



# International Graduate Admissions: Examining the Requirements for International Degrees

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NAFSA 2017  
Los Angeles, CA

## Historic Overview

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

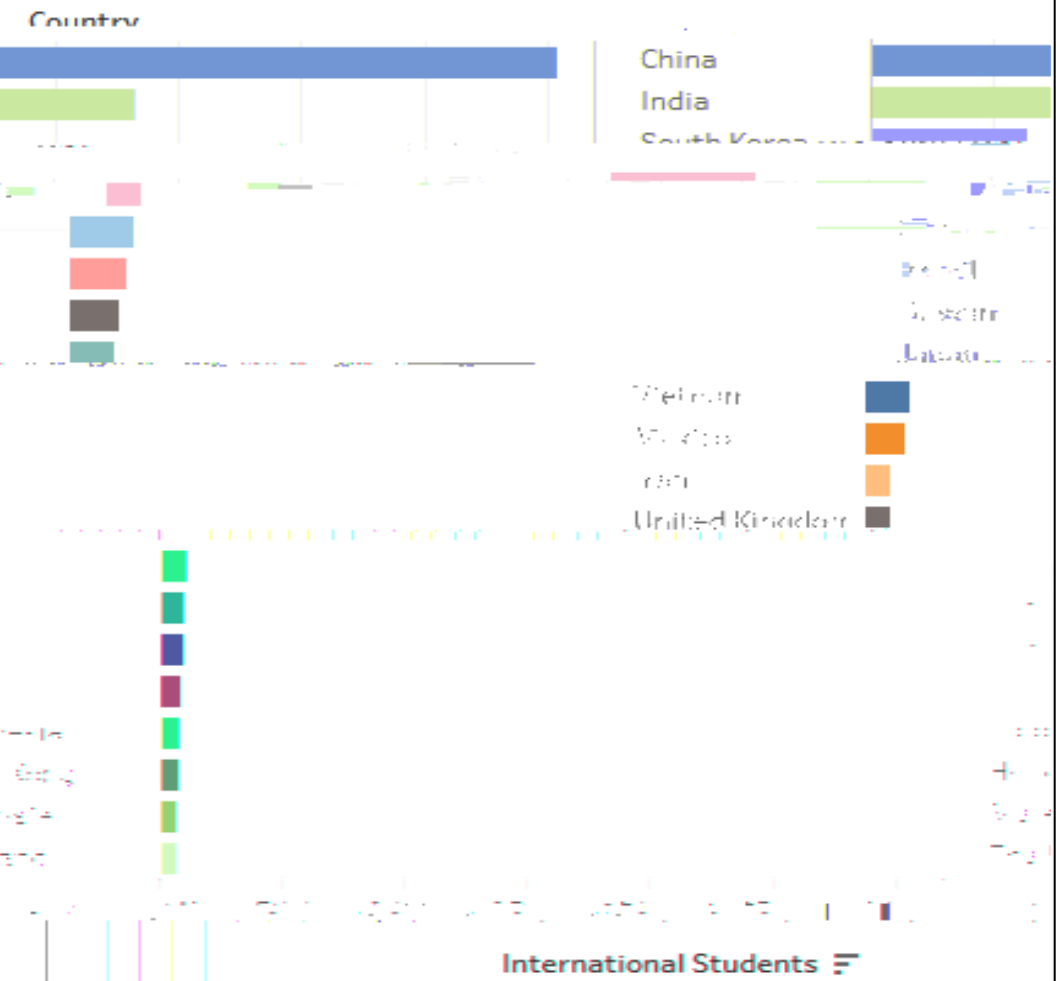
- 1950 - 1970, Canada was the number one source of international students.
- By 1975, Iran sent the most students (~13,000) to the United States, followed by Hong Kong, Taiwan, India and Canada.
- Iran topped the chart in 1980 as well, sending over 50,000 students. The Iranian student number quadrupled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

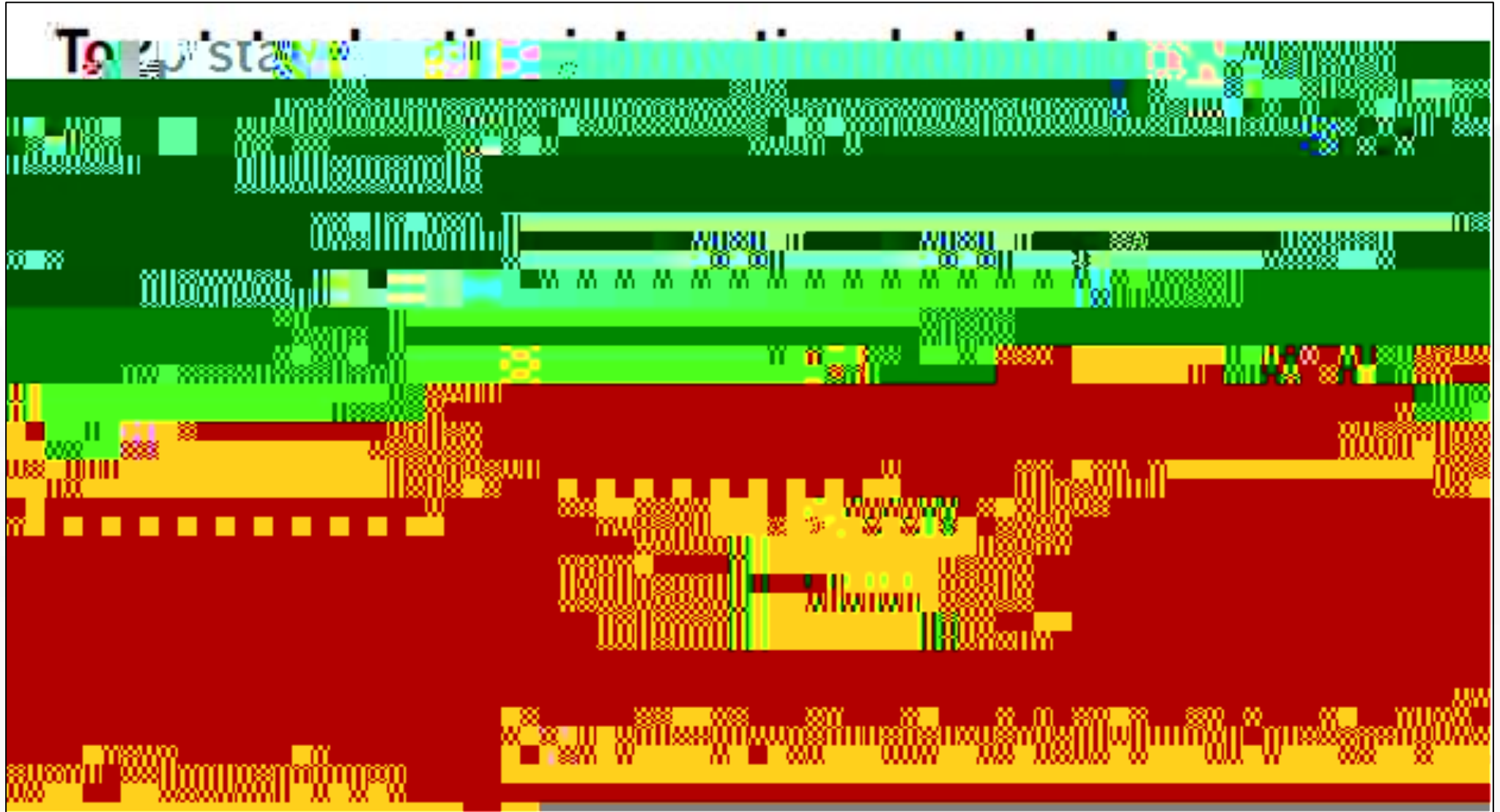


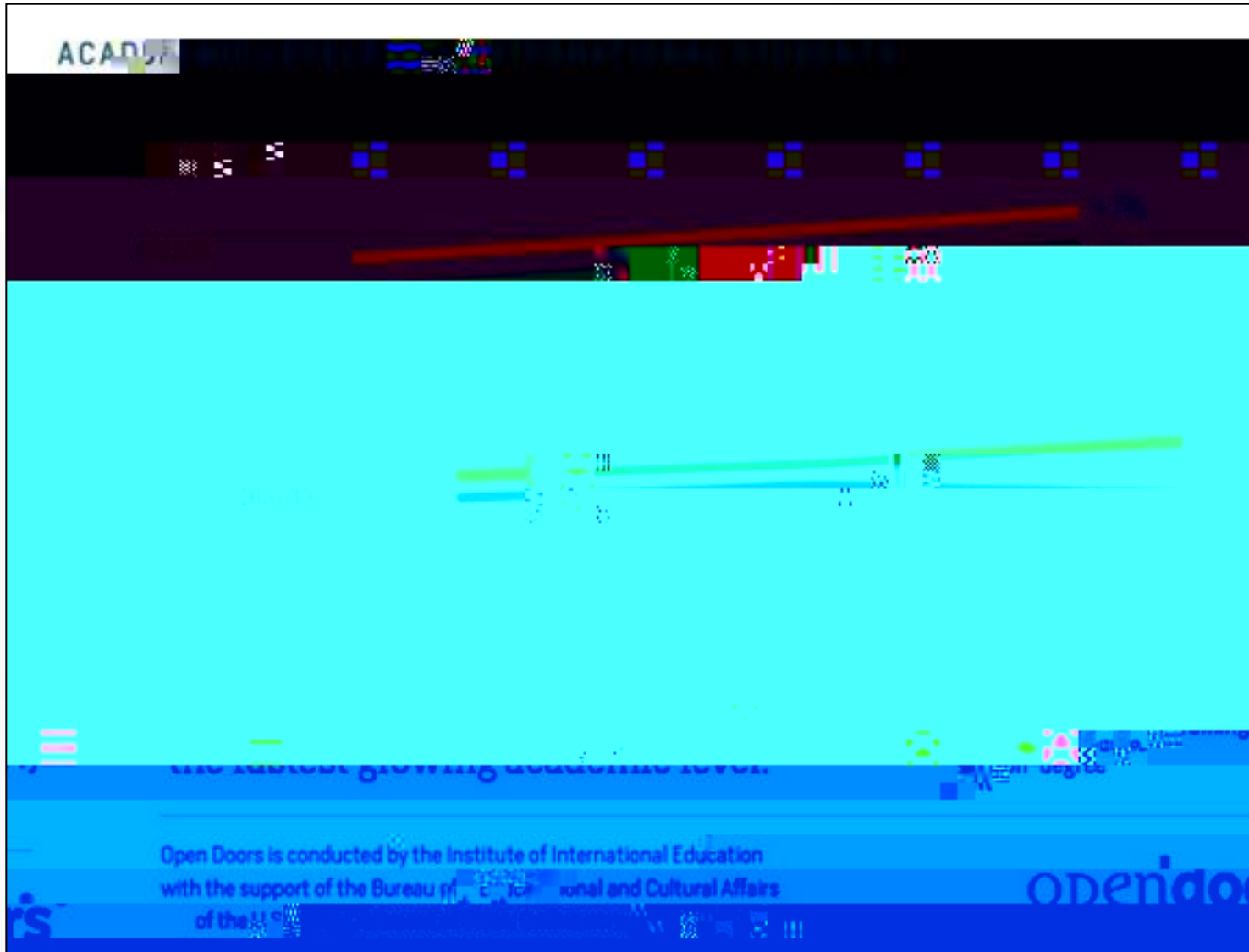
# Top 20 Countries of Origin - 2015



# International Student Body Composition 2015







## 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
-

# 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:

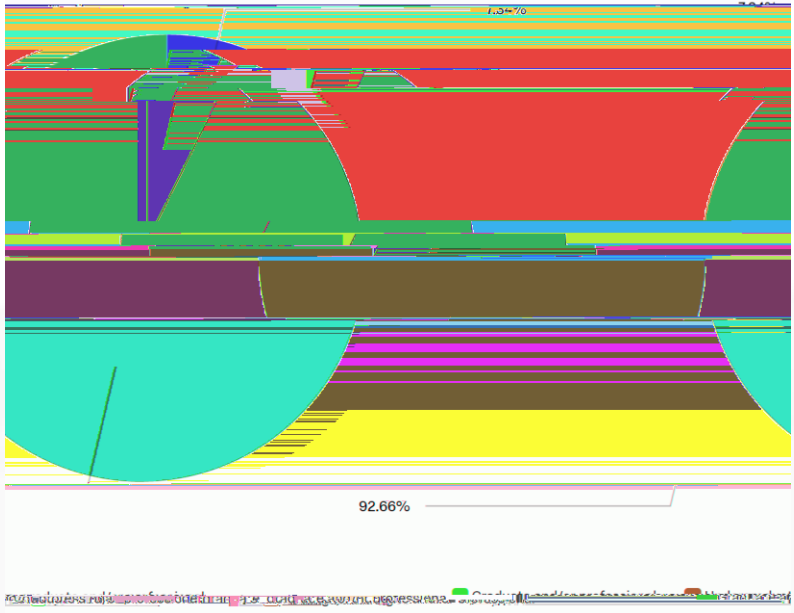
<http://www.aacrao.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/aacrao-aice-survey.pptx?sfvrsn=2>



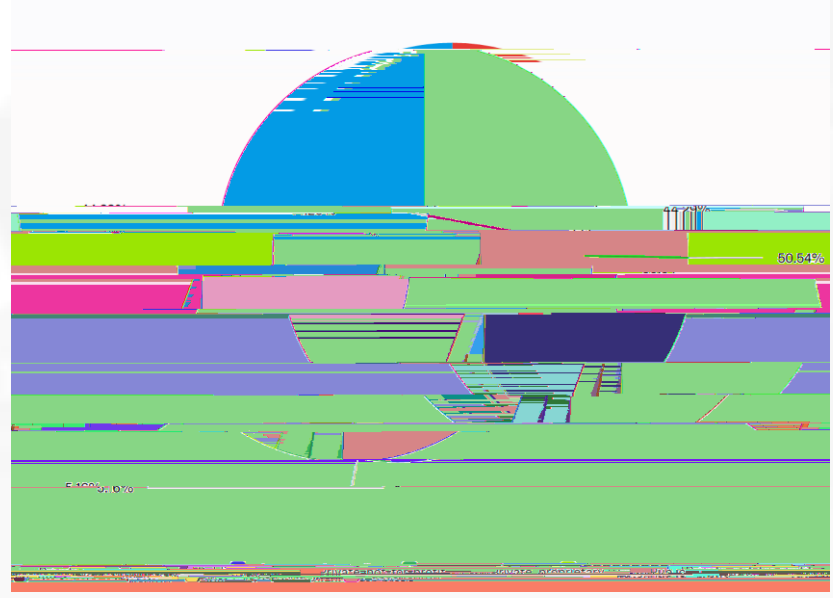
# SURVEY RESPONDENTS

369 INSTITUTIONS RESPONDED

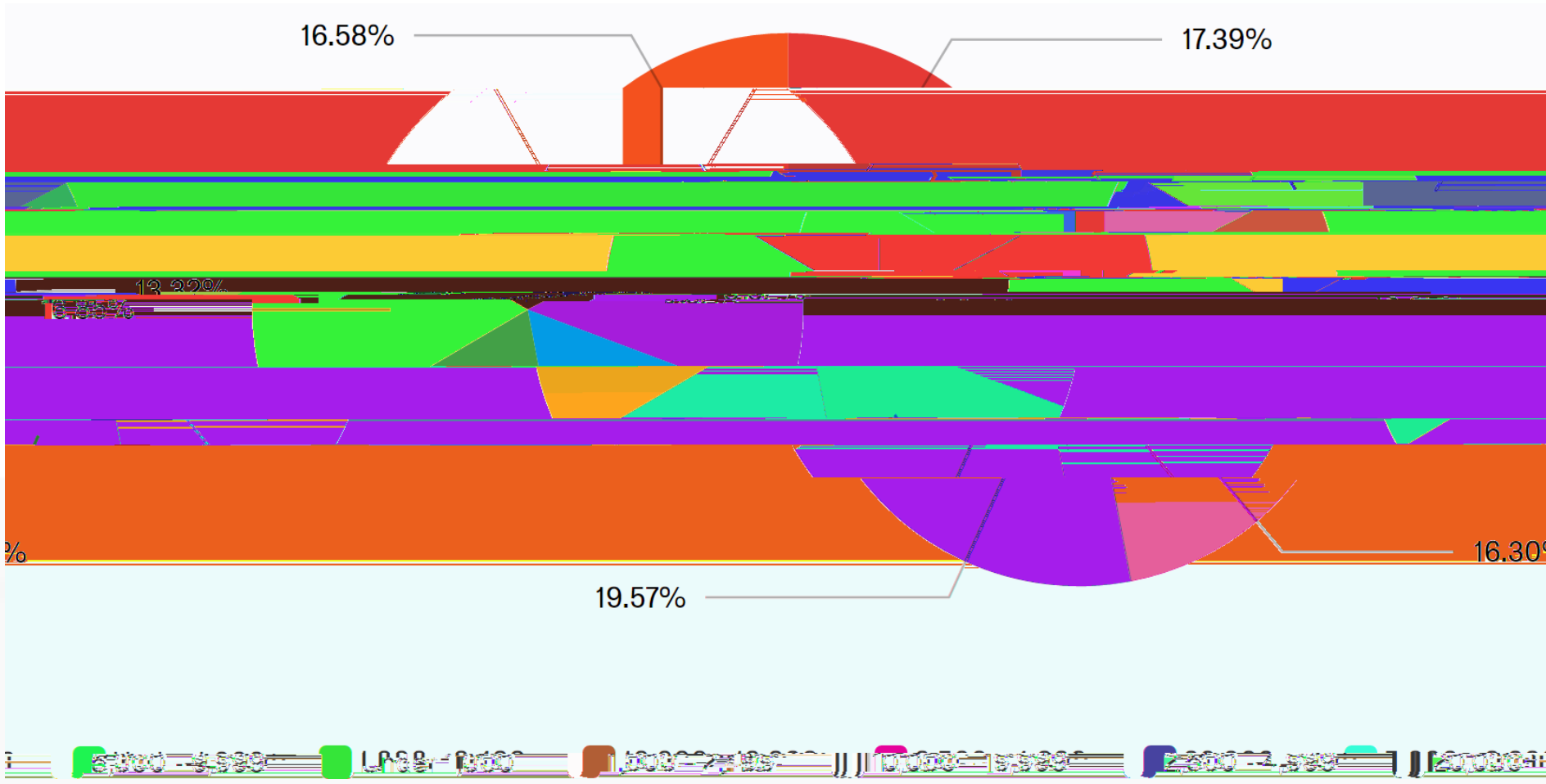
INSTITUTION TYPE



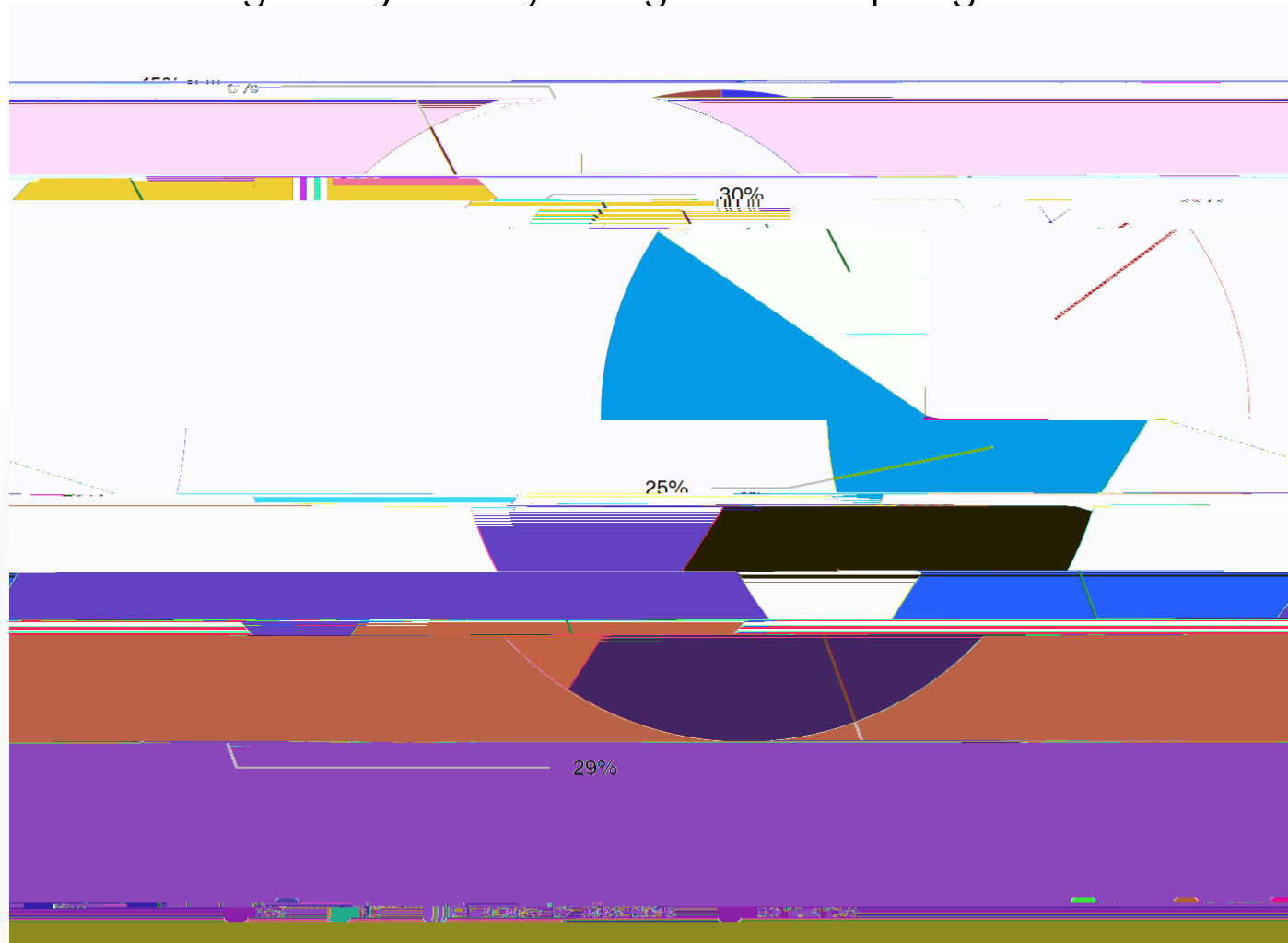
INSTITUTION CONTROL



# INSTITUTION SIZE

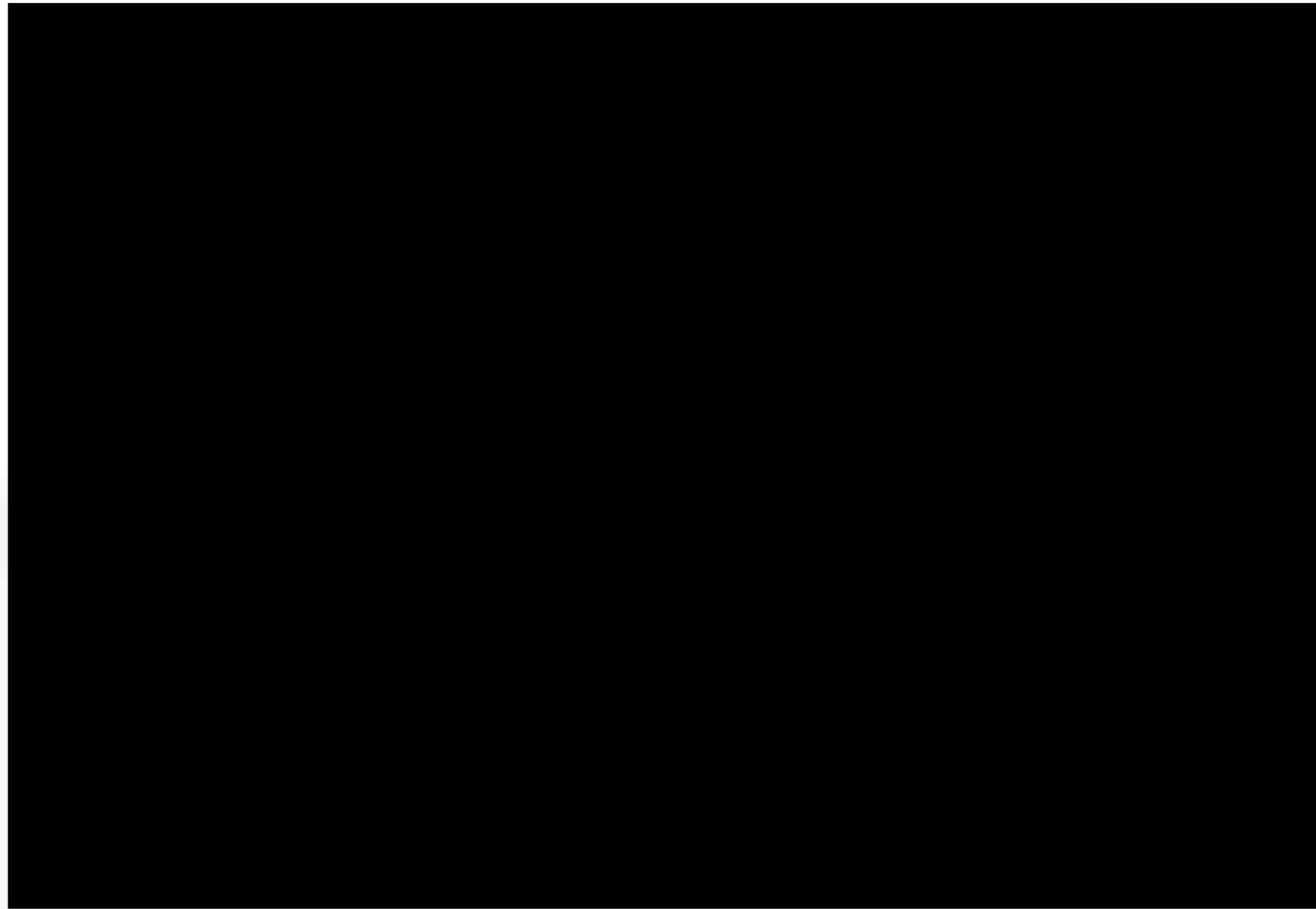


Q1 - Does your institution require completed undergraduate programs to be **at least four years in duration** for admissions eligibility into your graduate programs?



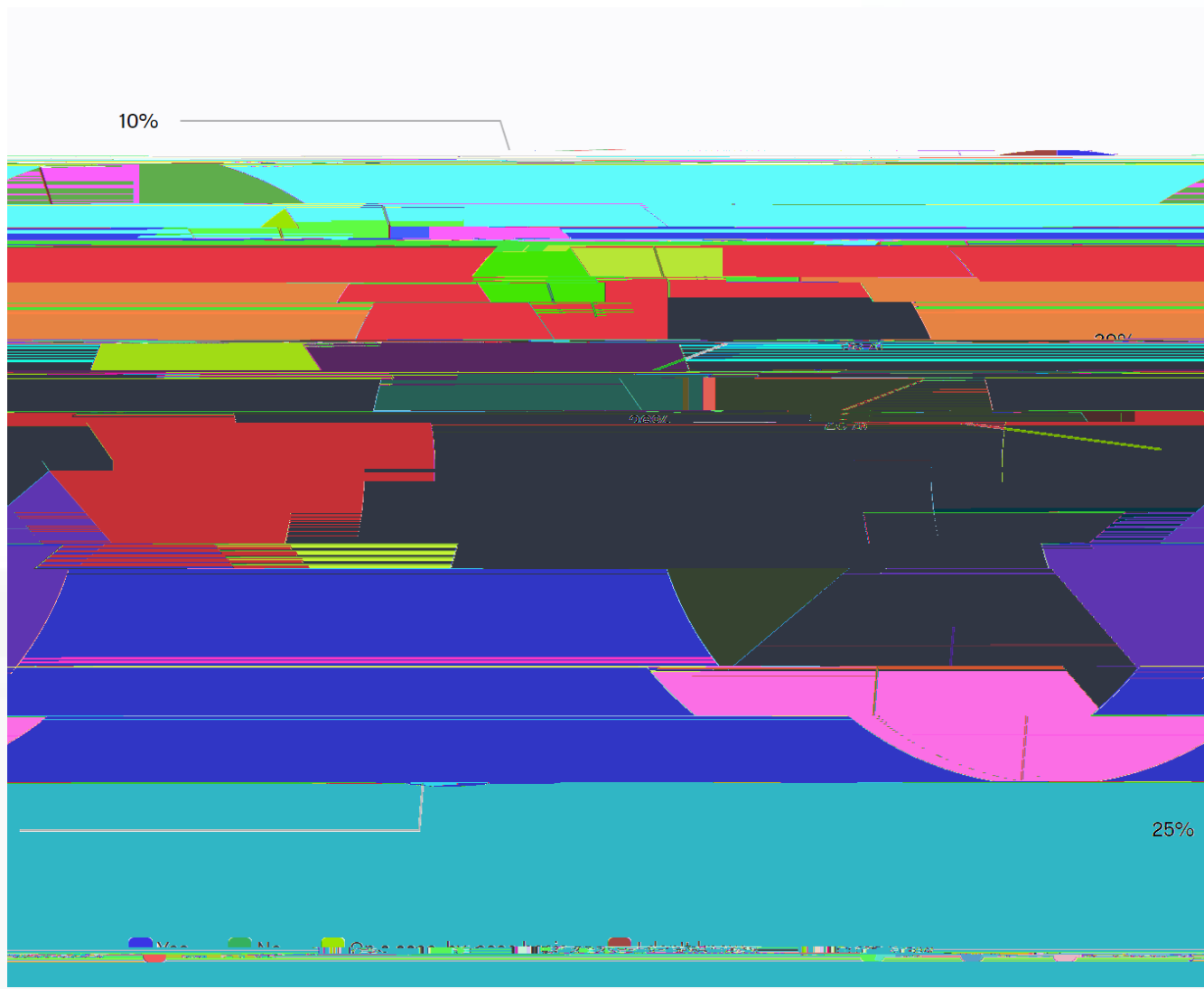


Q2 - If your institution ever considers 3-year bachelor's programs as eligible for graduate admissions, please select the **type of 3-year programs** below that you believe to be eligible:

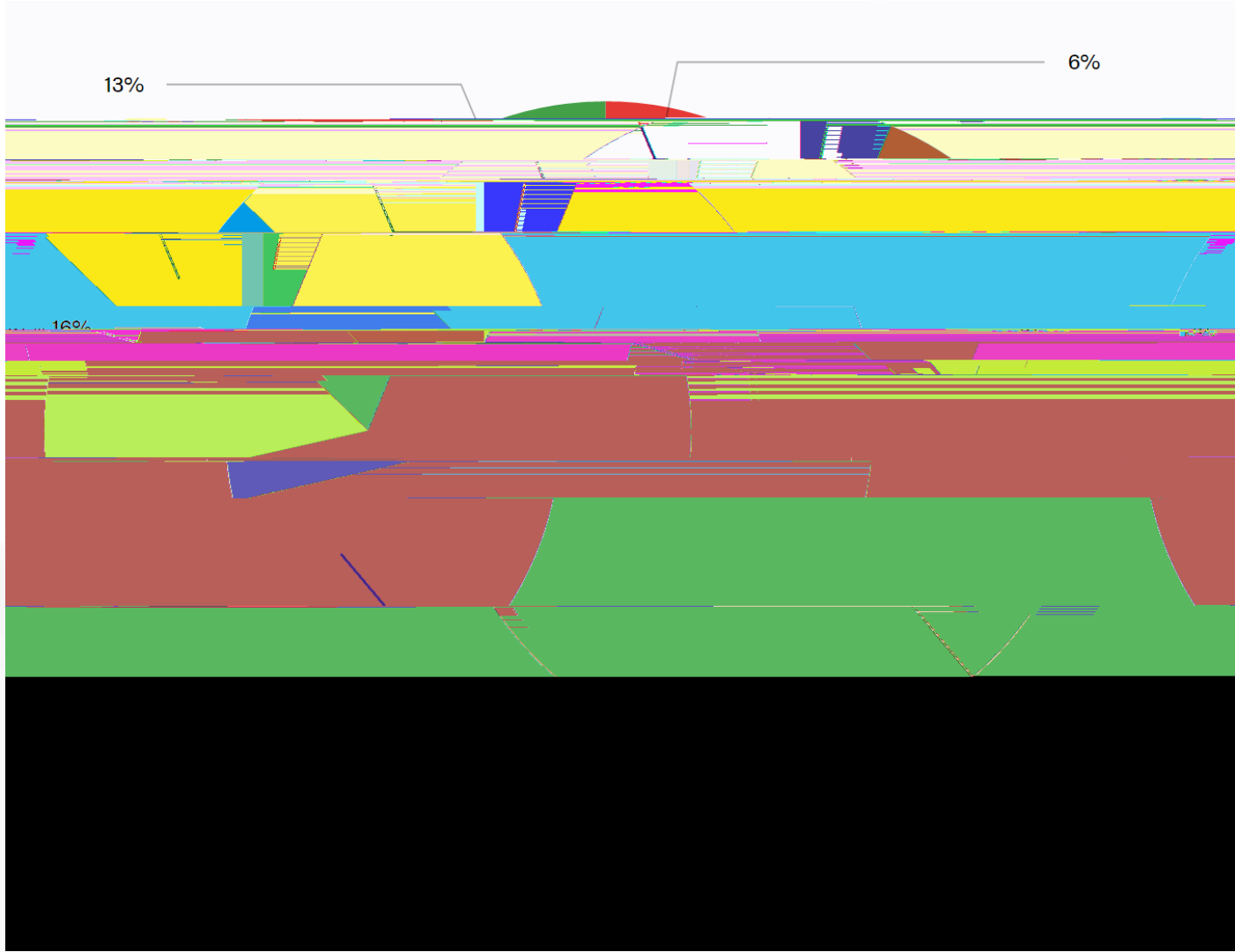




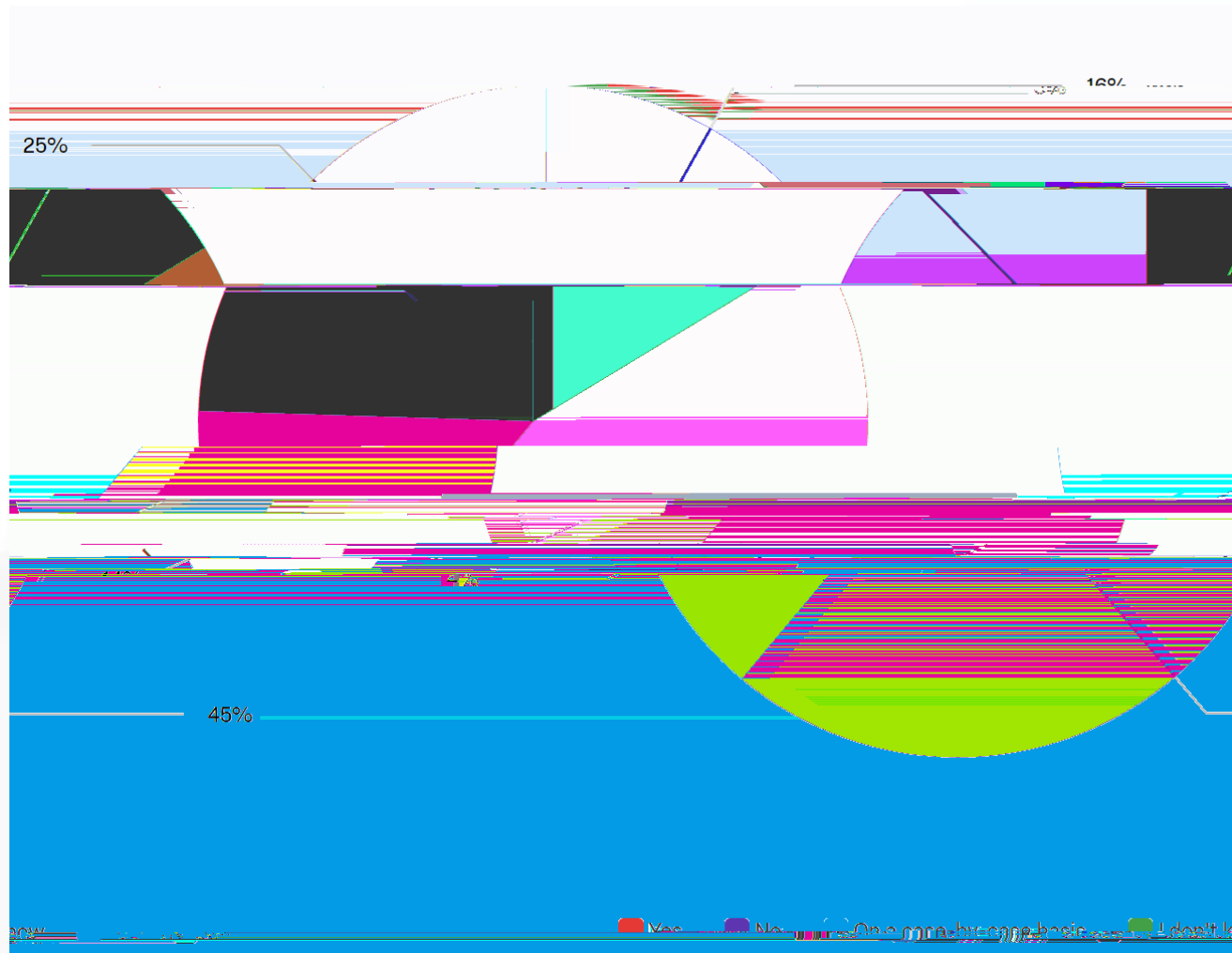
Q4 - For graduate admissions eligibility, does your institution require that completed undergraduate programs include **Major-specific coursework**?



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

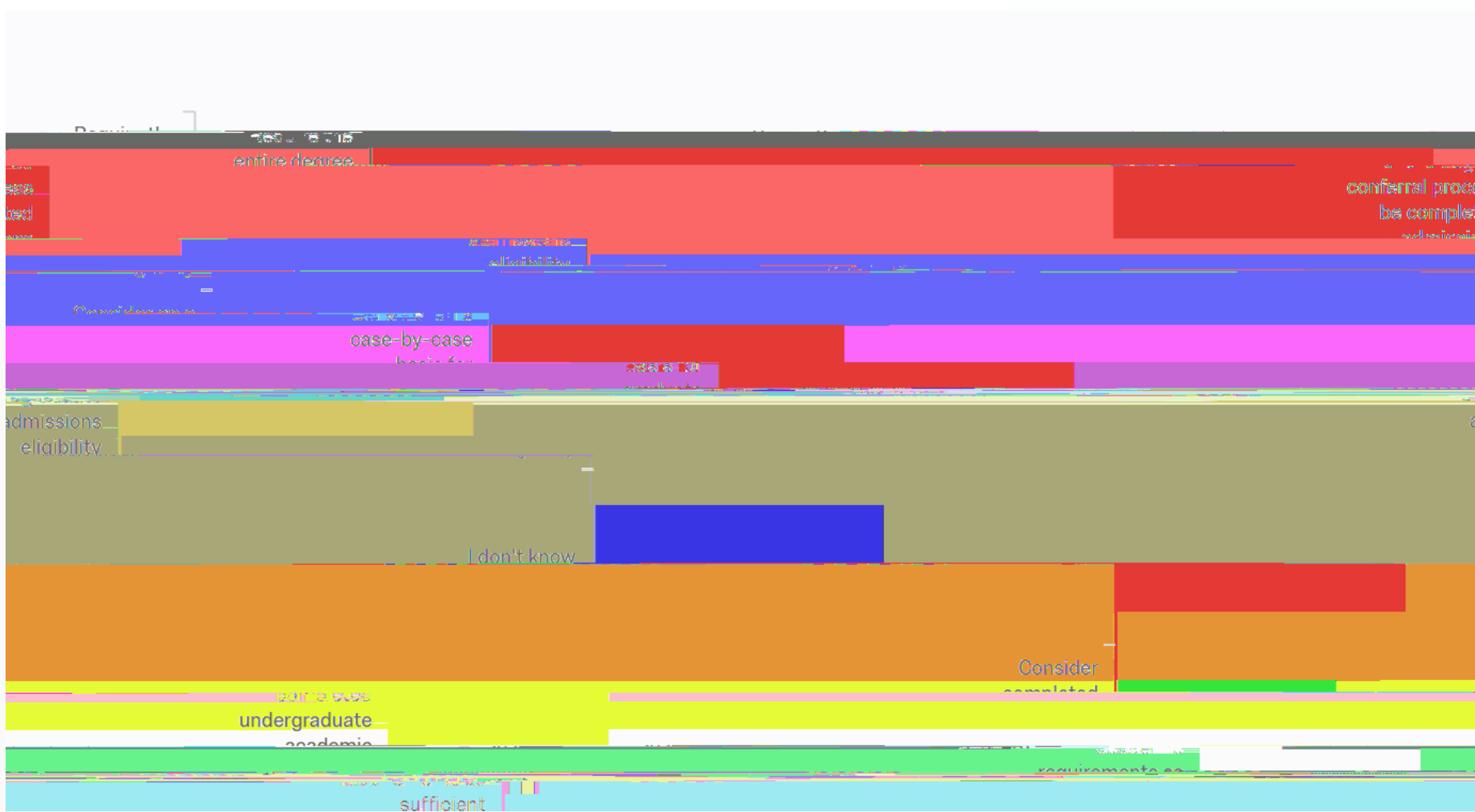


Q6 - Does your institution consider how international undergraduate programs provide **access to graduate programs in the home country** when determining eligibility for admissions to your graduate programs?





Q7



# 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)

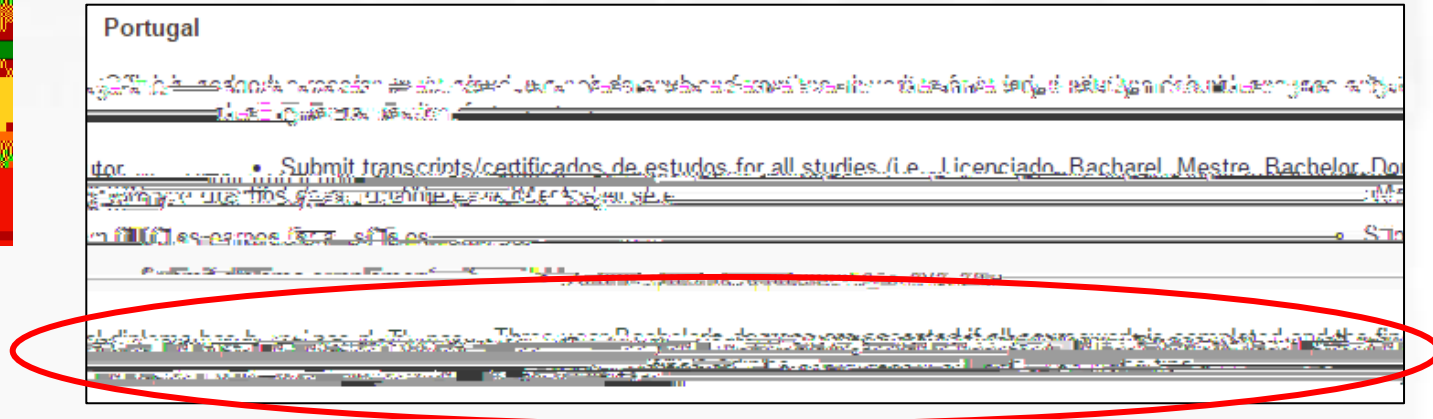
Overview of the AICE Symposium outcomes:

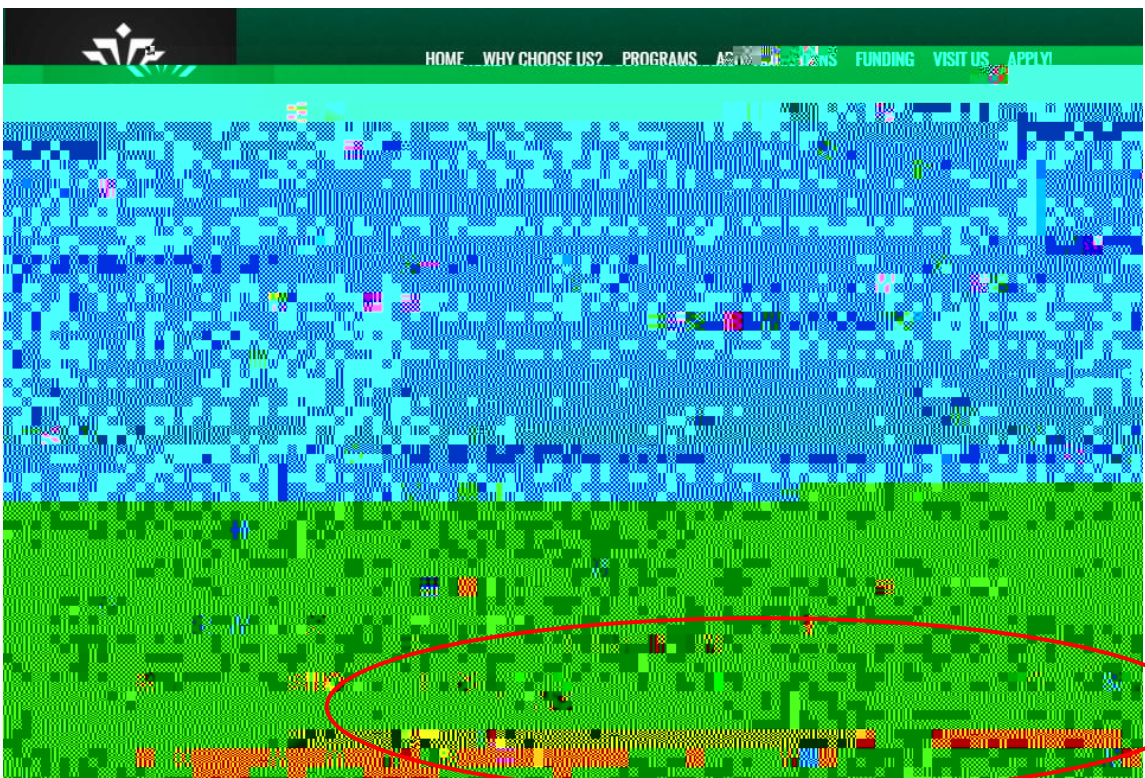
<http://www.aacrao.org/resources/resources-detail-view/setting-the-standard-for>

# Publication of clear, concise admission requirements for international applicants



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





- 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

International applicants who have earned a (three-year) bachelor's degree (such as a B.S. or B.A. from India, China, or Japan) or a 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 report performed by a foreign credential evaluation agency.





### Required Level of Study

REGION	REQUIRED LEVEL OF STUDY	COUNTRY / REGION
China	4 year bachelor's degree	China
Australia, Canada,	four-year bachelor's degree or honours bachelor's degree	Australia, Canada, New Zealand
United Kingdom	three-year bachelor's degree	United Kingdom
British Columbia	three-year bachelor's degree	British Columbia
Western European States	first university degree requiring four years or more of post-secondary study	Western European States
India	three-year bachelor's degree	India
U.S. Postsecondary Education	four-year bachelor's degree or equivalent	U.S. Postsecondary Education
Latin America	licenciado or título	Central and Latin America

### Partial Lists

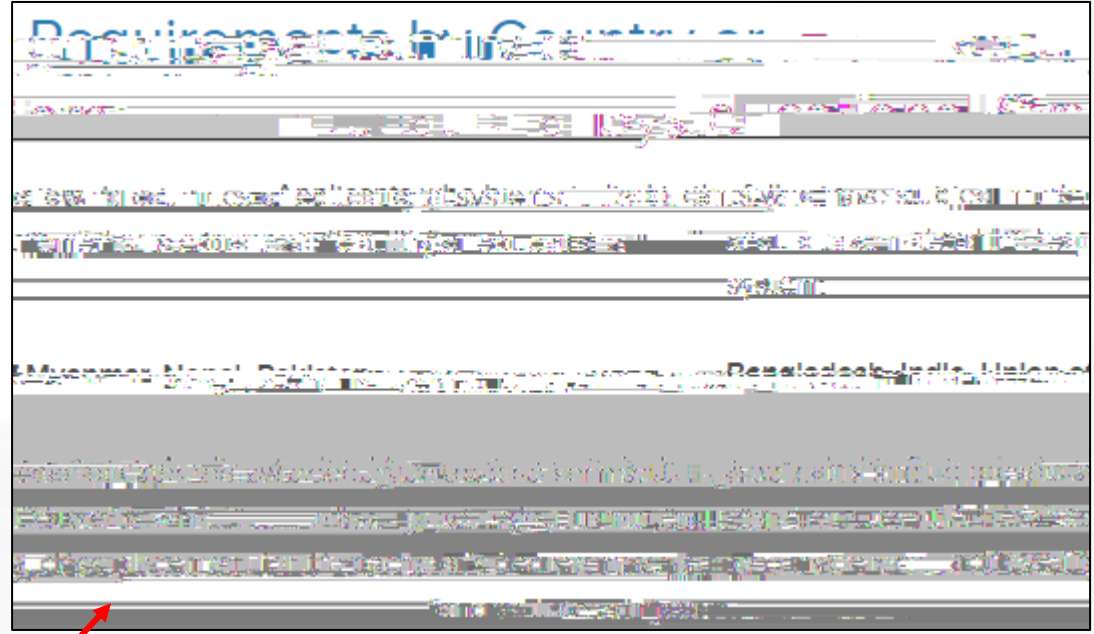
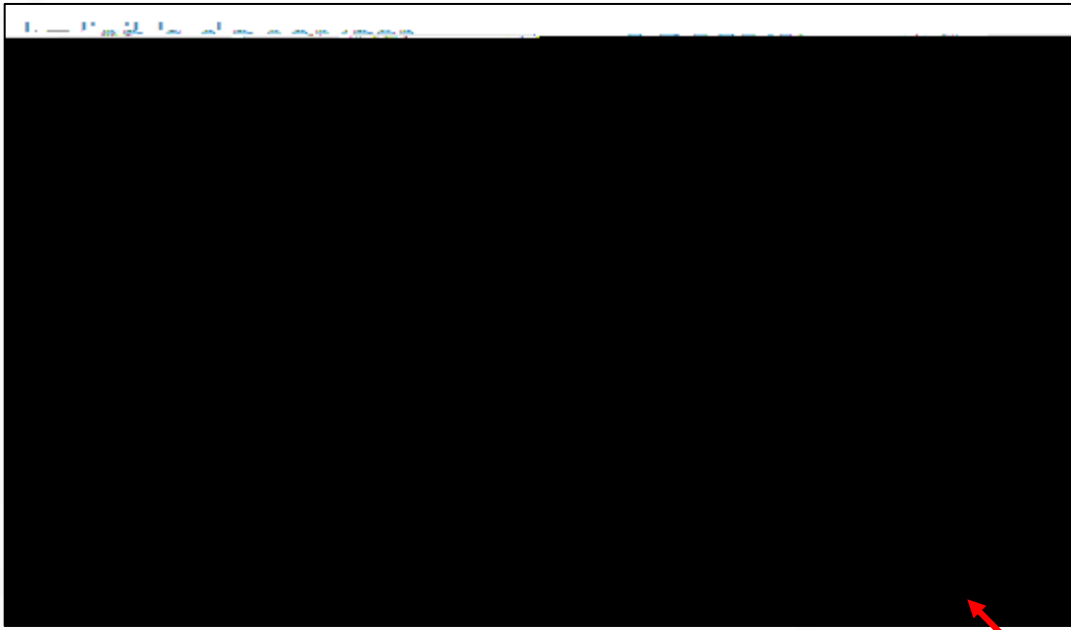
- Efficiently addresses most common applicant's requirements
- Requires regular monitoring for changes
- Risks inconsistencies when grouping countries together



Country	Requirements
<b>Germany</b>	...
<b>Italy</b>	...
<b>Mexico</b>	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)



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





## Three-year degrees –

### Three Year Baccalaureate Degrees

#### What is a Three-Year Baccalaureate Degree?

A Three Year Baccalaureate Degree allows students to complete a four-year Baccalaureate Degree within three years after initial enrollment at the University of Cincinnati. Students must meet all the requirements for the baccalaureate degree. Lowered the credit requirement for the baccalaureate degree. The University of Cincinnati offers a variety of three-year baccalaureate degrees. For more information, visit [www.uc.edu/provost/about-us/peopleandoffices/undergraduate-affairs/three-year-degrees.html](https://www.uc.edu/provost/about-us/peopleandoffices/undergraduate-affairs/three-year-degrees.html)

Advanced standing credit prior to initial enrollment. Some Three-Year Degree programs can be completed with no advanced standing credit prior to initial enrollment. Some Three-Year Degree programs can be completed with no advanced standing credit prior to initial enrollment. Some Three-Year Degree programs can be completed with no advanced standing credit prior to initial enrollment.

- 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](https://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/07/us/indian-students-western-kentucky-university.html?_r=0)

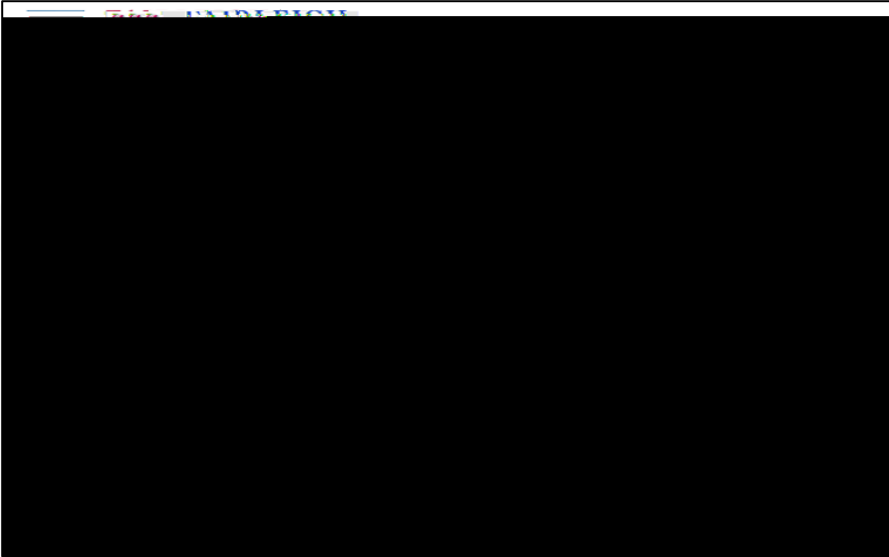
# Bridge Programs

- 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

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

NYIT Bridge Program:

- If you have completed only a three





- 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

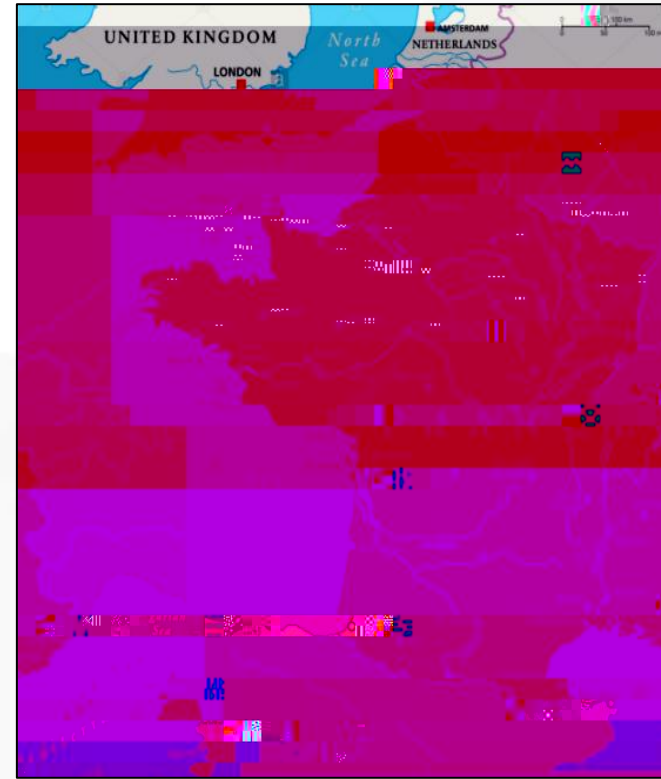


## India and France Uniform 12-year of secondary education



### 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





## 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 p/66.01 Tm(p/. 208Q36ETBT/F

# Conclusion

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# Thank You

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