

## KEY FIGURES 2022: STUDENT MOBILITY IS BACK—WITH CHANGES

# COMMUNIQUÉ CAMPUS FRANCE

PRESS RELEASE

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For the first time, the world has more than 6 million mobile students, with Europe being their most popular destination. There are 365,000 international students in France alone. The 2022 edition of Campus France's Key Figures depicts the changing landscape of global mobility as a result of three unprecedented crises: the pandemic, Brexit, and the war in Ukraine.

[Link to the summary](#)

[Link to Key Figures 2022](#)

### Students return to France after the pandemic

France's efforts to continue welcoming international students during the pandemic have paid off:

- After falling by 17% in 2020 in response to the pandemic, the number of study visas **rebounded strongly (+25%) in 2021**, reflecting a **3% increase** over prepandemic 2019.
- Despite the pandemic, the total number of international students in France **remained stable (-1%) in 2020-2021**, compared to the previous year. France now has **365,000 international students**, an **increase of 18%** over five years earlier.

### Who are the international students in France?

**Morocco, Algeria, China, Italy, and Senegal** have the highest representation among these 365,000 students. **North Africa and the Middle East** are the most heavily represented areas of origin (29%), followed by **Europe** (24%). Over a five-year period, students from **Sub-Saharan Africa** saw the greatest increase (+41%).

**Two-thirds of international students** attend a university, followed by business schools (13%), engineering schools (8%), and higher education curricula in high schools (particularly preparatory classes, 5%). Foreign students account for **13% of all students in France** and 40% of doctoral students. **Île-de-France is home to more than a third**, followed by Auvergne Rhône-Alpes and Occitanie.

The French government provided scholarships to nearly **7,700 international students and trainees** in 2020-21.

### The European Union is the world's top destination for students

The most recent global reference figures are those of UNESCO, dated 2019, which was prior to the pandemic. What can we learn from this information before the upheaval brought on primarily by the pandemic?

- For the first time ever, the global number of mobility students has surpassed **6 million**, representing a **35% increase** in just five years.
- The European Union continued to be the **top-ranked destination region** and the second most common region of origin for students.
- The most popular **host country** was the **United States**, followed by Australia, the United Kingdom, Germany, Russia, Canada, and France.
- Among the top **countries of origin**, France exceeded 100,000 outbound students for the first time, **moving up one spot to fifth place**, after China (1), India (2), Vietnam (3), and Germany (4).
- Finally, according to Erasmus+ data from 2019-2020, France surpassed Germany and the United Kingdom as the **second most popular destination country** for Erasmus+ students.

## How will mobility evolve throughout the world?

If 2022 ends up being the **year of mobility's return**, it will do so in a form **largely shaped** by the unprecedented crises that have occurred since 2020.

### *In Europe:*

- **Brexit** and **higher tuition fees** are driving EU students away from the United Kingdom as a destination. This decline is offset, however, by an increase in the number of Asian students in the country.
- The **war in Ukraine** is expected to have an impact on **Russia's position** as the fifth-ranked host country, and it may also have an impact on the flow of students from Africa, who were present in large numbers in Ukraine prior to the war.

### *Worldwide:*

- In the face of Covid, **the continued isolation of the top country of origin, China**, will be a decisive factor, particularly for countries that rely most heavily on mobility from this country, such as Australia.
- **Australia's (2nd host country) closure** during the pandemic could also have an impact on its rise and influence the next ranking.
- **Canada stands out as a major host country** by emphasizing its bilingualism, its positive environmental image, and its employment opportunities.

## Campus France

**220** people in France serving higher education and research.

In partnership with the **275** Campus France local offices and antennas, located within the embassies of France in **134** countries.

More than **370** French institutions of higher education that are members of the Campus France Forum.

**30,000** mobility records under management.

**80** websites in **32** languages, with more than **20** million visits.

**2.3 million** people follow Campus France on social media (all sites combined), and there are more than **344,000 alumni** active on France Alumni.

**30** publications and statistical studies produced per year.

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