



pdf-version with optional data-download for
all figures: www.wissenschaft-weltoffen.de

Wissenschaft weltoffen kompakt 2019

English edition

Facts and Figures on the International Nature of Study and Research in Germany

DZHW Deutsches Zentrum für
Hochschul- und Wissenschaftsforschung

DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

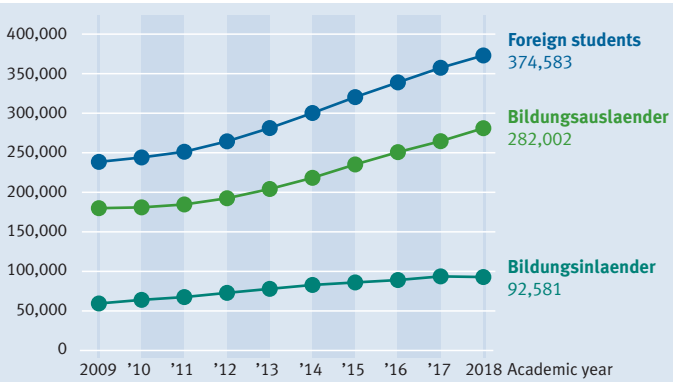
FOREIGN STUDENTS IN GERMANY

Foreign students at German universities fall into two distinct groups: **Bildungsinlaender** and **Bildungsauslaender**. Bildungsinlaender are students of other nationalities who have obtained their higher education entrance qualification in Germany, while Bildungsauslaender are students of other nationalities who have obtained their higher education entrance qualification outside Germany. Bildungsinlaender have usually lived in Germany for a long period and attended a German school before going to university here, whereas Bildungsauslaender usually come to Germany primarily in order to study here.



The **central data basis** on foreign students in Germany is the German Federal Statistical Office's statistics on students and examinations. These data are collected by universities in accordance with statutory provisions, examined by the statistical offices of the federal states and passed on to the German Federal Statistical Office.

1 | Foreign students, Bildungsauslaender and Bildungsinlaender, since 2009



2 | German and foreign students by type of university in 2018,



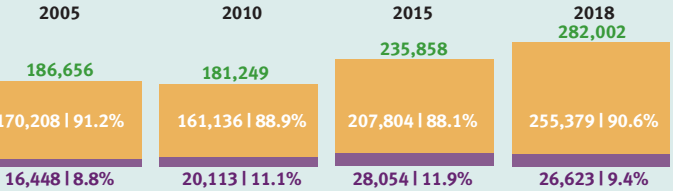
number and in % of all students at German universities

Students	Total		Universities		Universities of applied sciences (UAS)	
	Number	in %	Number	in %	Number	in %
German students	2,470,395	86.8	1,558,798	85.7	911,597	88.8
Foreign students	374,583	13.2	259,461	14.3	115,122	11.2
Bildungsauslaender	282,002	9.9	207,528	11.4	74,474	7.2
Bildungsinlaender	92,581	3.3	51,933	2.9	40,648	4.0

3 | Bildungsauslaender by type of mobility, since 2005,



number and in % of all Bildungsauslaender at German universities



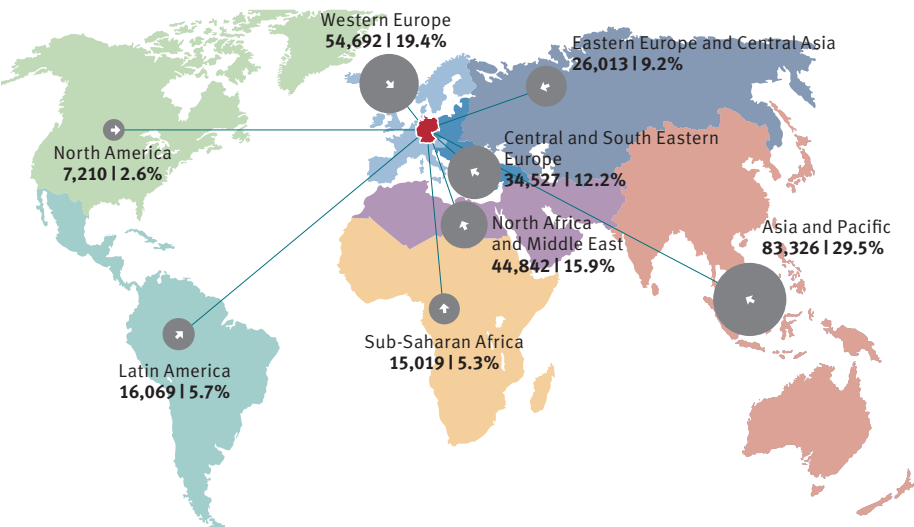
Studying for a degree in Germany: Yes No X Total

Fig. 1-3

Source: Federal Statistical Office Germany (Destatis);
DZHW calculation

The academic year is taken as the basis for determining the number of students. Using this method, students of the winter semester 2017/18 are defined as students of the academic year 2018.

4 | **Bildungsauslaender, in 2018, by region of origin,**
number and in % of all Bildungsauslaender at German universities



Total number of Bildungsauslaender at German universities 282,002
(including 304 students who cannot be classified by region)

5 | **Bildungsauslaender from the top 20 countries of origin, in 2018,**
number and in % of all Bildungsauslaender at German universities

Country of origin	Number	in %
China	36,915	13.1
India	17,294	6.1
Austria	11,130	3.9
Russia	10,795	3.8
Italy	8,908	3.1
Syria	8,618	3.1
Turkey	7,633	2.7
Iran	7,527	2.7
Cameroon	7,344	2.6
France	7,202	2.6
Ukraine	7,037	2.5
Bulgaria	6,470	2.3
Spain	6,201	2.2
USA	6,158	2.2
South Korea	5,843	2.1
Tunesia	5,445	1.9
Morocco	5,297	1.9
Poland	5,006	1.8
Indonesia	4,938	1.8
Pakistan	4,928	1.7
Total	282,002	100.0

6 | Bildungsauslaender, in 2018, by type of degree and type of university,

number and in % of all Bildungsauslaender at German universities

	Total		Universities		UAS	
	Number	in %	Number	in %	Number	in %
Bachelor's degree	104,436	37.0	58,485	28.2	45,951	61.7
Master's degree	104,231	37.0	82,151	39.6	22,080	29.6
PhD	26,265	9.3	26,241	12.6	24	0.0
Other degrees	20,447	7.3	18,735	9.0	1,712	2.3
Not studying for a degree	26,623	9.4	21,916	10.6	4,707	6.3
Total	282,002	100.0	207,528	100.0	74,474	100.0

Fig. 4-7

Source: Federal Statistical Office Germany (Destatis)

Deviations from 100 % are due to rounding.

The academic year is taken as the basis for determining the number of students. Using this method, students of the winter semester 2017/18 are defined as students of the academic year 2018.

UAS = Universities of applied sciences

7 | Bildungsauslaender, in 2018, by subject group¹ and type of university,

number and in % of all Bildungsauslaender at German universities

	Total		Universities		UAS	
	Number	in %	Number	in %	Number	in %
Engineering	107,526	38.1	68,709	33.1	38,817	52.2
Law, Economics and Social Sciences	72,455	25.7	45,742	22.0	26,669	35.8
Humanities	33,235	11.8	32,217	15.5	1,018	1.4
Mathematics, Natural Sciences	29,953	10.6	27,705	13.4	2,248	3.0
Medicine, Health Sciences	14,887	5.3	13,548	6.5	1,339	1.8
Art, Art History	14,986	5.3	12,370	6.0	2,616	3.5
Agricult., Forestry a. Food Sciences, Vet. Medicine	6,268	2.2	4,877	2.4	1,391	1.9
Other	2,692	1.0	2,360	1.1	332	0.4
Total	282,002	100.0	207,528	100.0	74,430	100.0

BILDUNGSAUSLAENDER IN THE FEDERAL STATES

8 | Bildungsauslaender, in 2013 and 2018, by federal state,

number and in % of all students in the relevant state

Federal state	2013		2018		Changes in the numbers 2013–2018 in %
	Number	in %	Number	in %	
Baden-Wuerttemberg	29,802	8.9	37,409	10.3	25.5
Bavaria	23,512	7.1	38,650	9.9	64.4
Berlin	21,004	13.1	31,176	16.6	48.4
Brandenburg	5,387	10.4	6,628	13.4	23.0
Bremen	3,695	10.6	4,498	11.9	21.7
Hamburg	7,047	7.8	9,311	8.6	32.1
Hesse	18,488	8.6	23,504	9.0	27.1
Mecklenb.-W. Pomerania	1,924	4.8	3,155	8.0	64.0
Lower Saxony	11,955	7.0	17,717	8.5	48.2
North Rhine-Westphalia	47,011	7.3	64,307	8.3	36.8
Rhineland-Palatinate	8,273	6.8	10,194	8.3	23.2
Saarland	3,369	11.9	3,631	11.6	7.8
Saxony	11,052	9.8	15,199	13.9	37.5
Saxony-Anhalt	4,981	8.9	6,475	11.9	30.0
Schleswig-Holstein	3,062	5.6	3,799	6.1	24.1
Thuringia	4,082	7.7	6,349	12.7	55.5
Total	204,644	8.2	282,002	9.9	37.8

9 | Incoming Erasmus students, in 2017, by federal state, number and in % of all students in the relevant state

Federal state	Number	in %
Baden-Wuerttemberg	3,976	10.6
Bavaria	4,053	10.5
Berlin	2,572	8.2
Brandenburg	624	9.4
Bremen	440	9.8
Hamburg	726	7.8
Hesse	1,385	5.9
Mecklenb.-W. Pomerania	187	5.9
Lower Saxony	1,193	6.7
North Rhine-Westphalia	3,746	5.8
Rhineland-Palatinate	933	9.2
Saarland	273	7.5
Saxony	1,209	8.0
Saxony-Anhalt	283	4.4
Schleswig-Holstein	301	7.9
Thuringia	399	6.3
Total	22,300	7.9

FOREIGN FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS AND GRADUATES

10 | German and foreign first-year students and graduates, in 2007, 2012 and 2017 number and in % of all first-year students or graduates at German universities

First-year students	2007		2012		2017	
	Number	in %	Number	in %	Number	in %
German first-year students	297,332	82.3	399,621	80.7	390,677	76.2
Foreign first-year students	64,028	17.7	95,467	19.3	121,742	23.8
<i>Bildungsauslaender</i>	53,759	14.9	79,537	16.1	104,940	20.5
<i>Bildungsinlaender</i>	10,269	2.8	15,930	3.2	16,802	3.3

Graduates

German graduates	256,820	89.7	373,760	90.4	449,001	89.5
Foreign graduates	29,571	10.3	39,578	9.6	52,733	10.5
<i>Bildungsauslaender</i>	23,777	8.3	30,806	7.5	41,736	8.3
<i>Bildungsinlaender</i>	5,794	2.0	8,772	2.1	10,997	2.2

Fig. 8

Source: Federal Statistical Office Germany (Destatis);
DZHW calculation

2013 = WS 2012/13;

2018 = WS 2017/18.

Fig. 9

Source: DAAD

An academic year in the Erasmus+ statistics begins on June 1st of the prior year and ends on May 31st of the following year. 2017 = 1.6.2016 until 31.5.2018.

Excluding placements.

The proportions of all students relate to the winter semester 2017/18.

Fig. 10

Source: Federal Statistical Office Germany (Destatis)

First-year students: The sum of the number of first-year students in a summer semester and the following winter semester is the number for the year. 2017 = first-year students SS 2017 + WS 2017/18.

Graduates: An examination year includes the graduates of a winter semester and the following summer semester.

2017 = graduates WS 2016/17 + SS 2017.

GERMAN STUDENTS ABROAD

On the topic of international mobility of German students or graduates, a distinction is made between temporary study-related visits abroad as part of a domestic study programme (temporary study-related visits abroad) and study-related visits abroad with the aim of taking a degree abroad (degree-related international mobility).

The findings on **degree-related international mobility** were collected by the German Federal Statistical Office in statistical offices abroad. However, these statistics do not only include German students aiming to obtain a degree abroad, because in some cases, unknown numbers of Erasmus students and other students on temporary study-related visits abroad are included in the data.

Since there are no official statistics regarding the total number of **temporary study-related visits abroad** by German students, this can currently only be estimated on the basis of student and graduate surveys. The differences in the proportions of international mobility between the various surveys are the result of different survey periods, sampling and methodologies. However, official data is available relating to the subsection of temporary study or placement visits abroad as part of the EU's Erasmus programme. These Erasmus visits represent about one third of all temporary study-related visits abroad made by German students.



DEGREE-RELATED INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

11 | German students abroad, since 1991

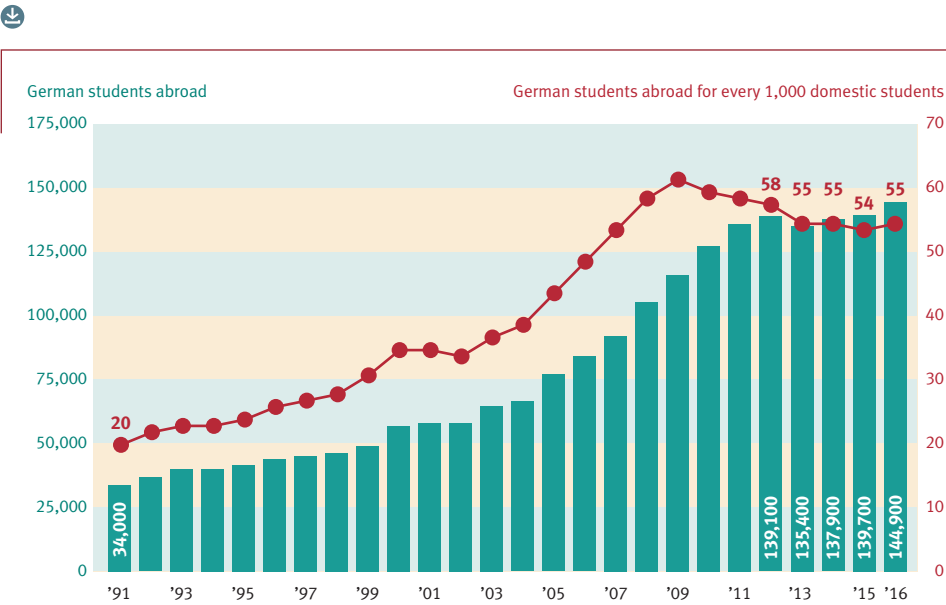


Fig. 11
From 2010 including results of the Destatis survey on doctoral students.

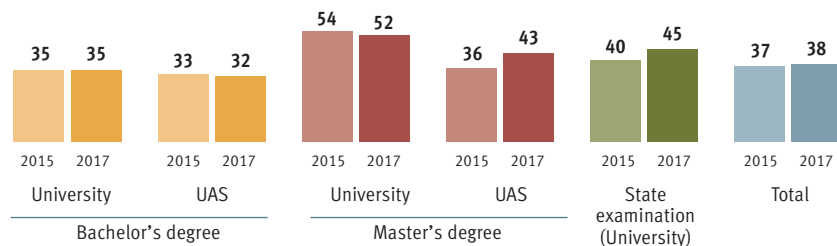
Fig. 11, 12
Source: Federal Statistical Office Germany (Destatis); country-specific reference periods

12 | Major host countries of German students abroad, in 2016

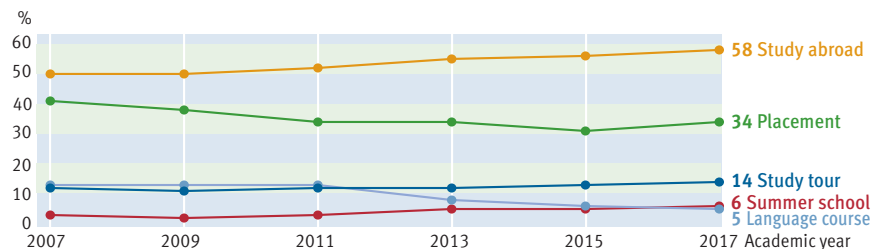
	Number	in %
Austria	28,220	19.6
Netherlands	21,956	15.3
United Kingdom	15,770	11.0
Switzerland	14,609	10.2
USA	10,169	7.1
China	8,145	5.7
France	6,007	4.2
Sweden	4,620	3.2
Denmark	3,554	2.5
Turkey	3,363	2.3
Hungary	3,232	2.2
Spain	2,756	1.9
Canada	1,827	1.3
Greece	1,637	1.1
Portugal	1,622	1.1
Italy	1,412	1.0
Norway	1,306	0.9
Poland	1,239	0.9
Australia	1,202	0.8
Romania	1,187	0.8
Total	143,853	100

TEMPORARY STUDY-RELATED VISITS ABROAD

- 13 | German students in later semesters with study-related visits abroad, in 2015 and 2017, by type of university and type of degree**
in % of all students in later semesters



- 14 | German students with study-related visits abroad, since 2007, by major types of visit**
in % of all internationally mobile German students



Multiple responses possible

- 15 | Major host countries of German students for study-related visits abroad, in 2017, in %**

	in %		in %
United Kingdom	12	Austria	3
USA	12	Switzerland	3
France	9	Poland	3
Spain	9	South Africa	3
Italy	5	Japan	3
Netherlands	4	Ireland	3
Finland	4	Canada	2
Sweden	4	Russia	2
China	4	Czech Rep.	2
Australia	3	Norway	2

Fig. 13, 15

Source: DAAD/DZHW Mobility Survey 2017

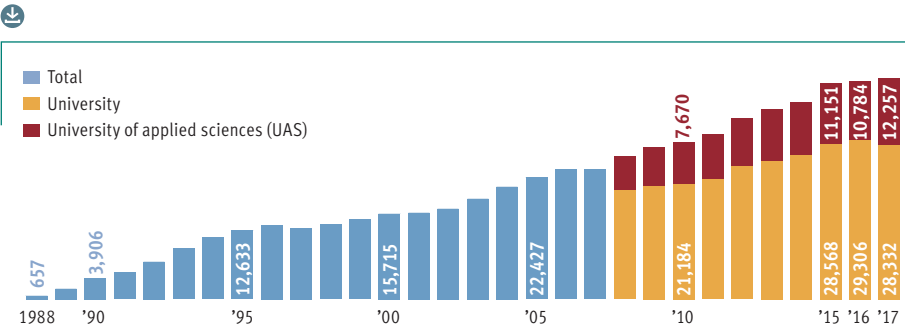
Students in later semesters: bachelor: 5th–10th semester of higher education (s. o. h. e.), master: 3rd–6th specialised semester, state examination: 8th–12th s. o. h. e.

Fig. 14

Source: DAAD/DZHW Mobility Survey 2007–2017

ERASMUS VISITS

16 | Erasmus participants from Germany, since 1988, by type of university



17 | Average duration of visits abroad by Erasmus participants from Germany, since 2003, by type of visit

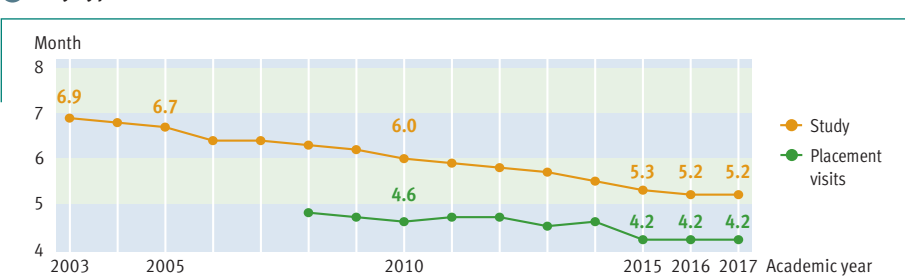


Fig. 16–18
Source: DAAD, Erasmus statistics

Erasmus statistics until 2014: An academic year in the Erasmus statistics (until 2014) begins in the winter semester and ends in the summer semester of the following year. 2014 = WS 2013/14 + SS 2014.

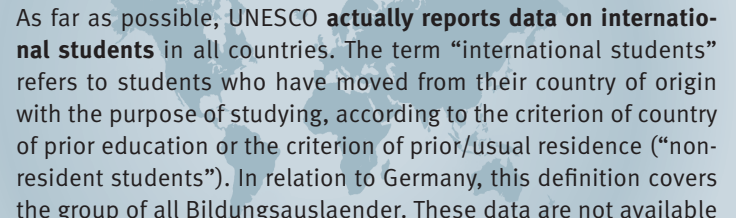
New Erasmus+ statistics since 2015: An academic year begins on June 1st of the prior year and ends on May 31st of the following year. 2017 = 1.6.2016 until 31.5.2018.

18 | Erasmus participants from Germany, in 2017, by major host countries

	Number		Number
Spain	6,614	Turkey	1,265
France	5,442	Portugal	1,220
United Kingdom	5,258	Poland	1,148
Sweden	2,653	Denmark	979
Italy	2,613	Belgium	881
Netherlands	1,904	Hungary	833
Finland	1,872	Czech Rep.	782
Norway	1,629	Greece	370
Ireland	1,463	Latvia	346
Austria	1,447	Estonia	314

INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY OF STUDENTS

“Wissenschaft weltoffen” uses **UNESCO data on international students** for its presentation of international student mobility and Germany’s position as a host country in international comparison. However, it must be observed that these figures usually differ from the equivalent data in the national statistics, because in some cases, different groups are defined as students. The UNESCO, for example, categorises all persons as students who are assigned to levels 5 to 8 (ISCED 2011) according to the „International Standard Classification of Education“ (ISCED). In addition to studying at bachelor’s and master’s level (ISCED level 6 and 7), this also includes doctoral students (ISCED level 8) and so-called „short tertiary education programmes“ (ISCED level 5), which are not counted as higher education in Germany and therefore are not part of the higher education statistics.



As far as possible, UNESCO **actually reports data on international students** in all countries. The term “international students” refers to students who have moved from their country of origin with the purpose of studying, according to the criterion of country of prior education or the criterion of prior/usual residence (“non-resident students”). In relation to Germany, this definition covers the group of all Bildungsauslaender. These data are not available for all countries, e.g. Italy, Russia, South Korea or Turkey. Their figures relate to students who are not citizens of the host country (“non-citizen students”).

19 | International students by host region and region of origin, in 2016, in %

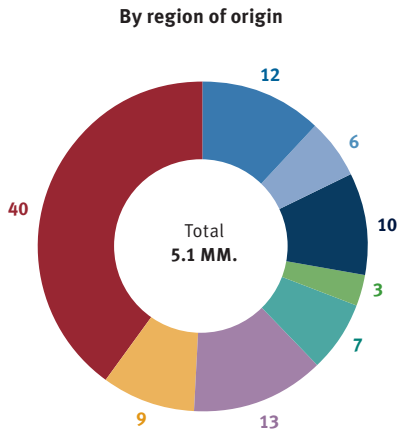
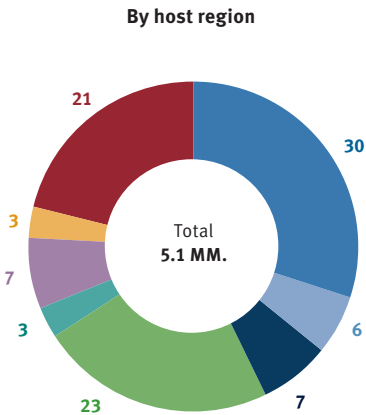
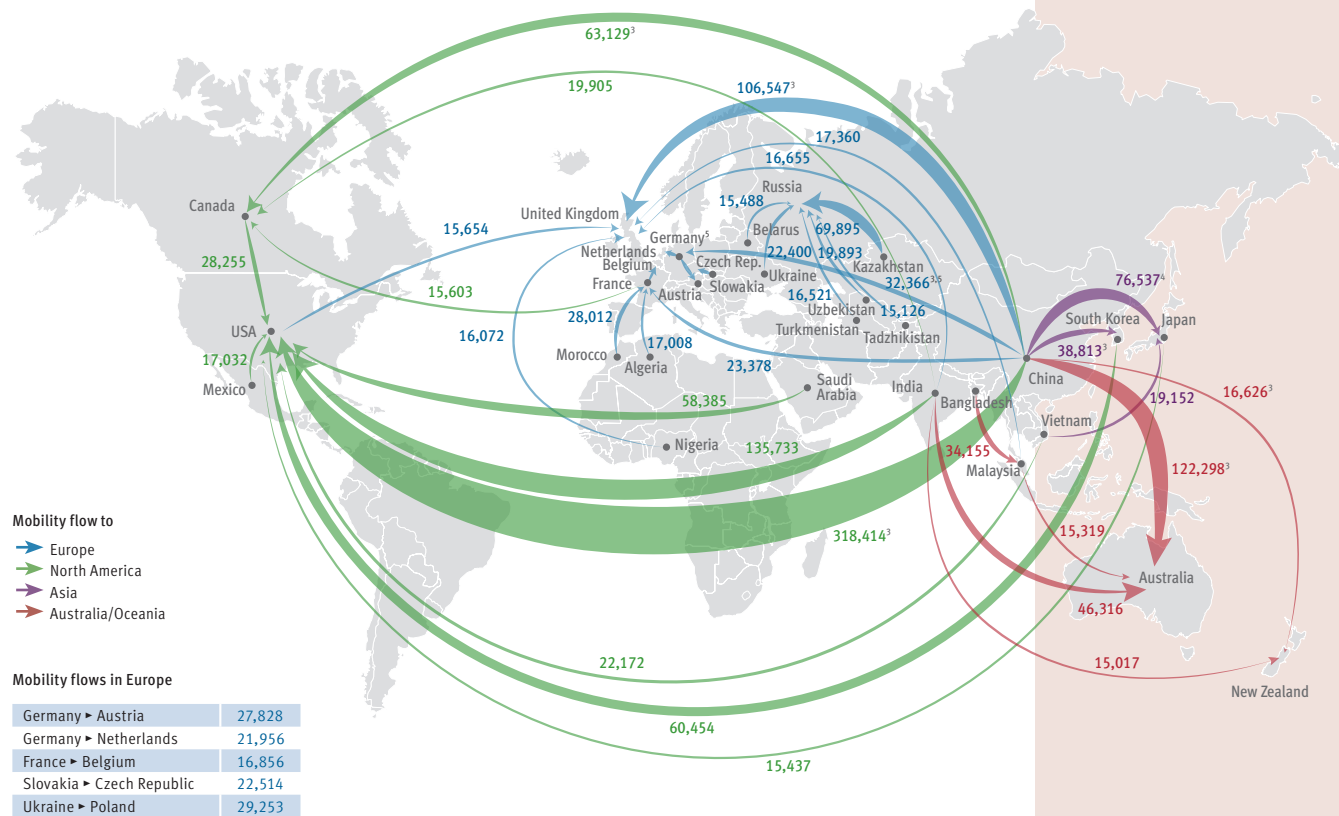


Fig. 19, 20
Source: UNESCO; country-specific reference periods

- 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

20 | International students worldwide, since 1975





22 | International students, in 2016, by key host country and key country of origin,

number and in % of all international students studying worldwide

Host country	Number	in %	Host country	Number	in %
USA	971,417	19.1	China ³	865,337	17.0
United Kingdom	432,001	8.5	India	301,406	5.9
Australia	335,512	6.6	Germany ⁵	144,900	2.8
Germany ⁵	251,542	4.9	South Korea	104,992	2.1
France	245,349	4.8	Nigeria	95,731	1.9
Russia	243,752	4.8	France	90,543	1.8
Canada	189,478	3.7	Kazakhstan	90,187	1.8
Japan	143,457	2.8	Saudi Arabia	90,178	1.8
China ³	142,544	2.8	Vietnam	82,159	1.6
Malaysia	124,133	2.4	Ukraine	77,263	1.5
Other countries	2,006,708	39.5	Other countries	3,143,197	61.8

23 | Mobility balances in major host countries and countries of origin, in 2016,

number and in % of all incoming and outgoing students

Country	Outgoing		Internationally mobile students		Incoming	
	Number	in %			Number	
Vietnam	82,159	94		6	5,624	
India	301,406	87		13	44,766	
China ³	905,873	83		17	183,080	
South Korea	104,992	63		37	61,888	
Germany ⁵	144,900	37		63	251,542	
France	90,543	27		73	245,349	
South Africa	7,781	15		85	45,142	
United Kingdom	34,017	7		93	432,001	
USA	72,690	7		93	971,417	
Australia	12,783	4		96	335,512	

Fig. 21–23

Source: UNESCO, country-specific reference periods

1

It should be noted that China and Singapore could not be included as host countries because no data on international students' countries of origin was available here.

2

Only host countries with at least around 15,000 incoming students from one country of origin.

3

Incl. Hongkong and Macao.

4

Unclear whether Hongkong and Macao are included.

5

Source: Federal Statistical Office Germany (Destatis), student statistics incl. doctoral students.

MOBILITY OF ACADEMICS AND RESEARCHERS

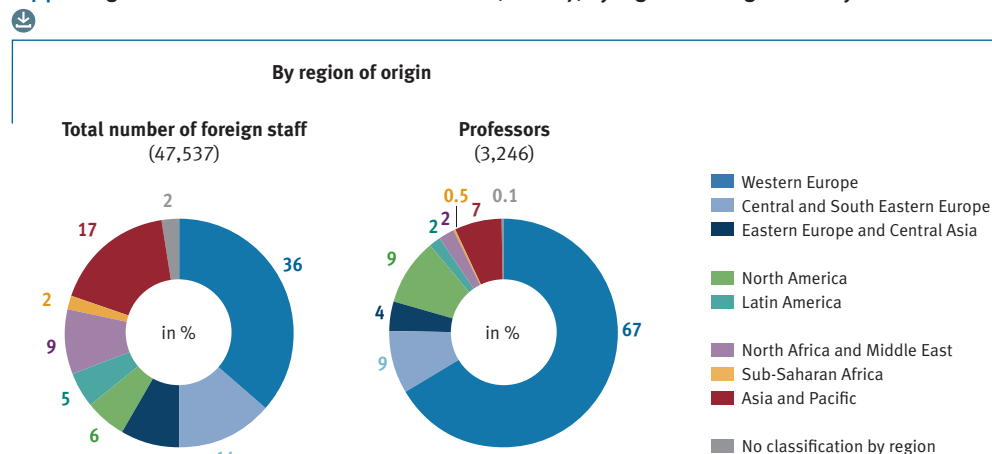
The mobility of academics and researchers in Germany includes both the foreign academics in Germany and German academics abroad. In relation to foreign academics in Germany, a distinction is made between **foreign staff at German universities and at non-university research institutes**, using data collected by the German Federal Statistical Office as part of their higher education statistics, and **funded visits by foreign researchers**, using data collected from the relevant funding organisations by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Centre for Research on Higher Education and Science Studies (DZHW) in the scope of “Wissenschaft weltoffen”. **Funded visits by German academics and researchers abroad** are also included in the data.



The DAAD and DZHW surveys only cover visits which were funded by the organisations surveyed. Visits which were supported by funds from other German and international sources are not included. The data presented here therefore include a large proportion of, but not all, funded visits by German and foreign academics and researchers.

FOREIGN STAFF AT GERMAN UNIVERSITIES

24 | Foreign academic staff at German universities, in 2017, by regions of origin and key countries of origin, total number and in %



Total number of foreign staff		Professors	
Country of origin	Number	Country of origin	Number
Italy	3,381	Austria	629
China	2,781	Switzerland	312
Austria	2,595	Italy	260
India	2,573	USA	259
USA	2,268	Netherlands	239
Russia	2,149	United Kingdom	173
Spain	2,111	France	151
France	1,831	Spain	105
United Kingdom	1,701	Russia	84
Iran	1,698	Greece	76

25 | Foreign academic staff at German universities, in 2011, 2014 and 2017, by staff group, number and in % of the total academic staff

	2011		2014		2017	
	Number	in %	Number	in %	Number	in %
Academic staff total	337,102	100	381,269	100	394,878	100
Foreign academic staff ¹	34,212	10.1	41,010	10.8	47,537	12.0
Professors total	42,924	100	45,749	100	47,568	100
Foreign professors	2,608	6.1	3,004	6.6	3,246	6.8

Fig. 24, 25

Source: Federal Statistical Office Germany (Destatis)

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

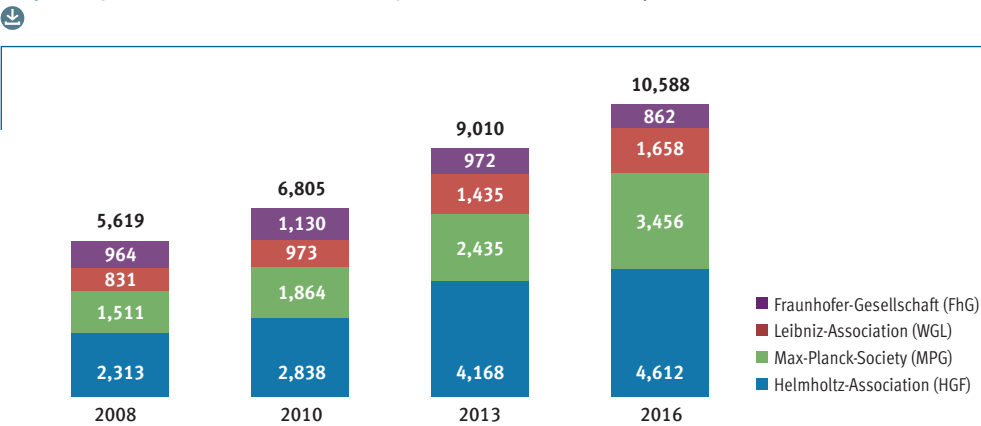
The year specified is the calendar year.

Deviations from 100 % are due to rounding.

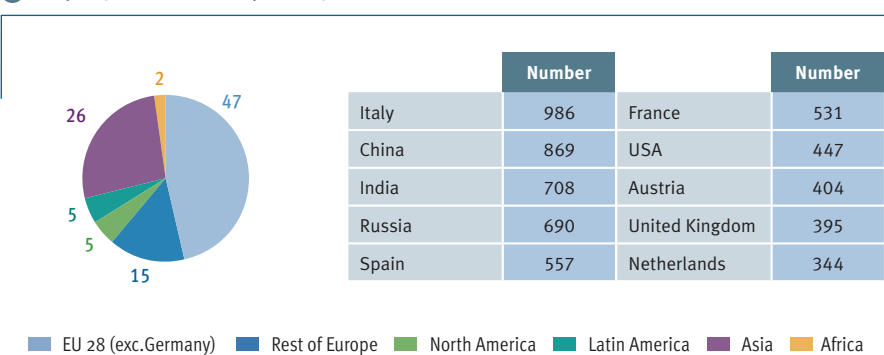
¹ Including staff that is stateless, as well as with unexplained and unknown nationality.

FOREIGN STAFF AT NON-UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INSTITUTES

26 | Foreign academic staff at the four largest German non-university research institutions, since 2008



27 | Foreign academic staff at the four largest German non-university research institutions, in 2016, by region and country of origin, in %¹



28 | Proportion of foreign academic staff at the four largest German non-university research institutions, since 2008, in % of the total academic staff

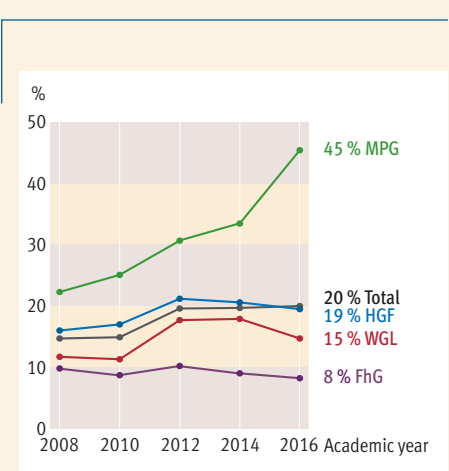


Fig. 26–28
Source: German Federal Statistical Office;
DZHW calculation

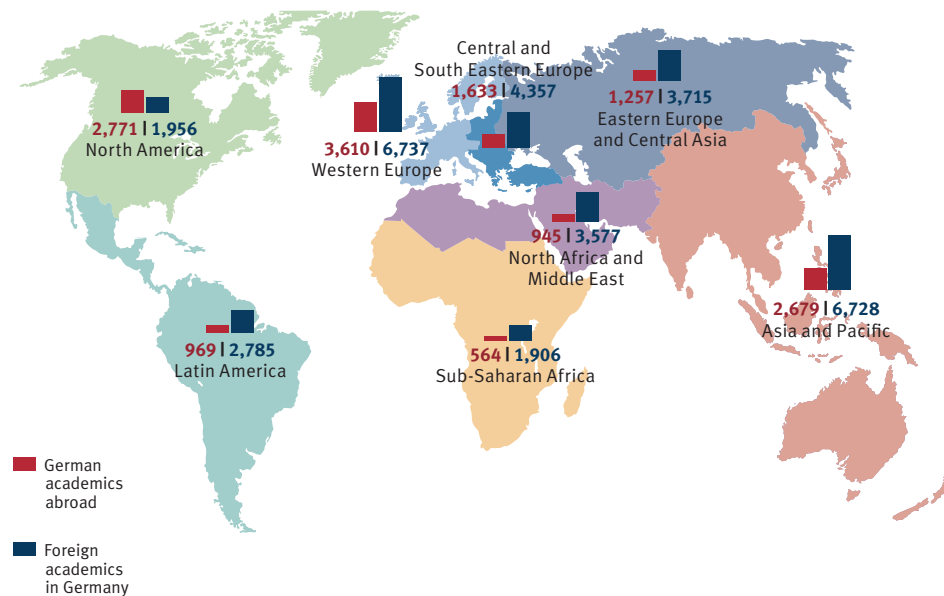
Comparability of the reporting period 2014 with previous reporting periods is reduced due to a change in the data collection.

Deviations from 100 % are due to rounding.

1
Regional classification of the Federal Statistical Office Germany (Destatis).

FUNDED MOBILITY OF ACADEMICS AND RESEARCHERS (GERMAN AND FOREIGN ACADEMICS)

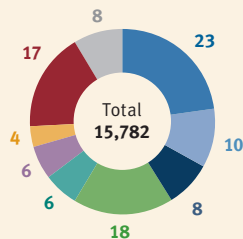
29 | Funded visits of German academics abroad and foreign academics in Germany, in 2016, by host region and region of origin



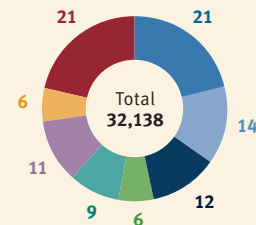
The 1,354 German and 377 foreign academics whose host regions or regions of origin are not known have not been taken into account.

Fig. 29
Source: Numbers of the funding organisations;
DZHW calculation

German academics abroad, in %



Foreign academics 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
- Without 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 upcoming issue focuses on “Mobility motives and study experiences of international students in Germany” as its main topic. It will be published in July 2019. 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 Research on Higher Education 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 to carry out these evaluations, if required. This service is available free of charge for universities and other public institutions.

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

Editor

DAAD
Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
Kennedyallee 50, D-53175 Bonn
Referat S15 – Forschung und Studien
www.daad.de

DZHW

Deutsches Zentrum für Hochschul- und
Wissenschaftsforschung GmbH
Lange Laube 12, D-30159 Hannover
Abteilung Bildungsverläufe und Beschäftigung
www.dzhw.eu

Publisher

wbv Media
Postfach 10 06 33, D-33506 Bielefeld
wbv.de

Copy editors

Dr. Ulrich Heublein (DZHW)
Julia Hillmann (DAAD)
Dr. Jan Kercher (DAAD)

Production

wbv Media, Bielefeld

Layout

lok.design division, Marion Schnepf, Bielefeld
diller.corporate, Thomas Diller, Teisendorf

© wbv Media GmbH & Co. KG, Bielefeld 2019

Order Nr. 104-258d

Edition

3.500 (german), 2.500 (english)

SPONSORED BY THE

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



Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research



Federal Foreign Office

