

IEW Fact Sheet



A joint initiative of the U.S. Departments of State and Education, International Education Week (IEW) was first held in 2000 and today, is celebrated in more than 100 countries worldwide.

IEW is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. This annual initiative aims to promote international understanding and build support for international educational exchange by encouraging the development of programs that prepare Americans to live and work in a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study in the United States.

Exchanges are critical to developing mutual understanding and respect, building leadership abroad, fostering an appreciation for the U.S., and investing in the future relationship between Americans and people around the world.

According to Open Doors, 241,791 U.S. students studied abroad in 2006/07.

International education prepares U.S. citizens to live, work, and compete in the global economy.

International education is also a vital service industry, contributing more than \$15.5 billion to the U.S. economy.

According to Open Doors, 623,805 international students from over 200 countries studied in the U.S. in 2007/08

The more than 40,000 students, scholars and other exchange participants that the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs supports are in the vanguard of the hundreds of thousands of students and scholars who come to the United States and study abroad each year.

International cooperation on education contributes to education reform and education solutions for the U.S. and for our partner nations.

Information provided by the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education <http://www.iew.state.gov/factsheet.cfm>