Preliminary Findings from the 2015 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey

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CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey

- Conducted annually by Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) since 2004, as a response to the sustaining interest of the graduate education community in international admissions.

- Reports final application counts, numbers of offers of admission, first-time enrollment, and total enrollment of international graduate students for each fall admission cycle.

- The 2015 survey included a new data element: institutions were asked to provide data by degree level (e.g., master’s & certificates and doctoral levels).

- In addition to CGS member institutions, member institutions of CGS regional affiliates were also invited to participate in the 2015 survey.
This year’s Survey

- The data collection instrument was sent to 793 U.S. colleges and universities, including:
  - 501 CGS member institutions, and
  - 292 member institutions of CGS regional affiliates.
    - Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS),
    - Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS),
    - Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools (NAGS), and
    - Western Association of Graduate Schools (WAGS).
- 350 institutions, or 44%, returned the data collection instruments.
  - These institutions represent 78% of the first-time international graduate enrollment comparable figures reported in the 2014 CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment and Degrees.

[Logo: Council of Graduate Schools]
Key Findings

• The rate of growth for international graduate admissions statistics appear to be slower this cycle.

• China and India continue to account for large shares of international graduate applications and enrollment in the United States, but will India catch up to China?

• Engineering fields remain the most popular fields for international graduate students, but mathematics & computer sciences fields are growing fast.

• A large majority of first-time international graduate students are master’s and certificate students.

Data Source: 2015 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey: Final Applications, Admissions, and Enrollment
NOTE: Preliminary findings, not for citation or attribution.
The rate of growth for international graduate applications and first-time enrollment appear to be slower this cycle than the past four admission cycles.

Data Source: 2015 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey: Final Applications, Admissions, and Enrollment

NOTE: Preliminary findings, not for citation or attribution.
China and India continue to account for large shares of international graduate applications and enrollment in the United States.

Data Source: 2015 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey: Final Applications, Admissions, and Enrollment

NOTE: Preliminary findings, not for citation or attribution.
India sent as many master’s & certificate students as China did in Fall 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>China</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Other Countries &amp; Regions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Final Applications</th>
<th>First-time Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America (Canada only)</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Countries &amp; Regions</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: 2015 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey: Final Applications, Admissions, and Enrollment
NOTE: Preliminary findings, not for citation or attribution.
Countries/Regions of Origin are far more diverse for at the doctoral level.

Data Source: 2015 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey: Final Applications, Admissions, and Enrollment
NOTE: Preliminary findings, not for citation or attribution.
India’s international admissions growth has slowed down, but China rebounded.

Data Source: 2015 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey: Final Applications, Admissions, and Enrollment

NOTE: Preliminary findings, not for citation or attribution.
Engineering fields remain the most popular fields for international graduate students.

Data Source: 2015 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey: Final Applications, Admissions, and Enrollment
NOTE: Preliminary findings, not for citation or attribution.
Engineering fields lead first-time international graduate enrollment in both master’s & certificate and doctoral levels.

- **Engineering**: 31% (Doctorates) 28% (Master’s & Certificates)
- **Business**: 22%
- **Mathematics & Computer Sciences**: 22%
- **Social & Behavioral Sciences**: 10%
- **Arts & Humanities**:
- **Health Sciences**:
- **Biological & Agricultural Sciences**: 11%
- **Health Sciences**:
- **Public Administration & Services**:
- **Physical & Earth Sciences**: 14%
- **Other Fields**:

Data Source: 2015 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey: Final Applications, Admissions, and Enrollment

NOTE: Preliminary findings, not for citation or attribution.
International graduate admissions growth for engineering fields declined substantially since last admissions cycle.
A large majority of first-time international graduate students are master’s & certificate students.

Data Source: 2015 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey: Final Applications, Admissions, and Enrollment

NOTE: Preliminary findings, not for citation or attribution.
Is international graduate admissions slowing down?

Data Source: 2015 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey: Final Applications, Admissions, and Enrollment
NOTE: Preliminary findings, not for citation or attribution.
International graduate admissions trends to watch out for:

- Decline of first-time graduate enrollment from Europe (-4%)

- Slow down international graduate admissions growth for engineering fields (1%) and India (12%)

- China (12%) & South Korea (5%) rebounded, and also mathematics & computer sciences fields grew rapidly
Acknowledgements:
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!