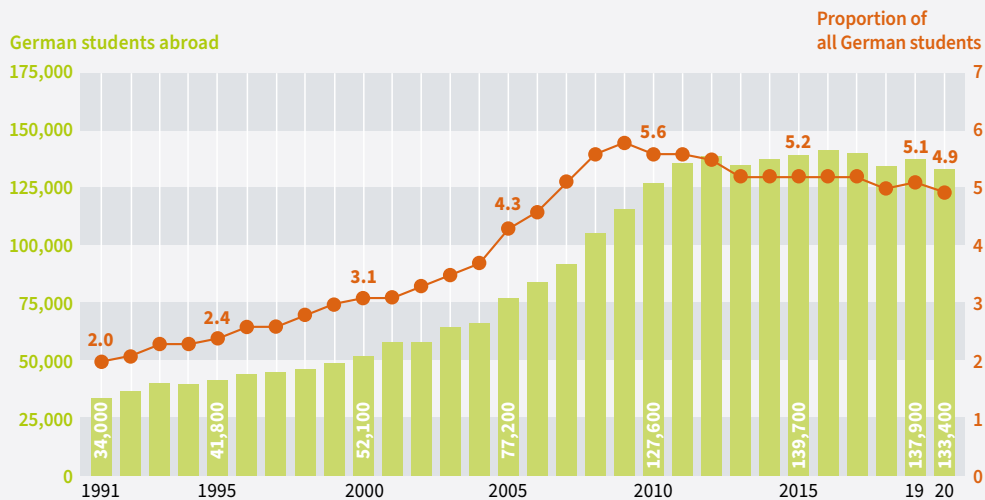
Data sources & definitions of terms

With regard to the international mobility of German students, a distinction is made between temporary visits abroad during a study programme leading to a degree in Germany (temporary study-related visits abroad) and visits abroad with the aim of obtaining a degree abroad (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 presented here are therefore interpreted as data on degree-related student mobility.

The total number of **temporary study-related visits abroad** by German students can currently only be estimated with the help of student or graduate surveys, as no reliable official statistics are available on this to date. The data from the social surveys conducted jointly by the German National Association for Student Affairs (DSW) and the German Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies (DZHW) are currently the most reliable source of data. Official data are only available for the sub-area of Erasmus visits, which comprise about one third of all temporary study-related visits abroad by German students.

Degree-related mobility

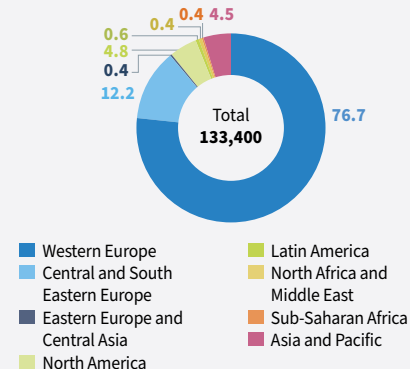
11 German students abroad, since 1991^{1,2}



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

- 1 From 2010: including results of the Doctoral Survey, from 2019 including results of the doctoral statistics.
- 2 2020: 2,608,368 German students at home. German students abroad thus account for 4.9% of all German students at home and abroad.
- 3 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 2019 or 2020.

12 German students abroad by host region and key host countries, 2020³



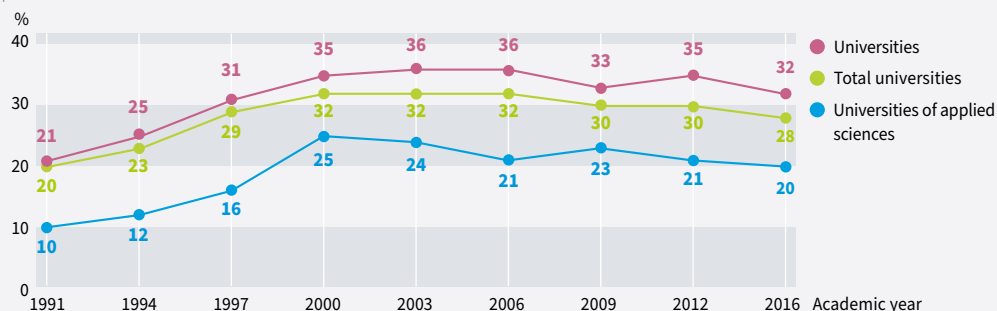
Top 10 host countries	Number	Proportion in %
Austria	33,836	25.4
Netherlands	24,494	18.4
United Kingdom	12,670	9.5
Switzerland	11,932	8.9
US	5,364	4.0
Turkey	4,261	3.2
France	3,823	2.9
Hungary	3,415	2.6
China	3,400	2.5
Denmark	3,247	2.4

Number and % of all German students abroad

Sources: UNESCO, Student Statistics; Federal Statistical Office, 'Deutsche Studierende im Ausland', country-specific reporting periods

Temporary study-related visits abroad

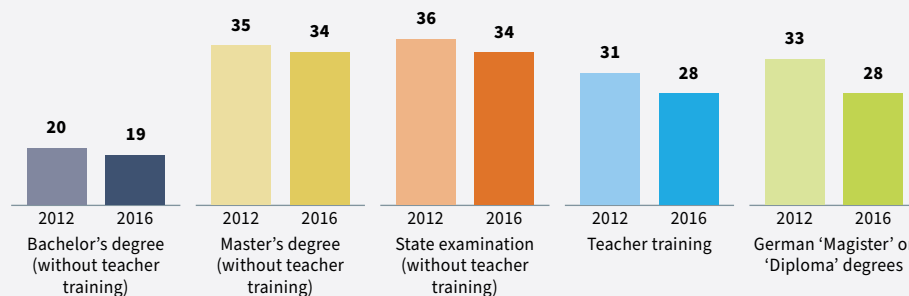
13 Domestic students in later semesters on study-related visits abroad, by type of university, since 1991^{1,2}



In % of all domestic students in later semesters

Sources: DSW/DZHW Social Surveys 1991–2016

14 Proportion of domestic students in later semesters on study-related visits abroad, by type of degree, 2012 and 2016^{1,2}



In % of all domestic students in later semesters

Sources: DSW/DZHW Social Surveys 2012, 2016

15 Domestic students in Germany with study-related visits abroad, by key host countries, winter semester 2020/21^{2,3}

Host country	In %	Host country	In %
Spain	12	Norway	3
United Kingdom	10	Austria	3
France	10	Switzerland	3
US	9	Australia	3
Italy	5	Canada	3
Sweden	4	Belgium	2
Finland	4	Poland	2
Netherlands	4	Czech Republic	2
China	3	Portugal	2
Ireland	3	Denmark	2

Multiple answers possible

Source: DAAD survey 'Benchmark internationale Hochschule' (BintHo) 2020/21

1 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: students from the 9th to 14th university semester (university) or 7th to 11th university semester (university of applied sciences).

2 Reference group: German nationals and Bildungs-inländer.

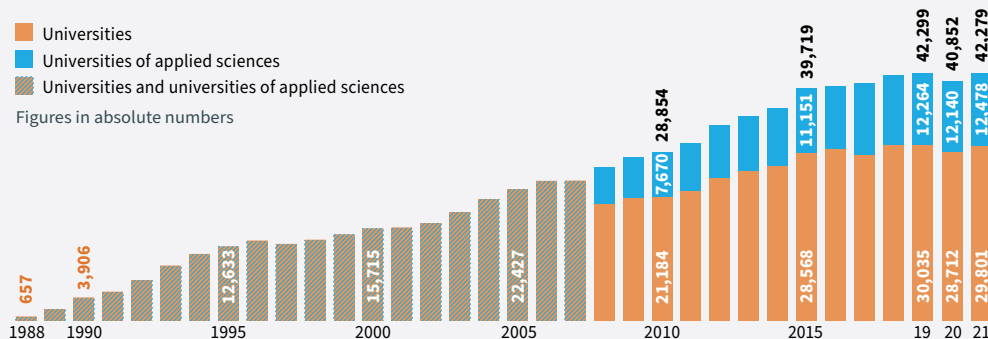
3 Only countries in which at least 2% of the recorded visits took place.

Erasmus visits

16 Erasmus participants from Germany, by type of university, since 1988^{1, 2, 3, 4}

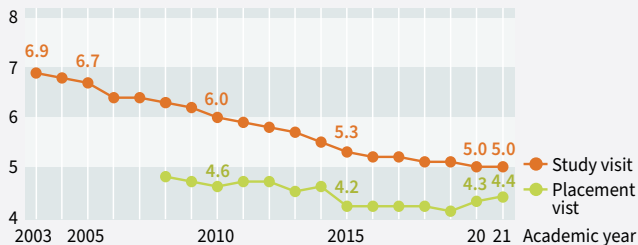
■ Universities
■ Universities of applied sciences
■ Universities and universities of applied sciences

Figures in absolute numbers



17 Average duration of visits abroad of German Erasmus participants, by type of visit, since 2003^{2, 3, 4, 5}

Duration of visit in month



18 Erasmus participants from Germany by key host countries, 2021^{3, 4}

Host country	Number	In %
Spain	6,698	15.8
France	6,184	14.6
United Kingdom	3,591	8.5
Sweden	2,888	6.8
Italy	2,741	6.5
Finland	2,409	5.7
Austria	2,172	5.1
Norway	2,054	4.9
Netherlands	1,707	4.0
Portugal	1,495	3.5
Denmark	1,155	2.7
Ireland	1,151	2.7
Turkey	1,147	2.7
Belgium	1,058	2.5
Poland	874	2.1
Total host countries	42,279	100

Number of visits and share of all visits in %

Fig. 16–18

Source: DAAD, Erasmus statistics

- 1 A breakdown of visits by type of university is only possible from the 2008 Erasmus year onwards.
- 2 Erasmus statistics until 2014: an Erasmus year starts in the winter semester and ends in the summer semester of the following year. 2014 = WiSe 2013/14 + SuSe 2014. New Erasmus+ statistics since 2015: 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.
- 3 Erasmus mobility figures since June 2020 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 Due to the pandemic, the Erasmus year 2021 was extended until 31 May 2023. To ensure comparability with previous years, however, only the visits within the otherwise usual period (1.6.2020 to 31.5.2022) were counted here to calculate the figures for the Erasmus year 2021.
- 5 Placement visits have been funded in the Erasmus programme since 2008.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOBILITY

Key findings


- In 2020, around **6.4 million students were enrolled outside their home country**, according to UNESCO. Since 2010, the number of internationally mobile students has increased by around 2.6 million or 68%. Western Europe (29%), Asia and Pacific (22%) and North America (20%) dominate among **host regions**, while Asia and Pacific (43%) dominates among regions of origin.
- The **US is the key host country** for international students. Around 957,000 or 15% of all international students worldwide were enrolled in the US in 2020. The United Kingdom (9%), Australia (7%), Germany (6%) and Canada (5%) follow at a considerable distance as host countries.
- The **key country of origin of internationally mobile students is China**. In total, around 1.1 million, or 17%, of all internationally mobile students came from China in 2020. The countries of origin India (8%), Vietnam, South Korea and Germany (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 the United Kingdom, Australia and Japan. 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 Vietnam, with the reverse ratio of 94% outbound to 6% inbound students.

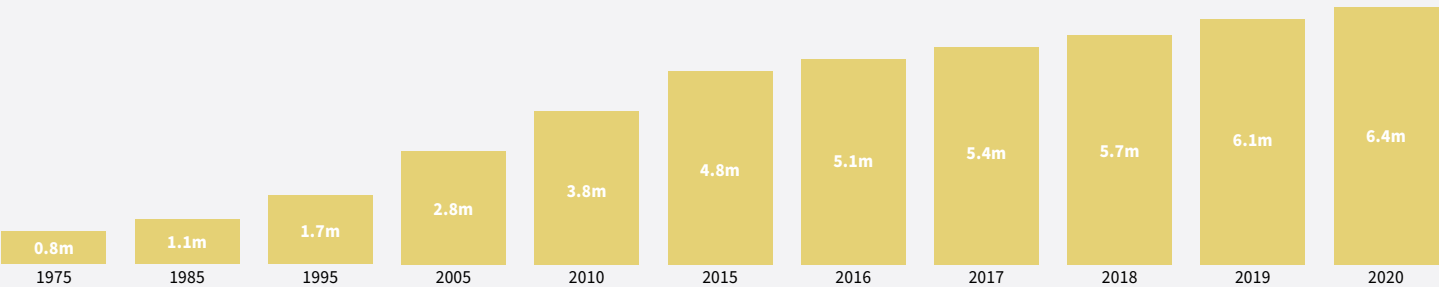
Data sources & definitions of terms


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).

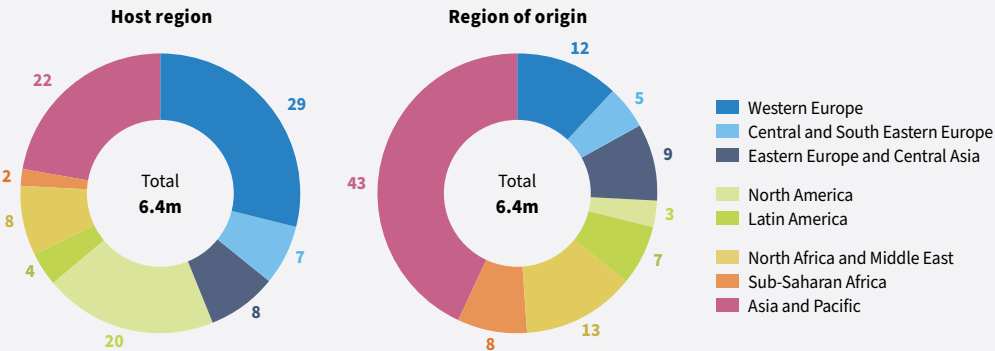
Moreover, the UNESCO statistics are **not based on a complete survey of all mobile students worldwide** but only on their best possible calculation on the basis of the data available in each case. Missing data are estimated. The availability and significance of the data depend heavily on the development of education statistics in the respective countries. Some countries, especially in Latin America as well as 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



 20 International students by host region and region of origin, 2020



In % of all international students worldwide

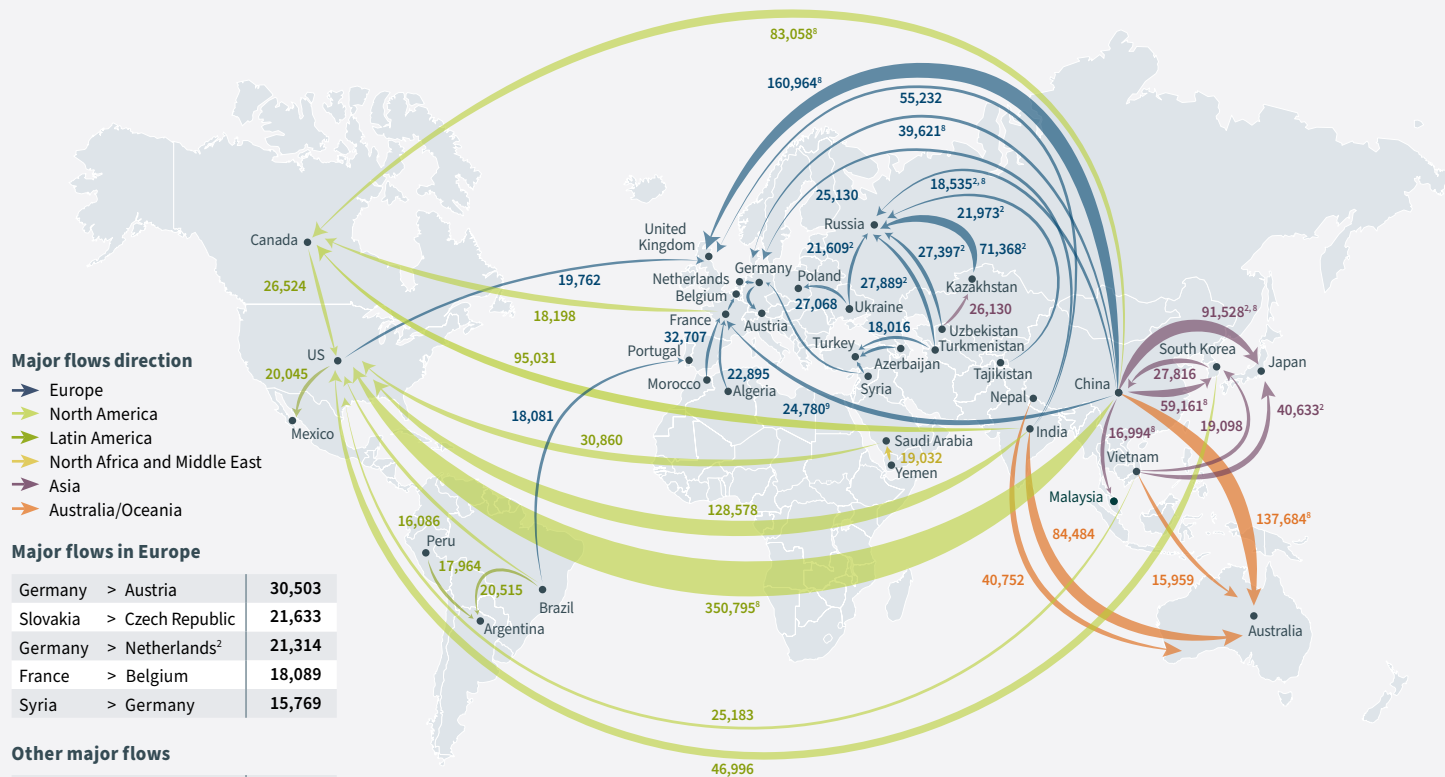
Fig. 19
Source: UNESCO, Student Statistics; country-specific reporting periods

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.

Host countries and countries of origin

 **21** Major flows of international student mobility, 2020^{1, 6, 7}



Figures in absolute numbers of students

22 Key host countries and countries of origin of international students, 2020¹

Country of origin	Number	Proportion in %	Host country	Number	Proportion in %
China ³	1,067,165	16.8	US	957,475	15.0
India	528,301	8.3	United Kingdom	550,877	8.7
Vietnam	138,434	2.2	Australia	458,279	7.2
South Korea	126,922	2.0	Germany	368,717	5.8
Germany ⁴	126,912	2.0	Canada	323,157	5.1
US	120,745	1.9	Russia ²	282,922	4.4
France	114,215	1.8	France	252,444	4.0
Kazakhstan	96,461	1.5	China ³	233,127	3.7
Nepal ⁵	95,268	1.5	UAE	215,975	3.4
Brazil ⁵	89,151	1.4	Japan ²	202,907	3.2
Other countries	3,858,389	60.6	Other countries	2,516,083	39.5

Number and in % of all international students worldwide

23 Mobility balances in major host countries and countries of origin, 2020¹

Internationally mobile students				
Country	Number	Outgoing	Incoming	Number
		In %		
Vietnam	138,434	94	6	8,646
India	528,301	91	9	49,348
China ³	1,067,165	82	18	233,127
Brazil ⁵	89,151	80	20	22,364
Kazakhstan	96,461	70	30	40,742
South Korea	126,922	53	47	111,568
France	114,215	31	69	252,444
Germany ⁴	126,912	26	74	368,717
Russia ²	57,591	17	83	282,922
Japan ²	32,913	14	86	202,907

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

Fig. 21

Sources: UNESCO, Student Statistics; Federal Statistical Office, Student Statistics; MOE, Statistical report on international students in China for 2018; country-specific reporting periods; DAAD calculations

Fig. 22–23

Sources: UNESCO, Student Statistics; Federal Statistical Office, Student Statistics, 'Deutsche Studierende im Ausland'; MOE, Statistical report on international students in China for 2018; 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 deviates from the national data. Students are defined here as those assigned to ISCED 2011 levels 5 to 8.

- To capture as complete a picture of international student mobility as possible, country of origin data from the Chinese Ministry of Education (MOE) from the year 2018 were used to supplement UNESCO data for international students in China. Data are available on the top 15 countries of origin of international students in China: Bangladesh, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Russia, South Korea, Thailand, the US and Vietnam. These are not yet included in UNESCO statistics. To display data on international student mobility to China that are as comparable as possible with UNESCO data from other countries, the percentages of non-degree related visits by international students were deducted. The reduction in international students visiting China in comparison to *Wissenschaft weltoffen 2020* is therefore of statistical origin. Also included are UNESCO data of international students to Hong Kong and Macau from 2018.
- Data from 2019, as UNESCO data on 2020 was not yet available.
- Including Hong Kong and Macau. Mobility between Hong Kong and Macau, as well as from Mainland China to Hong Kong and Macau has been excluded. However, as no country-specific data on incoming students are available for China, students from Hong Kong and Macau going to China are still included.
- UNESCO statistics were supplemented by data from the Federal Statistical Office on numbers of German students in China from 2020. These are not included in UNESCO statistics.
- Not including the number of international students in China, as these are not included in either UNESCO statistics or the Chinese Ministry of Education (MOE) statistical report.
- Not including Singapore as a host country since the UNESCO statistics do not include data on the countries of origin of international students.
- Only mobility flows with at least 15,000 internationally mobile students are shown.
- Including students from Hong Kong and Macau.
- Unclear whether students from Hong Kong and Macau are included.

RESEARCHER MOBILITY IN GERMANY

Key findings

- In 2021, **around 59,300 academic and artistic staff with foreign citizenship were employed at German universities**, including around 3,700 international professors. This means that international staff accounted for 13.9% of all academic staff, while the proportion of professors was 7.4%.
- The **key region of origin** of international academic staff is Western Europe. 34% of the total international academic staff and as many as 66% of the international professors come from Western European countries. The **key countries of origin** of the international academic staff are India, Italy, China and Austria. Most international professors come from the two German-speaking countries Austria (19%) and Switzerland (9%).
- In 2020, **around 15,000 employed academics and researchers with foreign citizenship** worked at the four largest **non-university research institutes**. Since 2010, their number has more than doubled (+120%), so that in 2020 around 28% of all academics and researchers here came from abroad. EU countries account for 41%, other European countries for 12% of all foreign 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 2020, this was only around 23,000 stays due to Covid-19. Western Europe and Asia and Pacific are the key regions of origin, with shares of 25% and 22% respectively. Conversely, in 2020, only

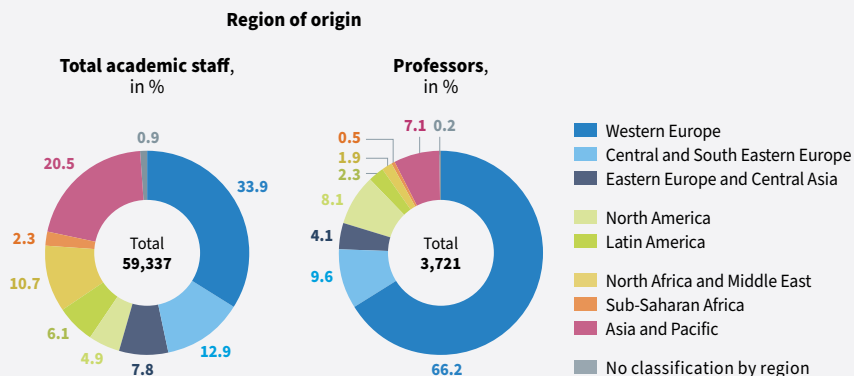
around 5,300 visits by German guest researchers abroad were funded by domestic and foreign organisations due to the pandemic. Western Europe is the key host region (30%), followed by North America (21%) and Asia and Pacific (13%).

Data sources & definitions of terms

Researcher mobility in Germany includes foreign 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 foreign staff at universities and non-university research institutes, which is recorded by the Federal Statistical Office, and funded visits by foreign 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 foreign 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, 2021^{1, 2, 3}



Country of origin	Total academic staff		Country of origin	Professors	
	Number	In %		Number	In %
India	4,520	7.2	Austria	722	19.4
Italy	4,334	7.0	Switzerland	326	8.8
China	3,961	6.7	Italy	310	8.3
Austria	3,118	5.3	US	257	6.9
Russia	2,535	4.4	Netherlands	256	6.9
US	2,448	4.4	France	183	4.9
Iran	2,384	4.1	United Kingdom	169	4.5
Spain	2,336	3.8	Spain	140	3.8
France	2,115	3.6	Russia	96	2.6
Turkey	1,811	3.0	Greece	94	2.5
United Kingdom	1,640	2.8	China	80	2.1
Greece	1,471	2.5	Belgium	75	2.0
Netherlands	1,360	2.4	Poland	72	1.9
Poland	1,280	2.3	Turkey	52	1.4
Switzerland	1,115	1.9	Canada	46	1.2

25 International and German academic staff at German universities by staff group, 2011, 2016 and 2021^{1, 2, 3}

Staff group	2011		2016		2021	
	Number	In %	Number	In %	Number	In %
Total German academic staff	302,890	89.9	340,894	88.1	368,361	86.1
Thereof: professors	40,316	12.0	43,651	11.3	46,539	10.9
Total international academic staff	34,212	10.1	45,858	11.9	59,337	13.9
Thereof: professors	2,605	0.8	3,183	0.8	3,721	0.9
Thereof: other academic staff	31,607	9.4	42,675	11.0	55,616	13.0

Number and % of the total academic staff

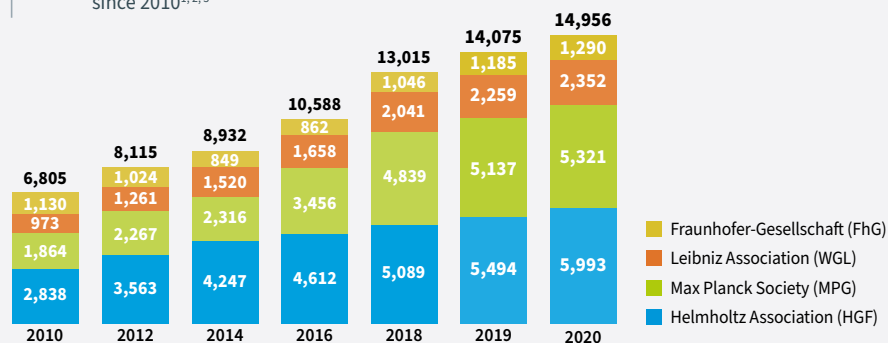
Fig. 24, 25

Source: Federal Statistical Office, university staff statistics

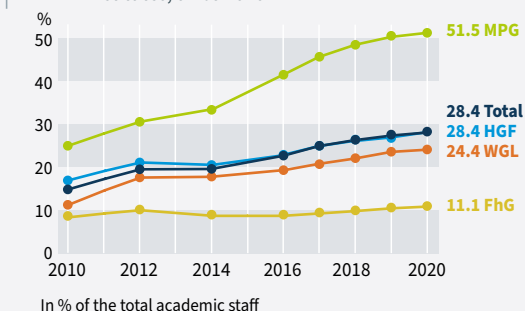
- 1 Total academic staff including artistic staff at colleges of art and music as well as professors.
- 2 International staff = staff with foreign, unclear, unknown or no citizenship (stateless).
- 3 The year corresponds to the calendar year (reference date: 1 December).

International academic staff at non-university research institutes

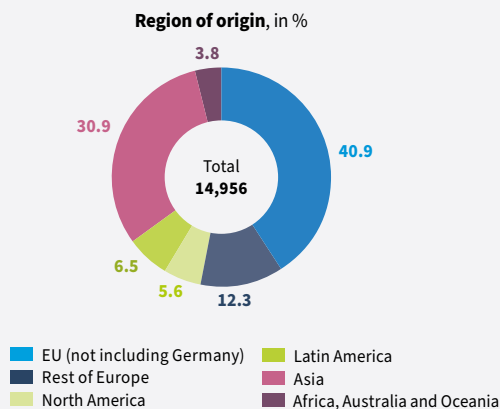
26 International academic staff at the four largest German non-university research institutes, since 2010^{1,2,3}



28 Proportion of international academic staff at the four largest German non-university research institutes, since 2010^{1,2,3}



27 International academic staff at the four largest German non-university research institutes, by region and key countries of origin, 2020^{1,2,4}



Top 10 countries of origin	Number	Proportion in %
China	1,427	9.5
India	1,381	9.2
Italy	1,302	8.7
Russia	795	5.3
Spain	686	4.6
France	675	4.5
US	655	4.4
Iran	486	3.2
United Kingdom	469	3.1
Austria	459	3.1

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

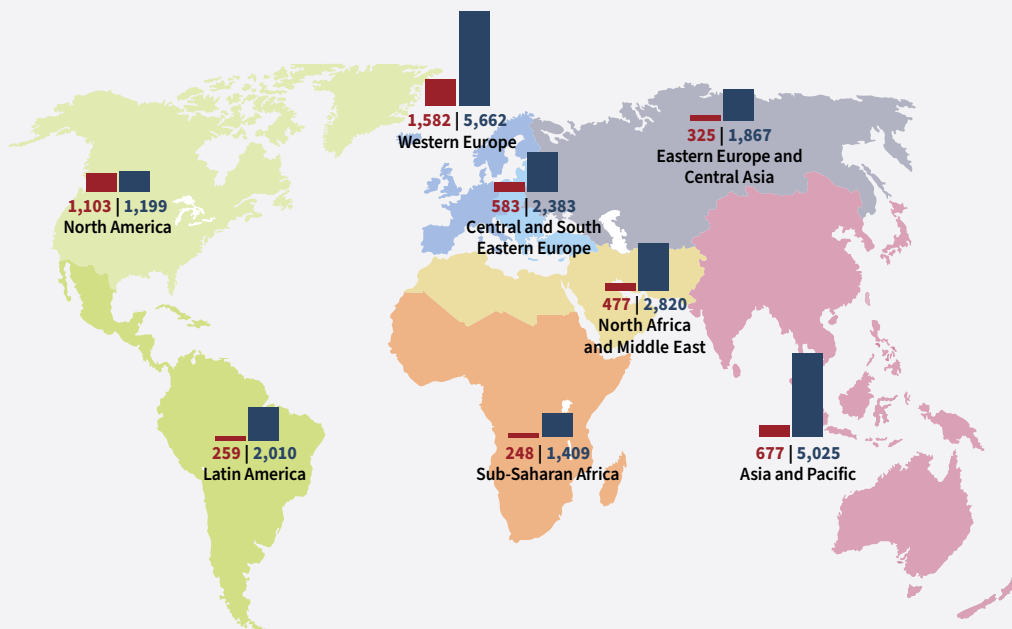
Fig. 29

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.
- 5 Foreign funding organisations, with the exception of EU funding within the framework of the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions, generally support the stay of visiting researchers from their respective countries of residence in Germany.
- 6 Deviations from 100% are due to rounding.

Funded guest researchers

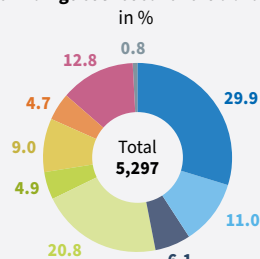
 29 Funded visits of German guest researchers abroad and international guest researchers in Germany, by host region and region of origin, 2020^{5,6}



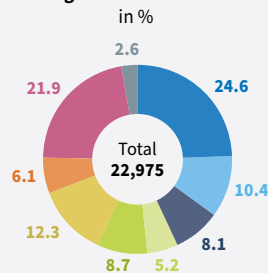
■ Funded German guest researchers abroad
■ Funded international guest researchers in Germany

Excluding 43 German and 600 international academics and researchers for whom no information on the host country or country of origin was available.

German guest researchers abroad, in %



International guest researchers in Germany, in %



■ Western Europe
■ Central and South Eastern Europe
■ Eastern Europe and Central Asia
■ North America
■ Latin America
■ North Africa and Middle East
■ Sub-Saharan Africa
■ Asia and Pacific
■ 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 expected to be published in September 2023.

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.

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