



Promoting Diversity Through the STEM Visa

A White Paper on
High-Skill Immigration Reform

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The abbreviation “STEM” refers to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

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More STEM Green Cards = More American Jobs

Americans clearly need our immigration system to help create more well-paid American jobs. Legislation to create more green cards that American employers can use to sponsor foreign STEM students with advanced degrees from U.S. universities, creating and keeping jobs in America, is the best jobs program on the congressional calendar.

As President Obama identified the problem in his 2012 State of the Union address, foreign students come to American universities “to study business and science and engineering, but as soon as they get their degree, we send them home to invent new products and create new jobs somewhere else.”

House Majority Leader Cantor agrees, saying on the House floor: “There's a reason why we in America have within our borders the world's leading innovators and why they choose to launch their companies here. Our nation offers immense opportunity to those who come to our shores... Over the past two decades, the number of international graduate students enrolled in our nation's top notch universities has grown, but as the Congressional Research Service shows, the percentage of these students who gain visas has largely remained the same since 1990... More talent in our workforce will mean more innovation, more startups, more entrepreneurship, more jobs and a better economy.”

Beyond the consensus in both the House and Senate favoring more STEM green cards, a minority in Congress would like to raise overall immigration levels beyond the last increase in 1990. That could certainly provide the additional STEM immigration that we need, but unfortunately a majority in Congress does not support increasing overall immigration levels. So the political reality is that the only way to use the immigration system to create more high-paying American jobs through more STEM green cards, is to get them from some other category.

The obvious source for more STEM green cards is the diversity visa lottery program. Some have expressed concern that eliminating the visa lottery would harm the diversity of sources for American immigration. The data shows that this is not true.

The diversity visa lottery was enacted in the Immigration Act of 1990 for a specific purpose. It was designed to create a flow of voluntary immigration based on family and employment connections from parts of the world that were not sending many immigrants to the United

States – especially Africa, never a significant source of voluntary immigration, and Eastern Europe, which had been cut off by the Iron Curtain.

The immigration lottery program has clearly achieved its goals for both regions. It is that rarest of things: an Act of Congress which so plainly achieved its purpose that it is no longer necessary.

The rule for legal immigration to the United States is that individual immigrants are invited by individual Americans -- of the 893,580 immigrants other than refugees and asylees who became part of the American community in 2011, 94 percent were invited by an American family or a U.S. employer¹. That is because, of the hundreds of millions of foreigners around the world who would like to come to the United States, Congress has recognized that it is up to Americans – families and employers -- to sponsor the individuals who will be allowed to join us.

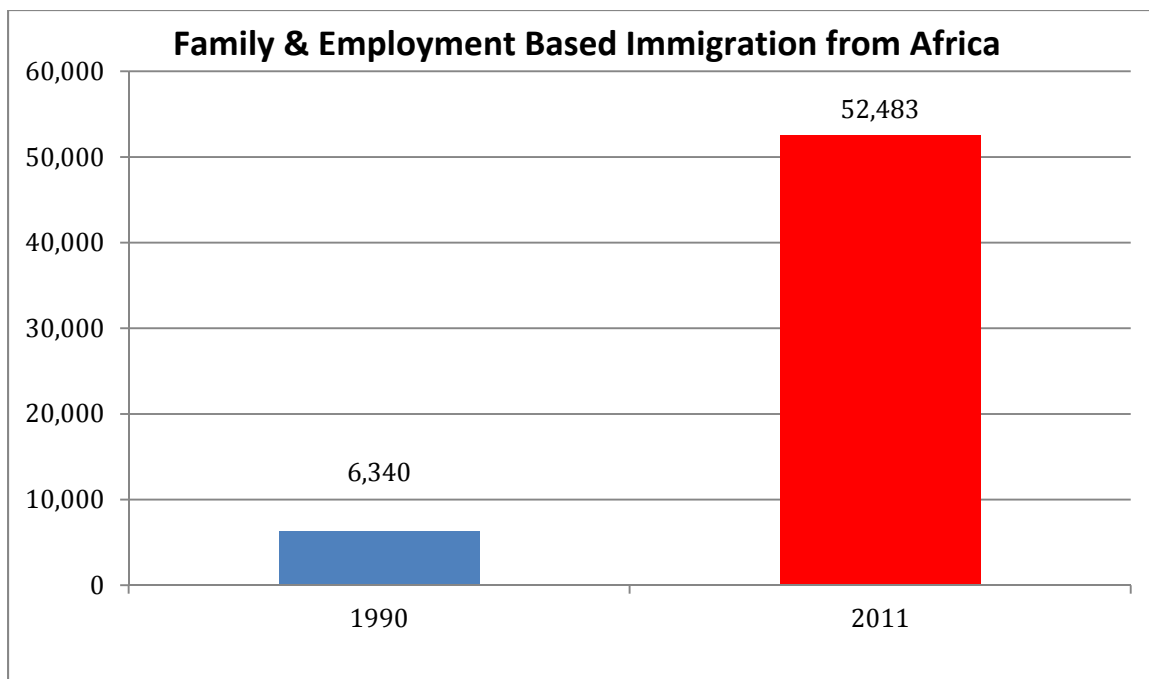
There are exceptions: refugees and political asylees are fleeing for their lives. Their resettlement in the United States is a function of foreign policy and human rights, a matter of America's lasting ideals. But because it is wholly random², the visa lottery had a narrower purpose: to correct for the history that had cut off immigration from Europe behind the Iron Curtain and which had never allowed voluntary immigration from Africa.

The immigration lottery succeeded: there is now a self-sustaining flow of family and employment based immigration from all regions of the world, including the two specifically targeted as underrepresented in the 1990 Act.

Comparing last year with the year before the 1990 Act shows what happened:

¹ Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, DHS 2011

² Most pro-immigration lobbies were ambivalent about establishing the immigration lottery during hearings leading up to the 1990 Act, e.g., the National Council of La Raza: "... it should be done with careful consideration, on a trial basis only..." *Immigration Act of 1989 (Part 1): Hearings Before the Subcomm. on Immigration, Refugees, and Int'l Law of the Comm. on the Judiciary, 101st Cong. 216 (1989)* (statement of Cecilia Muñoz, Senior Immigration Policy Analyst for the National Council of La Raza).



Family immigration in particular is why Africa, which had never been a significant source for new Americans before 1990, has now become one of the most important.

In fact, in 2011 total immigration from Africa (100, 347) was larger than Europe (83,850)³.

The majority of African immigration – like that from the rest of the world – will now continue to be based not on chance in a lottery but on choices by American families and employers.

European immigration to the United States has a different history, particularly from formerly Communist countries, but tells a similar story:

Family and employment-based immigration from countries trapped behind the Iron Curtain all but disappeared during the early years of the Cold War, and grew only slowly for decades, with much immigration to the United States becoming essentially a form of flight. For the 1990 calendar year, refugee authorization for these countries was 24,500⁴. Immigration from

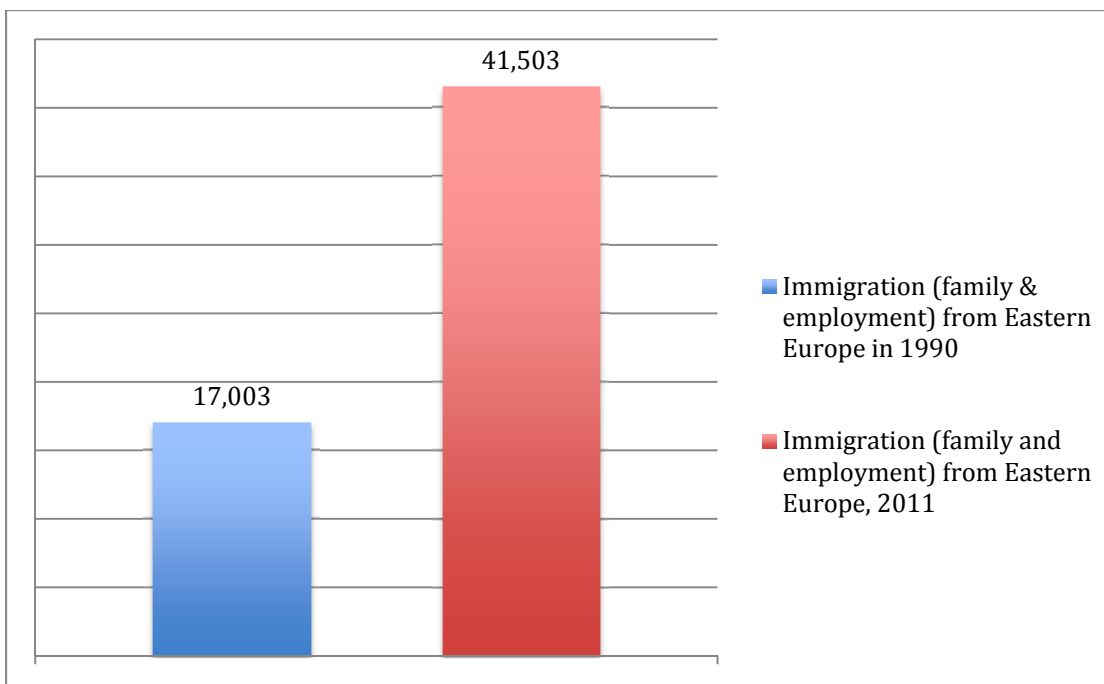
³ Yearbooks of Immigration Statistics 1990, 2011

⁴ US Department of State, Proposed Refugee Admissions for Fiscal Year 1990

all other categories totaled just 17,003, primarily through recent family and employment connections, which was one reason Congress created the visa lottery.

By 2011, family and employment had more than doubled to 41,503 from formerly Communist countries in Europe.

So the visa lottery is no longer necessary to continue the flow of immigration sponsored by Americans from formerly Communist European nations. (In fact, every country in Europe is eligible for “diversity” visas, including *all* of the largest traditional sources for American immigration, excepting only Great Britain.)



The visa lottery has done its job. Family unification and skilled employment from both Africa and the former Soviet states is now built into the mainstream of our immigration flow.

It is time Congress turned the immigrant selection process back over to the American people.

A bipartisan majority of Representatives has already shown how this can be accomplished. On September 20, 30 Democrats joined a Republican majority in the House in voting 257-158 to recognize the value of job-creating skilled immigrants in 2012, rather than continuing the random selection of high school graduates initiated under very different circumstances many years ago.

The immigration lottery enacted in 1990 has been such a success that we now have self-sustaining immigration from Africa and Eastern Europe, permitting a return to a system based on American choice, not luck.

To qualify for a diversity visa, applicants must have a high school diploma, its local equivalent, or two years of training in an approved field.

Applicants do not need to know anyone in the United States, have ever visited the United States, have a job in the United States or speak English.

Background: The Diversity Lottery

The statute authorizes 55,000 immigration visas a year⁵, allocated to regions that have not sent more than 50,000 immigrants to the United States in the previous five years. Within regions, certain countries may be ineligible because they have recently sent too many immigrants to America to qualify, even though other countries in the region remain eligible.

For immigration purposes, regions are defined as:

- Africa (all countries eligible);
- Asia (except Bangladesh, mainland China, India, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Korea and Vietnam);
- Europe (all except Great Britain);
- North America (*only* the Bahamas);
- Oceania (including Australia and the Pacific Island nations); and
- Central and South America (except Brazil, Columbia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, and Peru. Mexico is considered in this region for immigration purposes, but does not qualify.)

⁵ *The Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act deducts 5,000 visas a year from the diversity program.

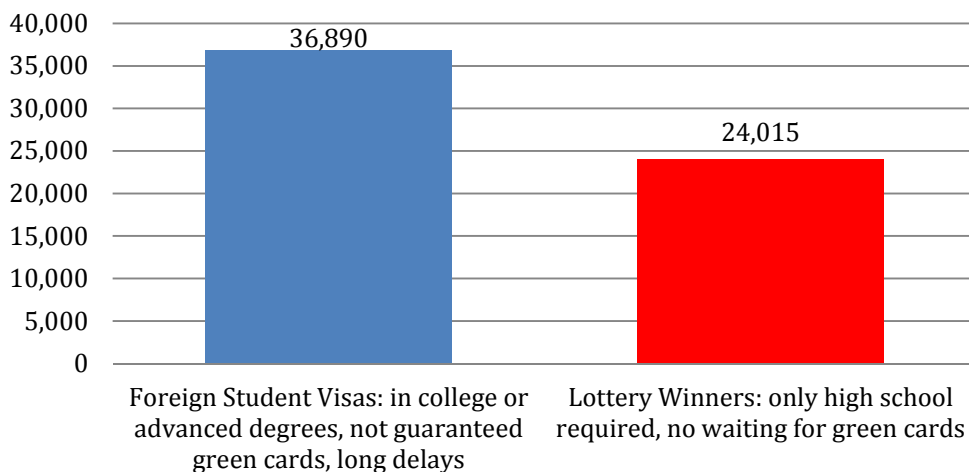
Within these regions, individuals may apply for the visa lottery. Their only qualification is a high school diploma or the equivalent, or two years' work experience. Because it is a lottery, who actually gets a diversity visa is entirely luck. Recipients are not required to have visited the United States, know anyone in the United States or speak English.

The diversity visa program intentionally favors immigrants from Europe and Africa, with fewer visas allotted to immigrants from other regions. In 2011, Europe and Africa accounted for 79 percent of all diversity visas, while all of Latin America (plus the Caribbean) received just 978, or less than 2 percent. Of the 208 nations who send immigrants to the United States through family and employment, 192 are also eligible for the visa lottery⁶.

Even a quick look at the data shows that there are now many thousands of foreign students in the United States, especially those getting advanced degrees in STEM fields, including the ones most critical to America's future prosperity, who are from the same countries targeted by the diversity lottery.

Yet these diverse, highly skilled potential contributors to our economy find a difficult path to green cards – while lottery winners, required to have only a high school diploma and no connection to the United States, have no waiting list at all.

Africans in the United States: Choose or Lose?



State Department 2011 Annual Report and Open Doors Report 2011, Institute for International education

⁶ <http://www.travel.state.gov/pdf/FY11AnnualReport-Table%20VII.pdf>

If It's Random, It's Not a Priority

An exclusive focus on immigration numbers risks missing critical American interests. But there is little support in Congress for increasing overall immigration levels beyond the 675,000 a year established in the Immigration Act of 1990. There is, however, broad support for welcoming highly educated new Americans with job-creating skills.

Economic analyses by the National Academy of Sciences⁷ document the net drain on American resources from importing high school graduates seeking primarily unskilled jobs. But there is a substantial gain to America from the jobs created – and kept – in the United States through the proven ambition of foreign students who get advanced degrees from American universities in STEM fields.

That is why it is all but universally acknowledged that there is a desperate need to use green cards for STEM graduates to create and keep jobs in the United States. America simply needs more high-skilled, high-wage jobs – including the diversity which these new Americans bring to the United States.

Skilled Diversity: *Foreign Students in STEM Fields*

American universities, particularly in STEM fields, are an unmatched competitive advantage for the United States in the global competition for job-creating talent. The diversity of sources for this engine of American economic growth indicates just how unique an advantage we have:

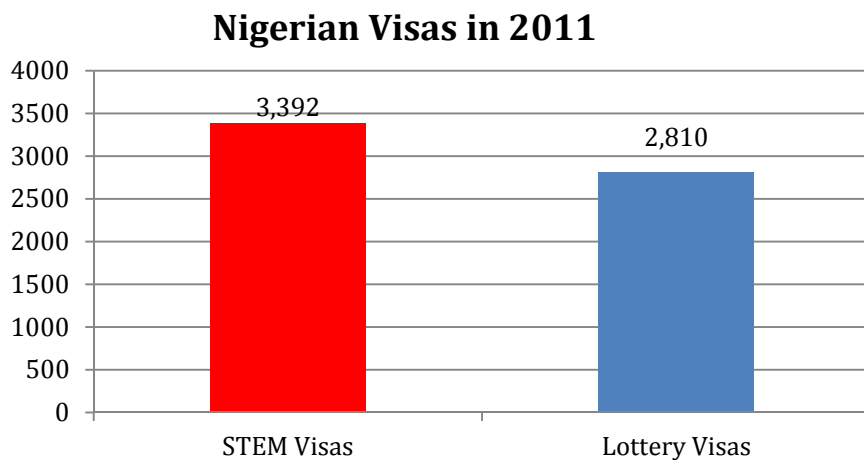
⁷ The New Americans, NAS Press 1997: “The long-term fiscal impact of an immigrant also depends on his or her education: immigrants with more education have more positive long-term fiscal impacts. For example, under one set of plausible assumptions, the net present value of the fiscal impact of an immigrant with less than a high school education is -\$13,000; in contrast, the net present value for an immigrant with more than a high school education is +\$198,000.” Page 12

<http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?isbn=0309063566>

According to Open Doors, the annual statistical compilation of the Institute for International Education, 723,277 foreign students were in the United States for the 2010-11 academic year, with 36,890 from Africa – a number two-thirds larger than the total of diversity lottery winners from African countries.

In STEM fields, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) reports⁸ that last year there were 12,604 African students in the United States, with 5,704 from Nigeria, Ghana, and Kenya alone.

Even some of the historically largest African beneficiaries of the lottery show the lottery’s bias against education and skills, e.g., Nigeria – 3,392 STEM students, none guaranteed green cards and facing long delays, compared with 2,810 lottery winners who got green cards without waiting in 2012⁹.



More precise and detailed data from SEVIS (the Student Exchange and Visitor Program monitored by ICE) shows that of the 48 nations in sub-Saharan Africa, 29 have more advanced degree STEM students in the United States than lottery winners.

European nations sent 11,024 foreign students to study STEM fields in the United States in 2011, with nearly half – 5,368 – from countries, including Russia and the former Soviet republics which have been prime targets for the lottery.

⁸ SEVIS (see appendix).

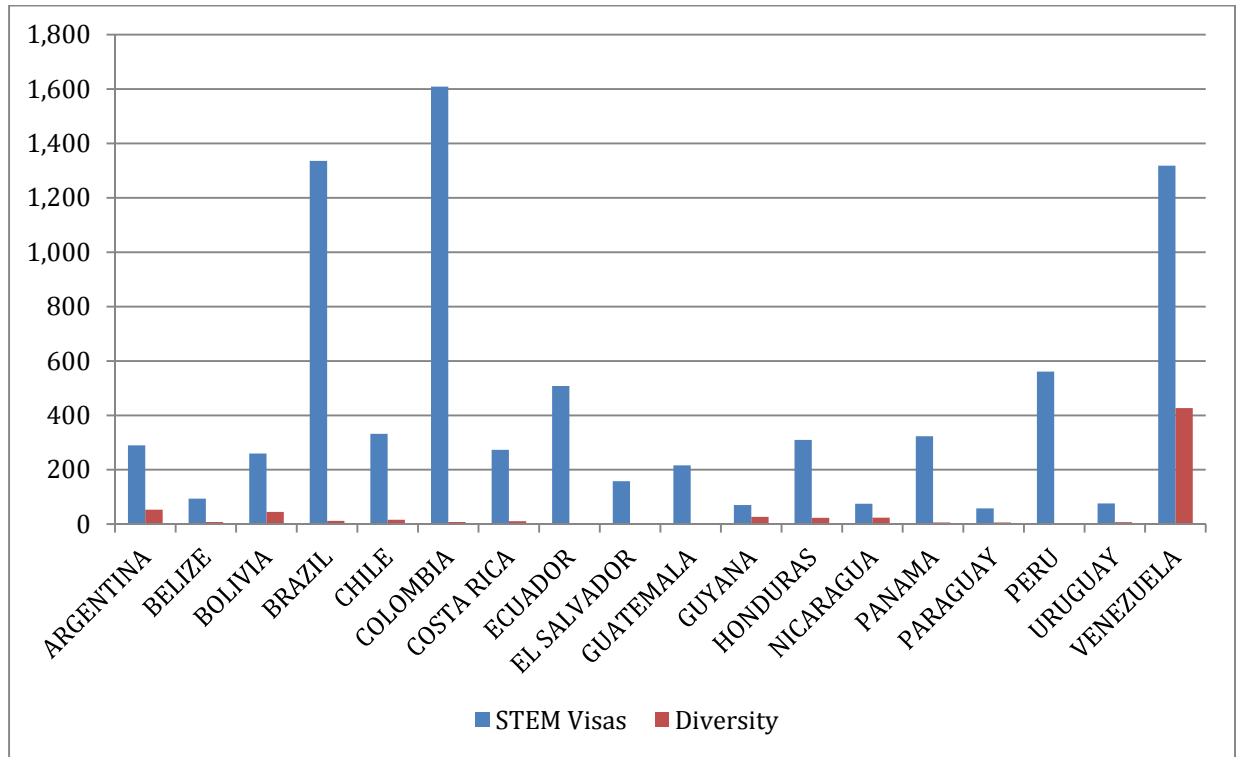
⁹ SEVIS data (appendix), State Department Office of Visa Control

Within Europe, the same pattern of discriminating *against* education and job-creating skills *from the same countries* is evident: Turkey – 3,831 STEM students, 993 lottery winners; France – 1,332 STEM students, 335 lottery winners; and Germany – 1,256 STEM students, 860 lottery winners.

The immigration lottery's negative influence on the selection process for immigrants is clear from the example of the largest source for American immigration – Mexico, which gets no lottery visas. But each year roughly 6,700 Mexicans are sponsored for legal permanent residency by employers, yet only after significant delays, e.g., six years in the Employment 3rd Preference category. Mexico's employment-based immigration is not all low-skilled: in 2012, Mexico has 1,336 *advanced degree* students in STEM fields in the United States, all facing long delays for permanent residency. So each year, more than 50,000 immigrants are chosen at random ahead of Mexicans with advanced skills and U.S. employers eager to sponsor them as new Americans.

Most Latin American nations other than Mexico are in theory eligible for lottery visas, but in practice get less than 1,000. Again, the bias against skills is clear, e.g. Argentina: there are 208 Argentines getting advanced degrees in STEM fields from American universities, each treated as a lower priority than the 57 who won green cards through the lottery – out of 978 for all of South America in 2011.

STEM vs. Diversity in Latin America



Even a nation Congress specifically targeted to renew an historic flow of immigration which had been cut off by the Iron Curtain shows how the lottery distorts the selection of immigrants away from skills: Today there are 1,077 students from Russia studying STEM fields in the United States. Yet 1,552 Russian lottery winners - required to have only a high school diploma, and no American employer - got green cards ahead of them in 2011.

The visa lottery has become an engine selecting against skills, often from the same regions and even the same countries

So the immigration lottery has become an engine selecting against skills in the name of "diversity," whether comparing potential immigrants from the same country (such as Nigeria), the same region (29 sub-Saharan nations have more advanced degree STEM students in the United States than win a visa in the lottery), or traditional sources for American immigration with historically under-represented countries.

Since the purpose of the immigration lottery was to correct for historical imbalances in the flow of immigration to America, analyzing the regional impact is useful. For example, while Mexico sends a significant number of skilled immigrants to the United States, Latin America receives very few lottery visas. Of the 24,015 lottery winners from Africa in 2011, 5,746 were from North Africa. European countries not usually considered disadvantaged by U.S. immigration law are eligible for chance-based immigration requiring only a high school education.

Why should someone from France with a high school diploma be selected by chance for a green card ahead of someone from Rwanda with an advanced engineering degree – especially when the would-be Rwandan immigrant has been studying in the United States for years, while the high school-educated person from France is not required to have any ties here at all?

Conclusion

On its own terms, the diversity lottery has been an unequivocal success in priming the pump for family and employment-based immigration from nations that had been behind the Iron Curtain, and from Africa.

From 1820-1990 total immigration from Africa was 282,938, including refugees. Whole decades in the 19th century passed with fewer than 100 Africans voluntarily coming to the United States. Even as African immigration increased in modern times, the historic legacy of slavery and discrimination remained an obstacle. In the 10 years before the 1990 Act, there were 140,000 immigrants from Africa (of which 22,000 were refugees) , 71,000 in the 1970s (3,000 refugees), and less than 24,000 in the 1960s (6,000 refugees)¹⁰.

But since 1995 when the permanent form of the visa lottery was fully implemented, of the 836,000 visas allocated to lottery winners, 334,000 went to Africa.

Thus, in the 15 years of the diversity lottery, it provided for more voluntary immigration from Africa than in the entire history of the United States before it was enacted.

¹⁰ Yearbook of Immigration Statistics 2011, Table 2

The same success is clear for former Soviet countries. For example, the Soviet Union as a whole sent 671 immigrants to the United States in the 1950s, 2,465 in the 1960s, 38,961 in the 1970s, and 56,677 in the 1980s.

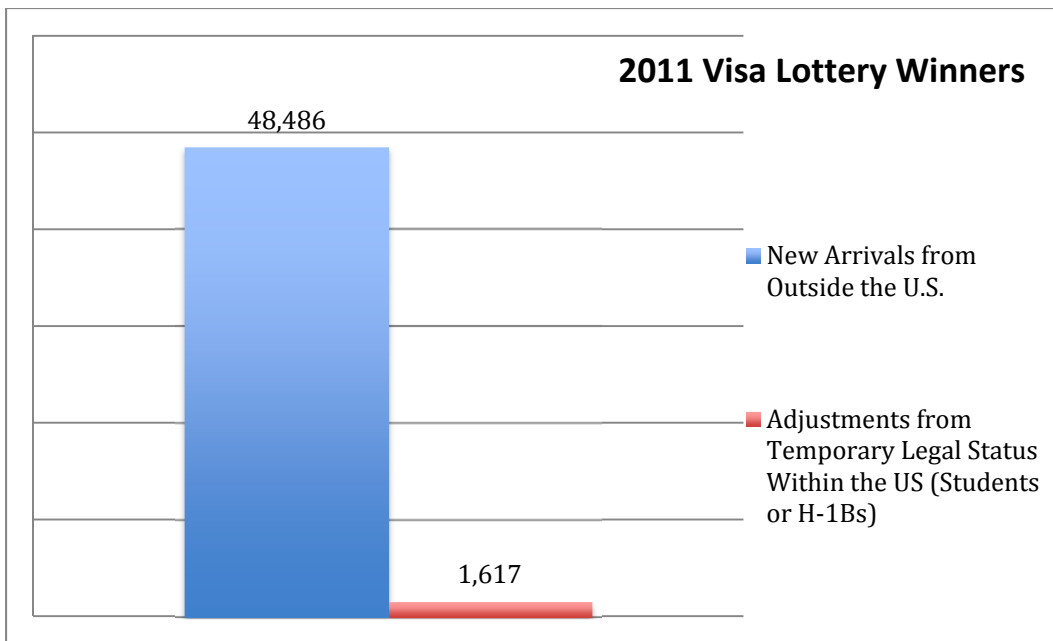
Since the fall of Communism, Ukraine *alone* has sent 43,093 lottery winners over 15 years, to average a little fewer than 3,000 a year. During the last few years (2008-11), family and employment-based immigration from Ukraine has been running 7,000-9,000 a year more than Ukrainian winners of America's visa lottery.

Poland, a primary target for the diversity lottery's priming the pump policy, has graduated from eligibility for the lottery in several years because it has sent such a larger number of immigrants to the United States. Other countries that have graduated from eligibility for the lottery have included Pakistan and Bangladesh.

America's National Interest in Both Skilled Immigration and Diversity Is Not Random

Some argue that a few winners of the visa lottery are highly educated and accordingly benefit the United States economically as well as culturally. But when this happens, it is an accident. Selecting for education and skills or ties to the United States - including both family and employment - is not the way the program is designed.

For example, DHS reports in 2011 that only 1,617 lottery winners were in the United States on temporary visas (virtually all students or H-1B workers) studying or working legally in the United States, while 48,486 were outside the country, with no connection here at all when they were suddenly granted an immigration visa. Many may have never even visited the United States.



The diverse population of foreign students studying STEM fields in the United States, particularly those in advanced degree programs, have all been in the country for extended periods of time. They are familiar with English, with American business methods, and have U.S. employers eager to sponsor them for permanent residency in order to create good high-paying jobs for American workers, and keep those jobs in the United States. Many marry U.S. citizens, which is another route to green cards; others marry legal permanent residents and face separation from their spouses for extended periods.

Congress will soon have the opportunity to complete the vote taken on Sept. 20, 2012, which would re-direct the random allocation of 55,000 immigration visas to individuals qualified only by a high school diploma or GED chosen at random, to STEM graduates of American universities selected by American employers.

The data indicates that swapping the visa lottery for STEM green cards will not diminish the diversity of America's immigration sources.

By prioritizing skills it will create and keep jobs in the United States.

Appendices

Comparison of STEM student populations w/lottery winners for African countries (Sources: State Department, Department of Homeland Security)

	STEM Students	Lottery
ALGERIA	52	792
ANGOLA	199	10
BENIN	84	236
BOTSWANA	38	6
BURKINA FASO	150	90
BURUNDI	31	17
CAMEROON	513	1,683
CAPE VERDE	17	NA
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	3	7
CHAD	17	7
COMOROS	1	0
CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE)	36	455
CONGO (KINSHASA)	115	721
COTE D'IVOIRE	187	194
DJIBOUTI	1	14
ERITREA	58	290
ETHIOPIA	712	3,546
GABON	116	13
GAMBIA, THE	81	17
GHANA	1,166	3,166
GUINEA	17	246
GUINEA-BISSAU	4	0
KENYA	1,146	2,154
LESOTHO	13	NA
LIBERIA	28	900
LIBYA	839	41
MADAGASCAR	34	12

	STEM Students	Lottery
MALAWI	32	13
MALI	102	45
MAURITANIA	6	6
MAYOTTE	1	0
MOROCCO	286	1,421
MOZAMBIQUE	13	NA
NAMIBIA	9	3
NIGER	39	9
NIGERIA	3,392	2,672
REUNION	1	0
RWANDA	412	67
SAINT HELENA, ASCENSION, AND TRISTAN DA CUNHA	1	0
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE	1	0
SENEGAL	135	111
SEYCHELLES	2	0
SIERRA LEONE	34	321
SOMALIA	3	56
SOUTH AFRICA	256	306
SUDAN	57	445
SWAZILAND	50	NA
TANZANIA	206	55
TOGO	74	474
TUNISIA	135	49
UGANDA	244	161
ZAMBIA	103	38
ZIMBABWE	363	88

DHS data on immigration, 2011

**PERSONS OBTAINING LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS BY BROAD CLASS OF
ADMISSION AND REGION AND COUNTRY OF BIRTH: FISCAL YEAR 2011
COMPARED TO STEM STUDENT ADMISSIONS BY COUNTRY & REGION**

Region & country of birth	Total	Family-sponsored preferences	Employment-based preferences	Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens	Diversity	Refugees & Asylees	Other	STEM Students
Total	1,062,040	234,931	139,339	453,158	50,103	168,460	16,049	286,066
Africa	100,374	7,940	4,360	40,183	23,812	23,523	556	12,653
Asia	451,593	101,067	88,880	146,914	15,573	97,031	2,128	237,356
Europe	83,850	5,531	16,585	46,509	9,055	4,760	1,410	16,397
North America	333,902	101,373	17,945	164,968	484	38,022	11,110	11,982
Oceania	4,980	599	798	2,956	556	49	22	1,252
South America	86,096	18,237	10,662	50,934	605	4,868	790	6,418
Unknown	1,245	184	109	694	18	207	33	8
Total	1,062,040	234,931	139,339	453,158	50,103	168,460	16,049	286,066
Afghanistan	1,648	171	34	754	36	501	152	50
Albania	3,612	293	94	1,884	913	415	13	197
Algeria	1,364	60	48	419	792	36	9	52
Angola	148	17	7	91	10	22	1	199
Anguilla	25	9	6	10	-	-	-	11
Antigua-Barbuda	368	129	14	221	D	D	2	64
Argentina	4,473	215	1,210	2,675	53	258	62	290
Armenia	2,983	219	117	905	954	767	21	65
Aruba	39	D	4	31	D	-	-	6
Australia	2,343	58	564	1,454	254	4	9	485
Austria	424	20	139	205	51	6	3	99
Azerbaijan	728	56	45	276	208	133	10	80
Bahamas	668	81	49	517	3	6	12	699
Bahrain	119	30	33	50	D	D	1	74
Bangladesh	16,707	7,821	648	4,988	3,049	117	84	2,543
Barbados	455	116	52	272	D	D	6	72
Belarus	1,964	72	197	671	622	356	46	85
Belgium	567	21	197	284	42	14	9	128
Belize	905	247	37	591	8	7	15	94
Benin	462	14	16	171	236	23	2	84
Bermuda	71	3	7	60	-	-	1	90

Bhutan	10,137	-	D	10	D	10,119	3	17
Bolivia	2,173	373	320	1,294	45	105	36	260
Bosnia-Herzegovina	878	23	41	521	40	251	2	78
Botswana	76	7	9	51	6	3	-	38
Brazil	11,763	516	2,386	8,417	12	330	102	1,336
British Virgin Islands	37	19	-	18	-	-	-	24
Brunei	25	D	11	D	D	-	-	16
Bulgaria	2,661	119	335	1,476	623	87	21	378
Burkina Faso	433	10	27	216	90	77	13	150
Burma	16,518	634	76	699	275	14,833	1	289
Burundi	593	D	D	33	17	536	-	31
Cambodia	2,745	456	49	1,993	176	62	9	59
Cameroon	4,754	210	68	1,131	1,683	1,653	9	513
Canada	12,800	637	5,157	6,582	83	41	300	4,883
Cape Verde	1,808	886	9	905	D	D	3	17
Cayman Islands	41	8	D	28	-	D	2	37
Central African Republic	134	D	D	23	7	99	-	3
Chad	171	D	D	38	7	120	-	17
Chile	1,853	180	335	1,228	16	59	35	332
China, People's Republic	87,016	17,840	17,544	24,374	25	27,097	136	88,499
Colombia	22,635	4,731	1,830	14,024	8	1,920	122	1,609
Congo, Democratic Republic	2,424	39	23	192	721	1,446	3	36
Congo, Republic	1,371	30	14	218	455	651	3	115
Costa Rica	2,135	237	161	1,645	11	62	19	273
Cote d'Ivoire	1,302	60	43	508	194	437	60	187
Croatia	349	13	64	223	25	20	4	150
Cuba	36,452	680	8	2,404	208	33,129	23	4
Cyprus	101	D	37	54	5	D	-	148
Czech Republic	303	8	82	175	30	3	5	115
Czechoslovakia (former)	466	8	72	372	9	4	1	-
Denmark	459	7	191	240	17	-	4	77
Djibouti	56	-	3	26	14	13	-	1
Dominica	287	82	D	200	D	-	1	96
Dominican Republic	46,109	24,539	333	21,063	10	85	79	154
Ecuador	11,103	3,960	1,076	5,743	-	146	178	508
Egypt	7,778	765	651	2,771	2,822	746	23	989
El Salvador	18,667	8,159	572	7,359	-	431	2,146	158
Equatorial Guinea	13	-	-	8	D	D	-	19
Eritrea	2,102	97	25	344	290	1,346	-	58
Estonia	191	10	18	137	15	10	1	29

Ethiopia	13,793	1,202	174	5,496	3,546	3,352	23	712
Fiji	1,041	370	26	424	172	45	4	16
Finland	363	5	159	154	42	-	3	54
France	3,653	139	1,409	1,790	262	27	26	1,332
French Polynesia	21	3	3	15	-	-	-	2
Gabon	204	7	4	85	13	95	-	116
Gambia	972	74	24	600	17	210	47	81
Georgia	1,490	36	85	773	453	130	13	90
Germany	6,125	170	1,543	3,529	795	49	39	1,256
Ghana	8,798	871	264	4,379	3,166	97	21	1,166
Greece	949	63	194	613	58	15	6	867
Grenada	579	173	15	378	4	4	5	80
Guatemala	11,092	3,739	D	4,215	D	794	1,748	216
Guinea	1,555	89	28	421	246	719	52	17
Guinea-Bissau	29	3	3	17	-	6	-	4
Guyana	6,599	3,753	158	2,628	27	11	22	70
Haiti	22,111	8,102	D	11,056	D	2,388	452	148
Honduras	6,133	1,879	483	3,261	23	220	267	310
Hong Kong	2,306	1,199	460	614	23	3	7	1,188
Hungary	1,044	35	204	694	98	9	4	116
Iceland	90	-	26	56	6	-	2	101
India	69,013	13,527	33,587	20,472	51	1,217	159	71,659
Indonesia	2,856	301	506	1,444	81	489	35	1,706
Iran	14,822	2,711	1,151	3,779	1,783	5,386	12	6,134
Iraq	21,133	292	107	826	43	19,104	761	191
Ireland	1,371	20	374	877	94	4	2	127
Israel	3,826	206	1,165	2,272	97	64	22	361
Italy	2,443	103	631	1,465	194	40	10	951
Jamaica	19,662	6,074	602	12,882	D	D	58	825
Japan	6,161	166	2,012	3,760	180	11	32	1,725
Jordan	3,876	1,068	194	2,055	54	489	16	921
Kazakhstan	1,235	65	104	657	220	149	40	255
Kenya	7,762	312	363	2,936	2,154	1,961	36	1,146
Korea, North	36	-	5	14	-	17	-	5
Korea, South	22,824	2,503	12,593	7,637	10	10	71	14,552
Kosovo	670	54	16	395	78	126	1	31
Kuwait	973	212	152	396	26	180	7	1,940
Kyrgyzstan	542	20	25	232	141	108	16	47
Laos	956	84	21	740	-	107	4	3
Latvia	426	18	26	319	41	17	5	48
Lebanon	3,295	901	450	1,578	42	316	8	566

Lesotho	25	D	3	17	D	-	-	13
Liberia	4,151	397	43	1,186	900	1,615	10	28
Libya	357	19	39	234	41	23	1	839
Lithuania	936	47	65	665	149	8	2	59
Luxembourg	24	D	7	12	D	-	-	10
Macau	130	86	14	26	D	D	1	89
Macedonia	1,078	210	52	588	183	35	10	72
Madagascar	83	6	17	37	12	11	-	34
Malawi	123	13	14	78	13	4	1	32
Malaysia	2,273	178	593	744	39	707	12	3,379
Mali	629	27	48	329	45	138	42	102
Malta	51	D	D	16	-	19	-	3
Marshall Islands	38	-	D	D	-	-	-	1
Mauritania	393	24	5	63	6	294	1	6
Mauritius	101	D	28	44	19	D	-	83
Mexico	143,446	43,631	9,164	84,280	12	605	5,754	3,022
Moldova	2,258	57	80	674	507	601	339	81
Mongolia	774	17	131	296	144	178	8	236
Montenegro	204	46	7	118	3	30	-	27
Montserrat	30	D	D	19	-	-	3	2
Morocco	4,399	335	139	2,469	1,421	16	19	286
Mozambique	60	D	7	38	D	8	-	13
Namibia	43	-	7	29	3	3	1	9
Nepal	10,166	381	1,148	1,522	1,801	5,299	15	5,301
Netherlands	1,085	D	426	554	61	D	7	237
Netherlands Antilles	86	9	11	62	4	-	-	33
New Zealand	803	36	195	459	108	-	5	202
Nicaragua	3,401	960	44	2,122	24	141	110	75
Niger	96	3	-	84	9	-	-	39
Nigeria	11,824	1,415	639	6,955	2,672	101	42	3,392
Norway	339	18	76	220	21	4	-	188
Oman	60	13	27	13	4	3	-	337
Pakistan	15,546	5,555	2,544	6,866	6	512	63	1,524
Panama	1,374	266	94	962	6	34	12	323
Papua New Guinea	20	D	3	14	D	-	-	13
Paraguay	500	53	42	368	6	24	7	58
Peru	14,064	3,616	998	8,786	4	509	151	561
Philippines	57,011	20,191	7,398	29,279	5	46	92	671
Poland	6,863	1,646	970	4,174	17	20	36	358
Portugal	821	83	115	598	13	3	9	228
Qatar	193	50	40	73	22	7	1	193

Romania	3,882	287	661	2,437	428	59	10	480
Russia	7,944	372	1,331	3,922	1,365	892	62	1,077
Rwanda	520	D	D	104	67	335	3	412
Saint Kitts-Nevis	350	178	D	159	D	-	1	51
Saint Lucia	785	184	16	575	7	-	3	180
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	468	120	10	329	5	-	4	33
Samoa	267	19	D	243	D	-	-	2
Saudi Arabia	1,396	269	208	689	115	109	6	16,425
Senegal	1,424	125	94	949	111	109	36	135
Serbia	244	D	80	136	D	17	-	266
Serbia and Montenegro ¹	1,398	78	114	836	129	226	15	4
Seychelles	15	5	3	7	-	-	-	2
Sierra Leone	1,985	173	51	1,059	321	364	17	34
Singapore	690	42	359	255	9	15	10	1,263
Slovakia	594	25	149	382	36	-	2	71
Slovenia	69	D	18	45	D	3	1	43
Somalia	4,451	47	19	697	56	3,622	10	3
South Africa	2,649	112	879	1,281	306	51	20	256
Soviet Union (former)	3,687	60	141	2,905	59	395	127	-
Spain	1,890	87	568	1,013	85	124	13	791
Sri Lanka	2,053	225	513	515	378	418	4	2,023
Sudan	2,628	73	35	642	445	1,428	5	57
Suriname	196	48	20	117	-	3	8	30
Swaziland	19	-	D	14	D	D	-	50
Sweden	979	26	327	561	48	9	8	264
Switzerland	615	13	220	301	67	7	7	198
Syria	2,785	879	277	1,196	48	378	7	178
Taiwan	6,154	1,392	2,163	2,363	D	D	10	7,208
Tajikistan	382	9	26	137	171	34	5	28
Tanzania	1,427	83	82	479	55	724	4	206
Thailand	9,962	426	474	3,658	35	5,247	122	1,715
Togo	1,506	112	20	586	474	312	2	74
Tonga	408	108	D	281	D	-	4	4
Trinidad & Tobago	5,023	1,071	365	3,453	58	9	67	529
Tunisia	440	18	66	294	49	12	1	135
Turkey	4,403	199	1,093	2,015	914	165	17	3,831
Turkmenistan	260	10	19	89	84	58	-	37
Turks and Caicos Islands	33	12	-	20	-	-	1	19
Uganda	1,239	91	83	604	161	284	16	244
Ukraine	8,292	603	589	4,118	1,651	833	498	349

United Arab Emirates	707	168	161	258	44	64	12	719
United Kingdom	11,572	630	4,560	6,143	162	20	57	1,153
United States	269	18	21	194	D	D	19	-
Uruguay	1,553	51	139	1,172	7	155	29	76
Uzbekistan	5,056	135	103	749	3,550	472	47	72
Venezuela	9,183	741	2,148	4,481	427	1,348	38	1,318
Vietnam	34,157	19,491	333	12,551	4	1,703	75	2,863
Yemen	3,361	823	40	2,260	38	199	1	59
Zambia	652	31	81	405	38	93	4	103
Zimbabwe	1,016	54	130	410	88	318	16	363
All other countries	78	7	7	53	9	2	-	161
Unknown	1,245	184	109	694	18	207	33	8

“D” Data withheld to limit disclosure

“-” Represents zero

¹ Yugoslavia (unknown republic) prior to February 7, 2003

Sources: Immigration data comes from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.
STEM Data comes from the SEVIS database.

DHS data on Degree Program and Country of Origin, 2011

Country of Citizenship	Bachelors Students	Masters Students	PhD Students
AFGHANISTAN	34	6	10
ALBANIA	134	17	46
ALGERIA	18	18	16
ANGOLA	190	5	4
ANGUILLA	10	0	1
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	53	5	6
ARGENTINA	82	60	148
ARMENIA	15	13	37
ARUBA	4	1	1
AUSTRALIA	249	80	156
AUSTRIA	24	14	61
AZERBAIJAN	39	20	21
BAHAMAS, THE	621	42	36
BAHRAIN	51	12	11
BANGLADESH	509	778	1,256
BARBADOS	52	9	11
BELARUS	26	12	47
BELGIUM	54	20	54
BELIZE	67	16	11
BENIN	64	10	10
BERMUDA	85	5	0
BHUTAN	11	3	3
BOLIVIA	174	47	39
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	55	5	18
BOTSWANA	24	7	7
BRAZIL	666	203	467
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	23	1	0
BRUNEI	10	6	0
BULGARIA	150	51	177
BURKINA FASO	110	26	14
BURMA	231	22	36
BURUNDI	25	5	1
CAMBODIA	42	15	2
CAMEROON	288	91	134
CANADA	2,788	647	1,448

Country of Citizenship	Bachelors Students	Masters Students	PhD Students
CAPE VERDE	16	1	0
CAYMAN ISLANDS	37	0	0
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	2	0	1
CHAD	12	5	0
CHILE	66	81	185
CHINA	23,709	30,048	34,742
CHRISTMAS ISLAND	1	0	0
COLOMBIA	428	398	783
COMOROS	0	0	1
CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE)	29	2	5
CONGO (KINSHASA)	99	12	4
COSTA RICA	124	36	113
COTE D'IVOIRE	137	32	18
CROATIA	64	12	74
CUBA	2	0	2
CYPRUS	55	21	72
CZECH REPUBLIC	50	18	47
DENMARK	42	10	25
DJIBOUTI	0	1	0
DOMINICA	69	12	15
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	87	40	27
ECUADOR	285	98	125
EGYPT	251	140	598
EL SALVADOR	111	17	30
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	19	0	0
ERITREA	4	16	38
ESTONIA	16	3	10
ETHIOPIA	389	134	189
FAROE ISLAND	0	0	1
FIJI	9	4	3
FINLAND	29	7	18
FRANCE	301	552	479
FRENCH POLYNESIA	0	0	2
GABON	90	20	6
GAMBIA, THE	64	9	8
GAZA STRIP	22	4	13
GEORGIA	37	8	45
GERMANY	396	191	672

Country of Citizenship	Bachelors Students	Masters Students	PhD Students
GHANA	470	377	319
GREECE	147	164	556
GREENLAND	1	0	0
GRENADA	61	11	8
GUADELOUPE	1	0	0
GUATEMALA	135	40	41
GUINEA	13	4	0
GUINEA-BISSAU	2	2	0
GUYANA	35	11	24
HAITI	111	24	13
HONDURAS	216	47	47
HONG KONG	747	117	324
HUNGARY	30	16	70
ICELAND	45	29	27
INDIA	5,975	50,881	14,803
INDONESIA	1,204	266	236
IRAN	174	1,275	4,685
IRAQ	51	51	89
IRELAND	33	24	70
ISLE OF MAN	1	0	0
ISRAEL	135	59	167
ITALY	212	172	567
JAMAICA	568	120	137
JAPAN	873	288	564
JORDAN	213	185	523
KAZAKHSTAN	163	49	43
KENYA	694	201	251
KIRIBATI	0	0	1
KOSOVO	24	2	5
KUWAIT	1,755	93	92
KYRGYZSTAN	30	5	12
LAOS	0	3	0
LATVIA	24	3	21
LEBANON	152	139	275
LESOTHO	8	3	2
LIBERIA	18	8	2
LIBYA	54	383	402
LIECHTENSTEIN	1	0	0
LITHUANIA	34	5	20
LUXEMBOURG	6	0	4
MACAU	48	19	22

Country of Citizenship	Bachelors Students	Masters Students	PhD Students
MACEDONIA	37	9	26
MADAGASCAR	19	7	8
MALAWI	17	6	9
MALAYSIA	2,728	259	392
MALDIVES	5	1	2
MALI	0	32	14
MALTA	2	1	0
MARSHALL ISLANDS	1	0	0
MAURITANIA	6	0	0
MAURITIUS	50	13	20
MAYOTTE	1	0	0
MEXICO	1,686	531	805
MOLDOVA	42	12	27
MONGOLIA	156	55	25
MONTENEGRO	12	4	11
MONTSERRAT	2	0	0
MOROCCO	180	67	39
MOZAMBIQUE	6	4	3
NAMBIA	7	0	2
NEPAL	2,755	1,246	1,300
NETHERLANDS	115	43	79
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	27	5	1
NEW ZEALAND	106	24	72
NICARAGUA	56	13	6
NIGER	22	7	10
NIGERIA	1,914	1,020	458
NORTH KOREA	4	1	0
NORWAY	130	39	19
OMAN	310	14	13
PAKISTAN	642	486	396
PALAU	1	0	1
PANAMA	252	39	32
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	9	1	3
PARAGUAY	41	9	8
PERU	204	118	239
PHILIPPINES	229	103	339
POLAND	119	34	205
PORTUGAL	83	31	114
QATAR	190	2	1
REUNION	0	0	1

Country of Citizenship	Bachelors Students	Masters Students	PhD Students
ROMANIA	116	52	312
RUSSIA	237	173	667
RWANDA	335	44	33
SAINT HELENA, ASCENSION & TRISTAN DE CUNHA	0	0	1
SAINT KITTS & NEVIS	41	4	6
SAINT LUCIA	133	17	30
SAINT MARTIN	2	0	0
SAINT VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	23	7	3
SAMOA	2	0	0
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE	1	0	0
SAUDI ARABIA	12,068	3,516	841
SENEGAL	106	17	12
SERBIA	89	48	129
SERBIA & MONTENEGRO	0	0	4
SERBIA (Prior to 2001)	0	0	1
SEYCHELLES	0	1	1
SIERRA LEONE	22	7	5
SINGAPORE	616	196	451
SLOVAKIA	30	6	35
SLOVENIA	23	3	17
SOLOMON ISLANDS	1	0	2
SOMALIA	2	1	0
SOUTH AFRICA	152	31	73
SOUTH KOREA	7,235	1,807	5,510
SPAIN	320	252	219
SRI LANKA	700	280	1,043
Stateless	7	0	1
SUDAN	17	20	20
SURINAME	22	2	6
SWAZILAND	34	3	13
SWEDEN	157	29	78
SWITZERLAND	85	25	88
SYRIA	73	61	44
TAIWAN	1,268	2,510	3,430
TAJIKISTAN	20	2	6
TANZANIA	132	40	34
THAILAND	590	618	507

Country of Citizenship	Bachelors Students	Masters Students	PhD Students
TIMORE-LESTE	7	0	1
TOGO	58	8	8
TONGA	3	1	0
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	320	95	114
TUNISIA	52	24	59
TURKEY	1,220	717	1,894
TURKMENISTAN	17	10	10
TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS	16	2	1
UGANDA	132	45	67
UKRAINE	81	47	221
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	640	38	41
UNITED KINGDOM	607	142	404
URUGUAY	24	10	42
UZBEKISTAN	32	16	24
VENEZUELA	851	290	177
VIETNAM	1,930	344	589
WEST BANK	40	22	24
YEMEN	35	8	16
ZAMBIA	76	15	12
ZIMBABWE	253	32	78
Total	91,713	105,154	89,146