



Council of Graduate Schools

PRESS RELEASE

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International Graduate Admissions Rebound Continues

Surprising number of graduate schools have international collaborative degree programs

The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is reporting that offers of admission to prospective international students by U.S. graduate schools increased 8% from 2006 to 2007. This is the third consecutive year of growth in a gradual recovery in international student flows. However, the rate of increase slowed from last year's 12% gain.

Also, as a sign of the growing globalization of higher education, nearly 30% of graduate schools have established joint or dual degree programs with international universities, and almost 25% plan to establish new collaborative degrees in the near future.

"U.S. graduate education has long been recognized as the best in the world, but other countries are actively recruiting talented domestic and international students," said Debra W. Stewart, CGS President. "This report highlights how U.S. graduate schools are establishing collaborative degree programs with institutions overseas as one response to increasing global competition," she added.

The report on applications and admissions for fall 2007, released today, reveals a final change in overall applications of 9%, slightly higher than the initial 8% growth found in March. The final changes in applications were higher than the initial findings for all countries/regions and fields of study except Humanities & Arts and Social Sciences. However, even after two years of growth in applications, 78% of respondents still had fewer international applicants this year than in 2003.

The changes in admissions of prospective international students vary by size of institution, field of study, and country of origin. For example, the admissions increase at the ten institutions with the largest international graduate enrollments was 2%, while admissions increased 13% overall at the institutions outside the largest 50. Offers of admissions in Humanities & Arts increased 36% at the largest 10 universities, compared to 5% at the smaller institutions. On the other hand, admissions to applicants from China surged 38% at the smaller institutions, compared to 8% at the ten largest.

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Widespread use of international collaborative degree programs

For the first time, this CGS survey asked U.S. graduate schools about their partnerships with international colleges and universities in joint, dual, or other collaborative degree programs. Twenty-nine percent of all respondents, and 56% of those in the largest 10 institutions, reported that they have established one or more such programs.

Most of the programs are at the master's level, but collaborative doctoral programs are offered in a range of fields. More partnerships are with European universities than with those of any other region, although collaborative degree programs have also been established with China, India, and other countries. As expected, Business is the most common field, but the report also found that a significant number of collaborative master's degree programs are in Engineering.

The majority of international collaborative degree arrangements have been established by the U.S. graduate schools with the largest international enrollments, and are dual or joint degree programs, from which graduates receive a degree from each participating institution.

Additionally, 24% of U.S. graduate schools plan to establish new international collaborative degree programs in the next two years, and the number is even higher for the institutions with the largest number of international students: 33% of the 10 largest and 39% of the 50 largest – which enroll 41% of all international graduate students in the U.S. – indicated that they plan to do so.

About the report

Findings from the 2007 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase II: Final Applications and Initial Offers of Admission is based on the second phase of a three-part annual survey of international graduate student admissions among CGS U.S. member institutions (the *Phase III* report, on 2007 enrollment, will be released in late fall). The report analyzed responses from 160 schools, including nine of the 10 institutions with the largest international graduate enrollments. Last year, CGS reported 12% increases in international graduate applications, admissions, and first-time enrollment for fall 2006.

The full report is available on the CGS website at www.cgsnet.org

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The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is an organization of over 480 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 more than 90% of the doctoral degrees and over 75% 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.