



Council of Graduate Schools

RESEARCH REPORT

**Findings from the
2011 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey
Phase II: Final Applications and
Initial Offers of Admission**

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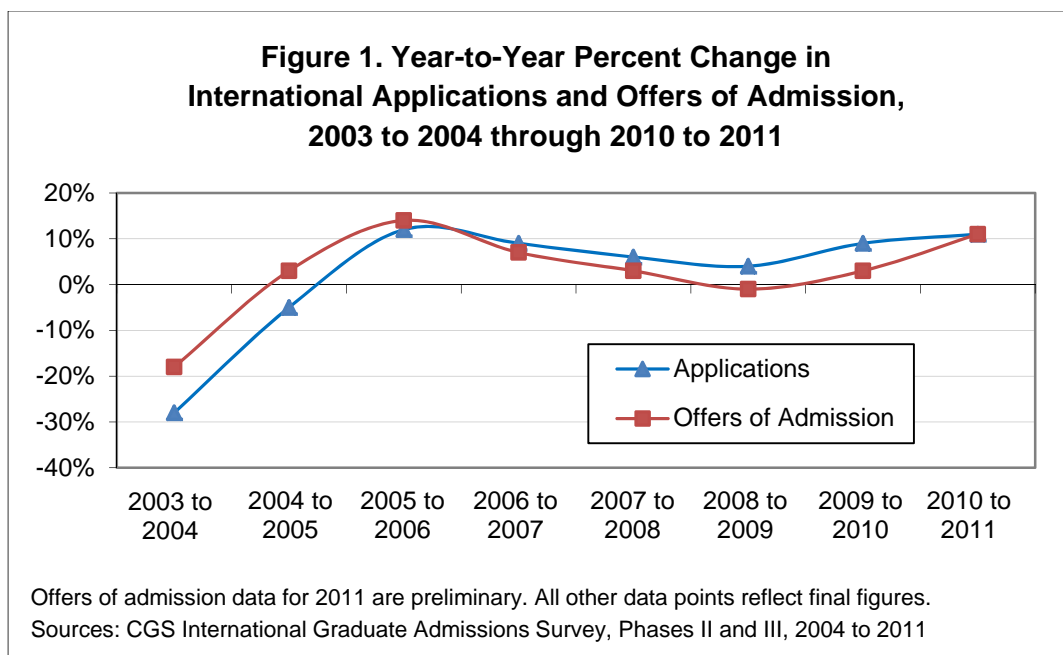
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Overview

Since 2004, the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) has conducted a multi-year empirical examination of international graduate application, admission, and enrollment trends. This analysis responds to member institutions' concerns about continuing changes in the enrollment of students from abroad seeking master's and doctoral degrees from U.S. colleges and universities. International students currently comprise about 15.5% of all graduate students in the United States.¹

The core of this examination is a three-phase survey of CGS member institutions. The *CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey* collects an initial snapshot of applications to U.S. graduate schools from prospective international students (*Phase I*, conducted in February of each year), final applications and an initial picture of admissions offers to prospective international students (*Phase II*, June), and final offers of admission and first-time and total international graduate student enrollment (*Phase III*, October).²

Data from this year's *Phase II* survey reveal that applications from prospective international students to U.S. graduate schools increased 11% in 2011, marking the sixth consecutive year of growth and the largest increase since 2006 (see Figure 1). The *Phase II* survey also found that initial offers of admission to prospective international graduate students increased 11% in 2011 following a 3% gain in 2010 and a 1% decline in 2009. This year's increase in international offers of admission is also the largest since 2006.



This report first describes the methodology used to collect the data and calculate changes in applications and offers of admission from 2010 to 2011. The second section includes the current survey results on applications to U.S. graduate schools by prospective international students and compares the one-year changes to those in prior years. Section three includes data on offers of admission to prospective international students by U.S. graduate schools and compares the one-year changes to those in prior years. Section four provides a summary and conclusions.

¹ Bell, N. 2010. *Graduate Enrollment and Degrees: 1999 to 2009*. Washington, DC: Council of Graduate Schools.

² See www.cgsnet.org for reports from the *CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey* from 2004 to present.

I. Survey Methodology and Response Rate

The survey population for the *2011 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase II: Final Applications and Initial Offers of Admission* consisted of all 493 U.S. colleges and universities that were members of CGS as of May 2011.³ A link to the survey instrument was e-mailed to the graduate dean (or equivalent) at each member institution on June 8, 2011, and responses were collected electronically through July 31, 2011.

The survey asked institutions to report the final numbers of completed applications received from prospective international graduate students for fall 2010 and fall 2011. In addition, institutions were asked to provide the number of offers of admission granted to prospective international students for fall 2010 and fall 2011, as of June 5th or the same date each year. In the survey, an international student is defined as a person who is not a citizen, national, or permanent resident of the United States and is in this country on a student visa, or on a temporary basis, and does not have the legal right to remain indefinitely. Institutions were also asked to provide applications and admissions data for international students who originate from four key sending countries or regions and for eight broad fields of study.⁴

A total of 241 institutions responded to the survey, for a response rate of 49%. The response rates among certain types of institutions were even higher: seven of the ten institutions that award the largest numbers of master's and doctoral degrees to international students, 20 of the 25 largest (80%), 42 of the 50 largest (84%), and 79 of the 100 largest (79%) responded to the survey.⁵ The high response rates from these institutions are important because collectively the 100 largest institutions confer about 60% of all graduate degrees awarded annually to international students in the United States.⁶ Overall, the 241 institutions responding to the *Phase II* survey conferred about 64% of the approximately 96,000 graduate degrees awarded to international students in the United States in 2008-09, suggesting that the survey results accurately depict recent trends in the participation of international students in U.S. graduate education.⁷

Institutions responding to the *Phase II* survey provided data on a total of 591,739 applications to U.S. graduate schools by prospective international students for fall 2011 and on a total of 140,373 offers of admission to prospective international students for fall 2011. In some cases, institutions were unable to provide data for both 2010 and 2011 for either the totals or one of the subcategories. In those instances, these respondents were excluded from the appropriate analyses. Data were not imputed for non-responding institutions.

For some colleges and universities, the *Phase II* survey was administered before final offers of admission numbers were known, and these institutions provided preliminary figures as of the same date each year. For that reason, the survey results on offers of admission (described in section three of this report) should be considered preliminary, subject to revision in the 2011 *Phase III* survey when final offers of admission numbers are reported. Nonetheless, past *Phase II* surveys have shown that because of the high response rates among the institutions awarding large numbers of graduate degrees to international students, and the large numbers of applications and offers of admission represented in the *Phase II*

³ CGS also has member institutions in Canada and global affiliates. These institutions are not included in the survey population for the *CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey*.

⁴ The *Phase II* survey also included two questions about U.S. citizen and permanent resident applications and offers of admissions. These results will be analyzed separately and reported in the *CGS Communicator*.

⁵ These figures are based on graduate degrees awarded in academic year 2008-09. Data were derived from the National Science Foundation's WebCASPAR Database (<http://webcaspar.nsf.gov>) using data from the U.S. Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).

⁶ See footnote 5.

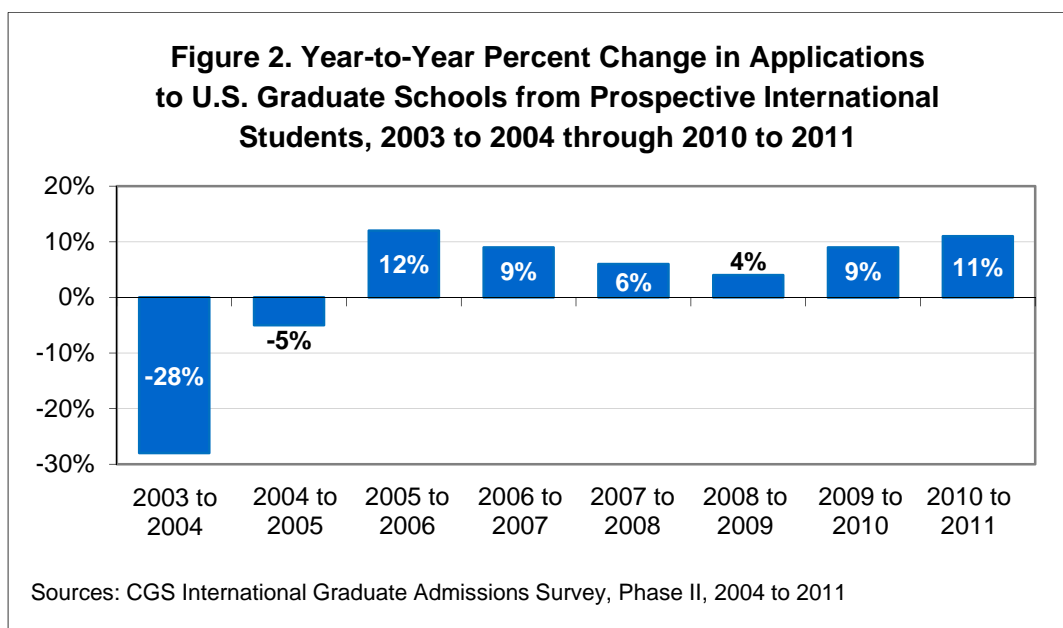
⁷ See footnote 5.

survey data, the overall results should accurately illustrate the current trends in international graduate student applications and offers of admission in the United States.

II. Applications from Prospective International Graduate Students

Total Number of Applications

This year, for the sixth year in a row, applications to U.S. graduate schools from prospective international students increased, and the rate of increase outpaced that of the last four years. Between 2010 and 2011, international applications increased 11%, up from a 9% increase in 2010 and a 4% gain in 2009 (see Figure 2). This year's increase is the largest since 2006, when international applications rose 12%. The final 11% increase in applications from prospective international graduate students for fall 2011 is slightly higher than the 9% increase in initial international applications reported by CGS in April in the *Phase I* survey results.



The majority of the survey respondents reported an increase in applications from prospective international graduate students in 2011. Of the 230 institutions that provided total applications data for both 2010 and 2011 in this year's *Phase II* survey, 179 (78%) reported an increase in international applications for fall 2011, with an average increase of 14% at these institutions. At the 51 institutions (22%) reporting a decrease, the average decline in international applications was 6%.

Applications by Country/Region of Origin

The *CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey* collects data on four key sending countries or regions: China, India, South Korea, and the Middle East & Turkey. China, India, and South Korea are the top three countries of origin for international graduate students in the United States. Collectively, students from these three countries account for about one-half of all non-U.S. citizens on temporary visas attending U.S. graduate schools, according to research from both CGS and the Institute of International

Education.⁸ Thus, examining student flows from these three countries provides a good indicator of overall international applications trends. Applications from students from countries in the Middle East & Turkey⁹ have also been included in the CGS surveys because of the geopolitical importance of this region; graduate students from the Middle East & Turkey currently account for about 6% of all international graduate students in the United States.¹⁰

The *Phase II* survey data reveal that applications from prospective graduate students increased in all four of the countries/regions examined in the survey. Graduate applications from prospective students from India increased 8% in 2011 after increasing just 1% in 2010 and falling 12% in 2009 (see Table 1). Similarly, applications from prospective students from South Korea increased 2% in 2011 after remaining flat in 2010 and falling 9% in 2009. The numbers of applications from both China and the Middle East & Turkey continued to increase dramatically in 2011. Graduate applications from prospective students from China increased 21% in 2011 following a 20% increase in 2010 and a 14% gain in 2009; this is the sixth

Table 1. Change in International Graduate Applications, 2007 to 2008 through 2010 to 2011

	Final Number of Applications, 2007 to 2008	Final Number of Applications, 2008 to 2009	Final Number of Applications, 2009 to 2010	Final Number of Applications, 2010 to 2011
International Total	6%	4%	9%	11%
Country/Region of Origin				
China	11%	14%	20%	21%
India	2%	-12%	1%	8%
South Korea	2%	-9%	0%	2%
Middle East & Turkey *	14%	22%	20%	16%
Field of Study				
Arts & Humanities	7%	5%	9%	8%
Business	10%	7%	11%	11%
Education	-1%	8%	8%	13%
Engineering	4%	3%	8%	14%
Life Sciences	3%	0%	2%	8%
Physical & Earth Sciences	7%	2%	10%	15%
Social Sciences & Psychology	9%	6%	11%	5%
Other Fields **	--	11%	13%	10%

* Middle East & Turkey includes: Bahrain, Cyprus, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

** Prior to 2009, data for 'Other Fields' were not collected separately.

Note: Not all responding institutions provided data by country of origin and/or field of study.

Sources: CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase II, 2008 to 2011

⁸ Bell, N. 2010. *Findings from the 2010 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase III: Final Offers of Admission and Enrollment*. Washington, DC: Council of Graduate Schools; Chow, P. & Bhandari, R. 2010. *Open Doors 2010: Report on International Educational Exchange*. New York, NY: Institute of International Education.

⁹ Middle East & Turkey includes: Bahrain, Cyprus, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

¹⁰ See footnote 8.

consecutive year of double-digit growth for China. Applications from prospective graduate students from the Middle East & Turkey increased 16% in 2011 following a 20% increase in 2010 and a 22% gain in 2009; this is also the sixth consecutive year of double-digit growth for the Middle East & Turkey.

Applications by Field of Study

The majority (62%) of all international graduate students at U.S. institutions are enrolled in one of three broad fields: engineering, physical & earth sciences (which includes mathematics and computer science), and business. Life sciences and social sciences & psychology also account for large numbers of international graduate students at U.S. institutions. In fall 2009, 21% of international students were enrolled in these two broad fields. Just 17% of all international graduate students at U.S. institutions are enrolled in the three remaining broad fields (education, arts & humanities, and 'other' fields).¹¹ The *Phase II* survey results reveal that international applications increased in all broad fields of study in 2011.¹²

The largest increases in international applications in 2011 occurred in physical & earth sciences (15%), engineering (14%), and education (13%). All three of these broad fields also experienced strong growth in 2010 (see Table 1). The smallest gain in international applications in 2011 was in social sciences & psychology (5%), which follows an 11% increase in this broad field in 2010. International applications increased 8% in both arts & humanities and life sciences in 2011. This year's 8% increase in life sciences marks the largest gain in this broad field since 2007.

Applications by Institutional Control and Carnegie Classification

International applications increased in both public institutions and private, not-for-profit institutions in 2011. Among the survey respondents, international applications increased 10% at public institutions and 16% at private, not-for-profit institutions in 2011 (see Table 2).¹³ For both 2010 and 2011, the gains at private, not-for-profit institutions outpaced those at public institutions.

By Carnegie classification, applications from prospective international graduate students increased 11% overall at doctoral institutions in 2011, up from a 9% gain at these institutions in 2010.¹⁴ International applications increased 15% at master's-focused institutions in 2011 following a 3% increase in 2010 (see Table 2). While the percentage increase for master's-focused institutions in 2011 appears to be large, it is based on a relatively small number of international applications. In the 2011 *Phase II* survey, just 3% of all applications from prospective international students were for admission to master's-focused institutions.

When the data are examined by Carnegie classification and institutional control, the findings for doctoral institutions are nearly identical to the overall totals. International applications increased 9% at public,

¹¹ Bell, N. 2010. *Graduate Enrollment and Degrees: 1999 to 2009*. Washington, DC: Council of Graduate Schools.

¹² See Appendix A for the summarized survey taxonomy.

¹³ Of the 230 institutions that provided total applications data for both 2010 and 2011 in this year's *Phase II* survey, 168 were public institutions, 61 were private, not-for-profit institutions, and one was a private, for-profit institution. Data for the one private, for-profit respondent are included in the totals in Table 2, but are not broken out separately.

¹⁴ Institutions were coded according to their 2010 Carnegie basic classification. In the analysis, the responding institutions classified as RU/VH: Research Universities (very high research activity), RU/H: Research Universities (high research activity), or DRU: Doctoral/Research Universities were grouped as doctoral institutions. The responding institutions classified as Master's/L: Master's Colleges and Universities (larger programs), Master's/M: Master's Colleges and Universities (medium programs), or Master's/S: Master's Colleges and Universities (smaller programs) were grouped as master's-focused institutions. Responding institutions classified as specialized or baccalaureate institutions were excluded from this particular analysis.

Table 2. Change in International Graduate Applications by Institutional Control and Carnegie Classification, 2009 to 2010 and 2010 to 2011

	2009 to 2010		2010 to 2011	
	No. of Respondents	Final Change in Applications	No. of Respondents	Final Change in Applications
Total (All Institutions) *	243	9%	230	11%
Public	175	7%	168	10%
Private, not-for-profit	67	12%	61	16%
Doctoral Institutions *	171	9%	170	11%
Public	123	7%	125	9%
Private, not-for-profit	47	13%	44	16%
Master's-Focused Institutions	55	3%	46	15%
Public	43	3%	35	16%
Private, not-for-profit	12	3%	11	12%

* For both 2009 to 2010 and 2010 to 2011, one private, for-profit institution is included in the total but is not broken out separately by institutional control.

Notes: All results are based on the institutions providing total applications data for both years being compared (2009 and 2010 and/or 2010 and 2011). Carnegie classifications are based on the 2010 Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. See footnote 14 for a description of the Carnegie groupings. Institutions classified as specialized or baccalaureate institutions are included in the total for all institutions but are not broken out separately.

Sources: CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase II, 2010 and 2011

doctoral institutions and 16% at private, not-for-profit doctoral institutions in 2011. Among master's-focused institutions, international applications rose 16% at public institutions and 12% at private, not-for-profit institutions in 2011.¹⁵

Applications by Geographic Region

Applications to U.S. graduate schools from prospective international students increased in all four major regions of the United States. International applications increased most in the West (up 14%) and the Northeast (13%) in 2011. Increases in international applications were slightly smaller on average in institutions located in the Midwest (10%) and the South (9%).¹⁶

¹⁵ The data for private, not-for-profit master's-focused institutions should be interpreted cautiously given the small number of these institutions responding to the survey.

¹⁶ Of the 230 institutions that provided total applications data for both 2010 and 2011 in this year's *Phase II* survey, 40 institutions are located in the West, 42 in the Northeast, 64 in the Midwest, and 84 in the South. States were divided into regions as follows: *Midwest* – Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin; *Northeast* – Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont; *West* – Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming; and *South* – Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Applications by Number of Graduate Degrees Awarded to International Students

The overall changes in the numbers of applications from prospective international students potentially mask substantial differences between institutions with smaller and larger numbers of international students. To show the wide variation in trends, CGS reports changes in international applications by the number of graduate degrees awarded to international students. Table 3 displays the changes in international graduate applications from 2010 to 2011 for the responding colleges and universities awarding the 10, 25, 50, and 100 largest numbers of graduate degrees to international students. In addition, data are presented for all responding institutions outside the largest 100. The rankings are based on data collected by the U.S. Department of Education.¹⁷

Increases in international applications in 2011 were stronger on average at institutions awarding larger numbers of graduate degrees to international students than at institutions awarding smaller numbers of graduate degrees to international students. International graduate applications increased 17% on average in 2011 at the responding institutions that are among the 10 largest, 12% at the 25 largest, and 13% at the 50 largest, compared with 11% at both the 100 largest institutions and the institutions outside the largest 100 (see Table 3). This finding of stronger growth at the largest institutions also occurred in 2010, when international graduate applications increased 13% at the 10 largest institutions, 11% at the 25

Table 3. Change in International Graduate Applications by Number of Graduate Degrees Awarded to International Students, 2010 to 2011

	10 Largest Institutions	25 Largest Institutions	50 Largest Institutions	100 Largest Institutions	All Other Institutions
International Total	17%	12%	13%	11%	11%
Country/Region of Origin					
China	34%	27%	26%	23%	17%
India	9%	8%	9%	8%	6%
South Korea	-1%	1%	2%	2%	3%
Middle East & Turkey *	11%	10%	12%	15%	20%
Field of Study					
Arts & Humanities	10%	10%	9%	8%	7%
Business	13%	6%	11%	9%	16%
Education	26%	9%	13%	12%	14%
Engineering	24%	18%	17%	15%	10%
Life Sciences	9%	6%	7%	7%	9%
Physical & Earth Sciences	19%	15%	16%	15%	14%
Social Sciences & Psychology	4%	3%	4%	4%	8%
Other Fields	3%	10%	12%	11%	8%

* Middle East & Turkey includes: Bahrain, Cyprus, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Notes: The rankings are based on data collected by the U.S. Department of Education. See footnote 5 for more information. Not all responding institutions provided data by country of origin and/or field of study.

Source: CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase II, 2011

¹⁷ See footnote 5 for more information.

largest, and 10% at the 50 largest, compared with 9% at the 100 largest institutions and 8% at the institutions outside the largest 100.¹⁸

This pattern of stronger increases at institutions awarding larger numbers of graduate degrees to international students was also seen for applications from prospective students from China and India. Applications from prospective graduate students from China surged 34% in 2011 at the institutions that are among the 10 largest in terms of graduate degrees awarded to international students, grew 26% at the 50 largest institutions, and increased 23% at the 100 largest compared with a 17% gain at the institutions outside the largest 100. Applications from prospective Indian graduate students increased 9% at the institutions among the 10 largest, 9% at the 50 largest, and 8% at the 100 largest institutions in 2011 compared with 6% at the institutions outside the largest 100.

In contrast to China and India, the increase in applications from prospective graduate students from South Korea was largest at the institutions outside the largest 100. Applications from prospective graduate students from South Korea rose 3% at the smallest institutions in terms of graduate degrees awarded to international students, but fell 1% at the 10 largest institutions. Applications from prospective graduate students from the Middle East & Turkey rose 20% at the institutions outside the largest 100 compared with an 11% increase at the 10 largest institutions.

Despite some variation in international applications by the number of graduate degrees awarded to international students, no strong pattern emerged by broad field of study, with many strong gains across the five size categories shown in Table 3. In three broad fields, the largest increases in international applications across the five size categories occurred at the 10 largest institutions: education (26% increase at the ten largest institutions), engineering (24%), and physical & earth sciences (19%). In arts & humanities 10% increases occurred in both the 10 largest and the 25 largest institutions. In life sciences, the 9% increase in international applications at the 10 largest institutions was matched by a 9% gain at the institutions outside the largest 100. In two broad fields, the largest increases occurred at the institutions outside the largest 100: business (16%) and social sciences & psychology (8%). And in 'other' fields the largest increase (12%) occurred at the 50 largest institutions.

III. Offers of Admission to Prospective International Graduate Students

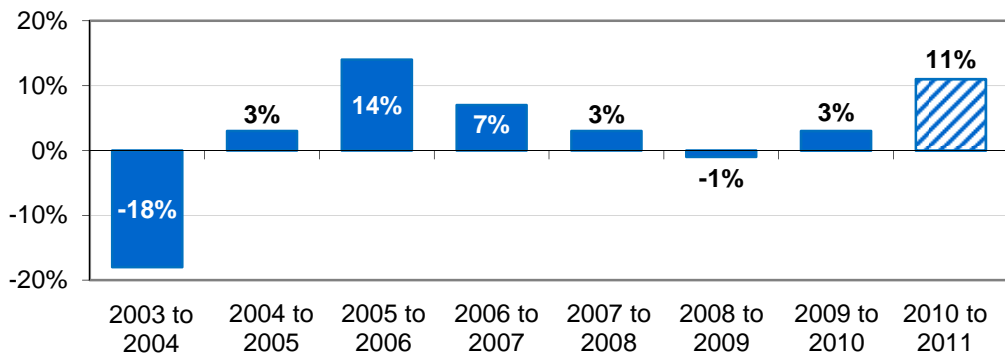
Total Number of Offers of Admission

For prospective international students, offers of admission to U.S. graduate schools increased 11% between 2010 and 2011. This year's increase in initial offers of admission to prospective international graduate students follows a 3% gain in final offers of admission in 2010 and a 1% decline in 2009 (see Figure 3). This year's 11% increase in international offers of admission is the largest since 2006, when offers of admission increased 14%.

Of the 226 institutions that provided data on offers of admission for both 2010 and 2011 in this year's *Phase II* survey, two-thirds (68%) reported an increase in international offers of admission for fall 2011. Among the 154 institutions reporting an increase, the average gain in international offers of admission was 16%. At the 69 institutions (31%) reporting a decrease, the average decline in international offers of admission was 10%. Three institutions (1%) reported no change in international offers of admission.

¹⁸ Bell, N. 2010. *Findings from the 2010 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase II: Final Applications and Initial Offers of Admission*. Washington, DC: Council of Graduate Schools.

Figure 3. Year-to-Year Percent Change in Offers of Admission to Prospective International Students from U.S. Graduate Schools, 2003 to 2004 through 2010 to 2011



Offers of admission data for 2011 are preliminary. All other data points reflect final figures.
Sources: CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase III, 2004 to 2010 and Phase II, 2011

Offers of Admission by Country/Region of Origin

The *Phase II* survey results reveal continued increases in offers of admission to prospective graduate students from China and the Middle East & Turkey and a stabilization in offers of admission to prospective graduate students from India and South Korea (see Table 4). Initial offers of admission to prospective graduate students from China increased 23% in 2011 following a 15% gain in 2010 and a 17% gain in 2009; this is the sixth consecutive year of double-digit growth. Initial offers of admission to prospective graduate students from the Middle East & Turkey increased 16% in 2011 following a 10% gain in 2010 and a 14% gain in 2009.

Offers of admission to prospective graduate students from India rose 8% in 2011, the first increase to occur for students from India since 2007. This year's 8% increase follows a 5% decline in 2010 and a 14% drop in 2009. Offers of admission to prospective graduate students from South Korea remained flat in 2011 following four consecutive years of declines. The most recent declines for South Korea were a 7% decrease in 2010 and a 14% drop in 2009.

Offers of Admission by Field of Study

Increases occurred in international offers of admission in all broad fields of study in 2011 (see Table 4). The largest increase (16%) occurred in business following a 3% gain in this broad field in 2010. A large increase also occurred in physical & earth sciences (15%) in 2011. The increase in this broad field (which includes mathematics and computer sciences) follows an 8% gain in 2010. Increases of 11% occurred in three broad fields in 2011—education, engineering, and 'other fields'—with the gain in education following a 5% decline in 2010. The smallest increases in offers of admission in 2011 were in social sciences & psychology (3%), arts & humanities (7%), and life sciences (also 7%). The 7% gain in life sciences in 2011 follows a 5% decline in this broad field in 2010.

Table 4. Change in International Offers of Admission, 2007 to 2008 through 2010 to 2011

	Final Number of Offers of Admission, 2007 to 2008	Final Number of Offers of Admission, 2008 to 2009	Final Number of Offers of Admission, 2009 to 2010	Initial Number of Offers of Admission, 2010 to 2011
International Total	3%	-1%	3%	11%
Country/Region of Origin				
China	15%	17%	15%	23%
India	-2%	-14%	-5%	8%
South Korea	-2%	-14%	-7%	0%
Middle East & Turkey *	13%	14%	10%	16%
Field of Study				
Arts & Humanities	0%	1%	2%	7%
Business	2%	4%	3%	16%
Education	-7%	10%	-5%	11%
Engineering	0%	-3%	2%	11%
Life Sciences	-1%	3%	-5%	7%
Physical & Earth Sciences	9%	-5%	8%	15%
Social Sciences & Psychology	1%	-1%	4%	3%
Other Fields **	--	11%	5%	11%

* Middle East & Turkey includes: Bahrain, Cyprus, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

** Prior to 2009, data for 'Other Fields' were not collected separately.

Note: Not all responding institutions provided data by country of origin and/or field of study.

Sources: CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase III, 2008 to 2010, and Phase II, 2011

Offers of Admission by Institutional Control and Carnegie Classification

Offers of admission to prospective international students increased at both public institutions and private, not-for-profit institutions in 2011. At public institutions, international offers of admission increased 11% in 2011 following a 1% gain in 2010 (see Table 5). At private, not-for-profit institutions, international offers of admission increased 12% in 2011 following an 8% gain in 2010. For both 2010 and 2011, the gains at private, not-for-profit institutions outpaced those at public institutions.¹⁹

By Carnegie classification, initial offers of admission to prospective international students increased 11% at doctoral institutions in 2011 following a 4% gain in 2010 (see Table 5).²⁰ International offers of admission increased 6% at master's-focused institutions in 2011 following a 1% gain in 2010. Just 6% of all offers of admission to international students in 2011 were from master's-focused institutions.

¹⁹ Of the 226 institutions that provided total offers of admission data for both 2010 and 2011 in this year's *Phase II* survey, 164 were public institutions, 61 were private, not-for-profit institutions, and one was a private, for-profit institution. Data for the one private, for-profit respondent are included in the totals in Table 5, but are not broken out separately

²⁰ See footnote 14 for more information on Carnegie classifications.

At doctoral institutions, international applications increased 13% at private, not-for-profit institutions, slightly more than the 11% increase at public institutions. At master's-focused institutions, international applications rose 10% at public institutions, but remained flat at private, not-for-profit institutions.²¹

Table 5. Change in International Offers of Admission by Institutional Control and Carnegie Classification, 2009 to 2010 and 2010 to 2011

	2009 to 2010		2010 to 2011	
	No. of Respondents	Final Change in Offers of Admission	No. of Respondents	Initial Change in Offers of Admission
Total (All Institutions) *	221	3%	226	11%
Public	154	1%	164	11%
Private, not-for-profit	66	8%	61	12%
Doctoral Institutions *	156	4%	168	11%
Public	108	2%	123	11%
Private, not-for-profit	47	7%	44	13%
Master's-Focused Institutions	51	1%	45	6%
Public	39	-3%	34	10%
Private, not-for-profit	12	7%	11	0%

* For both 2009 to 2010 and 2010 to 2011, one private, for-profit institution is included in the total but is not broken out separately by institutional control.

Notes: All results are based on the institutions providing total offers of admission data for both years being compared (2009 and 2010 and/or 2010 and 2011). Carnegie classifications are based on the 2010 Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. See footnote 14 for a description of the Carnegie groupings. Institutions classified as specialized or baccalaureate institutions are included in the total for all institutions but are not broken out separately.

Sources: CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase III, 2010 and Phase II, 2011

Offers of Admission by Geographic Region

Offers of admission by U.S. graduate schools to prospective international students increased in all four major regions of the United States in 2011. International offers of admission increased most in the West in 2011 (up 13%), followed by the South (11%), the Midwest (11%), and the Northeast (10%).²²

Offers of Admission by Number of Graduate Degrees Awarded to International Students

Table 6 on the following page displays the changes in international offers of admission from 2010 to 2011 for the responding colleges and universities awarding the 10 largest, 25 largest, 50 largest, and 100

²¹ The data for private, not-for-profit master's-focused institutions should be interpreted cautiously given the small number of these institutions responding to the survey.

²² Of the 226 institutions that provided total offers of admission data for both 2010 and 2011 in this year's *Phase II* survey, 39 institutions are located in the West, 83 in the South, 62 in the Midwest, and 42 in the Northeast. See footnote 15 for a listing of the states included in each region.

largest numbers of master's and doctoral degrees to international students. In addition, data are presented for all responding institutions outside the largest 100.²³

Increases in international offers of admission in 2011 were slightly stronger on average at institutions awarding larger numbers of graduate degrees to international students than at institutions awarding smaller numbers of graduate degrees to international students. International offers of admission increased 13% on average at the responding institutions that are among the 10 largest, 13% at the 50 largest, and 12% at the 100 largest institutions, compared with 10% at the institutions outside the largest 100.

Table 6. Change in International Offers of Admission by Number of Graduate Degrees Awarded to International Students, 2010 to 2011

	10 Largest Institutions	25 Largest Institutions	50 Largest Institutions	100 Largest Institutions	All Other Institutions
International Total	13%	10%	13%	12%	10%
Country/Region of Origin					
China	30%	26%	28%	26%	16%
India	-6%	-1%	6%	7%	12%
South Korea	-6%	-2%	-1%	1%	-1%
Middle East & Turkey *	13%	9%	10%	12%	22%
Field of Study					
Arts & Humanities	8%	9%	13%	8%	5%
Business	15%	10%	22%	19%	10%
Education	56%	8%	16%	14%	5%
Engineering	17%	13%	12%	12%	10%
Life Sciences	5%	2%	8%	8%	6%
Physical & Earth Sciences	-2%	2%	10%	12%	21%
Social Sciences & Psychology	11%	7%	9%	5%	1%
Other Fields	18%	20%	13%	12%	8%

* Middle East & Turkey includes: Bahrain, Cyprus, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Notes: The rankings are based on data collected by the U.S. Department of Education. See footnote 5 for more information. Not all responding institutions provided data by country of origin and/or field of study.

Source: CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase II, 2011

For prospective graduate students from China, offers of admission increased across all five size categories shown in Table 6. The largest increase for China was at the 10 largest institutions, with a 30% jump in offers of admission for fall 2011. Offers of admission to prospective graduate students from China increased 26% on average at the 100 largest institutions compared with a gain of 16% at the institutions outside the largest 100. The overall growth in offers of admission among institutions awarding larger numbers of graduate degrees to international students is due in large part to the sizeable increases in the numbers of offers of admission to prospective graduate students from China by these institutions.

²³ See footnote 5 for more information.

Offers of admission to prospective graduate students from South Korea fell across four of the five size categories shown in Table 6, with decreases ranging from a 6% decline at the 10 largest institutions to a 1% decline at both the 50 largest institutions and the institutions outside the largest 100. Offers of admission to prospective students from South Korea increased 1% on average at the 100 largest institutions. For prospective graduate students from India, offers of admission fell on average at the 10 largest and 25 largest institutions, with decreases of 6% and 1%, respectively. These declines were countered by a 7% average gain at the 100 largest institutions and a 12% average gain at the institutions outside the largest 100. For prospective students from the Middle East & Turkey, offers of admission increased 13% on average at the 10 largest institutions, 12% at the 100 largest institutions, and 22% at the institutions outside the largest 100.

By broad field of study, gains in offers of admission were typically larger at institutions awarding larger numbers of graduate degrees to international students. For example, international offers of admission rose 19% in business at the 100 largest institutions, compared with a 10% gain at the institutions outside the largest 100. Similarly, international offers of admission rose 5% in social sciences & psychology at the 100 largest institutions, compared with a 1% gain at the institutions outside the largest 100. The exception to this was physical & earth sciences (including mathematics and computer sciences) in which international offers of admission rose 12% at the 100 largest institutions, but increased by a much larger 21% at the institutions outside the largest 100. It should be noted that in education, where international offers of admission increased 56% at the 10 largest institutions, the total number of offers of admission was still very small.

IV. Summary and Conclusions

Summary

The results of the *2011 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase II: Final Applications and Initial Offers of Admission* show that applications to U.S. graduate schools from prospective international students increased 11% between 2010 and 2011. The rate of increase for fall 2011 outpaced that of the last four years and was driven in part by double-digit increases in applications from China (21%) and the Middle East & Turkey (16%). Applications from prospective graduate students from India increased 8% in 2011 after increasing just 1% in 2010, and applications from South Korea increased 2% in 2011 after remaining flat in 2010.

International applications increased in all broad fields of study in 2011, led by large increases in physical and earth sciences (up 15%) and engineering (up 14%). The smallest increase in international applications in 2011 occurred in social sciences & psychology (5%).

Applications from prospective international graduate students increased 16% at private, not-for-profit institutions in 2011 and 10% at public institutions. Doctoral institutions experienced an 11% increase, while international graduate applications rose 15% at master's-focused institutions.

Overall, increases in international graduate applications in 2011 were strongest on average at institutions awarding larger numbers of graduate degrees to international students. International graduate applications increased 17% at the responding institutions that are among the 10 largest in terms of graduate degrees awarded to international students and 13% at the 50 largest institutions, compared with 11% at both the 100 largest institutions and the institutions outside the largest 100.

Initial offers of admission to prospective international graduate students increased 11% in 2011 following a 3% gain in final offers of admission in 2010. This year's increase is the largest since 2006 and was due

in part to continued double-digit gains in offers of admission to prospective students from China and the Middle East & Turkey, with increases of 23% and 16%, respectively. Offers of admission to prospective graduate students from India rose 8% in 2011, the first increase to occur since 2007. Offers of admission to prospective graduate students from South Korea remained flat in 2011 following four consecutive years of declines.

Increases in international offers of admission occurred in all broad fields of study in 2011. The largest increases occurred in business (16%) and physical & earth sciences (15%). The smallest increases in international offers of admission in 2011 were in social sciences & psychology (3%), arts & humanities (7%), and life sciences (also 7%).

Offers of admission to prospective international graduate students increased 12% at private, not-for-profit institutions and 11% at public institutions in 2011. Doctoral institutions experienced an 11% increase, and international offers of admission increased 6% at master's-focused institutions.

Increases in international offers of admission in 2011 were slightly stronger on average at institutions awarding larger numbers of graduate degrees to international students than at institutions awarding smaller numbers of graduate degrees to international students. International offers of admission increased 13% at the responding institutions that are among the 10 largest in terms of graduate degrees awarded to international students and 12% at the 100 largest institutions, compared with 10% at the institutions outside the largest 100.

Conclusions

This year's 11% increase in international applications and similar 11% gain in international offers of admission signify that students from abroad continue to value U.S. graduate education. A closer examination of the data reveals that China is driving much of that overall growth. Now the largest sending country of graduate students to the United States, the numbers for China continue to soar, year after year. Applications from prospective graduate students from China have increased by 11% to 21% each year for the past six years. Similarly, offers of admission to prospective graduate students from China have increased by 15% to 24% each year since 2006.²⁴ The growth in the participation of Chinese students in U.S. graduate education has outpaced the overall increase in international graduate enrollment over the past five years, meaning that Chinese students comprise a larger share of all international students today than they did in 2006.

Recent phases of the *CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey* have tracked the declines for prospective graduate students from South Korea and India, but this year's *Phase II* survey results reveal stable numbers for South Korea and gains for students from India. For prospective graduate students from South Korea, applications increased in 2011 for the first time since 2008 and offers of admission were level after declining for four consecutive years. For prospective graduate students from India, applications increased for the second year in a row and offers of admission increased for the first time since 2007. These figures suggest that the recent trends for South Korea and India are reversing and that the numbers of these students in U.S. graduate schools will once again increase.

The survey data also show that larger institutions in terms of the number of graduate degrees awarded to international students continue to drive more of the growth in international offers of admission than institutions awarding smaller numbers of graduate degrees to international students. The 100 largest institutions confer about 60% of all graduate degrees awarded to international students in the United

²⁴ See www.cgsnet.org for reports from the *CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey* from 2004 to present.

States,²⁵ and at these same institutions, international offers of admission increased 12%, compared with an increase of 10% at the institutions outside the largest 100.

Based on the results of the *Phase II* survey, it appears certain that international first-time graduate enrollment will increase in fall 2011. Since 2005, the survey has found that changes in international offers of admission have tracked quite closely with the subsequent changes in international first-time graduate enrollment, typically varying by no more than two or three percentage points. For example, international offers of admission increased by 14% in 2006, and international first-time graduate enrollment increased by 12% that same year. Similarly, international offers of admission increased by 3% last year, matching the 3% increase that occurred last fall in international first-time enrollment.²⁶ While an increase in international first-time graduate enrollment this year seems all but guaranteed, the *Phase III CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey*, to be released in November, will provide data on the ultimate graduate school decisions of international students for fall 2011.

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²⁵ See footnote 5 for more information.

²⁶ See www.cgsnet.org for reports from the *CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey* from 2004 to present.

Appendix A
CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey Taxonomy

ARTS & HUMANITIES

Arts – History, Theory & Criticism
Arts – Performance & Studio
English Language & Literature
Foreign Languages & Literatures
History
Philosophy
Arts & Humanities, Other

BUSINESS

Accounting
Banking and Finance
Business Administration & Management
Business, Other

EDUCATION

Education Administration
Curriculum and Instruction
Early Childhood Education
Elementary Education
Educational Assessment, Evaluation and
Research
Higher Education
Secondary Education
Special Education
Student Counseling & Personnel Services
Education, Other

ENGINEERING

Chemical Engineering
Civil Engineering
Computer, Electrical & Electronics
Engineering
Industrial Engineering
Materials Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Engineering, Other

LIFE SCIENCES

Agriculture, Natural Resources &
Conservation
Biological & Biomedical Sciences
Health & Medical Sciences

PHYSICAL & EARTH SCIENCES

Chemistry
Computer & Information Sciences
Earth, Atmospheric & Marine Sciences
Mathematical Sciences
Physics & Astronomy
Physical Sciences, Other

SOCIAL SCIENCES & PSYCHOLOGY

Anthropology
Archaeology
Economics
Political Science
Psychology
Sociology
Social Sciences, Other

OTHER FIELDS

Architecture & Environmental Design
Communications & Journalism
Family & Consumer Sciences
Library & Archival Studies
Public Administration
Religion & Theology
Social Work
Other Fields