

MARITIME PROVINCES
HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION



COMMISSION DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT
SUPÉRIEUR
DES PROVINCES MARITIMES

International Students in Maritime Universities



Halifax, Nova Scotia
February 10, 2023



MPHEC Governance

- Arm's-length
- Accountable to CAMET
- 20 Board members
- Committees and working groups



MPHEC Mission

To assist institutions and governments in
enhancing the post-secondary learning
environment



Core Functions



Quality Assurance



Data and Research



Cooperative Action



Services to Provinces

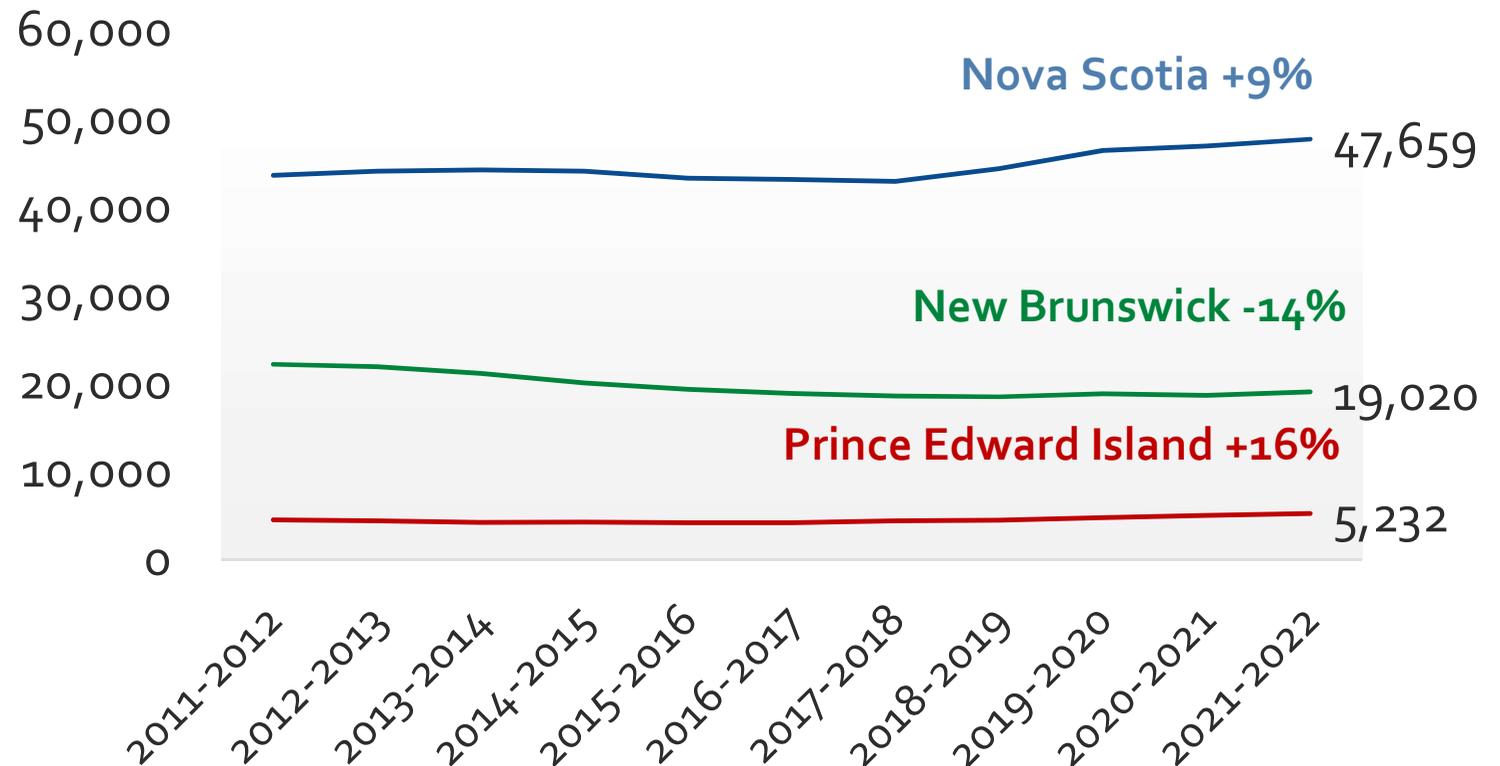
University Enrolment: 10 Year Trend

2021-2022 total enrolment
in Maritime universities:

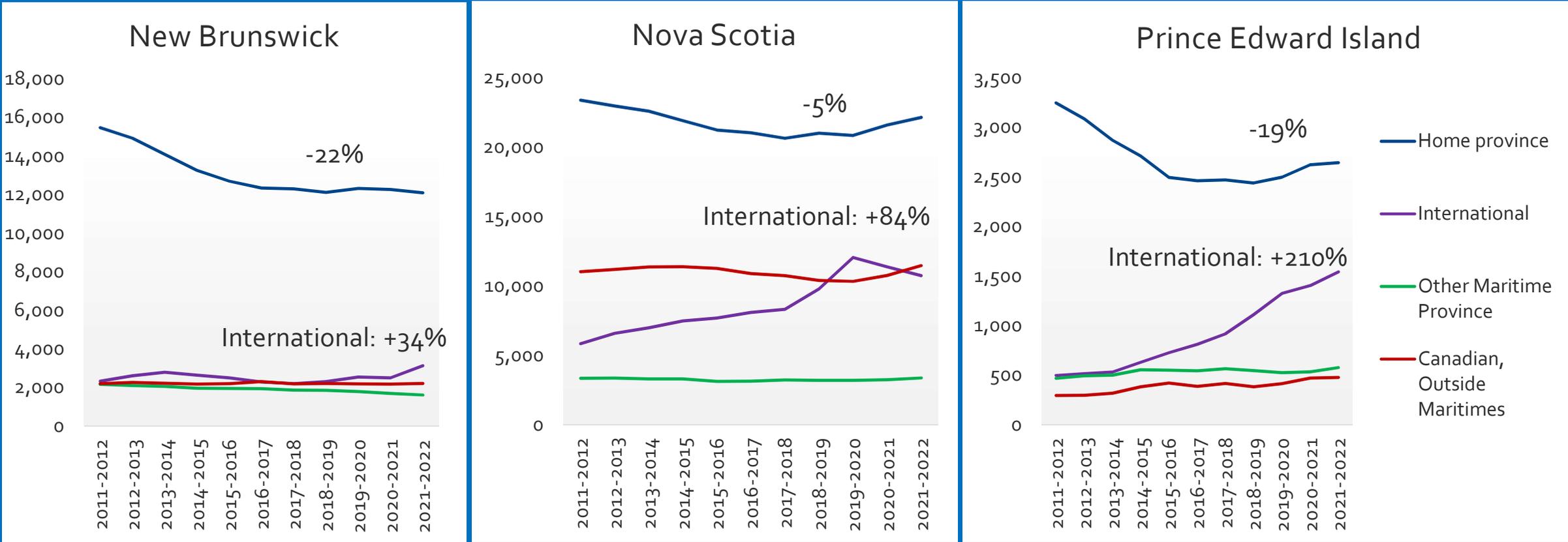
71,911

+2.5% over 10 years

Enrolment by province of university

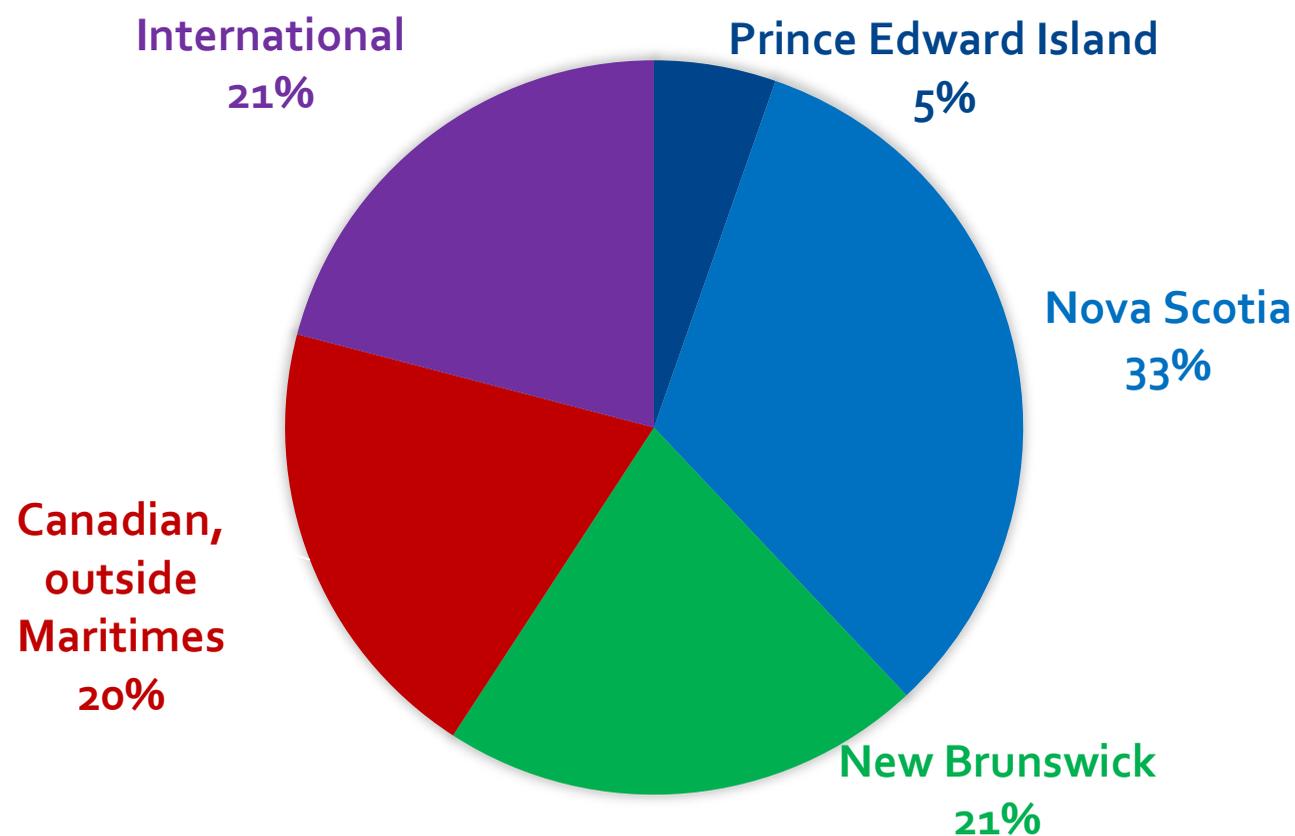


How do enrolment trends vary by province of study and student origin?

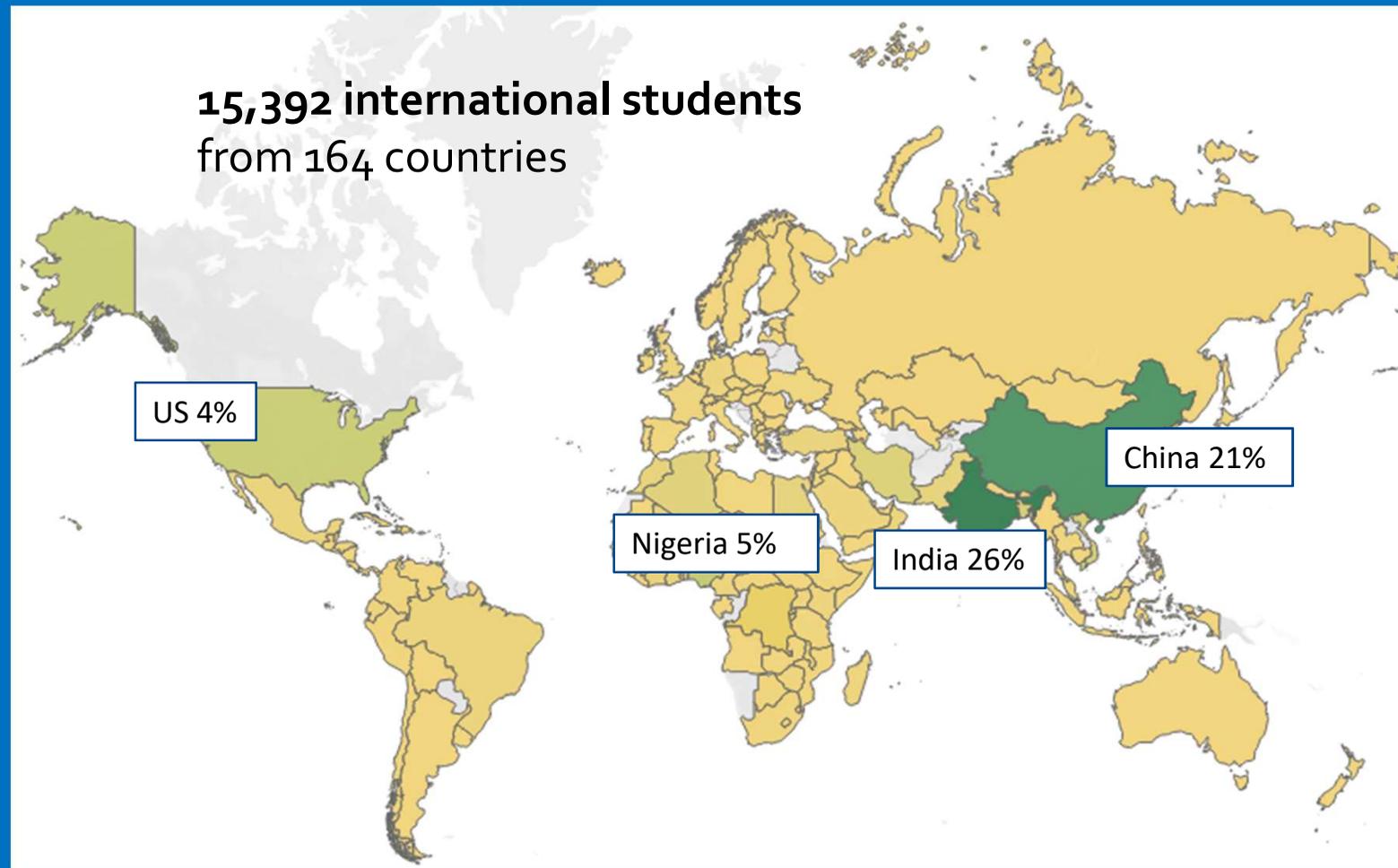


Source: MPHEC PSIS, all Maritime university students by province of study

Enrolment by region of origin, 2021-2022

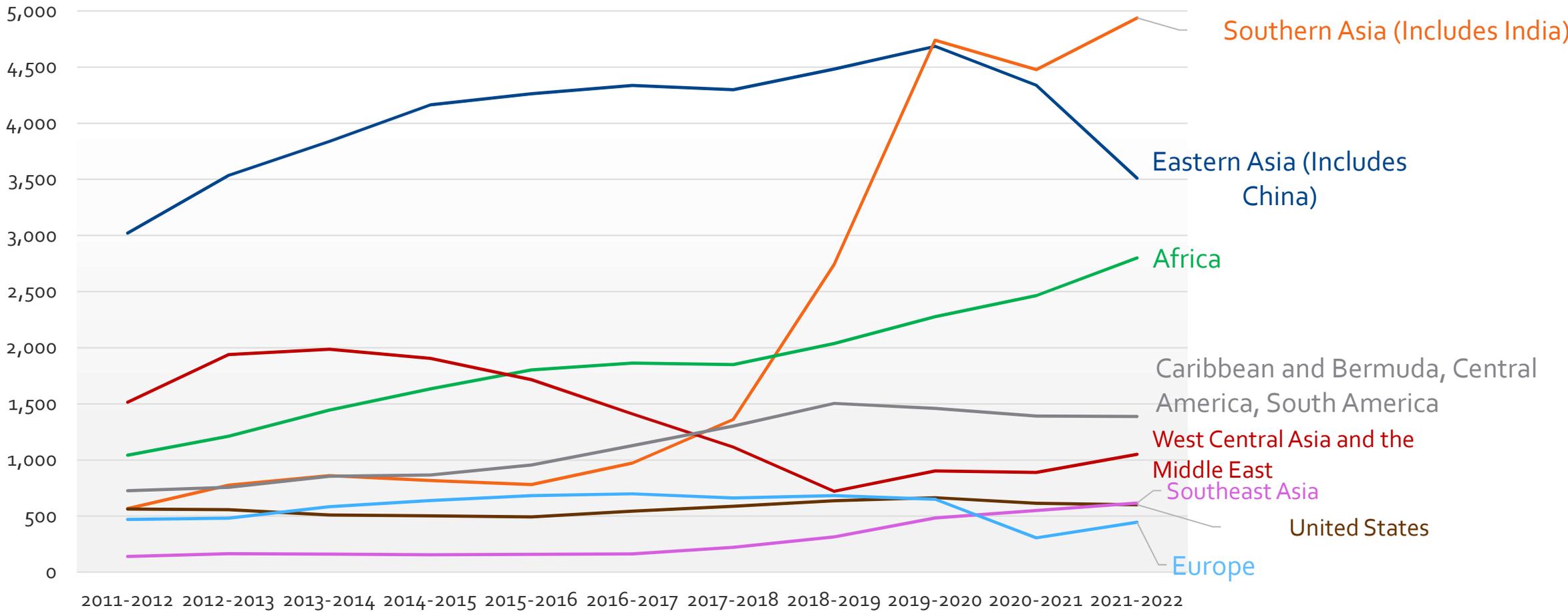


What are the top countries of citizenship?



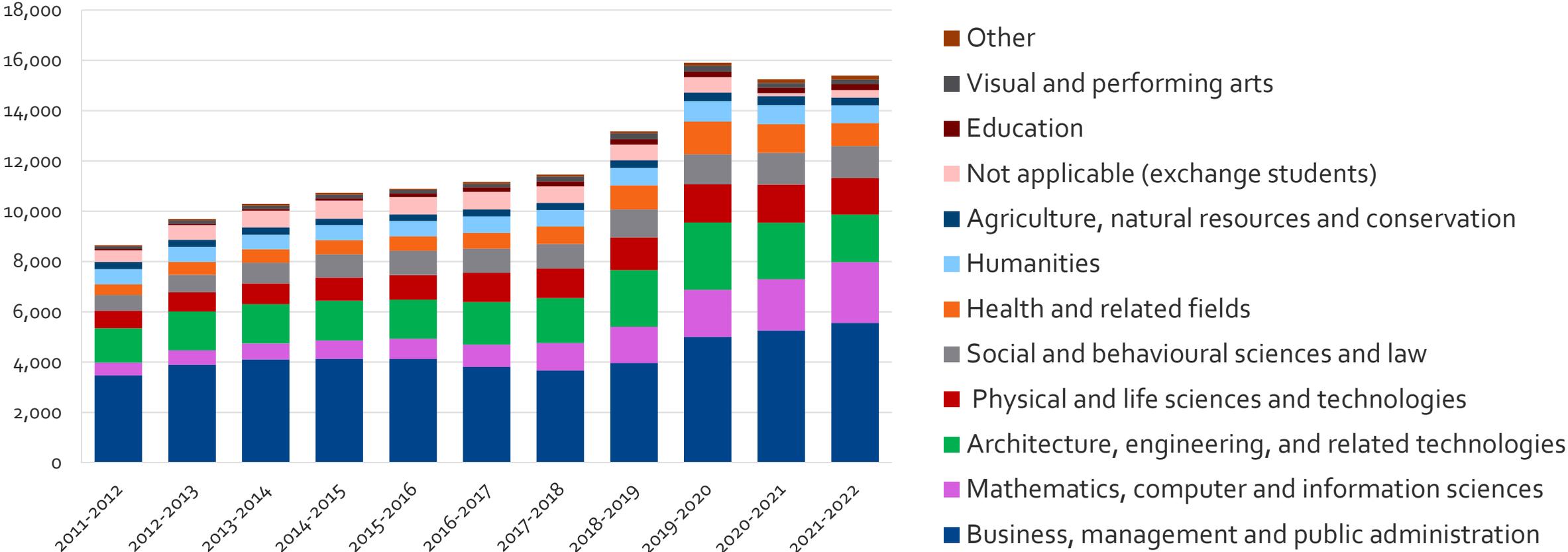
Bangladesh	3%
Bahamas	3%
Viet Nam	3%
Iran	2%
Algeria	2%
Pakistan	1%

Enrolment of international students by sub-region, 2011-2021 to 2021-2022



Source: MPHEC PSIS, Maritime university international students

Enrolment of International Students by Field of Study



Source: MPHEC PSIS, Maritime university international students

International Students in Maritime Universities



For more information:
www.mphec.ca

TRENDS IN MARITIME HIGHER EDUCATION

Volume 19, Number 3 October 2022

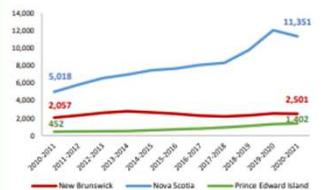
International Students in Maritime Universities 2010-2011 to 2020-2021

International enrolment in Maritime universities more than doubled over ten years.

Between 2010-2011 and 2020-2021, international enrolment increased by 103%, from 7,527 to 15,254. International enrolment increased each year between 2010-2011 and 2019-2020, but decreased by 4% in 2020-2021, likely due to travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Preliminary 2021-2022 numbers show a recovery in international enrolment in the region¹.

Enrolment of international students over the last ten years increased by 22% in New Brunswick (NB), 126% in Nova Scotia (NS) and 210% in Prince Edward Island (PEI) (Figure 1).

Figure 1: International enrolment in Maritime universities by province of study, 2010-2011 to 2020-2021.



International enrolment accounted for 22% of Maritime university enrolment in 2020-2021, compared to 11% ten years earlier. In 2020-2021, international enrolment accounted for 13% of university enrolment in NB, 24% in NS, and 28% in PEI.

International enrolment accounted for a larger share of graduate enrolment.

Both undergraduate and graduate international enrolment increased over ten years (+104% and +95%, respectively). International students made up one in five (21%) of overall undergraduate enrolment and one in four (26%) of overall graduate enrolment in 2020-2021.

In 2020-2021, 57% of international students were men and 43% were women.

In contrast, women represented 63% of Canadian enrolment in Maritime universities. During the last decade, the number of international female students has grown faster than male students (+108% compared to +92%). In 2020-2021, women represented 50% of all international enrolment in PEI, while they accounted for a smaller share of enrolment in NB and NS (both at 43%).

Business, management and public administration programs attracted the highest number of international students in all three provinces.

In 2020-2021, Business, management and public administration was the top field of study grouping, accounting for one-third (34%) of total international enrolment in the region. Architecture, engineering and related fields and Mathematics, computer and information science were the second and the third most popular field of study groups among international students in NB and NS. Social and behavioral sciences and Health and related fields were other popular fields of study among international students in PEI (Table 1).

Table 1: Distribution of international enrolment in Maritime universities by province of study and field of study, 2020-2021.

Field of study	NB	NS	PEI	Maritimes
Business, management and public administration	28%	37%	29%	34%
Architecture, engineering and related technologies	17%	15%	8%	15%
Mathematics, computer and information science	12%	14%	14%	13%
Physical and life sciences	9%	10%	13%	10%
Social and behavioral sciences	11%	7%	15%	8%
Health and related fields	4%	7%	14%	7%
Humanities	10%	4%	3%	5%
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	3%	2%	2%	2%
Other	5%	1%	0%	2%
Education	1%	1%	4%	1%
Visual and performing art	1%	2%	0%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

TRENDS IN MARITIME HIGHER EDUCATION

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UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT 2021-2022

In 2021-2022, 71,911 students were enrolled in Maritime universities, an increase of 1.9% over the previous year and 8.7% over five years. The increase was present both at the undergraduate (+0.7%) and graduate (+8.4%) levels. In 2020-2021, a widespread temporary shift towards part-time enrolment was observed as many universities switched to online delivery or delayed admissions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The shift reversed in 2021-2022 as full-time enrolment increased by 3.7% across the region, and part-time enrolment decreased by 6.6%. Enrolment increased in all fields of study, except *Humanities* (-0.6%) and *Architecture, engineering, and related technologies* (-8.1%).

New Brunswick saw an enrolment increase of 2.2% to 19,020 students (+0.9% over five years). Enrolment of NB residents and students from the other Maritime provinces decreased (-1.5% and -5.0% over one year, respectively). These decreases were more than offset by the growth in enrolment of Canadian students from outside the Maritimes (+1.7%) and international students (+25.3%).

Nova Scotia experienced an enrolment increase of 1.6% to 47,659 students (+10.6% over five years). Enrolment increased for NS residents (+2.6%), students from the other Maritime provinces (+3.9%), and Canadian students from outside the Maritimes (+6.6%), but decreased for international students (-5.5%).

Prince Edward Island continued to experience strong enrolment growth, increasing 4.1% to 5,232 students (+24.7% over five years). Enrolment increases were observed across all student categories: home province residents (+0.8%), students from other Maritime provinces (+7.9%), Canadian students from outside the Maritimes (+1.3%), and international students (+9.8%).

In 2021-2022, Maritime universities saw a continued influx of Canadian students from outside the region: compared to the previous year, enrolment of students from Ontario increased by 5.4%, and enrolment of other Canadians by 5.8%. International enrolment has not fully rebounded from the drop observed in 2020-2021, and remained largely flat (+0.9%), likely due to continued travel disruptions related to COVID-19. Regionally, enrolment of NB and PEI residents slightly decreased (-0.2% and -0.1%, respectively). Enrolment of NS residents increased (+2.3%), partially driven by a one-time bump in the number of high school graduates in 2021. In 2008, Nova Scotia changed its Grade Primary cut-off age, resulting in about 2,100 additional students becoming eligible to start school a year earlier.

Change Over:	New Brunswick		
	1 year	5 years	10 years
Total Enrolment	▲ 2.2%	▲ 0.9%	▼ -14.1%
NB Residents	▼ -1.5%	▼ -2.1%	▼ -21.8%
Other Maritimes	▼ -5.0%	▼ -17.2%	▼ -25.5%
Other Canadians	▲ 1.7%	▲ -4.0%	▲ 0.4%
International	▲ 25.3%	▲ 37.3%	▲ 34.5%
Home Province	▼ -0.2 pp	▼ -0.3 pp	▼ -1.9 pp
Participation Rate	▼ -0.2 pp	▼ -0.3 pp	▼ -1.9 pp

Change Over:	Nova Scotia		
	1 year	5 years	10 years
Total Enrolment	▲ 1.6%	▲ 10.6%	▲ 9.4%
NS Residents	▲ 2.6%	▲ 5.3%	▼ -5.3%
Other Maritimes	▲ 3.9%	▲ 7.4%	▲ 0.9%
Other Canadians	▲ 6.6%	▲ 5.3%	▲ 3.9%
International	▼ -5.5%	▲ 32.8%	▲ 84.1%
Home Province	▲ 1.0 pp	▲ 0.6 pp	▲ 0.3 pp
Participation Rate	▲ 1.0 pp	▲ 0.6 pp	▲ 0.3 pp

Change Over:	Prince Edward Island		
	1 year	5 years	10 years
Total Enrolment	▲ 4.1%	▲ 24.7%	▲ 16.3%
PEI Residents	▲ 0.8%	▲ 7.4%	▼ -18.6%
Other Maritimes	▲ 7.9%	▲ 6.1%	▲ 23.1%
Other Canadians	▲ 1.3%	▲ 23.3%	▲ 61.9%
International	▲ 9.8%	▲ 90.1%	▲ 210.5%
Home Province	▲ 0.3 pp	▼ -2.4 pp	▼ -5.3 pp
Participation Rate	▲ 0.3 pp	▼ -2.4 pp	▼ -5.3 pp

Change Over:	Maritimes		
	1 year	5 years	10 years
Total Enrolment	▲ 1.9%	▲ 8.7%	▲ 2.5%
NB Residents	▼ -0.2%	▼ 0.0%	▼ -17.5%
NS Residents	▲ 2.3%	▲ 3.9%	▼ -6.3%
PEI Residents	▼ -0.1%	▲ 2.6%	▼ -19.1%
Other Canadians	▲ 5.6%	▲ 4.2%	▲ 4.6%
International	▲ 0.9%	▲ 37.9%	▲ 78.0%
Maritime	▲ 0.5 pp	▼ -0.3 pp	▼ -1.2 pp
Participation Rate	▲ 0.5 pp	▼ -0.3 pp	▼ -1.2 pp