Students from the top five places of origin accounted for 56 percent of all international students in the U.S. in 2011/12.

Taiwan still precedes Japan as the sixth leading place of origin for international students with over 23,000 students. This year Japan saw a slower rate of decline in its numbers after almost a decade long pattern of steep decline. In 2011/12 there was a 6.2 percent decline in Japanese students compared with a 19.3 percent decline in the prior year. Just under 20,000 Japanese students came to the U.S. for academic study in 2011/12.

Vietnam continues in eighth place again this year with a steady stream of just over 15,500 students in 2011/12. Vietnam reentered the top ten places of origin in 2008/09 for the first time since 1977/78.

Mexico continues as the ninth leading place of origin with over 13,800 students. The number of students from Mexico grew slightly in 2011/12 at 1.3 percent over the prior year. Mexico fell from eighth to ninth place in 2011/12, yet still remains the only Latin American country among the top ten places of origin.

Turkey was again the tenth leading place of origin of international students. However, it continues to decline at the same 1.7 percent rate to just under 12,000 students in 2011/12.