



Council of Graduate Schools

PRESS RELEASE

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International Graduate Admissions Up 3%, Reversing Last Year's Decline **International applications exceed 2003 levels**

The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is reporting that offers of admission from U.S. graduate schools to prospective international students increased 3% from 2009 to 2010 after falling 1% last year.

The survey report on admissions trends, released today, shows that the growth was driven by a 16% increase in offers of admission to students from China, the fifth year in a row of double-digit gains. Admissions of students from the Middle East & Turkey rose 10%, the third consecutive year of significant growth. On the other hand, offers to students from India and South Korea continued to fall, by 4% and 7%, respectively, although there was some recovery from 14% declines for both countries last year.

The survey also found a final 9% increase in international graduate applications, reversing three years of slowing growth. However, the growth was not universal: a third of respondents reported that applications were lower this year than in 2009. Despite that, total applications in 2010 exceeded 2003 levels for the first time in seven years.

“The increases in international applications and admissions show that U.S. graduate schools remain attractive to international students, even in a tight global economy,” said Debra W. Stewart, CGS President. “The ongoing strong growth from China and the Middle East & Turkey is a very positive trend, but the declines from India and South Korea bear continued monitoring and analysis,” she added.

The report additionally includes findings on applications and admissions trends for domestic students. Applications from U.S. students increased 9% at responding graduate schools, the same rate as for international applications. However, offers of admission to U.S. students fell by 1%, compared to the 3% increase in international offers.

Admissions trends by field and institution type

The changes in offers of admission to prospective international students also vary by field of study and institution type. Admissions increased in six of eight fields, including the three that are most popular for international students—engineering, physical sciences, and business—each of which saw larger gains in 2010 than in 2009. On the other hand, admissions in life

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sciences fell 5% after 3% growth last year. Overall, admissions increases were slightly larger at private, not-for-profit schools (5%) than at public institutions (2%).

Growth in international graduate admissions was strongest at schools with large numbers of international students: admissions increased 5% at the 100 largest institutions but declined 1% at all other schools. Admissions of students from China increased by 30% at the 10 largest institutions, compared to 10% at institutions outside the 100 largest. However, the opposite trend was observed in offers to South Korea: admissions declined 12% at the 10 largest schools but fell only 1% at institutions outside the 100 largest.

About the report

Findings from the 2010 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 applications, admissions, and enrollment among CGS U.S. member institutions. The survey had a response rate of over 50%, including 82 of the 100 institutions that grant the largest number of graduate degrees to international students. The report is posted at www.cgsnet.org.

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The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is an organization of over 500 institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada engaged in graduate education, research, and the preparation of candidates for advanced degrees. Among U.S. institutions, CGS members award 95% of the doctoral degrees and 78% of the master's degrees. 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.*

* Based on data from the 2008 CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment and Degrees