

International Graduate Admissions: Examining the Requirements for International Degrees

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Los Angeles, CA

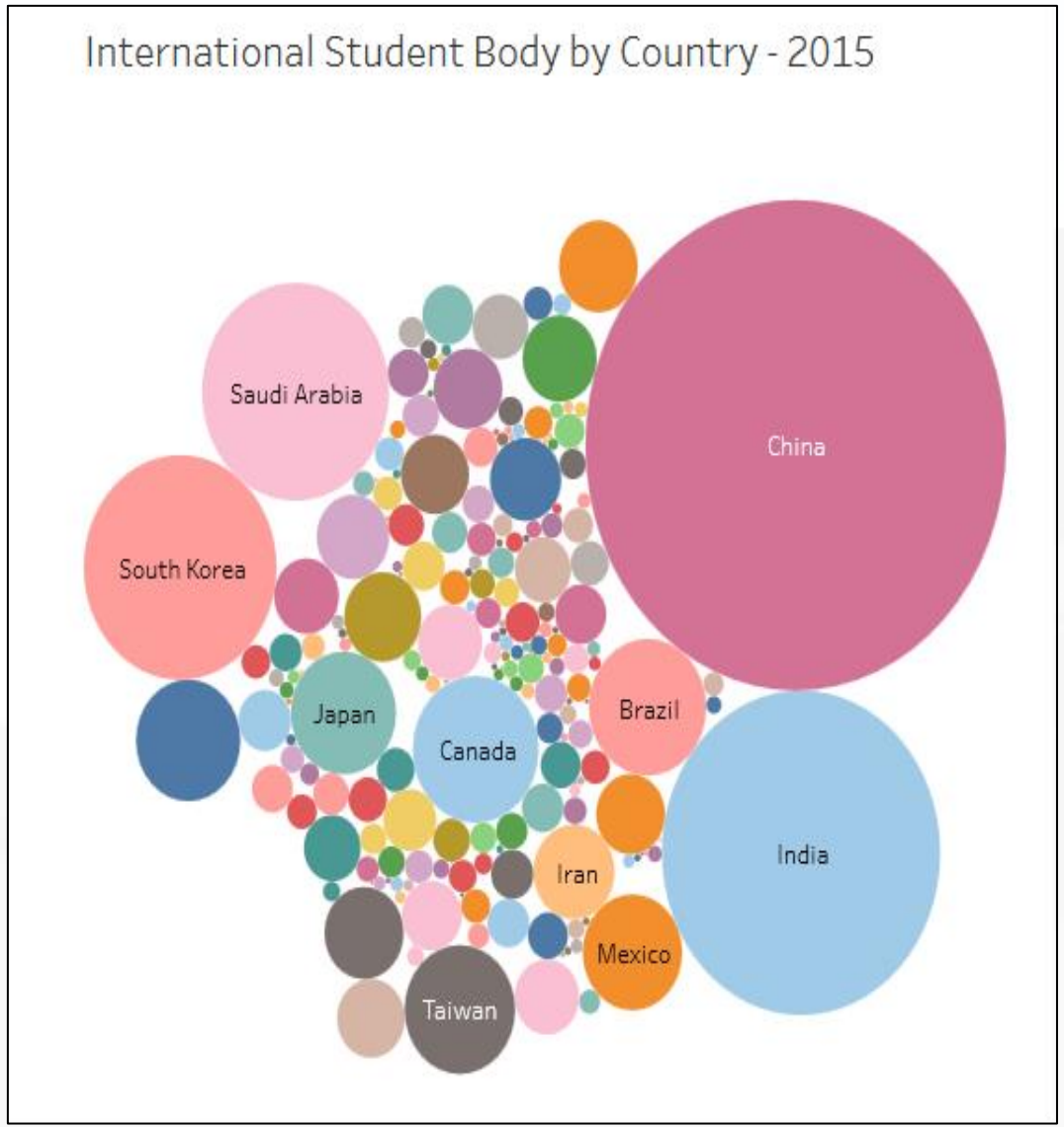
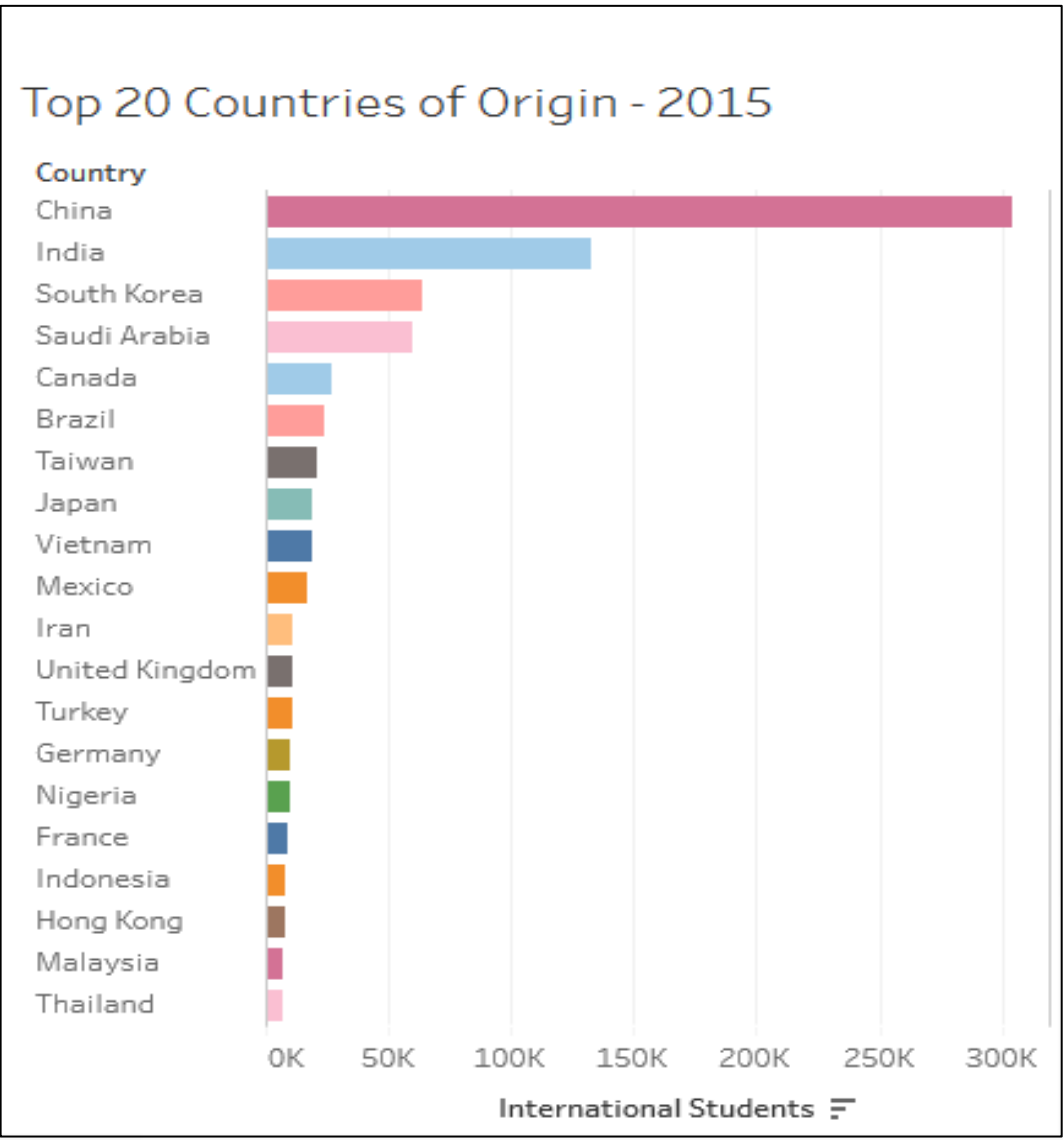
Historic Overview

International Enrollment 1950 = 26,000; Present = ~1M

- 1950 - 1970, Canada was the number one source of international students.
- By 1975, Iran sent the most students (~13,000) to the United States, followed by Hong Kong, Taiwan, India and Canada.
- Iran topped the chart in 1980 as well, sending over 50,000 students. The Iranian student number quadrupled in just 5 years.

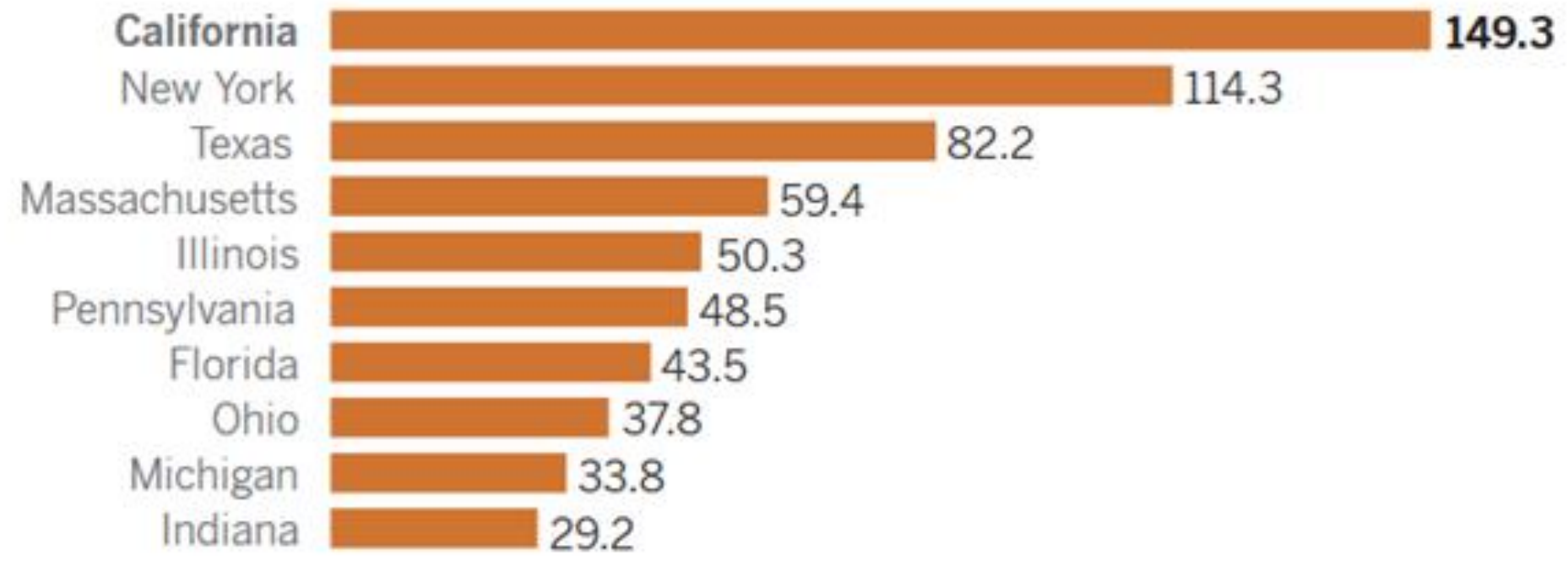
- 1990's saw an influx of Chinese and Japanese students.
- Between 2002 to 2009, India lead the charge of sending the most number of students to the United States.
- In 2010, China took over India and over 125,000 Chinese students were attending US universities.
- In 2015, there were over 300,000 Chinese students enrolled in US. India was distant second with 130,000 students.

Source: <https://www.goschoolwise.com/datavis/international-students-usa>



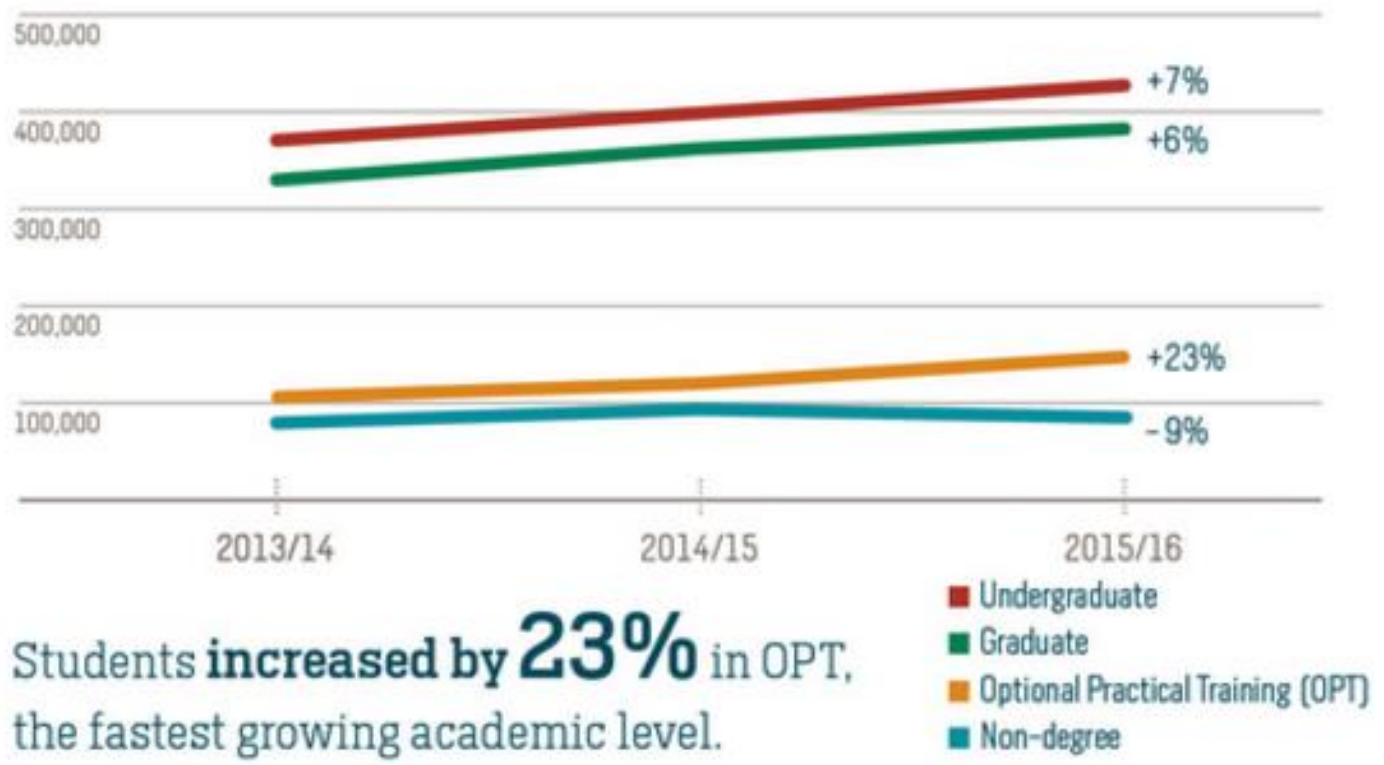
Top states hosting international students

More international students choose to study in California than in any other state.
(in thousands)



Source: 2016 Open Doors Report, Institute of International Education @latimesgraphics

ACADEMIC LEVELS OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



Students **increased by 23%** in OPT, the fastest growing academic level.

Open Doors is conducted by the Institute of International Education with the support of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. Online at: www.iie.org/opendoors



International Graduate Students by the #s:

2014/15:

- 362,228 graduate students
- 37.2% of all international students

2015/16:

- 383,935 graduate students
- 36.8 % of all international students

General US position on three-year degrees in the context of graduate admissions

- There is no single US position on the equivalence of three-year degrees
- US universities are autonomous, and each sets its own admission policies
- Survey data since 2005 shows 2/3 of respondents to consistently consider the three-year degree for graduate admissions
- Foreign education systems are not harmonizing, and case-by-case admission review remains a frequent practice in graduate admission

AICE-AACRAO SURVEY 2017

Elements of undergraduate degrees for suitability to graduate programs

- Minimum (4) years of full time study
- If less than four years, type/origin of the program
- General education component
- Major-specific coursework
- Electives
- Access (to graduate programs at home)
- Degree conferral

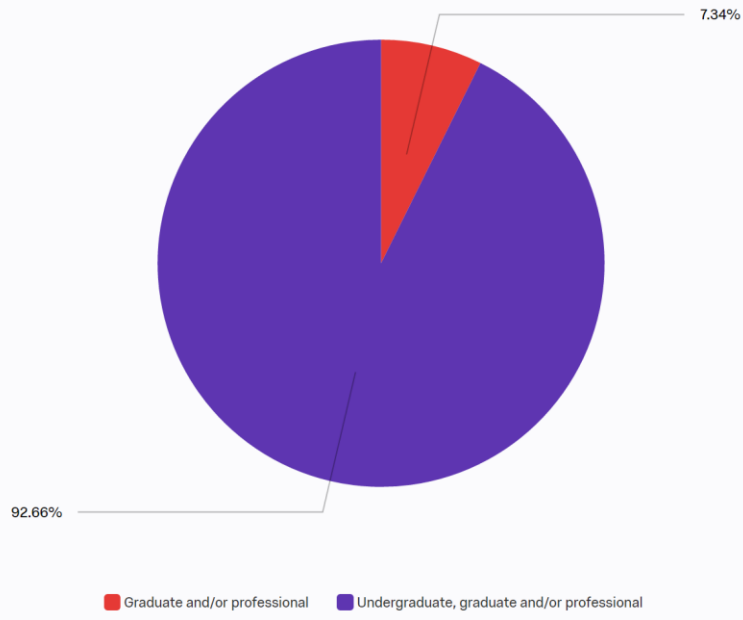
Full survey results available to download at:

<http://www.aacrao.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/aacrao-aice-survey.pptx?sfvrsn=2>

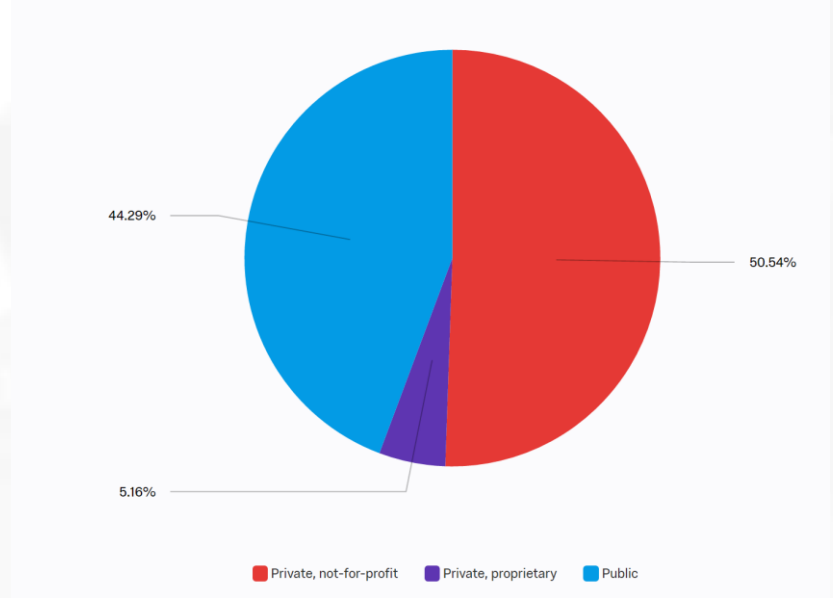
SURVEY RESPONDENTS

369 INSTITUTIONS RESPONDED

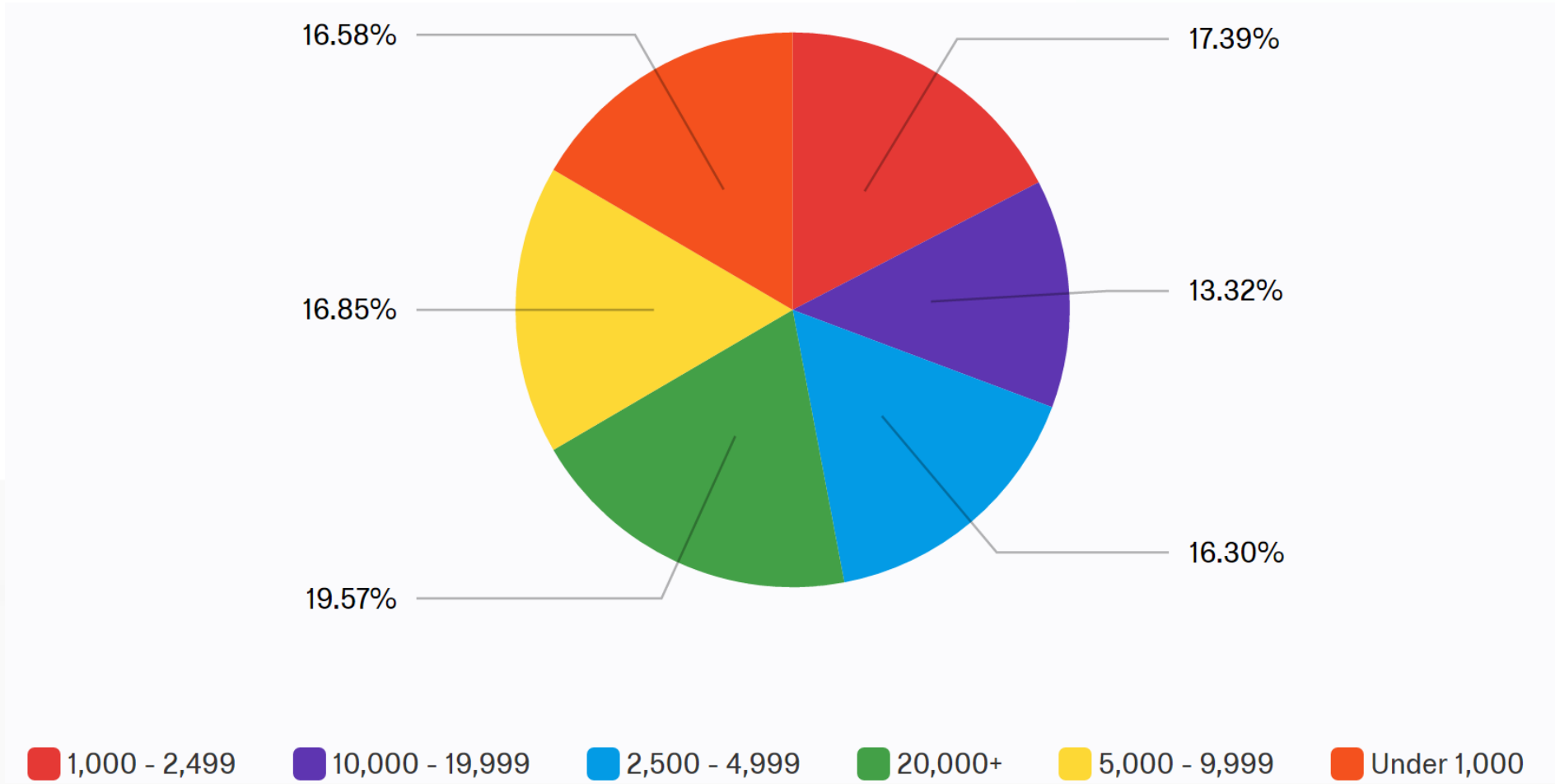
INSTITUTION TYPE



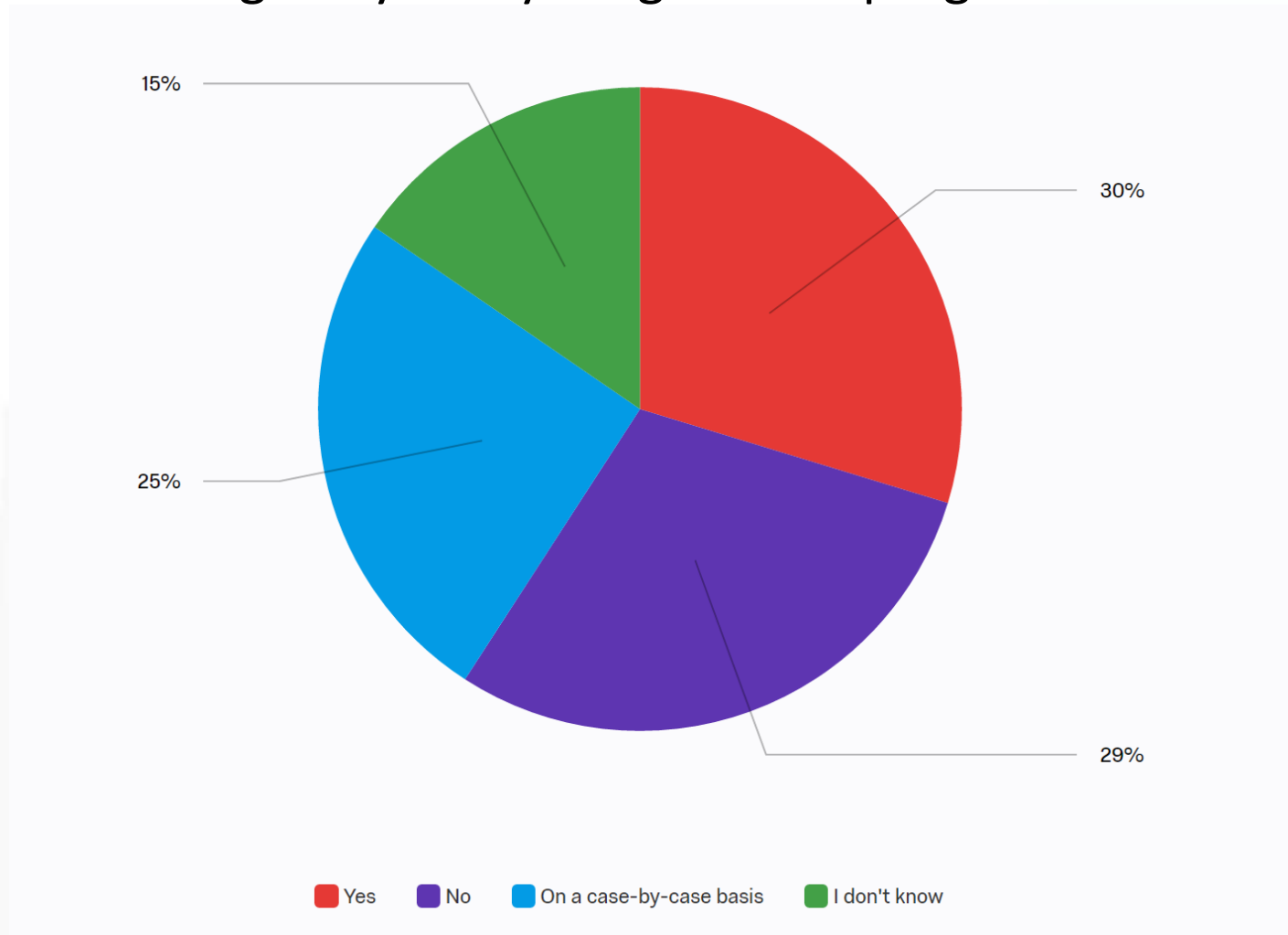
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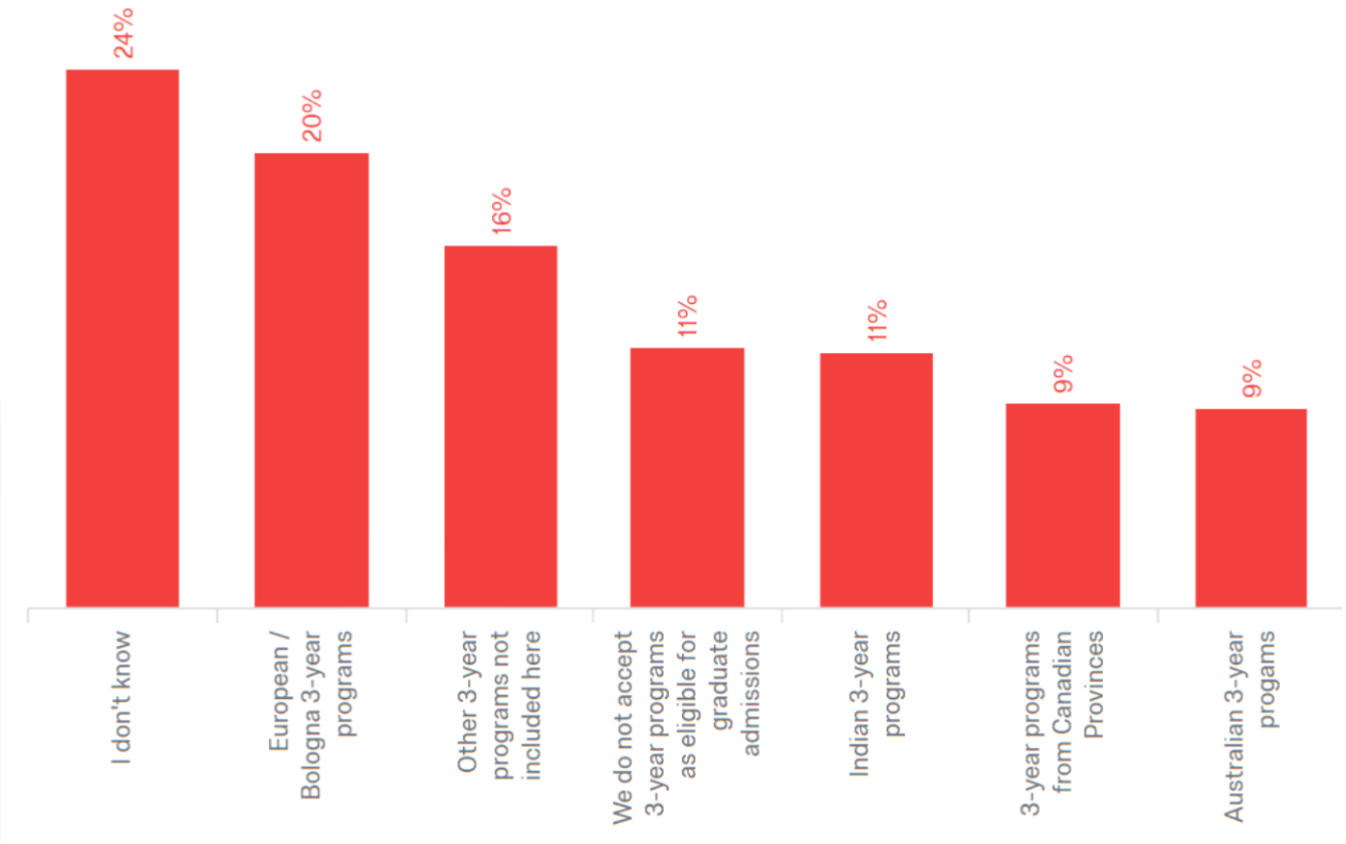
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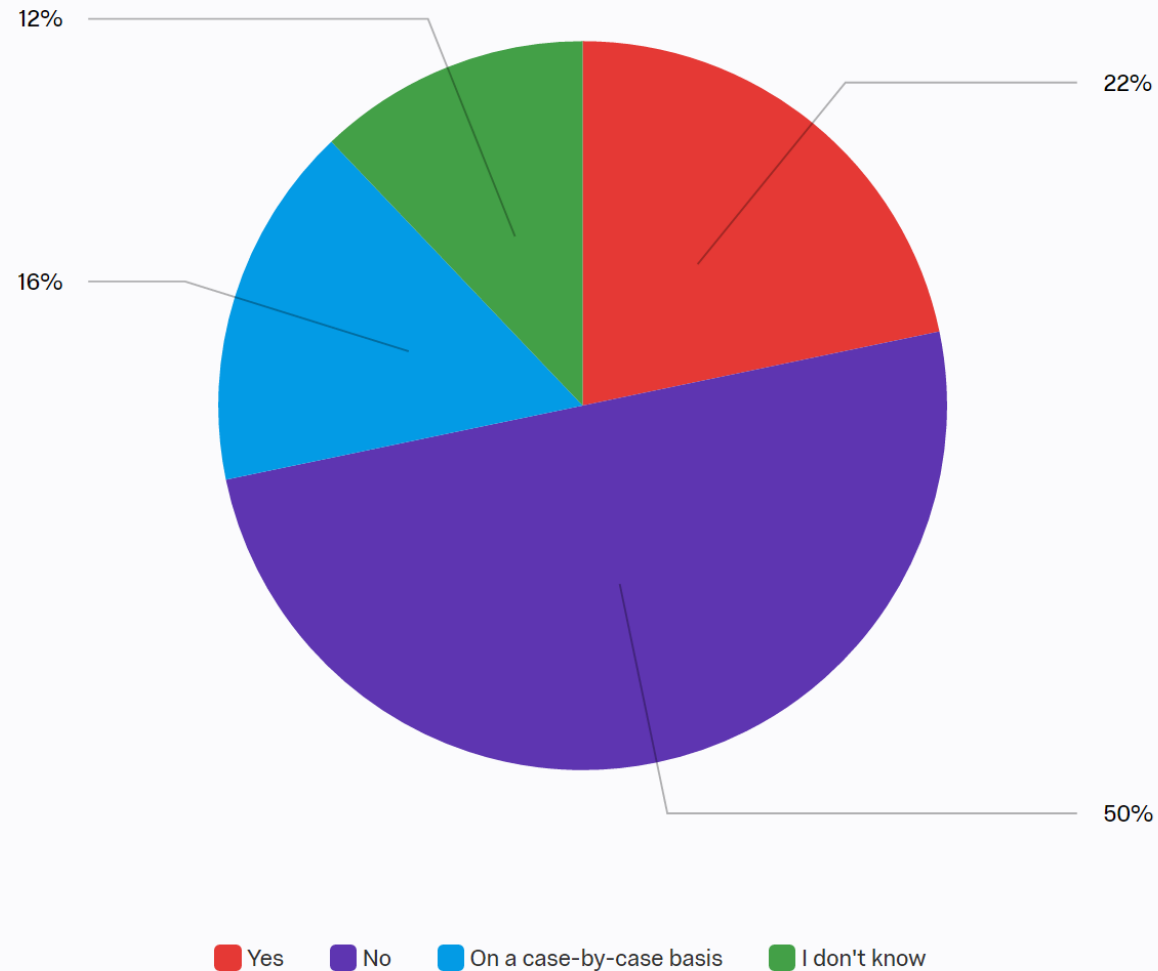
Q1 - Does your institution require completed undergraduate programs to be **at least four years in duration** for admissions eligibility into your graduate programs?



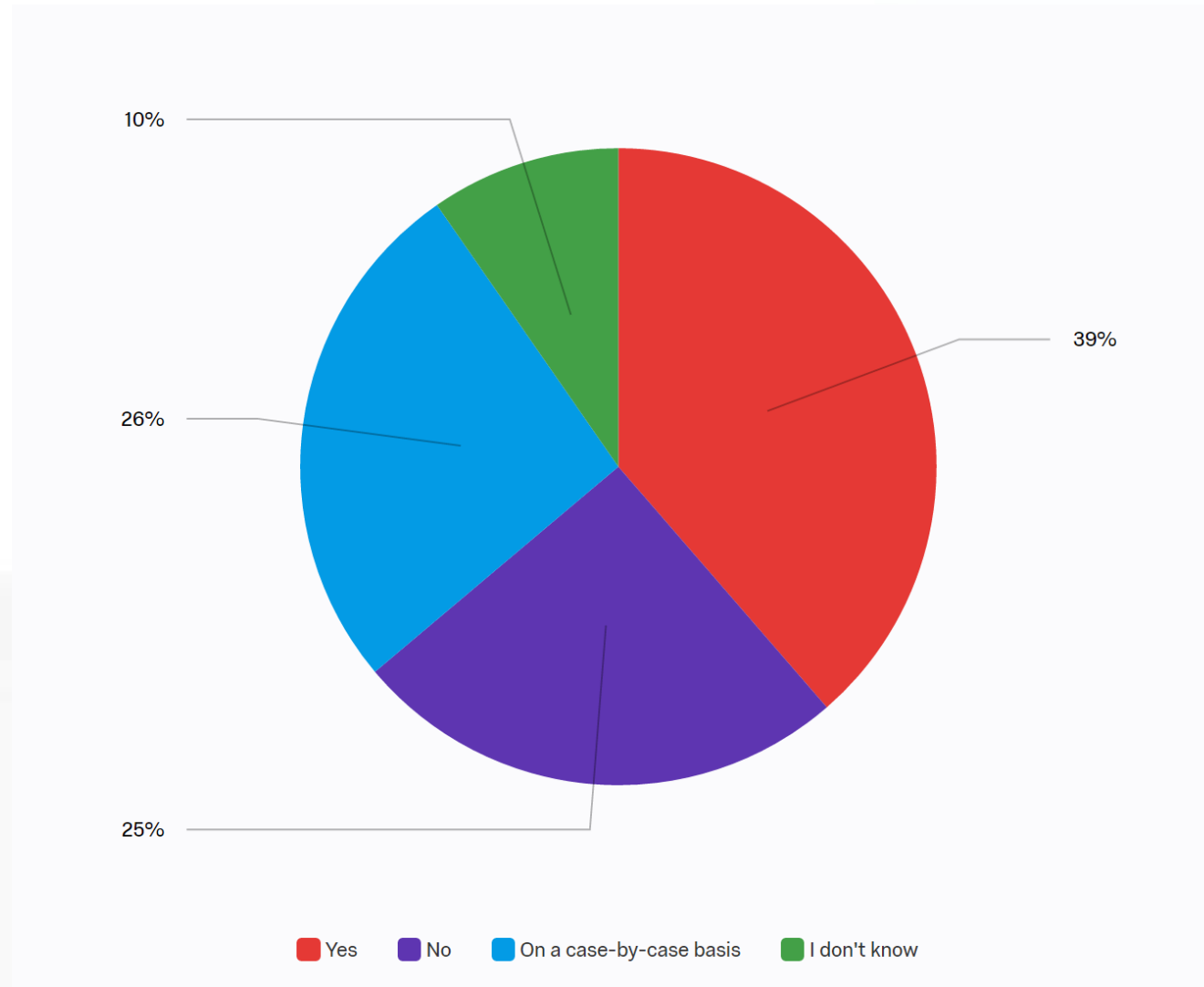
Q2 - If your institution ever considers 3-year bachelor's programs as eligible for graduate admissions, please select the **type of 3-year programs** below that you believe to be eligible:



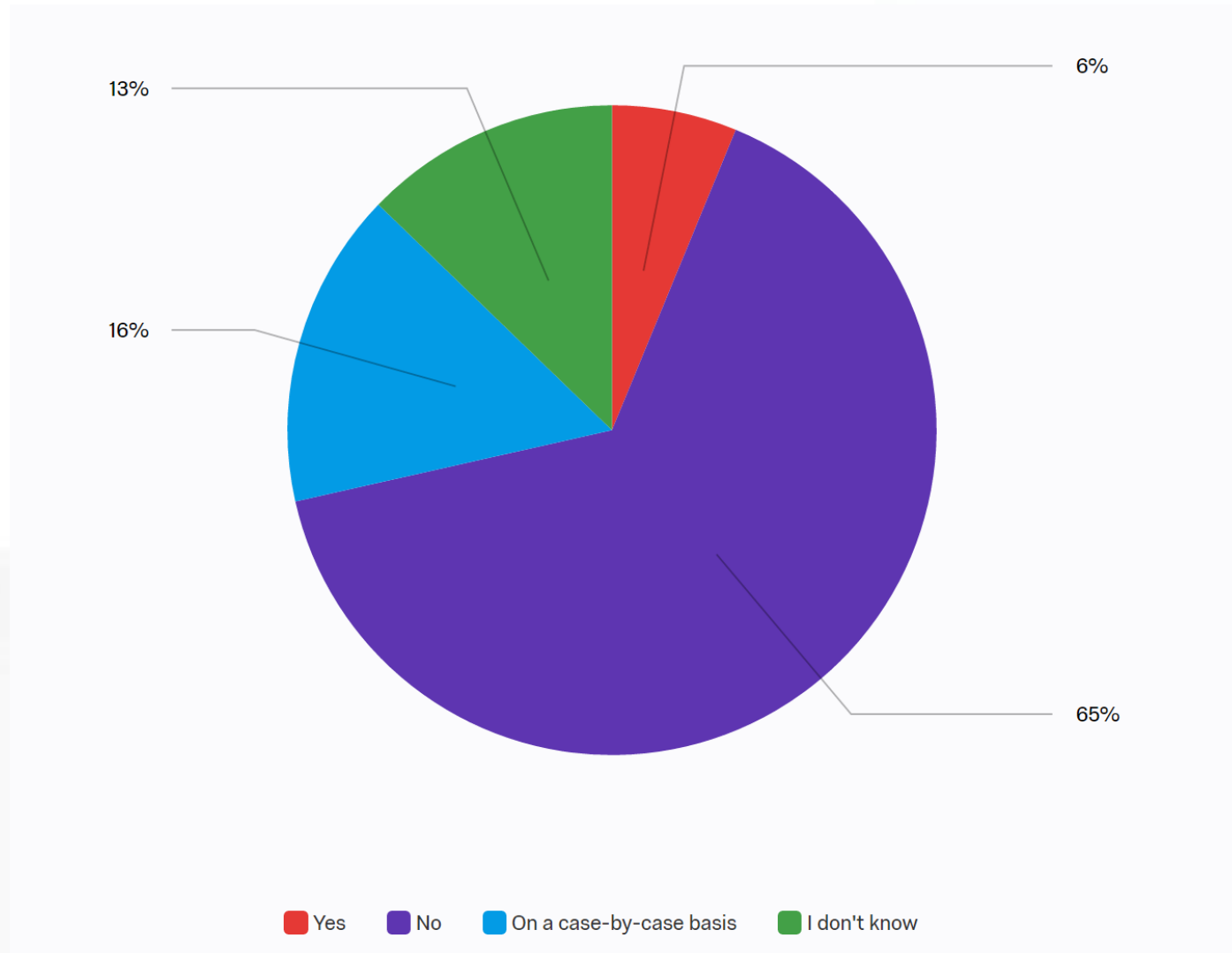
Q3 - For graduate admissions eligibility, does your institution require that completed undergraduate programs include specific **General Education coursework**?



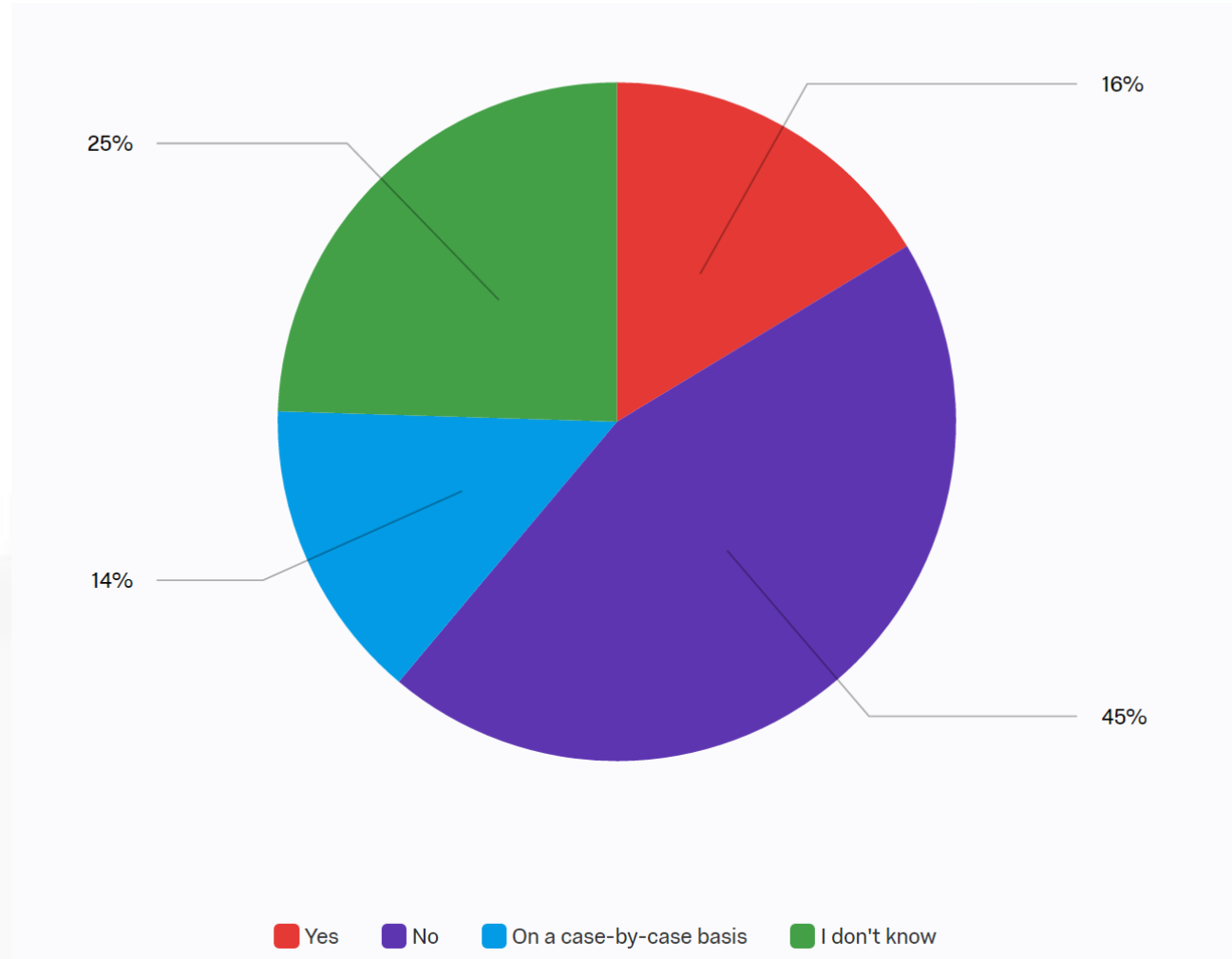
Q4 - For graduate admissions eligibility, does your institution require that completed undergraduate programs include Major-specific coursework?



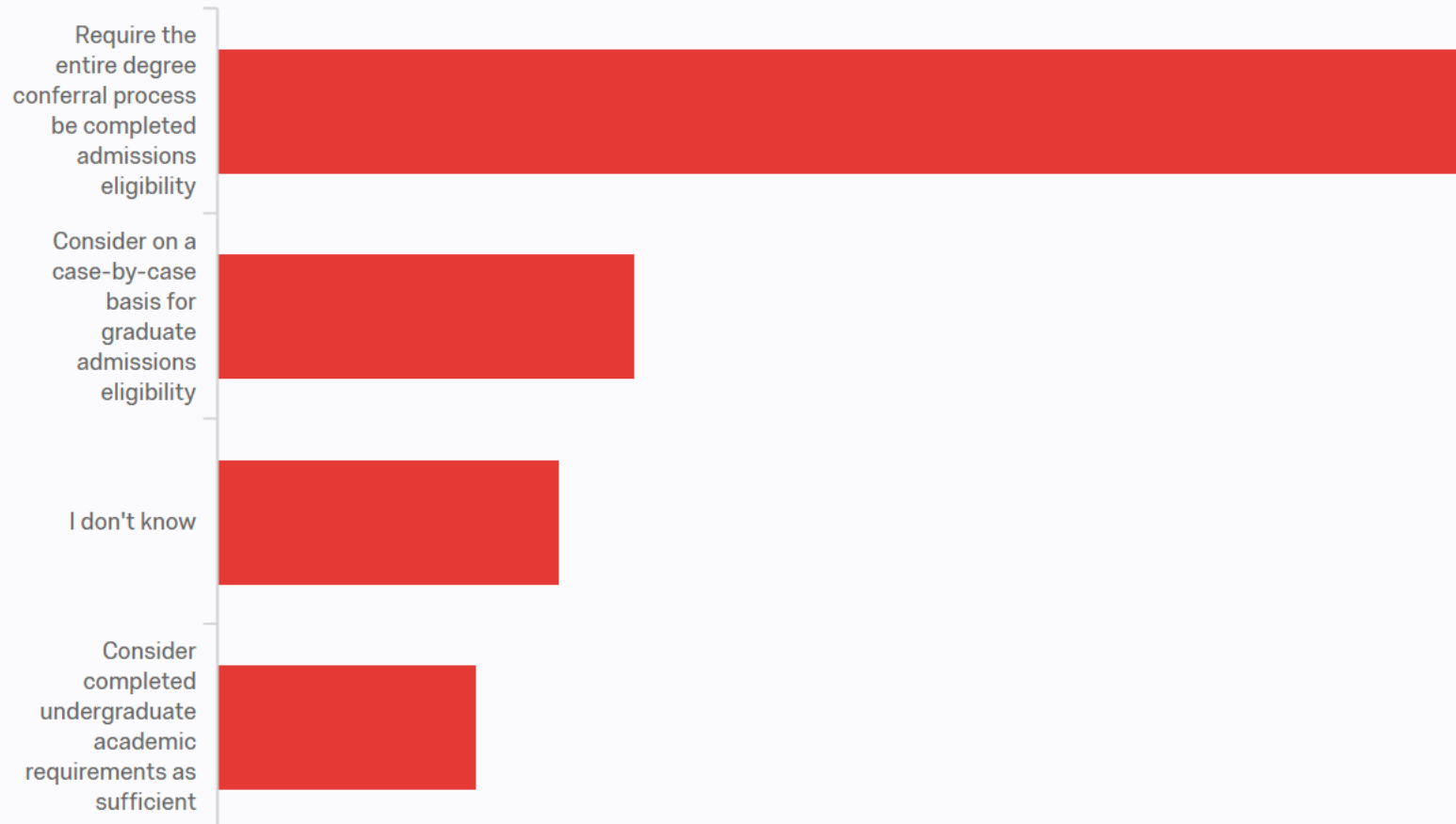
Q5 - For graduate admissions eligibility, does your institution require that completed undergraduate programs include specific **Elective coursework**?



Q6 - Does your institution consider how international undergraduate programs provide **access to graduate programs in the home country** when determining eligibility for admissions to your graduate programs?



Q7 - From countries where undergraduate programs have multiple stages during the degree conferral processes, does your institution require that the **entire degree conferral process** be completed for graduate admissions eligibility or will you consider completed undergraduate academic requirements (such as coursework, thesis, etc.) as sufficient for eligibility?



Implications on Admissions Models

- Open Admission
 - Anyone and everyone
- Threshold Admission
 - Defined minimum academic requirements
- Holistic Admission
 - Comprehensive review of applicant's academic suitability

Critical evaluation of programs to determine suitability to institutional admission requirements

- Benchmarking versus Year-Counting
- Access in the home country
 - (Australia Bachelor's vs. Honors Bachelor)
- Competencies required for success in the graduate program
- Functional outcomes
 - (Licensure or Professional Qualification)

Overview of the AICE Symposium outcomes:

<http://www.aacrao.org/resources/resources-detail-view/setting-the-standard-for-graduate-admissions--three-year-degrees-and-other-admissions-challenges>

Publication of clear, concise admission requirements for international applicants

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY search

ADMISSIONS

Freshmen Transfers Graduate Out-of-State International Veterans Parents Counselors

Graduate Admissions

- > I Want to Apply
- > I Have Applied
- > I Have Been Admitted
 - > Steps to Enroll

Experience SDSU

- > Achievements + Distinctions
- > Costs + Financial Aid
- > International Student Center
- > Residency
- > Special Programs + Services
- > Tours + Events

Life as an SDSU Aztec

- > Athletics

Graduate Admissions: Requirements by Country

As an international applicant, you must hold the equivalent of a U.S. Bachelor's degree with 3.0 GPA or "B" average in order to be considered for admission. Additionally, a passing TOEFL (80 or higher) or IELTS (6.5 or higher) score must be provided if your medium of instruction was not English.

Listed below are required documents for your country. If official transcripts and diploma/degree certificates are not issued in English, applicants must submit a certified literal English translation of each document. The translated documents must be sent to SDSU from the university or certified translator in sealed envelopes. The translation must contain all information shown on the original language documents in the same format. SDSU recommends applicants request more than one official transcript if a certified English translation is needed. If your country is not listed below, please contact **Graduate Admissions** for instructions.

Don't forget to follow all **steps to apply** to ensure that you submit the required application materials and test scores to Graduate Admissions.

Select Your Country

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A

Listing requirements by country is efficient but requires a large data set

Portugal

Official academic records must arrive in a sealed envelope from the university of study in both the original language and the English translation.

- Submit transcripts/certificados de estudos for all studies (i.e., Licenciado, Bacharel, Mestre, Bachelor, Doutor, etc.), with years of study, course titles, credits and grades.
- Submit Títulos earned for all studies.
- Submit diploma supplements, if available.

Three-year Bachelor's degrees are accepted if all coursework is completed and the final diploma has been issued. Three-year degrees that are in progress will not be accepted.

ADMISSIONS

- Types of Admission
 - Doctoral
 - Master's
 - Graduate Certificate
 - Post-Baccalaureate
 - Accelerated Master's
 - Early Entry
 - Dual Enrollment
 - Readmission
- Veterans
- International Applicants
 - English Language Proficiency
 - Three Year Degrees
 - Financial Certification
 - International Student Scholars Office
 - STEM-Designated Program

ADDITIONAL APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

While the application process is the same for all those applying for admission to graduate study, those classified as international for admissions purposes must meet some additional requirements as part of the application process.

English Language Proficiency

The ability to communicate effectively is critically important to a student's academic success as well as to safety in laboratories and other academic or research environments. International applicants are therefore required to submit proof of English language proficiency by submitting official test score results from the TOEFL or IELTS. For details on the English language proficiency requirement, see that section of the website.

Regarding "Three Year" Degrees

Admission to the Graduate School requires a student to show evidence of successful completion of a U.S. bachelor's degree program or its foreign equivalent from a regionally accredited (in the U.S.) or an officially recognized/approved or accredited institution abroad. An applicant's academic credentials, if earned outside of the U.S., are reviewed for the purpose of assessing institutional accreditation, as well as the U.S. equivalency of the degree and grades.

International applicants who have earned a (three-year) bachelor's degree (such as a BBA or BCA from India) as well as at least one year of a master's degree and/or a post-graduate diploma, or those who have earned a standard (four-year) bachelor's degree (such as BEng) are not required to submit a credential evaluation performed by a foreign credential evaluation service as part of their application for admission.

- General statements are a start, but create questions
- Requiring an evaluation report is a suitable alternative to a comprehensive policy
 - Pros and cons of outside evaluation

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Required Level of Study

The chart below shows the minimum level of study required of applicants with degrees from certain countries or regions. Please contact Office of Graduate Education Student Services if your country is not listed.

COUNTRY / REGION	REQUIRED LEVEL OF STUDY
China	4-6 year bachelor's degree
Australia, Canada, South Africa	four-year bachelor's degree or honours bachelor's degree
United Kingdom or British-patterned systems	honours bachelor's degree
East European States	first university degree requiring four years or more of post-secondary study
Europe	Bologna-compliant three-year bachelor's degree
Russian Federation and former Soviet Union	four-year bakalavr or diplom/professional qualification requiring five years of post-secondary study
Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan	completed master's degree at the time of application or a four to five-year bachelor's degree such as the B. Agriculture, B. Architecture, B. Engineering, B. Technology, or MBBS degree
Central and Latin America, Mexico, Portugal, Spain	licenciado or titulo
Philippines	four-year bachelor's degree from recognized post-secondary institutions (after completion of 12 years of secondary education)


Partial Lists

- Efficiently addresses most common applicant's requirements
- Requires regular monitoring for changes
- Risks inconsistencies when grouping countries together

What about B.Tech?

These are the same thing

Secondary program is 10 years, who is eligible?

 **NYU | STERN** | Experience Stern
Research, Faculty, Social, News

Full-time MBA

Germany
A university Diploma, Magister Artium, Staatsexamen, three-year Bachelor's degree or five-year Master's degree. Graduates of Fachhochschulen and Berufsakademien are eligible. The Vordiplom by itself is not sufficient.

India
All three-year Bachelor's degrees are sufficient to apply. Please note the degree conferral requirements for international transcripts as described in the [Transcript Requirements for the Interview](#) section.

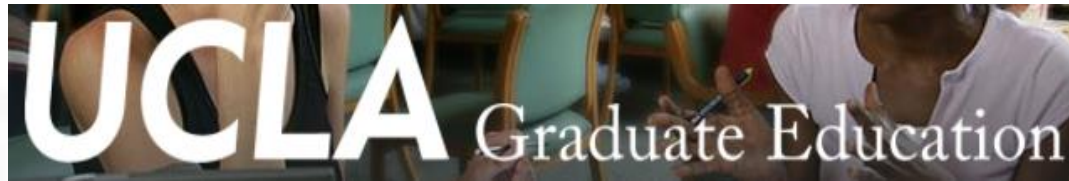
Indonesia
Sarjana or Sarjana Legkap, awarded after five years of university study.

Italy
Diploma di laurea, requiring four to six years of study or the three-year business degree.

Mexico
Completion of all courses and thesis or professional exams required for the titulo or degree of Licenciado or Bachiller.

Bologna process Bachelor ok from Germany, but must be in Business if from Italy

Degree conferral required (not just coursework)



Ineligible degrees

To save you time and trouble, we must inform you that the following degree holders are not eligible to apply for graduate admission:

Persons holding three-year ordinary pass degrees, professional diplomas in accounting, business, librarianship, social work, physical education, health education and so on, or four-year degrees, diplomas or higher certificates from technical, vocational or postsecondary specialized schools.

Persons holding membership in professional associations such as Institutes of Chartered Accountants or Institutes of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators are not qualified for graduate standing unless they *also* hold recognized university-level degrees or titles.

Requirements by Country or Educational System

Applicants who have studied in the following countries or educational systems should take note of the requirements listed for each country or educational system.

Bangladesh, India, Union of Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan

Applicants should present a master's degree awarded in first or high second class. In the fields of architecture and engineering, however, students who achieve first class placement for the bachelor's degree may also be considered for graduate admission.

Country system lists, while not comprehensive, can be supplemented by information about ineligible degrees



Three-year degrees – not just an international phenomenon

Three Year Baccalaureate Degrees

What is a Three-Year Baccalaureate Degree?

A Three-Year Baccalaureate Degree allows students to complete a regular four-year Baccalaureate Degree within three years after initial enrollment at the University of Cincinnati. Students must complete all the requirements of a baccalaureate degree. However, they do so in a compressed timeframe and/or by getting a jump start on the degree by completing requirements prior to UC enrollment. For some degree programs, credit by exam or advanced standing through portfolio assessment may be options.

After Enrolling at UC

Some Three-Year Degree programs can be completed with no advanced standing credit prior to initial enrollment. Enrollment in summer school and/or taking an academic overload are ways of completing certain degrees in three years. See the curriculum guides above to determine which programs offer this option.

- Compressed content of a four year degree
- Credit and advanced standing for prior learning and through examination
- Summer school
- Academic Overload

<https://www.uc.edu/provost/about-us/peopleandoffices/undergraduate-affairs/three-year-degrees.html>

Review of existing admission requirements focusing on predicting student success

- 2016, Western Kentucky University – 25/60 international graduate students asked to leave due to lack of preparation and inability to succeed academically
- “It is ethically wrong to bring students to the university and let them believe they can be successful when we have nothing in place to make sure they’re successful” Jay Todd Richey, WKU Student Association President
- “If they come out of here without the ability to write programs, that’s embarrassing to my department,” James Gary, WKU Chairman of Computer Science
- https://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/07/us/indian-students-western-kentucky-university.html?_r=0

Bridge Programs

- Average of 1 year of full-time study prior to joining the graduate program
- Conditionally or fully admitted as a graduate student
- Designed for international students holding three-year degrees, or domestic students lacking pre-requisites
- Customizable – work with academic advisor with the goal of earning a graduate degree



FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON UNIVERSITY Admissions

Home > Admissions > International Admissions > Graduates > Bridge Programs

Graduates

- Bridge Programs
- Course Waivers & Transfer Credits

Bridge Programs

In most cases, applicants with a 3-year non-U.S. Bachelor's degree (or who only have the equivalent of 15 years of study) cannot directly enroll into a Master's program at FDU; however, FDU offers a 3-year Bridge program for students interested in pursuing the following degrees:

- MBA
- MS in Accounting
- MS in Management Information Systems
- MS in Computer Science

- Specifically for international students
- Major-specific (Fairleigh Dickinson) or General Education for all majors (George Mason)
- May assist with English proficiency



GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY **CISA**
CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ACCESS

Frequently Asked Questions



Shivam Singh, Software Engineering, MS. Graduated from Mason in two years.

BRIDGE – Frequently Asked Questions

NYIT Bridge Program:

- If you have completed only a three-year (or more) degree-bearing postsecondary program which is **equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's** degree, you may apply directly for admission into the M.B.A. program.
- If you have completed only a three-year (or more) degree-bearing postsecondary program which is **not equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree, you may be eligible for the M.B.A. Bridge Program.** If you are admitted into the M.B.A. Bridge program, you are considered an M.B.A. student.



NYIT
School of Management

SEATTLEU

BRIDGE MBA

Application deadline: July 1

One Year MBA for Non-Business Majors

Designed for you, a recent graduate with a non-business undergraduate degree and limited work experience, this MBA is a **one year, full-time program** that incorporates classroom and experiential learning activities.

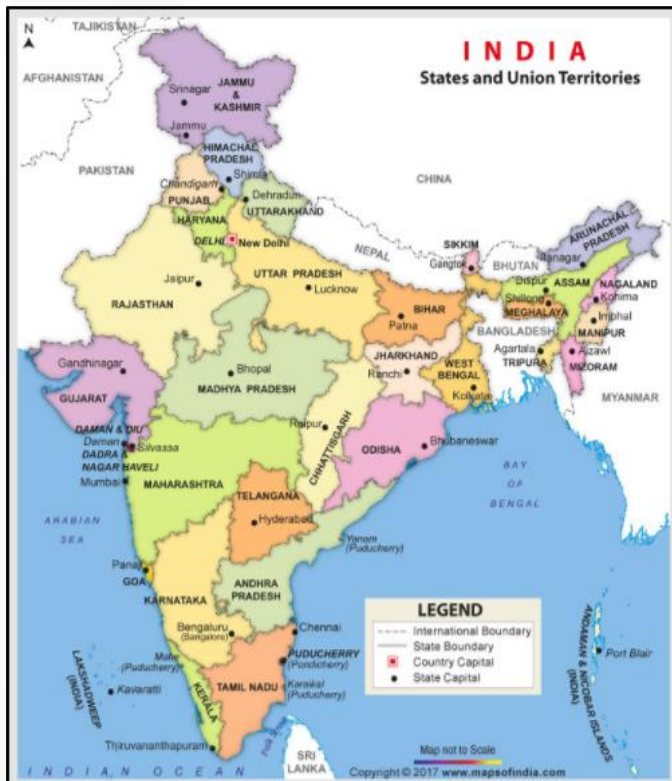
- Domestic or international students with non-business undergraduate degree
- 12-months, full-time, 14 courses plus capstone course
- GMAT/GRE, TOEFL required

Case Studies

- Three-year degree from a 12 year secondary system
 - India (Bachelor of Arts/Science)
 - France (post-bologna License)
- Three-year degree from a 13+ year secondary system
 - England
 - Cameroon
- Outlier
 - Canada (Quebec)
 - Israel

India and France

Uniform 12-year of secondary education



Education System of India

- 10+2+3+2
- Structured, exam-based post-secondary
- One of the largest US intl graduate student populations
- Three-year degree in Arts, Sciences



Education System of France

- 12*+ 2+1+1 pre-Bologna
- 12+3+2 post-Bologna
- Transitioning of the Baccalaureate Exam

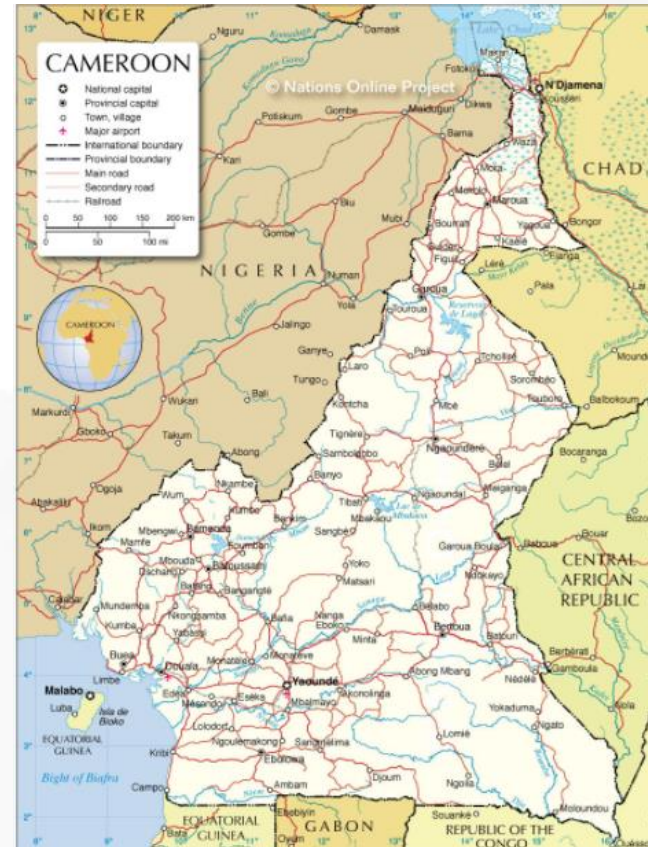
United Kingdom and Cameroon

Uniform 13+ years of secondary/preparatory education



Education System of UK

- 11+2+3
- Not uniform (Scotland)
- 6th Form education bridges secondary and post-secondary



Education System of Cameroon

- Francophone & Anglophone Systems
- 6th Form (A-levels) and 13-year Baccalaureate
- Universal access to post-secondary and graduate education

Israel and Quebec

Outliers – Bagrut Examination and CEGEP programs



Education System of Israel

- 6+3+3+3/4
- Bagrut examination (grade 12) frequently considered for undergraduate credit
- 3 and 4-year Bachelor's degrees grant access to graduate study



Education System of Canada (Quebec)

- 11+2+3
- CEGEP programs bridge secondary and post-secondary
- Quebec 3-year Bachelor's degrees are equivalent to 4-year Bachelor's in other provinces

Conclusion

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Thank You

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