



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

SEVP

STUDENT AND EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM

STUDENT AND EXCHANGE VISITOR INFORMATION SYSTEM

SEVIS BY THE NUMBERS

GENERAL SUMMARY QUARTERLY REVIEW

March 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

GENERAL DATA

- 1.18 million F & M students currently study in the United States.
- 200,861 J-1 exchange visitors are currently in the United States.
- SEVP currently certifies 8,687 U.S. schools to enroll international students.
- 75 percent of SEVP-certified schools have 50 or less enrolled F & M students.
- 75 percent of all F & M students are enrolled in bachelor's, master's or doctoral programs.
- 478,851 F & M students study science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields in the United States.
- 40 percent of all F & M students in the United States study STEM fields.
- 66 percent of all M-1 students study in Florida, California, and Arizona.

TRENDS

- The number of active F & M students studying in the United States grew from 1.11 million in March 2015 to 1.18 million in March 2016, an increase of 6.2 percent.
- The number of active J-1 exchange visitors in the United States grew from 200,623 in March 2015 to 200,861 in March 2016, an increase of 0.12 percent.
- The number of F& M students from India studying in the United States grew from 148,360 in March 2015 to 194,438 in March 2016, an increase of 31.1 percent.

NEW THIS QUARTER

- Past reports compared current SEVIS data to the previous quarter's data. This report compares data from March 2016 to March 2015, providing users a better snapshot of international student trends in the United States.
- Study in the States updated its [Mapping SEVIS by the Numbers](#) interactive tool to include information about where international students are studying in the U.S.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION: What is the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)?	4
II.	DEFINITIONS: What Do These Terms Mean?	7
III.	GENERAL OVERVIEW: School and Nonimmigrant Student Data	8
IV.	STUDENTS: F-1 & M-1 Nonimmigrant Student Data	9
V.	SCHOOLS: SEVP-certified School Data	16
VI.	STEM DATA: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Nonimmigrant Student Data	21
VII.	FOCUS ON M-1 VOCATIONAL STUDENTS: Overview on M-1 Nonimmigrant Students Studying in the United States	29

INTRODUCTION

What is the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)?

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), a program within the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), acts as a bridge for government organizations that have an interest in information on nonimmigrants whose primary reason for coming to the United States is to be students.

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), SEVP manages schools, nonimmigrant students in the F & M visa classifications and their dependents.

The U.S. Department of State manages Exchange Visitor Programs, nonimmigrant exchange visitors in the J visa classification and their dependents. Both SEVP and the Department of State use the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) to track and monitor schools; exchange visitor programs; and F, M and J nonimmigrants while they visit the United States and participate in the U.S. education system.

INTRODUCTION

What is the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)?

SEVIS is the Web-based system that DHS uses to maintain information on SEVP-certified schools and the F & M students who come to the United States to attend those schools. SEVIS also maintains information on Department of State-designated exchange visitor program sponsors and J-1 visa exchange visitor program participants. It is a critical tool in SEVP's mission to protect national security while supporting the legal entry of the more than one million F, M and J nonimmigrants to the United States for education and cultural exchange.

INTRODUCTION

What is SEVIS by the Numbers?

SEVIS by the Numbers is a quarterly report that highlights nonimmigrant student and exchange visitor trends and information using data from SEVIS, which SEVP uses to track and monitor the status and activities of nonimmigrant students and exchange visitors who enter the United States.

The report highlights key SEVIS data in an engaging way to illustrate trends, values and information on nonimmigrant students studying in the United States.

DEFINITIONS

What Do These Terms Mean?

- **Nonimmigrant** – Person entering the United States to visit, study or work (depending on the type of visa) temporarily, but not to stay permanently in the United States.
- **F-1 nonimmigrant student** – Nonimmigrant status conferred on a student pursuing a full program of study in a college, university, seminary, conservatory, academic high school, private elementary school, other academic school or language training program in the United States that is SEVP-certified to enroll F and/or M students.
- **M-1 nonimmigrant student** – Nonimmigrant status conferred on a foreign national pursuing a full program of study at an SEVP-certified vocational school or other recognized non-academic school (other than in language training programs).
- **J-1 exchange visitor** – Foreign national selected by a Department of State-designated program to participate in an exchange visitor program.
- **STEM** – Science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs of study.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

School And Nonimmigrant Student Data

Since March 2015, the total number of SEVIS records for active F & M students, exchange visitors and their dependents increased by 4.83 percent, from 1,471,095 to 1,542,199.

TOTAL # OF ACTIVE STUDENTS

STUDENTS (F-1 & M-1) AND EXCHANGE VISITORS (J-1)			
	MARCH 2015	MARCH 2016	% CHANGE
F-1 & M-1	1,114,933	1,184,324	+6.22%
J-1	200,623	200,861	+0.12%
DEPENDENTS	155,539	157,014	+0.95%
COMPLETED	2,363,849	2,634,231	+11.44%
SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS			
	MARCH 2015	MARCH 2016	% CHANGE
CERTIFIED SCHOOLS (F & M)	8,955	8,687	-2.99%
DESIGNATED PROGRAMS (J)	1,445	1,473	+1.94%

* F-1/M-1 – Active students considered in F-1 or M-1 status and enrolled in a full course of study.

* Certified Schools – An academic/vocational institution or language training program that has received certification to enroll nonimmigrant students.

* Completed – The student has finished their program of study and intends on/already has returned to their home country.

* J-1 – Active exchange visitor considered in J-1 status and participating in their program.

* Designated Programs – A J-1 program that is approved to accept exchange visitors.

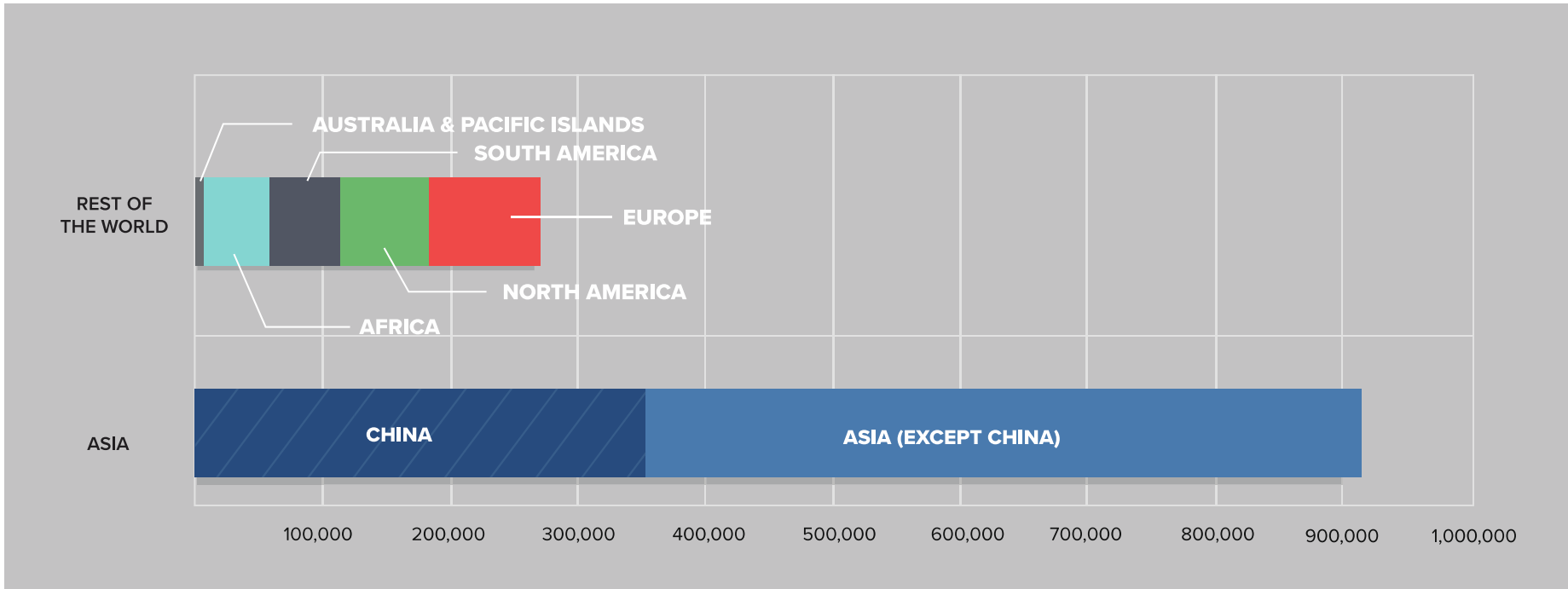


 **STUDENTS**

PLACES OF ORIGIN

Where do nonimmigrant students in the United States originate from?

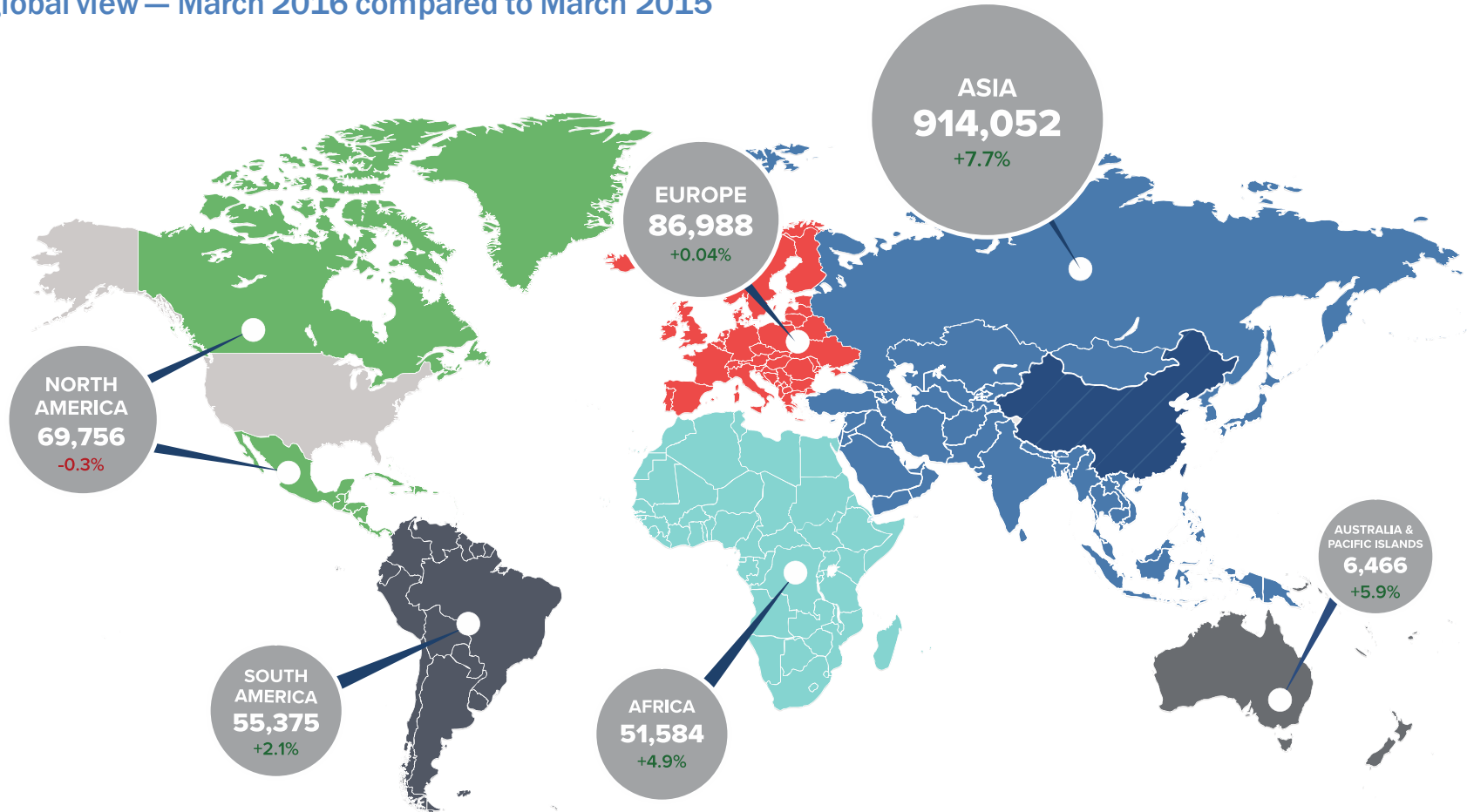
This chart and the following maps show the areas of origin for F & M students by continent and sub-region.



* Continent information was compiled using the United Nation's composition of macro geographical (continental) regions, geographical sub-regions, and selected economic and other groupings.

PLACES OF ORIGIN

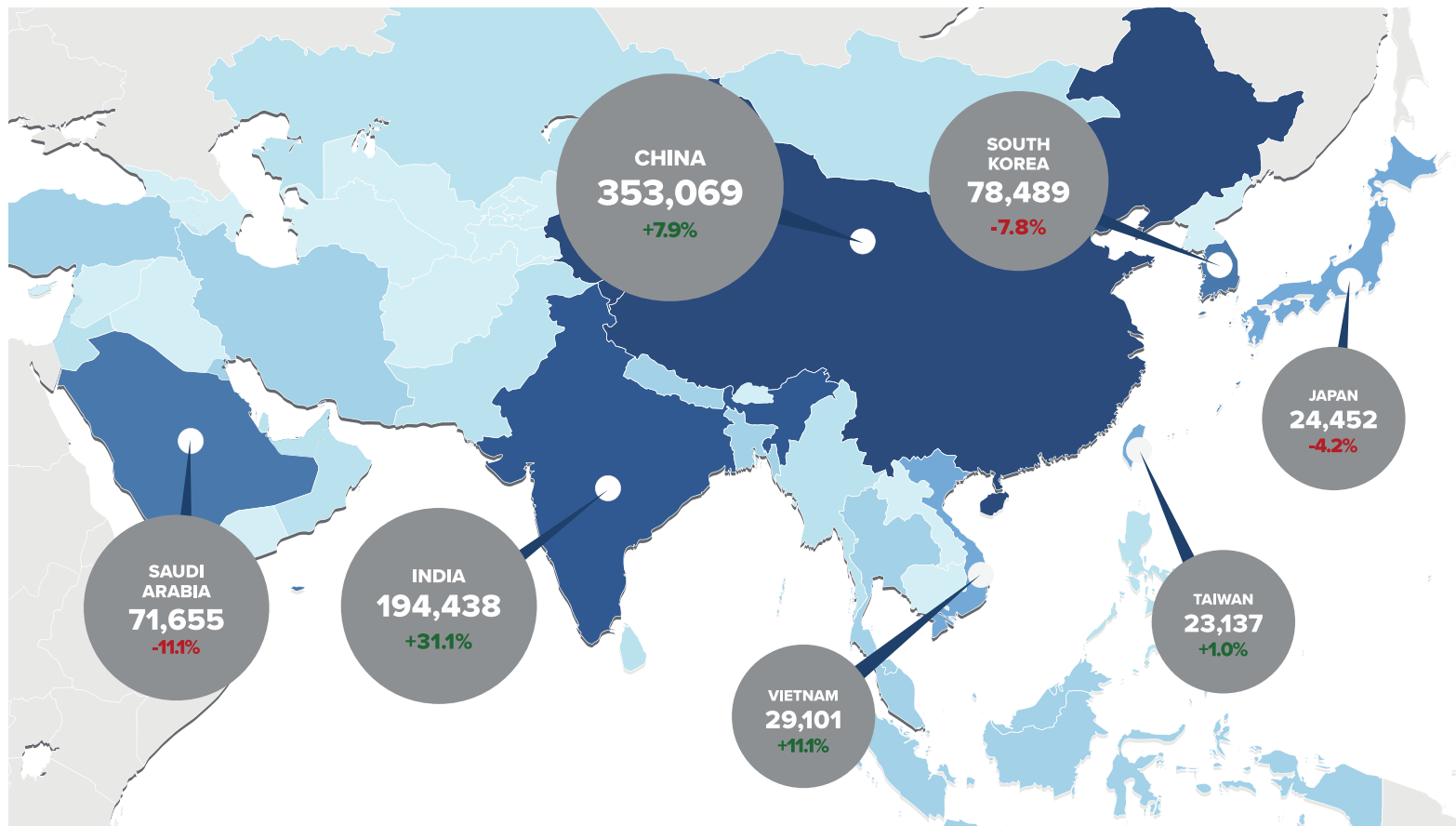
A global view — March 2016 compared to March 2015



* Continent information was compiled using the United Nation's composition of macro geographical (continental) regions, geographical sub-regions, and selected economic and other groupings.

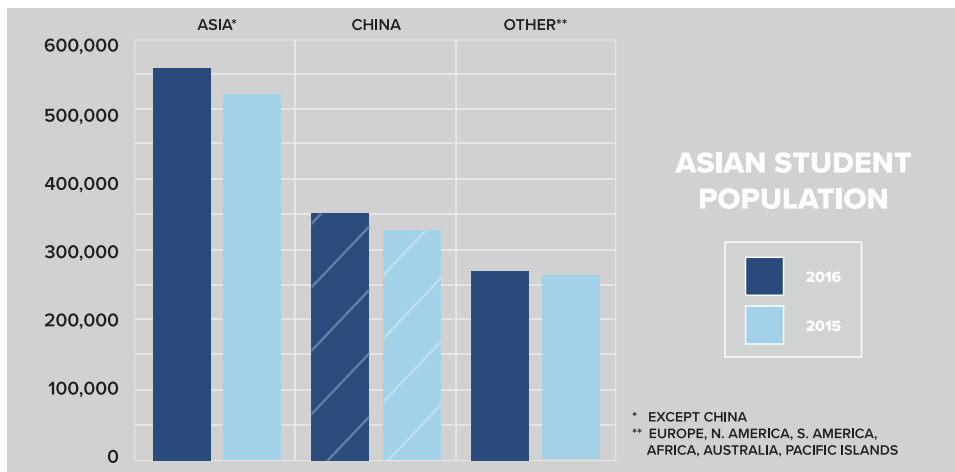
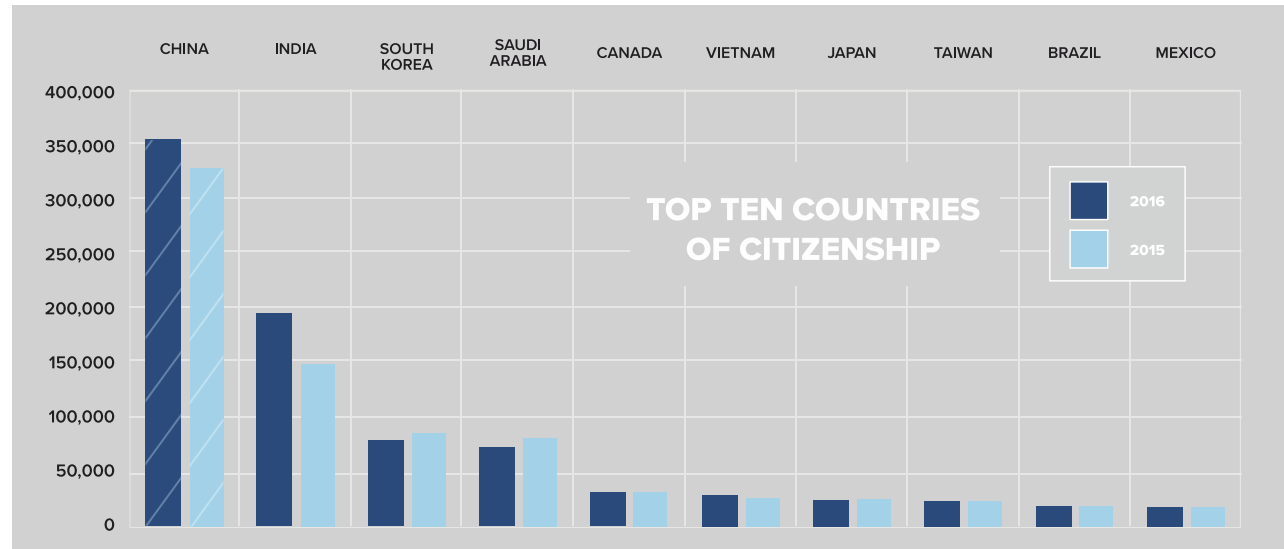
PLACES OF ORIGIN

A closer look at Asia — March 2016 compared to March 2015



* Continent information was compiled using the United Nation's composition of macro geographical (continental) regions, geographical sub-regions, and selected economic and other groupings.

TOP 10 COUNTRIES OF CITIZENSHIP



77%

of all F & M students originate from Asian nations, followed by 7 percent from Europe, 6 percent from North America, 5 percent from South America, 4 percent from Africa, and 0.5 percent from Australia/Pacific Islands.

* Continent information was compiled using the United Nation's composition of macro geographical (continental) regions, geographical sub-regions, and selected economic and other groupings.

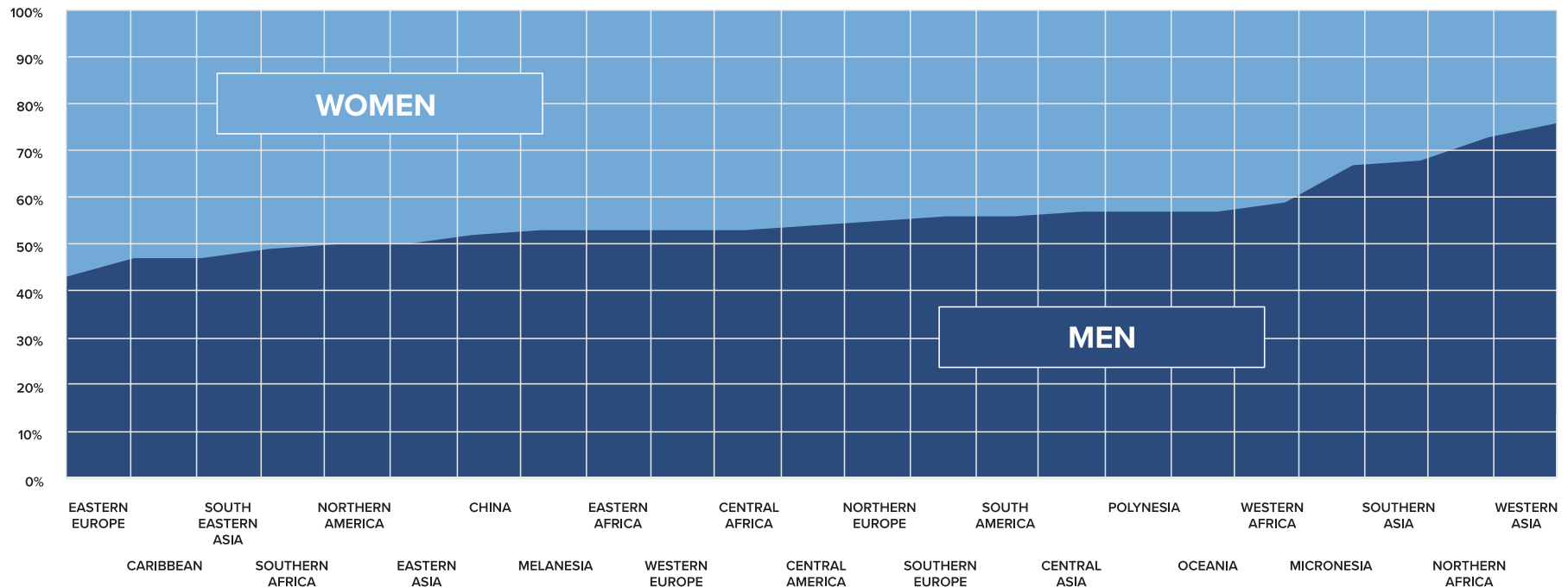
STUDENT BY GENDER

How many male F & M students come to the United States compared to females?

The below graph shows the United States' proportion of male versus female F & M students from each region of the world.

57%

of all F & M students studying in the United States are male. Eastern Europe sends the most females (57 percent) and Western Asia the most males (76 percent).



* Continent information was compiled using the United Nation's composition of macro geographical (continental) regions, geographical sub-regions, and selected economic and other groupings.

STUDENTS BY STATE

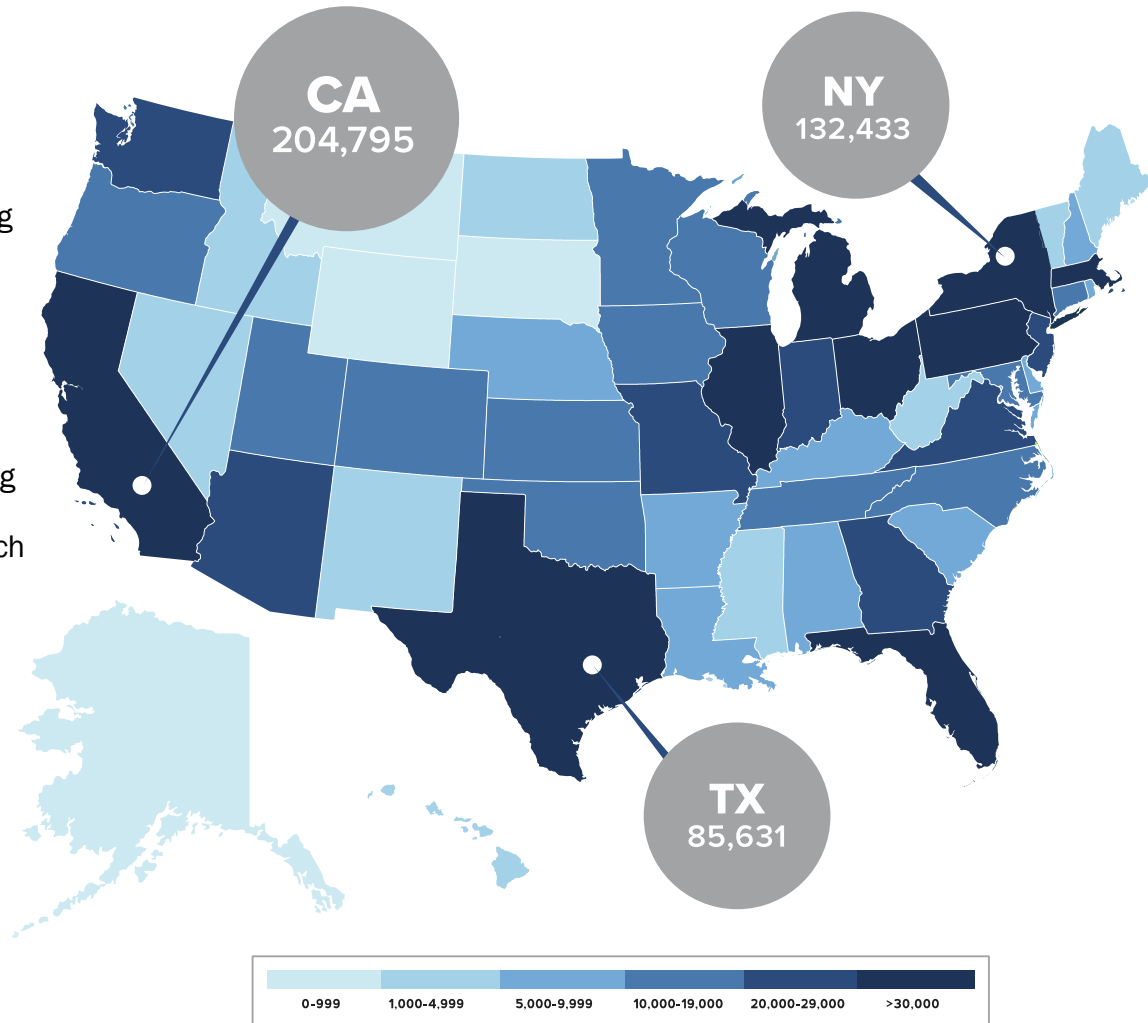
Which states host the highest population of F & M students?

7%

increase in the number of F & M students studying at schools in CA, NY and TX since March 2015.

18%

increase in the number of F & M students studying at schools in both NH and AR, followed by a 15% increase for schools in both SD and MO since March 2015.



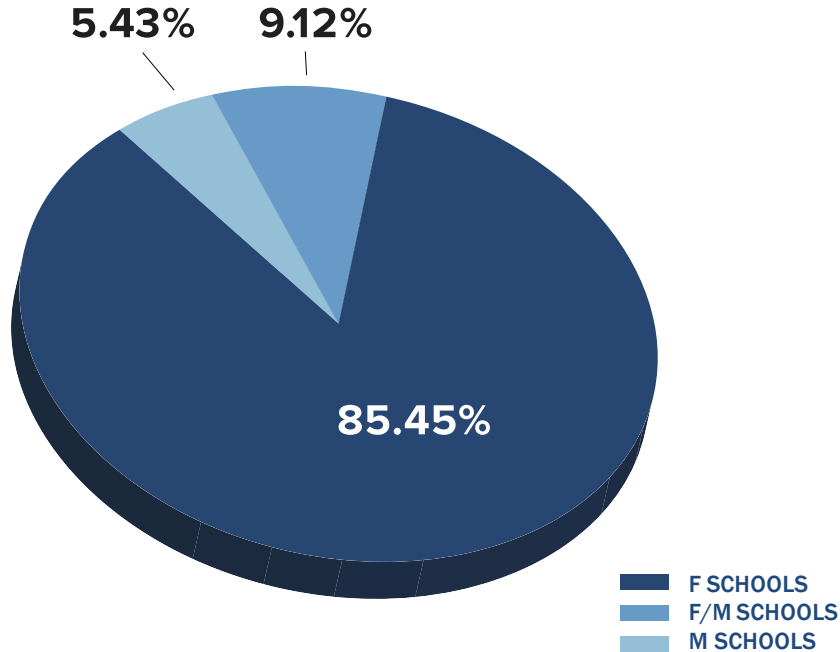
CONTINENT	DESTINATION
ASIA	CA: 19%
EUROPE	CA: 19%
AUSTRALIA & PACIFIC ISLANDS	CA: 18%
AFRICA	TX: 13%
NORTH AMERICA	TX: 13%
SOUTH AMERICA	FL: 23%



SCHOOLS

CERTIFIED SCHOOLS

Which SEVP-certified schools have the largest population of F & M students per visa category?



PERCENT OF SCHOOLS BY VISA CATEGORY

TOP FIVE F-1 APPROVED SCHOOLS	
SCHOOL NAME	# OF ACTIVE STUDENTS
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY	13,851
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	13,080
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY	11,381
COLOMBIA UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK	10,810
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS	10,690

TOP FIVE F-1 & M-1 APPROVED SCHOOLS	
SCHOOL NAME	# OF ACTIVE STUDENTS
CORNELL UNIVERSITY	5,674
HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM	4,558
SANTA MONICA COLLEGE	3,785
THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA	3,611
NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	3,125

TOP FIVE M-1 APPROVED SCHOOLS	
SCHOOL NAME	# OF ACTIVE STUDENTS
BETHEL SCHOOL OF SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY	875
CAE GLOBAL ACADEMY PHOENIX, INC.	469
TRANSPAC AVIATION ACADEMY	369
DEAN INTERNATIONAL, INC.	320
U.S. AVIATION ACADEMY	289

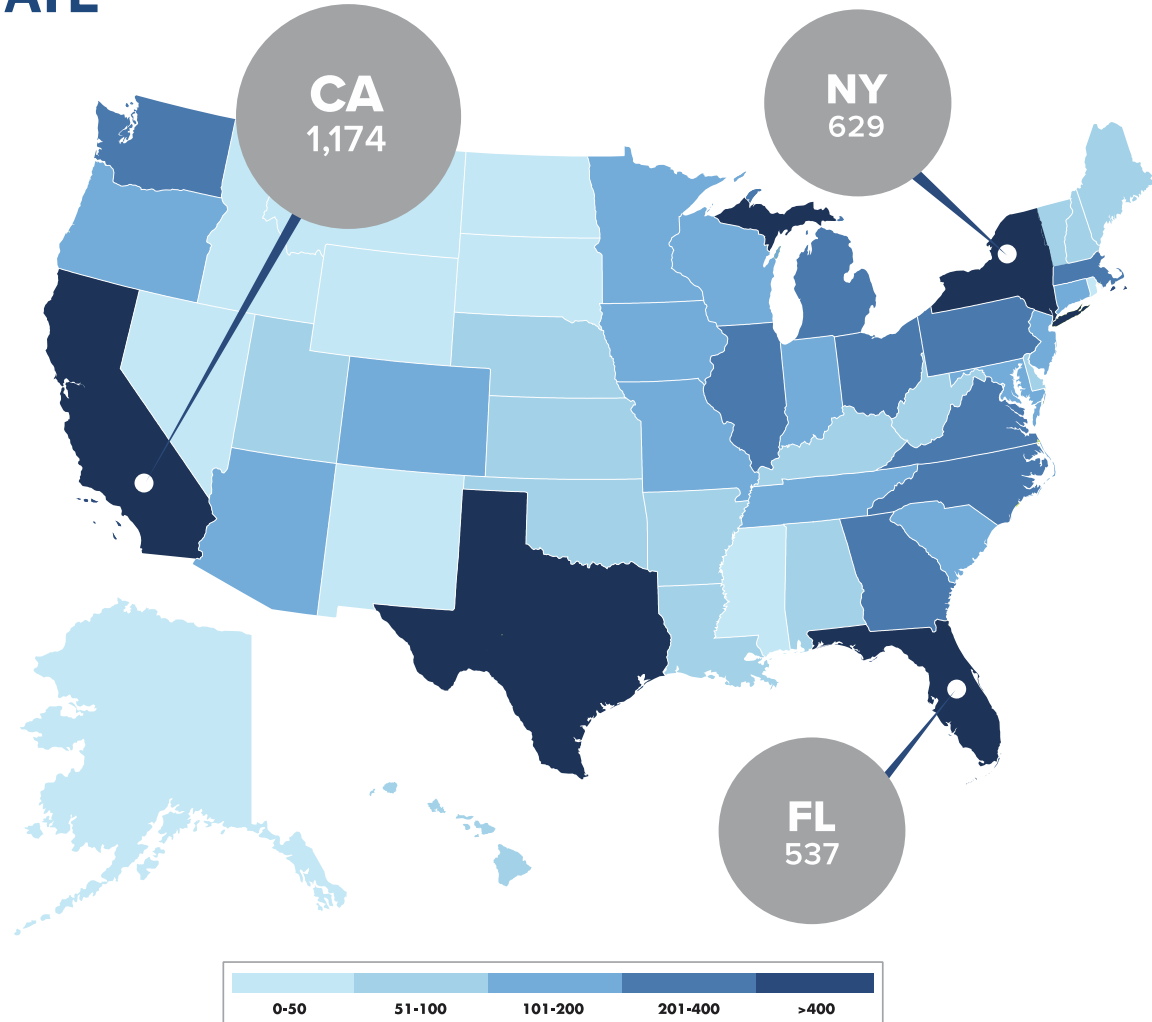
# OF SCHOOLS BY ACTIVE STUDENT ENROLLMENT	
# OF SCHOOLS	# OF ACTIVE STUDENTS
34	>5,000
223	1,001-5,000
191	501-1,000
957	101-500
752	51-100
2,061	11-50
2,912	1-10
1,553	0

CERTIFIED SCHOOLS BY STATE

Which states have the highest population of SEVP-certified schools?

27%

of all SEVP-certified schools are located within the states of CA, NY and FL.



LEVEL OF EDUCATION

How many F & M students study at each level of education?

13%

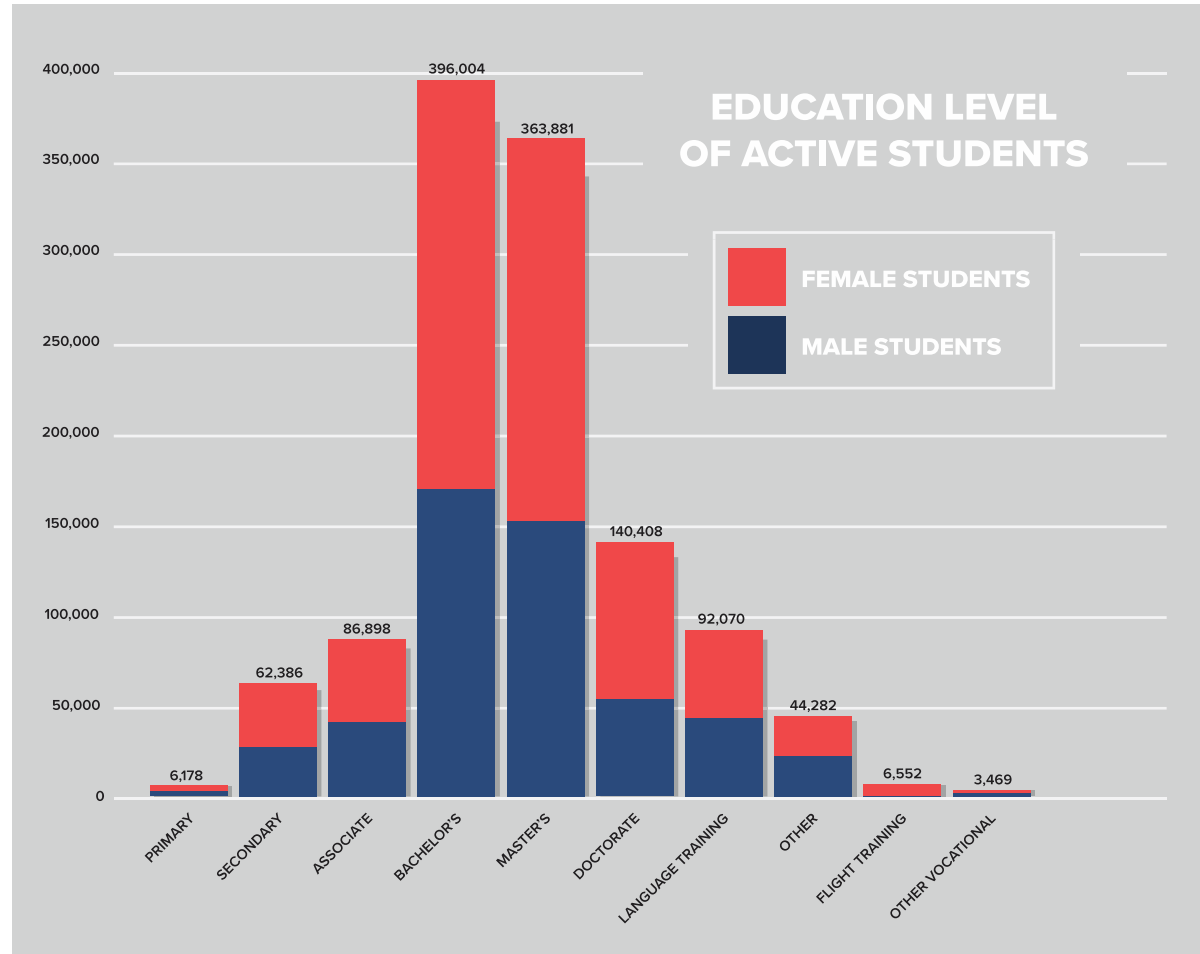
decrease in the number of F & M students enrolled in language training programs since March 2015.

16%

increase in the number of F & M students enrolled in master's programs since March 2015.

75%

of F & M students enrolled in bachelor's, master's or doctoral programs.



TOP MAJORS

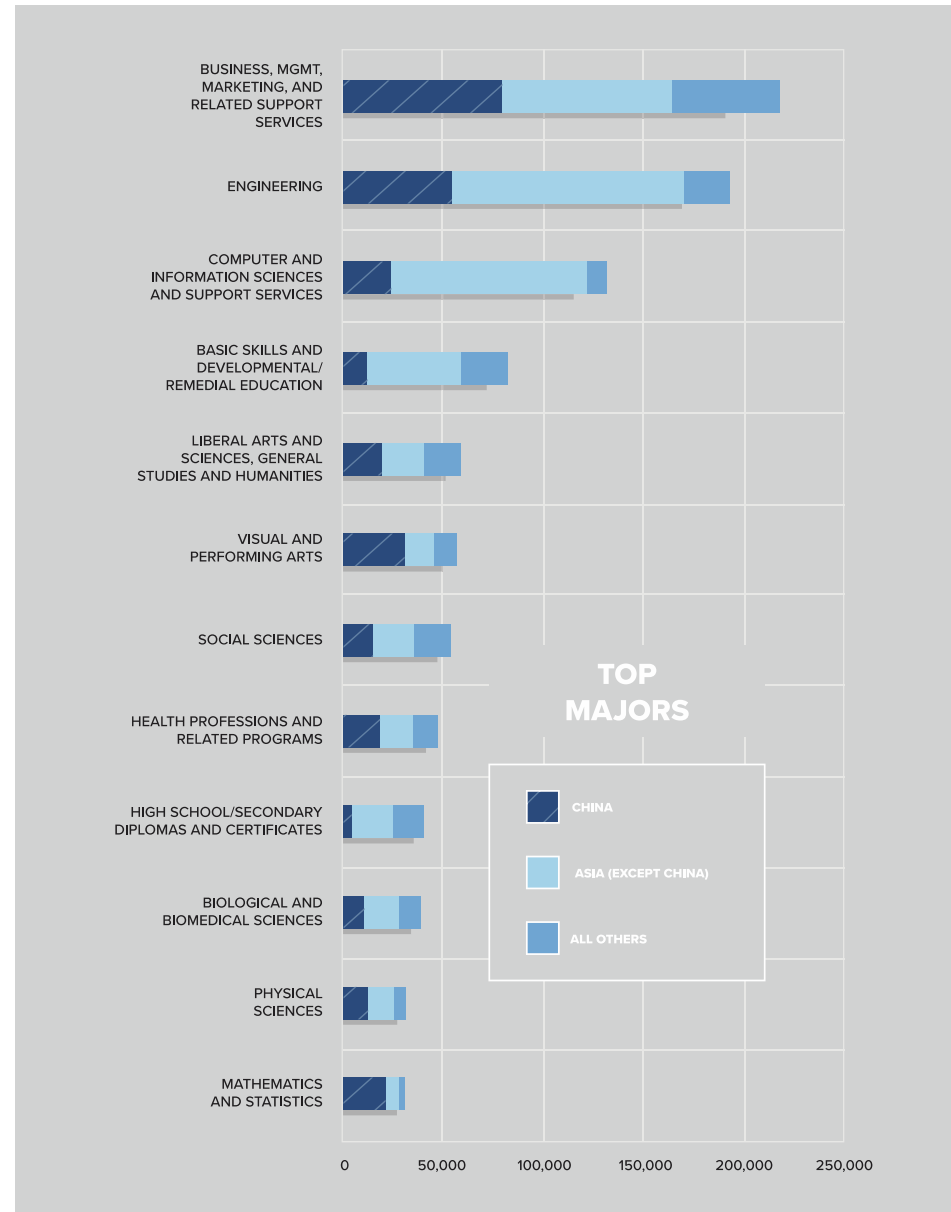
What are the most popular majors among F & M students studying in the United States?

32%

increase in the number of all F & M students pursuing computer and information sciences and support services degree programs since March 2015.

79%

of all F & M students pursuing high school diplomas, secondary school degrees and certificates are from Asia.



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STEM DATA

STEM FIELDS OF STUDY

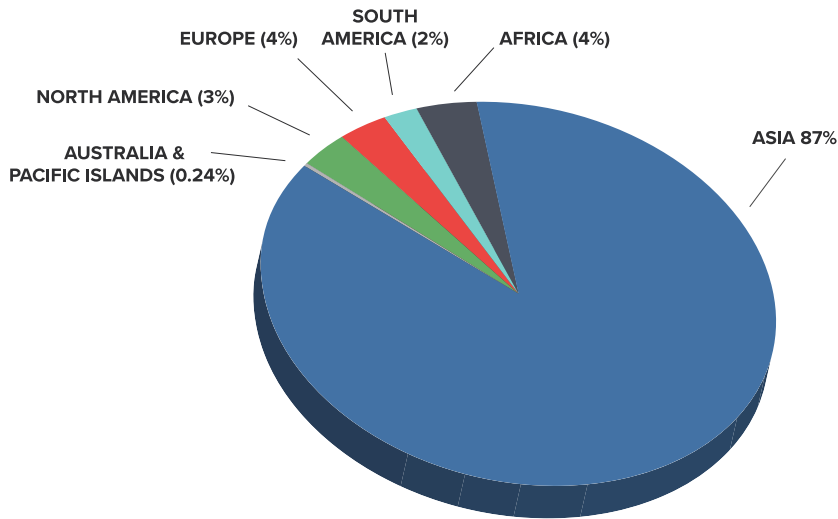
STEM programs are popular at American colleges and universities. Graduates from these programs are important to innovation and job creation in the United States.

An F-1 and/or M-1 student can find STEM programs at all educational levels. Many colleges and universities offer programs in these fields at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Community colleges also have a variety of STEM programs in which a student may enroll.

STEM programs are classified according to the Classification of Instructional Programs codes developed by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics.

STEM STUDENTS, SCHOOLS AND FIELDS OF STUDY

How many F & M STEM students are in the United States, and where and what do they study?



PERCENT OF F & M STEM STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES PER CONTINENT

TOTAL # OF STEM AND ALL F & M STUDENTS, MARCH 2016

	STEM	ALL F & M	PERCENTAGE IN STEM
F-1 & M-1 STUDENTS	478,851	1,184,324	40.4%

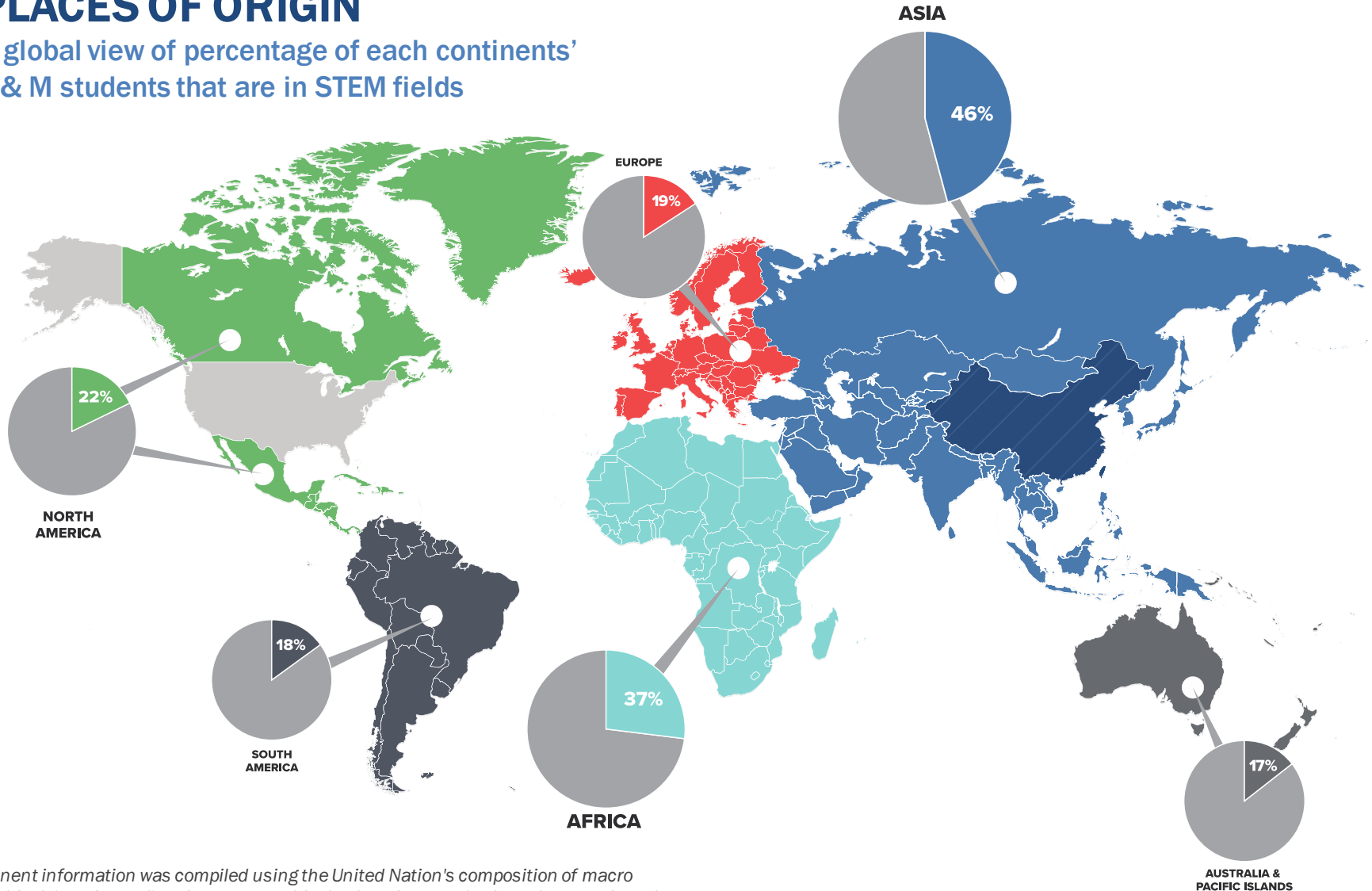
TOTAL # OF F & M STEM STUDENTS PER CONTINENT, MARCH 2015-2016

CONTINENT	2015	2016	% INCREASE
ASIA	355,201	416,926	17%
AFRICA	17,725	19,258	9%
EUROPE	15,649	16,273	4%
NORTH AMERICA	14,765	15,355	4%
SOUTH AMERICA	9,059	9,919	9%
AUSTRALIA & PACIFIC ISLANDS	967	1,120	16%
GRAND TOTAL	413,366	478,851	16%

* Continent information was compiled using the United Nation's composition of macro geographical (continental) regions, geographical sub-regions, and selected economic and other groupings.

PLACES OF ORIGIN

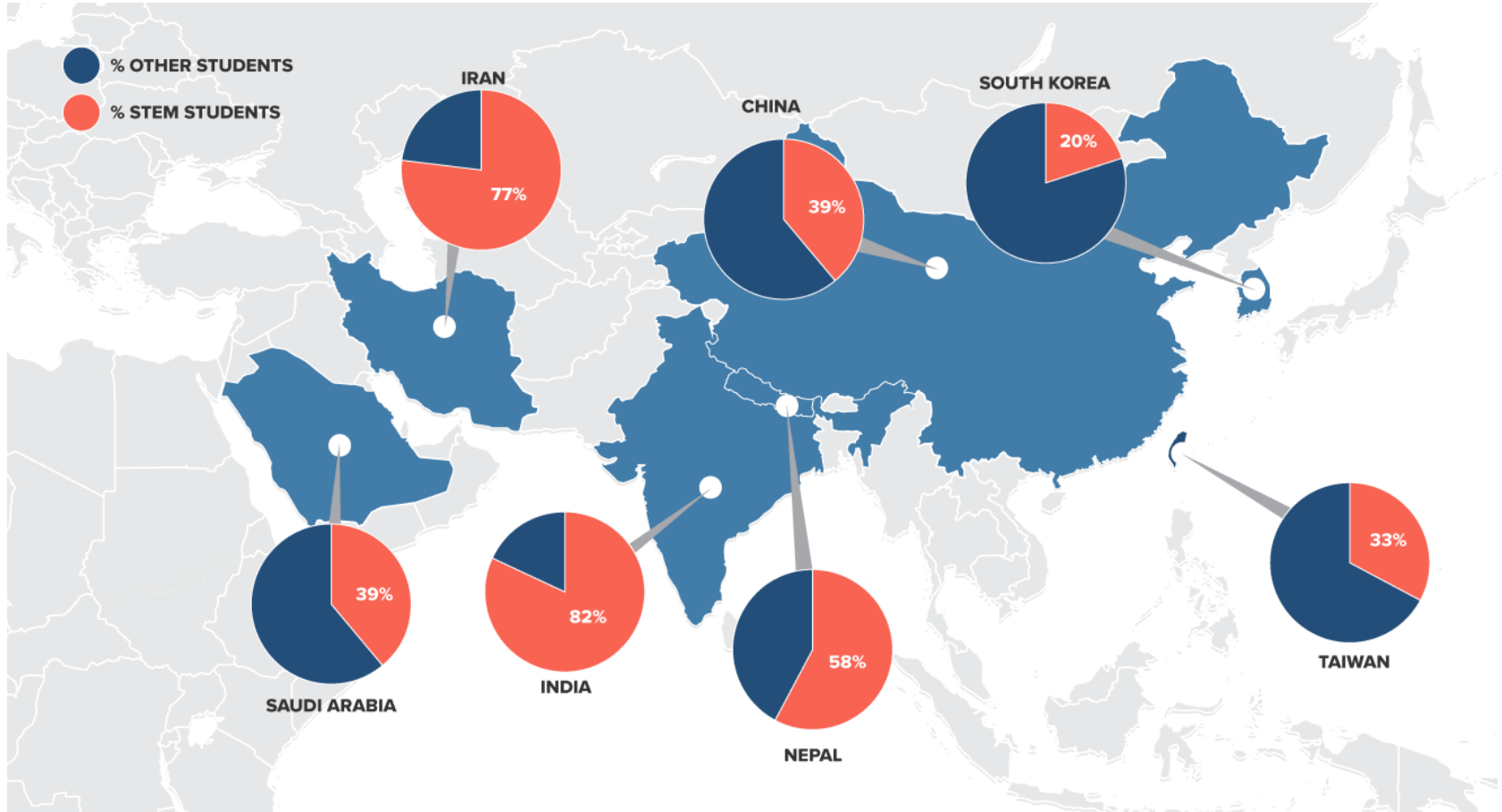
A global view of percentage of each continents' F & M students that are in STEM fields



* Continent information was compiled using the United Nation's composition of macro geographical (continental) regions, geographical sub-regions, and selected economic and other groupings.

PLACES OF ORIGIN

A closer look at Asian F & M STEM students



* Continent information was compiled using the United Nation's composition of macro geographical (continental) regions, geographical sub-regions, and selected economic and other groupings.

STEM STUDENTS BY STATE

Which states host the largest population of F & M STEM students?

24%

increase in the number of all F & M STEM students studying in CA since March 2015.

15%

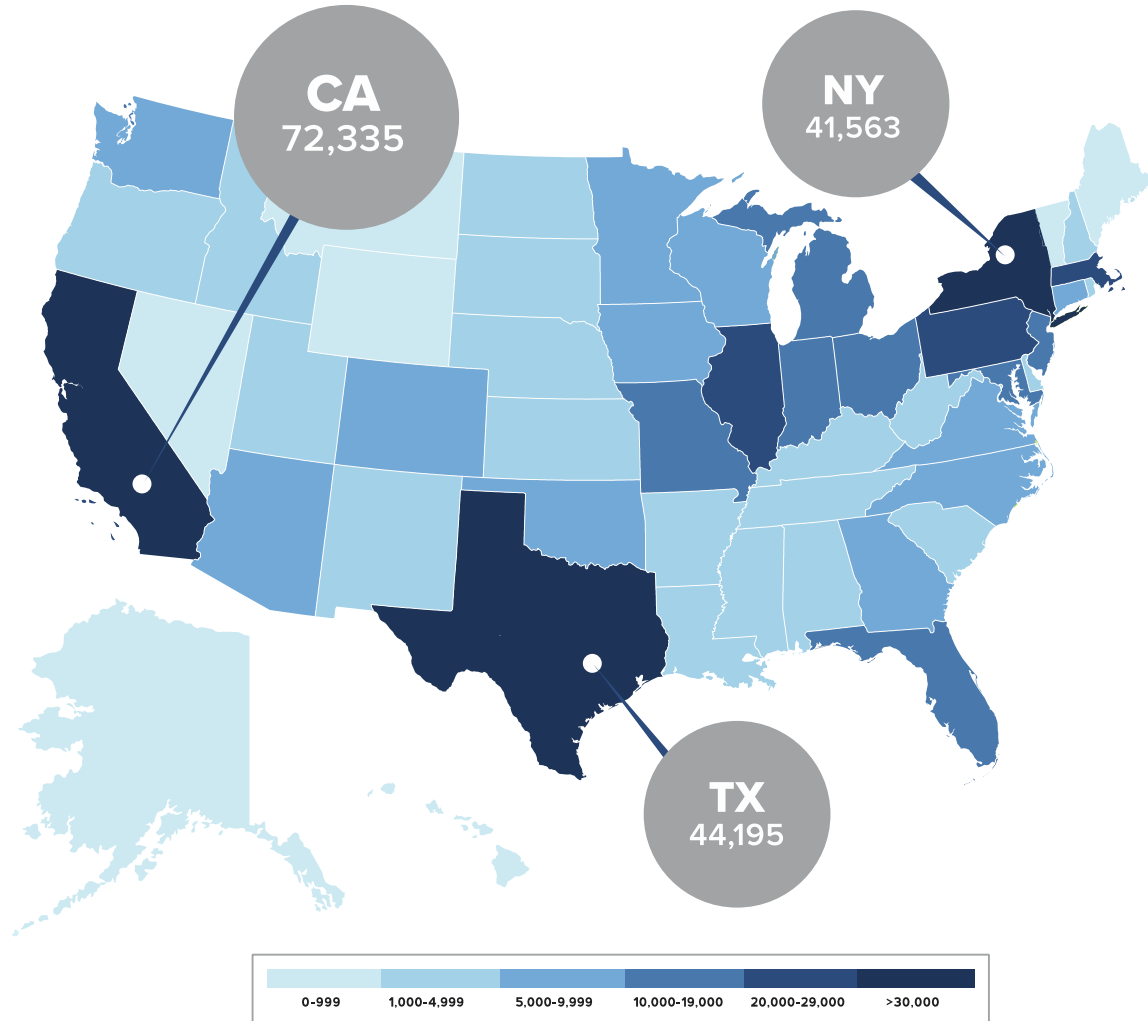
increase in the number of all F & M STEM students studying in TX since March 2015.

13%

increase in the number of all F & M STEM students studying in NY since March 2015.

TOP THREE STATES WITH LARGEST PERCENTAGE OF F & M STEM STUDENTS

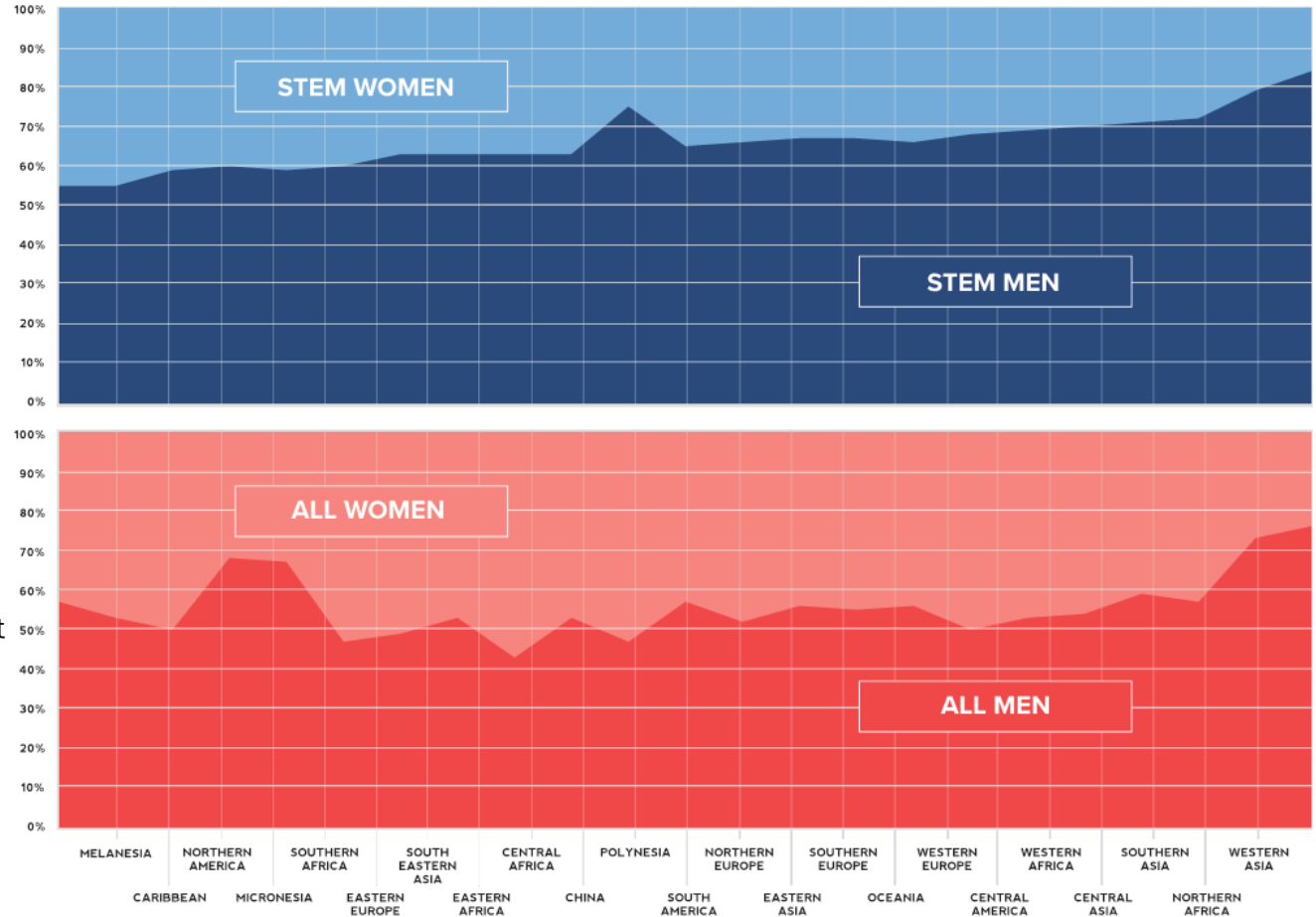
STATE	% of STEM STUDENTS
WYOMING	63%
SOUTH DAKOTA	60%
INDIANA	53%



STEM STUDENTS BY GENDER

How many male F & M students are in STEM fields in the United States compared to females?

The following graphs show the proportion of F & M STEM male and female students versus all F & M students from each region of the world.



69%

of F & M students studying STEM fields in the United States are male. The region with the greatest percentage of female STEM students (45 percent) is Melanesia and the one with the greatest percentage of male STEM students (84 percent) is Western Asia.

*Continent information was compiled using the United Nation's composition of macro geographical (continental) regions, geographical sub-regions, and selected economic and other groupings.

TOP 10 STEM DEGREES

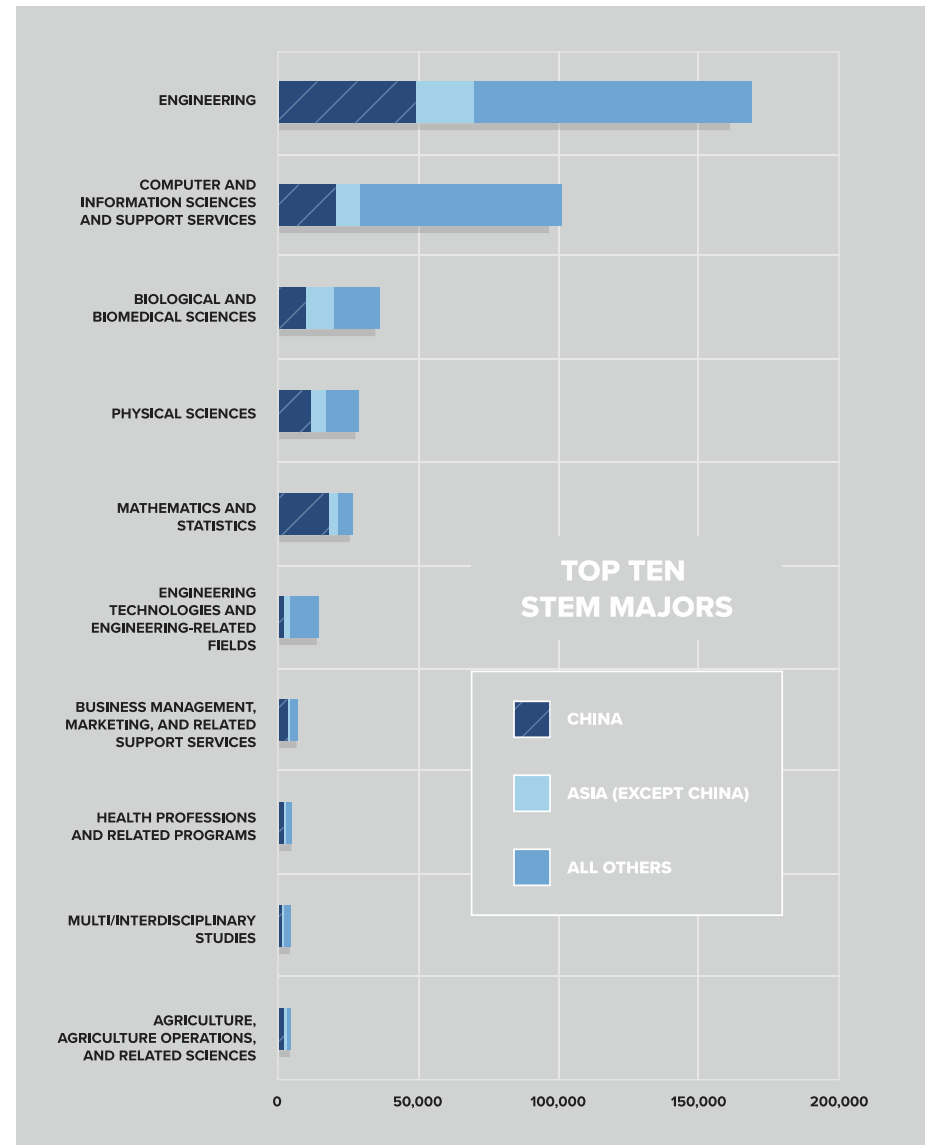
What are the most popular majors among F & M STEM students studying in the United States?

82%

of F & M students from India pursue degrees in a STEM field; more STEM students are from India than any other country.

69%

of all F & M students who pursue mathematics and statistics coursework are from China.



*Continent information was compiled using the United Nation's composition of macro geographical (continental) regions, geographical sub-regions, and selected economic and other groupings.



**FOCUS ON:
M-1 VOCATIONAL
STUDENTS**

GENERAL OVERVIEW

M-1 refers to the nonimmigrant classification a student receives on their Form I-20, “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status.” This classification determines the type of visa the U.S. Department of State issues the student and the rules they must follow once in the United States.

Although M-1 students share the same primary purpose for coming to the United States as their F-1 counterparts, which is to successfully complete a program of study certified by SEVP, these students enroll in different types of SEVP-certified programs. F-1 students enroll in more traditional academic programs, while M-1 students enroll in vocational programs that teach technical skills.

F-1 and M-1 students must abide by different rules to maintain their immigration status in the United States. For a snapshot of the differences between F-1 and M-1 students, download the [F & M Student Status: Know the Difference](#) infographic on [Study in the States](#).

FAST FACTS ABOUT M-1 STUDENTS

COMPARISON OF MALE / FEMALE STUDENTS

	TOTAL MALE	PERCENT OF TOTAL MALE	TOTAL FEMALE	PERCENT OF TOTAL FEMALE
ALL M-1 STUDENTS	7,777	76.2%	2,422	23.8%
ALL F-1 STUDENTS	670,401	57.1%	503,439	42.9%

TOP THREE STATES OF STUDY FOR M-1 STUDENTS

STATE	TOTAL MALE	PERCENT OF TOTAL MALE	TOTAL FEMALE	PERCENT OF TOTAL FEMALE
FLORIDA	2,505	90.6%	260	9.4%
CALIFORNIA	1,530	58.6%	1,079	41.4%
ARIZONA	1,298	96.2%	52	3.9%

STATES WITH MOST SEVP – CERTIFIED VOCATIONAL ONLY SCHOOLS

STATE	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	PERCENT OF TOTAL
CALIFORNIA	250	17.2%
FLORIDA	148	10.2%
NEW YORK	126	8.7%

TOP MAJORS—M-1 STUDENTS

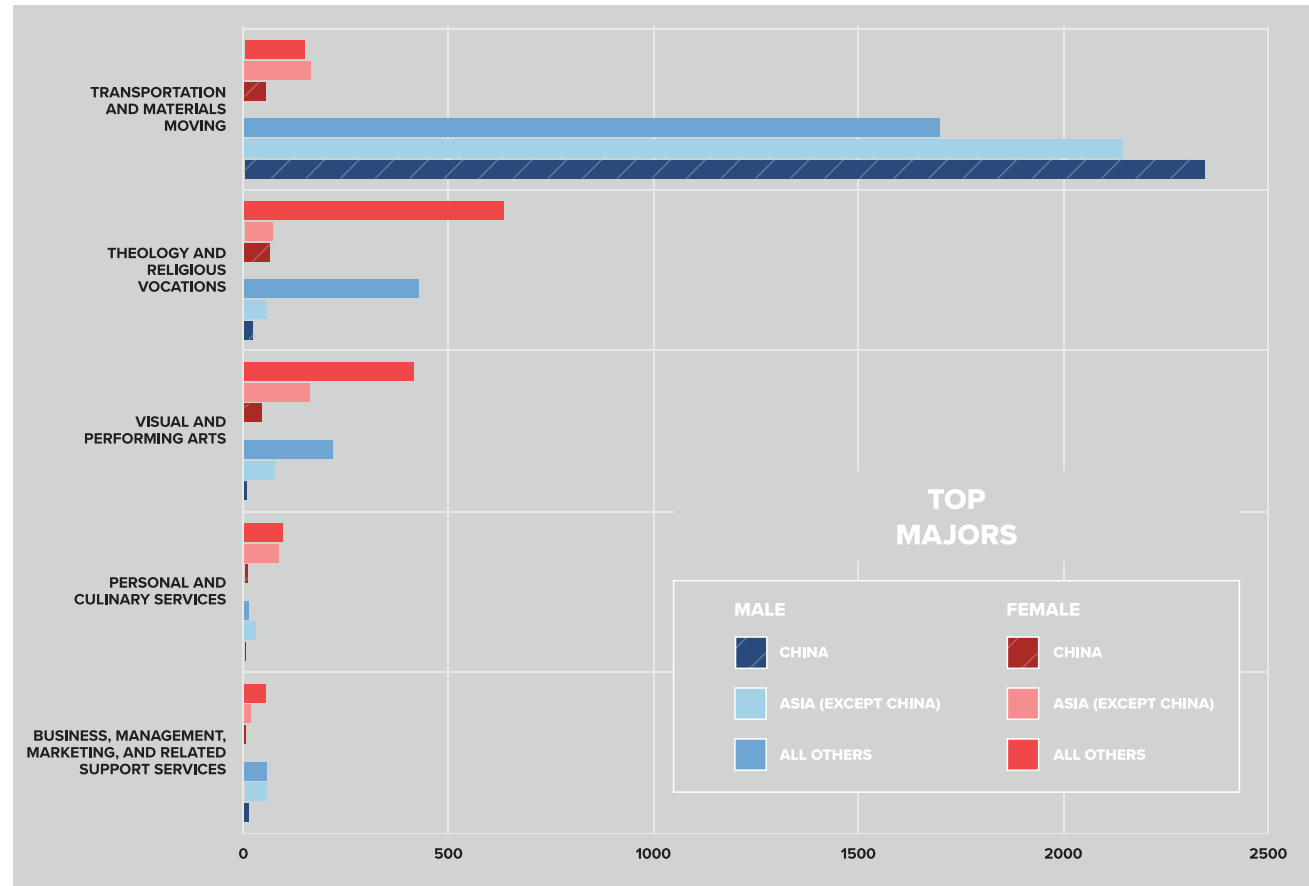
What are the most popular majors among male and female M-1 students who study in the United States?

64%

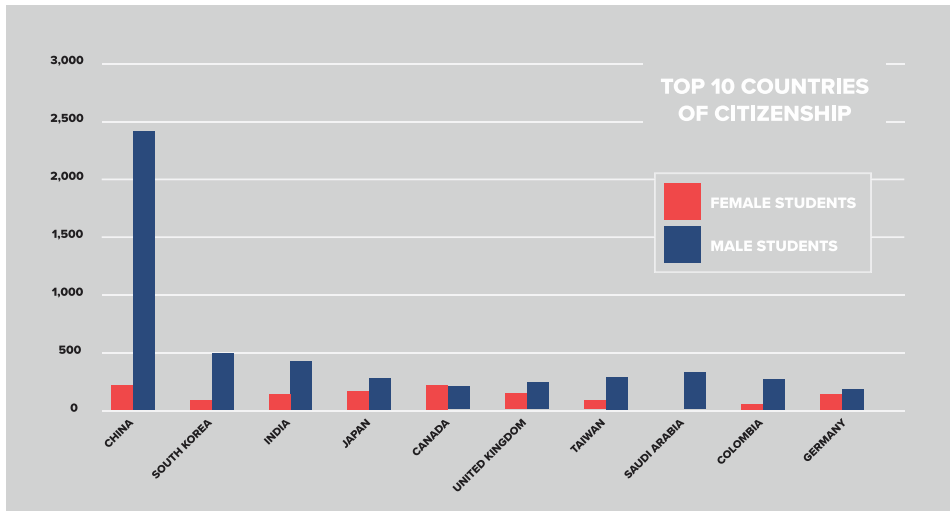
of M-1 students pursue programs of study in one major: transportation and materials moving.

89%

of M-1 students study one of the five top majors on this chart: transportation and materials moving; theology and religious vocations; visual and performing arts; personal and culinary services; and business, management, marketing, and related support services.



TOP 10 COUNTRIES OF CITIZENSHIP

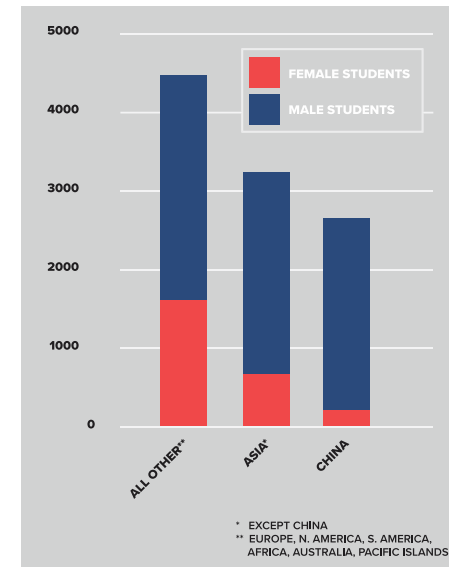


23%

of M-1 students are males from China.

51%

of Canadian M-1 students are women. Canada is the only country out of the top ten countries with a majority of M-1 students who are women.



STUDENTS BY STATE

Which states host the highest number of M-1 students?

66%
of M-1 students study in three
states: Florida, California and Arizona.

