

Results from the Fall 2020 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Plan for Today

1

Enyu Zhou & Janet Gao both of the Council of Graduate Schools will share highlights from the recently released CGS report, ***International Graduate Applications and Enrollment: Fall 2020*** for about 25 minutes.

2

A moderated discussion with **K. Jill Barr** of University of Maryland, Baltimore County and **Scott Lanyon** of University of Minnesota for about 25-30 minutes on implications of enrollment decline and high-volume of deferred admissions.

Technical Support

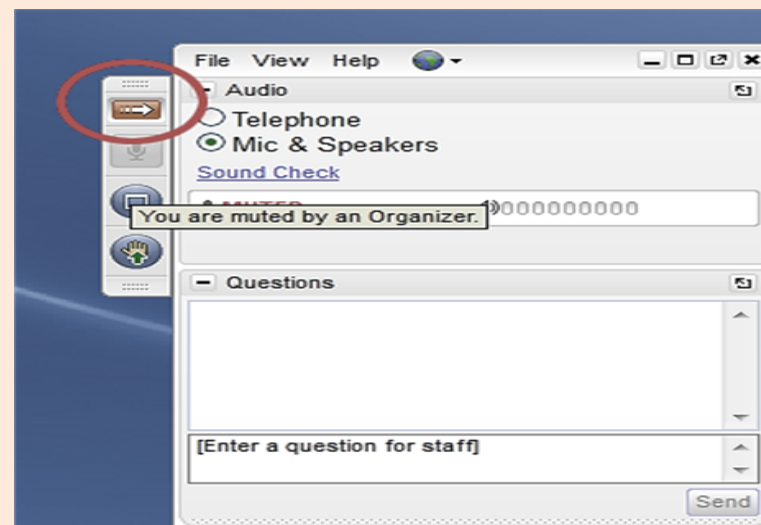
Webinar recording and slides will be emailed to participants and posted on the CGS website.

- Please **submit questions** through the GoToWebinar **control panel**

- **Technical issues?**

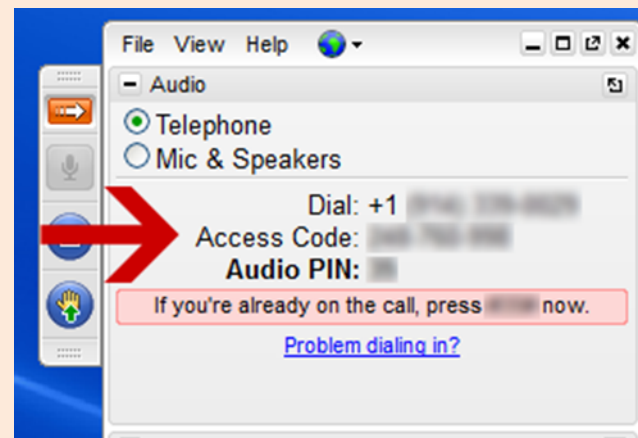
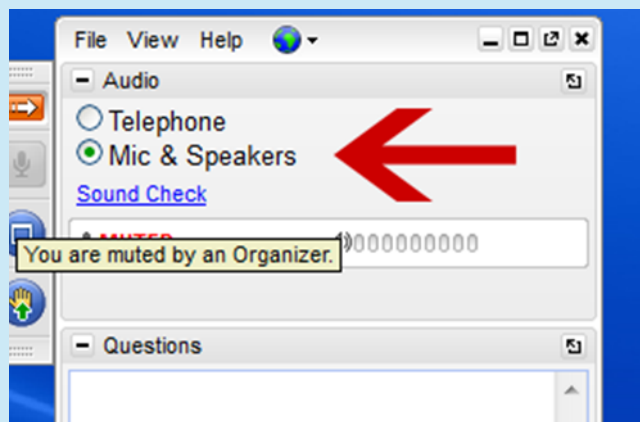
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http://support.citrixonline.com/en_US/webinar



Audio Troubleshooting

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Results from the Fall 2020 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

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About CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey

Conducted annually by the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) since 2004.

- Reports final application counts, numbers of offers of admission, first-time enrollment, and total enrollment of international graduate students for each fall admission cycle.
- The 2020 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey was sent to 771 U.S. colleges and universities, which were CGS members or were members of CSGS, MAGS, NAGS, or WAGS.
- A total of 360 institutions, or 47% responded to the 2020 survey.



INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE APPLICATIONS AND ENROLLMENT: FALL 2020

By Enyu Zhou & Janet Gao

February 2021

Acknowledgment

Special thanks to **Harper Garfinkle** for data visualization and report design, **Katherine Hazelrigg** for media relations for the release of this report, **Matthew Linton** for copyediting and preparation of the project website, as well as **Suzanne T. Ortega** for the feedback on earlier drafts.


Also thanks goes to the **CGS Committee on Research and Information Services**.

The authors thank **NAGAP: The Association for Graduate Enrollment Management and Liaison International** for their support with the 2020 NAGAP/CGS Survey of Graduate Enrollment Management Professionals.

Finally, and most importantly, much gratitude and appreciation to all institutions who completed the CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey this and every year.

Full Report

<https://cgsnet.org/international-graduate-admissions-survey>



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International Graduate Admissions Survey

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.

Access the report

The current survey report is available to the public online:

[International Graduate Applications and Enrollment Report: Fall 2020 \(Full Report\)](#)

[Press Release](#)

[Downloadable Figures & Tables](#)

[Click here to register](#) for the International Survey Report webinar on Wednesday, February 24 from 2:00-3:00 PM Eastern.

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International Graduate Applications and Enrollment: Fall 2020 - Downloadable Figures & Tables

Figures

- Figure 1. Total International Graduate Applications by Degree Type, Fall 2017 to Fall 2020 ([PDF](#), [Image](#))
- Figure 2. First-time International Graduate Enrollment by Degree Type, Fall 2017 to Fall 2020 ([PDF](#), [Image](#))
- Figure 3. Factors Institutions Believe are Associated with Increased International Student Deferrals ([PDF](#), [Image](#))
- Figure 4. First-time Enrollment & Deferred Admissions of Chinese and Indian Nationals, Fall 2020 ([PDF](#), [Image](#))
- Figure 5. One-year Change in International Graduate Applications & First-time Enrollment by Selected Country & Region of Origin between Fall 2019 and Fall 2020 ([PDF](#), [Image](#))

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Highlights



Application

The Largest Volume
of International
Graduate
Applications



First-time Enrollment

Significant Decline
in First-time
Enrollment.



Supplemental Surveys

NAGAP/CGS Survey and
International Graduate
Admissions Supplemental
Questionnaire.

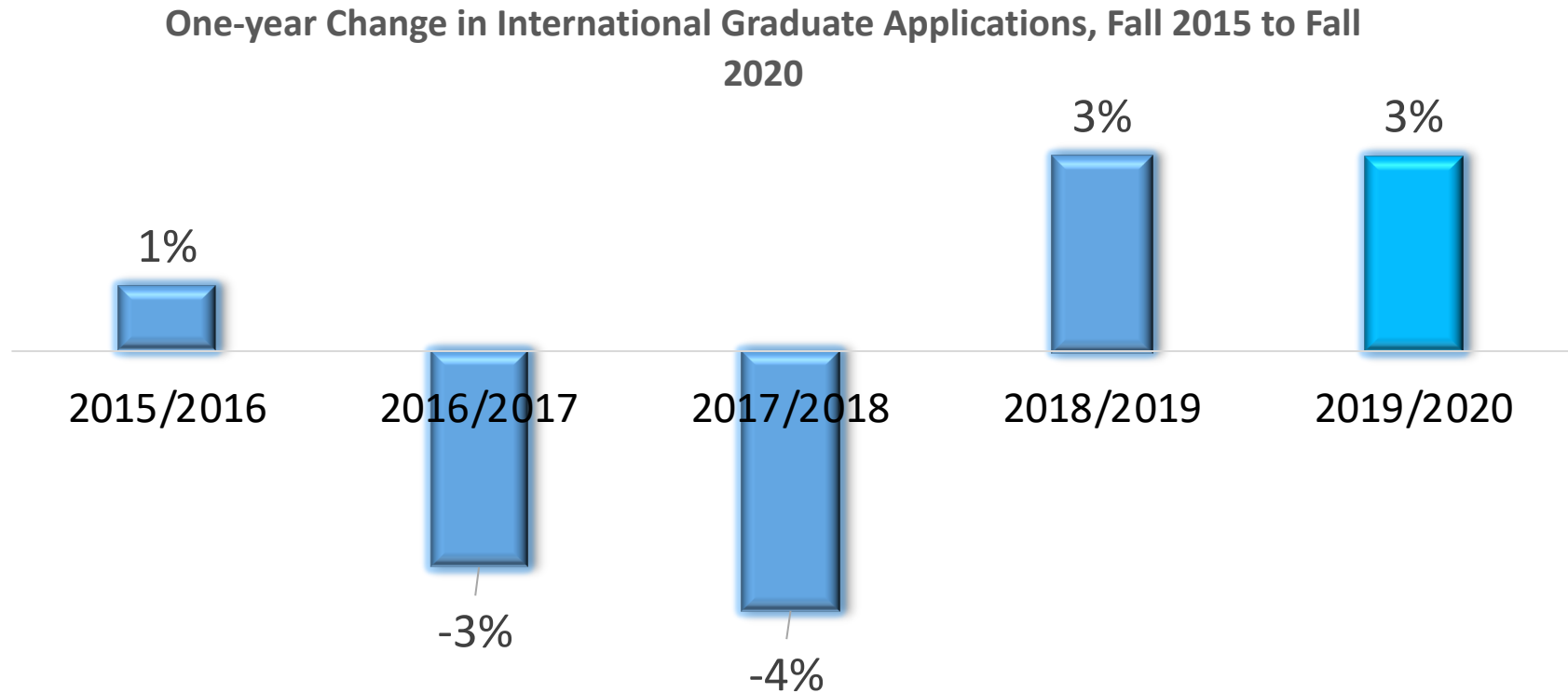
Characteristics of Participating Institutions in the Fall 2020 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey

Table D.1 Characteristics of Institutions with Valid Responses for Fall 2020 First-time Enrollment

	Total		Institution Control			Region			
			Public	Private, not-for-profit	Private, for-profit	Midwest	Northeast	West	South
All Institutions	100%	326	69%	31%	0%	18%	20%	18%	43%
<i>Doctoral Universities: Very High Research Activity</i>	32%	103	75%	25%	0%	32%	13%	16%	39%
<i>Doctoral Universities: High Research Activity</i>	23%	75	73%	27%	0%	16%	25%	19%	41%
<i>Doctoral/Professional Universities</i>	10%	33	45%	55%	0%	23%	24%	15%	38%
<i>Master's-focused Institutions</i>	29%	95	69%	31%	0%	26%	21%	5%	47%
<i>All Other Institutions</i>	6%	20	60%	40%	0%	23%	20%	16%	40%

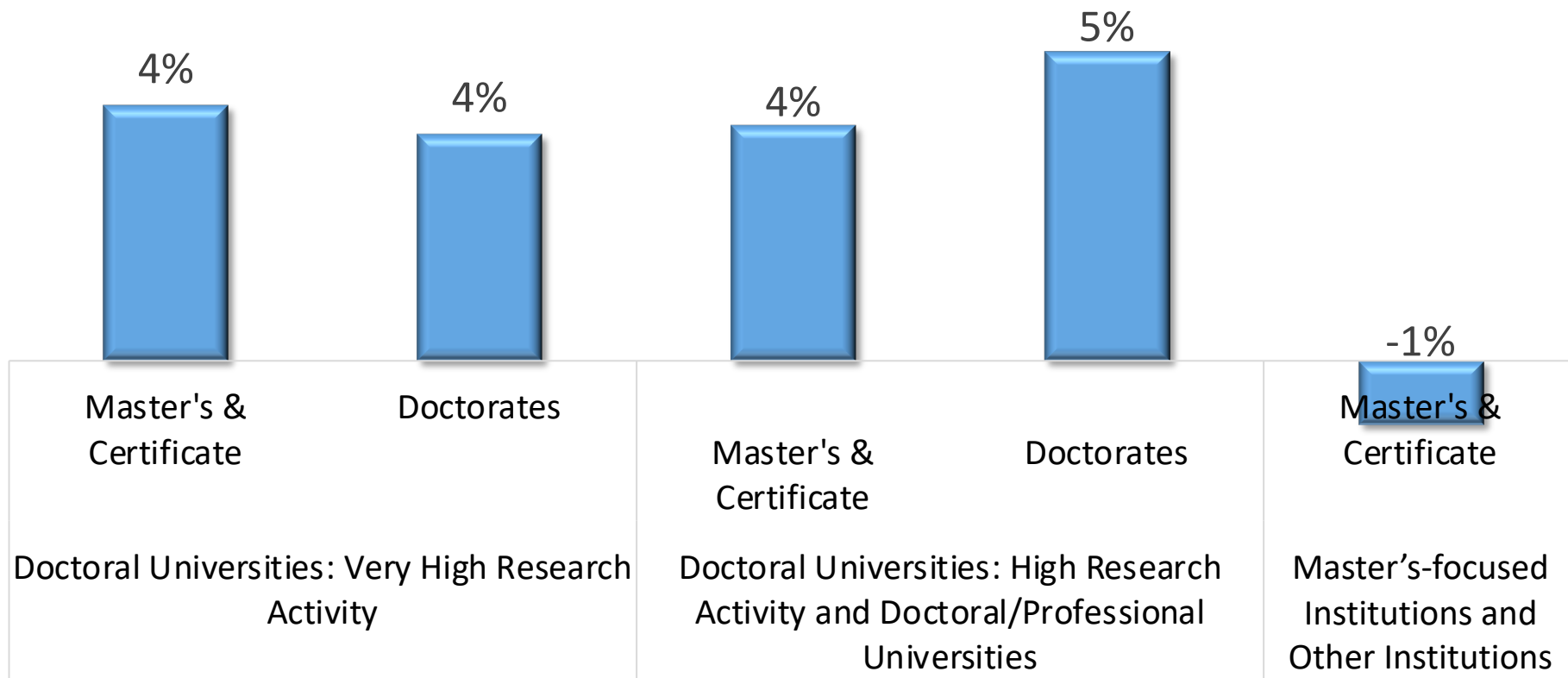
Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools, International Graduate Admissions Survey 2020

In 2019-2020, there was a 3% increase in international graduate applications, the same increase as between Fall 2018 and Fall 2019.



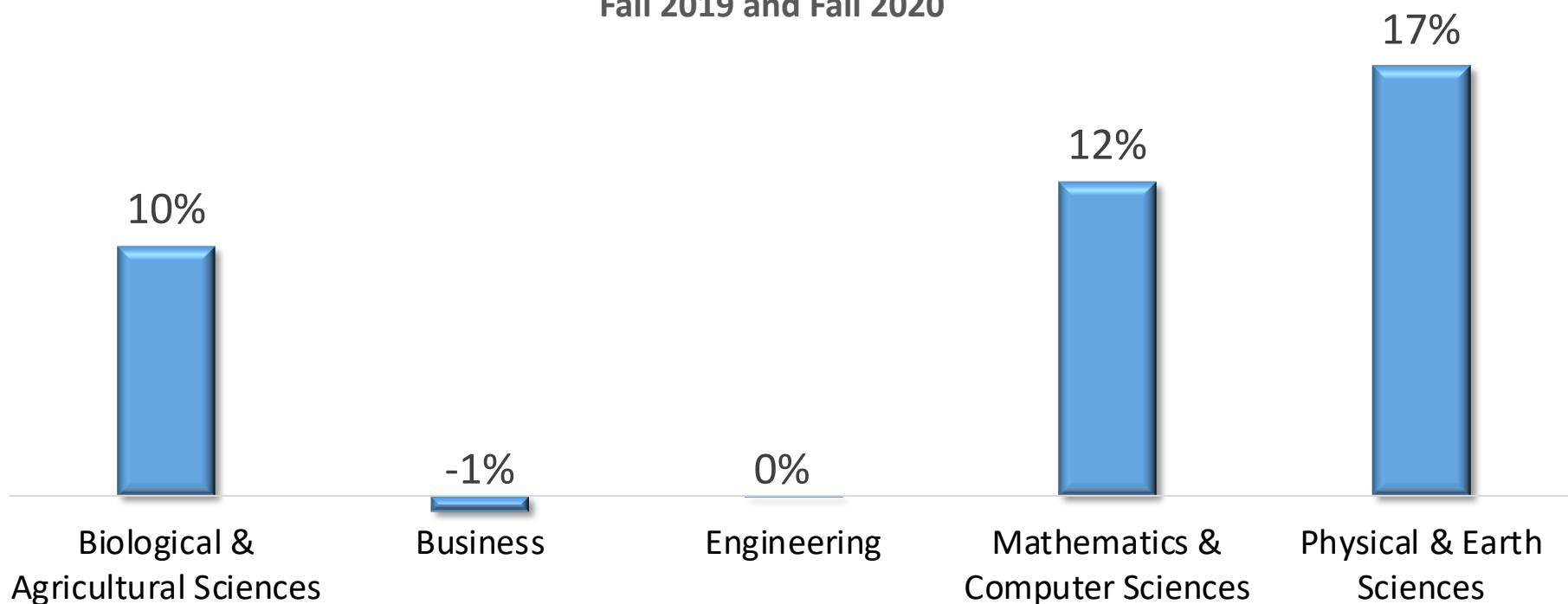
Application increases were driven by increases at Doctoral Universities.

One-year Change in International Graduate Applications by Degree Objective and Institutional Type between Fall 2019 and Fall 2020



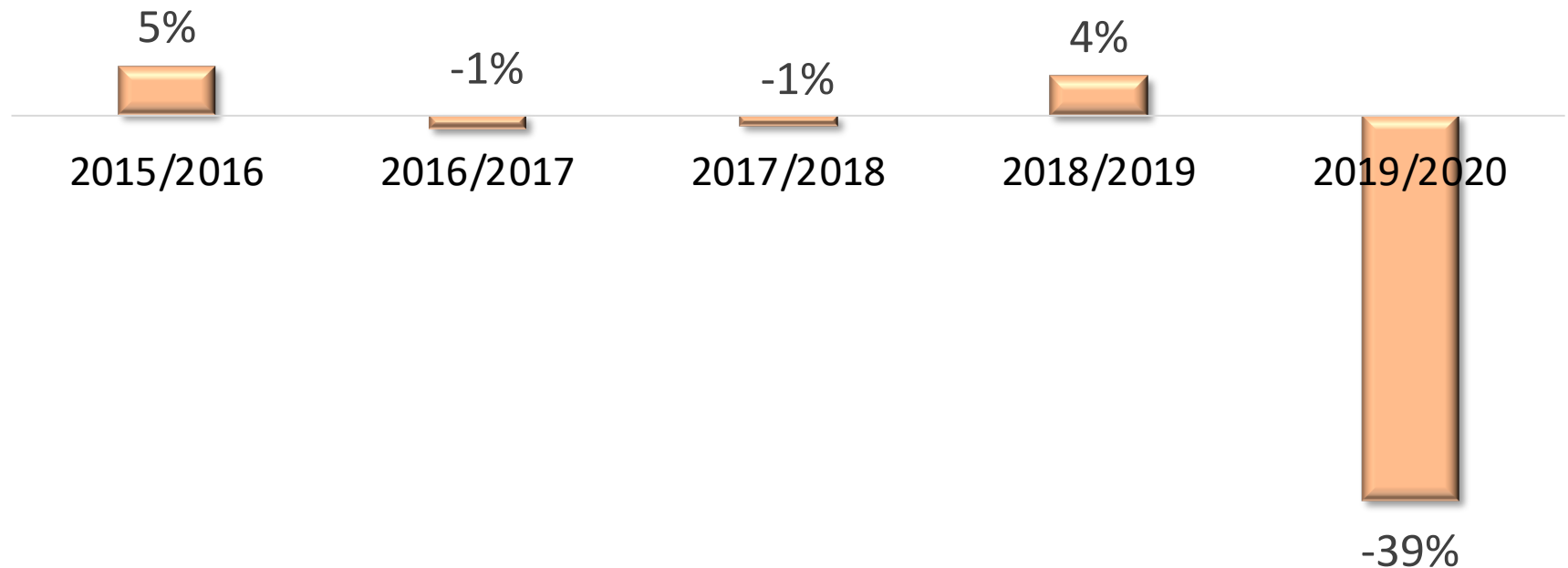
Applications in Biological & Agricultural Sciences, Mathematics & Computer Sciences and Physical & Earth Sciences continued robust growth.

One-year Change in International Graduate Applications by Field of Study between Fall 2019 and Fall 2020



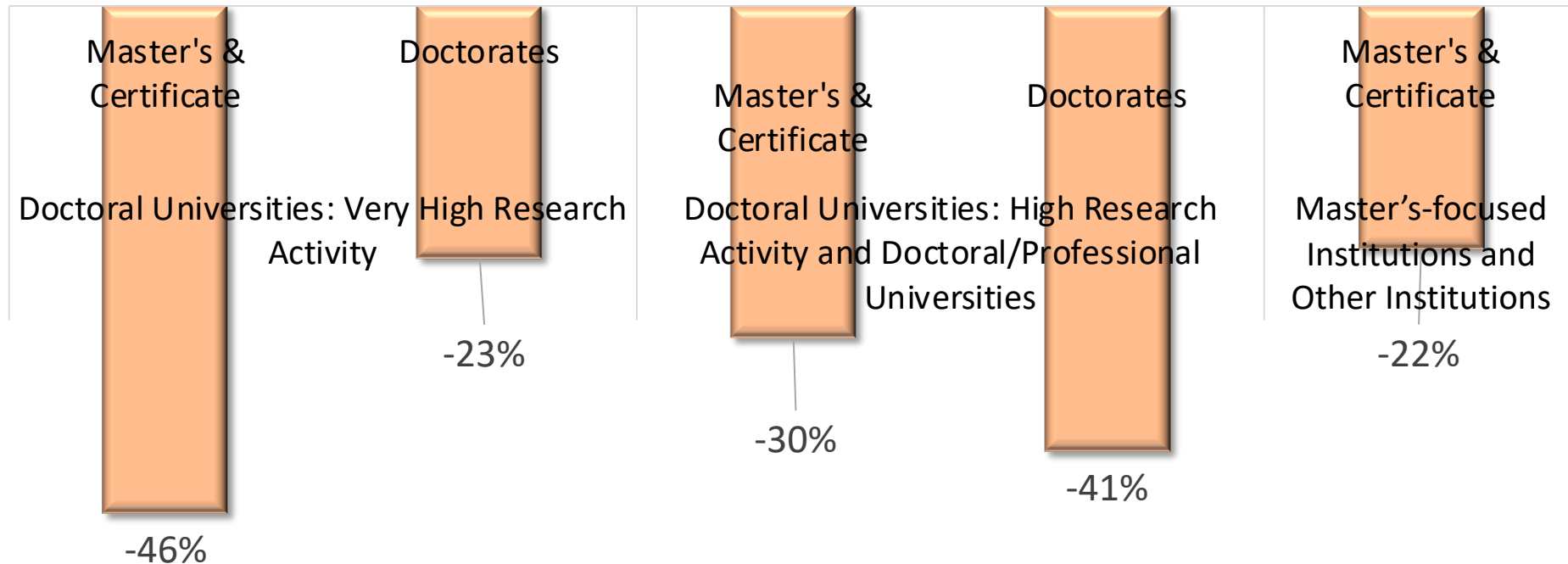
There was significant decline in first-time graduate enrollment over the past year.

One-year Change in First-time International Graduate Enrollment, Fall 2015 to Fall 2020

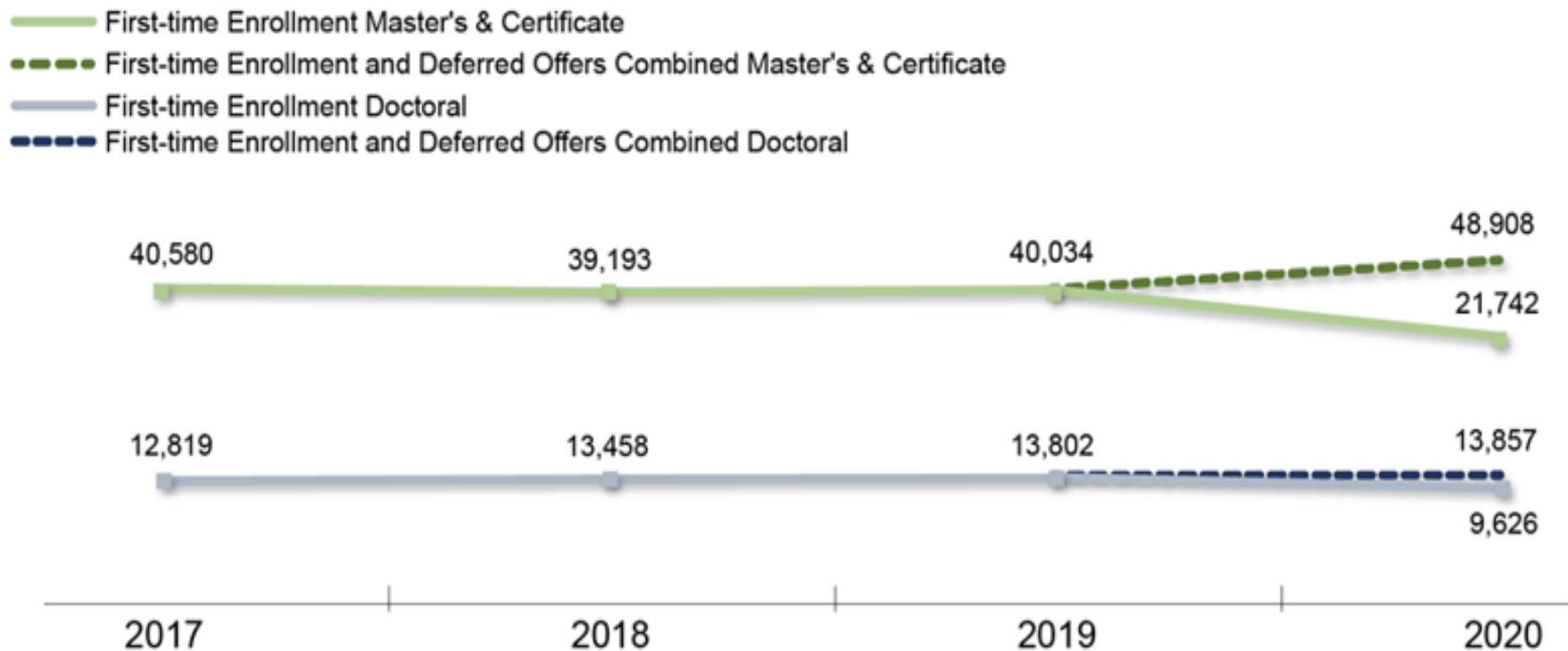


The decline of international first-time graduate enrollment was consistent across institutional types.

One-year Change in First-time International First-time Graduate Enrollment by Degree Objective and Institutional Type between Fall 2019 and Fall 2020

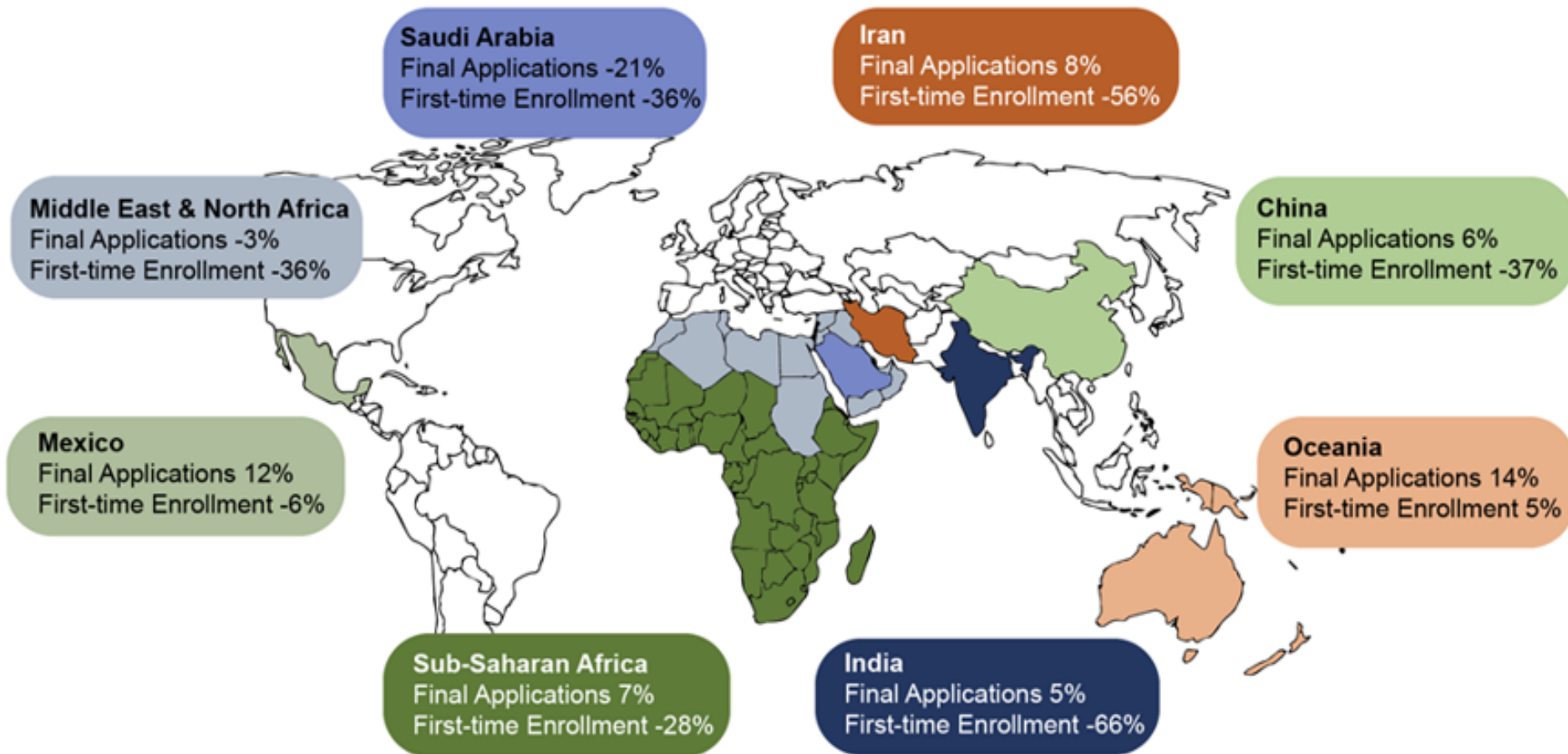


Although the decline in first-time enrollment was substantial, there were also many offers of admissions that have been deferred.



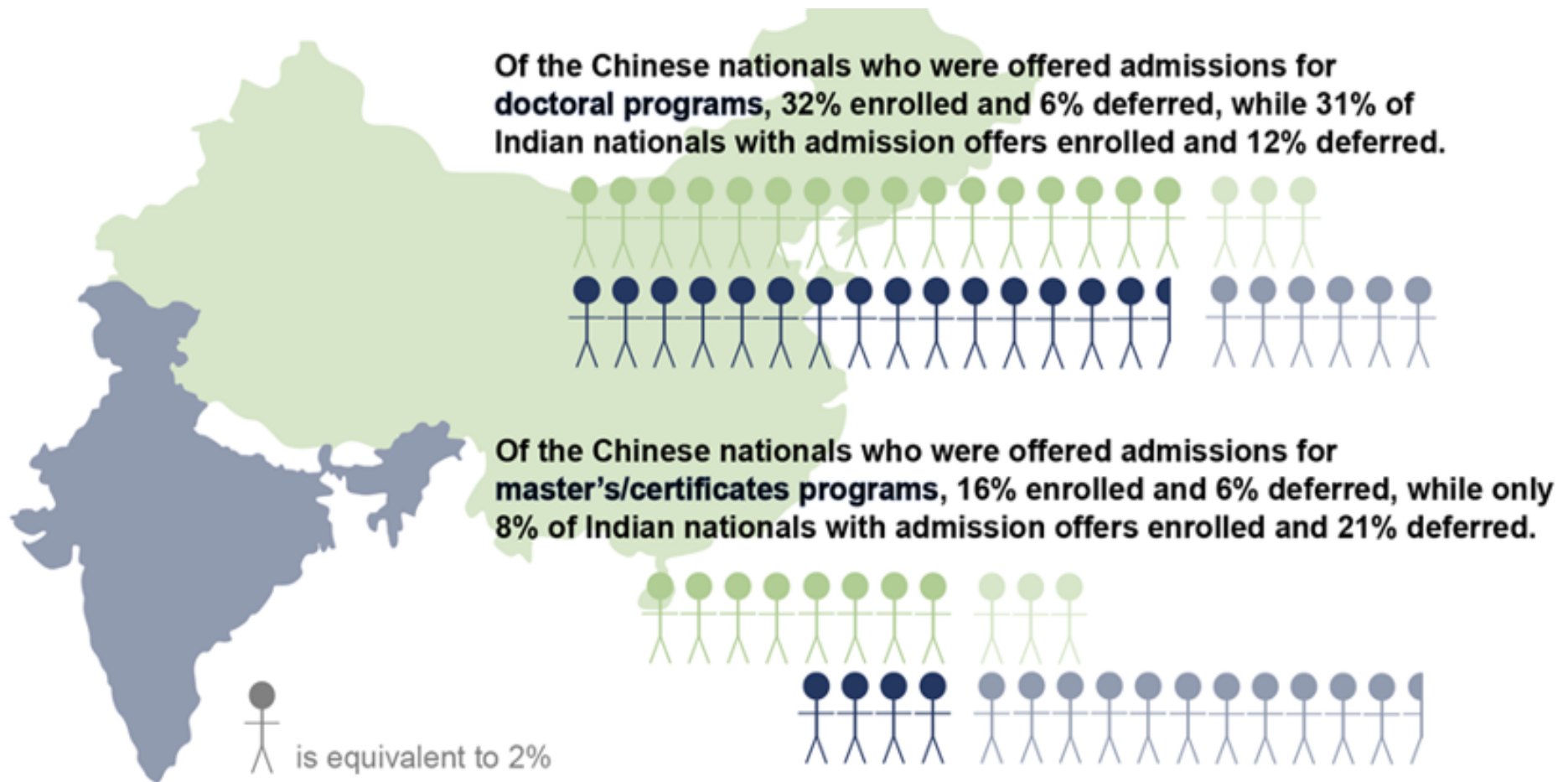
Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools, International Graduate Applications and Enrollment, 2017-2020. Note: Not all responding institutions provided valid data for all the sections of the survey (i.e., final applications, offers of admission, first-time enrollment, and total enrollment). The number of institutions included in the master's first-time enrollment (n=180) and doctoral first-time enrollment (n=132).

Graduate applications of Chinese nationals and Indian nationals both increased between Fall 2019 and Fall 2020.



Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools, International Graduate Applications and Enrollment, Fall 2020, Tables A1 & A2.

Higher number of admissions deferrals by Indian nationals



Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools, International Graduate Admissions Survey, Fall 2019 & Fall 2020, Table B.4.

By region, Asian, Middle East & North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa had large shares of deferred offers at both the master's and certificate and the doctoral levels.



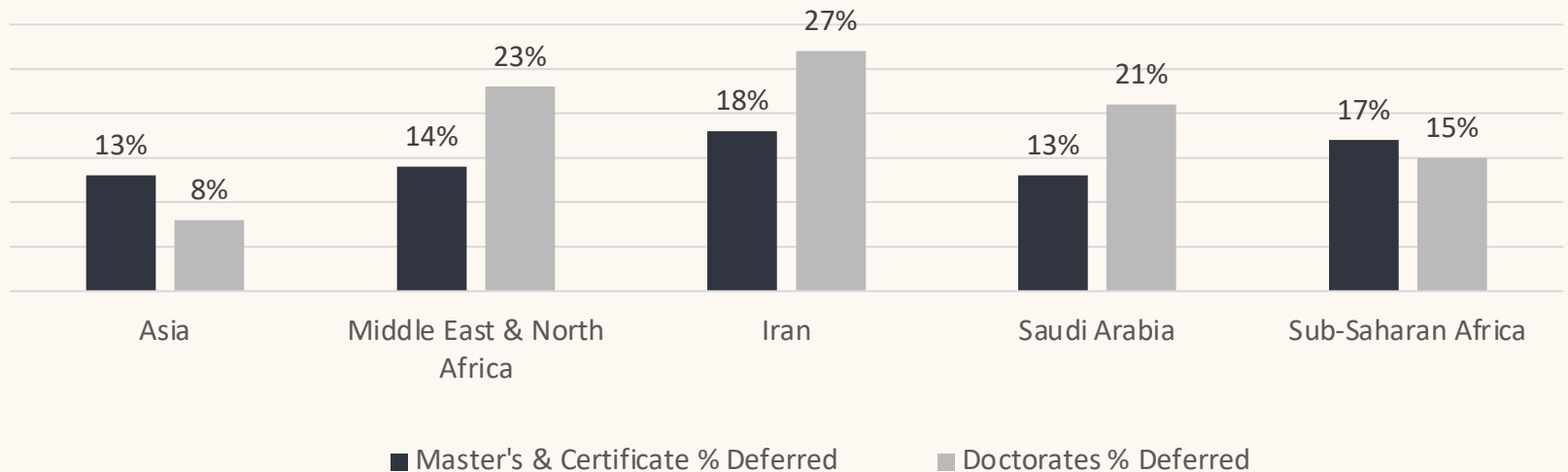
12% Deferred

Master's & Certificate



10% Deferred

Doctorates



A large number of deferred offers across all fields at both the master's and doctoral level



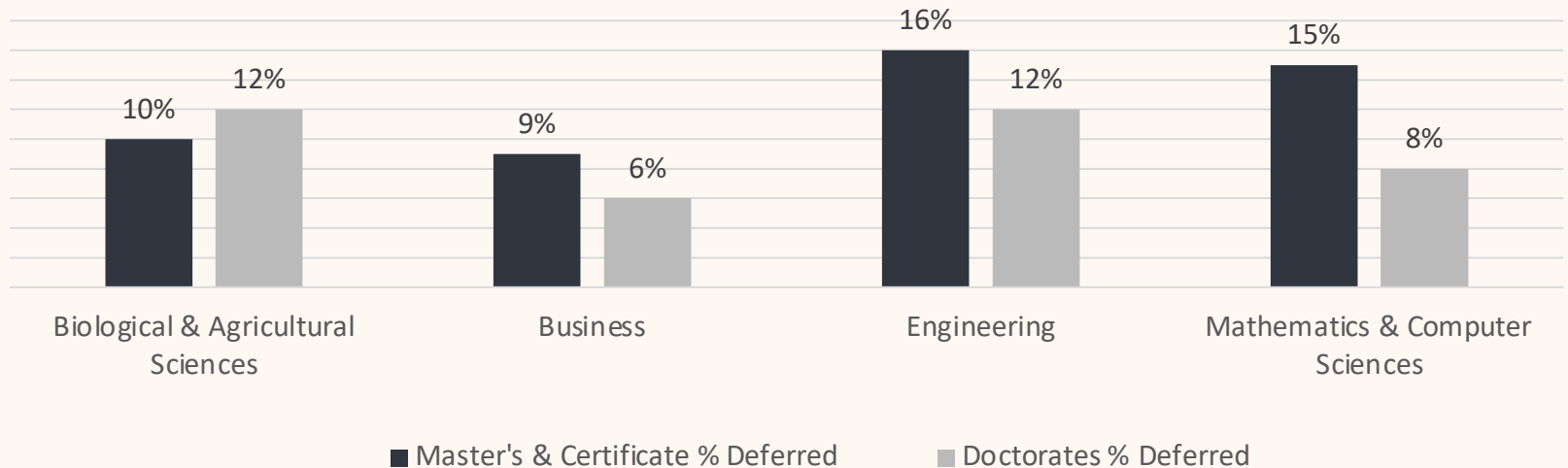
12% Deferred

Master's & Certificate



10% Deferred

Doctorates



Number of Newly Admitted International Graduate Students Who Deferred Enrollment in Fall 2020 vs Fall 2019

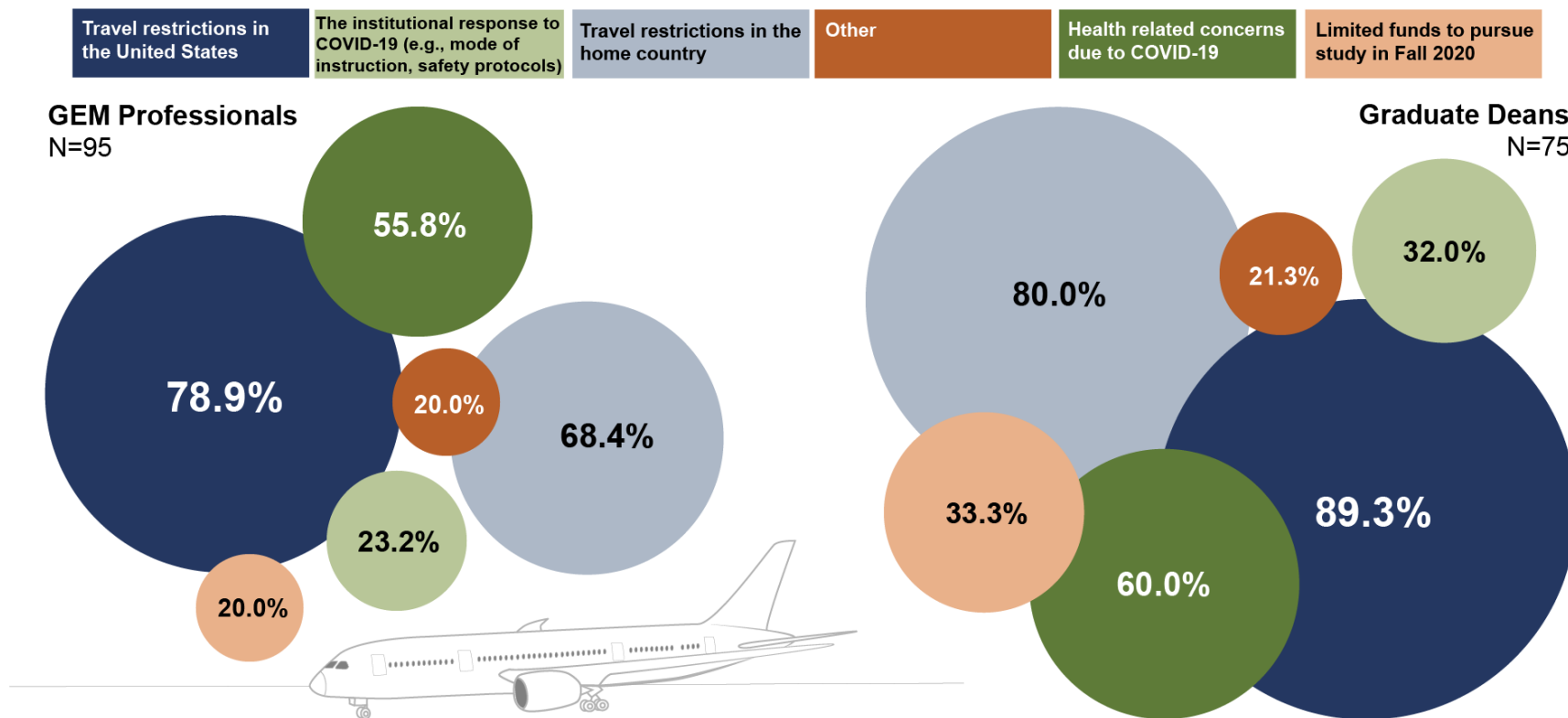
2020 CGS International Graduate Admissions Supplemental Survey
(N=115)

- **80%** REPORTED AN INCREASE

2020 NAGAP/CGS Survey of Graduate Enrollment Management
(N=217)

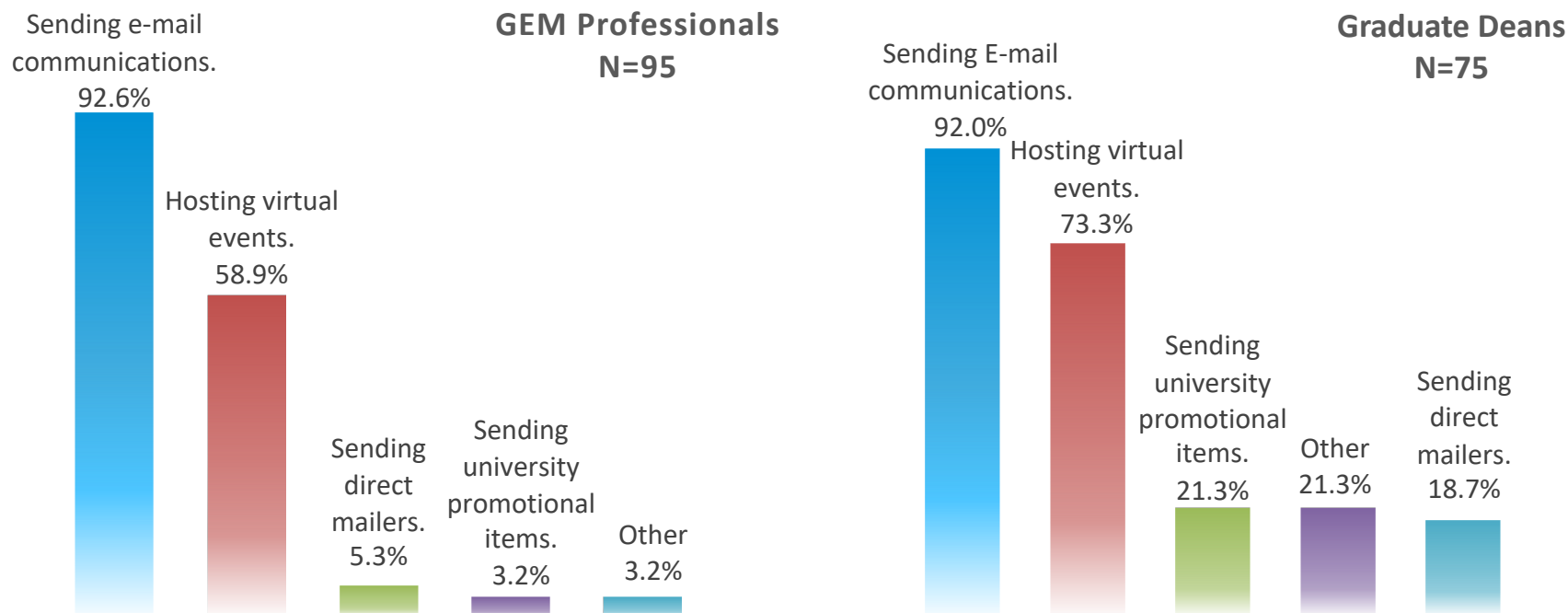
- **82%** REPORTED AN INCREASE

Factors Institutions Believe are Associated with Increased International Student Deferrals

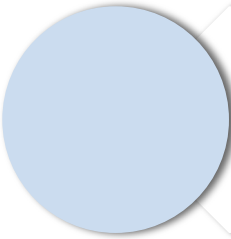


Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools, International Graduate Applications and Enrollment, Fall 2020, Figure 3 .

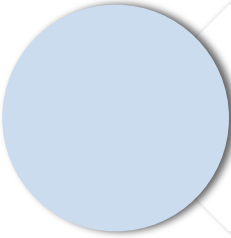
Emails & Virtual Events as Top Actions to Stay in Touch with International Graduate Students Who Deferred Enrollment



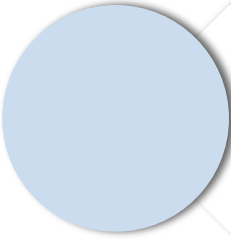
Concluding Remarks



Increased and the largest volume of international graduate applications



High volume of deferred graduate admission offers and significant decline in first-time enrollment due to the COVID-19



Had it not been for the global pandemic, higher international graduate students enrollment in fall 2020



Discussion

K. Jill Barr, J.D., M.Ed.

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Senior Assistant Dean, Graduate Enrollment
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Scott M. Lanyon, Ph.D.

*Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education
University of Minnesota*

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