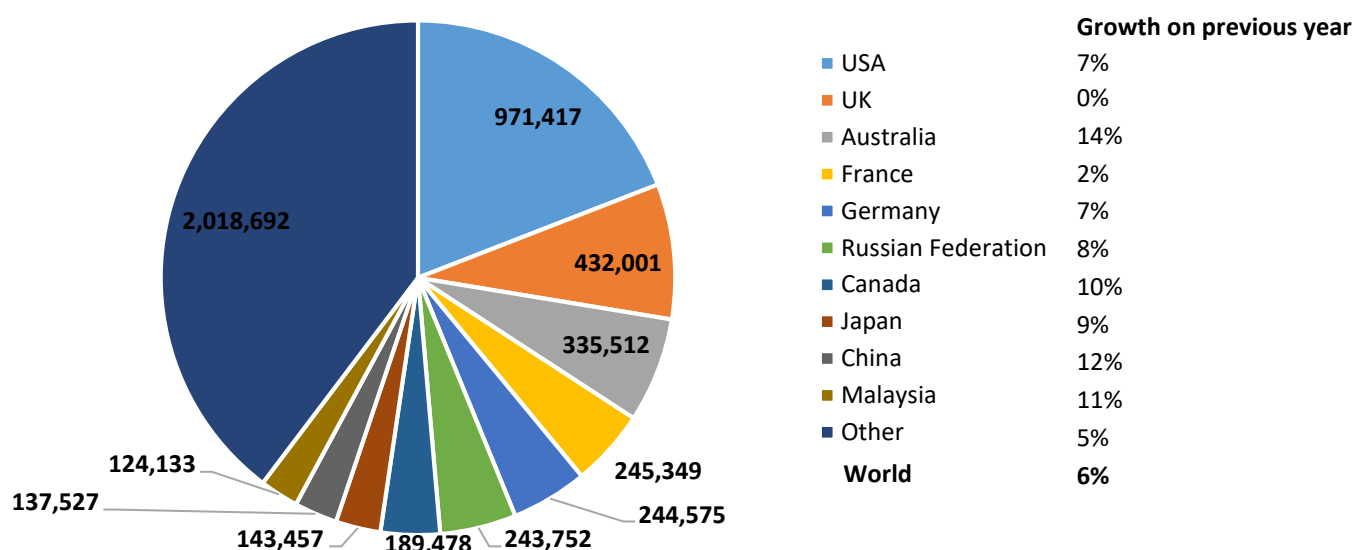




## Global student mobility – destinations and origins

The UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) captures data on incoming and outgoing students from many countries around the world, with a wider scope than OECD’s Education At a Glance publication<sup>1</sup>. The database was recently updated (September 2018) providing a first robust picture of global student mobility in 2016.

**Figure 1: The top 10 study destinations of tertiary international students in 2016**



Although the data is somewhat old it does represent the best available data that is fully-comparable with respect to the definition of an international student<sup>2</sup>. The UIS data also captures students’ country of origin as below.

**Table 1: Top 5 student source countries for the world’s top 10 study destinations**

USA		UK		Australia		France		Germany*	
China	309,837	China	89,318	China	112,329	Morocco	28,012	China	
India	135,733	Malaysia	17,360	India	46,316	China	23,378	India	
South Korea	60,454	Hong Kong	16,717	Malaysia	15,319	Algeria	17,008	Russia	
Saudi Arabia	58,385	India	16,655	Nepal	14,712	Tunisia	9,403	Austria	
Canada	28,255	Nigeria	16,072	Vietnam	14,491	Italy	8,535	Italy	
Other	378,753	Other	275,879	Other	132,345	Other	159,013	Other	
<b>Total</b>	<b>971,417</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>432,001</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>335,512</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>245,349</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>244,575</b>
Russian Federation		Canada		Japan		China*		Malaysia	
Kazakhstan	309,837	China	60,936	China	76,537	South Korea		Bangladesh	28,456
Ukraine	135,733	India	19,905	Vietnam	19,152	USA		Nigeria	11,052
Uzbekistan	60,454	France	15,603	South Korea	12,951	Thailand		China	10,880
Turkmenistan	58,385	United States	8,355	Nepal	8,425	Pakistan		Indonesia	5,823
Belarus	28,255	Nigeria	5,982	Indonesia	2,854	India		Pakistan	4,454
Other	378,753	Other	78,697	Other	23,538	Other		Other	63,468
<b>Total</b>	<b>243,752</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>189,478</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>143,457</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>137,527</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>124,133</b>

\*2016 UIS source country data was not available for Germany or China. Their top 5 source countries listed here are derived from local reporting by each country<sup>2</sup>

This comparison shows the significance of China as a global source of mobile students, appearing in all the top five source countries of all major study destinations except itself and the Russian Federation (where it was the 8<sup>th</sup> largest source country). India also appears prominently in six of the above major study destinations.

1. [https://internationaleducation.gov.au/research/Research-Snapshots/Documents/Global%20context%20of%20tertiary%20student%20mobility\\_2018.pdf](https://internationaleducation.gov.au/research/Research-Snapshots/Documents/Global%20context%20of%20tertiary%20student%20mobility_2018.pdf)

2. [https://internationaleducation.gov.au/research/Research-Snapshots/Documents/Research%20Snapshot\\_Global%20data%20sources.pdf](https://internationaleducation.gov.au/research/Research-Snapshots/Documents/Research%20Snapshot_Global%20data%20sources.pdf)

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