

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 194
ANSWERED ON 17.12.2025**

Students Going Abroad for Higher Education

194 Shri Sant Balbir Singh:

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a significant number of young people from India seek higher education abroad and whether Government has conducted any study to understand the causes and trends of this migration, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) in light of the increasing number of students going abroad for education, whether Government is exploring any initiatives to encourage students to pursue higher education within the country instead; and
- (c) whether there are any policies or programs in place that aim to retain talented students and offer them high-quality education and employment opportunities within India, thereby preventing the outflow of talent and resources?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) IN RESPECT OF
RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 194 FOR REPLY ON 17.12.2025
REGARDING “STUDENTS GOING ABROAD FOR HIGHER EDUCATION” ASKED BY
SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH**

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Education does not maintain data related to Indian students going abroad for higher studies. As per information provided by the Bureau of Immigration (BoI), the number of Indians who disclosed their purpose of visit as STUDY/EDUCATION while going abroad in the last three years are as under:

Year	2022	2023	2024
Number of Students	750365	894783	760073

Higher studies abroad are a matter of individual will and choice for various reasons, including seeking better job prospects and international exposure. Government of India has taken comprehensive action to ensure availability of high-quality education at every level in India. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aims to transform and improve the quality of education in the country, with a number of steps like moving towards multidisciplinary and holistic education, infrastructure upgradation of the institutions, accreditation of institutions and courses, institutional autonomy, promotion of quality research and innovation, skill development, continuous professional development of teachers, integration of technology and augmenting digital initiatives, internationalisation of higher education, blended assessment and promotion of Indian languages and Indian Knowledge Systems.

We now have 57 Central Universities (CUs), 23 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), 21 Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and 26 Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), as against 40 CUs, 16 IITs, 13 IIMs and 9 IIITs in 2014. 54 Indian Institutions have been ranked in the QS World University Rankings 2026, making it the fourth most represented country. India ranked 38th globally in the 2025 Global Innovation Index (GII), an improvement from its 48th position in 2020. This ranking places India as the top performer in the Central and Southern Asia region and as one of the longest-standing over performers relative to its level of development.

Further, University Grants Commission (UGC) has taken several initiatives to enhance the quality of education, including financial support to HEIs. Some of the important initiatives are **Regulations for setting up and operation of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India (FHEIs).**

Six Universities from United Kingdom, five from Australia and one each from United States of America and Italy have received Letters of Intent for establishment of branch campuses under the University Grants Commission (UGC) (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher

Educational Institutions in India) Regulations 2023. Among these, University of Southampton, UK commenced its courses in August 2025 at its campus in Gurugram, Haryana.

Further, three universities from United Kingdom and two from Australia have been granted permission to operate campuses at GIFT city Gandhinagar under the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) (Setting up and Operation of International Branch Campuses and Offshore Education Centres) Regulations, 2022. Among these 5 universities, Deakin University, Australia commenced its courses in July, 2024, and University of Wollongong, Australia commenced its courses in November 2024.
