

APS International Applicants Survey Results Summary

**Prepared by the APS Office of Government Affairs
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At the 2018 APS March Meeting, a small number of APS members from U.S. universities informed the APS Office of Government Affairs (OGA) that they had experienced a substantial decrease in the number of applications from non-U.S. based students to their respective physics PhD programs between 2017 and 2018. To help inform a potential response from APS, OGA worked with department chairs of U.S. physics PhD programs that reported graduating 10 or more students per year to gather data concerning the number of international applications. A total of 74 department chairs were contacted, and 49 responded to the inquiry. 41% of all physics graduate students enrolled in the U.S. were at one of the 49 respondent departments, along with 40% of the international physics graduate students enrolled in the U.S.

The following report is a summary of the data collected from the 49 department chairs that responded.

Questions and Responses

Physics department chairs were asked about the number of applications the department received from international students:

Has your institution's physics PhD program experienced a drop in international applications? It would be extremely helpful if you could provide the absolute number of international applicants to the PhD program in 2017 and 2018.

The data acquired from the answers to this question was used to fill in the Table 1 (see below). **There was in overall decrease in the number of international applicants to the physics PhD programs that responded to the survey, with an average change of -11.9%.** While some institutions did not see a decline in their applicant classes, there were a handful of programs that experiences declines of more than 40%.

Table 1: International Applications to U.S. Physics PhD Programs

University	2017 International Applicants	2018 International Applicants	% Change
University 1	72	25	-65.3%
University 2	79	38	-51.9%
University 3	-	-	-46.0%
University 4	79	43	-45.6%
University 5	61	35	-42.6%
University 6	191	124	-35.1%
University 7	83	55	-33.7%
University 8	64	43	-32.8%
University 9	-	-	-28.0%
University 10	102	78	-23.5%
University 11	428	329	-23.1%
University 12	241	188	-22.0%
University 13	240	188	-21.7%
University 14	102	84	-17.6%
University 15	85	70	-17.6%
University 16	206	174	-15.5%
University 17	197	168	-14.7%
University 18	149	130	-12.8%
University 19	322	284	-11.8%
University 20	95	85	-10.5%
University 21	71	64	-9.9%
University 22	68	62	-8.8%
University 23	59	55	-6.8%
University 24	187	175	-6.4%
University 25	50	47	-6.0%
University 26	414	390	-5.8%
University 27	146	138	-5.5%
University 28	149	142	-4.7%
University 29	343	327	-4.7%
University 30	97	93	-4.1%
University 31	140	135	-3.6%
University 32	321	314	-2.2%
University 33	169	167	-1.2%
University 34	170	168	-1.2%
University 35	268	267	-0.4%
University 36	-	-	0.0%
University 37	-	-	0.0%
University 38	-	-	0.0%
University 39	-	-	0.0%
University 40	220	220	0.0%
University 41	-	-	0.0%
University 42	350	350	0.0%
University 43	254	264	3.9%
University 44	254	264	3.9%
University 45	249	260	4.4%
University 46	365	385	5.5%
University 47	125	137	9.6%
University 48	82	95	15.9%
University 49	53	63	18.9%

Table 2: International Enrollments in U.S. Physics PhD Programs

In the subset of 19 schools that provided both application and enrollment data, the overall change in applications was a drop of 13.2% while the overall change in enrollments was a drop of 6.7%.

University	2017 International Applicants	2018 International Applicants	% Change	2017 International Enrollments	2018 International Enrollments	% Change
University 1	72	25	-65.3%	3	2	-33.3%
University 2	79	38	-51.9%	6	4	-33.3%
University 3	-	-	-46.0%	10	7	-30.0%
University 4	79	43	-45.6%	9	7	-22.2%
University 6	191	124	-35.1%	13	15	15.4%
University 8	64	43	-32.8%	3	7	133.3%
University 12	241	188	-22.0%	9	6	-33.3%
University 16	206	174	-15.5%	13	11	-15.4%
University 18	149	130	-12.8%	13	14	7.7%
University 21	71	64	-9.9%	18	10	-44.4%
University 24	187	175	-6.4%	15	17	13.3%
University 26	414	390	-5.8%	27	24	-11.1%
University 28	149	142	-4.7%	4	9	125.0%
University 30	97	93	-4.1%	11	8	-27.3%
University 36	-	-	0.0%	-	-	0.0%
University 41	-	-	0.0%	3	3	0.0%
University 42	350	350	0.0%	15	16	6.7%
University 44	254	264	3.9%	11	18	63.6%
University 49	53	63	18.9%	11	3	-72.7%