



# Council of Graduate Schools

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **International Graduate Applications Up, but Rate of Growth Slows** **Size of institution affects applications trends**

The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is reporting that graduate applications from prospective international students increased 8% from 2006 to 2007, following growth of 12% last year and previous declines of 5% and 28% in 2005 and 2004, respectively.

The report on applications for fall 2007, being released today, shows a growth of 17% in the volume of graduate applications to CGS U.S. member institutions from China, nearly the same as last year's 19% increase. However, applications from India are up only 6%, after an increase of 26% last year. China and India are the two countries that annually send the most graduate students to the U.S.

Applications are up 8% in both engineering and physical sciences, fields critical to maintaining U.S. economic competitiveness, although both fields' rate of increase slowed (from 19% and 15%, respectively, in 2006). Additionally, despite the overall increase, the number of international applications is still down 27% since 2003 for institutions that have responded to the CGS survey each of the last four years.

"This second year of strong overall growth in applications from international students is welcome news," remarked CGS President Debra W. Stewart. "However, it is clear that, even at these rates, it will still take us many years to catch up to where we were before 2001. We are by no means out of the woods yet."

Dr. Stewart further noted that other countries have been heavily recruiting international students, who now have an increasing number of options to study elsewhere. "While the federal government has taken positive steps to improve visa processing, we must adopt policies that encourage international students to pursue graduate study in the U.S. in order to strengthen our competitiveness and security in the global economy."

#### **Application trends by enrollment size**

This year, for the first time, CGS is reporting changes in international graduate applications delineated by the size of respondents' international graduate student enrollment. Overall, the institutions with the largest international graduate student enrollments had the greatest gains in applications, while the institutions with the smallest international enrollments had

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only small increases or declines. At the ten largest colleges and universities, international graduate applications rose 13%, compared with gains of 5% for those institutions with international graduate enrollments below the largest 50.

Looking at institutions grouped by size of international graduate enrollment, there are also differences by country of origin and field of study. For example, applications from India rose 22% at the ten universities with the largest international graduate enrollments, but fell by 8% at the smallest, and applications in business increased 21% at the ten largest universities, but fell 8% at the institutions below the largest 50 in terms of international graduate student enrollment.

### **Application trends by country of origin and field of study**

In addition to the increases in applications from China and India, the survey revealed growth in applications from the Middle East (+9%), although applications from Korea declined 2% after increasing 4% last year. There were increases in several broad fields of study, including life sciences (+13%, compared to 9% last year), humanities (up 12%, compared to 5% last year), and education (up 8%, compared to 1% last year). Business was also up (+7%), though at a lower rate than last year (+16%).

### **About the report**

*Findings from the 2007 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase I: Applications* is based on the first phase of a three-part annual survey of international graduate student applications, admissions, and enrollment among CGS U.S. member institutions. The analysis includes responses from 145 schools, including 80% of the ten institutions with the largest international graduate student enrollment. Last year, CGS reported a 12% increase in both international graduate applications and first-time enrollment for fall 2006.

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

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