



Council of Graduate Schools

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 9, 2006

Contact: Stuart Heiser

(202) 223-3791 or sheiser@cgs.nche.edu

Graduate Schools Admit 12% More International Applicants Than Last Year

Quality of Applications from International Students Holds Steady

The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is reporting that offers of admission to international students by U.S. graduate schools increased 12% from 2005 to 2006. Additionally, the overwhelming majority of graduate school deans believe that the quality of their international applicants is as high, or higher, than it was last year.

The report on admissions for fall 2006, being released today, shows considerable gains in the number of students admitted from China (+20%) and India (+28%) to CGS U.S. member institutions. Annually, China and India send the largest number of students to the U.S. Admission of applicants from Korea increased by 4% and dropped 2% for students from the Middle East. This is the first time in the last three years that admits from China have increased and that admits from the Middle East have declined. In terms of fields of study, the biggest increases were in engineering (26%) and business (12%).

“These findings are another hopeful sign of a recovery in international admissions. Continuing to attract the best and brightest students in key fields is essential to maintaining America’s competitiveness in the global economy,” said Debra W. Stewart, CGS President. “This report highlights the efforts of our graduate schools to strengthen their outreach to international students, and we will be monitoring the results of these investments,” Dr. Stewart noted.

New practices begun; quality maintained

Seventy-nine percent of graduate schools also report that they have initiated at least one intervention to improve outreach to prospective international applicants, and one-third reported undertaking two or more. These include new international programs or collaborations, such as agreements with foreign agencies, recruitment trips, especially to China, and new admissions staff devoted to international students.

Asked about their perception of the quality of applicants, over 99% of respondents indicate that the quality of 2006 applicants is either about the same or higher than last year. Selectivity remained approximately the same, with admission offered to 24% of international applications.

[more]

Council of Graduate Schools

One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 430 • Washington, DC 20036

(202) 223-3791 • www.cgsnet.org

Application increase confirmed

Additionally, the survey finds that final applications from international students for fall 2006 are up 12%, confirming CGS' previous research in March, which reported an 11% increase in applications that had been received by February. This increase followed a two-year cumulative decline of 32%.

The report notes final increases in applications from China (+19%), India (+26%), Korea (+4%), and the Middle East (+10%). Applications increased across all broad fields of study, including the critical fields of engineering (+19%) and physical sciences (+15%). Life sciences (+9%) and business (+16%) also saw significant increases.

About the report

Findings from 2006 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase II: Final Applications and Offers of Admission is based on the second phase of a three-part annual survey of international graduate student admissions among CGS U.S. member institutions. Over 150 schools responded, including over 90% of the 25 institutions with the largest international student enrollments. Last year, CGS reported a 5% decline in international graduate applications, followed by a 3% increase in admissions and a 1% increase in international first-time enrollment for fall 2005. The full report is available at the CGS website www.cgsnet.org.

###

The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is an organization of 470 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.