

# International Connections:

*Which U.S. Universities Provide Their Students with a Powerful Global Network?*

Fall 2016



**Our Ranking  
of the Top 100  
U.S. Universities  
with Powerful  
Global Networks**

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Intead would like to thank our talented team of international student interns for their research and invaluable contributions to this report: Gonzalo Mestre, Jacqueline Roodbaei, Emily Legtenberg, and Maartje Sebek.

# Do you have a powerful global network to offer your students?

For some of us, an international career holds significant allure. Intriguing destinations, learning about new cultures, using our languages and communications skills, forging cross-border partnerships.

With student decision-making constantly on our minds, we were intrigued when *Forbes* announced in September 2016 a new ranking of ["50 Best U.S. Universities for International Students."](#)

We looked at their research and thought we'd do them one better.

When international students (and their parents) are looking for global opportunities, they are looking for results. Having a diverse campus with many nations represented is great, but students focused on global issues and careers also want to know where your graduates are working. Can they walk into a powerful global alumni network?

Intead analyzed the U.S. universities with the largest international student population to figure out which had the most powerful global alumni networks. Some of our findings may surprise you.

## Who is preparing students for a global future?

### Research results

Using IIE Open Doors data and publicly available data from LinkedIn, Intead analyzed the 100 U.S. institutions with the largest international student bodies and the largest number of graduates with LinkedIn accounts indicating they were employed in jobs with international responsibilities. A discussion of our research methodology and the limitations of our research can be found in Appendix C.

The resulting ranking is particularly valuable to any student (international or domestic) seeking an education that provides a diverse student body to learn with and a powerful international alumni network. In our other research, we have found that a high percentage of international students are interested in careers that span borders.

**Table 1:**  
**Top 20 U.S. Universities Based on % of International Student Enrollment**

RANKING	University <i>Bold name indicates this university appears in both Table 1 and Table 2</i>	Total enrolled students 2014–2015	International students 2014–2015	Percentage of international students 2014–2015
1	Illinois Institute of Technology	7,898	5,164	65%
2	<b>Northeastern University</b>	19,798	10,559	53%
3	Carnegie Mellon University	12,587	6,198	49%
4	Polytechnic Institute of NYU	4,890	2,112	43%
5	<b>Columbia University</b>	27,589	11,510	42%
6	<b>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</b>	11,319	4,220	37%
7	Academy of Art University	15,212	5,431	36%
8	<b>The New School</b>	10,477	3,369	32%
9	University of Texas at Dallas	23,095	7,064	31%
10	<b>Stanford University</b>	16,963	5,015	30%
11	University of Southern California	42,453	12,334	29%
12	University of Rochester	11,060	3,130	28%
13	<b>New York University</b>	49,274	13,178	27%
14	<b>Cornell University</b>	21,679	5,623	26%
15	<b>New Jersey Institute of Technology</b>	10,646	2,756	26%
16	Purdue University	39,752	10,230	26%
17	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	45,140	11,223	25%
18	<b>University of Pennsylvania</b>	24,806	6,167	25%
19	<b>Boston University</b>	32,112	7,860	24%
20	University of California, Los Angeles	41,845	10,209	24%

Sources: NCES IPEDS Data and IIE 2014/2015 Open Doors Report. The IIE figures for international students include all F1 and J1 visa holders so the calculation of “percentage of international students” accounts for far more than those pursuing full degrees and includes language programs, OPT students, etc.

Diversity may rule these campuses, but does that translate into students ruling the international marketplace?

The answer, in short, is no.

If your goal as a student – domestic or international – is to find a globally minded career, you’ll need to dive deeper. Schools demonstrating a high percentage of alumni with international positions on LinkedIn validate ROI – and those tuitions aren’t cheap! The universities on our list provide a wide network of future connections across the world and across industries. Landing your dream job is often all about who you know – connecting with a fellow alum is a valuable way for your students to build that relationship and get your foot in the door.

Those universities in **bold** in Tables 1 and 2 have both diverse student bodies AND powerful alumni networks. That’s the kind of double dose of global that bodes well for an international career.

**Table 2:  
Top 20 U.S. Universities with Powerful Global Alumni Networks**

RANKING	University <i>Bold name indicates this university appears in both Table 1 and Table 2</i>	Graduates with LinkedIn profiles	Graduate LinkedIn profiles indicating a global job	% of graduates with global jobs
1	Georgetown University	77,344	6,443	8.33%
2	George Washington University	109,440	6,926	6.33%
3	University of Texas at Austin	124,224	7,556	6.08%
4	<b>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</b>	78,560	4,680	5.96%
5	<b>Boston University</b>	145,536	8,346	5.73%
6	<b>Columbia University</b>	100,640	5,662	5.63%
7	<b>Stanford University</b>	119,168	6,601	5.54%
8	<b>Cornell University</b>	137,536	7,612	5.53%
9	University of California - Berkeley	226,688	12,289	5.42%
10	Harvard University	116,736	6,292	5.39%
11	University of Chicago	60,080	3,042	5.06%
12	Northwestern University	94,688	4,644	4.90%
13	Yale University	63,760	3,068	4.81%
14	<b>New York University</b>	204,288	9,567	4.68%
15	<b>University of Pennsylvania</b>	99,008	4,567	4.61%
16	<b>The New School</b>	19,280	884	4.59%
17	Johns Hopkins University	71,200	3,236	4.54%
18	<b>Northeastern University</b>	124,224	5,349	4.31%
19	University of Michigan (Ann Arbor)	199,808	8,415	4.21%
20	<b>New Jersey Institute of Technology</b>	38,032	1,579	4.15%

Source: LinkedIn research, June 2016.

Granted, there are limitations to this data. LinkedIn relies on graduates self-reporting and creating profiles linked to their alma mater – something you should be encouraging all your students and alumni to do. If your alumni **are not** on LinkedIn, your results in this ranking suffer. However, if your alumni **are** on LinkedIn, you have a more proactive, career-network-building set of graduates for your students to access.

An interesting note on these institutions: We found a strong correlation between our Top 20 Powerful schools and the language they use to talk about globally focused education, learning across disciplines and having connections to other international campuses. The content on their websites had a *future-focused* feel about it, as in: *what will this education do for you when you go out into the world?*

We found that correlation was weaker for those institutions on our list with only a high percentage of international enrollment and no corresponding high percentage of graduates with global jobs. Their website content focused less on the future beyond the four years of study and instead, emphasized study abroad programs and on-campus resources for international students *while they were studying there*. See Appendix A for examples.

For students seeking an experience that will prepare them for the global marketplace, a diverse campus is a start, but it's also important to take a closer look at how these institutions market themselves if the ultimate prize is an international career. And in our minds, a powerful global alumni network is an essential element of what universities need to offer in exchange for those precious tuition dollars.



# Appendix A

## Top 20 U.S. Universities with Powerful Global Alumni Networks: How They Talk About Global Engagement

Content in the table below is taken directly from each university’s website based on searching on their sites for the terms “international students” or “global”. The content below speaks to their approach to a **global education**, not a specific **global program or degree**.

RANKING	University	Website Analysis – How universities “talk international”
1	Georgetown University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Engagement: “Georgetown as a Global University”</li> <li>• Global Futures Initiative</li> </ul>
2	George Washington University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priorities: Commitment to finding solutions to national and global problems</li> </ul>
3	University of Texas at Austin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What starts here changes the world. It’s more than a motto. It’s what we prove each and every day.</li> <li>• Texas Global</li> </ul>
4	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Driven to bring knowledge to bear on the world’s great challenges</li> <li>• Global MIT</li> </ul>
5	Boston University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Global BU</li> <li>• Engaging with people, ideas, and pressing issues that impact the world</li> </ul>
6	Columbia University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Columbia Global Centers</li> <li>• Global reach and ability to examine the great issues confronting us</li> </ul>
7	Stanford University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stanford Global Project Center</li> </ul>
8	Cornell University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Cornell</li> <li>• Our students, domestic and international, gain experience for living and working in a world where global is everywhere, at home and abroad.</li> </ul>
9	University of California - Berkeley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Engagement Office</li> <li>• Informal discussion group that connects faculty and staff working to bring the world to Berkeley and Berkeley to the world</li> </ul>
10	Harvard University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Education Innovation Initiative</li> </ul>
11	University of Chicago	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Engagement: UChicago In The World</li> <li>• Alumni span the globe: they are political leaders, humanitarians, executives and innovators</li> </ul>
12	Northwestern University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global and Civic Engagement: Making an impact. Everywhere.</li> <li>• To explore the world, extend reach and enhance learning through hundreds of study abroad programs spanning the globe</li> </ul>

## Appendix A (continued)

RANKING	University	Website Analysis – How universities “talk international”
13	Yale University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yale: A global University</li> <li>• To prepare students for leadership and service in an increasingly interdependent world.</li> </ul>
14	New York University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provost’s Global Research Initiatives</li> </ul>
15	University of Pennsylvania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Campus</li> <li>• Global Opportunities</li> <li>• Global Impact</li> <li>• Global Resources</li> </ul>
16	The New School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No results</li> </ul>
17	Johns Hopkins University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No results</li> </ul>
18	Northeastern University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a university where teaching and research are grounded in global engagement, Northeastern’s impact is being felt in all corners of the world.</li> </ul>
19	University of Michigan (Ann Arbor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serve the world through preeminence in creating, communicating, preserving and applying knowledge, art and academic values and in developing leaders and citizen who will challenge the present and enrich the future.</li> </ul>
20	New Jersey Institute of Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office of Global Initiatives</li> </ul>

Source: Online research, June 2016.



## Appendix B

### Top 100 U.S. Universities with Powerful Global Alumni Networks

RANKING	University	Graduates with LinkedIn profiles	Graduate LinkedIn profiles indicating a global job	% of graduates with global jobs
1	Georgetown University	77,344	6,443	8.33%
2	George Washington University	109,440	6,926	6.33%
3	University of Texas - Austin	124,224	7,556	6.08%
4	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	78,560	4,680	5.96%
5	Boston University	145,536	8,346	5.73%
6	Columbia University	100,640	5,662	5.63%
7	Stanford University	119,168	6,601	5.54%
8	Cornell University	137,536	7,612	5.53%
9	University of California - Berkeley	226,688	12,289	5.42%
10	Harvard University	116,736	6,292	5.39%
11	University of Chicago	60,080	3,042	5.06%
12	Northwestern University	94,688	4,644	4.90%
13	Yale University	63,760	3,068	4.81%
14	New York University	204,288	9,567	4.68%
15	University of Pennsylvania	99,008	4,567	4.61%
16	The New School	19,280	884	4.59%
17	Johns Hopkins University	71,200	3,236	4.54%
18	Northeastern University	124,224	5,349	4.31%
19	University of Michigan (Ann Arbor)	199,808	8,415	4.21%
20	New Jersey Institute of Technology	38,032	1,579	4.15%
21	Emory University	45,024	1,847	4.10%
22	Rutgers, The State university of New Jersey - New Brunswick	157,184	6,321	4.02%
23	Carnegie Mellon University	61,216	2,403	3.93%
24	Washington University in St. Louis	55,472	2,164	3.90%
25	Polytechnic Institute of NYU	12,852	496	3.86%
26	Georgia Institute of Technology	102,752	3,931	3.83%
27	Michigan state University	205,632	7,767	3.78%
28	University of Rochester	35,312	1,308	3.70%
29	University of Virginia - Main Campus	110,080	4,031	3.66%
30	Purdue University	178,432	6,397	3.59%
31	University of Miami	60,464	2,114	3.50%
32	University of Drexel	69,632	2,417	3.47%
33	University of Delaware	77,248	2,678	3.47%
34	University of Wisconsin - Madison	175,680	6,066	3.45%
35	University of Illinois - Urbana Champaign	196,800	6,715	3.41%
36	Penn state University (Park)	274,176	9,355	3.41%
37	Syracuse University	96,160	3,267	3.40%
38	University of Houston	118,656	3,976	3.35%
39	University of Pittsburgh	106,976	3,408	3.19%
40	Rochester Institute of Technology	74,208	2,349	3.17%
41	University of Connecticut	89,536	2,817	3.15%

## Appendix B (continued)

<b>RANKING</b>	<b>University</b>	<b>Graduates with LinkedIn profiles</b>	<b>Graduate LinkedIn profiles indicating a global job</b>	<b>% of graduates with global jobs</b>
42	University of Washington	196,096	6,151	3.14%
43	University of Massachusetts Amherst	108,480	3,383	3.12%
44	University of Southern California	173,376	5,401	3.12%
45	University of California - Los Angeles	216,384	6,738	3.11%
46	SUNY Binghamton University	51,296	1,590	3.10%
47	University of California - San Diego	113,920	3,519	3.09%
48	University of Colorado Boulder	125,760	3,777	3.00%
49	Wayne State University	81,408	2,432	2.99%
50	University of Oregon	80,384	2,381	2.96%
51	Illinois Institute of Technology	35,200	1,038	2.95%
52	Florida International University	91,200	2,675	2.93%
53	North Carolina State University	118,944	3,487	2.93%
54	University of California - Irvine	97,792	2,842	2.91%
55	Indiana University - Bloomington	167,488	4,826	2.88%
56	University of Minnesota - Twin cities	176,768	5,069	2.87%
57	University of Maryland - College Park	167,360	4,763	2.85%
58	George Mason University	87,584	2,491	2.84%
59	University of California - Davis	115,424	3,277	2.84%
60	Texas A&M University	205,440	5,796	2.82%
61	San Jose State University	132,736	3,658	2.76%
62	University of Texas - Dallas	49,792	1,281	2.57%
63	Duke University School of Medicine	3,080	79	2.56%
64	University of Illinois - Chicago	92,896	2,369	2.55%
65	Portland State University	65,856	1,640	2.49%
66	Temple University	102,816	2,546	2.48%
67	University of Florida	191,424	4,681	2.45%
68	University of Arizona	125,632	3,068	2.44%
69	San Francisco State University	106,048	2,589	2.44%
70	Oregon State University	74,496	1,816	2.44%
71	SUNY University at Buffalo	89,760	2,177	2.43%
72	University of Kansas	104,736	2,539	2.42%
73	University of Iowa	95,648	2,310	2.42%
74	Iowa State University of Science and Technology	98,176	2,349	2.39%
75	SUNY Stony Brook University	67,328	1,606	2.39%
76	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	120,256	2,826	2.35%
77	Ohio State University	215,232	4,952	2.30%
78	University of Utah	88,960	2,036	2.29%
79	Arizona State University	207,744	4,723	2.27%
80	University of Cincinnati	101,504	2,299	2.26%
81	University of Missouri Columbia	107,520	2,401	2.23%
82	De Anza College	25,008	556	2.22%
83	University of Kentucky	86,528	1,875	2.17%
84	Washington State University	80,288	1,694	2.11%

## Appendix B (continued)

RANKING	University	Graduates with LinkedIn profiles	Graduate LinkedIn profiles indicating a global job	% of graduates with global jobs
85	Oklahoma State University - Main Campus	89,472	1,853	2.07%
86	Academy of Art University	34,696	713	2.05%
87	University of Nebraska Lincoln	77,184	1,555	2.01%
88	University of South Florida	129,632	2,545	1.96%
89	University of Texas - Arlington	86,112	1,672	1.94%
90	University of North Texas	108,992	2,069	1.90%
91	Kansas State University	78,368	1,463	1.87%
92	Kent State University	84,800	1,547	1.82%
93	Florida State University	136,064	2,477	1.82%
94	California State University - Long Beach	92,736	1,666	1.80%
95	California State University Fullerton	90,336	1,594	1.76%
96	Johnson and Wales University	55,280	965	1.75%
97	University of Texas - San Antonio	58,016	967	1.67%
98	Santa Monica College	26,176	419	1.60%
99	California State University - Northridge	97,792	1,560	1.60%
100	Houston Community College	32,560	9	0.03%

Source: LinkedIn research, June 2016.

# Appendix C

## Research Methodology

Intead analyzed the 100 US institutions with the largest international student populations. Our analysis used IIE Open Doors data from 2014/2015 and paired it with publicly available data on job titles and university affiliations from LinkedIn, the social networking site designed specifically to build career networks. We used both free and premium LinkedIn services to gather our data.

Using LinkedIn, we searched for each of our selected universities (the 100 schools with the highest percentage of international students enrolled) and identified the total number of graduates with a job title that included the words “international” or “global.” This research was conducted in June 2016.

Our research used the following criteria and calculations:

$$\frac{\text{Total international students in 2014–2015}}{\text{Total students enrolled in 2014–2015}} = \text{Percentage of international students}$$
$$\frac{\text{Total graduates with either international or global job title}}{\text{Total \# of graduates with LinkedIn profiles}} = \text{Percentage of graduates with globally focused jobs}$$

We know this analysis has its limitations. Universities we analyzed are penalized in this study if their graduates are **not** on LinkedIn. Further, there are many jobs with international responsibilities that do not have the words “international” or “global” in the title. Nevertheless, Intead’s research and ranking provides a relative comparison that, when we put ourselves in the shoes of an aspiring student with international career goals, we would find valuable.

Our research provides students with a view into which universities have a powerful global network of alumni with international responsibilities. And importantly, our research provides these selected universities with another opportunity to tell their prospective students that they are a great place to launch an international career.

We welcome your feedback. Simply send us an email ([info@intead.com](mailto:info@intead.com)) and let us know what you think.

# Appendix D

## Data sources used to collect and confirm our research findings

- [www.iie.org/](http://www.iie.org/)
- [www.Linkedin.com](http://www.Linkedin.com)
- [nces.ed.gov/globallocator/](http://nces.ed.gov/globallocator/)