

## **SURVEY OF APPLICATIONS BY PROSPECTIVE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TO U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

This survey received responses from more than 530 institutions during the month of February 2004 and was conducted jointly by the American Council on Education (ACE), the Association of American Universities (AAU), the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), NAFSA: Association of International Educators, and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC).

### **Applications by Prospective International GRADUATE Students**

*Applications for Fall 2004 compared with applications for Fall 2003*

250 institutions provided data regarding graduate applications from international students. Nearly half (47%) indicated a decline in applications. 38% said application rates had not changed, and 14% indicated an increase in application numbers.

130 of these respondents were doctoral/research institutions. 59% of these institutions indicated a decline, 28% indicated no change in application numbers, and 11% indicated an increase.

Nineteen of the survey respondents are ranked among the 25 research institutions that enroll the most international students. All of these respondents indicated declines in international graduate applications. Nine indicated a decrease of 30% or more; six reported a decrease of between 11 and 30%.

### **Applications by Prospective International CHINESE GRADUATE Students**

216 institutions responded to the question about applications from Chinese graduate students in particular. Nearly half (48%) reported a decline in applications; 46% said application rates had not changed; and 6% reported an increase in applications.

Declines in applications by Chinese applicants to graduate programs were more dramatic among the 25 research institutions that enroll the most international students. All of the 17 institutions that responded to this question indicated declines in applications; 13 reported more drastic declines in graduate applications from their Chinese students than from their international graduate applicants generally. Thirteen of these institutions also indicated a decline of 30% or more. Four experienced decreases of 50% or more.

**Applications by Prospective UNDERGRADUATE Students**

*Applications for Fall 2004 compared with applications for Fall 2003*

Among 382 institutions responding, 36% reported a decline. 35% indicated that applications numbers had not changed; 29% indicated an increase.

19 of the survey respondents are ranked among the 25 research institutions that enroll the most international students. Twelve of these indicated a decline in applications; 6 indicated an increase; and 1 reported no change in application numbers.

Among the 310 institutions that answered the question regarding applications by Chinese undergraduate students, 69% reported that application numbers had not changed. 22% reported a decline; 9% reported an increase.

**English as a Second Language**

Of the 147 schools that responded to the question about ESL applications, 54% indicated declines. Just over half (52%) of those that indicated declines experienced decreases of 25% or more. 34% reported no change in application numbers; 12% experienced an increase.

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