

Staf Analytics.

Study Destination: Stockholm

International Student Mobility in 2018–2019



Key Take Aways

Almost 10,000 International Students

Majority of Students Come from China, Germany, and Finland

Indian Students Increase by 26%

Outgoing Exchange Students Decrease

Fewer Outgoing Students Choose Great Britain

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There were 9,955 international students enrolled at an institution of higher education in Stockholm during the academic year 2018-2019, an increase of 2% from the previous year. Stockholm University and KTH host the majority of these incoming students. The five largest national groups are: China, Germany, Finland, France, and India. The Indian group has increased the most, by 26% compared to the previous year.

The number of outgoing exchange students has fallen by 3%. The most popular destinations for exchange programs are the United States, Australia, and Singapore. Great Britain, which used to be a leading destination, has lost in attractiveness.

While the number of outgoing exchange students to Great Britain has decreased, we have seen an increase in the number of incoming exchange students from that country.

Exchange Students Increase the Most

There were 9,955 international students enrolled at an institution of higher education in Stockholm during the academic year 2018-2019. It is a slight increase of 2%, or just over 200 students from last year. A noticeable change is that it is above all exchange students who account for the increase. In earlier years, the number of free-moving students increased while that of exchange students remained at the same level. There were 6,845 freemovers and 3,110 exchange students during the academic year 2018-2019.

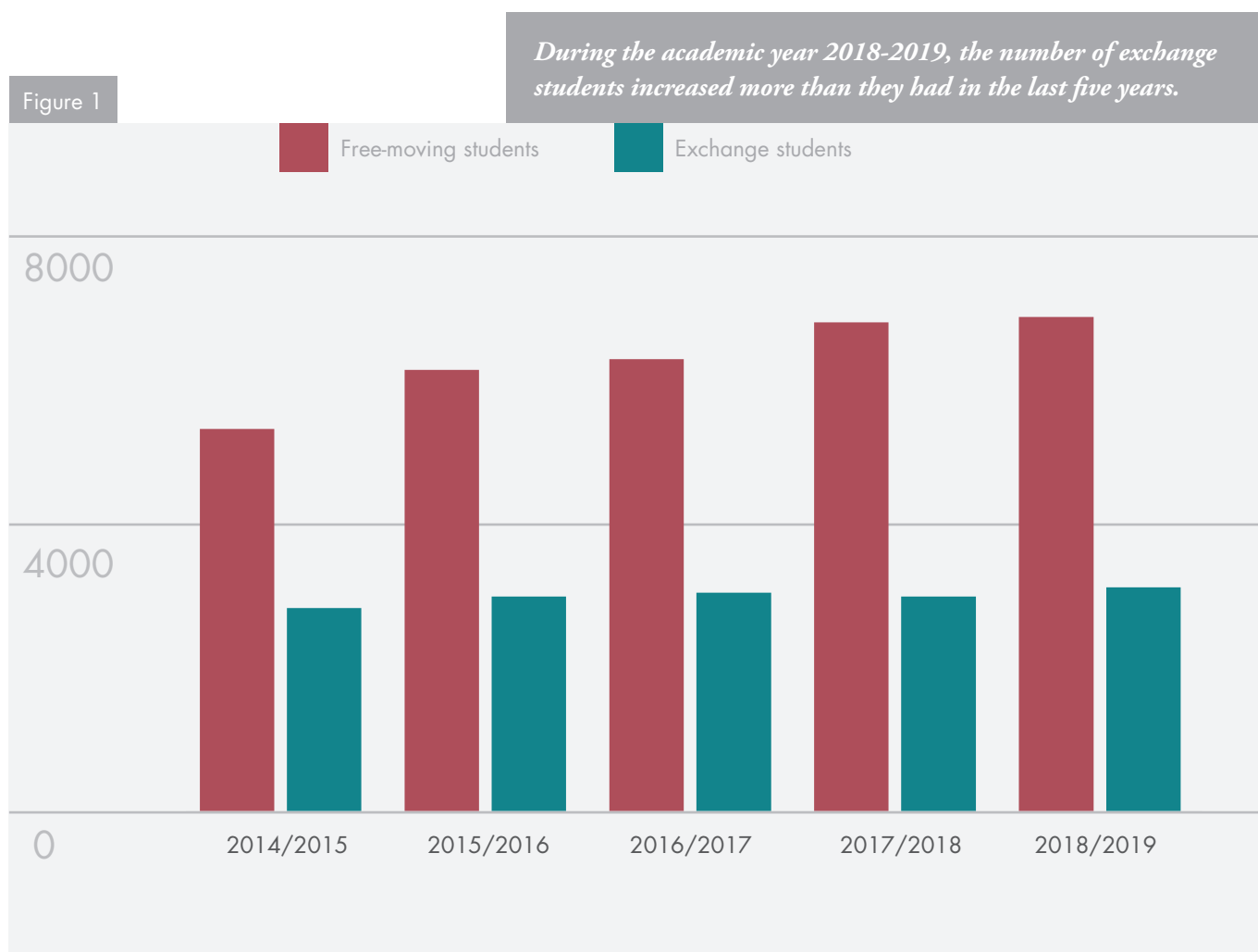
About one out of four freemovers was a fee-paying student. Compared with the previous year, the number of fee-paying students went up by 12%, which means that a total of 1,730 international students in Stockholm paid tuition fees. The other 5,115 free-moving students were exempt from tuition fees.

9,955

+2%

6,845 FREEMOVERS

3,110 EXCHANGE



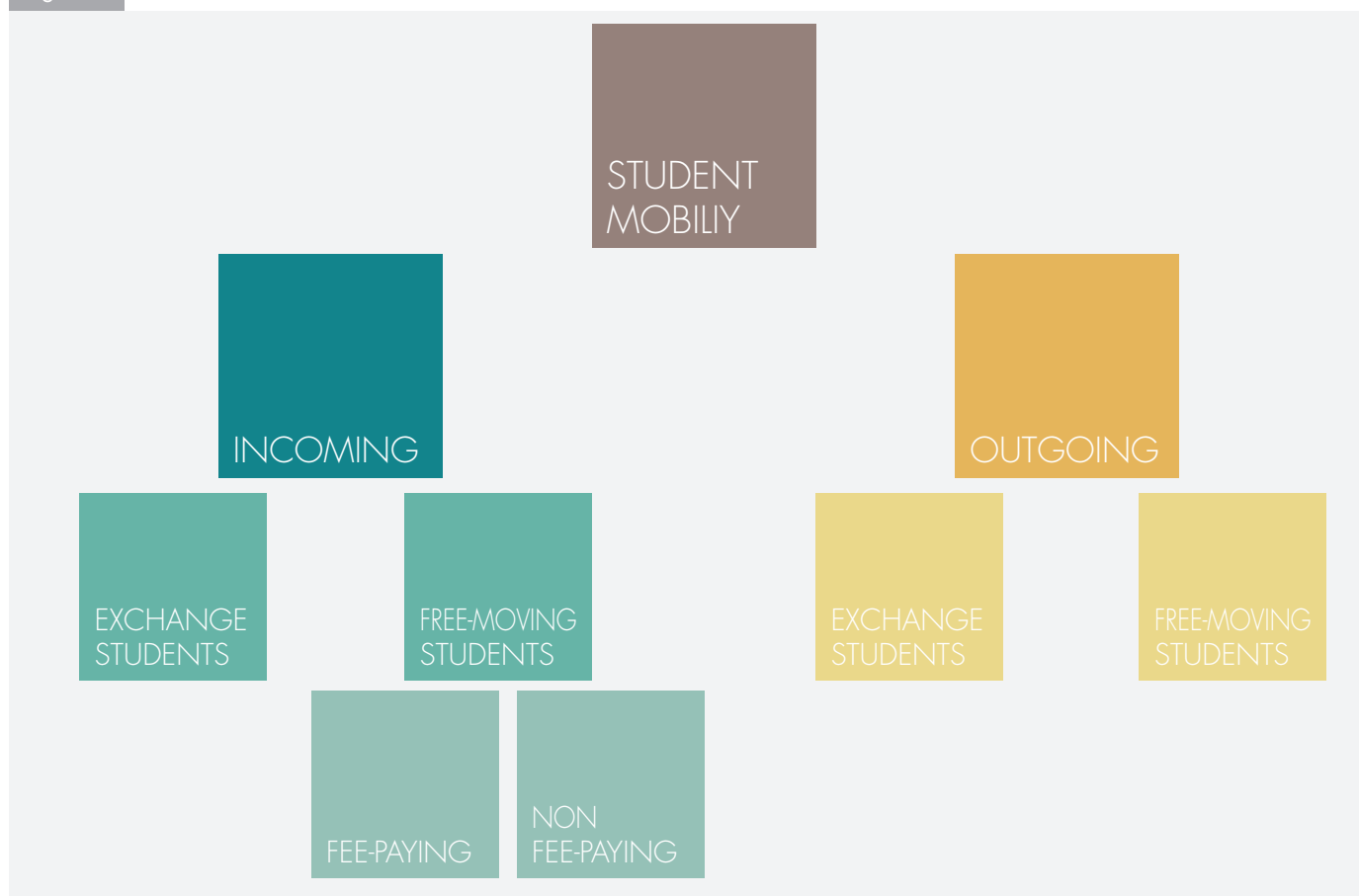
Student Mobility Structure

International student mobility consists of both incoming and outgoing students and, within each category, of both exchange students and free-moving students. Exchange students take part in an exchange program, either short or long, through their home institution. Free movers pay tuition fees in Sweden if they are citizens of a so-called “third country,” i.e. outside the EU – EEA and Switzerland.

Student statistics can be presented in different ways. For example, we can calculate the number of students based

either on the number of individuals or of full-year students. Likewise, we can report student mobility based either on the total number of incoming students or of international students enrolled in Swedish higher education for the first time. In this report, we consider the total number of individuals studying at one Stockholm’s institutions of higher education in the academic year 2018-2019. The figures are rounded to five.

Figure 2



Number of Indian Students Increases

The number of international students from India increased significantly in 2018-19, by 26%, compared with the previous year. The number of Indian students had been increasing steadily for several years but their total number went up by a full 100 students in just one academic year. That means that two countries outside of the EU – China and India – are now among the top five nations that send students to Stockholm. As in the year before, the largest group of international students, 870 students, (+5% compared to previous year) came from China. Next comes Germany, with 795 students (+3%), followed by Finland, with 720 students (-10%). The fourth largest cohort of students comes from France, with 500 students (+3%), while India follows closely, with 485 (+26%).

China, Germany, and Finland have been among the countries to send the most international students over the past five years but India was not even among the top ten

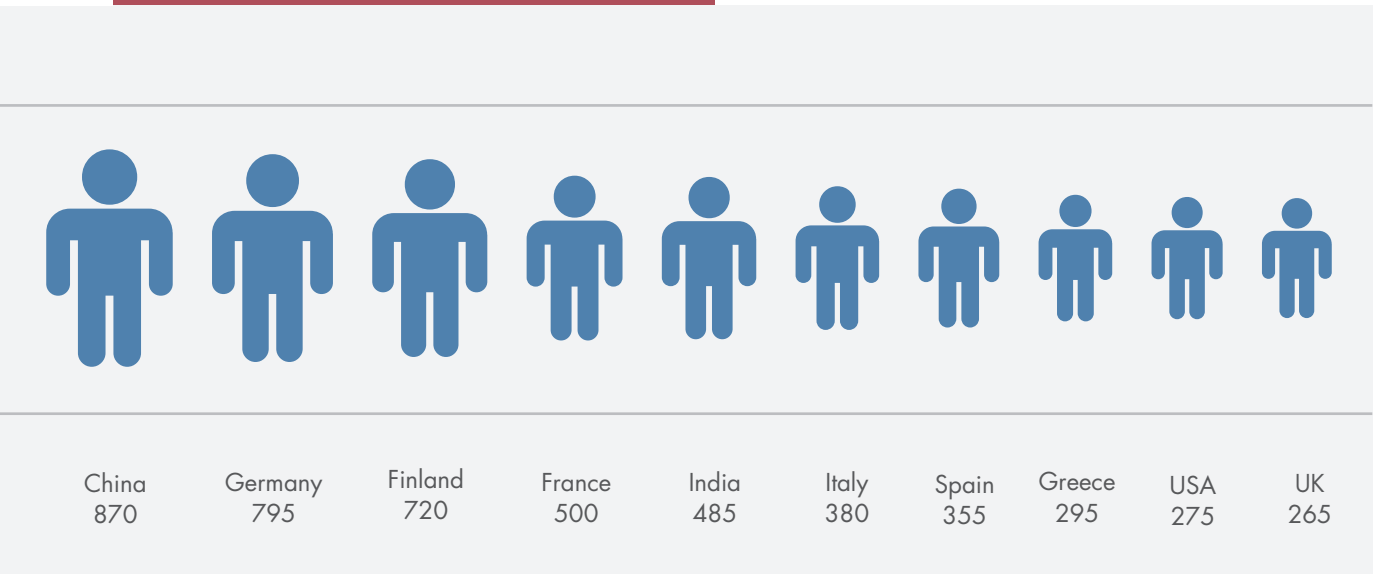
just five years ago. That correlates with the growing need for specific IT and programming professionals in Stockholm’s labor market in recent year. This trend has attracted a lot of Indian nationals, who also consider Stockholm a nice place to live.

The number of Finnish students has been on the decline for two consecutive years, both among freemovers and exchange students.

The five largest countries of origin for international students are followed by Italy, with 380 students (+5%), Spain, with 355 (+5%), Greece, with 295 (+7%), the USA, with 275 (0%), and the UK, with 265 (+22%). Stockholm remains popular among Italian, Spanish, and Greek students, with a small increase every year. The number of British students increased more sharply, by 22%, during the academic year 2018-2019, among both freemovers and exchange students.

Figure 3

The ten largest international student groups at an institution of higher education in Stockholm.

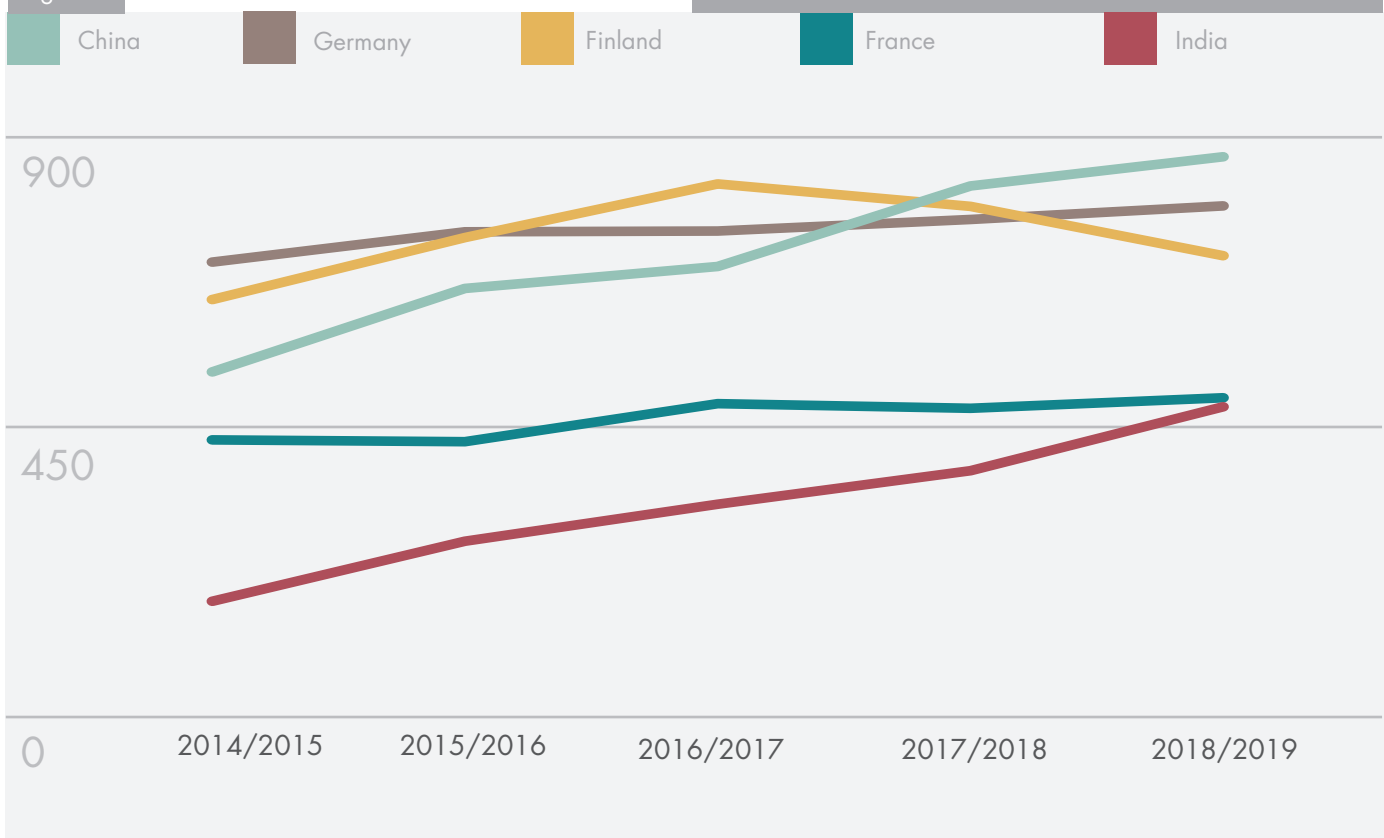


+26%

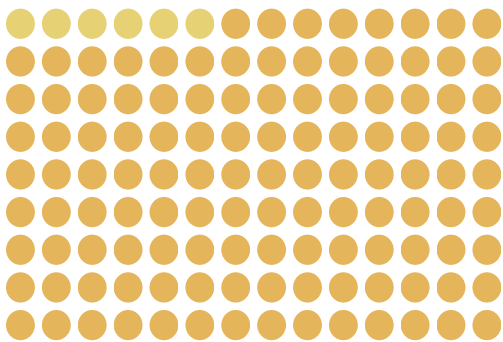
INDIAN
STUDENTS

The number of incoming students from China and India has increased sharply in the last five years. Germany and France remain at a high level while we have seen a decline in incoming students from Finland in the past two academic years.

Figure 4



India in Focus

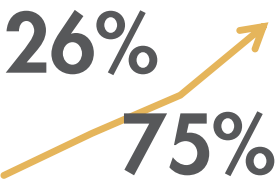


485
Students

25 Exchange
460 Free-moving

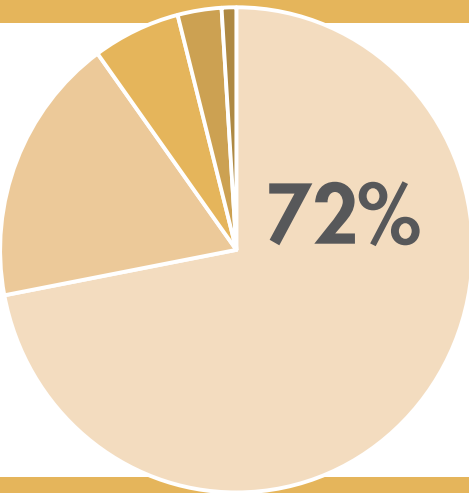
There are 485 students from India enrolled at an institution of higher education in Stockholm. 25 are exchange students and 460 are free-moving students.

They make up 22% of all Indian students who chose Sweden as their study destination.



The number of Indian students has increased by 26%, or 100 students, from the previous year, and by 75% in three years.

72% of Indian students in Stockholm attend KTH, 18% attend Stockholm University, 6% Karolinska Institutet, 3% the Stockholm School of Economics, and 1% Södertörn University.



EXCHANGE STUDENTS

The mobility balance for exchange students between institutions of higher education in India and in Stockholm is of 25 incoming students and 20 outgoing students. It is a small number of students but the overall balance is good.



A Majority at KTH and SU

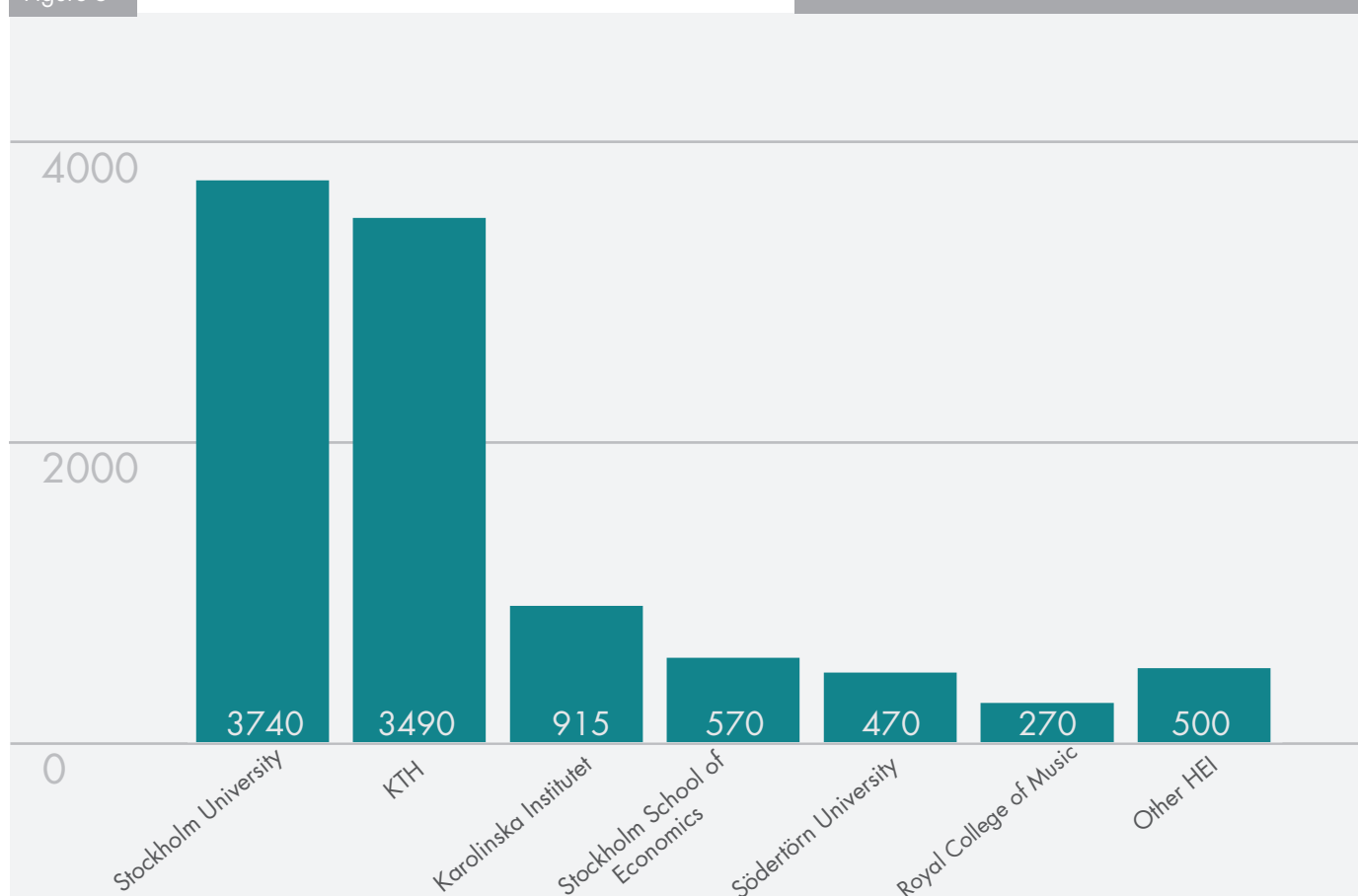
The majority of incoming students attend Stockholm University and KTH. There were 3740 incoming students enrolled at Stockholm University and 3490 at KTH. The university with the third largest number of incoming students was Karolinska Institutet, with 915 students.

If we look at the proportion of incoming students instead, the Stockholm School of Economics has the highest proportion, with 30% of incoming students. It is followed by three art institutions: the Royal Institute of Art, with 29% of incoming students; the Royal College of Music, with 28%; and Stockholm University of the Arts, with 22%. The overall proportion of incoming students at institutions of higher education in Stockholm is of about 11%. That proportion looks quite different at the universities with the highest volume of international students: 8% at Stockholm University and 22% at KTH. There are several things to

keep in mind when comparing numbers and proportions. First, it is interesting to see that several of the smaller institutions reach a fairly high proportion of international students in spite of a fairly low total number. In these cases, however, an individual course with several international students can have a disproportionate influence. It can be a summer course, an online course, or a short course that, in practice, is not particularly noticeable in the daily life of the institution but translates into a strong impression in the statistics. When comparing the proportion of international students between KTH and Stockholm University, we should bear in mind that Stockholm University hosts more professional students studying part-time, which tends to increase the number of individuals and affect the percentages in a comparison.

Number of international students at an institution of higher education in Stockholm.

Figure 5



Outgoing Students

1840 students from one of the institutions of higher education in Stockholm went on an exchange program during the academic year 2018-2019, a 3% decrease compared to the previous year.

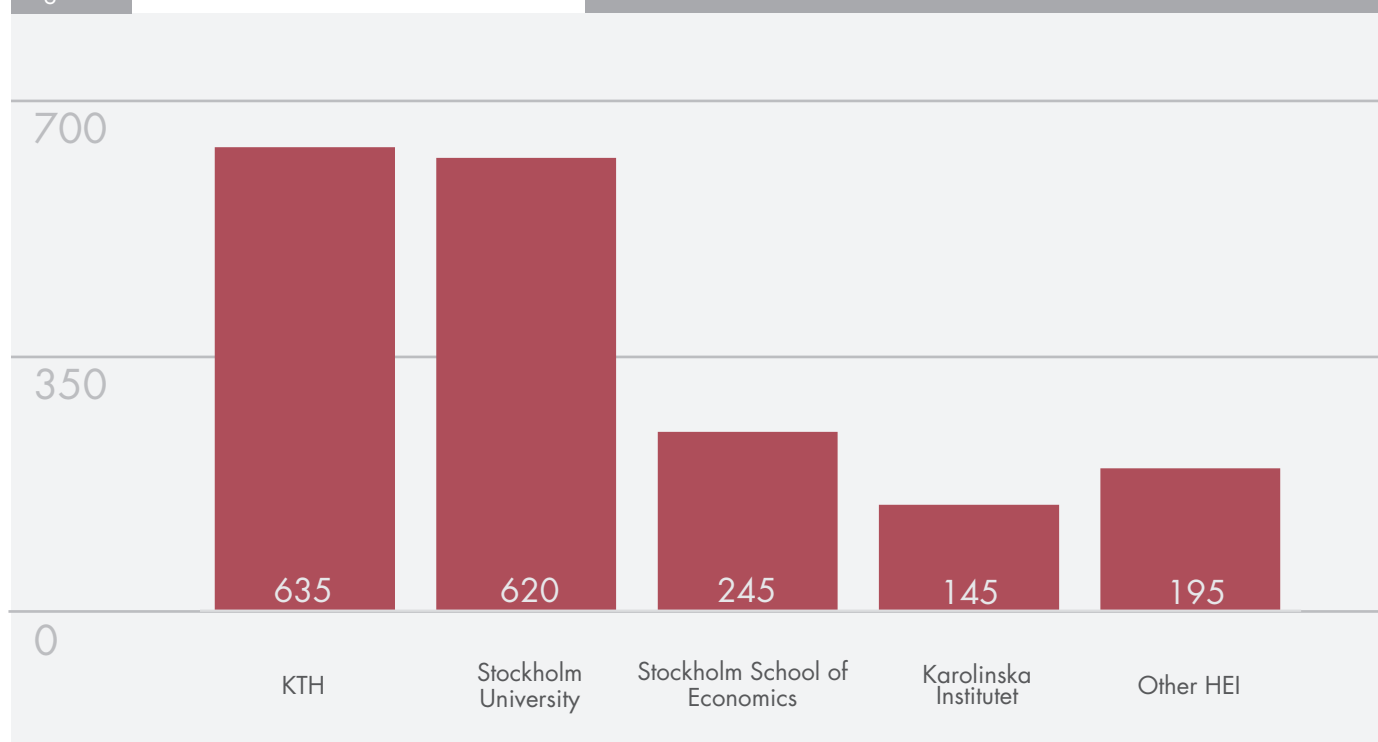
At both Stockholm University and Karolinska Institutet, the number of outgoing students has dropped more than 3% while, on the contrary, KTH has seen its number of departures increase. KTH also has a higher proportion of students who participate in an exchange program abroad: 5% in the academic year 2018-2019. The highest proportion of outgoing exchange students, however, was to be found at the Stockholm School of Economics, just like the previous academic year, with as much as 18% of exchange students. The average in Sweden, including Stockholm, is of about 2% of students who go on exchange programs abroad.

In total numbers, KTH sends the most students, 635, on exchange programs, followed by Stockholm University with 620, the Stockholm School of Economics with 245, and Karolinska Institutet with 145 outgoing exchange students.

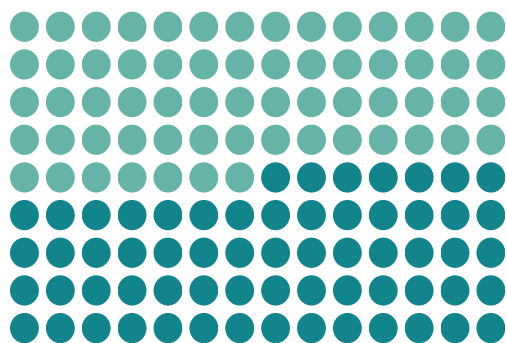
1,840
-3%
OUTGOING
EXCHANGE
STUDENTS

Figure 6

Number of outgoing exchange students from an institution of higher education in Stockholm for the academic year 2018-19.



Germany in Focus



795
Students

400 Exchange
395 Free-moving

There are **795** students from Germany enrolled at an institution of higher education in Stockholm. **400** are exchange students and **395** are free-moving students.

They make up **22%** of all German students who chose Sweden as their study destination.

22%

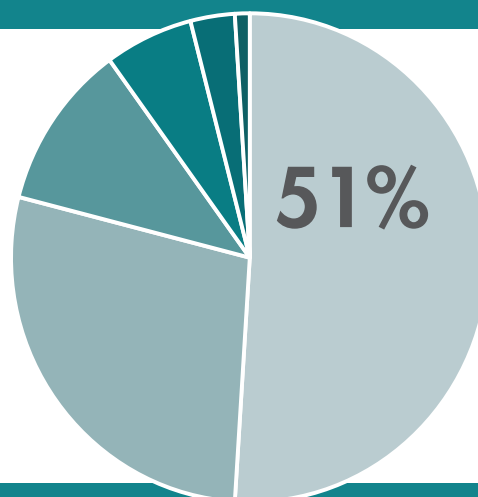
3%



5%

The number of German students has increased by **3%**, or 20 students, from the previous year, and by **5%** in three years.

51% of German students in Stockholm attend Stockholm University, 28% KTH, 6% Karolinska Institutet, and 3% Södertörn University. The remaining students are scattered among the other institutions in Stockholm.



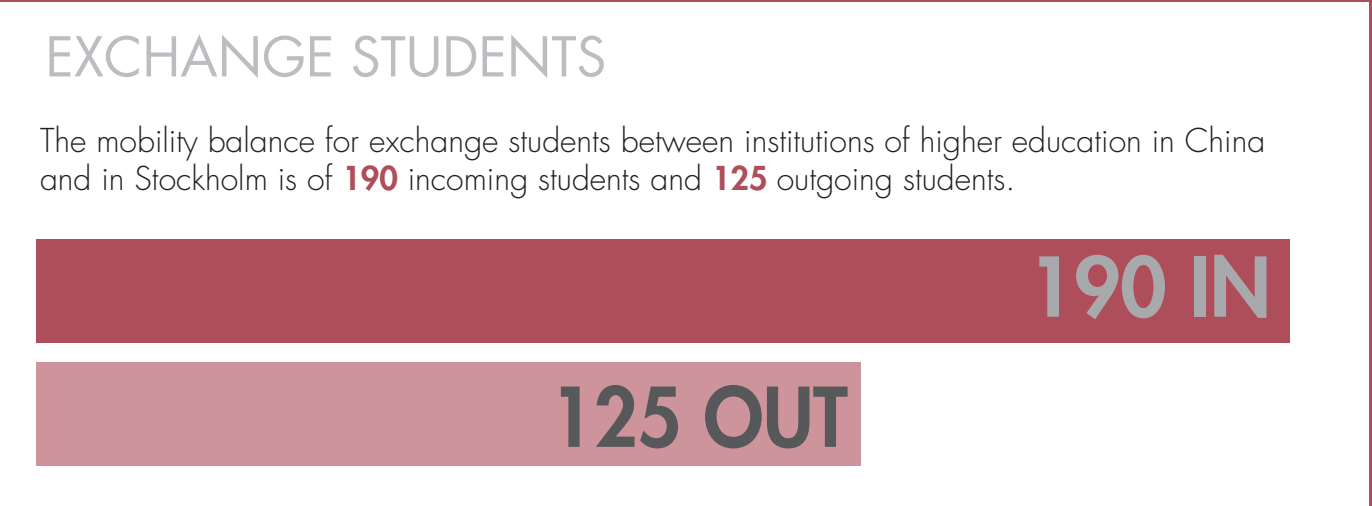
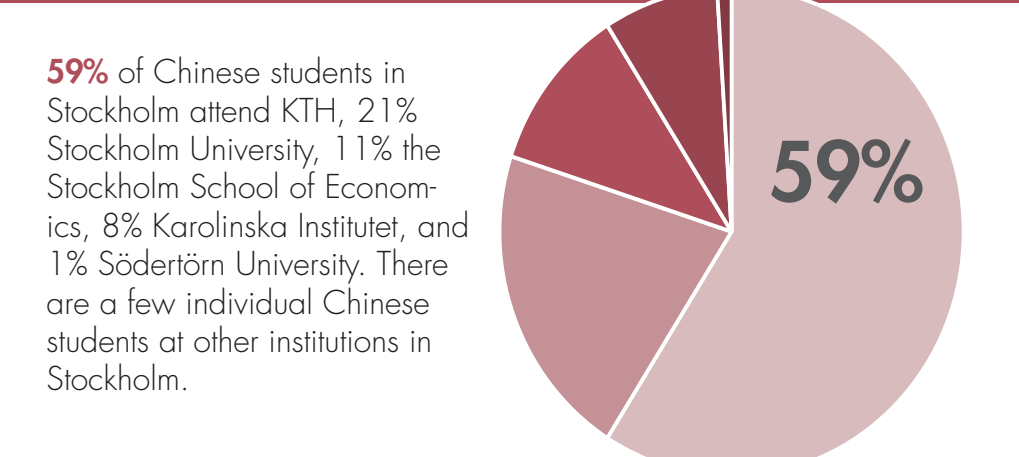
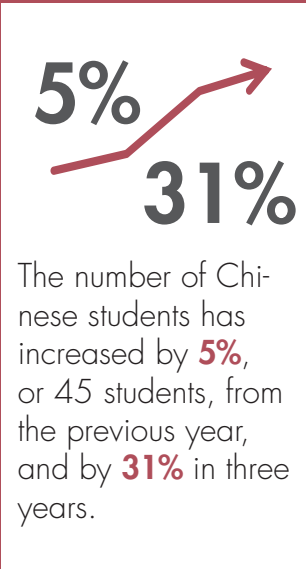
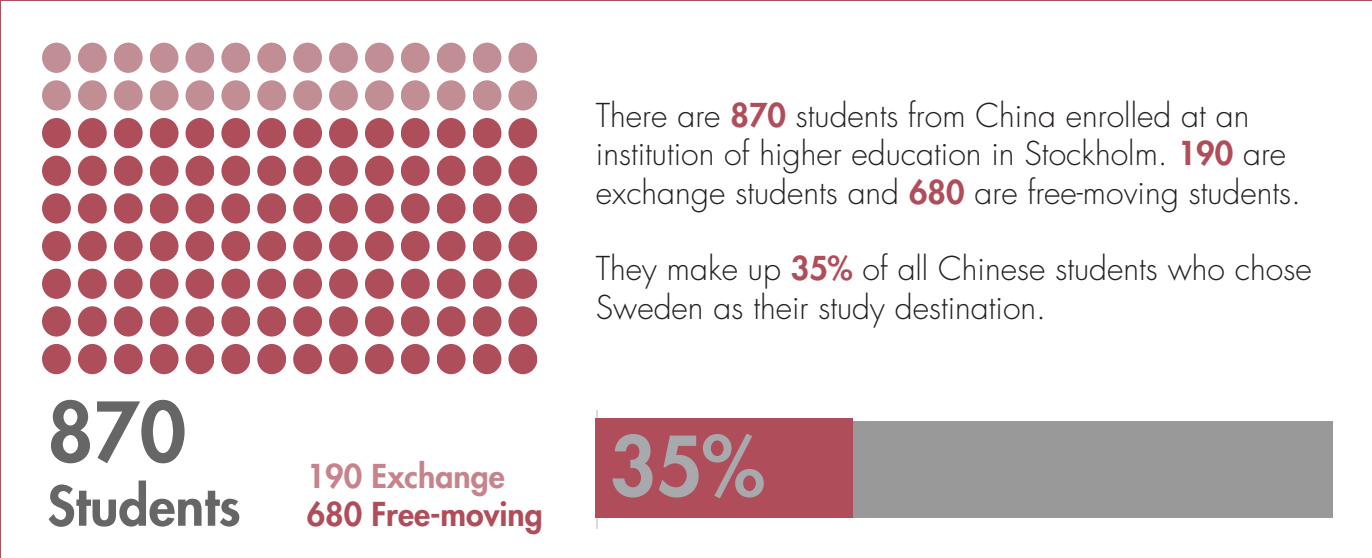
EXCHANGE STUDENTS

The mobility balance for exchange students between institutions of higher education in Germany and in Stockholm is of **400** incoming students and **60** outgoing students.

600 IN

60 OUT

China in Focus



Exchange Students to the USA and Australia

The three most popular study destinations for exchange students during the academic year 2018-2019 were three English-speaking countries. In first position, 170 outgoing exchange students traveled to the US. Then, 140 traveled to Australia and 135 to Singapore. The UK, which had long held the first position with the US, has lost in attractiveness as a study destination for the second year in a row, with 50 fewer students, or a reduction of 27% over the past two years. Moreover, the number of students who go on an exchange in France has decreased from the previous year. China has now passed both the UK and France as a study destination for outgoing exchange students.

Figure 7

The ten most popular destination for outgoing exchange students from an institution of higher education in Stockholm.



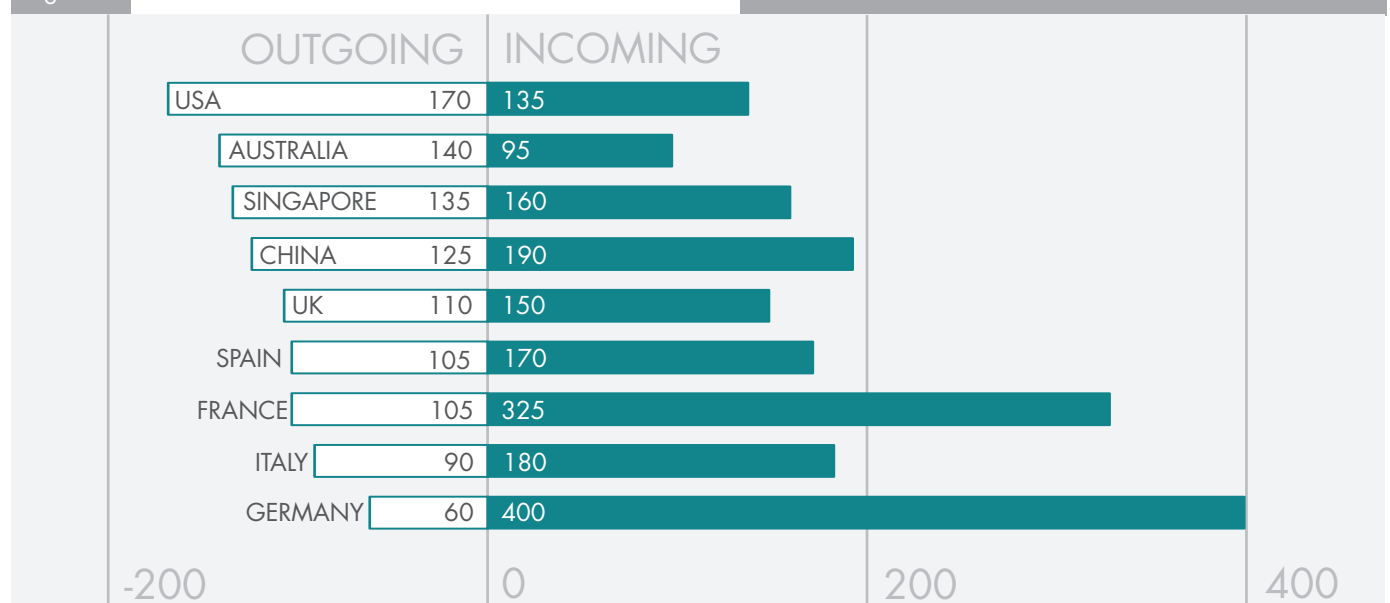
USA	Australia	Singapore	China	UK	France	Spain	Japan	Italy	Netherlands
170	140	135	125	105	105	105	100	90	75

Exchange Balance

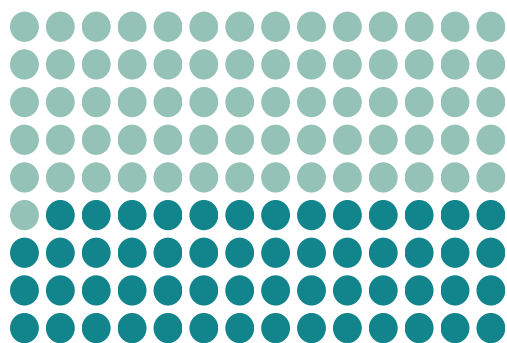
Exchange students are part of an exchange program established between two universities, based on the idea, to simplify, that the universities exchange students for a certain period. It is important to maintain a reasonable balance between the number of incoming and outgoing students. Overall, universities and university colleges in Sweden have more incoming than outgoing exchange students. The Stockholm School of Economics is in fact the only university in the whole country with more outgoing than incoming exchange students. The total difference between incoming and outgoing exchange students at institutions of higher education in Stockholm is of 1275, which means 1275 more incoming exchange students than outgoing. The difference is greatest at Stockholm University with 685 more incoming exchange students.

The imbalance between incoming and outgoing exchange students is particularly large for some countries. France and Germany send many exchange students to Stockholm but a much smaller number of students from Stockholm make the opposite trip. France has an excess of 224 incoming exchange students while this excess is of 336 students for Germany. Such large excesses may be explained by the range of courses taught in English. Institutions of higher education in Stockholm offer a large selection of courses in English, which are much more limited at French and German universities. The opposite holds true for the USA and Australia: more exchange students travel from Stockholm to these countries than US and Australian students make the trip to Stockholm.

Figure 8



The United Kingdom in Focus



265
Students

150 Exchange
115 Free-moving

There are **265** students from the UK enrolled at an institution of higher education in Stockholm. **150** are exchange students and **115** are free-moving students.

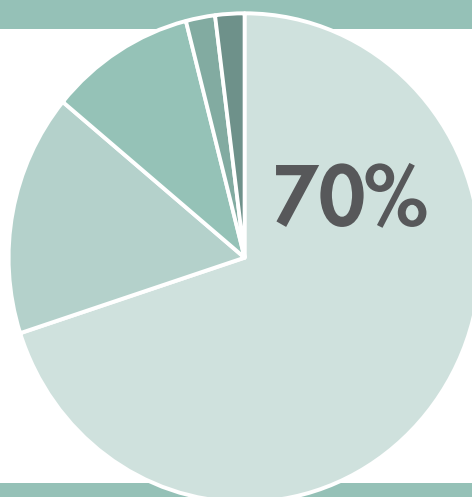
They make up **31%** of all UK students who chose Sweden as their study destination.

31%

22%
29%

The number of UK students has increased by **22%**, or 50 students, from the previous year, and by **29%** in three years.

70% of UK students in Stockholm attend Stockholm University, 16% KTH, 10% Karolinska Institutet, 2% Södertörn University, and 2% the Royal College of Music. There are a few individual UK students at other institutions in Stockholm.



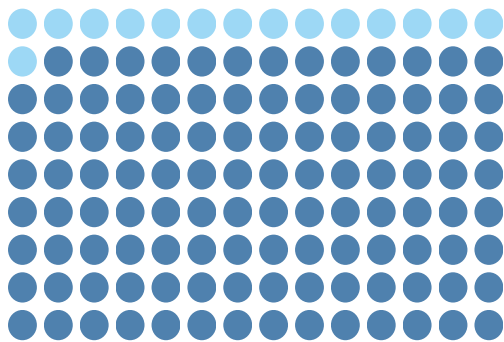
EXCHANGE STUDENTS

The mobility balance for exchange students between institutions of higher education in the UK and in Stockholm is of **150** incoming students and **110** outgoing students.

150 IN

110 OUT

Finland in Focus



720
Students

85 Exchange
635 Free-moving

There are **720** students from Finland enrolled at an institution of higher education in Stockholm. **85** are exchange students and **635** are free-moving students.

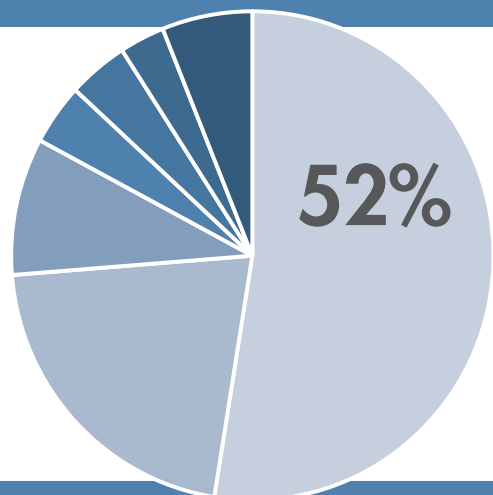
They make up **28%** of all Finnish students who chose Sweden as their study destination.

28%

-10%
-4%

The number of Finnish students has decreased by **10%**, or 75 students, from the previous year, and by **4%** in three years.

52% of Finnish students in Stockholm attend Stockholm University, 21% Karolinska Institutet, 9% KTH, 4% the Stockholm School of Economics, 4% Södertörn University, and 3% Stockholm University of the Arts. The remaining 6% are scattered among the other institutions.



EXCHANGE STUDENTS

The mobility balance for exchange students between institutions of higher education in Finland and in Stockholm is of **85** incoming students and **10** outgoing students.

85 IN

10 OUT

Fewer Outgoing Freemovers

There were 4705 outgoing freemovers from Stockholm county, i.e. individuals that arranged their college studies abroad on their own. That number was basically unchanged compared to the previous year, only decreasing by -1%. These numbers are based on the number of individuals registered in Stockholm County who took out student loans from the Swedish Board of Student Finance for international studies during the academic year. The United Kingdom and the United States are by far the most popular destinations for free-moving students. Somewhat surprisingly, unlike what we saw with exchange students, the popularity of the UK did not diminish among freemovers. It could have been an expected development in view on all the uncertainty that has been surrounding Brexit.

Medical school is by far the most popular education Swedish students choose to undertake abroad. During the academic year 2018-2019, 685 people from Stockholm County studied at a medical school abroad. Both Poland and Latvia are popular destinations for medical students. We have seen a shift over the past five years. Five years ago, many Swedes traveled to Hungary and Romania for medical studies instead. These destinations have successively lost their appeal among Swedish students in favor of Latvia and Lithuania.

At what kind of university do freemovers study? About 300 of free-moving students from Stockholm are enrolled at one of the world's 25 highest ranked universities (according to Times Higher Education World University Rankings). Except for about twenty students, all of these 300 study at a university in the UK or USA. If you look at the free-moving students from Stockholm who study in the UK, just under a third of them are enrolled at a university that is part of The Russell Group, that is the association of 24 research-intensive and high-ranking British universities, among which University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, Imperial College, and more. The corresponding university association in the United States is the Ivy League, but it consists of only eight institutions (Brown University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Dartmouth College, Harvard University, Princeton University, University of Pennsylvania and Yale University). There are only about thirty free-moving students from Stockholm enrolled at an Ivy League university.

Final Reflections

A robust international mobility among students is important for Stockholm and Sweden – not least for the networks that it helps build. International students who study in Stockholm and have a positive experience become important ambassadors for Stockholm and Sweden. They can also become valuable future agents for trade and partnerships between Swedish companies and foreign companies. The intercultural understanding that a student develops while studying abroad is a skill that can become a great asset.

The EU and its internal market are a home market for Sweden, representing the destination of over 70% of exports go and the origin of 80% of imports. Stockholm has a large influx of students from the EU, where about half are exchange students and half are freemovers. The outflow of students from Stockholm to the EU looks a little different. Freemovers travel to the EU at about the same level as incoming EU freemovers. The rate of outgoing exchange students from Stockholm is, however, considerably lower, in spite of the many opportunities for exchange within Europe. Given that Germany is, and has been for a long time, Sweden's largest trading partner, it is a pity that not more students from Stockholm take the chance to go on an exchange there. Of the freemover students to and from Sweden, the flows also look quite different, as many of the Swedish students travel to either the UK, or to Eastern Europe for medical studies, while the flow to Stockholm from the EU is mainly from Germany, France, Spain, Italy, and Greece.

After Norway, the United States and China are Sweden's largest trading partners outside of the EU's internal market. Almost 8% of Sweden's exports go to the US and 4.7% to China. China is Sweden's fifth largest trading partner for imports, with 5% of Sweden's importation coming from China. The fact that Chinese students are the largest group of incoming students can therefore promote Swedish trade relations and Swedish companies operating in China.

The flow of international students is also important on a higher level. For Agenda 2030 and the global goals to be attainable, it is important to train future actors of change. Sweden aims to be a leader in the work with Agenda 2030. Sweden's innovation leadership, not least in cleantech, sustaintech, and global health, also reflects on the interests of international students enrolled at a university in Stockholm in these fields. If Sweden has a leadership in higher education in these areas, we have great opportunities to educate future actors of change that can contribute to the global implementation of the objectives. This goes hand in hand with Sweden's export and investment strategy which emphasizes, among other things, the importance of strengthening brand work with increased focus on innovation and sustainability. This also benefits institutions of higher education in Stockholm.

Sources: *International Student Mobility*, statistical database, Swedish Higher Education Authority (Universitetskanslersämbetet, UKÄ). The Report *Internationell studentmobilitet i högskolan 2018/19* (Statistiska meddelande UF 20 SM 1903) Swedish Higher Education Authority (Universitetskanslersämbetet, UKÄ) and Statistics Sweden (SCB). Statistics from the Swedish Board of Student Finance (Centrala Studiestödsnämnden, CSN). Reports from Staf Analytics from previous years, *Study Destination: Stockholm. Report on Student Mobility*.

Figure 9

International student mobility in Stockholm 2018-2019.

