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New York is No.1 for international students

Colleges and universities around the city had 60,791 international students enrolled during the 2009-2010 academic year, up 2.5% from the previous year, according to an annual study.

By **Miriam Souccar**

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New York City is the No. 1 destination in the nation for international students.

Colleges and universities around the city had 60,791 international students enrolled during the 2009-2010 academic year, up 2.5% from the previous year, according to an annual study released Friday by the Institute of International Education.

New York state fared well too. The state ranked second after California for its number of international students, with 76,146 registered at more than 160 institutions, an increase of 2% from the previous year. These students pumped \$2.3 billion into the state's economy, up 3% from the prior academic year, according to the study.

The rankings for the both the city and state were the same in last year's report.

"Spending by international students and their families counts toward New York state's services export success, offering a direct boost to our economy," said Dennis Mullen, chief executive of the Empire State Development Corp. "In addition, international students who study in our state deepen the awareness of other cultures on local campuses and beyond, leading the way toward the advancement of our global competitiveness."

Three New York state universities—New York University, Columbia University, and University at Buffalo-SUNY—ranked in the Top 20 of U.S. institutions that host the most international students. The Top 5 countries that sent the most students to New York were China, India, South Korea, Canada and Taiwan.

With the realization that foreign students provide a huge economic boost, a number of government and education officials launched a consortium called Study New York in 2009 to position the state as the destination of choice for students around the world. More than 60 New York state colleges and universities are members of the group, making it the largest of its kind in the nation.

"Study New York provides all members with greater impact, leverage and promotional power," said Salvatore Longarino, director of international student programs at Fordham University and chair of the consortium. "By working together, the initiative will reach many more markets, education events and students than each member institution could individually."

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