

International Students in FRANCE

Austrian EMN Conference

Immigration of International Students from Third Countries to the EU and Austria

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National Strategy towards International Students

-  Emphasising access to **Master and Doctoral studies** in specific selected courses
-  Ensuring **geographical diversity of students' countries of origin**
-  Focusing on **programme-based mobility** to ensure successful study trajectories
>> through wide range of **exchange programmes and merit-based scholarship scheme**

National Policy towards International Students



ADMISSION

- >> Admission procedure depending on **several criteria**
- >> **Single online application** in 31 countries of origin to simplify the formalities for international students (85 % of student visa applications)

ENTRY AND STAY

Visa equivalent to a Residence Permit (1 year, renewable)

- >> Sufficient financial resources : 615 €/month
- >> Proof of the registration at a higher education institution

PERIOD FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF STUDIES

- >> Graduates with a Master's degree or higher can look for a first job for **6 months** (limited working hours: 18.5 hours/week)
- >> **Perspective of return** to the country of origin

Extent of misuse of the 'student route' to migration

✳️ **Isolated cases of misuse** (countries with strong migratory pressure)

>> Enrolment fraud

>> Certification fraud

✳️ **Practical measures to detect and prevent misuse**

>> Checking qualifications

- upon receipt of visa application (academic/consular levels)

- upon residence permit renewal (3 cumulative criteria)

>> Obligation to take French tests

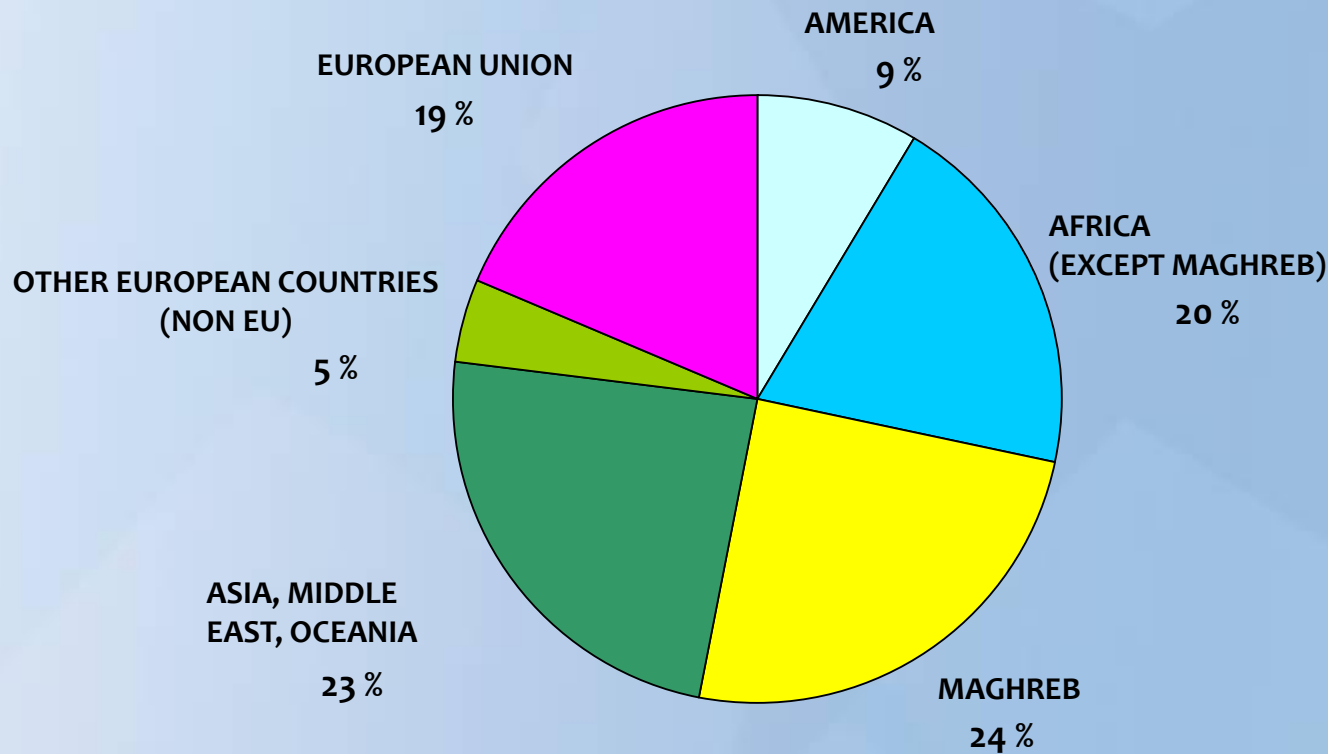
Characteristics of International Students



- ✳️ **2010-2011 : Stock of 285 000 international students**
(54 000 EU and 231 000 TCN): + 64% in 10 years
 - >> **12%** of the total student population
 - >> **41%** of all doctoral students at University
- ✳️ Annual flows : around **60 000 third-country national students**
- ✳️ High proportion of students in **Health and general disciplines (16%), Sciences and Engineering (20%) and Technology courses (24%)**

Statistical overview

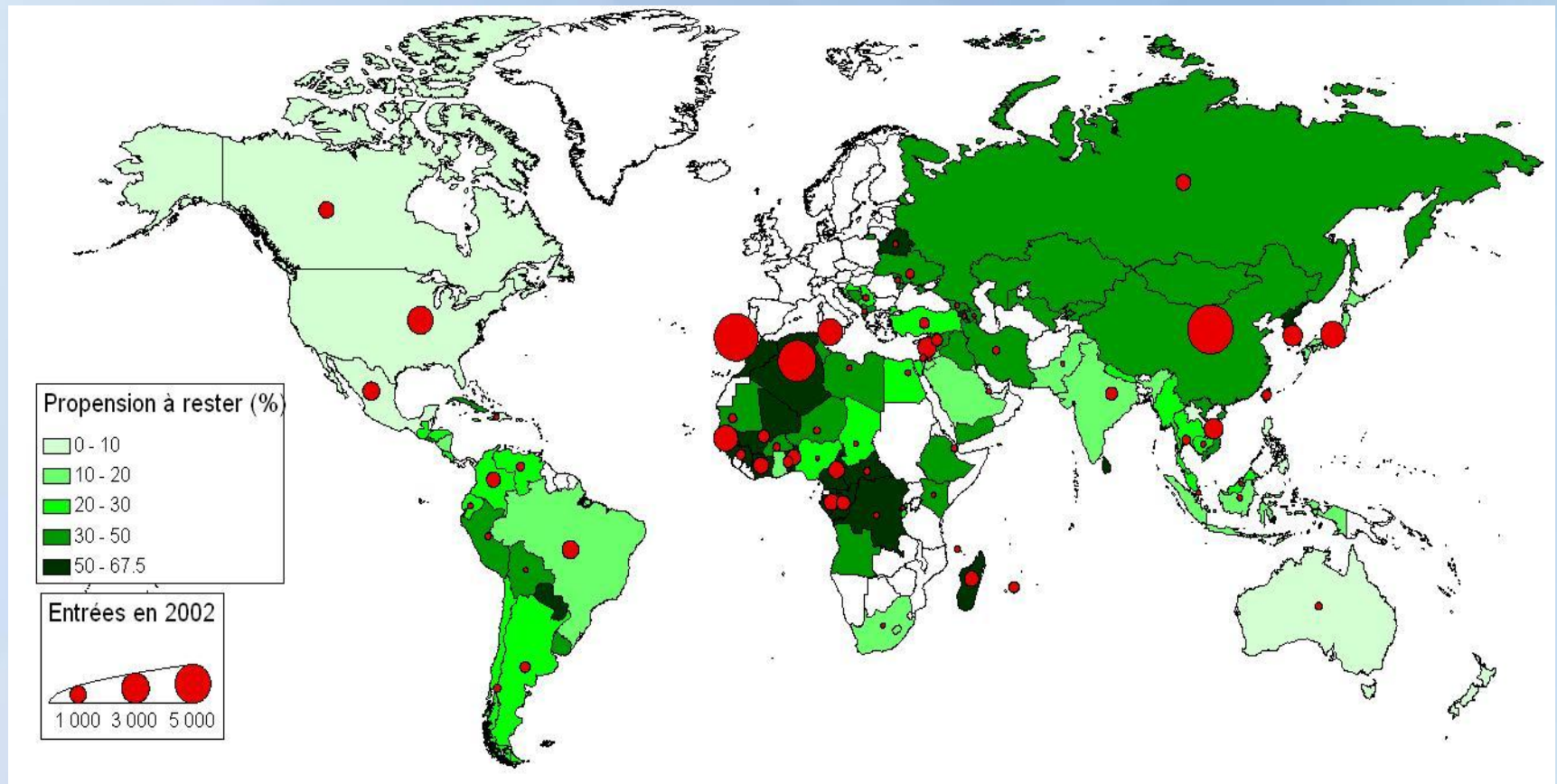
Regions of origin of International Students in 2010-2011



Morocco	11 %
China	10 %
Algeria	8 %
Tunisia	5 %
Senegal	3 %
Germany	3 %
Italy	3 %
Cameroon	3 %
Vietnam	2 %
Spain	2 %

Statistical overview

Duration of stay according to regions of origin



Source: Department of Statistics, Studies and Documentation, Ministry of Interior

Concluding remarks



Attractive features

- ✖✖ Quality of education, value of qualifications and reputation of establishments
- ✖✖ Low University fees
- ✖✖ Improved reception services for students (one-stop shop system)
- ✖✖ Campus France Agency : one-stop-shop for managing different aspects of international student mobility
- ✖✖ Diversity of merit-based scholarships
- ✖✖ Wide range of European and international exchange programmes

Difficulties encountered

- ✖✖ Administrative formalities often deemed complicated
- ✖✖ Difficulties to find accommodation
- ✖✖ Limited follow-up after graduation (professional integration)

Thank you for your attention !

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