

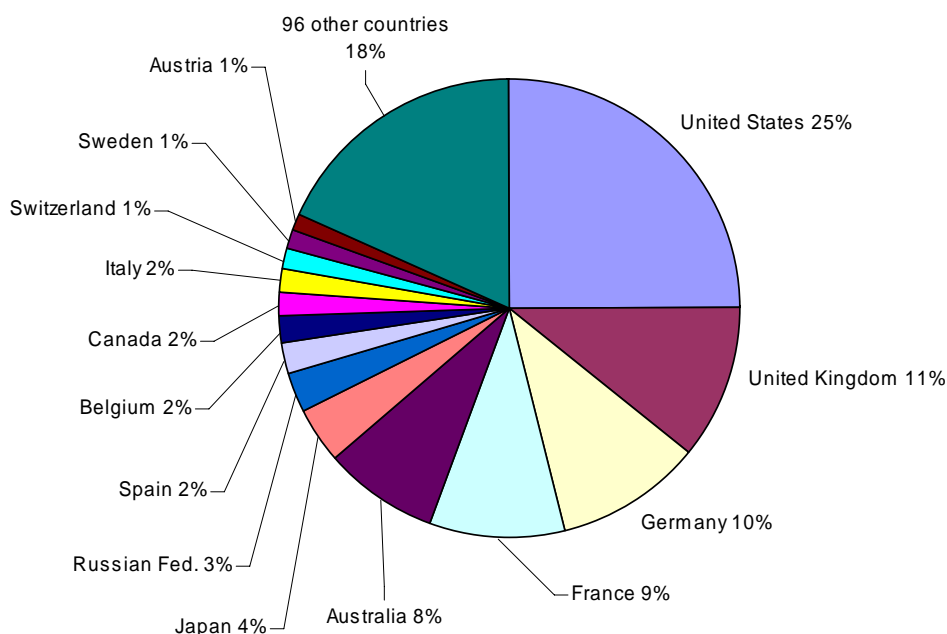
Tertiary Students Abroad: Learning Without Borders

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Tertiary education increasingly reaches beyond national boundaries. In many parts of the world, tertiary-level students are enrolled in programmes in countries where they are not permanent residents. The latest figures on the percentage of foreign students in any given host country reveal that:

- Out of every ten tertiary students studying abroad, five are Asians, three are Europeans and one is African.
- Half of all foreign students study in Europe and one-quarter in the United States.
- Three countries host almost half of the world's foreign students (United States, United Kingdom and Germany). Add the next three highest hosting countries (France, Australia and Japan), and these six countries serve two-thirds of the world's foreign students.
- While 25% of all foreign students are in the United States, they represent only 4% of the country's tertiary students. In the United Kingdom and in Germany, foreign students make up one in ten total tertiary enrolments, in Australia almost one in six.
- South America is the least common destination for foreign students (hosting only 0.6% of the global foreign student population), followed by Africa (1.4%).

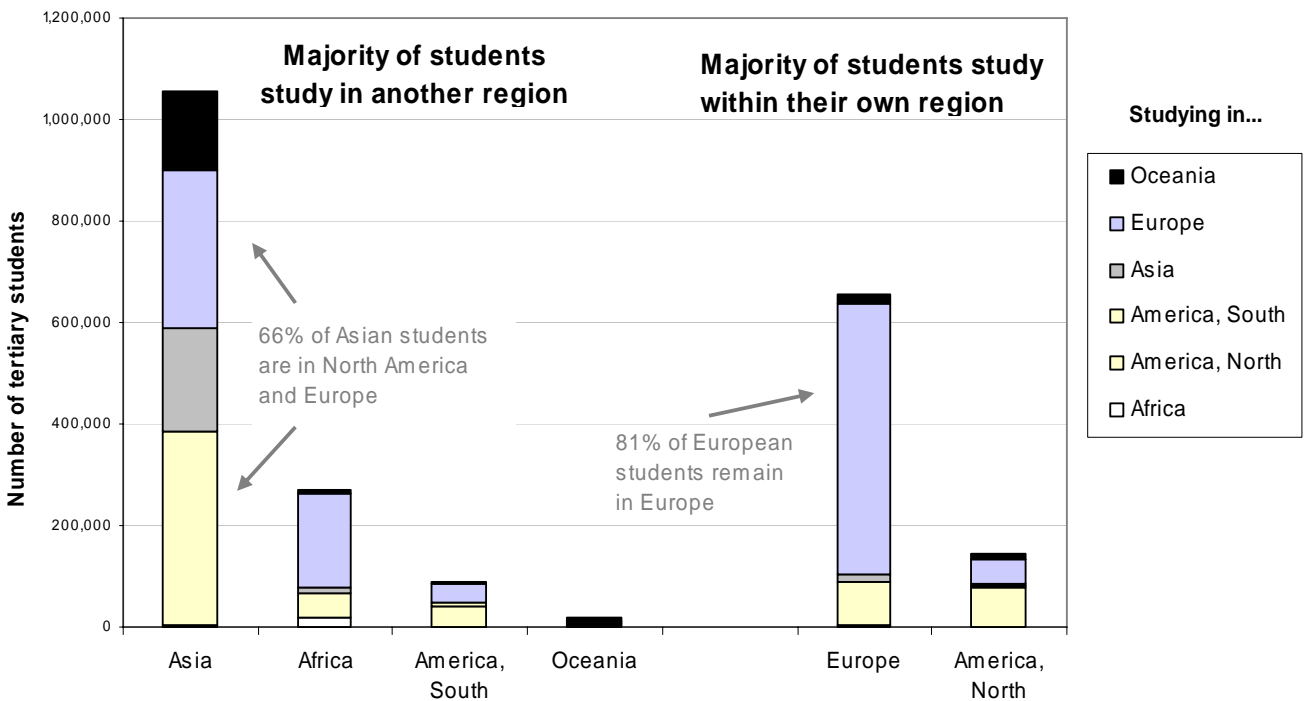
Figure 1. Distribution of foreign students by host country/territory, 2002/2003



Source: www.uis.unesco.org (Database Access, accessed November 2005)

- Eight out of ten foreign European students study in another European country.
- North American students make up only a small part of those who study abroad (6% of the total number of foreign students).
- Three out of five foreign students in Europe are studying either in the United Kingdom, Germany or France.
- The United States hosts the largest number of foreign students, welcoming 586 thousand students in 2002/03. Sixty-three percent of these students come from Asia.
- 46% of all foreign students are women and only eight countries host more foreign female students than male.
- The percentage of foreign students per country varies considerably throughout the world. Some of the highest percentages are found in Macao (China), where foreign students make up 67% of tertiary enrolments, in Cyprus (29%), Qatar (21%), Australia (19%), Switzerland (18%) and Austria (14%).

Figure 2. Foreign students by continent of origin, 2002/2003



Source: www.uis.unesco.org (Database Access, accessed November 2005).

Note: Data include all countries, some host less than 1000 students.