

Capacity Building Workshop: Developing Sustainable Partnerships with U.S. HEIs & International Student Services to Increase Student Mobility



MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION AND CULTURE
FINLAND



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Trends in the U.S.:

Partnerships & Student Mobility

1.) Partnership Trends

**2.) U.S. Students
Pursuing Degrees
Abroad**

3.) U.S. Study Abroad

- 3 Routes

**4.) Data on Student
Mobility**

- To/from Europe
& Finland



Trends

National-level policy/priority changes may impact international education/exchange in/out of U.S.

- National-level funding mechanisms
- Financial aid
- R&D

U.S. universities face financial strain (even elite unis).

U.S. universities are focusing on 'quality over quantity' of partnerships (e.g., MoUs).

Opportunity: U.S. student inquiries into studying out of the country spiked five-fold after the election (Studyportals, 2024).

U.S. Students Pursuing Full Degrees Abroad

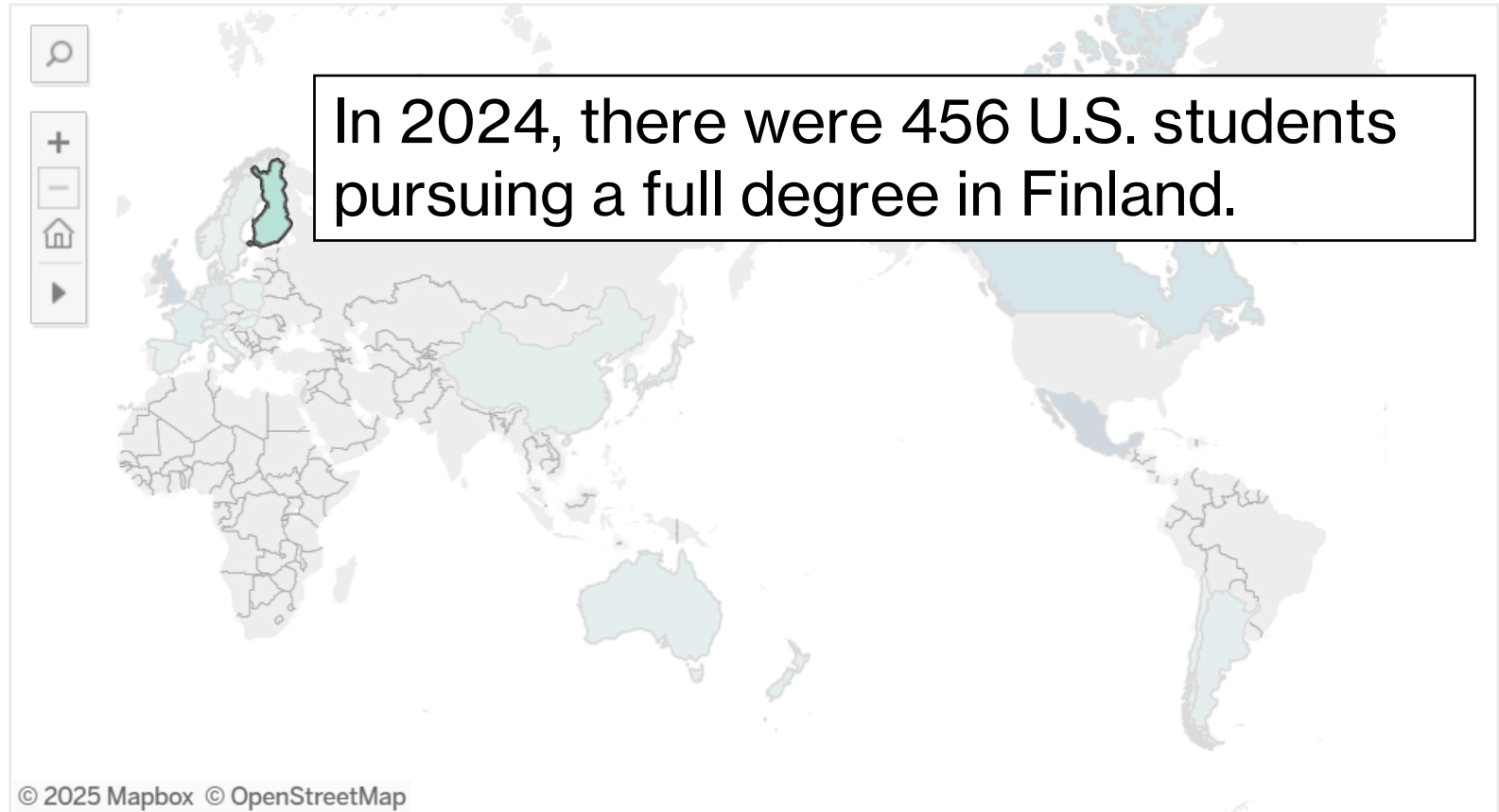
Select a year¹:

2024

Number of U.S. Students²

92,105

61% of U.S. students enrolled at the **undergraduate** level, 31% of U.S. students enrolled at the **graduate** level, and 8% of U.S. students enrolled was **unspecified**.



U.S. Student Study Abroad Routes

Route #1:

U.S. Study Abroad – Direct Enroll or Exchange

- Students individually enroll as a visiting student in a university abroad (semester or year)
- Student support services are usually provided by the host institution staff (at varying levels, depending on location), requiring students to exercise more independence and initiative



Direct Enroll

Students pay the **host institution tuition and fees**



Exchange

Students pay **U.S. home university tuition and fees**



U.S. Student Study Abroad Routes



Route #2:

U.S. Study Abroad – Affiliate/Study-Abroad Service Provider

Service provider offers study abroad placement and other student services for a fee

- Programs are usually designed for and offer special classes for US/international students.
- Program providers typically have US based support staff - may offer a higher level of support because the provider's purpose is to cater to study abroad students.
- Classmates are typically from the U.S./possibly international students rather than local students.
- Classes often taught by faculty from a host university.
- Language of instruction may be English, the host language, or a combination.

U.S. Student Study Abroad Routes

Route #3:

Faculty-Led Short-Term Study Abroad Program

A group of students traveling to another country, typically for a specific academic experience, and being guided/taught by a faculty member from their own institution.

- 1-8 weeks
- Customized program
- Sometimes partners with local universities

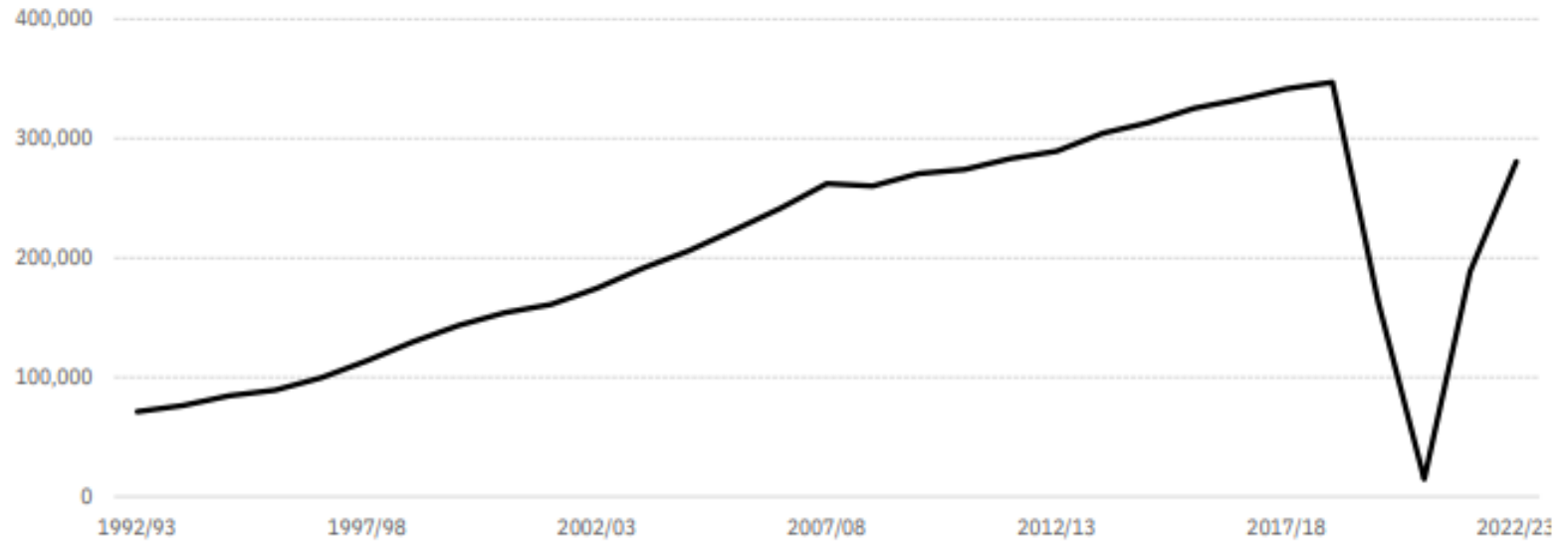


U.S. Study Abroad



U.S. STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD

In 2022/23, the total number of U.S. students who studied abroad for academic credit increased by 49% to 280,716 students.



| DURATION OF STUDY ABROAD | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | % total |
|---|---------|---------|---------|
| Short-term | | | |
| 8 weeks or less during the academic year | 29,757 | 65,330 | 23.3 |
| Summer term | 92,424 | 114,138 | 40.6 |
| Mid-length (One/two quarters or semester) | 61,815 | 94,613 | 33.7 |
| Long-term (Academic or calendar year) | 4,757 | 6,635 | 2.4 |

Source: https://opendoorsdata.org/fact_sheets/fast-facts/

U.S. Study Abroad & International Students in Europe



180,778

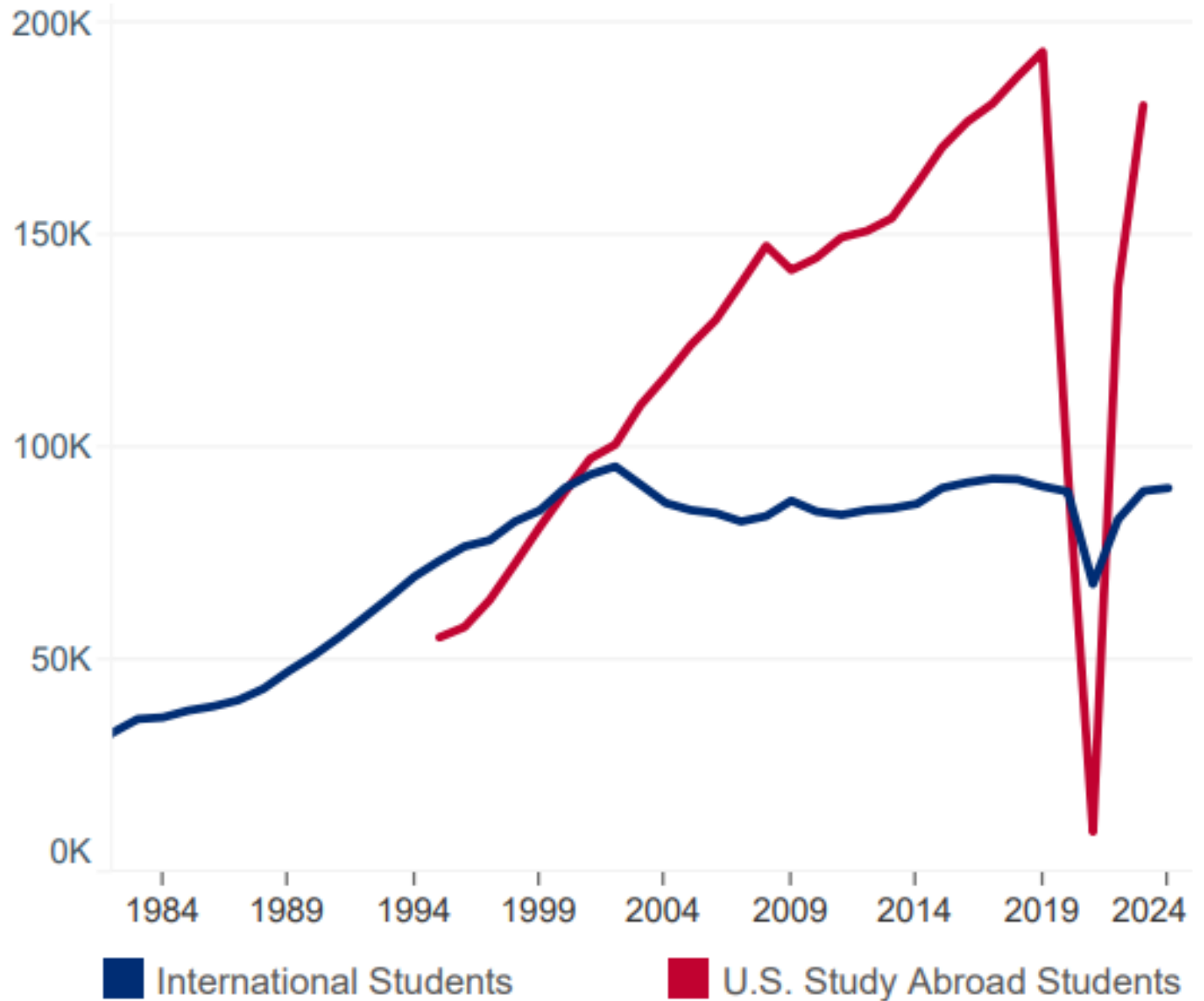
U.S. Study Abroad Students in 2022/23



31.0

% Change from Previous Year

REGIONAL TRENDS



U.S. Study Abroad Students by Host Region

| Host Region | 2018-2019 | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Africa | 3.9% | 3.3% | 2.4% | 2.4% | 3.3% |
| Asia | 11.7% | 9.1% | 12.3% | 4.7% | 9.4% |
| Europe | 55.7% | 57.9% | 66.3% | 73.1% | 64.4% |
| Latin America | 13.8% | 13.4% | 11.0% | 10.3% | 10.7% |
| Middle East | 2.3% | 3.2% | 4.9% | 2.9% | 2.5% |
| North America | 0.6% | 0.5% | 0.2% | 0.4% | 0.5% |
| Oceania | 4.4% | 7.1% | 0.5% | 0.7% | 3.2% |
| Multiple Regions | 7.5% | 5.4% | 7.5% | 5.5% | 6.0% |

U.S. Study Abroad:

European Destinations

DESTINATIONS FOR U.S. STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD

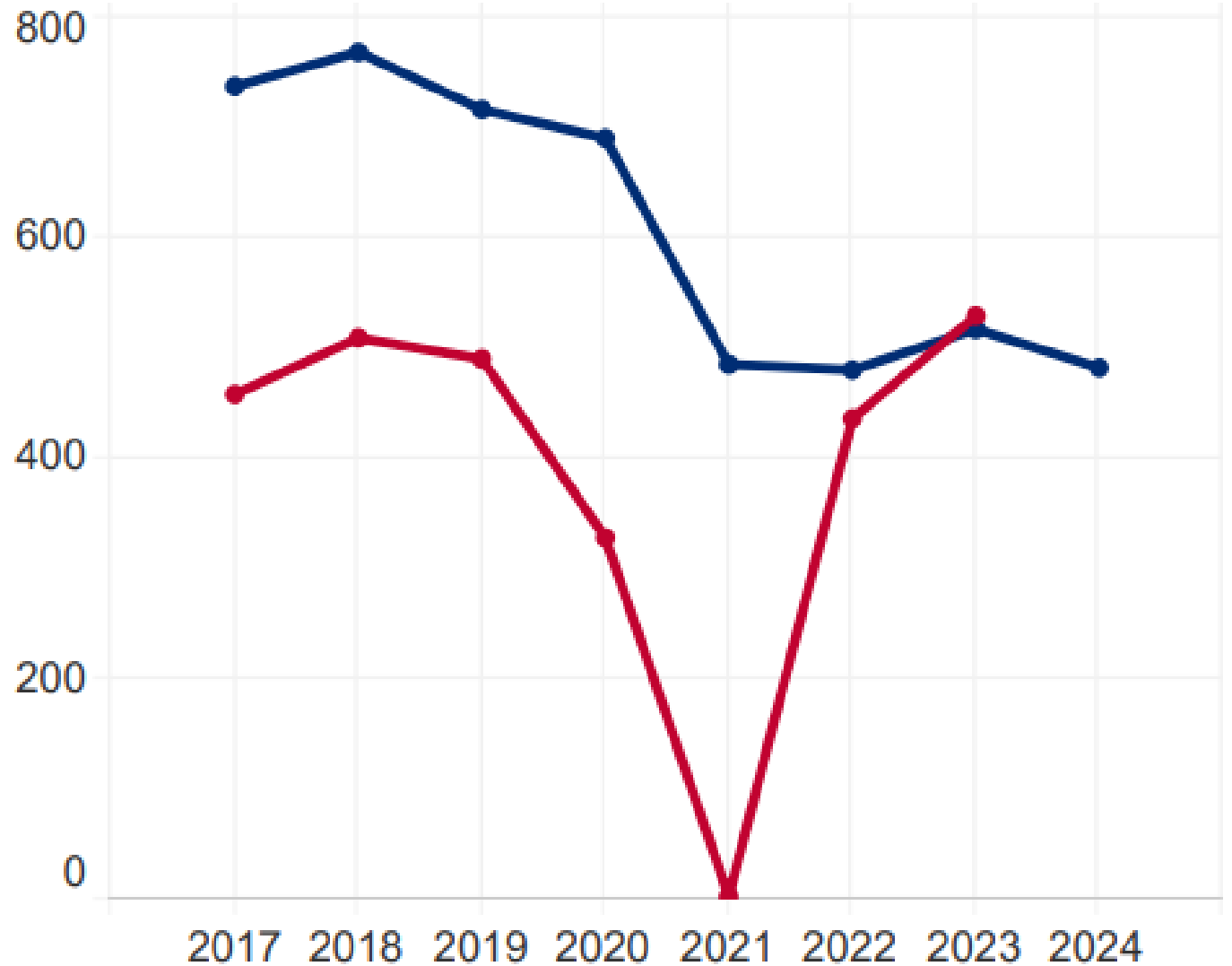
| Destination | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | %Change | Destination | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | %Change |
|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Albania | 3 | 37 | 1,133.3 | Latvia | 115 | 173 | 50.4 |
| Andorra | 0 | 1 | - | Liechtenstein | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Armenia | 37 | 97 | 162.2 | Lithuania | 68 | 119 | 75.0 |
| Austria | 2,037 | 2,992 | 46.9 | Luxembourg | 341 | 330 | -3.2 |
| Azerbaijan | 21 | 30 | 42.9 | Malta | 68 | 47 | -30.9 |
| Belarus | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | Moldova | 11 | 9 | -18.2 |
| Belgium | 685 | 995 | 45.3 | Monaco | 1 | 1 | 0.0 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 108 | 52 | -51.9 | Montenegro | 16 | 6 | -62.5 |
| Bulgaria | 47 | 122 | 159.6 | Netherlands | 2,227 | 3,915 | 75.8 |
| Croatia | 497 | 577 | 16.1 | North Macedonia | 1 | 16 | 1,500.0 |
| Cyprus | 359 | 390 | 8.6 | Norway | 322 | 604 | 87.6 |
| Czech Republic | 2,425 | 3,610 | 48.9 | Poland | 303 | 651 | 114.9 |
| Denmark | 4,393 | 5,074 | 15.5 | Portugal | 1,014 | 1,605 | 58.3 |
| Estonia | 78 | 122 | 56.4 | Romania | 112 | 199 | 77.7 |
| Finland | 436 | 529 | 21.3 | Russia | 44 | 17 | -61.4 |
| France | 14,397 | 17,096 | 18.7 | San Marino | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Georgia | 51 | 122 | 139.2 | Serbia | 67 | 53 | -20.9 |
| Germany | 7,644 | 9,324 | 22.0 | Slovakia | 11 | 15 | 36.4 |
| Gibraltar | 12 | 0 | -100.0 | Slovenia | 62 | 72 | 16.1 |
| Greece | 4,484 | 6,006 | 33.9 | Spain | 25,348 | 32,648 | 28.8 |
| Holy See | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | Sweden | 1,416 | 1,824 | 28.8 |
| Hungary | 514 | 649 | 26.3 | Switzerland | 1,573 | 2,394 | 52.2 |
| Iceland | 1,274 | 1,158 | -9.1 | Turkey/Türkiye | 169 | 398 | 135.5 |
| Ireland | 7,031 | 9,780 | 39.1 | Ukraine | 21 | 0 | -100.0 |
| Italy | 30,610 | 41,840 | 36.7 | United Kingdom | 27,503 | 35,018 | 27.3 |
| Kosovo | 51 | 61 | 19.6 | | | | |

Student Mobility to/from Finland – U.S.

STUDENT MOBILITY TOTALS

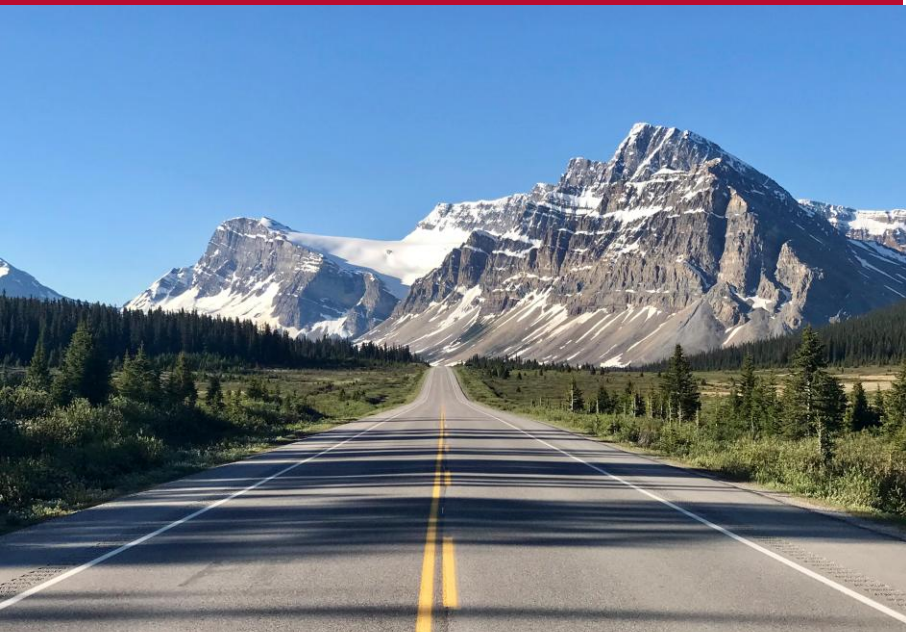
| Year | International Students | U.S. Study Abroad |
|---------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 2023/24 | 482 | N/A |
| 2022/23 | 517 | 529 |
| 2021/22 | 480 | 436 |
| 2020/21 | 485 | 3 |
| 2019/20 | 690 | 328 |
| 2018/19 | 716 | 490 |
| 2017/18 | 768 | 509 |
| 2016/17 | 737 | 458 |

2016/17-2023/24



■ International Students in the U.S. ■ U.S. Students Studying Abroad

Finnish Students Studying in the U.S.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY ACADEMIC LEVEL

| Academic Level | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | Total | Change |
|----------------|---------|---------|-------|--------|
| Undergraduate | 270 | 261 | 54.1% | -3.3% |
| Graduate | 109 | 98 | 20.3% | -10.1% |
| Non-Degree | 87 | 71 | 14.7% | -18.4% |
| OPT | 51 | 52 | 10.8% | 2.0% |

TOP RECEIVING STATES

New York

California

Massachusetts

Pennsylvania

Virginia

Institutional Insights: International Student Partnerships

U.S. HEI Insights

Chun-Hsing Ho

University of Nebraska – Lincoln
2024-25 Fulbright-Tampere University
Scholar Award

Risto Marttinen

George Mason University
2024-25 Fulbright U.S. Scholar

Julie Shortridge

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State
University
2024-25 Fulbright-University of Oulu Scholar
Award



Finnish HEI Insights

Utilizing Fulbright Finland for partnership building with U.S. Institutions

Tia-Maria Sjöblom, International Relations Adviser, Metropolia University of Applied Sciences: Fulbright Finland Travel Grants for Institutional Partnership Building alum

Aalto University School of Business partnerships with U.S. universities – Best practices and lessons learned

Saila Kurtbay, Head of International Affairs, Aalto University

Utilizing ISEP and north2north for student mobility with the U.S.

Igor Tanskanen, Specialist, International Mobility Services, Tampere University



Small Group Discussions



Discussion Questions: (15 minutes)

What did you hear from the six panel members that informs your current U.S. partnership strategy and/or good ideas that you'd like to explore?

Do you have inspiring practices to share – student mobility collaborations with U.S. HEIs that worked well?

Each table will share one inspiring practice.

Mapping out “Sweet Spots” to Engage with U.S. Institutions

Small Group Discussions

Discussion Questions: (40 minutes)

Opportunities: How do you select/establish a student mobility partnership with a U.S. partner? Once you have a U.S. partner – what are the best ways to maintain/sustain that partnership? **(20 MIN)**

Challenges & Creative Solutions: What challenges does your institution face in establishing & maintaining partnerships with U.S. universities? Identify and discuss possible creative solutions. **(20 MIN)**

*Each table will share (1) idea for selecting/maintaining a U.S. partnership & (1) challenge/creative solution.
inspiring practice.*

U.S. Student View: Practical Tips for Developing International Student Services

Student Panel

Fulbright Finland Student Grantees:

- Ava Asmus, 2024-25 Fulbright-LUT University Graduate Award
- Jack Donell, Exchange Student from the University of Southern California at Aalto University
- Andrew Greene, 2024-25 Fulbright-University of Turku Graduate Award
- Katelyn Moje, 2024-25 Fulbright-LUT University Graduate Award
- Natalie Schirmacher, 2024-25 Fulbright-Tampere University Graduate Award



Small Group Discussions



Discussion Question: (15 minutes)

Share inspiring practices: What creative international student services has your institution created to build community and make international students feel welcome?

Each table will share one inspiring practice.

Small Group Discussions: Best Practices & Next Steps in Establishing/Developing Partnerships with U.S. Institutions

Small Group Discussions

Discussion Question: (15 minutes)

What are the best ways to promote Finland as a study destination for U.S. students? What would be selling points you think should be highlighted for a U.S. audience?

Each table will share five best ways to promote Finland.

Reflection: (5 minutes)

Final Reflection

Free-write:

Reflect on two takeaways from today's session – what will you do tomorrow when you return to your institution?

Share with your neighbor...

THANK YOU

