
Latitudes: For foreign enrollments, not a pretty picture

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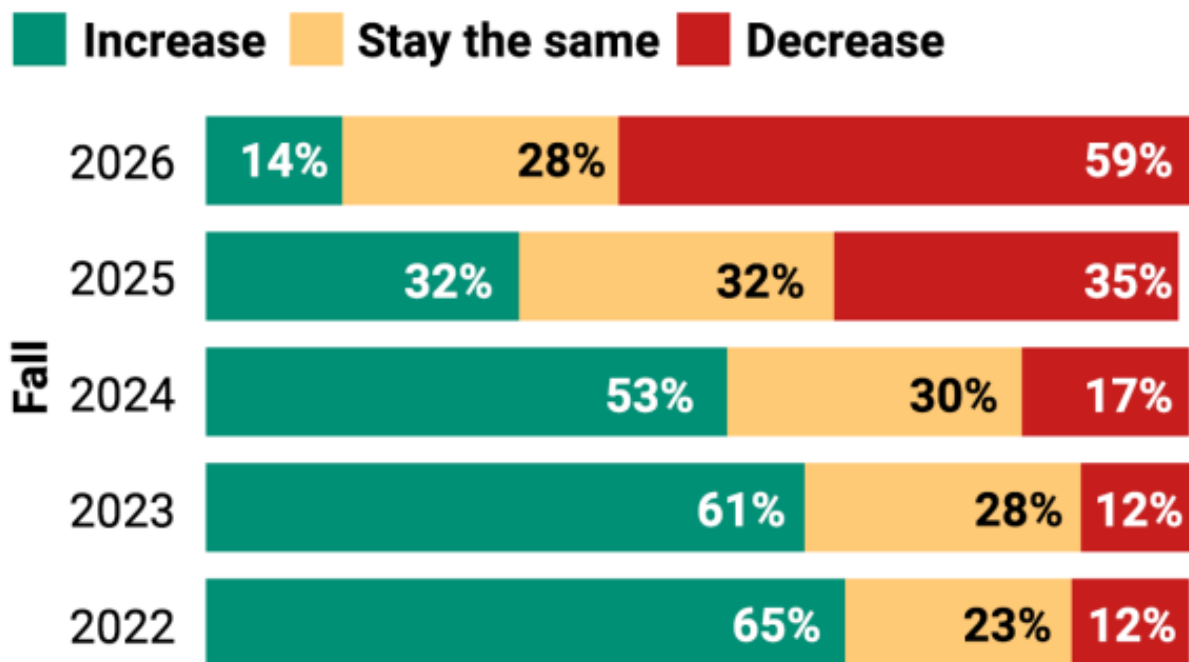
By Karin Fischer

In this week's Latitudes: Mentoring displaced scholars. A top Indian university wants to offer degrees in the United States. Uniforms for college students? But first ...

THIS FALL'S INTERNATIONAL ENROLLMENTS IN THREE CHARTS

The Institute of International Education has published its [spring snapshot survey](#) on international-application and -enrollment trends for the upcoming academic year. The top line, unsurprisingly, is not great, guys.

Let's start with applications.



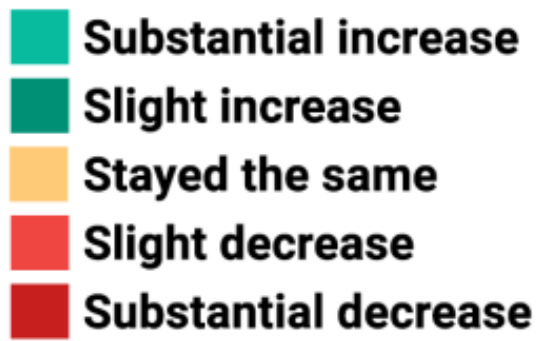
Numbers do not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Nearly 60 percent of responding colleges said international applications decreased, while just 14 percent saw increases. That's the inverse of trends just three years ago, for the fall of 2023. In the same survey a year ago, results were evenly split between growth, declines, and stability.

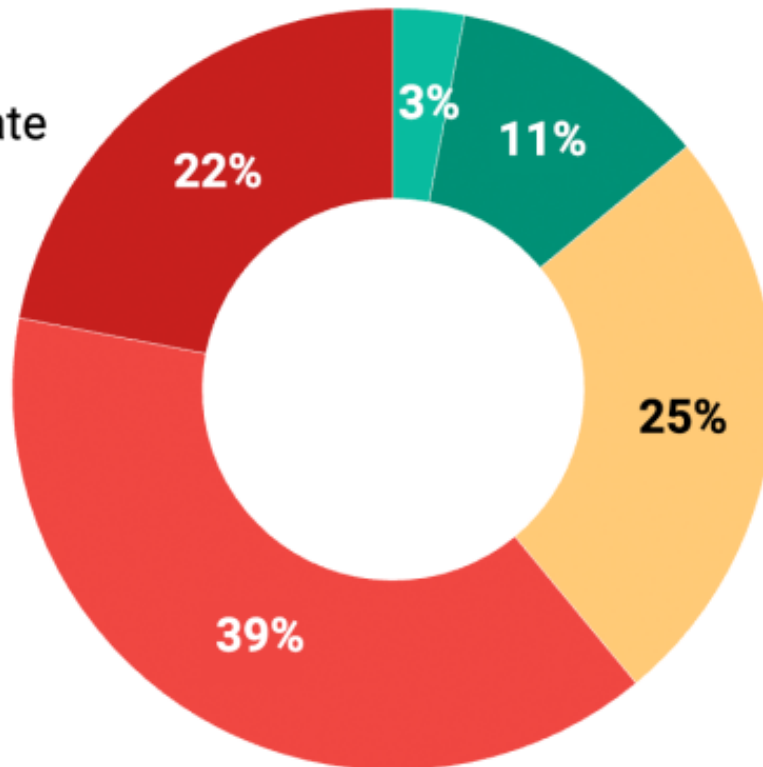
This suggests that high-profile issues — like last summer's consular backlogs or an expected change to set fixed time limits on student visas — are having a deterrent effect, discouraging prospective students from even applying. As colleges try to convert interest to actual enrollments, many start with a smaller pool.

Institutions were more likely to report significant declines in graduate, rather than undergraduate, applications. But a majority of respondents said that apps dropped at both academic levels.

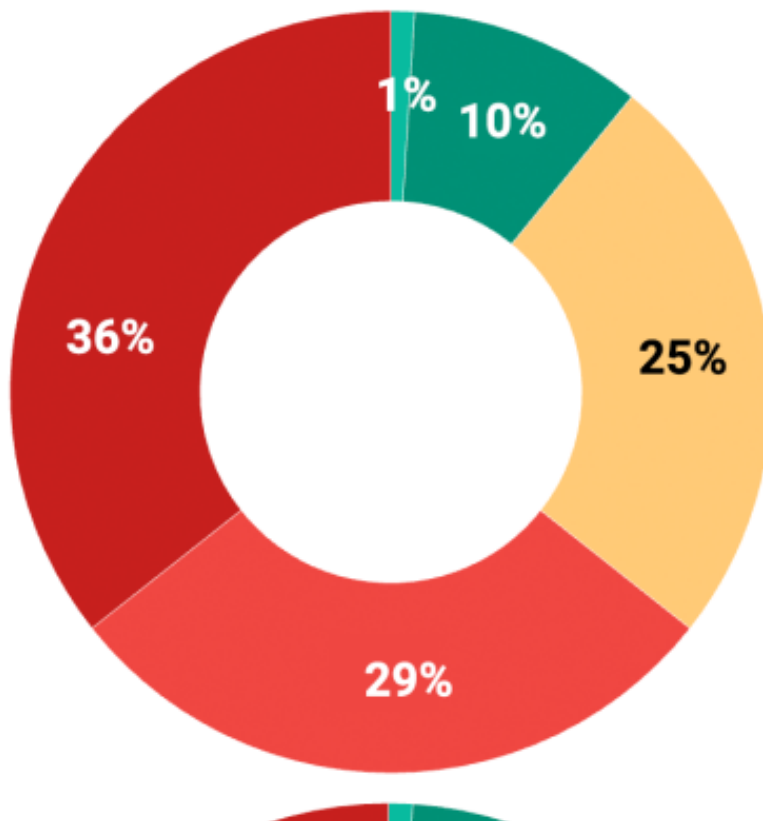
The dip among undergraduates halts a recent [uptick](#), albeit a slow one, in international enrollments in bachelor's programs. Twenty-two percent of colleges project a substantial decline in new undergraduates this fall, while 39 percent expect a slight decline.



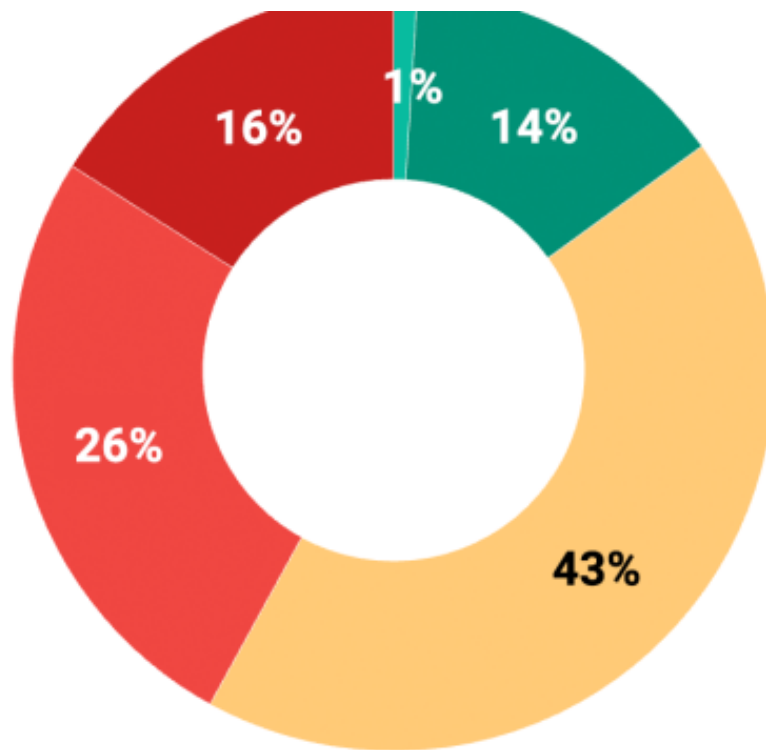
Undergraduate enrollment



Graduate enrollment



Nondegree enrollment



But a bit of good news: About 60 percent of colleges anticipate nondegree enrollments — exchange students or those taking English-language courses — will increase or remain stable. Even before the pandemic, the number of students studying English had been dropping, causing some programs to close.

Visa-processing problems are a near-universal concern, while more than three-quarters of those surveyed blamed increasing global competition for students, in part, for expected declines.

Although the majority of institutions said applications increased or remained stable for seven of the 10 countries that send the most students, the overall proportion of colleges with a positive outlook fell.

Country	Fall 2025	Fall 2026
 India	59%	39%
 China	58%	65%
 South Korea	76%	69%
 Canada	77%	67%
 Vietnam	78%	67%
 Nepal	77%	48%
 Taiwan	75%	76%
 Nigeria	78%	43%
 Bangladesh	80%	58%
 Brazil	76%	74%

Respondents reported especially high rates of decline from Nepal, Bangladesh, and Nigeria, the latter of which is included in a presidential travel ban. Just 39 percent of colleges said applications from India, the largest source of foreign students, held steady or grew, down from 59 percent a year ago.

Some 585 institutions took part in the survey; they enroll almost half of all international students. Next week I'll break down the findings about study abroad.

I want to hear from you: **Which of the following best describes your institution's international-student application trends for the fall of 2026?**

- Increase in international-student applications
- Decrease in international-student applications
- Stability in international-student applications

Take our flash survey and [share your thoughts](#).

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AIDING DISPLACED SCHOLARS

A new partnership will provide [academic mentors](#) to scholars displaced by war and other upheavals in their home countries.

The International Science Council will tap its global networks to match mentors with professors and researchers supported by the Scholar Rescue Fund, run by the Institute of International Education. The mentorships could help displaced scholars maintain professional connections and identify career opportunities while also preparing them to take part in rebuilding their home countries when it is safe to return.

COLLEGES ANNOUNCE NEW OVERSEAS TIES

A top Indian science and engineering university plans to [offer degrees](#) at the Long Island campus of a New York public college.

The Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay and the State University of New York at Old Westbury said they will collaborate on engineering education, joint research, and student and faculty exchanges. The agreement will help develop leaders in areas like artificial intelligence, said Timothy Sams, president of SUNY Old Westbury.

It's believed to be the [first time](#) a prestigious Indian institution will offer its academic programs in the United States.

Meanwhile, Kent State University announced plans to set up a [fashion school](#) in Rwanda, awarding degrees in fashion design and merchandising that are offered on its home campus. The Ohio public university already has training programs in aeronautics and collaborations in peace and conflict studies with the African country. The program will seek both American and Rwandan accreditation.

Officials hope the partnership can help develop Rwanda's creative economy.



Higher Ed in Crisis: The Future of Tenure

Tenure is one of many long-established traditions in higher ed that has recently come under increased political scrutiny and public pressure. Ian Wilhelm will host a premium webinar on July 29 exploring both sides of the tenure debate, and potential innovative avenues forward. [Learn more and register today.](#)

AROUND THE GLOBE

Universities in Venezuela are supporting [disaster-relief efforts](#) after a pair of devastating earthquakes shook the country.

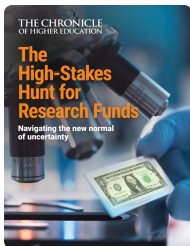
Argentina's Supreme Court ruled that the government has to [increase funding](#) for academic salaries and other higher-education expenditures.

Australian universities will be required to demonstrate they are acting to prevent [racism and antisemitism](#).

Scholars and students in Southeast Asia are uniting to defend [academic freedom](#).

China plans to integrate [artificial intelligence](#) across all levels of education.

FROM THE CHRONICLE STORE



The High-Stakes Hunt for Research Funds

The second Trump administration's slashing of support for academic research has left universities in disarray. [Order this report](#) to explore how institutions are recalibrating their research agendas in an uncertain funding climate.

AND FINALLY ...

The governor of Uttar Pradesh, in India, wants to require college students across the province to wear [uniforms](#) to class in an effort to promote discipline and downplay

differences. Institutions have been directed to draft designs and a timeline for implementation.

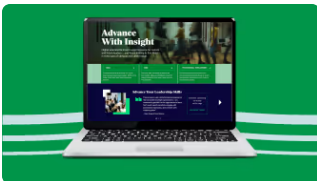
Come to think of it, many American students have adopted a uniform of sorts — sweatpants, T-shirts, and whatever they happened to wear to bed the previous evening.

Thanks for reading. I always welcome your feedback and ideas for future reporting, so drop me a line at karin.fischer@chronicle.com or message me confidentially at [Signal](#). You can also connect with me on [X](#), [LinkedIn](#), or [Bluesky](#). If you like this newsletter, please share it with colleagues and friends. They can [sign up here](#).

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