



BUILDING RICH RELATIONSHIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT ISU

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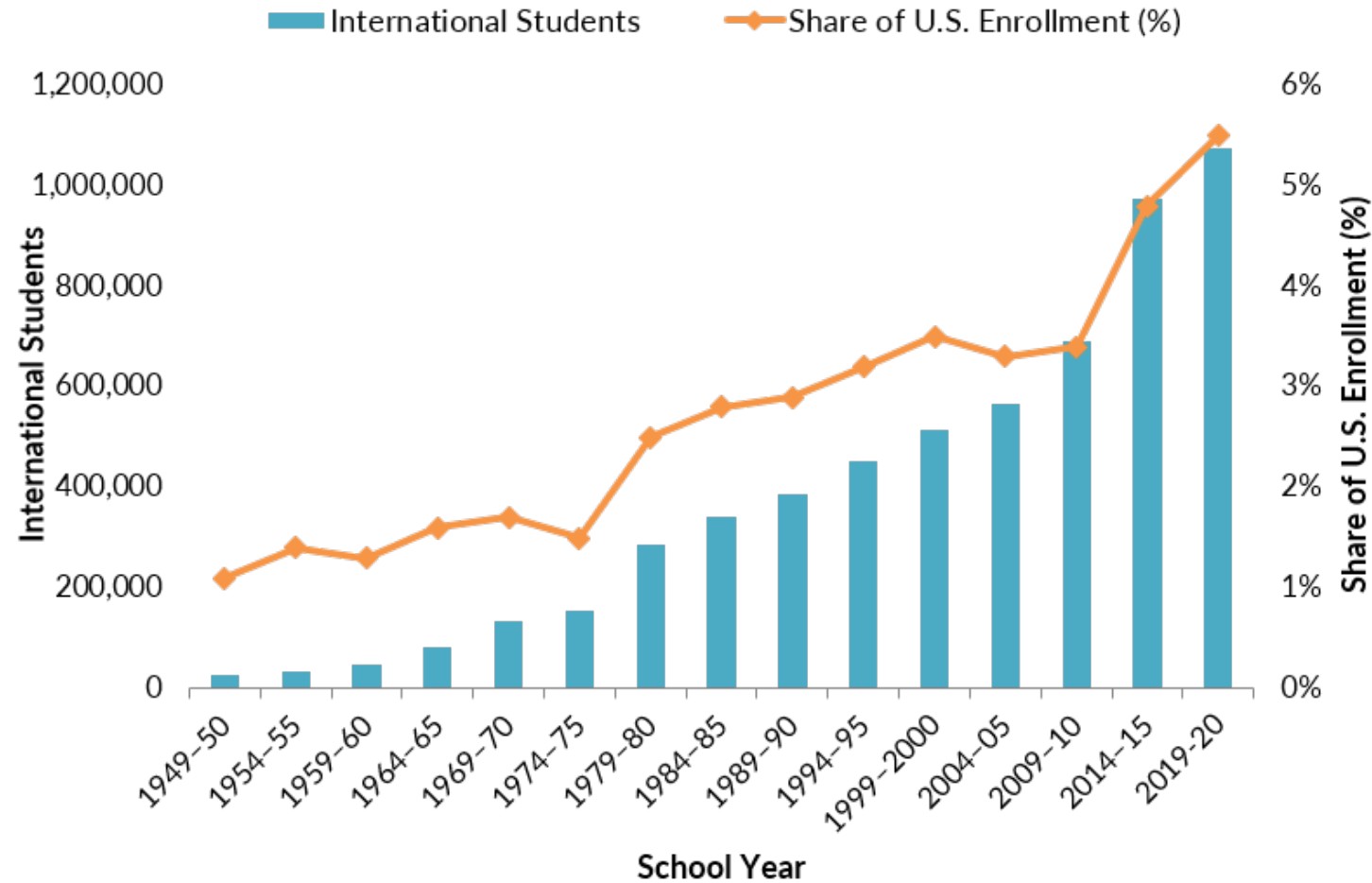
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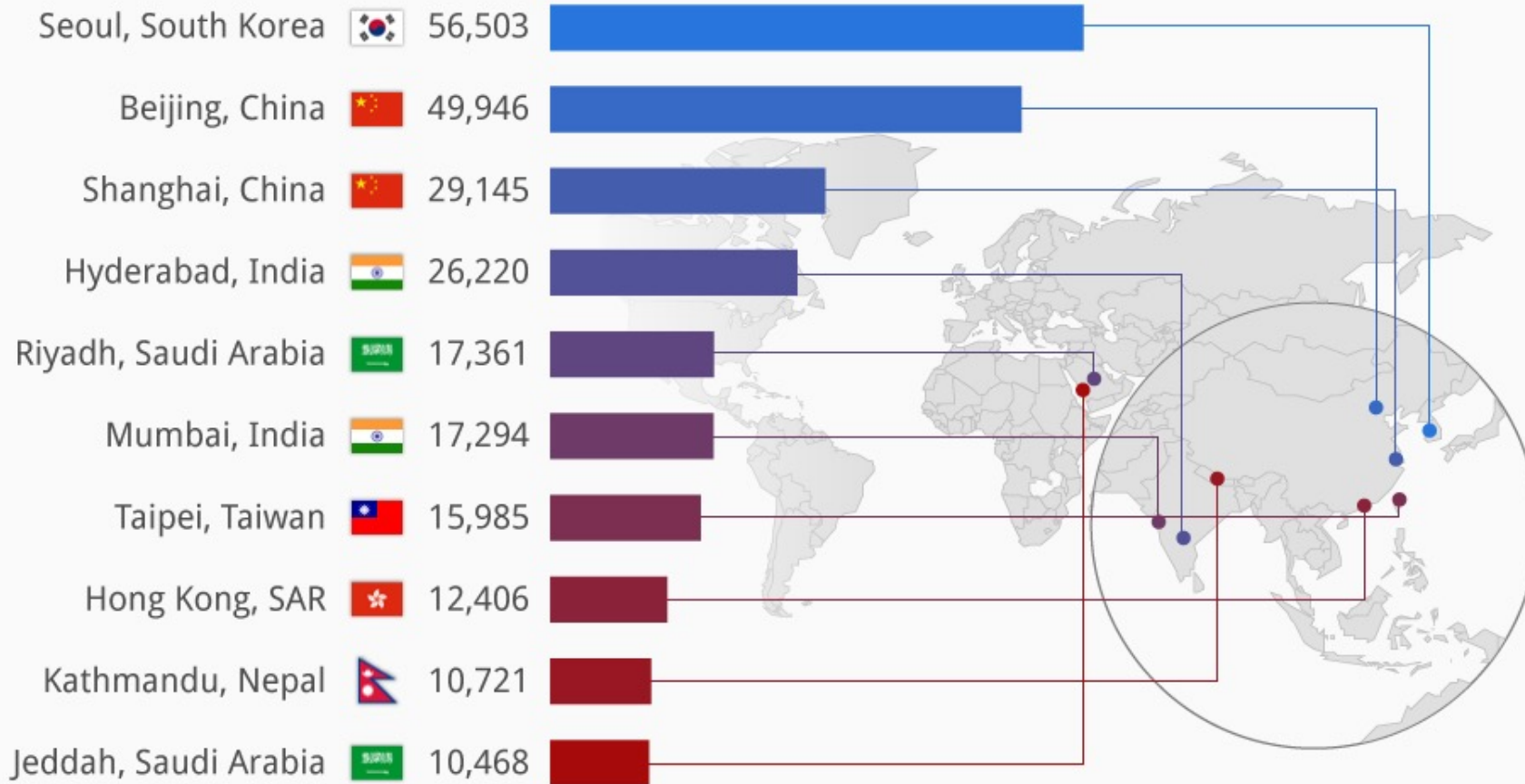
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN THE US AND AT ISU



<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/international-students-united-states-2020>

Most International Students in the U.S. Come from Asia

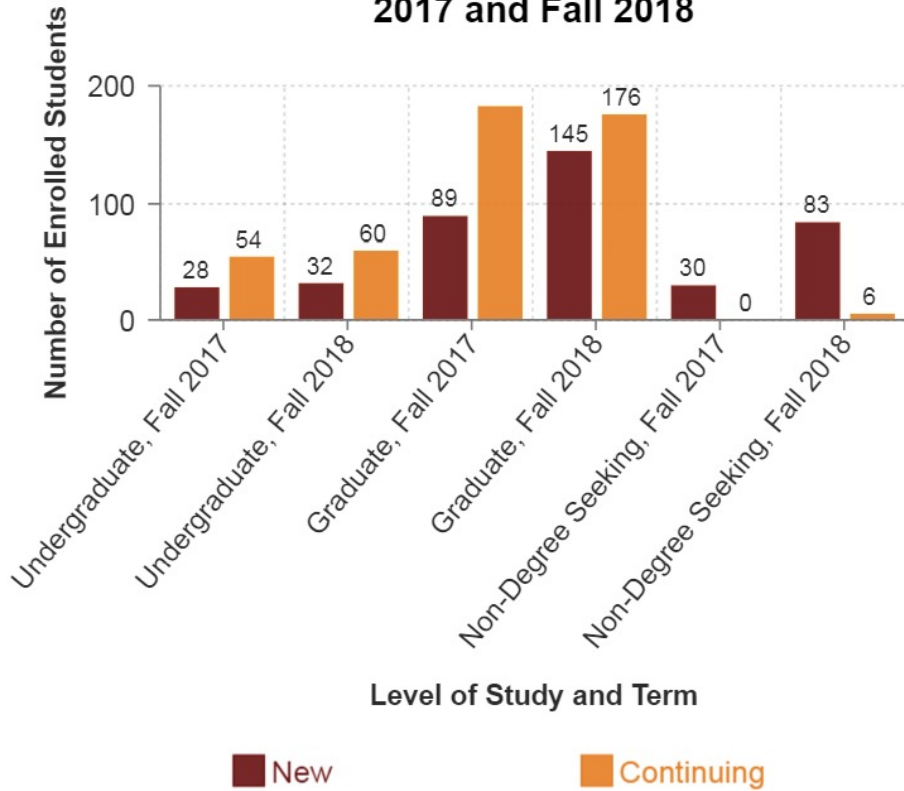
Top cities/countries for international students in the United States (2008-2012)



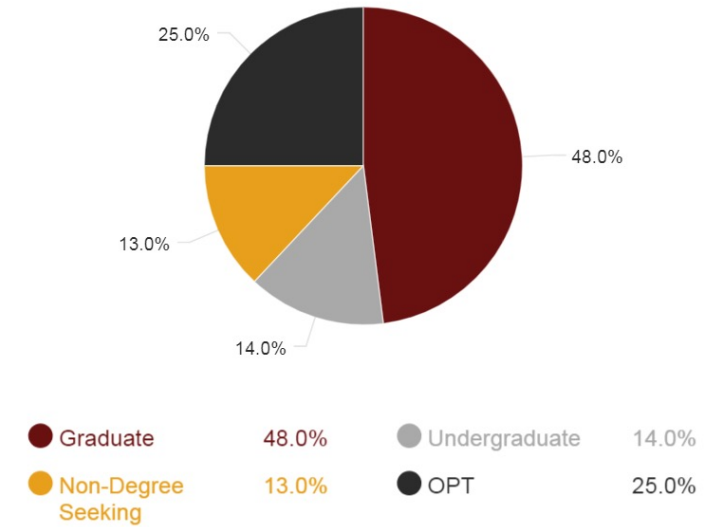
@StatistaCharts Source: Brookings Institute

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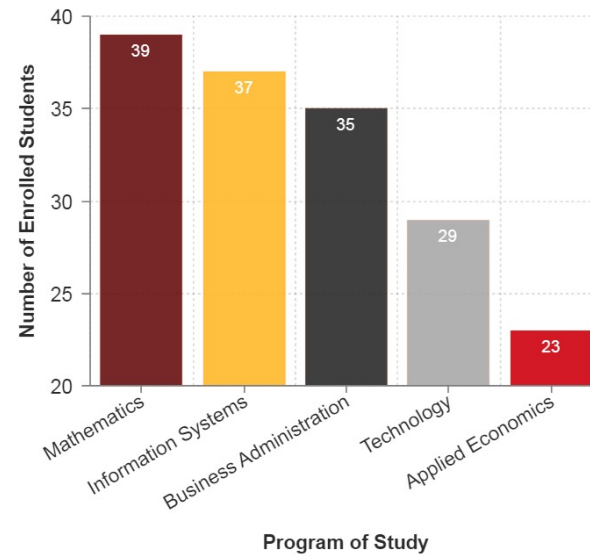
New vs. Continuing Students for Fall 2017 and Fall 2018



Students, by Type for Fall 2018



Top 5 Programs of Study for Fall 2018



THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Benefits

- New ways of seeing the world
- New relationships and connections
- A better understanding of one's own culture
- More “power” over the seemingly “natural” force of culture.

It is good for IS, for domestic students, and for the local university to have IS at the university

THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Challenges

- Cultural misunderstandings
- Homesickness, anxiety, depression, cultural adjustment
- Faculty-student relationships
- Student-student relationships
- Racism/prejudice/intolerance
- Returning home

A (QUICK) THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE

“Friendships help to build students’ cross-cultural competencies and ‘global citizenship’” (McKenzie & Baldassar, 2017, p. 705)

Competence: (Hammer, Gudykunst, & Wiseman, 1978)

- Deal with psychological stress
- Effectively communicate
- Establish meaningful intercultural relationships

Adaptation: Kim’s (2005) theory of cross-cultural adaptation

- Adaptation is inherently communicative
- One factor: quantity and quality of host communication with nationals

BUT...

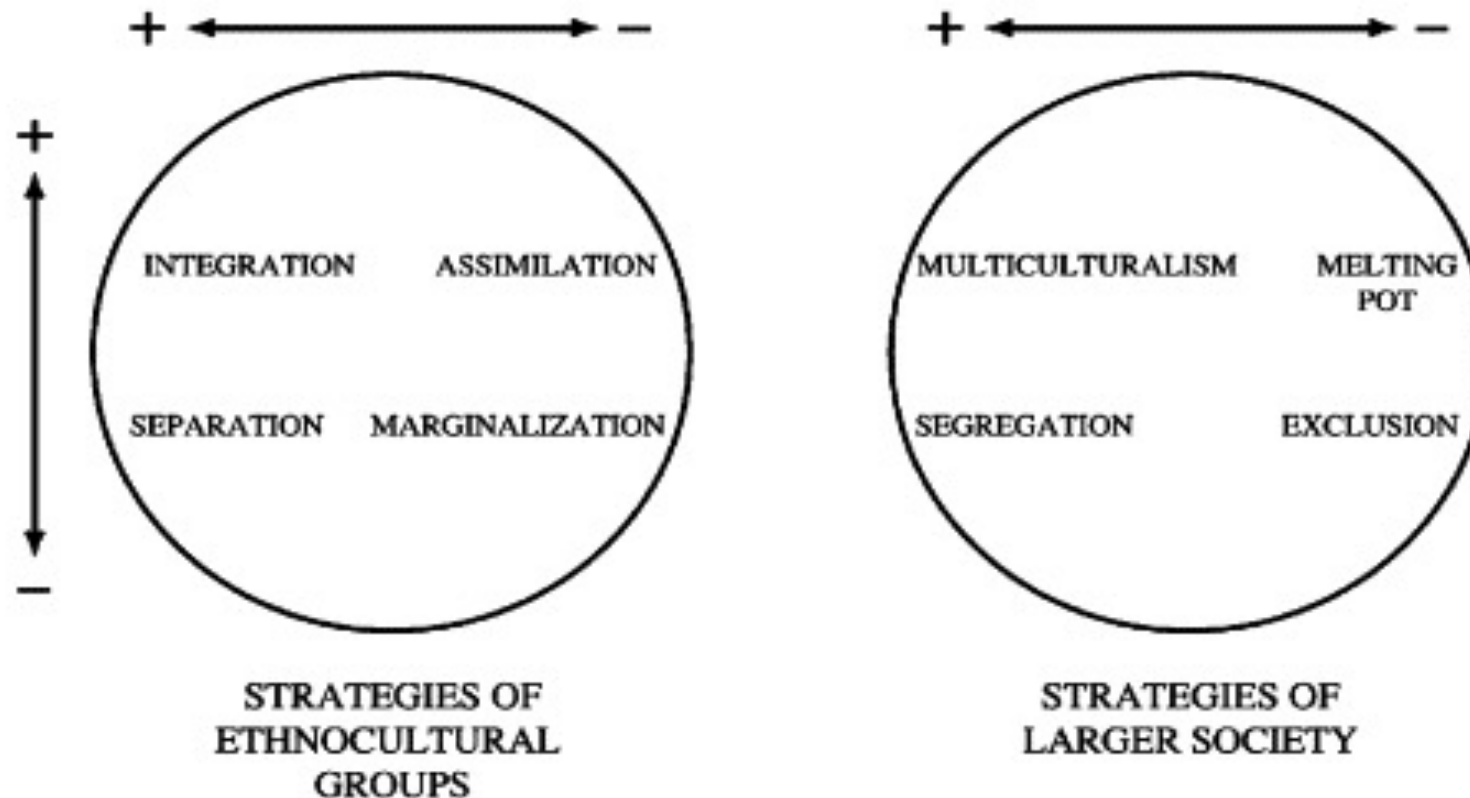
International students' adjustment relies, at least in part, on their reception and treatment by the host culture and the relationships that individuals in the host culture are willing to form with the international student.

ISSUE 1:

MAINTENANCE OF HERITAGE CULTURE AND IDENTITY

ISSUE 2:

RELATIONSHIPS
SOUGHT
AMONG
GROUPS



(Sam & Berry, 2010)

WHAT ABOUT THOSE RELATIONSHIPS?

International students' relationships with other students

- Most international students in most countries report few or poor relationships with host nationals.
- Some students may integrate better than others (Rientes et al., 2012)
- IS's often form a “parallel society” with other IS's (Gomes, 2020).
- **IS's barriers:** language, culture, similarity, host-culture pressure, etc.
- **Host students' side:**
 - McKenzie & Baldassar (2017): such relationships are “unimagined” by local students
 - Idealized “similarity” of friendships
 - Lack of common spaces

WHAT ABOUT THOSE RELATIONSHIPS?

International students' relationships with faculty

- Different expectations of the student-teacher relationship, status, etc. (Baldwin, in press)
- Many students report positive experiences (Glass et al., 2015)
- Instructors can also work to facilitate IS relationships with Americans and their inclusion in the classroom (Glass et al.; Wang & BrckaLorenz, 2018)
 - Structural suggestions
 - Respectful integration of international voices
 - Building collaborative processes
 - Own internationalization

Course Design Strategies to Help Domestic and International Students Build Rich Relationships

Engagement is a key driver in relationship building

Course and project description

- International Agribusiness
- Three pillars
- Pilot study

Strategies used

- Set up the project
- Launch the project
- Delegate the project
- Wrap up the project

Take-aways: rewarding experience, need to collaborate with other offices on campus & provide structure for such projects







Aizhan Kurmanalieva



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