2015 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey: Preliminary Applications
Methods & Questionnaire

Background

In 2004, the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) launched an annual empirical examination of international graduate application, admission, and enrollment trends in response to member institutions’ interest in changes in the enrollment of students from abroad seeking master’s and doctoral degrees from U.S. colleges and universities. The core of this examination was a multi-phase survey of CGS member institutions, the CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, which collected an initial snapshot of applications to U.S. graduate schools from prospective international students (Phase I, conducted each Spring), final applications and an initial picture of admissions offers to prospective international students (Phase II, conducted each Summer), and final offers of admission and first-time and total international graduate student enrollment (Phase III, conducted each Fall). For the purpose of this survey, an international student is defined as a person who was not a citizen, national, or permanent resident of the United States and was in this country on a student visa, or on a temporary basis, and does not have the legal right to remain indefinitely.

Beginning in 2015, Phase I and Phase III of the survey were redesigned to collect data by degree objective (master’s & graduate certificate vs. doctorate), all seven regions of origin, eight countries of origin, and all eleven broad fields of study. Phase I and Phase III were also renamed to CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey: Preliminary Applications, and CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey: Final Applications, Admissions, and Enrollment respectively. Phase II of the survey was eliminated. Additionally, the sample pool was expanded to include institutions that were not CGS members but were members of the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS), the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS), the Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools (NAGS), or the Western Association of Graduate Schools (WAGS). These changes were made to make the results more comprehensive, and to make them consistent with the CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment & Degrees.

Survey Description

The 2015 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey: Preliminary Applications population consisted of 793 U.S. colleges and universities, 501 of which were CGS members as of January 2015 and 292 of which were not CGS members but were members of CSGS, MAGS, NAGS, or WAGS. Institutions were asked to report the number of applications for admission to graduate programs from prospective international students for Fall 2014 and for Fall 2015. For most institutions, the Preliminary Applications survey was administered early in their application cycles, before final numbers were known. For this reason, the survey results should be considered preliminary, subject to revision in the 2015 CGS
International Graduate Admissions Survey: Applications, Admissions, and Enrollment when final applications numbers are reported in late 2015.

Data Collection

The 2015 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey: Preliminary Applications was e-mailed to the graduate dean (or equivalent) and data coordinators at each of the 793 institutions on February 4, 2015. A total of 377 institutions responded to the survey, for a response rate of 48%. While this response rate is lower than previous years (e.g., the 2014 Phase I survey generated a 61% response rate), it is important to note that the addition of institutions from the four regional graduate school associations increased the total sample pool by nearly 60%. Overall, institutions responding to the Preliminary Applications survey conferred 81,214, or 70% of the approximately 115,315 graduate degrees awarded to international students in the United States in 2012-13 as derived from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).

Countries and Regions of Origin

The survey collected data on eight countries of origin, including: Brazil, Canada, China, India, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, and Taiwan. These eight countries were selected because they represent the top countries of origin for international graduate students in the United States, or for other geopolitical reasons. The survey also collected data from all seven regions of the world: Asia, Europe, Latin America & Caribbean, Middle East & North Africa, North America (for the purpose of this study, North America includes only Canada), Oceana, and Sub-Saharan Africa. Specific definitions are listed below:

Asia includes: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, East Timor, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, North Korea, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.

China refers to the People’s Republic of China (i.e., mainland China) and excludes Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, etc.

Europe includes: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and Vatican City (Holy See).

Latin America & Caribbean includes: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Falkland Islands, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Sint Maarten, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, Uruguay, and Venezuela.
**Middle East & North Africa** includes: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian Territories, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.


**Sub-Saharan Africa** includes: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Democratic Republic of Congo (Kinshasa, Republic of Congo), Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo (Brazzaville), Rwanda, Saint Helena, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

**Carnegie Classification**

Institutions were coded according to their 2010 Carnegie basic classification. In the analysis of applications by Carnegie classification, the responding institutions classified as RU/VH: Research Universities (very high research activity), RU/H: Research Universities (high research activity), or DRU: Doctoral/Research Universities were grouped as doctoral institutions. The responding institutions classified as Master’s/L: Master’s Colleges and Universities (larger programs), Master’s/M: Master’s Colleges and Universities (medium programs), or Master’s/S: Master’s Colleges and Universities (smaller programs) were grouped as master’s institutions. Responding institutions classified as specialized or baccalaureate institutions were excluded from many analyses due the small number of applications reported by these institutions.

**Taxonomy**

The survey collected data for all 11 broad fields of study, including: arts & humanities, biological & agricultural sciences, business, education, engineering, health sciences, mathematics & computer sciences, physical & earth sciences, public administration & services, social & behavioral sciences, and other fields. These are the same fields of study as used by the *CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment & Degrees*. The detailed taxonomy appears on the pages that follow.
## SURVEY TAXONOMY

### ARTS AND HUMANITIES
- **Arts – History, Theory, and Criticism**
  - Art History, Criticism, and Conservation
  - Ethnomusicology
  - Music History, Literature, and Theory
  - Musicology
  - Theatre Literature, History and Criticism
  - Arts – History, Theory, and Criticism, Other
- **Arts – Performance and Studio**
  - Arts, Entertainment, and Media Management
  - Crafts/Craft Design
  - Dance
  - Design and Applied Arts
  - Drama/Theatre Arts
  - Film/Video and Photographic Arts
  - Fine and Studio Arts
  - Music
  - Arts – Performance and Studio, Other
- **English Language and Literature**
  - American Literature
  - English Language and Literature
  - English Literature
  - Rhetoric and Composition/Writing Studies
  - English Language and Literatures, Other
- **Foreign Languages and Literatures**
  - African Languages and Literatures
  - American Sign Language
  - Asian Languages and Literatures
  - Celtic Languages and Literatures
  - Classics and Classical Languages and Literatures
  - Germanic Languages and Literatures
  - Iranian/Persian Languages and Literatures
  - Modern Greek Language and Literature
  - Romance Languages and Literatures
  - Slavic, Baltic, and Albanian Languages and Literatures
  - Foreign Languages and Literatures, Other
- **History**
  - American History
  - European History
  - History and Philosophy of Science and Technology
  - History, General
  - History, Other
- **Philosophy**
  - Ethics
  - Logic
  - Philosophy
  - Philosophy, Other
- **Arts and Humanities, Other**
  - Linguistic, Comparative, and Related Language Studies and Services
  - Humanities/Humanistic Studies
  - Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Arts
  - Arts and Humanities, Other

### BIOLOGICAL & AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
- **Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Conservation**
  - Agricultural and Domestic Animal Services
  - Agricultural and Food Products Processing
  - Agricultural Business and Management
  - Agricultural Economics
  - Agricultural Mechanization
  - Agricultural Production
  - Agricultural Public Services
  - Agriculture, General
  - Agronomy
  - Animal Sciences
  - Applied Horticulture
  - Fishing and Fisheries Sciences and Management
  - Food Science and Technology
  - Forestry
  - Horticultural Business Services
  - International Agriculture
  - Natural Resources and Conservation
  - Natural Resources Management and Policy
  - Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Facilities Management
  - Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Studies
  - Plant Sciences
  - Soil Sciences
  - Wildlife and Wildlands Science and Management
  - Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Conservation, Other

### Biological and Biomedical Sciences
- **Anatomical Sciences**
- Animal Biology
- Bacteriology
- Biochemistry
- Bioinformatics
- Biology, General
- Biomathematics
- Biometry
- Biophysics
- Biotechnology
- Botany/Plant Biology
- Cell/Cellular Biology
- Computational Biology
- Developmental Biology
- Ecology
- Entomology
- Epidemiology
- Evolution
- Genetics
- Immunology
- Microbiological Sciences
- Molecular Biology
- Molecular Medicine
- Neurosciences
- Parasitology
- Pathology
- Pharmacology
- Physiology
- Population Biology
- Systematics
- Toxicology
- Zoology
- Biological and Biomedical Sciences, Other

### BUSINESS
- **Accounting**
  - Accounting
  - Auditing
  - Taxation
- **Banking and Finance**
  - Banking and Financial Support Services
  - Credit Management
  - Financial Planning and Services
  - International Finance
  - Investments and Securities
  - Public Finance
- **Business Administration and Management**
  - Business Administration and Management
  - Business Operations
  - Business/Commerce, General
  - Construction Management
  - E-Commerce
  - Entrepreneurship
  - Hospitality Administration/Management
  - Human Resources Development
  - Human Resources Management
  - Labor and Industrial Relations
  - Logistics and Supply Chain Management
  - Operations Management
  - Organizational Leadership
  - Organizational Management
  - Project Management
  - Small Business Operations
  - Sport and Fitness Administration/Management
  - Telecommunications Management
  - Business Administration and Management, Other
- **Business, Other**
  - Business Statistics
  - Business/Corporate
EDUCATION

Education Administration
Educational Administration
Educational Leadership
Educational Supervision
Curriculum and Instruction
Curriculum and Instruction
Early Childhood Education
Early Childhood Education and Teaching
Kindergarten/Preschool Education and Teaching
Elementary Education
Elementary Education and Teaching
Elementary-Level Teaching Fields
Educational Assessment, Evaluation and Research
Educational Assessment, Testing, and Measurement
Educational Evaluation and Research
Educational Psychology
Educational Statistics and Research Methods
Learning Sciences
School Psychology
Higher Education
Higher Education Administration
Secondary Education
Secondary Education and Teaching
Secondary-Level Teaching Fields
Special Education
Education/Teaching of Students w/ Specific Disabilities
Education/Teaching of Students w/ Specific Learning Disabilities
Education/Teaching of the Gifted and Talented
Special Education and Teaching
Other Special Education Fields
Student Counseling and Personnel Services
College Student Counseling and Personnel Services
Counselor Education
School Counseling and Guidance Services
Student Counseling and Personnel Services, Other
Education, Other
Adult and Continuing Education
Bilingual, Multilingual, and Multicultural Education
Education, General

EDUCATIONAL/Instructional Media Design
Health and Physical Education
International and Comparative Education
Junior High/Middle School Education
Education and Teaching
Outdoor Education
Social and Philosophical Foundations of Education
Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language
Other Education Fields

ENGINEERING

Chemical Engineering
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Chemical Engineering
Civil Engineering
Architectural Engineering
Civil Engineering
Construction Engineering
Environmental and Environmental Health Engineering
Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Engineering
Structural Engineering
Surveying Engineering
Transportation and Highway Engineering
Water Resources Engineering
Computer, Electrical, and Electronics Engineering
Computer Engineering
Computer Hardware Engineering
Computer Software Engineering
Electrical Engineering
Electronics Engineering
Laser and Optical Engineering
Telecommunications Engineering
Industrial Engineering
Industrial Engineering
Manufacturing Engineering
Operations Research and Engineering
Materials Engineering
Ceramic Sciences & Engineering
Materials Engineering
Metallurgical Engineering
Polymer/Plastics Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Engineering Mechanics
Mechanical Engineering
Engineering, Other
Aeronautical Engineering
Aerospace Engineering
Agricultural Engineering
Biochemical Engineering
Biomedical/Medical Engineering
Electromechanical Engineering
Engineering Chemistry
Engineering Physics
Engineering Science
Forest Engineering
Geological/Geophysical Engineering
Mining and Mineral Engineering
Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering
Nuclear Engineering
Ocean Engineering
Paper Science and Engineering
Petroleum Engineering
Systems Engineering
Engineering, Other

HEALTH SCIENCES

Health and Medical Sciences
Allied Health
Alternative and Complementary Medicine
Audiology
Bioethics/Medical Ethics
Chiropractic (excluding D.C. and D.V.M.)
Clinical/Medical Laboratory Science/Research
Communication Disorders Sciences and Services
Dentistry and Oral Sciences
Dietetics and Clinical Nutrition Services
Environmental Health
Exercise Science
Health and Medical Administrative Services
Health Sciences
Health/Medical Preparatory Pgs.
Kinesiology
Medical Sciences (excluding M.D.)
Mental and Social Health Services
Nursing
Nutrition Sciences
Occupational Therapy
Optometry (excluding O.D.)
Osteopathic Medicine (excluding D.O.)
Pharmaceutical Sciences (excluding Pharm.D.)
Physical Therapy
Physician Assistant
Podiatry (excluding D.P.M., D.P.
Pod.D.)
Public Health
Rehabilitation and Therapy
Speech-Language Pathology
Veterinary Biomedical and Clinical Science
Veterinary Medicine (excluding D.V.M.)
Health and Medical Sciences, Other

MATHEMATICS & COMPUTER SCIENCES

Mathematical Sciences
Actuarial Science
Applied Mathematics
Mathematics
Probability
Statistics
Mathematical Sciences, Other

Computer and Information Sciences
Computer and Information Sciences, General
CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey: Preliminary Applications

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