International Graduate Education Opportunities, Challenges, and Crisis Management
Participants

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Overview

• International graduate education and the US research university

• Changing funding model

• Increased competition from abroad

• Evolving strategies for recruiting, funding, and assessing international education.

• Unstable political environment
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Current Context

• How do politics/ political climate and related policies influence student mobility?

• How do institutions of higher education remain globally competitive within this context?
Key Global Trends

• Key considerations that will impact student mobility trends
  o Changing demographics
  o Shrinking populations of college-aged students, except in Africa and some parts of Asia & South America.
  o Increasing competition for market share among established and emerging study destinations.
Global Aging
Recent Developments in the U.S.

• According to a recent IIE report …
  o Overall 2% decline in international undergraduate admissions yield for surveyed US institutions in 2017-18.

• According to the Council of Graduate Schools …
  o “Substantial downward changes in admissions yield for international students for Fall 2017”
Potential Legislative Changes

• J-1 Exchange Visitor visa

• 2-year home residency requirement

• H-1B petitioning process and removal of H-4 Dependent Spouses work

• Reform of the Optical Practical Training program and the two-year Science, Technology, Engineering and Math extension (STEM OPT) program
Shifting Student Priorities

• Redefinition of brand and value.
  o The return on investment of an overseas study experience is an increasingly weighty consideration

• The impact of English as the *lingua franca* in higher education, even in countries where English is not necessarily the national language

• The impact of technology on mobility

• Other emerging centers of higher education excellence
International Students by Degree Level at Illinois

- **Undergrad**
- **Graduate**
Where Do We Go From Here … Institutional Responses?

• Rethink institutional relationships with alumni and utilize alumni connections

• Leverage existing partnerships (bilateral, trilateral, multilateral)

• Focus on substantial (long-term) engagement with global partners

• Increased emphasis on recruitment in both established and emerging regions in higher education.

• Some countries are implementing intentional policies and national strategies to increase their share of international students (e.g. Australia, China, South Korea, Canada)
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Questions for Discussion

- What’s new?
- What’s different?
- What are your biggest successes?
- What are the greatest challenges?
- What will the future bring?