

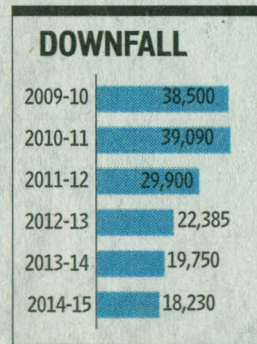
# 50% dip in Indian students applying in UK since 2010

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**LONDON:** The downward spiral in the number of Indian students coming to the UK after the David Cameron government assumed office in 2010 has continued, with the US for the first time overtaking India as the second-largest source country after China.

The latest figures of the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) reveal that in the list of first year enrolments, the US accounted for more students than India during 2014-15. China continued to send the largest contingent of students to British



(SOURCE: HIGHER EDUCATION STATISTICS AGENCY)

institutions.

Overall, there is now 50-plus% drop of Indian students: from 38,500 in 2009-10, to 18,230 in 2014-15.

Compared to 2013-14, there was a drop of 7% in 2014-15.

For first year enrolments, the figures show China accounted for 58,845 students, the US for 10,205 and India for 10,125. Except for institutions in Scotland, the India drop is visible across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Reasons for dwindling Indian student numbers include closure of the post-study work visa, negative perceptions about Britain among Indian students, a growing higher education sector in India and better offers from countries such as the US, Australia and Canada.

The Cameron government has closed hundreds of bogus institutions that were sponsoring Indian and other non-EU students. Cameron said-Britain continued to have a "world-beating" offer for international students: "We don't need the brightest and best of students to come here and then do menial jobs."

Julia Goodfellow, president of Universities UK said, "While overall international student numbers remained solid, the number of new non-EU domicile entrants fell by 3%. Significantly, there were more first year students from the US than from India."