



Council of Graduate Schools

PRESS RELEASE

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CGS Receives NSF Grant to Study International Collaborations

(September 22, 2008) The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) has received a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to undertake a study of international collaborations in graduate education, including joint- and dual-degrees and student and faculty exchange programs.

A [recent CGS survey](#) found that 38% of U.S. graduate schools have at least one international collaborative program, and 31% plan to initiate a new collaboration in the next two years, suggesting that these programs have become a regular presence in graduate education and will continue to become more widely adopted.

The project is designed to generate a clearer understanding of the policies and practices that foster, or inhibit, successful international collaborations in graduate education. Through the project, CGS will assist institutional leaders, faculty, and students to take better advantage of international collaborative opportunities, especially in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields. One of the project's goals is to answer calls from various stakeholders for guidance and best practices so that they each do not have to "reinvent the wheel" when seeking to build international collaborations.

"The capacity to articulate programs across national borders may be the hallmark of a successful graduate school in the not-too-distant future," said CGS President Debra Stewart. "This project promises to engage graduate deans, research leaders and federal agencies to enhance the development and promotion of these critical partnerships. I am delighted that CGS is in a position to play an important role in this effort," she added.

The two-year grant, for \$200,000, will enable CGS to conduct survey and focus group research, hold workshops and meetings, develop a dedicated website, and produce a white paper and formal publication on the topic. The project is part of CGS' broader efforts to promote improved understanding and dialogue about the globalization of graduate education, which is the theme of this year's CGS Annual Meeting, to be held in Washington in early December.

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The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is an organization of over 500 institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada engaged in graduate education, research and the preparation of candidates for advanced degrees. CGS member institutions award 94% of the doctoral degrees and 80% of the master's degrees in the U.S. The organization's mission is to improve and advance graduate education, which it accomplishes through advocacy in the federal policy arena, research, and the development and dissemination of best practices.*

* *Graduate Enrollment and Degrees: 1996-2006* (Council of Graduate Schools, 2007)

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