



OPEN DOORS FACT SHEET: IRAN

INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION Educational Exchange Data from *Open Doors 2015*

In the 2014/15 academic year, **11,338** students from Iran were studying in the United States (up 11.2% from the previous year). Iran is the eleventh leading place of origin for students coming to the United States.

Academic Level: The majority of Iranian students in the U.S. study at the graduate level. In 2014/15, their breakdown was as follows: 6.7% undergraduate; 79% graduate students; 1.8% other; 12.6% OPT (Optional Practical Training)

Economic Impact: Last year Iranian students in U.S. colleges and universities contributed \$323 million to the U.S. economy. (Estimate calculated by IIE based on information from Open Doors and the U.S. Department of Commerce)

Historical trends: Iran was the top sender of students to the U.S. from 1974/75 to 1982/83. The peak year was 1979/80 when 51,310 students from Iran were studying in the U.S. The number of Iranian students in the U.S. declined dramatically throughout the 1980's and 1990's, bottoming out at fewer than 1,700 students in 1998/99. The number of Iranian students risen steadily for the past 10 years, with more than 11,338 Iranian students in the U.S. in 2014/15, which is the highest number in 26 years, but still significantly below the peak before the Iranian revolution in 1979.

Year	# of Students From Iran in the U.S.	% Change from Previous Year
2014/15	11,338	11.2%
2013/14	10,194	16.6%
2012/13	8,744	25.2%
2011/12	6,982	24.1%
2010/11	5,626	18.9%
2009/10	4,731	33.91%
2008/09	3,533	15.46%
2007/08	3,060	9.48%
2006/07	2,795	15.50%
2005/06	2,420	7.51%
2004/05	2,251	-3.02%
2003/04	2,321	2.79%
2002/03	2,258	1.90%
2001/02	2,216	20.17%
2000/01	1,844	-2.18%
1999/00	1,885	13.55%
1998/99	1,660	-10.90%
1997/98	1,863	-12.49%
1996/97	2,129	-18.99%
1995/96	2,628	-9.25%
1994/95	2,896	-20.02%
1993/94	3,621	-11.40%
1992/93	4,087	-17.10%
1991/92	4,930	-21.27%
1990/91	6,262	-15.83%
1989/90	7,440	-16.87%
1988/89	8,950	-14.11%
1987/88	10,420	-14.80%
1986/87	12,230	-13.93%
1985/86	14,210	-14.60%
1984/85	16,640	-18.27%

Source: Open Doors: Report on International Educational Exchange, published annually by IIE with support from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. For more information, including press releases on foreign students in the U.S. and U.S. study abroad, and FAQs, including definitions of foreign students and foreign scholars, visit www.iie.org/opendoors or contact IIE's Public Affairs office at: +1(212) 984-5360