

## Fact Sheet: Stay Rates of Foreign Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities, 2007

**After a brief decline, recent foreign student graduates are staying in the U.S. at near-record levels after finishing doctorates.**

- 67% of foreign students graduating in 2005 remained in the U.S. two years after completing doctorates, a 3 percentage point increase since last measure.
- 62% of foreign students graduating in 2002 remained in the U.S. five years after completing doctorates, a 3 percentage point decrease since last measure.

**Doctorate recipients from the most highly rated graduate programs have lower stay rates, compared to doctorate recipients from less highly ranked programs.**

- Two years after graduation, 63% of graduates from top-rated programs and 68% of graduates from all other programs remained in the U.S.
- Five years after graduation, 58% of graduates from top-rated programs and 63% of graduates from all other programs remained in the U.S.

**Doctorate recipients from a few disciplines—agricultural sciences, economics, and other social sciences—have substantially lower stay rates than do those in other science and engineering disciplines.**

- 72% of computer science graduates remained in the U.S. five years after completing a doctorate.
- 42% of economics graduates and 39% of other social science graduates remained in the U.S. five years after completing a doctorate.

**Table 5. Percentage of Temporary Residents Receiving S/E Doctorates in 2002 Who Were in the United States, 2003-2007**  
(includes students on temporary and permanent visas)

Degree Field	Foreign Doctorate Recipients	Percent in the United States				
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Physical science	1,309	78	76	73	71	70
Mathematics	431	73	70	67	64	63
Computer science	340	78	77	75	73	75
Agricultural science	424	54	52	47	46	46
Life science	1,588	75	72	70	68	68
Computer/EE engineering	787	78	75	73	72	72
Other engineering	1,820	68	64	62	60	59
Economics	521	48	48	46	45	43
Other social science	630	47	45	43	41	40
<b>Total, all fields</b>	<b>7,850</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>62</b>

**Doctorate recipients from the high stay rate countries are not distributed evenly across all doctoral programs or disciplines. This uneven distribution seems to explain most of the observed variation in stay rates across disciplines and even between highly-rated and all other doctoral programs.**

- Top-rated programs awarded 36% of their doctorates to graduates from countries with stay rates above 75%, whereas all other programs awarded 43% of their doctorates to graduates from countries with stay rates above 75%.
- 50% of computer/electrical engineering graduates were from the five highest stay rate countries.
- 20% of economics graduates and 17% of other social science graduates were from the five highest stay rate countries.

**Stay rates vary greatly depending on country of citizenship and these differences have persisted for a long time. A few countries have stay rates that are well above average.**

- The five countries with the highest five-year stay rates were China (92%), India (81%), Romania (86%), Ukraine (84%), and Yugoslavia (88%).
- The five countries with the lowest five-year stay rates were Chile (22%), Indonesia (29%), New Zealand (28%), Saudi Arabia (7%), and Thailand (7%).

**Table 6. Percentage of Temporary Residents Receiving S/E Doctorates in 2002 Who Were in the United States, 2003-2007**

Country of Origin	Doctorate Recipients	Percent in the United States				
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
China	2,139	94	93	92	92	92
Taiwan	451	58	51	47	44	43
Japan	144	44	38	36	32	33
South Korea	814	61	53	47	44	41
India	615	91	89	85	83	81
Thailand	312	10	10	9	8	7
Other East Asia	113	52	49	48	46	47
Iran	36	90	82	85	76	79
Israel	26	69	69	65	57	57
Saudi Arabia	71	6	6	6	7	7
Turkey	315	53	49	46	44	42
Other West Asia	230	65	64	64	63	64
Australia	27	71	67	49	54	45
Indonesia	61	44	33	27	26	29
New Zealand & other Pacific/Australasia	21	49	33	28	28	28
Egypt	88	55	44	46	45	46
South Africa	23	50	45	45	45	45
Other Africa	146	63	61	57	55	55
Greece	68	66	61	58	51	51
United Kingdom	89	68	65	64	68	64
Germany	164	58	58	54	51	52
Italy	107	60	62	61	61	63
France	83	54	50	50	49	45
Romania	121	88	88	89	87	86
Spain	50	55	51	55	49	45
Other EU countries	262	61	60	61	59	56
Russia	161	83	85	82	80	77
Yugoslavia	32	87	87	88	88	88
Ukraine	49	83	85	86	81	84
Other Europe	102	75	72	67	62	61
Canada	258	65	64	58	52	55
Mexico	173	36	34	28	28	32
Argentina	54	67	58	58	59	54
Brazil	119	32	34	32	30	31
Chile	40	17	19	22	22	22
Colombia	49	52	52	52	46	48
Peru	28	71	67	64	60	57
Venezuela	49	37	39	39	43	50
Other Central/So. America	94	44	44	43	40	43
Country not reported	66	59	59	60	40	40
<b>Total, all countries</b>	<b>7,850</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>62</b>