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See new research here: <http://www.brookings.edu/metro/foreignstudents>.

Number of Foreign Students in United States Increased Fifty Percent

Immigration Reform Proposals Could Ease the Way for Foreign Students to Stay and Work

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In 2010, there were 684,807 international students in U.S. higher education, according to new research from the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program, *Immigration Facts on Foreign Students*.

Other research findings include:

- Sixty four percent of international students in the United States are from Asia, 11 percent from Europe, eight percent from Latin America, and seven percent from the Middle East. The leading nations of origin were China and India, comprising 25 percent and 13 percent of all foreign students, respectively.
- Large metropolitan areas have the highest number of foreign students; top metros include New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.
- Smaller metropolitan areas have the highest concentration of foreign students; top metros include Jonesboro, AR; Florence, AL; and Ames, IA.
- Of all foreign students, about 15 percent are studying for advanced degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. Of foreign students in STEM fields, 64 percent are Chinese or Indian.

“Foreign students are a potential asset to our economy that policymakers should keep in mind as they debate immigration reform,” said Neil Ruiz, associate fellow at Brookings and author of the report. “Expanding their access to U.S. jobs could have particularly important impacts on the metropolitan areas where these students are most concentrated today.”

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