



# Council of Graduate Schools

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Slowdown in International Graduate Admissions Continues**

#### **International collaborative graduate programs show promising growth**

The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is reporting that offers of admission from U.S. graduate schools to prospective international students increased 4% from 2007 to 2008. However, the rate of increase has slowed considerably from gains of 8% last year and 12% in 2006.

CGS's membership survey also found that 38% of graduate schools have at least one joint, dual, or other collaborative graduate degree or certificate program, compared to 29% in 2007, reflecting the growing importance of these international partnerships. Additionally, 31% plan to establish a new collaborative program in the next two years, up from 24% last year.

"This latest report highlights the continued slowdown in the growth of international students pursuing graduate studies in the U.S. This emerging trend line has long-term implications not only for U.S. graduate education, but also for our nation's competitiveness in the global economy," said Debra W. Stewart, CGS President. "Happily, U.S. graduate schools are proactive as they continue to establish collaborative degree and certificate programs with institutions overseas as one response to intense global competition," she added.

The report on applications and admissions for fall 2008, released today, reveals a final 6% increase in applications in 2008. About 60% of the institutions that responded to this survey in both 2004 and 2008 still have fewer international graduate applicants this year than they did in 2003. The overall slowdown in application growth is most apparent for students from India and China, which grew 2% and 11% respectively this year after increases in 2007 of 12% and 19%, respectively. In addition, every field saw a slowdown in the final rate of growth of applications, with the most pronounced slowdowns in the life sciences and education.

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 8%, while admissions increased just 1% overall at the institutions outside the largest 50. Offers of admission in education *declined* 13% (compared to an 11% increase last year) and declined 1% in life sciences, versus an 11% increase last year. Admissions of students from India rose only 2% in 2008 compared with a 17% increase last year.

[more]

**Council of Graduate Schools**

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## **Use of international collaborative degree programs grows**

Again this year, the CGS survey asked U.S. graduate schools about their partnerships with international colleges and universities in joint, dual, or other collaborative graduate degree and certificate programs. About 38% of all respondents and 60% of the largest 10 institutions reported that they have established one or more such programs. Dual degrees are the most common, with 60% of the largest 10 and 48% of the largest 25 institutions having at least one such program.

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 programs have also been established with China, India, and other countries. As expected, business is the most common field, but the survey also found that a significant number of collaborative master's degree programs are in engineering.

Additionally, 31% (versus 24% in 2007) of U.S. graduate schools plan to establish new international collaborative degree programs within two years, and the number is even higher for the institutions with the largest number of international students: 40% of the largest 10 and 41% of the largest 50 indicated that they plan to do so.

### **About the report**

*Findings from the 2008 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 2008 enrollment, will be released in late fall). The report analyzed responses from 177 graduate schools, including all ten of the institutions with the largest international graduate enrollments. Last year, CGS reported increases of 9% in international graduate applications, 7% in admissions, and 7% in total enrollment.

The full report is available on the CGS website at [www.cgsnet.org](http://www.cgsnet.org)

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*The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is an organization of 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)