ARE YOU PROVIDING A GOOD HOME FOR INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS?

SCUP PACIFIC

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TALK OUTLINE

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Historical Trends
- Current Climate
- Providing a Home: Planning Issues
- Discussion and Questions
LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Understand demographic differences between international and U.S. graduate students.
- Identify differences in cultural styles and needs between international and U.S. graduate students.
- List issues and questions to guide institutional planning for international students.
- Use research to improve the overall student experience for international graduate students.
HISTORICAL TRENDS
The number of international graduate students increased **14%** between 2005 and 2010 and **25%** between 2010 and 2015.

International graduate students made up 11% of all graduate students in 2010 and 13% in 2015.

In 1980, women made up 25% of all international graduate students, versus 43% in 2015.

However, most of this growth occurred between 1980 and 2000.
In the 2015 / 2016 academic year, two thirds of all international graduate students were enrolled in Master’s Degree programs.

More international graduate students pursue Master’s degrees, and that proportion is increasing over time.

The proportion of international graduate students varies by field.

Nationally, **Engineering, business, and math/computer science** degrees account for **63%** of all international graduate student degrees.

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Sources: Institutional Factbook; CGS International Survey Final Report
HISTORICAL ENROLLMENT

TOP SENDING COUNTRIES

In the 2005 school year, India, China, and South Korea were the top three countries in terms of international graduate students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th># of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>56,397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>47,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>24,414</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2005-06
From 2005 to 2015, the number of international graduate student from South Korea declined 32%.
HISTORICAL ENROLLMENT
NEW STORY FOR KEY PLAYERS

...but, in the same period, enrollment from China and India increased 159% and 81%, respectively.
ENROLLMENT TREND
ASIA IS THE LARGEST REGIONAL CONTRIBUTOR

The number of international graduate students from **China** has **more than doubled** since 2005.

The Middle East is now the second largest regional contributor of international graduate students, after Asia.

Since 2005, the number of international graduate students from Europe has declined 24%.
EXECUTIVE ORDER TRAVEL BAN

- Countries affected by original travel ban
  - Iran
  - Iraq
  - Libya
  - Syria
  - Somalia
  - Sudan
  - Yemen
- Countries affected by the latest travel ban
  - Iran
  - Libya
  - Syria
  - Yemen
  - Somalia
  - Chad
  - Venezuela
  - North Korea

In times of unsettling change, we look toward our deepest values and ideals. Among them is the recognition that drawing people together from across the nation and around the world is a paramount source of our University's strength.

– Drew Faust, President of Harvard University
H1-B VISA CHANGES

“U.S. Tightens H-1B Visa Rules, Indians To Be Hit”
Times Of India

“Trump Administration Tightens Scrutiny of Skilled Worker Visa Applicants”
Wall Street Journal

“U.S. Announces New H1-B Visa Approval Policy, Indian Firms To Be Hit”
The Hindu
From 2016 to 2017 international graduate student enrollment declined for the first time since 2008-2009 recession.

Magnitude of change depends on which data source is used, but all sources point to decline.

5.5% decline from 2016 to 2017

Sources:
H1-B VISA CHANGES AFFECTS INDIAN ENROLLMENTS
CAUSE FOR CONCERN

- Trump administration tightened H1-B visa requirements
- Dramatic decrease from India
  - Decreased enrollment in science and engineering programs
  - Related to H1-B Visa Changes
While international graduate student enrollment declined overall in 2017, the enrollment at individual schools is **influenced by institutional prestige**.

- **Enrollment at an internationally-recognized public university** increased 12%.
- **Enrollment at a midwest regional flagship public university** decreased 8%.

Source:
University International Student Data
PROVIDING A GOOD HOME FOR INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS
ELEMENTS OF A GOOD HOME

- Recruitment
- Adjustment
- Retention
- Student Experience
- Academic Experience
STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

- Campus International House Director
- Career Services Director at Professional School
- Faculty Admissions Chair, Department of Engineering
- Graduate Housing Director
- Graduate School Dean
- International Center Director
- Medical Department International Scholar Office Administrator
- Office of International Students Director
- Professional School Admissions Director
- University Planner
DEMOGRAPHIC DIFFERENCES
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ARE...

MORE LIKELY TO BE SINGLE
MORE LIKELY TO BE MALE
OLDER THAN U.S. STUDENTS
AVAILABILITY OF UNIVERSITY HOUSING
MORE IMPORTANT TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- **INT'L**
  - Low Importance: 49%
  - High Importance: 51%

- **U.S.**
  - Low Importance: 75%
  - High Importance: 25%
CURRENT HOUSING
MORE LIKELY TO LIVE IN UNIVERSITY HOUSING

- Lack of familiar foods can add to homesickness
  - Prefer apartments for own cooking
- Some international students are cost sensitive
- Different stylistic preferences
  - Open to small living units
  - May prefer new construction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>University Housing</th>
<th>Other Housing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INT’L</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIVING SITUATION
MOST INTERNATIONAL GRADS HAVE 1+ ROOMMATES

- Cost and acculturation are both factors
- Typically unfamiliar with concept of roommates from undergraduate experience
- Evenly split in wanting roommate from their own country and wanting U.S. roommate
FURNISHED HOUSING
MORE IMPORTANT TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

INT'L
- 34% Low Importance
- 66% High Importance

U.S.
- 83% Low Importance
- 17% High Importance
## OTHER DIFFERENCES
### INTERNATIONAL VS. U.S.

Preferences differ by international status (% important)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>INT'L</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safe Neighborhood</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Building Features</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficiency Kitchen</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

More **International graduate students** prefer **sustainable building features** and **efficiency kitchens**

**Neighborhood safety** is a universal concern, but of particular importance to **international graduate students**
CAR OWNERSHIP
INTERNATIONAL GRADS LESS LIKELY TO OWN CAR

Strong preference to live close to campus
- More open to public transportation
International graduate students walk or use buses more frequently than U.S. students.
Universities have always provided programming for international graduate students

- How do their needs and preferences differ from U.S. students?
- How does this add to the broader campus climate?
SPACE FOR SOCIAL PROGRAMMING

Compared to U.S. grad students, International students consistently place more importance on student programming.

Mean rating on a scale from (1) Not Important, to (5) Very Important
DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS
What recruitment trends are you seeing at your school?
Has there been an increase in support needed for international students from specific countries in light of current U.S. political climate?
Describe any unique strategies that schools have employed to address the unique needs and preferences of international graduate students.
What other information would you like to share with your peers or learn from your peers?
SELECTED REFERENCES

- National Science Foundation International Student Report 2018
- U.S. Political Climate Casts a Cloud over International Enrollment (Paid Content by ETS TOEFL from The Chronicle of Higher Education) http://www.chronicle.com/paid-article/US-Political-Climate-Casts1&elqCampaignId=6411
- Proprietary research studies of Demographic Perspectives, LLC
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