

# FALL 2006 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT SURVEY

November 2006

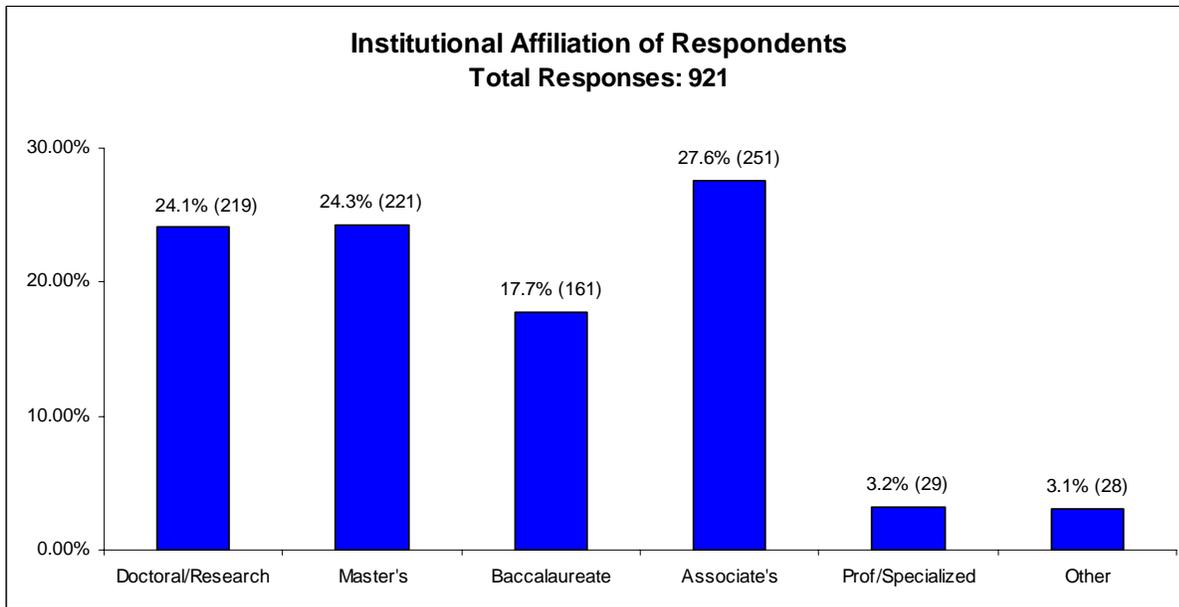
The survey, which tracked international students at U.S. colleges and universities, was conducted among members of the following higher education associations:

- American Association of Community Colleges (AACC)
- American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU)
- American Council on Education (ACE)
- Association of American Universities (AAU)
- Council of Graduate Schools (CGS)
- Institute of International Education (IIE)
- NAFSA: Association of International Educators
- National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC)

The survey was conducted between October 2 and 27, 2006.

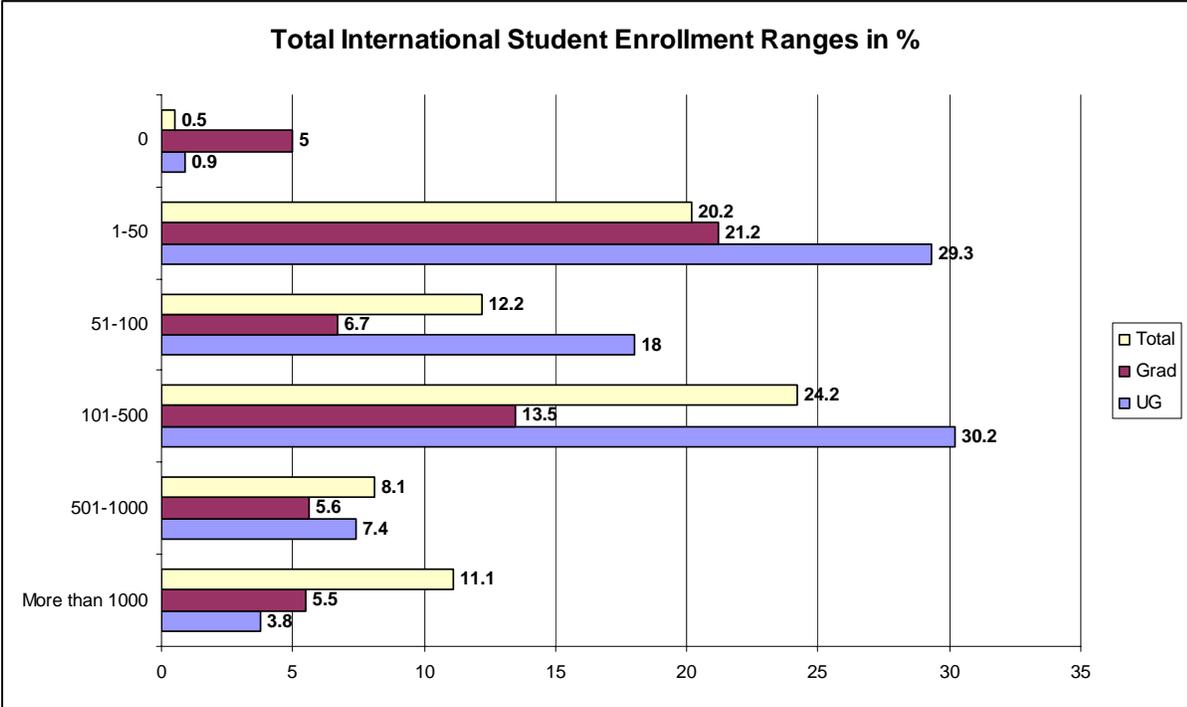
## RESPONDENTS

**Table 1: Respondents. Total Responses 921<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> Respondents include member institutions from the eight higher education associations that participated in this joint survey. The eight organizations sent the survey to their respective memberships, which cover nearly all accredited higher education institutions in the United States. Because in many cases, membership overlaps, we cannot provide a specific response rate to the survey.

**Table 2: Estimated total number of international students enrolled in your institution (in ranges)**



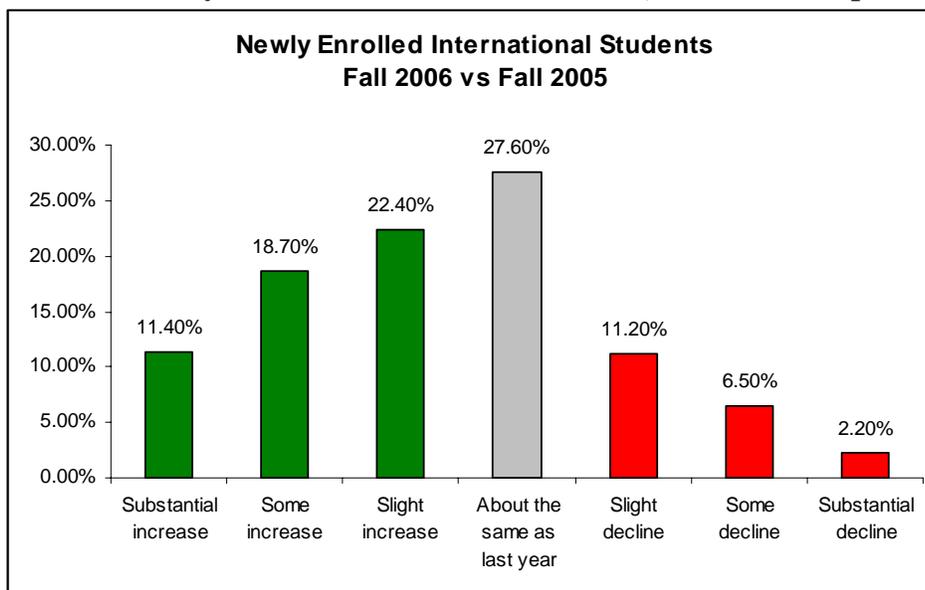
## NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLLMENTS

### Tables 3a-3f: Newly Enrolled International Students

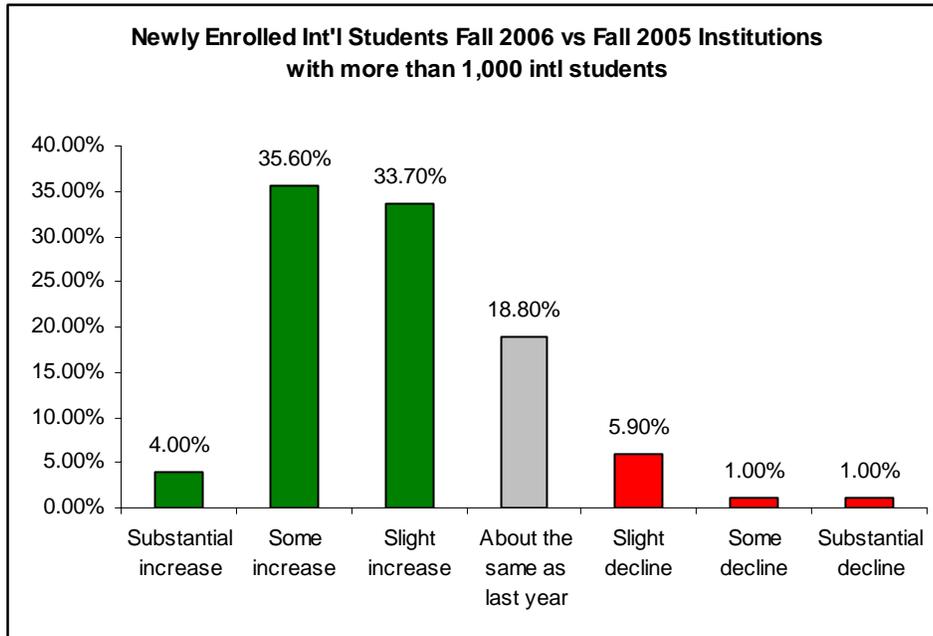
*Focusing only on newly enrolled international students, how has that number at your institution changed this year (Fall 2006) compared to Fall 2005?*

- Of all responding institutions, 52% (or 475 respondents) reported an increase, 20% (180) reported a decline, and 28% (250) reported level enrollments. Last year, 40% reported an increase, 26% a decline, and 34% level enrollments.
- Of the responding institutions that enroll more than 1,000 international students (101 institutions that responded to this question), 73% (74 responding institutions) reported increase, 8% (8 institutions) reported declines, and 19% (19 institutions) reported level enrollments. Last year, 51% reported increase, 26% reported declines, and 24% reported level enrollments.
- Of the responding two-year colleges, 52% (129 responding institutions) reported increase, 19% (48 institutions) reported declines, and 29% (71 institutions) reported level enrollments. Last year, 36% reported increase, 25% reported declines, and 39% reported level enrollments.
- Of the responding Research/Doctoral institutions, 65% (139 responding institutions) reported increase, 13% (27 institutions) reported declines, and 23% (49 institutions) reported level enrollments.
- Of the responding Baccalaureate institutions, 45% (72 responding institutions) reported increase, 26% (41 institutions) reported declines, and 29% (47 institutions) reported level enrollments. Last year, 34% reported increase, 33% reported declines, and 33% reported level enrollments.
- Of the responding Master's institutions, 49% (108 responding institutions) reported increase, 26% (49 institutions) reported declines, and 28% (61 institutions) reported level enrollments.

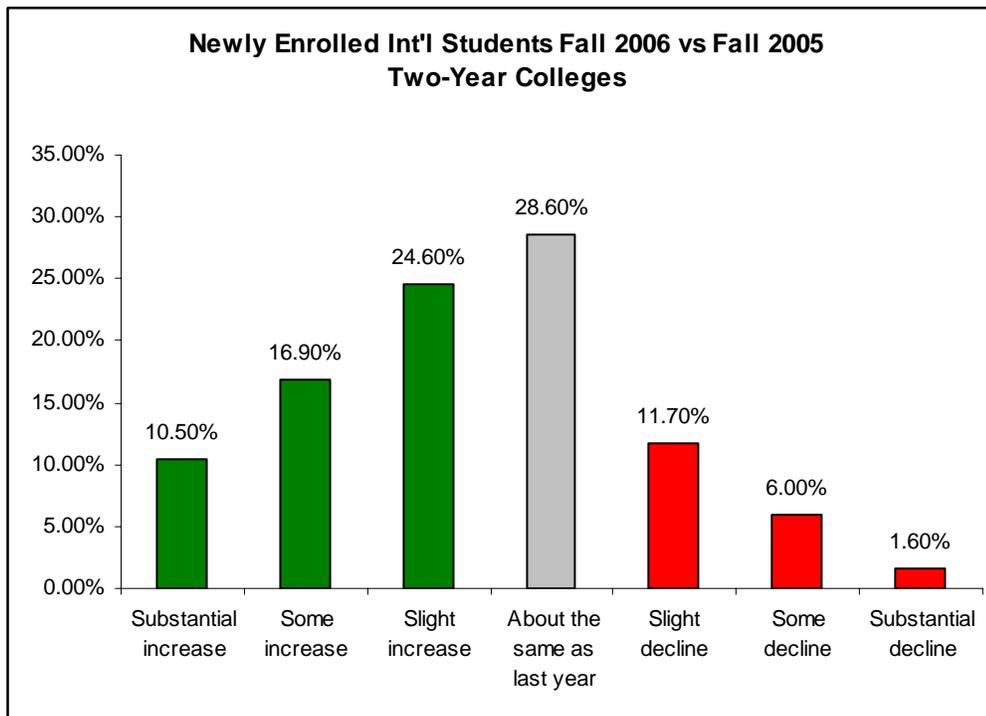
**Table 3a: Newly enrolled international students, Fall 2006 compared to Fall 2005.**



**Table 3b: Newly enrolled international students at institutions enrolling more than 1,000 international students**

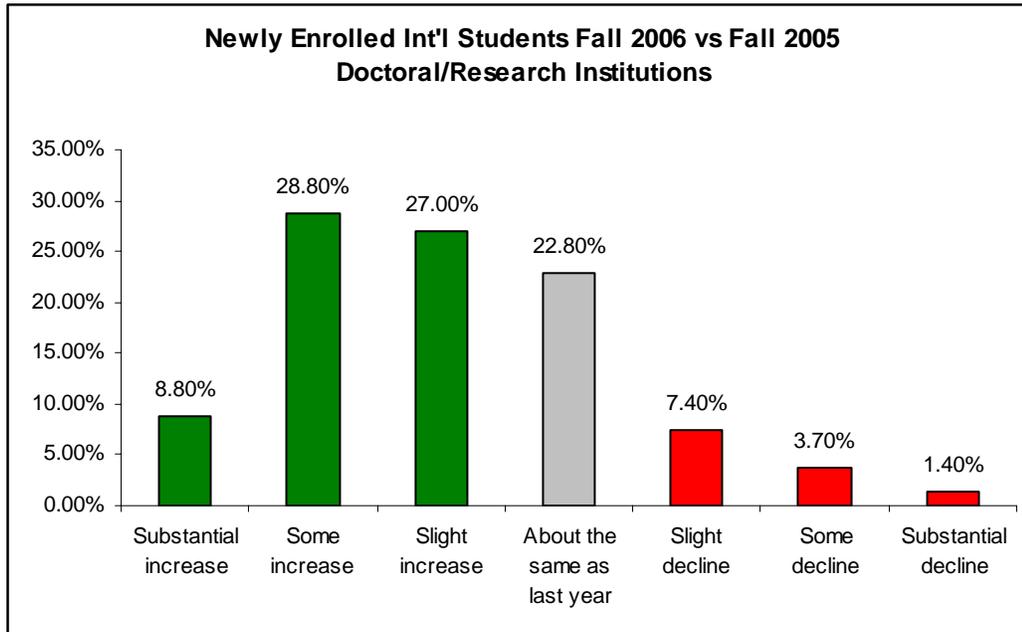


**Table 3c: Two-Year Colleges: Newly enrolled international students at institutions at two-year colleges, Fall 2006 compared to Fall 2005.**



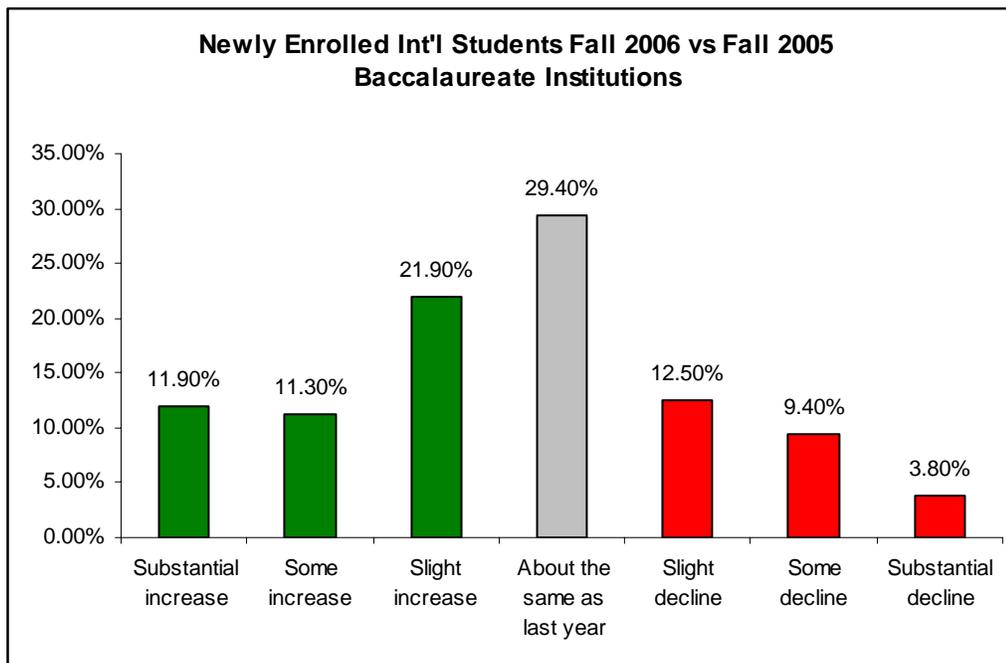
**Table 3d: Doctoral/Research Institutions:**

**Newly enrolled international students at institutions at Doctoral/Research institutions, Fall 2006 compared to Fall 2005.**

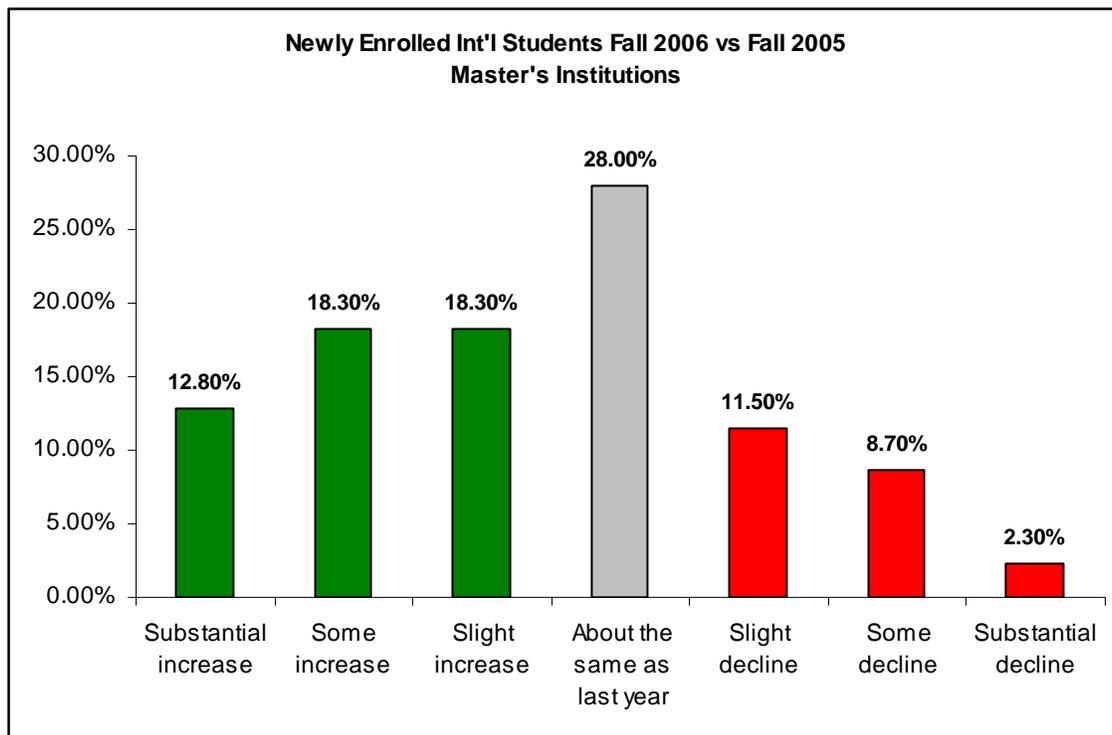


**Table 3e: Baccalaureate Institutions:**

**Newly enrolled international students at institutions at Baccalaureate Institutions, Fall 2006 compared to Fall 2005.**



**Table 3f: Master's Institutions:  
Newly enrolled international students at institutions at Master's Institutions, Fall 2006 compared to Fall 2005.**



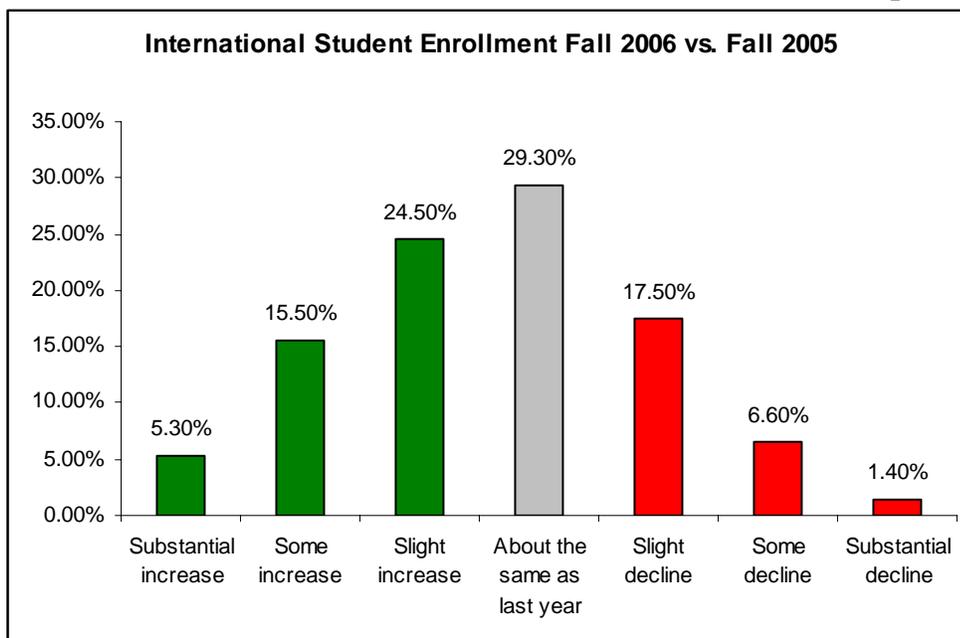
## TOTAL INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLLMENTS

### Tables 4a-4f: Total International Student Enrollments

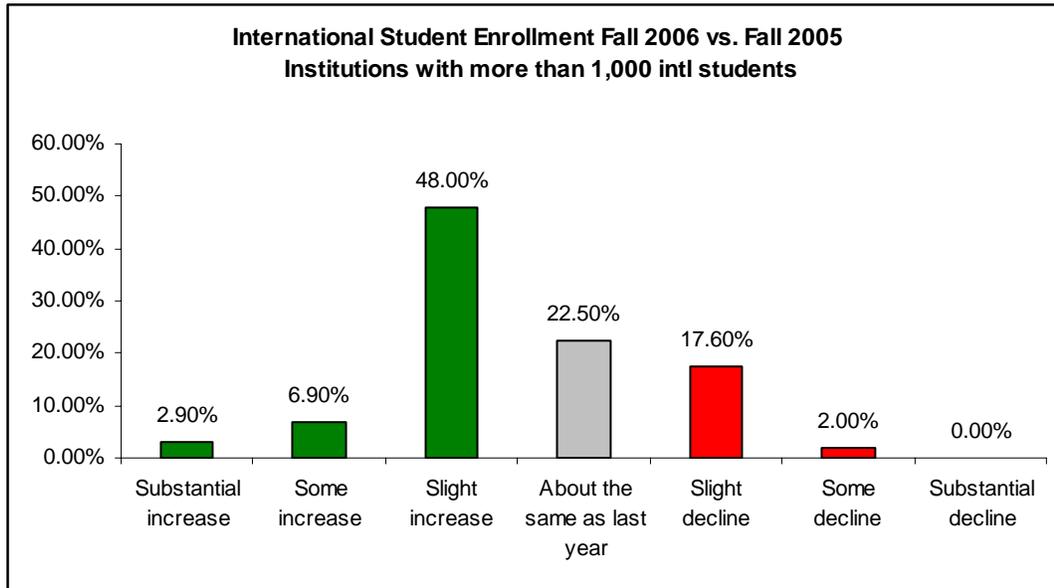
How has the total enrollment of international students at your institution changed this fall (Fall 2006), compared to Fall 2005?

- Of all responding institutions, 45% (415 respondents) reported an increase, 26% (233) reported a decline, and 29% (268) reported level enrollments. Last year, 34% reported an increase, 33% reported a decline, and 34% reported level enrollments.
- Of the responding institutions that enroll more than 1,000 international students (102 institutions), 58% (59 responding institutions) reported increase, 20% (20 institutions) reported declines, and 22% (23 institutions) reported level enrollments. Last year, 33% reported increase, 43% reported declines, and 24% reported level enrollments.
- Of the responding two-year colleges, 45% (114 responding institutions) reported increase, 26% (65 institutions) reported declines, and 28% (71 institutions) reported level enrollments. Last year, 30% reported increase, 36% reported declines, and 34% reported level enrollments.
- Of the responding Doctoral/Research institutions, 54% (118 institutions) reported increase, 21% (46 institutions) reported declines, and 25% (55 institutions) reported level enrollments. Last year, 36% reported increase, 33% reported declines, and 31% reported level enrollments.
- Of the responding Baccalaureate institutions, 36% (58 institutions) reported increase, 32% (51 institutions) reported declines, and 32% (52 institutions) reported level enrollments. Last year, 34% reported increase, 32% reported declines, and 35% reported level enrollments.
- Of the responding Master's institutions, 44% (98 institutions) reported increase, 27% (60 institutions) reported declines, and 29% (63 institutions) reported level enrollments.

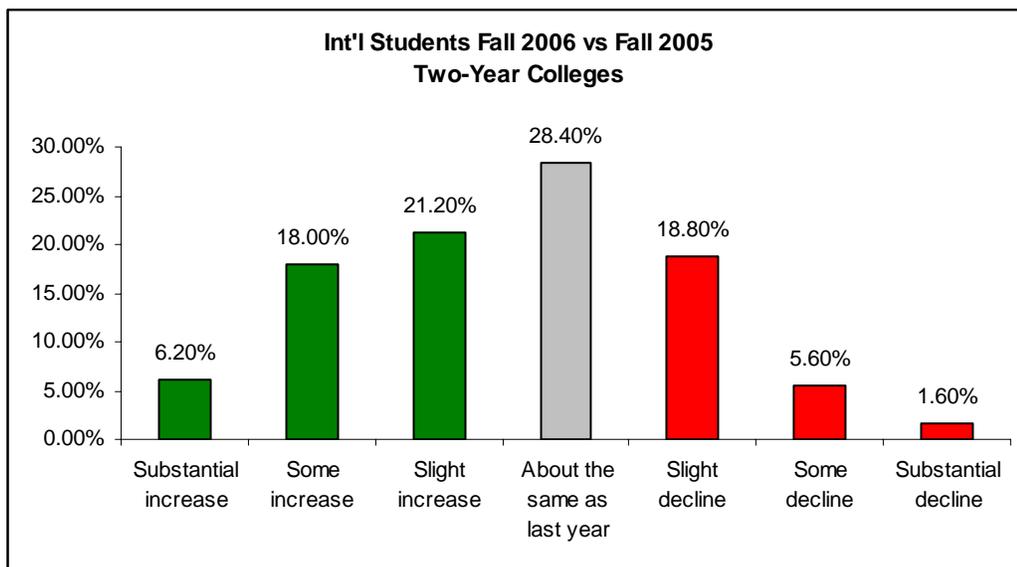
**Table 4a: Total International Student Enrollments, Fall 2006 compared to Fall 2005**



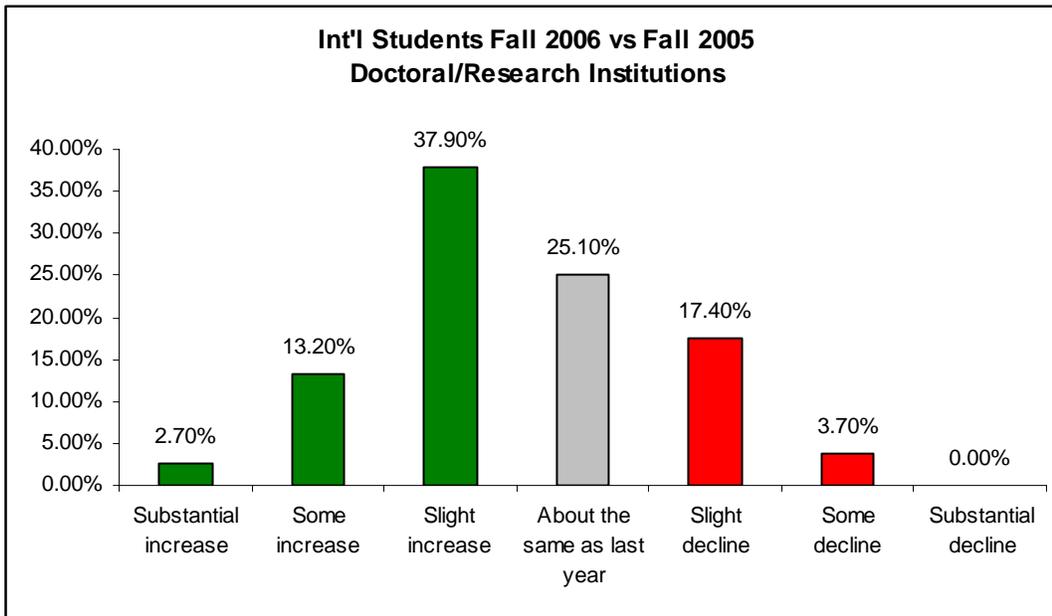
**Table 4b: Total international student enrollments at institutions with more than 1,000 international students, Fall 2006 vs. Fall 2005.**



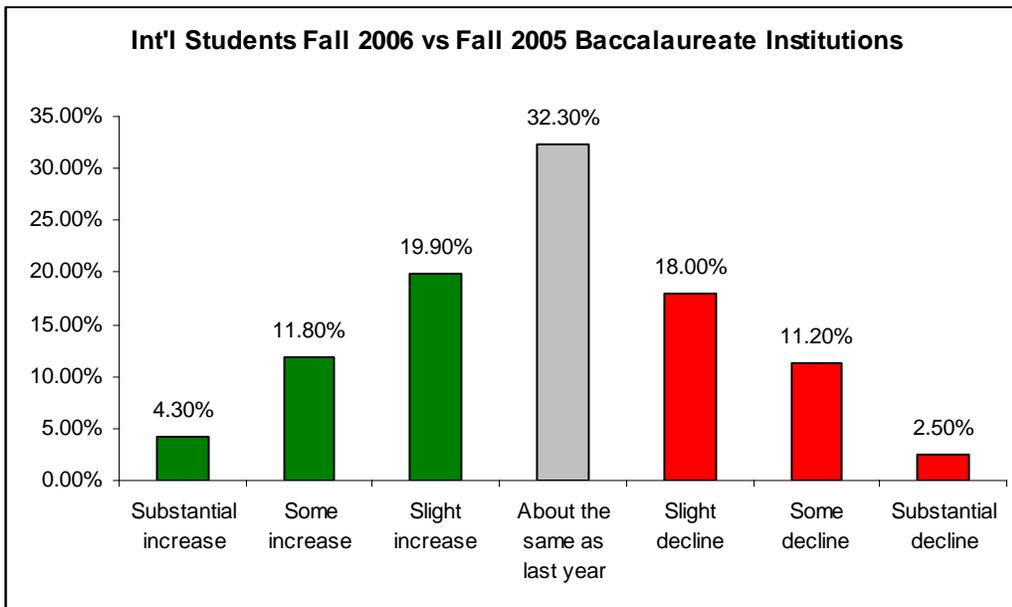
**Table 4c: Two-Year Colleges: Total international student enrollments at two-year colleges, Fall 2006 vs. Fall 2005**



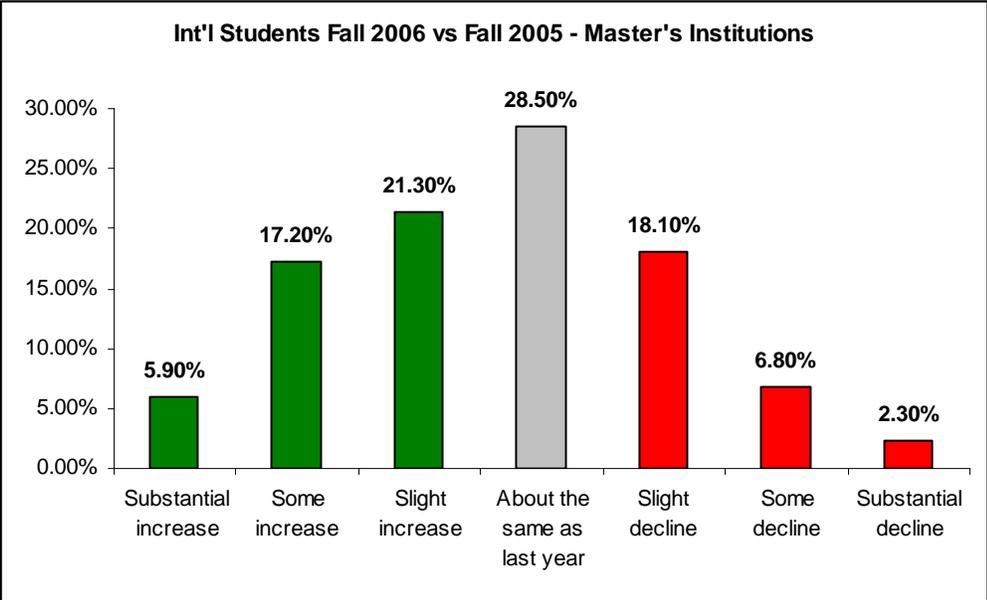
**Table 4d: Doctoral/Research Institutions: Total international student enrollments at responding institutions who indicated that they are a Doctoral/Research institution Fall 2006 vs. Fall 2005.**



**Table 4e: Baccalaureate Institutions: Total international student enrollments at Baccalaureate institutions, Fall 2006 vs. Fall 2005**



**Table 4f: Master's Institutions: Total international student enrollments at Master's institutions, Fall 2006 vs. Fall 2005**

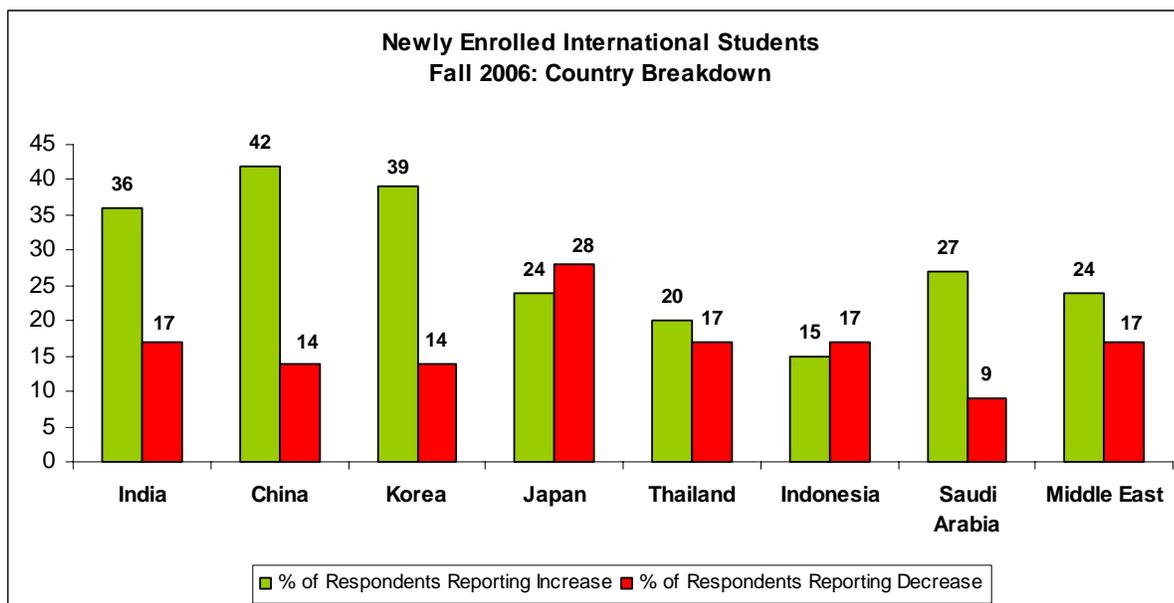


## COUNTRY BREAKDOWN: NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLLMENTS

What change, if any, have you noticed for Fall 2006 compared to Fall 2005 in the number of newly enrolled international students from the following places of origin?

- For most countries, more responding institutions reported an increase than a decline<sup>2</sup>:
  - China (42% reporting increases vs. 14% reporting declines, and the rest reporting level enrollments)
  - Korea (39% reporting increases vs. 14% reporting declines)
  - India (36% reporting increases vs. 17% reporting declines)
  - Saudi Arabia (27% reporting increases vs. 9% reporting declines)
  
- For Middle East as a region, 24% of respondents reported an increase and 17% reported a decline. Middle East was defined as: *Bahrain, Cyprus, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Yemen*. Saudi Arabia was listed separately in light of their new major scholarships for study abroad.
  
- For two countries, more responding institutions reported a decline than an increase:
  - Japan (28% reporting a decline vs. 24% reporting an increase)
  - Indonesia (17% reporting a decline vs. 15% reporting an increase)

**Table 5: Country Breakdown: Newly enrolled international students, Fall 2006 compared to Fall 2005**



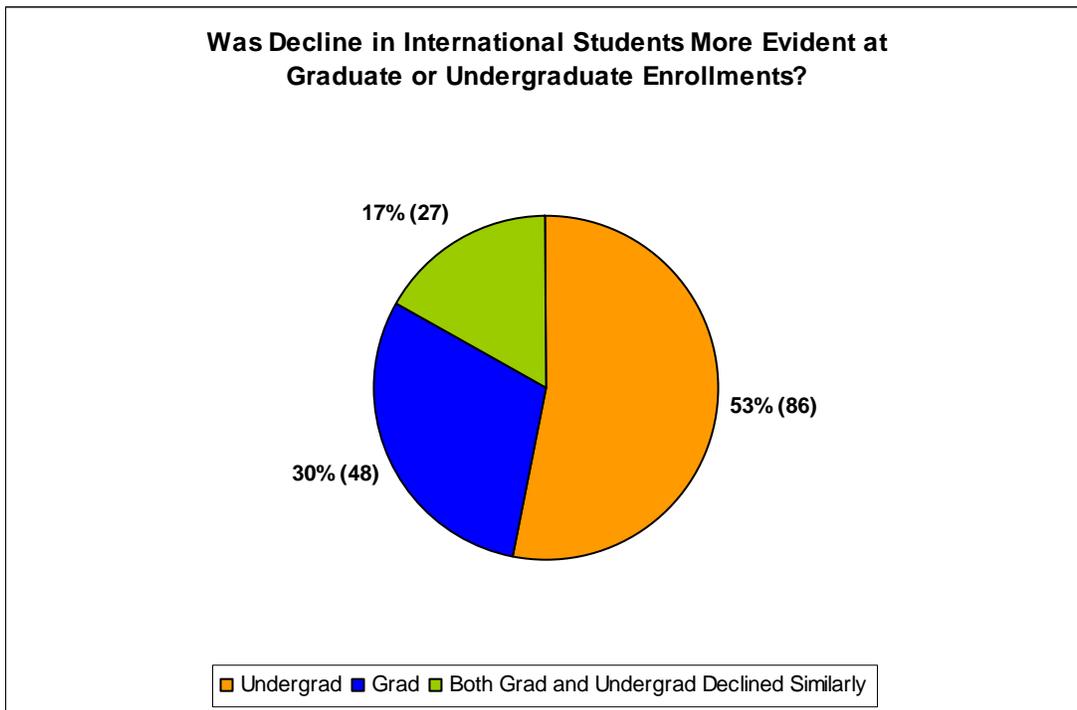
<sup>2</sup> Increases and declines include “slight”, “some” and “substantial”. Responding campuses were not asked to provide actual numbers of students, therefore it is not possible to determine the exact degree of the declines or increases for each country. The remaining respondents indicated level enrollments.

## **DECLINES AT UNDERGRADUATE OR GRADUATE LEVEL**

*If you enroll both graduate and undergraduate students, was the decline in international students more evident in graduate or undergraduate enrollment, for Fall 2006 compared to Fall 2005?*

- Institutions that enroll both graduate and undergraduate students indicated that the declines were more evident at the undergraduate level. 53% (86 respondents) of the institutions that responded to that question said that declines were more evident at the undergraduate level, while 30% (48) reported more graduate level declines, and 17% (27) reported that both graduate and undergraduate levels declines were about the same.

**Table 6: Declines at Undergraduate or Graduate Level**

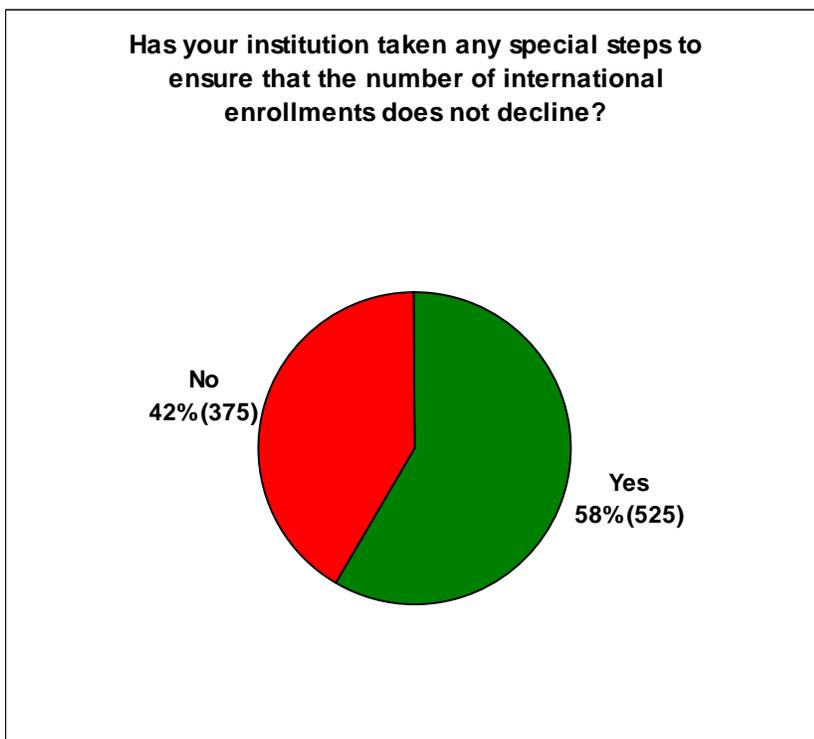


## **SPECIAL STEPS TO ENSURE INTERNATIONAL ENROLLMENTS DO NOT DECLINE**

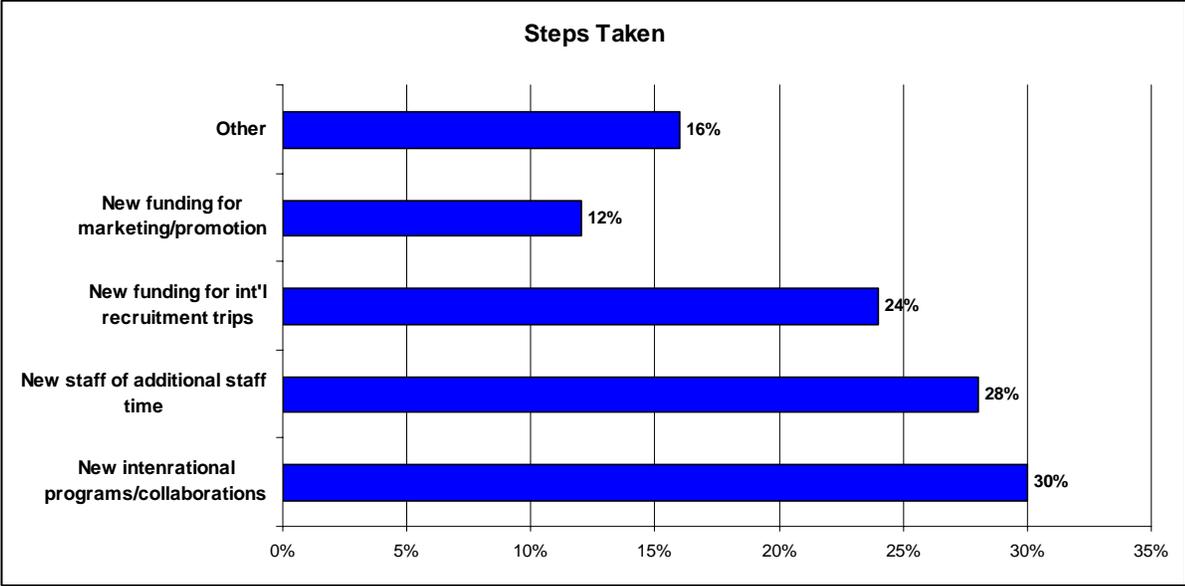
*Has your institution taken any special steps to ensure that the number of international enrollments does not decline?*

- Fifty-eight percent (525) of all responding institutions have taken special steps to ensure that the number of international students on their campuses does not decline, while 42% (375) have not taken any special steps. Last year, 50% reported having taken special steps.
- Special steps included new international programs or collaborations (cited by 30%), followed by new staff or additional staff time devoted to international recruitment (28%), new funding for international recruitment trips (24%), and new funding for marketing and promotion of programs (12%).
- Institutions that have devoted more resources for international student recruitment trips seem to have concentrated mainly on Asia. Twenty percent of responding institutions specifically devoted resources to recruit international students from China, followed by Japan (16%), Korea (16%) and India (12%). An additional 16% report having focused more resources on 'other countries in Asia'. Several institutions also devoted more resources to recruitment trips to Latin America (11%), the Middle East (8%), Europe (7%), and Africa (3%).

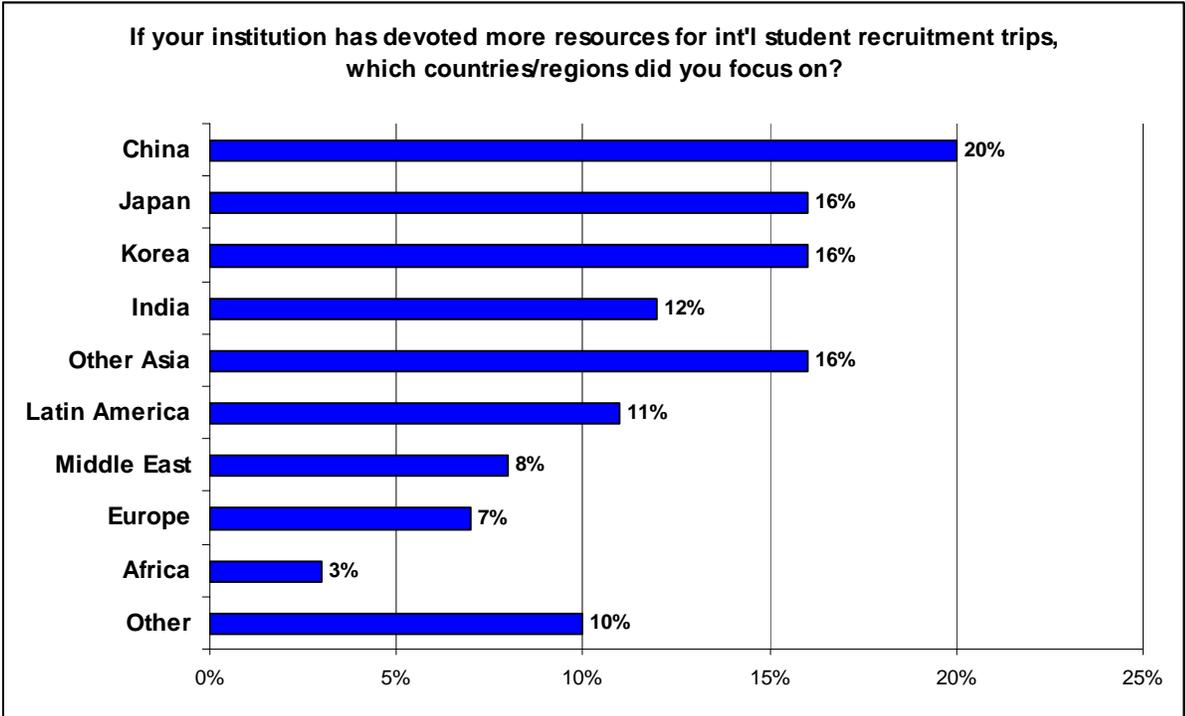
**Table 7a: Has your institution taken any special steps to ensure that the number of international enrollments does not decline?**



**Table 7b: Which steps were taken?**



**Table 7c: If your institution has devoted more resources for international student recruitment trips, which countries/regions did you focus on?**

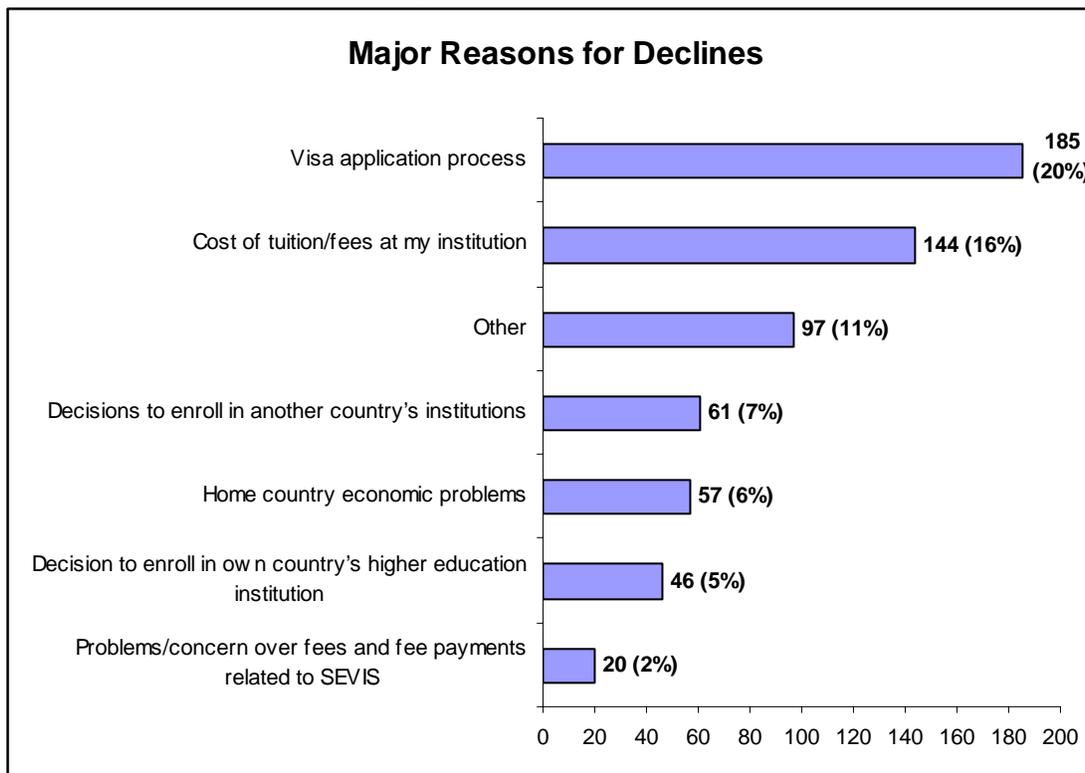


## MAJOR REASONS FOR REPORTED DECLINES IN ENROLLMENTS

*Based on feedback from international applicants, what do you believe are the major reasons for the decline in enrollments?*

- Twenty percent of the responding institutions experiencing declines in international student enrollments cited visa application processes and concerns over delays/denials as the major reason for the decline, followed by cost of tuition/fees at U.S. institutions (16%) and decisions to enroll in another country's institutions (7%). Last year, 35% cited visa application processes as the major reason for decline.
- Of the 97 respondents (or 11%) who chose "other" as their response, many indicated increased competition for international students among U.S. institutions, a higher number of transfers or graduating international students, fewer applicants, declines from certain sending countries, lack of financial aid or scholarships, or a combination of all the various reason listed.

**Table 8: Major Reasons for Reported Declines in Enrollments**

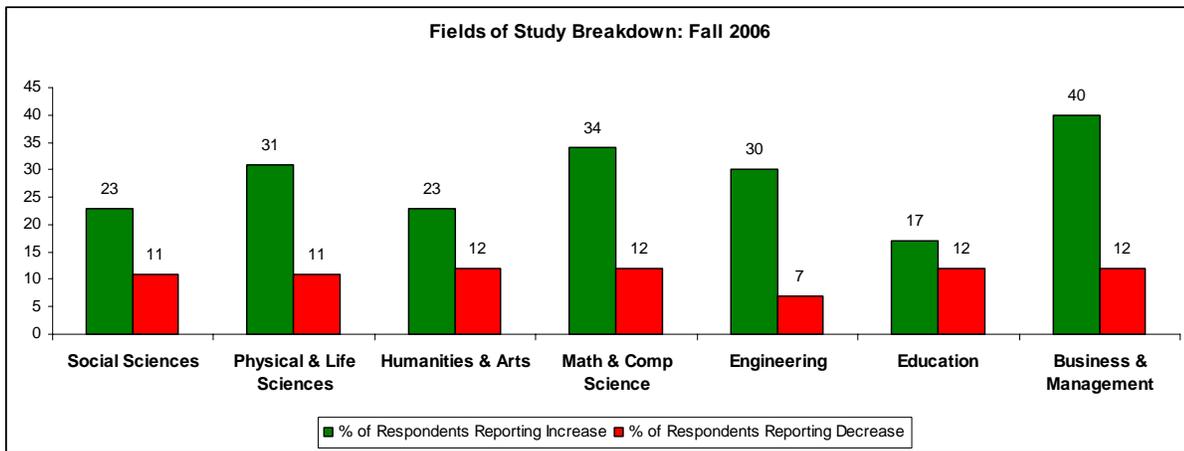


## **FIELDS OF STUDY**

*What change, if any, have you noticed for Fall 2006 compared to Fall 2005 in the numbers of newly enrolled international students enrolled in specific fields of study?*

- For all fields of study, more responding institutions reported an increase than a decline.
- For Business and Management, 40% of respondents indicated that they had seen an increase, while 12% reported declines (with 48% reporting no change). Similar results were reported for Math and Computer Science (34% reporting increases vs. 12% reporting declines), Physical and Life Sciences (31% reporting increases vs. 11% reporting declines) and Engineering (30% reporting increases vs. 7% reporting declines).

**Table 9: Fields of Study**

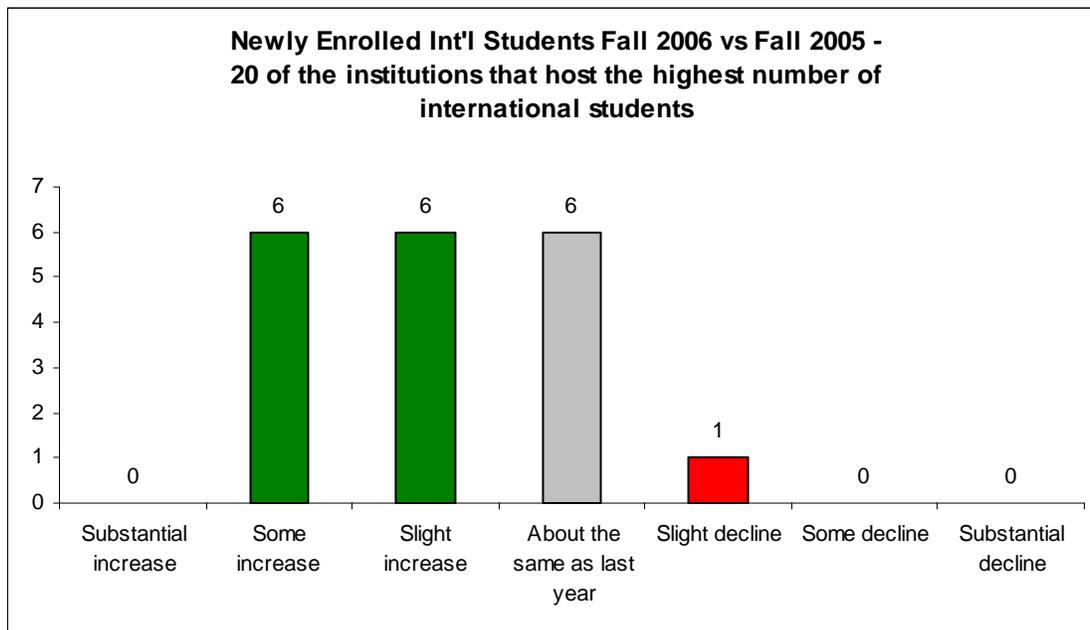


## **RESPONSES FROM THE TOP 20 HOST INSTITUTIONS THAT ENROLL THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

**Table 10a – 10b: Responses from 20 of the institutions that host the highest numbers of international students in the United States, Fall 2006 vs. Fall 2005.**

- Twelve of the 20 institutions that host the highest numbers of international students report increases in the number of newly enrolled international students on their campuses this year, while only 1 institution reports declines, and six campus no noticeable change. (Note: One respondent did not answer this question).
- Looking at overall international students enrollments, eleven of the 20 institutions reported an increase, while two reported a decline, and seven reported no change. Last year, eight of 17 responding Top 20-institutions reported a decline, while five reported an increase, and four reported no change.

**Table 10a: Newly enrolled international students at 20 institutions that enroll the highest numbers of international students, Fall 2006 compared to Fall 2005.**



**Table 10b: Overall international student enrollments at 20 institutions that enroll the highest numbers of international students, Fall 2006 compared to Fall 2005.**

