



Open Source Media Summary

November 30, 2023

US FOREIGN ENROLMENT ONCE AGAIN EXCEEDS ONE MILLION STUDENTS

ICEF Monitor | January 25, 2023

During the pandemic, international students numbers in the US dipped below the one-million student mark (as of fall 2020) for the first time since 2014. However, new data from the Department of Homeland Security's Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) shows that the number of active visa holders has recovered this year to almost match pre-pandemic enrolments. SEVIS reports that as of January 2023 there are 1.08 million international students with active study visas in the US. This compares to a total of 1.14 million in January 2020, just before the onset of the pandemic (a -5.4% decrease overall). Along with the overall rebound in student numbers this year, SEVIS is also reporting some notable shifts in sending markets. China has long been the driver of enrolment growth in the US. But, as we see in the table below, the number of Chinese students with active visas has declined from 368,800 in January 2020 to 262,992 as of January 2023 (a nearly -29% decrease). The number of Indian students, meanwhile, has surged from 194,556 to 253,631 over the same period for overall growth of just over 30%.

Read the full article [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE STUDENT ENROLLMENT ROARS BACK IN U.S.

Michael T. Nietzel | Forbes | November 13, 2023

The number of international students studying at U.S. colleges and universities increased 12% in 2022-23, according to the just-released Open Doors report by the Institute of International Education (IIE). Total international enrollment stood at 1,057,188, up more than 100,000 students over the 2021-22 total. The strong increase - it was the fastest growth rate in more than 40 years - brought international enrollment back to near pre-pandemic levels, with international students representing 5.6% of the total number of college students. While international numbers increased in almost every category, graduate programs led the way, with a whopping 21% increase, representing a surge of more than 80,000 students over the prior year. Undergraduate enrollment, on the other hand, rose by only .9%. First-time international enrollment was up 14%, another strong showing that reinforces the 80% increase that occurred in 2021-22, following the worst of the pandemic fall-out when 2020-21 saw a decrease of about 100,000 students.

Read the full article [here](#).

STUDENT MOBILITY? UNCERTAINTY ABOUNDS AFTER POLITICAL CHANGE

Philip G. Altbach and Hans de Wit | University World News | November 24, 2023

There have been optimistic reports about international student bounce-back after COVID-19. But we cannot ignore the possible impacts of the current geopolitical reality and instability on higher education mobility and internationalisation, as illustrated by this week's election victory in the Netherlands of an extreme right anti-immigration party. 2023 is almost a record year for international student numbers in the United States – the most impressive growth rate in four decades, almost back to pre-pandemic levels. European numbers have also been on the rise. But behind these rosy numbers, and the unsurprisingly positive spin from the international education leadership in the United States, are some realities worth considering that may have a significant impact on future numbers of international students, and for that matter faculty mobility.

Read the full article [here](#).

WHAT A COIN FROM 1792 REVEALS ABOUT AMERICA'S SCIENTIFIC ENTERPRISE

Michael M. Crow, Nicole K. Mayberry and Derrick M. Anderson | Issues in Science and Technology Fall 2023

It's thought that the very first coin ever produced by the United States Mint was made on a screw press in a Philadelphia basement in 1792, in the presence of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. According to rumor, only ten of these prototype coins were made because the design was discontinued. Each of the remaining coins, called the Birch Cent after its engraver, depict Lady Liberty in profile with the words "LIBERTY, PARENT OF SCIENCE & INDUSTRY." In 2015, coin dealer Kevin Lipton purchased one of the coins at auction for nearly \$2.6 million. When asked why he paid so much, he replied, "This is our earliest depiction of what we thought of ourselves as a nation." The Birch Cent is a fascinating reminder of the importance of science among the bold ideas involved in founding the country. Thomas Jefferson himself proposed that advancing science was a continuation of the American Revolution. In 1789, he wrote to Harvard president Joseph Willard about the latest developments in chemistry, steam power, and bridge designs.

Read the full article [here](#).

HOW JOURNAL HIJACKERS DERAILED ACADEMIC CAREERS WITH IMPUNITY

Nathan M. Greenfield | University World News | November 20, 2023

The documented hijacking of a legitimate academic journal earlier this year shows how the pressure on researchers to publish, combined with the proliferation and development of AI technology, is threatening to undermine trust in research and is even derailing the careers of affected academics. The automation of academic publishing through platforms such as Web of Science and Scopus has given scholars both easy access to hundreds of thousands of published papers as well as more journals to which they can submit their papers. But it also carries significant risk. "As authors we get a lot of reach, but it definitely introduces vulnerabilities in the sense that some of these platforms are not well governed," says Sune D Müller, professor of informatics at the University of Oslo in Norway and editor of the *Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems (SJIS)*.

Read the full article [here](#).

DETAILED DATA ON EMPLOYEES OF U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY LAB LEAK ONLINE

Christian Vasquez | CyberScoop | November 20, 2023

A cybercrime group that has engaged in politically motivated attacks breached a human resources application belonging to Idaho National Laboratory, claiming in a post to Telegram on Sunday that it had obtained detailed information on employees working at the nuclear research lab. The hacking group SiegedSec said it had accessed “hundreds of thousands of user, employee, and citizen data,” including full names, social security numbers, bank account information, and addresses. The group posted a sample of the leaked data, but CyberScoop could not confirm whether SiegedSec is in possession of the much larger data set it claims to have stolen. An INL spokesperson, Lori McNamara, confirmed that the breach had taken place but said the lab is still investigating the extent. “Earlier this morning, Idaho National Laboratory determined that it was the target of a cybersecurity data breach, affecting the servers supporting its Oracle HCM system, which supports its Human Resources applications. INL has taken immediate action to protect employee data,” McNamara said.

Read the full article [here](#).

FEARS OVER BILL MAKING ILLICIT RESEARCH SHARING A CRIME

Shadi Khan Saif | University World News | November 24, 2023

A draft defence bill aimed at the exclusive exchange of technology with the United Kingdom and the United States while curbing any other ‘foreign’ access has set off alarm bells in Australian academic circles because of what academics say is the potential for ‘criminalising’ activities the research community considers normal. Among other tough clauses, the proposed law creates at least three criminal offences aimed at restricting the sharing of defence technology to foreign persons inside and outside Australia while allowing licence-free sharing among the three AUKUS (Australia, UK and US) partners. The proposed reforms would create an export-licence-free environment to support industry, higher education and research sectors in all three countries by, among other measures, reducing barriers to technology transfer and costs of trade, according to a statement posted on the Defence Department’s website.

Read the full article [here](#).

NSF DIRECTOR PANCHANATHAN HEADLINES THE CANADIAN SCIENCE POLICY CONFERENCE IN OTTAWA, SIGNS INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION ARRANGEMENT

NSF News | November 20, 2023

In mid-November, U.S. National Science Foundation Director Sethuraman Panchanathan traveled to Ottawa, Canada, where he signed a bilateral research arrangement during a ceremony hosted by the U.S. Ambassador to Canada. He also served as a featured speaker at the 15th annual Canadian Science Policy Conference (CSPC), themed, “Science & Innovation in a Time of Transformation.” During his visit, he met with leading proponents of Canadian science, including the Chairman of the Standing House of Commons Committee on Science and Research; the Chief Science Advisor of Canada; the CEO of the Canadian Science Policy Center (CSPC); heads of Canadian research funding agencies; and the Assistant and Associate Deputy Ministers of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada. The high-level discussions were aimed at fostering and strengthening the US-Canada science and technology cooperation.

Read the full article [here](#).

CSIS WARNS OF CHINESE RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN TARGETING CANADIAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Catharine Tunney | CBC News | November 24, 2023

Canada's spy agency is warning of a Chinese plot to recruit Canadian government officials and academics. In an alert sent to federal employees earlier this month and seen by CBC News, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) warns of a large-scale email campaign trying to lure workers into an overseas talent program. "The [People's Republic of China] is likely using this recruitment campaign to acquire Canadian knowledge and expertise," says the alert. These types of talent recruitment and technology transfer initiatives can result in the misappropriation of government of Canada resources and the loss of proprietary and sensitive information." The alert includes a photo of the recruitment email, which uses the subject line "2024 invitation for overseas talents to apply for the Global Excellent Scientists Fund in China."

Read the full article [here](#).

EUROPE STILL WORKING WITH CHINA ON MILITARY AND SURVEILLANCE USES OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, REPORT FINDS

David Matthews | Science/Business | November 21, 2023

Academics in Europe are continuing to work with Chinese counterparts on "clearly problematic" artificial intelligence (AI) research in areas like biometric surveillance, cybersecurity, and military fields, a new analysis has found. Just last year, for example, researchers at the German military's leading research institute, the Bundeswehr University Munich, published the results of a collaboration with a People's Liberation Army university on AI work that could help build automatic targeting systems. "There were collaborations that were published as late as 2019 to 2022 on things like drone target tracking and missile guidance," said Rebecca Arcesati, the lead analyst on the report, published by the Berlin-based Mercator Institute for China Studies (Merics). "In an ideal world, those collaborations with China's military-industrial complex shouldn't have taken place," she said. As tensions with Beijing have grown over human rights, technological competition and the risk of an invasion of Taiwan, the EU and member states have ratcheted up the scrutiny of research links with China.

Read the full article [here](#).

CONGRESS, BIDEN MUST CRACK DOWN ON UNIVERSITIES' CHINESE GRAVY-TRAIN

Paul R. Moore | The Hill | November 19, 2023

The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission (USCC) issued its 2023 report to Congress on Nov. 14. The report included 30 recommendations of "particular significance." Its third recommendation identified proposals to "address China's state-sponsored influence and interference" now affecting America's universities. Released a day before President Biden's meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco, the report addresses a wide range of China's challenges to the U.S. and offers important legislative recommendations for protecting America's interests. The report is particularly notable for the unanimous support it received from all USCC commissioners for its recommendations. For reference, its chairman served as chief of staff to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), and its vice chairman was a foreign policy adviser to Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) before becoming a deputy assistant secretary of state in the Trump administration.

Read the full article [here](#).

SECRET WARNINGS ABOUT WUHAN RESEARCH PREDATED THE PANDEMIC

Katherine Eban | Vanity Fair | November 21, 2023

In late October 2017, a US health official from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) arrived at the Wuhan Institute of Virology for a glimpse of an eagerly anticipated work in progress. The WIV, a leading research institute, was putting the finishing touches on China's first biosafety level 4 (BSL-4) laboratory. Operating with the highest safeguards, the lab would enable scientists to study some of the world's most lethal pathogens. The project had support from Western governments seeking a more robust partnership with China's top scientists. France had helped design the facility. Canada, before long, would send virus samples. And in the US, NIAID was channeling grant dollars through an American organization called EcoHealth Alliance to help fund the WIV's cutting-edge coronavirus research. That funding allowed the NIAID official, who worked out of the US embassy in Beijing, to become one of the first Americans to tour the lab. Her goal was to facilitate cooperation between American and Chinese scientists.

Read the full article [here](#).

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL FLOWS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA

Jon Schmid and Nathaniel Edenfield | Rand Corporation

Scientific and technological competition has emerged as a front on which strategic competition between the United States and China is contested. Scientific and technological dominance — the prize of this competition — has been recognized as a national priority by high-level leadership from both countries. This dominance can be attained in two primary ways: A country can rely on its domestic scientific and technology innovation resources and activities, or it can leverage foreign scientific and technological assets. The researchers focused on the second approach for this study; in this report, they describe the benefits and liabilities associated with U.S.-Chinese scientific research collaboration. Specifically, the researchers investigated three types of flows between the United States and China: the inflow of U.S. technology inputs into Chinese military technology, the bilateral movement of scientific researchers between the United States and China, and scientific collaboration between researchers based in the United States and those based in China.

Read the full article [here](#).

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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USEFUL RESOURCES

NIST PHISH SCALE USER GUIDE

Shanee Dawkins and Jody Jacobs | NIST Computer Security Resource Center | November 2023

Phishing cyber threats impact private and public sectors both in the United States and internationally. Embedded phishing awareness training programs, in which simulated phishing emails are sent to employees, are designed to prepare employees in these organizations to combat real-world phishing scenarios. Cybersecurity and phishing awareness training implementers and practitioners use the results of these programs, in part, to assess the security risk of their organization. The NIST Phish Scale is a method created for these implementers to rate an email's human phishing detection difficulty as part of their cybersecurity awareness and phishing training programs.

View the full resource [here](#).

JUST RELEASED! RISK MANAGEMENT IN THE ENTERPRISE: NIST SP 800-221 & NIST SP 800-221A

NIST Computer Security Resource Center | November 17, 2023

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) spans all tools, devices, data, infrastructure, and components and it's a broad concept that continues to evolve. Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) programs should consider ICT risks alongside those in other risk disciplines like financial or legal which consider the impact on mission and business objectives, strategic planning, and oversight. To aid in this endeavor, NIST is providing guidance, especially for executive decision-makers, risk officers, and those responsible for governance and risk management practices.

View the full resource [here](#).

2023 REPORT TO CONGRESS OF THE U.S.-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION

U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission | November 2023

Throughout much of 2023, the public discussion of China in the United States was preoccupied with the short-term ups and downs of the relationship between the two countries. Tensions between the two were said to be rising or easing, warming or chilling, usually as the result of high-level visits (or the lack of them). The underlying reality was that, amid these ups and downs, the rivalry between the United States and China was intensifying. While the top-level contacts reflected a general desire, at least by the United States, to improve the relationship with Beijing and create an air of normalcy, the new normal is one of continuing, long-term strategic and systemic competition.

View the full resource [here](#).

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