



Conference of Southern Graduate Schools

Rebuilding Bridges for International Students

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CSGS Plenary I : Rebuilding Bridges for International Students

Panelists:

- Suzanne Ortega, President, CGS
- Lidia Kos, Associated Dean, Florida International University
- Steven Bergman, NC State University, Office of Global Engagement



- Graduate Schools may be experiencing enrollment challenges:

- Small international applicant pools
- Large applicant pools with low matriculation
- Offers of acceptance with low or no financial support
- Heavy dependence on a small number of countries

- Confounding factors:

- Political rhetoric
- Inflationary impacts on the cost of living
- Relative strength of the USD
- Perceptions of layoffs – especially in tech industries – and impact on CPT and OPT opportunities



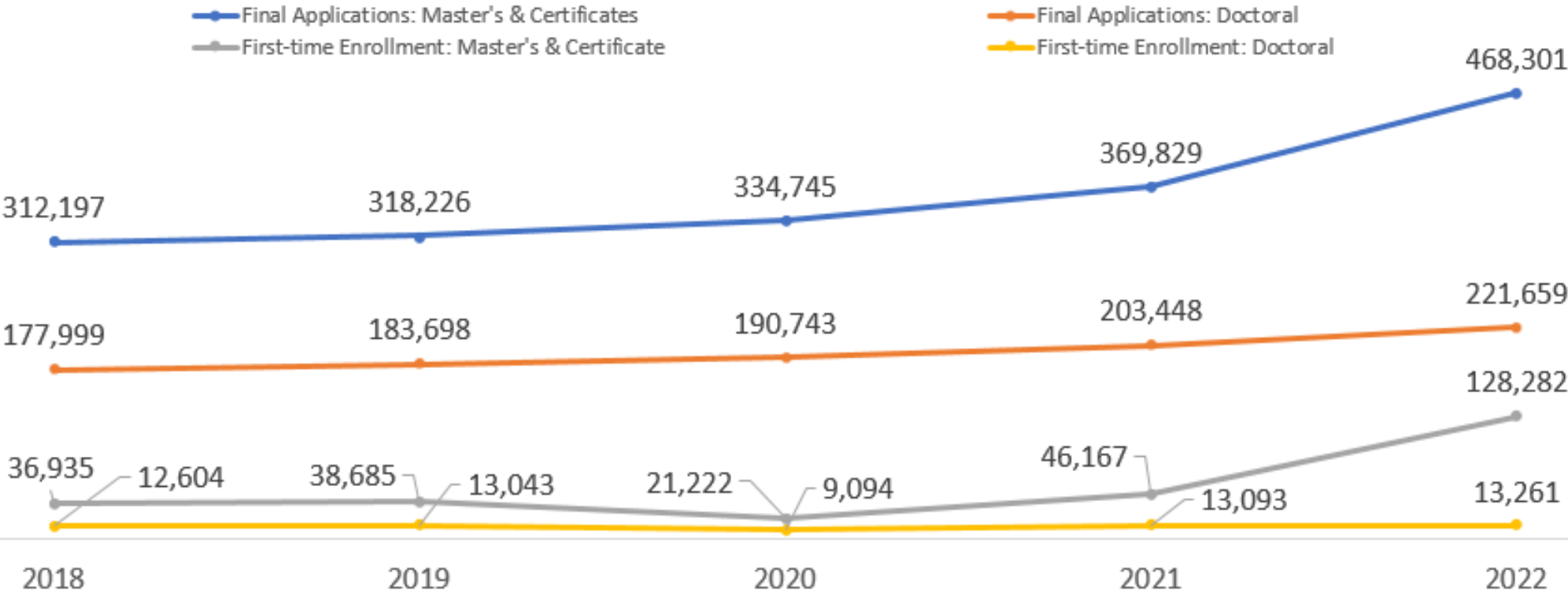
New Models of Recruiting and Mentoring, New Modes of Research: Internationalizing the Graduate Experience

Suzanne T. Ortega
President

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International graduate applications increased for the fourth year in a row.

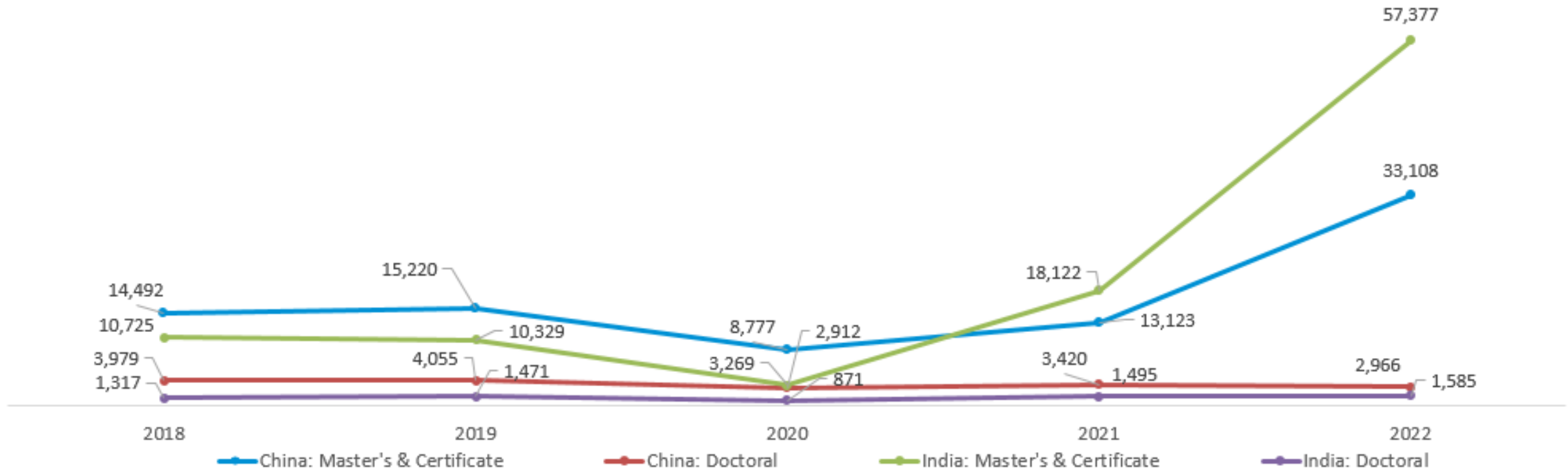
Total International Graduate Applications and First-Time Enrollment by Degree Type, 2018-2022



Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools, International Graduate Applications and Enrollment, 2018-2022. Note: Not all responding institutions provided valid data for all sections of the survey (i.e., final applications, offers of admission, first-time enrollment, and total enrollment). The number of institutions included in the analysis for master's and certificate applications was 181 and, for doctoral applications, was 146. The number of institutions included in the analysis for master's first-time enrollment was 166 and, for doctoral first-time enrollment, was 122.

India surges in Master's first-time enrollment, but increases are more modest China follows behind. Doctoral first-time enrollment remains flat for both.

Graduate First-Time Enrollment from China and India by Degree Type, 2018-2022



Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools, International Graduate Applications and Enrollment, 2018-2022. Note: Not all responding institutions provided valid data for all the section of the survey (i.e., final applications, offers of admission, first-time enrollment, and total enrollment). The number of institutions included in the China: master's first-time enrollment (n=100) and doctoral first-time enrollment (n=85). The number of institutions included in the India: master's first-time enrollment (n=107) and doctoral first-time enrollment (n=82).

First-time international graduate enrollment in Fall 2022 increased by 143%.

Annual Changes in First-time International Graduate Enrollment by Region/Country of Origin, Fall 2015 to Fall 2022 Admission Cycles							
	Fall 2015 to Fall 2016	Fall 2016 to Fall 2017	Fall 2017 to Fall 2018	Fall 2018 to Fall 2019	Fall 2019 to Fall 2020	Fall 2020 to Fall 2021	Fall 2021 to Fall 2022
Total	5%	-1%	1%	4%	-39%	92%	143%
Asia	8%	-2%	1%	6%	-47%	115%	156%
China	0%	5%	1%	3%	-37%	35%	123%
India	-7%	-13%	0%	1%	-66%	430%	192%
Japan	-	3%	-17%	8%	-20%	29%	150%
South Korea	10%	-12%	-4%	1%	-11%	11%	109%
Taiwan	14%	10%	1%	5%	-35%	84%	112%
Europe	8%	1%	-3%	-3%	-26%	46%	103%
Latin America & Caribbean	5%	-10%	4%	0%	-20%	45%	130%
Brazil	-9%	18%	-2%	-7%	-33%	77%	88%
Mexico	12%	-10%	-5%	10%	-6%	41%	109%
Middle East & North Africa	-11%	-5%	-12%	0%	-36%	63%	118%
Iran	-	-16%	-10%	-7%	-56%	158%	226%
Saudi Arabia	-13%	-2%	-18%	1%	-36%	62%	36%
North America (Canada only)	-3%	-7%	3%	6%	-5%	17%	109%
Oceania	7%	-6%	-9%	7%	5%	15%	114%
Sub-Saharan Africa	3%	27%	19%	22%	-28%	103%	125%

Note: Not all responding institutions provided valid data for country/region of origin, field of study, or degree objectives.

Its not just international recruitment, its also about support

- Diversify geography of recruitment
- Better support international students' social, emotional, and career success
- Amplify the contributions of international students to the Diversity and Inclusion agenda of labs, departments and the university

Globalization and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Agenda

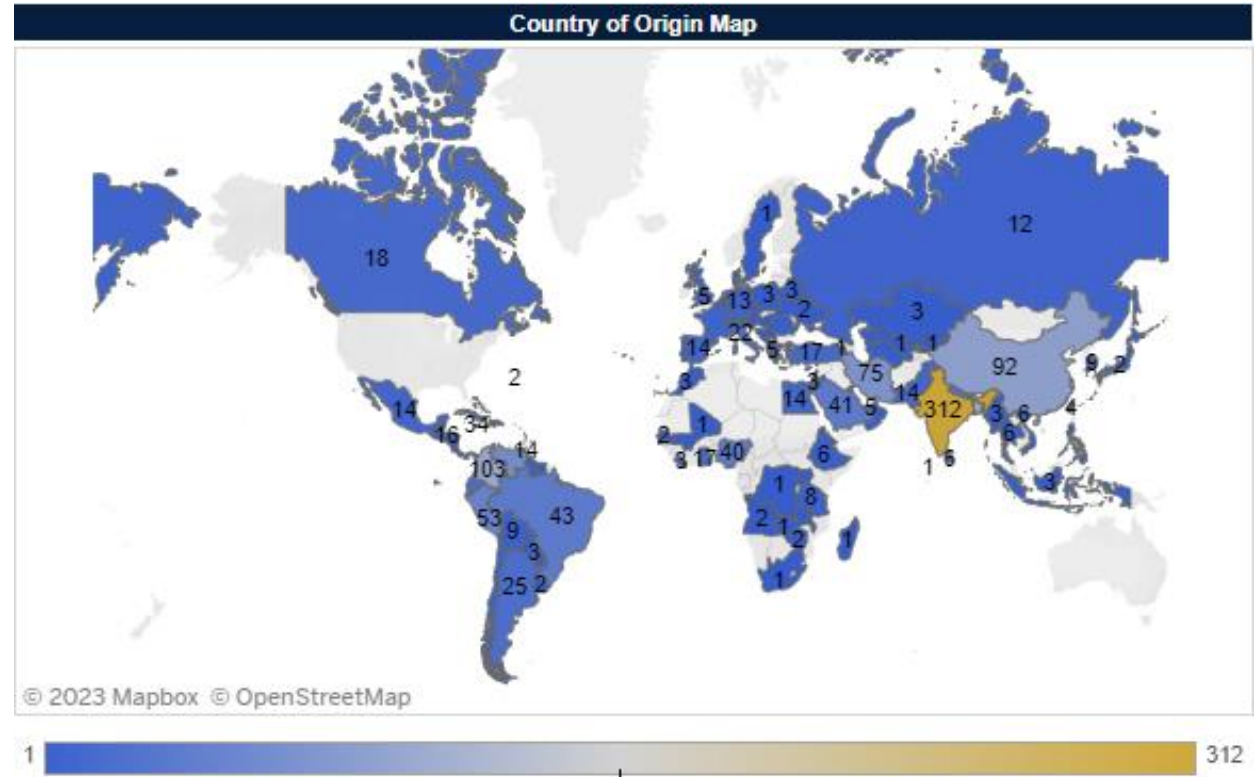
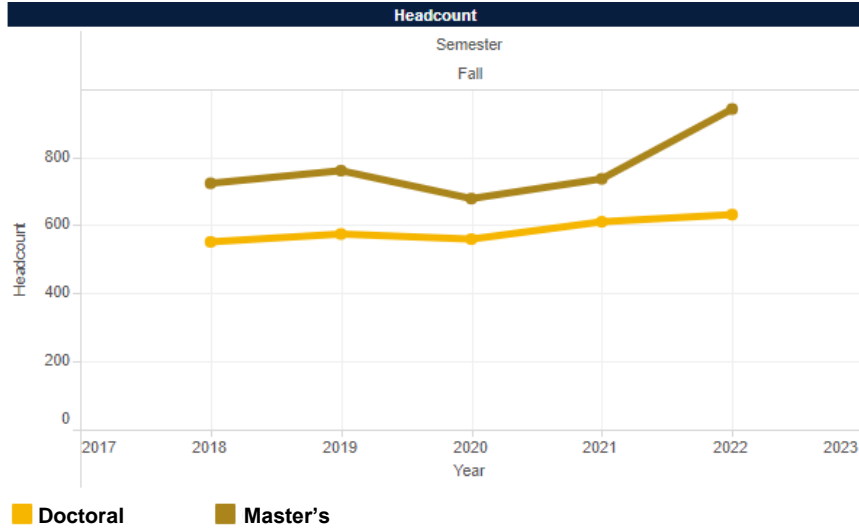
- Valuing the voice and cultural lenses of our international students
- Helping the next generation of scientists and scholars understand the context dependence of their work and proposed solutions

Epilogue, Prologue, or Sequel

Unsustainable Development

Goal 4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

International Landscape



Country Of Ori..	2018-2019 Fall	2019-2020 Fall	2020-2021 Fall	2021-2022 Fall	2022-2023 Fall
China	180	212	173	70	37
India	66	61	52	99	260
Venezuela	75	73	82	79	56
Colombia	31	36	34	49	68
Brazil	35	41	33	38	32
Jamaica	64	46	13	20	30
Saudi Arabia	18	22	22	18	20
Kuwait	3	5	13	35	31
Peru	11	9	8	12	43
Argentina	16	7	7	16	23

Country Of Ori..	2018-2019 Fall	2019-2020 Fall	2020-2021 Fall	2021-2022 Fall	2022-2023 Fall
Bangladesh	69	87	87	101	102
China	83	74	62	62	55
Iran (Islamic Republi..	77	68	57	56	67
India	49	54	47	49	52
Nepal	30	25	27	29	23
Colombia	17	19	22	27	35
Nigeria	15	23	20	26	30
Saudi Arabia	18	24	25	24	21
Turkey	13	14	13	14	14
Egypt	14	13	14	13	12

Managing the Changing Landscape

- . Decentralized recruitment
Intentional (virtual) recruitment (with Enrollment Management)
- . Partnerships with foreign institutions
MOUs, Dual Degrees (with FIU Global)
- . Low residency professional degrees/On site degrees
- . Better integration of international students in the institution and community
Pre-arrival orientation and events (with ISSS)
- . Financial incentives
Strong relationship with IIE (tuition waiver + health insurance to all fellows)
Onboarding Scholarships
Subsidized housing (with Student Affairs)

Perspectives from NC State

Name and reputation are valuable, but not enough

Recruiting is the responsibility of everyone

- Decompartmentalization and incentivization
- Specialist and generalist collaboration
- Value of word-of-mouth

Approved lists (for government-funded students)

(Co-)funding models

Existing partners; new pipelines

Safety and affordability challenges/perceptions

Managing the changing landscape

Pre-pandemic challenges remain

- Recruiting budgets
- ROI
- Admit → matriculation gap
- Dependence on key market
- Cost of attendance/living
- Name recognition deficits

Pandemic-driven changes netting positive results

- Internal assessment of pre-existing outreach materials
- Layering of virtual and in-person activities
- Development of our “Global Recruiters” working group
- Materials sharing between units
- Leveraging student groups