Results from the Fall 2019 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey

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Thursday, February 20, 2020

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Plan for Today

• **Three speakers** will speak for approximately **40 minutes** total, followed by Q & A

  • **Dr. Enyu Zhou & Dr. Radomir Ray Mitic** both of the Council of Graduate Schools will share highlights from the recently released CGS report, *International Graduate Applications and Enrollment: Fall 2019* for about 25 minutes.

  • **Dr. Kim LaScola Needy** of University of Arkansas will speak for about 10-15 minutes highlighting campus efforts/strategies to increase international graduate enrollment and will also offer tips/suggestions for other institutions.
Technical Support

- Webinar **recording and slides** will be **emailed** to participants and **posted** on the CGS website

- Please **submit questions** through the GoToWebinar **control panel**

Audio Troubleshooting

• Having trouble hearing us? Try switching to a different audio connection. You can change from Telephone to Mic & Speakers or vice versa without leaving the session.

• If you experience trouble with a telephone connection, click “Problem dialing in?” for an alternate phone number to dial.
Greetings from Dr. Suzanne T. Ortega
President, Council of Graduate Schools
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#CGSResearch
About CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey

• Conducted annually by the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) since 2004.
• 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 2019 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey was sent to 775 U.S. colleges and universities, which were CGS members or were members of CSGS, MAGS, NAGS, or WAGS.
• A total of 403 institutions, or 52% responded to the 2019 survey.
Acknowledgment

• Special thanks to Janet Gao for data cleaning and Katherine C. Hazelrigg for media relations for the release of this report, as well as Suzanne T. Ortega for the feedback on earlier drafts.
• Also thanks goes to the CGS Committee on Research and Information Services.
• The authors thank NAFSA: Association of International Educators and Charles Ambler for their contribution to the sub-Saharan Africa focus group protocols.
• Thank Lauren Inouye and members of CGS Advisory Committee on Advocacy and Public Policy for feedback on the flash survey.
• Finally, and most importantly, much gratitude and appreciation to all institutions who completed the CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey this and every year.
Full Report

https://cgsnet.org/international-graduate-admissions-survey
Full Report

https://cgsnet.org/international-graduate-admissions-survey
 Highlights

• Overviews
• Broad Fields of Study
• Selected Region/Country of Origin
• Regional Analysis: Sub-Saharan Africa
In 2018-2019, there was a 3% increase in international graduate applications and 4% increase in first-time international graduate enrollment.

One-year Change in International Graduate Applications and First-time Enrollment, Fall 2012 to Fall 2019

Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools, International Graduate Applications Enrollment, Fall 2013-Fall 2019, Table A1 & A3.
Doctoral applications and first-time enrollment have steadily increased over time.

Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools, International Graduate Applications Enrollment, Fall 2019, Figure 1.
Applications and first-time enrollment for master’s & certificate programs largely recovered to the Fall 2017 level.

Total International Graduate Applications and First-Time Enrollment by Degree Type, 2016-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Final Applications</th>
<th>First-time Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>370,199</td>
<td>43,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>345,607</td>
<td>40,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>330,085</td>
<td>39,885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>339,592</td>
<td>40,910</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools, International Graduate Applications Enrollment, Fall 2019, Figure 1.
This overall increase in applications was driven by the 3% increase in master’s applications.

One-year Change in International Graduate Applications and First-time Enrollment by Degree Objective and Institutional Type between Fall 2018 and Fall 2019

Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools, International Graduate Applications Enrollment, Fall 2019, Figure 2. Note: Not all institutions reported the final application numbers. Some percentages may not align due to rounding.
The fields experiencing the biggest increases in international graduate first-time enrollment were Mathematics & Computer Sciences, Social & Behavioral Sciences, and Biological & Agricultural Sciences.

### One-year Change in International Graduate Applications and First-time Enrollment by Field of Study between Fall 2018 and Fall 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field of Study</th>
<th>Final Application</th>
<th>First-time enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biological &amp; Agricultural Sciences</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Sciences</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics &amp; Computer Sciences</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical &amp; Earth Sciences</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social &amp; Behavioral Sciences</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools, International Graduate Applications and Enrollment, Fall 2019, Tables A3 & A4.
The fields experiencing the biggest declines in international graduate applications during this period were business and engineering.

One-year Change in International Graduate Applications and First-time Enrollment by Field of Study between Fall 2018 and Fall 2019

-3% Business
-2% Engineering

Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools, International Graduate Applications and Enrollment, Fall 2019, Tables A3 & A4.
Despite the decline in applications, engineering still had the second largest share of international graduate applications in Fall 2019.

Distribution of Final International Graduate Applications for Doctoral Programs and Master's & Certificate Programs by Field of Study, Fall 2019

- Business: 13% Total, 6% Master's & Certificate, 17% Doctorates
- Engineering: 24% Total, 25% Master's & Certificate, 24% Doctorates
- Mathematics & Computer Sciences: 26% Total, 16% Master's & Certificate, 32% Doctorates
- Social & Behavioral Sciences: 8% Total, 5% Master's & Certificate, 14% Doctorates

Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools, International Graduate Applications and Enrollment, Fall 2019, Table C1
Engineering and math and computer sciences had the largest share of international graduate first-time enrollment in Fall 2019.

**Distribution of First-time International Graduate Enrollment for Doctoral Programs and Master's & Certificate Programs by Field of Study, Fall 2019**

- **Business**: 17% Total, 22% Master's & Certificate, 4% Doctorates
- **Engineering**: 23% Total, 22% Master's & Certificate, 26% Doctorates
- **Mathematics & Computer Sciences**: 16% Total, 23% Master's & Certificate, 26% Doctorates
- **Social & Behavioral Sciences**: 7% Total, 6% Master's & Certificate, 9% Doctorates

*Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools, International Graduate Applications and Enrollment, Fall 2019, Table C3.*
China and India remain the top senders of international graduate applications.

Distribution of Final International Graduate Applications by Selected Region/Country of Origin, Fall 2019

- **China**: 43% (Total), 39% (Master's & Certificate), 46% (Doctorates)
- **India**: 25% (Total), 31% (Master's & Certificate), 13% (Doctorates)
- **Other Asian Countries**: 3% (Total), 4% (Master's & Certificate), 6% (Doctorates)
- **Europe**: 3% (Total), 3% (Master's & Certificate), 5% (Doctorates)
- **Middle East & North Africa**: 3% (Total), 3% (Master's & Certificate), 5% (Doctorates)

**Data Source**: Council of Graduate Schools, International Graduate Applications and Enrollment, Fall 2019, Table B1
A one-third of first-time international enrollment at the doctoral level was Chinese students.

Distribution of First-time International Graduate Enrollment for Doctoral Programs and Master's Certificate Programs by Selected Country/Region of Origin, Fall 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country/Region</th>
<th>Doctorates</th>
<th>Master's &amp; Certificate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Asian Countries</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America &amp; Caribbean</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East &amp; North Africa</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East &amp; North Africa</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools, International Graduate Applications and Enrollment, Fall 2019, Table B3
Between Fall 2018 and Fall 2019, the number of graduate applications and first-time graduate enrollment of Chinese nationals each rose by 3%.

One-year Change in International Graduate Applications and First-time Enrollment by Selected Country & Region of Origin between Fall 2018 and Fall 2019

- China: +3%
- India: +1%
- Middle East & North Africa: -1%
- Iran: -7%
- Saudi Arabia: -5%
- Mexico: +4%
- Sub-Saharan Africa: +11%

Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools, International Graduate Applications and Enrollment, Fall 2019, Tables A1 & A2.
Between Fall 2018 and Fall 2019, first-time enrollment of Iranian dropped, while first-time enrollment of Saudi Arabian students increased.

One-year Change in International Graduate Applications and First-time Enrollment by Selected Country & Region of Origin between Fall 2018 and Fall 2019

- China: 3% Final Application, 3% First-time enrollment
- India: 0% Final Application, 1% First-time enrollment
- Middle East & North Africa: -1% Final Application, 0% First-time enrollment
- Iran: 2% Final Application, -7% First-time enrollment
- Saudi Arabia: -5% Final Application, 1% First-time enrollment
- Mexico: 4% Final Application, 10% First-time enrollment
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 11% Final Application, 22% First-time enrollment

Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools, International Graduate Applications and Enrollment, Fall 2019, Tables A1 & A2.
Mexico and Sub-Saharan Africa show some notable increases in total applications and first-time enrollment between Fall 2018 and Fall 2019.

One-year Change in International Graduate Applications and First-time Enrollment by Selected Country & Region of Origin between Fall 2018 and Fall 2019

- **China**: Final Application: 3% (Fall 2018), First-time enrollment: 3% (Fall 2019)
- **India**: Final Application: 0% (Fall 2018), First-time enrollment: 1% (Fall 2019)
- **Middle East & North Africa**: Final Application: -1% (Fall 2018), First-time enrollment: 0% (Fall 2019)
- **Iran**: Final Application: 2% (Fall 2018), First-time enrollment: -7% (Fall 2019)
- **Saudi Arabia**: Final Application: -5% (Fall 2018), First-time enrollment: 1% (Fall 2019)
- **Mexico**: Final Application: 4% (Fall 2018), First-time enrollment: 10% (Fall 2019)
- **Sub-Saharan Africa**: Final Application: 11% (Fall 2018), First-time enrollment: 22% (Fall 2019)

Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools, International Graduate Applications and Enrollment, Fall 2019, Tables A1 & A2.

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Findings from CGS Visa & OPT Flash Survey

• 123 institutions reported increased visa delays from embassies or consulates
• 84 institutions reported delays or denials at port of entry
• Delays centered on ties to home country and finances (even for funded students)
• Denials due to former employment, social media posts, electronic device search, or no reason given
Regional Analysis: Sub-Saharan Africa
Methods

- 8 focus groups of CGS member institutions
- Graduate college, faculty, admissions and recruitment, international office, and students
- Questions related to push and pull factors
Opportunities

- Nigeria, Ghana, and Kenya are biggest senders but wide heterogeneity across the region
- Personal connections key: faculty, alumni, and embassy personnel
- Interest in fields beyond traditional development

“We have so many touchpoints with embassies that they’re actually doing some of the recruiting for us...the embassies are full of our alums and those who have spoken or taught on campus.” – Faculty member
Findings from the Sub-Saharan Africa Study

Challenges

• New African universities and the admissions process
• Global competition (China, U.K., South Africa)
• Finances and immigration

“You need to know stories about how these universities were founded and what their objectives are...one needs to know the story country to country.” – Faculty member
Findings from the Sub-Saharan Africa Study
Shifting the Conversation to Retaining and Graduating

• “There’s a broader discussion and shock around race by students from Africa when they encounter issues of race that are markedly present in the U.S.” – International Office Director

• “Silence is not the right approach [to incidents of campus and community climate]” – Dean, Graduate School
Kim LaScola Needy, Ph.D., P.E., CFPIM, PEM
Dean, Graduate School and International Education
The University of Arkansas

- Land-grant institution founded in 1871 – celebrating our 150th year in 2021
- Classified by the Carnegie Foundation among only 3 percent of universities in America with the highest level of research activity
- Flagship university with enrollment of 27,559
- Research expenditures: $175 million (FY 2018)
- Founding institution for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program
The Graduate School and International Education at the University of Arkansas

115 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

130 GRADUATE PROGRAMS

18% INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS

60 FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS ENROLLED

1,608 GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS AWARDED

320 DOCTORAL FELLOWS

21% UNDER-REPRESENTED GRADUATE STUDENTS

1,408 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

55 MASTER OF FINE ARTS FELLOWS

4,170 GRADUATE STUDENTS ENROLLED

Graduate School and International Education
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rev. Fall 2019
University of Arkansas International Student Enrollment Data


Total UG GRAD
University of Arkansas International Graduate Student Enrollment by College for 2019

- Business
- Grad School
- Arts & Sci
- Arch & Design
- Engineering
- Educ & Health Prof
- Agr, Food & Life Sci

Percent
Growing Interdisciplinary Programs

- 267+ students enrolled in interdisciplinary programs this academic year
- 500+ program alumni
- 35+ disciplines incorporated

* CEMB 65% international enrollment rate
+ MicroEP 54% international enrollment rate
Recruiting Across the Globe

• 1,408 international students enrolled
• 115 countries represented
• Top countries by graduate enrollment:
  1. China
  2. India
  3. Iran
  4. Bangladesh
  5. Saudi Arabia
Engaging our Alumni

- Bolivia: Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, La Paz
- Southeast Asia: Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam
- Rome
- Domestic: Dallas, D.C. Area, Bay Area, Los Angeles
Strengthening our Partnerships

- Sponsored Student programs (more than 150 sponsored students including 60 Fulbright scholars)
- Panamanian collaboration
- Partners of America (Bolivia)
- International Education Week
- iFriend and Campus Cousin programs
- Spring International Language Center
- Testing Services
Questions?

Webinar recording and slides will be emailed to participants and posted on the CGS website.

Type them into the Questions box on the GoToWebinar control panel.
Questions about CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey and other CGS research projects:

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  - Culturally Aware Mentoring: Optimizing Mentoring Relationships
    - *Wednesday, March 18, 2020 | 2:00 - 3:00pm EDT*