

INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS ON OUR CAMPUSES: NUMBERS AND NEEDS IN CULTURAL CONTEXT

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BACKGROUND

- Most campuses have either a mission or practical need to focus separately on International students
- Carries through all types of planning: academic, student services, physical
- Increased importance on campuses to introduce U.S. students to global ideas
- What are the challenges and opportunities in creating a *home* for international students?

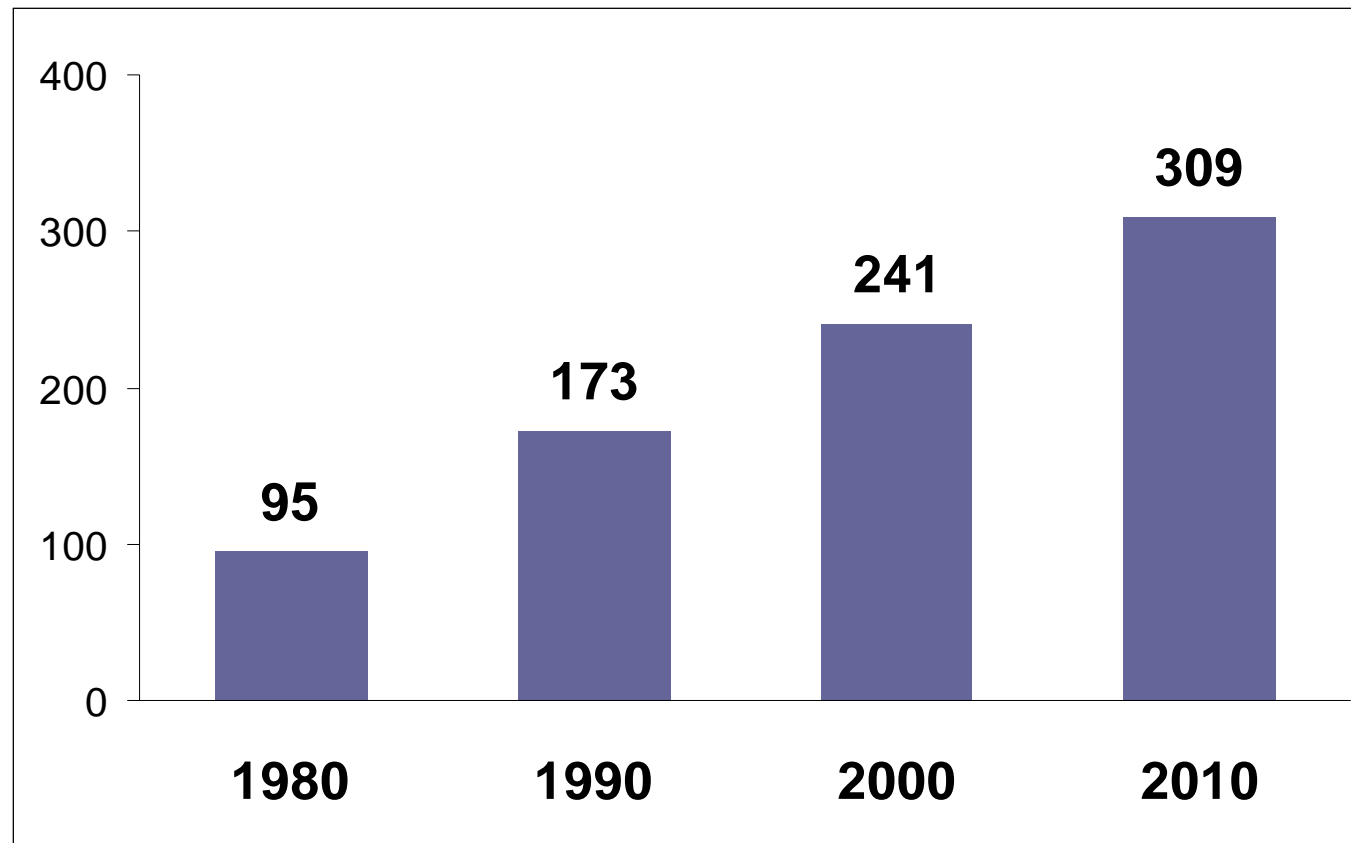


SESSION ORDER

- Overview of Demographic Trends
- Selected International/U.S. Graduate Student Differences
- Topics of Importance: Interviews with Campus Stakeholders
- Table Discussions and Group Sharing of Anecdotes
- Group Development of Topics and Strategies to Bring to Campuses
- Emerging Topics, and Discussion



Growth of International Graduate Student Population in U.S. (in '000's)



Decade Growth

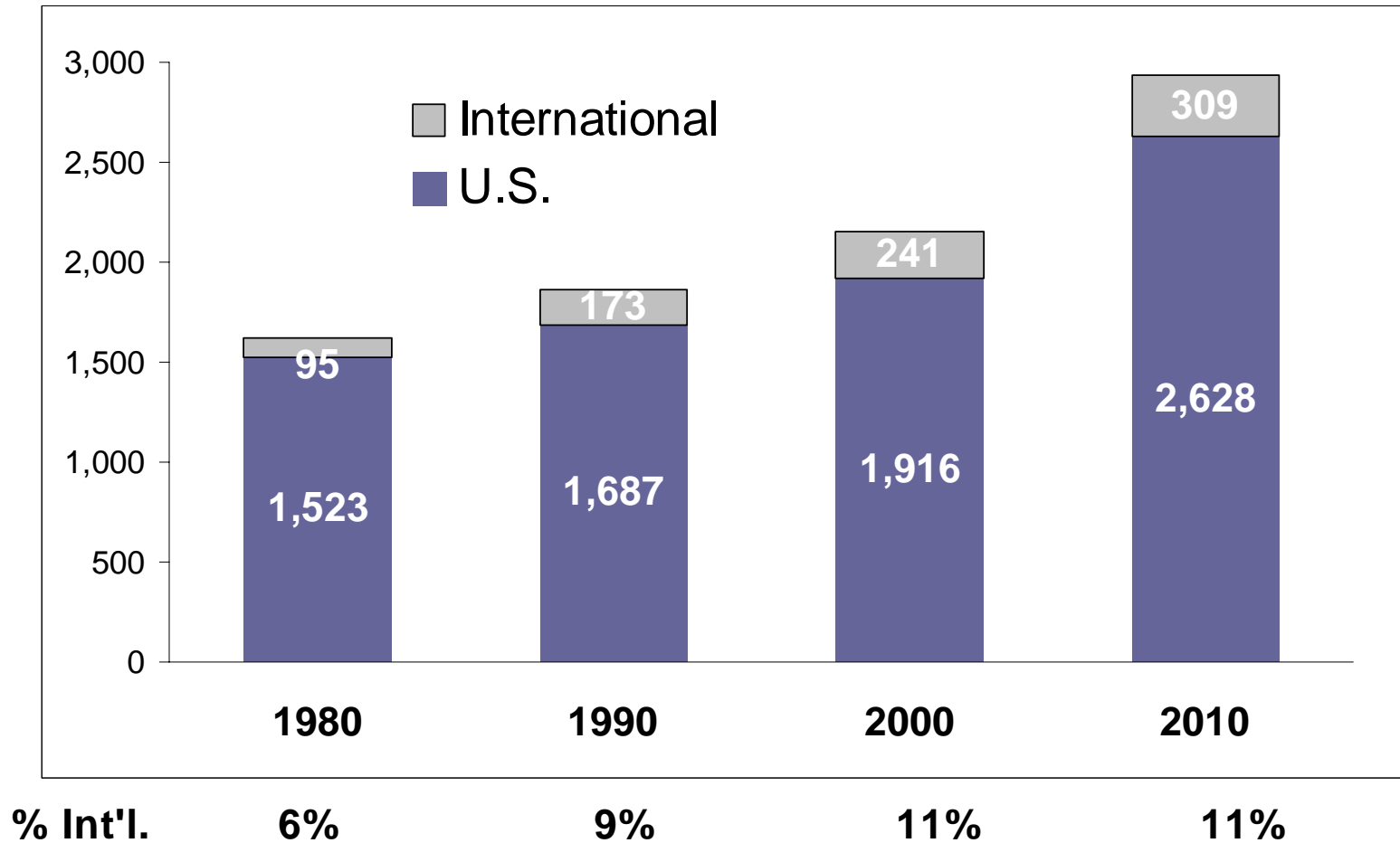
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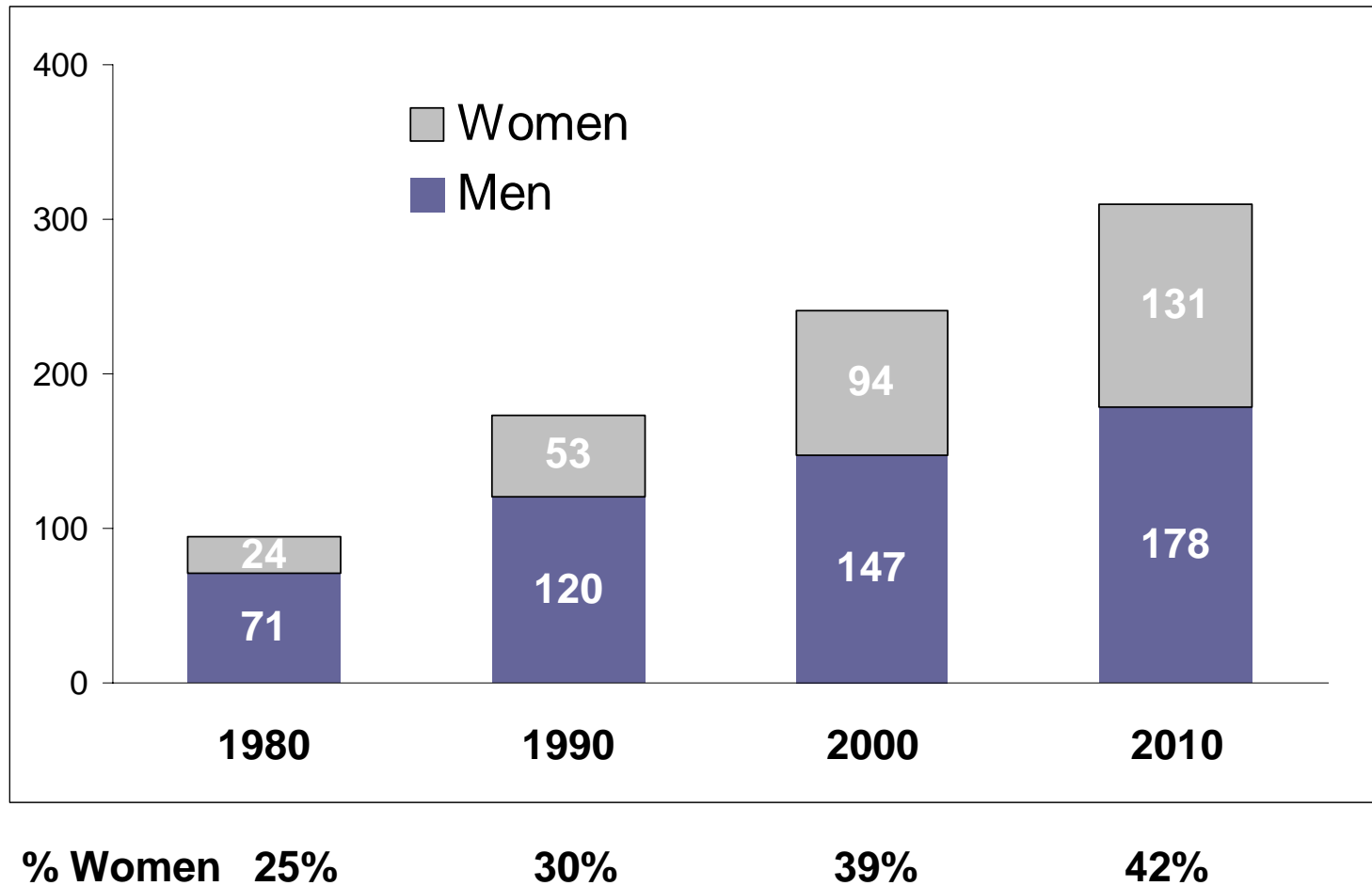
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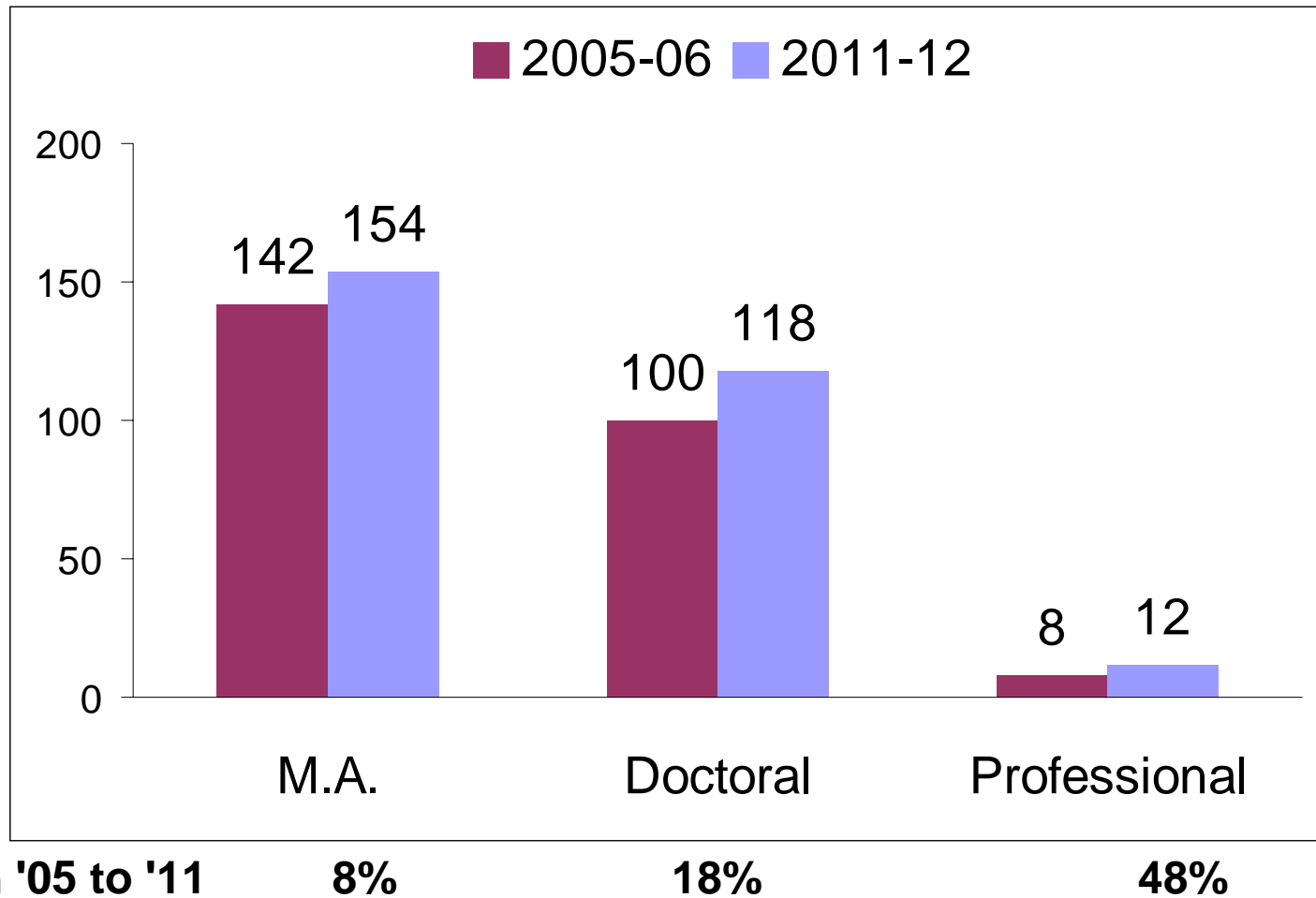
International vs. U.S. Graduate Students (in '000's)



International Graduate Students, by Gender (in '000's)



International Graduate Students, by Degree (in '000's)



Numbers by Continent: Change '01-'02 to '11-'12

Continent	2001-02	2011-12
Africa *	10,836	11,970
Asia *	174,670	207,974
Europe	34,268	24,633
Latin America	21,759	19,793
Middle East *	16,347	23,292
North America	11,906	11,265
Oceania	1,663	1,512
TOTAL *	271,182	300,430

** Increase in past decade.*



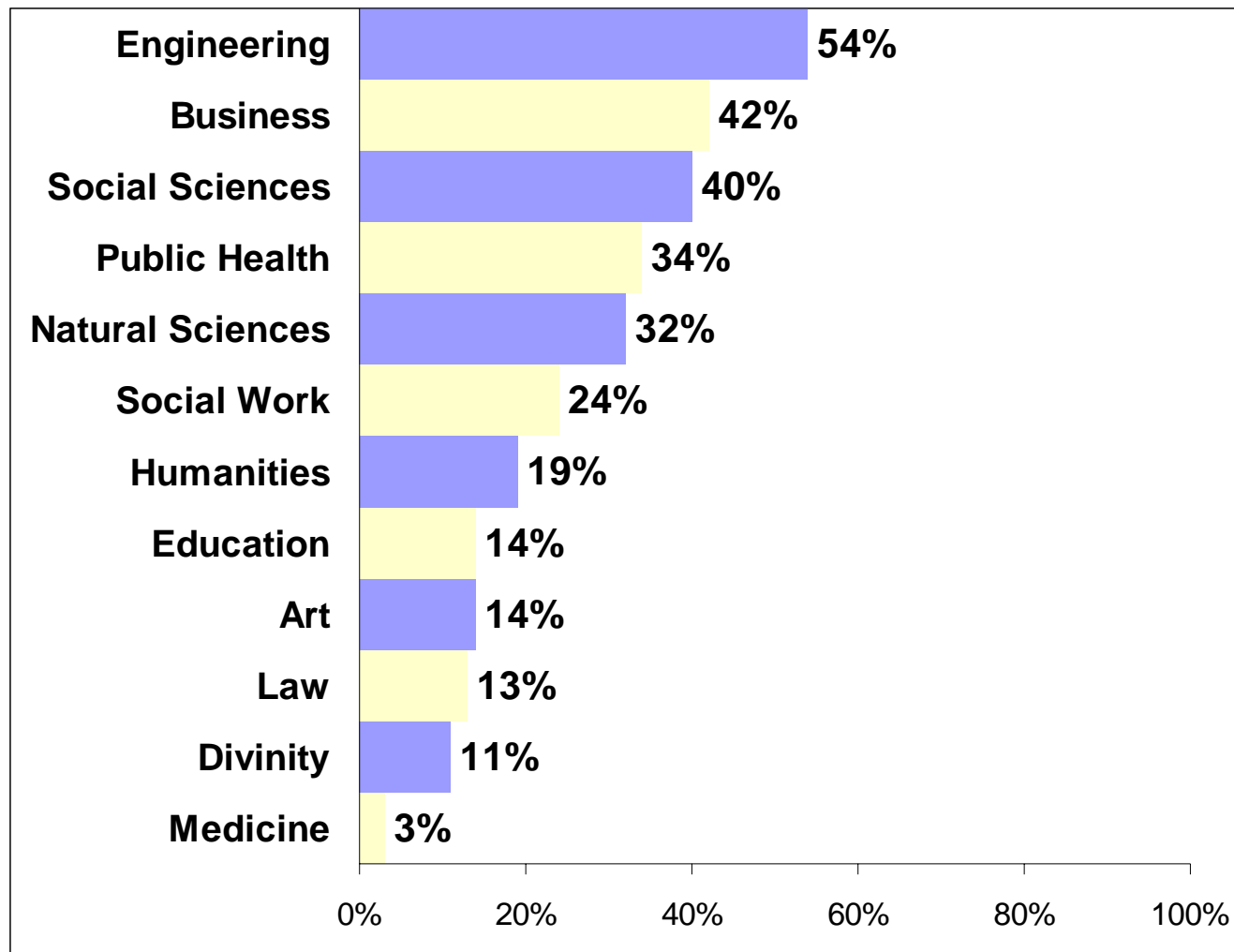
Top Countries Represented: Change '01-'02 to '11-'12

Continent	2001-02	2011-12
China *	50,969	88,429
India *	49,730	59,014
South Korea	23,676	21,260
Taiwan	15,923	12,007
Canada	11,810	11,190
Turkey	7,106	6,198
Saudi Arabia *	1,775	6,133
Iran *	1,295	5,747
Japan	9,691	4,403
Thailand	7,672	3,789

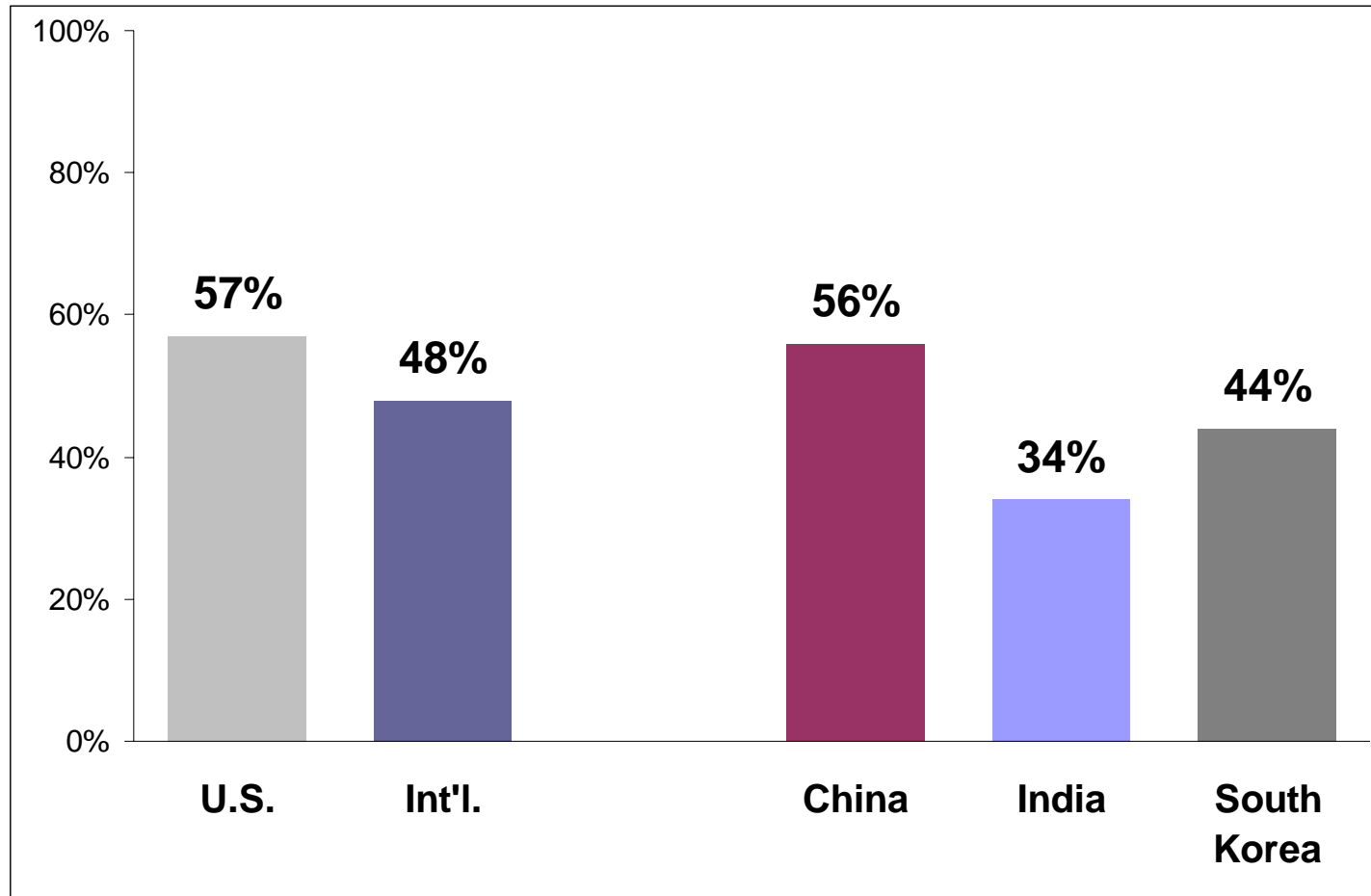
** Increase in past decade.*



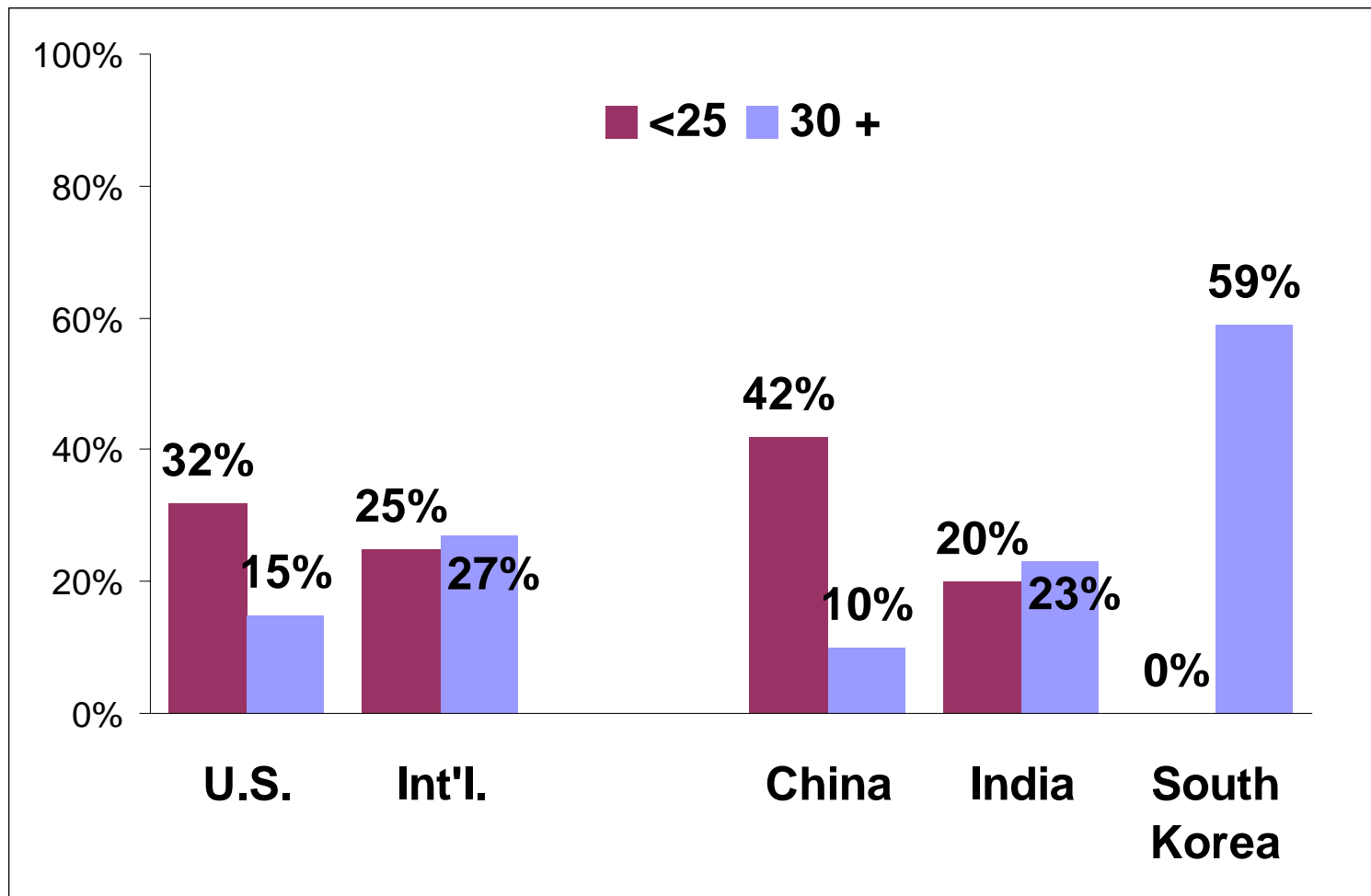
% International Varies by Program at Selected Urban Universities



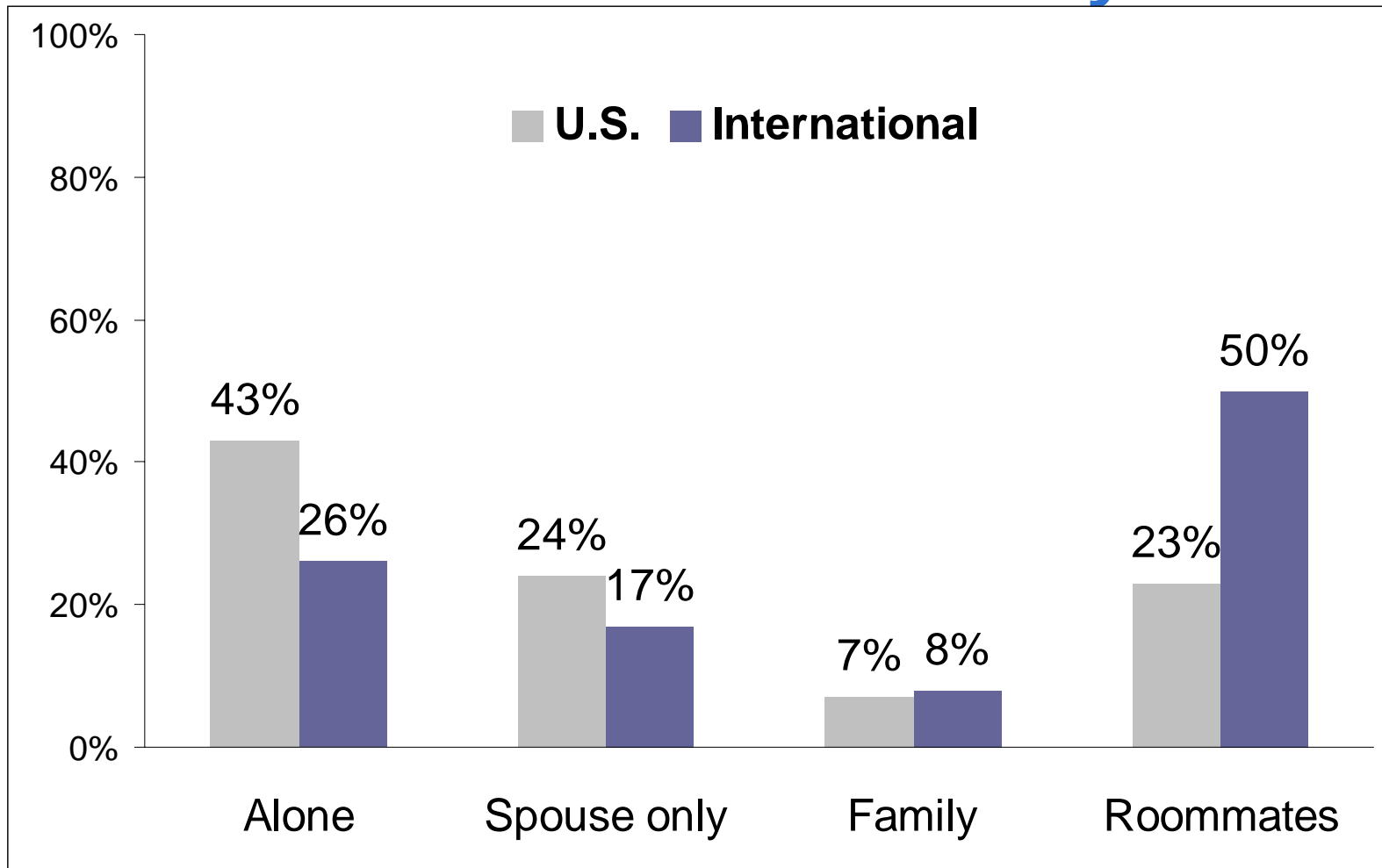
% Women Varies by U.S./Int'l. and Country at an Urban University



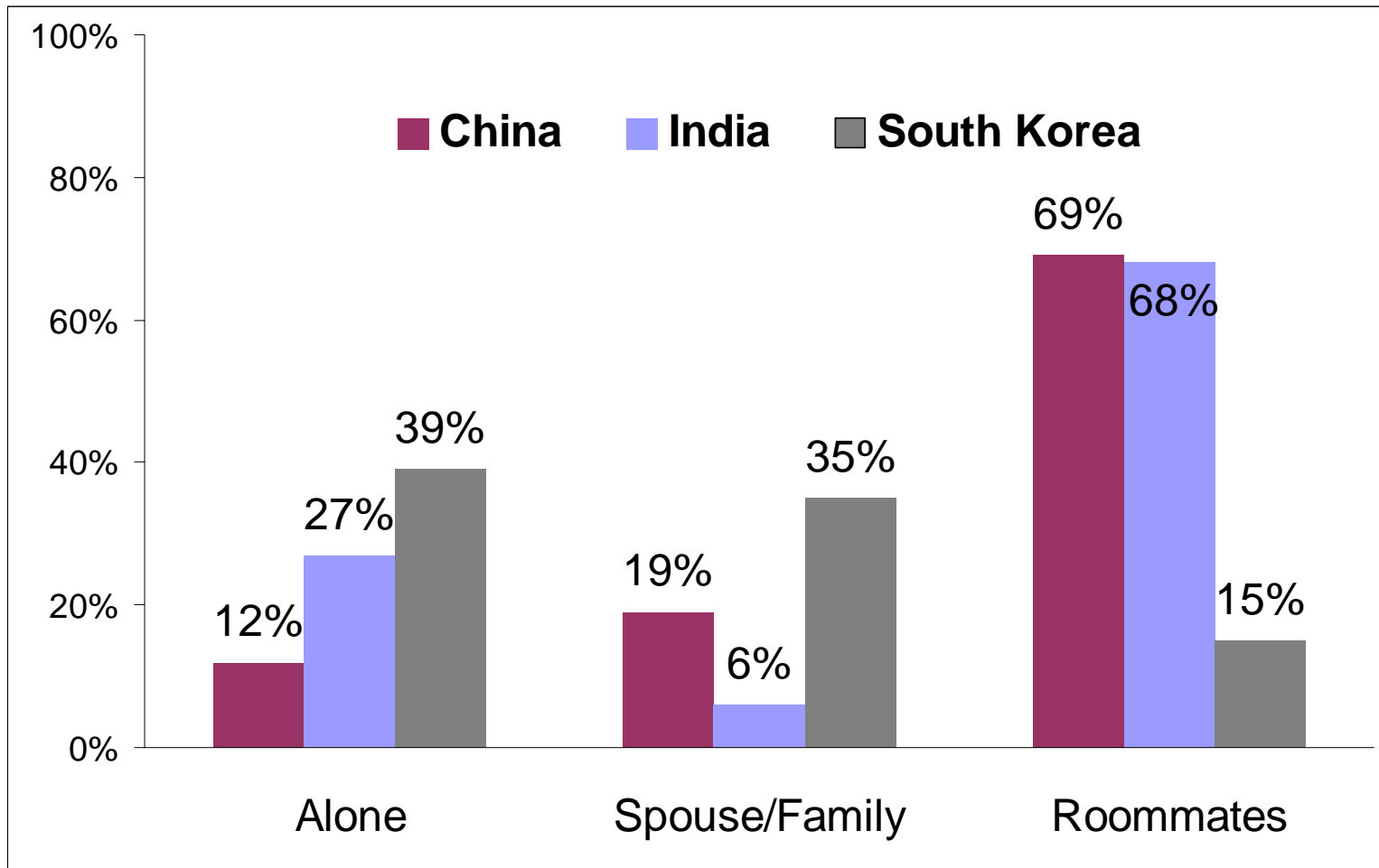
Age Varies by U.S./Int'l. and Country at an Urban University



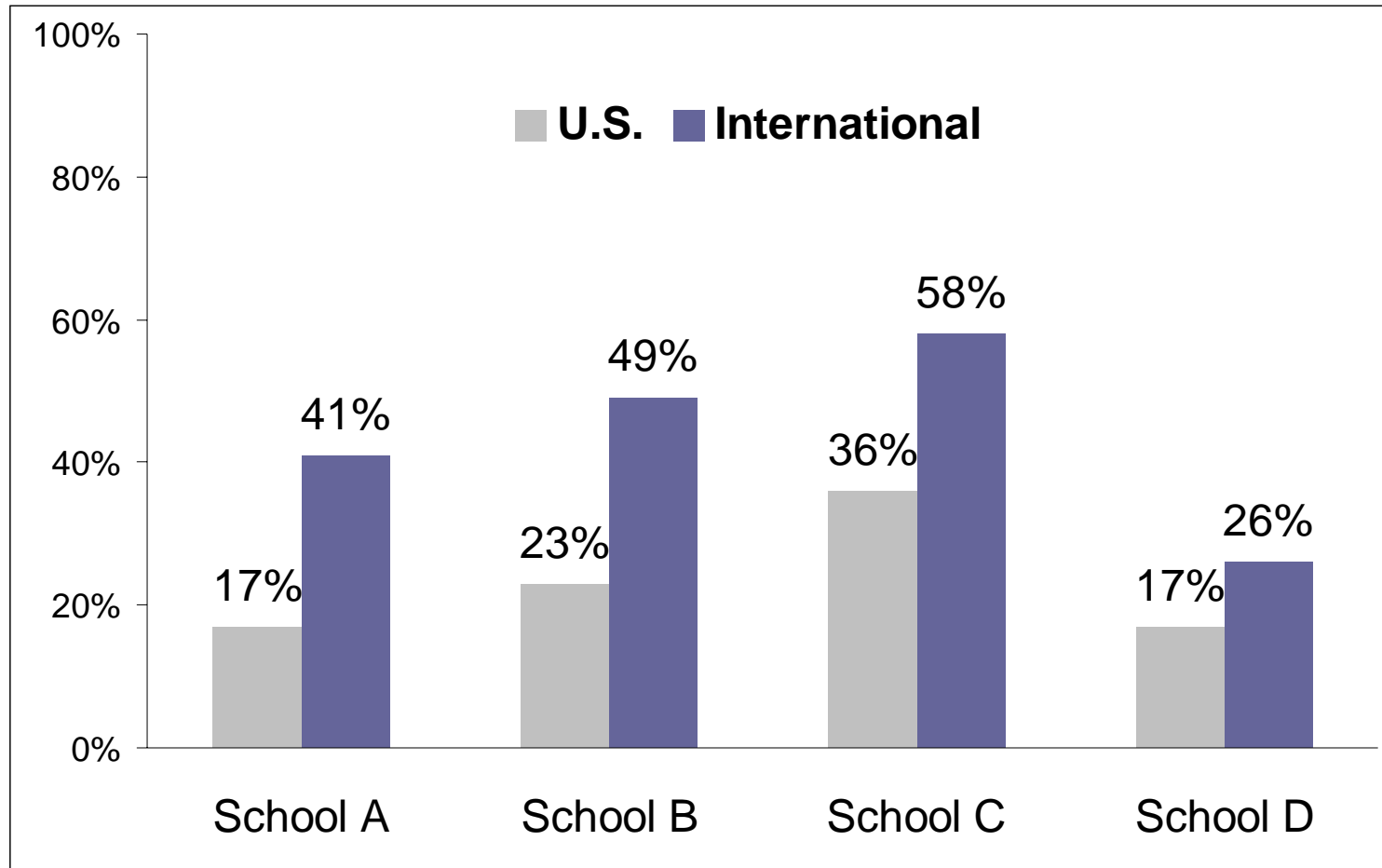
Living Situation Differs by U.S./Int'l. at an Urban University



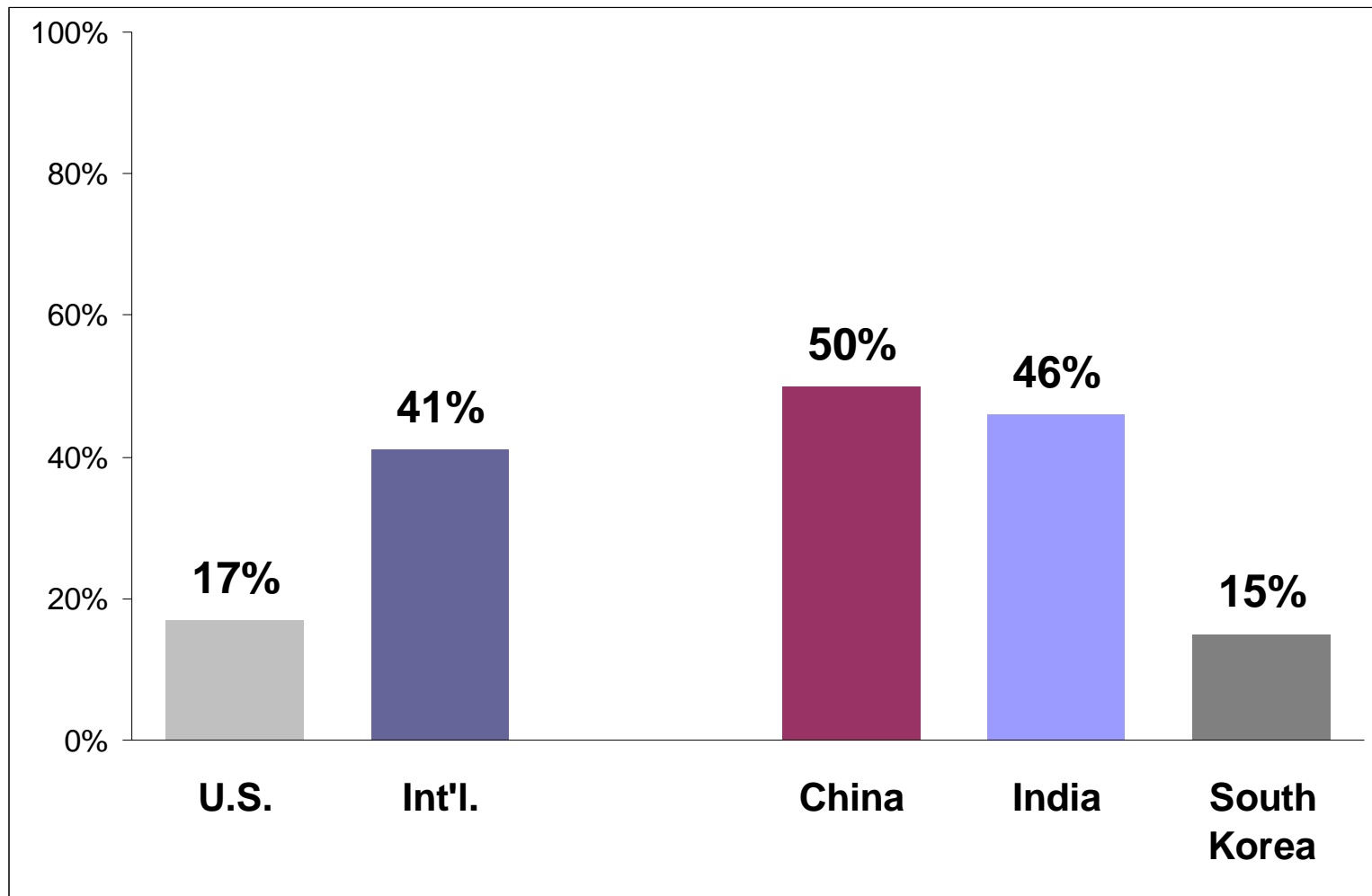
Living Situation Differs by Country at an Urban University



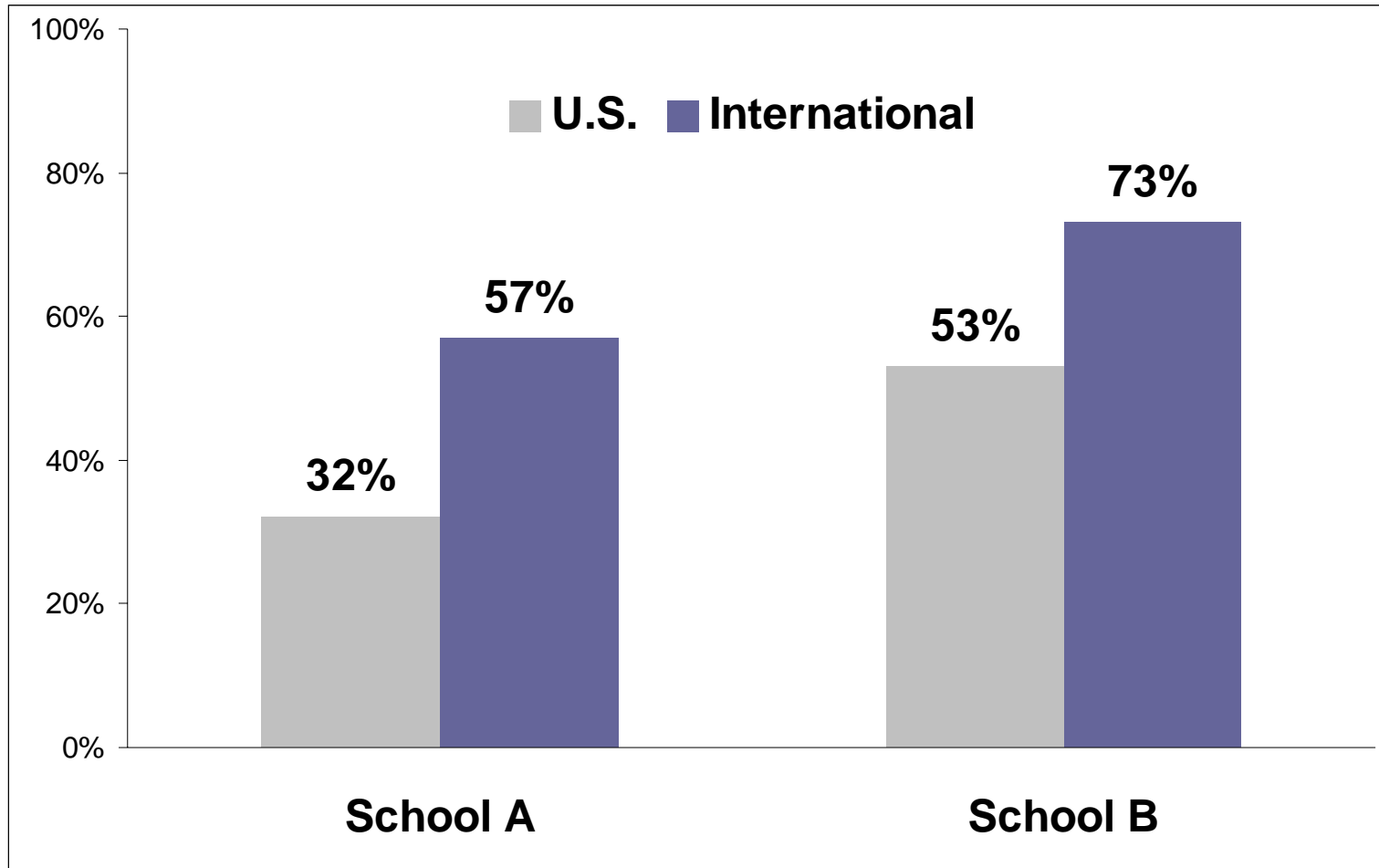
% Living in University Housing Differs by U.S./Int'l. at Selected Urban Universities



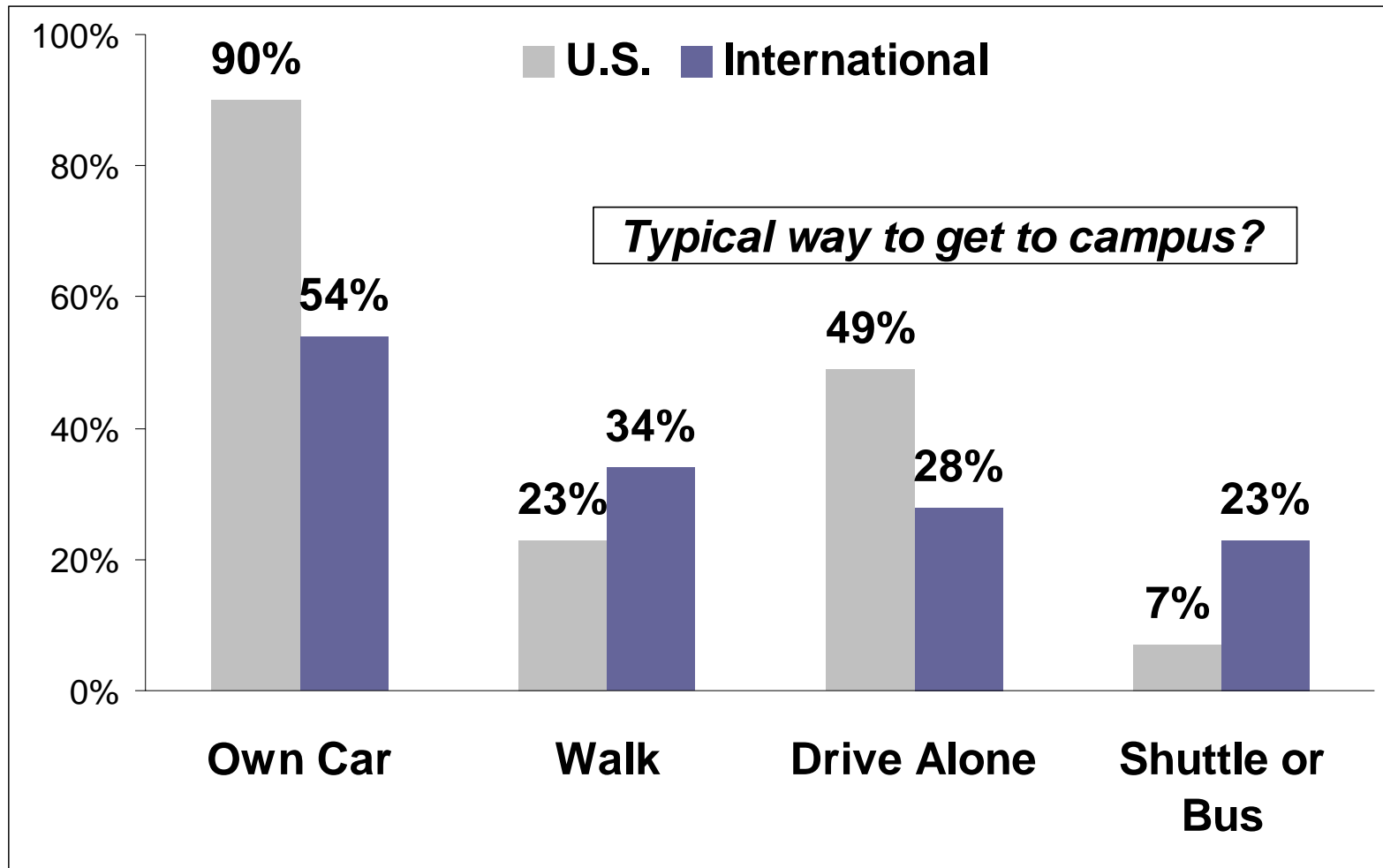
% Living in University Housing Differs by U.S./Int'l. and Country at an Urban University



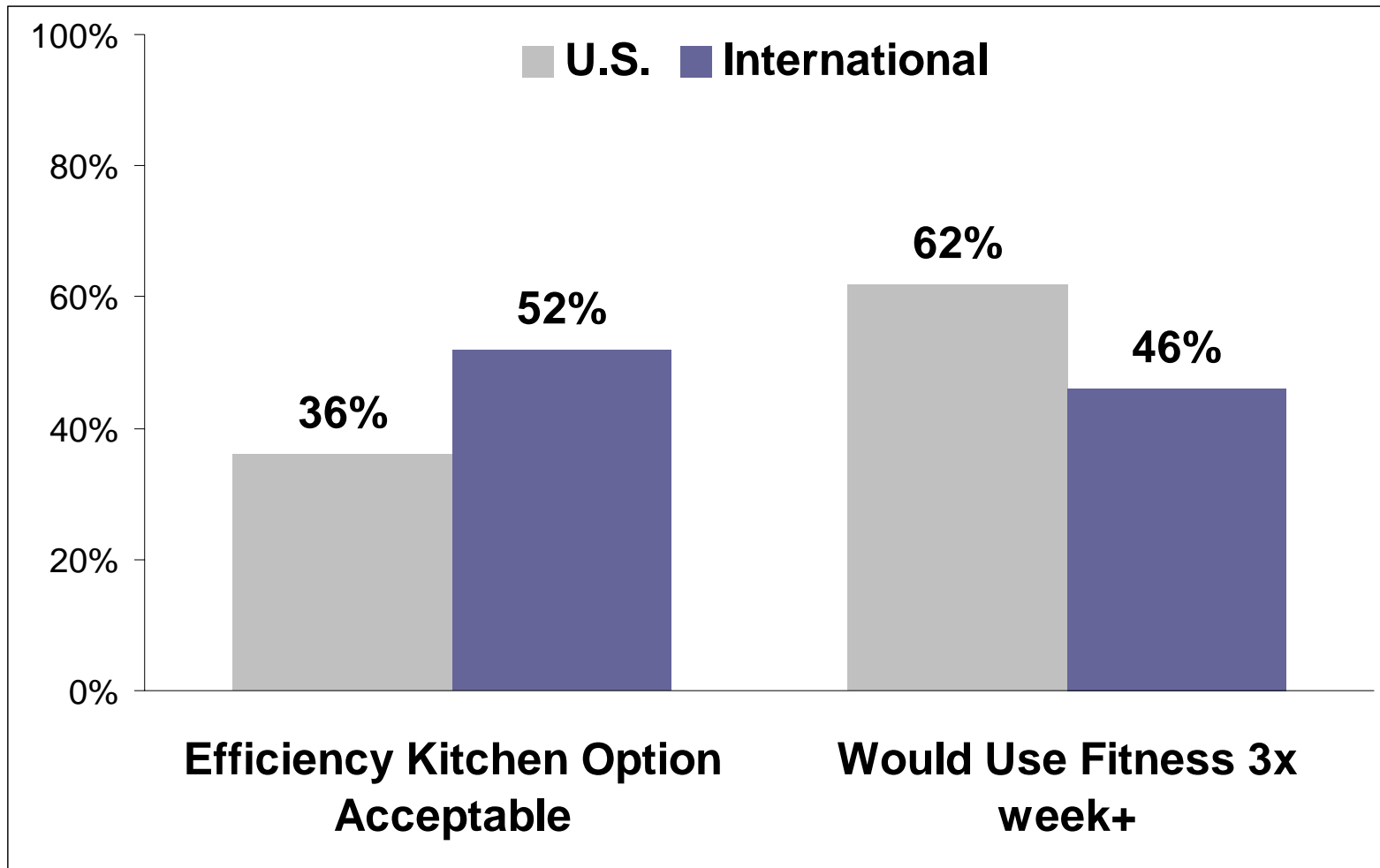
% Living Close to Campus Differs by U.S./Int'l. at Selected Urban Universities



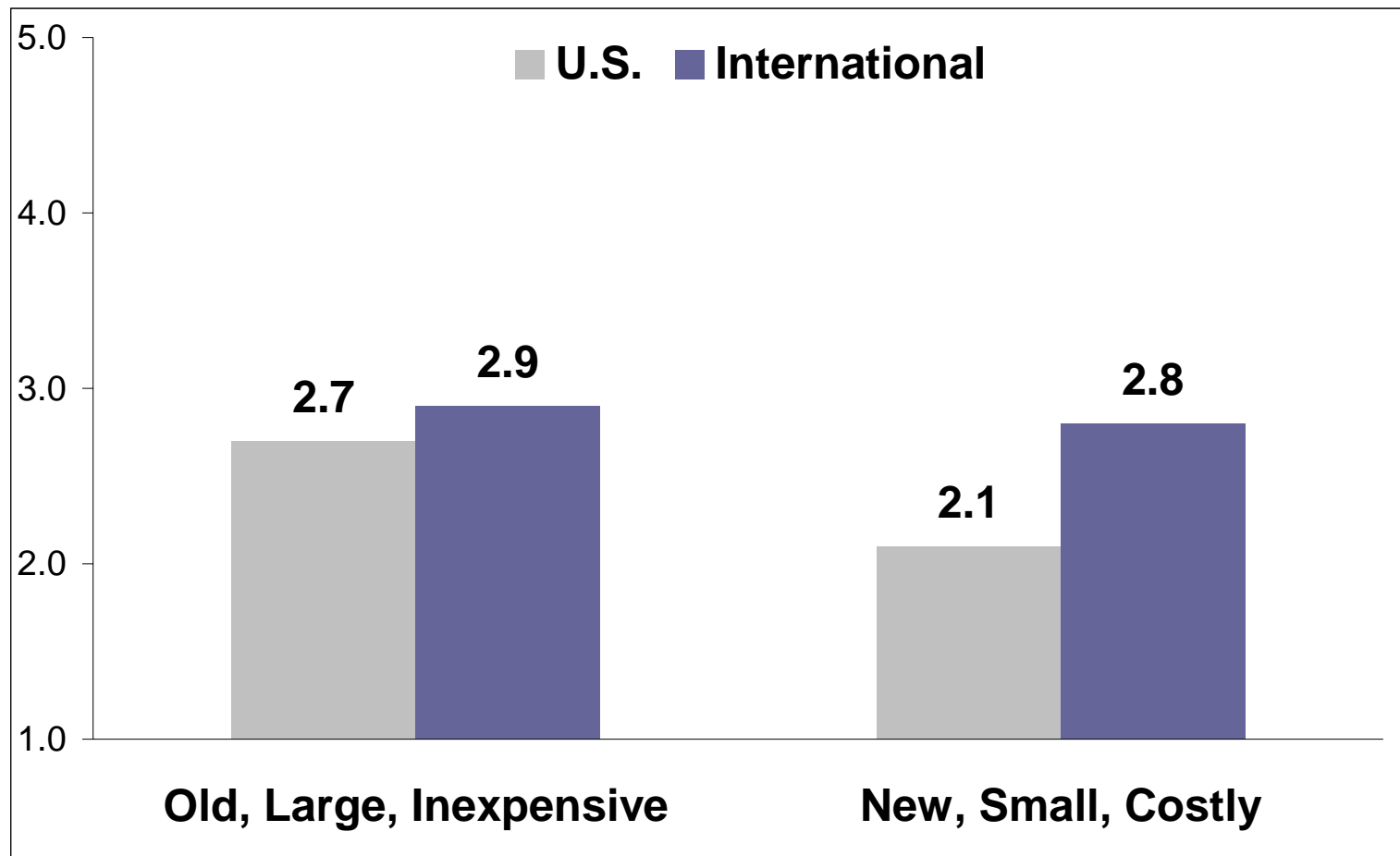
Transportation Choices Differ by U.S./Int'l. at an Urban University



Lifestyle Choices Differ by U.S./Int'l. at an Urban University



New and Small More Acceptable to Int'l. at an Urban University



Based on scale from (1) Not at all likely to choose to (5) Very likely to choose.



STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

- Dean of Graduate School
- Director of Career Services at Professional School
- Faculty Admissions Chair, Department of Engineering
- Director of Graduate Housing
- Director of International Center
- University Planner
- Director of Campus International House



LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

- Accepting students with low language abilities is a disservice. Need tutoring in speaking, writing.
- Unfamiliar with internship concept/ need orientation to U.S. workplace culture.
- Try to understand U.S. students culture of alcohol and jollity, group dining...and to fit in. Alienated as smokers.
- Bring previous experiences with sustainability to campus.
- Used to socialized medicine – don't understand our healthcare system.



ATTITUDES

- Is asking a question challenging & rude?
Is seeking help a weakness?
- Does the loudest voice win? Is loudness a coverup?
- Respectful speaking mistaken for deference or lack of confidence
- Spectrum from humble to entitled
- Accommodating conservative religious attitudes
- Different expectations re: acceptance of others, and diversity



ACADEMICS

- Speaking foreign language in lab is alienating to U.S. students, self-defeating
- Lab safety – too important to allow language to get in way – need more supervision
- Understanding U.S. definitions of plagiarism
- Problems compound when faculty are also Int'l.
- Emphasis on booklearning, vs. creative engagement in subject
- Students with language problems will take 2nd tier academic or work placements



CAMPUS EXPERIENCE

- Utilize networks in advance to find housing, cars, furniture
- At first, stronger interest in University housing, if available
- Initial fear of going off campus
- Less likely to have cars
- Extra work to cope with language may leave little time to experience campus activities
- Range of budgets from low to high



HOUSING AND DINING

- More likely to choose roommate, for cost, and for acculturation, but not familiar with this from UG days
 - ½ want roommate from own country,
½ want U.S. roommate
- Lack of familiar foods can add to homesickness – prefer apartments for own cooking
- Choices: cost sensitive, open to small living units, may prefer new construction, living close to campus
- Need introduction to lottery concept for housing
- Sense of privacy differs by culture. Different types of common spaces with different usage



DEMOGRAPHICS

- Some groups older, more work and other experience
- Engaged/married: establish the beachhead
- More husband-wife teams, fewer children
- More female students
- Spousal support: isolation, poor language, unable to work legally, do not drive, health insurance coverage
- If don't bring spouse, adds to depression, and extra cost to return home for visits, and VISA problems
- Growing number of short term Grad Visiting Scholars
– mostly International



CAMPUS ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSES

- Special orientations for Int'l students- from a few days to several weeks
- Spouses have own orientation, day program
- Youtube videos - webinars
- Language drop-in support groups
- Multiple entry points for student services—centralized, department, student-organized
- Do not have int'l students, but want exposure to int'l concepts



MORE CAMPUS RESPONSES

- Provide cable TV to cover Worldcup soccer
- Shuttles to ethnic grocery stores
- Univ housing fully/partially furnished
- Provide social activities not around drinking
- Chinese students have profound problems but have strong network; some groups (Eastern Europe/Turkish) students have no network.
- Orientations work better at department level – provide support to departments



And...MORE CAMPUS RESPONSES

- Provide rotating ethnic food in dining halls – insight into other cultures for all students
- Incorporate int'l perspective into academic topics.
Encourage Int'l students to bring their perspectives to add to campus discourse
- Develop inclusive programs such as Jewish-Islamic academic group in one department



TABLE AND GROUP SHARING

- **PROBLEMS**
- **ANECDOTES**
- **STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS**



EMERGING TOPICS AND DISCUSSION

- Council on Graduate Studies reports that Int'l. *applications are down* this year. Beginning of trend? (Notes: Int'l. enrollments stay the same; questions of data integrity.)
- After the Boston Marathon tragedy, some Int'l. students report worries about *safety* on U.S. campuses. Is this new and noteworthy?
- Push towards *lower time to degree* not good for Int'l students. Have 1st year divided into 2 to allow for more language training, less pressure.



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Thank you for attending!

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assessment, and for managing change.*

