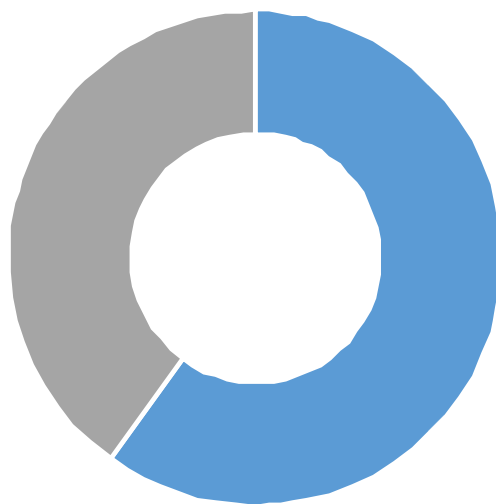


The 3-Year Degree Debate: What is Your International Admissions Policy?

The following results are from a poll taken on international admissions practices with regard to 3-year bachelor's degree holders. They were shared at a Special Interest Forum at the 2016 NAGAP conference. A link to the survey was originally posted on 6 different online communities. While this is not a scientific study, the results reflect the policies of 85 institutions (81 in the US, 2 in Canada, and 2 anonymous institutions). We are grateful to the respondents that participated in this survey as well as the accreditation bodies that replied to our subsequent queries.

- Emily Tse, International Education Research Foundation (IERF)
Ujjaini Sahasrabudhe, University of Southern California (USC)

I. Type of Institution



Public Institutions: 60%

Private Institutions: 40%

II. India: Are 3-year bachelor's degree holders from India eligible for admission into your graduate programs?



“Other” includes consideration on a case-by-case basis or by petition or waiver. Eligibility may also be dependent on criteria such as a National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) rating of A for the home institution, 1st class division students only, and applications in the same field only. Other respondents referenced having a bridge or pathway program or requiring an evaluation agency report.

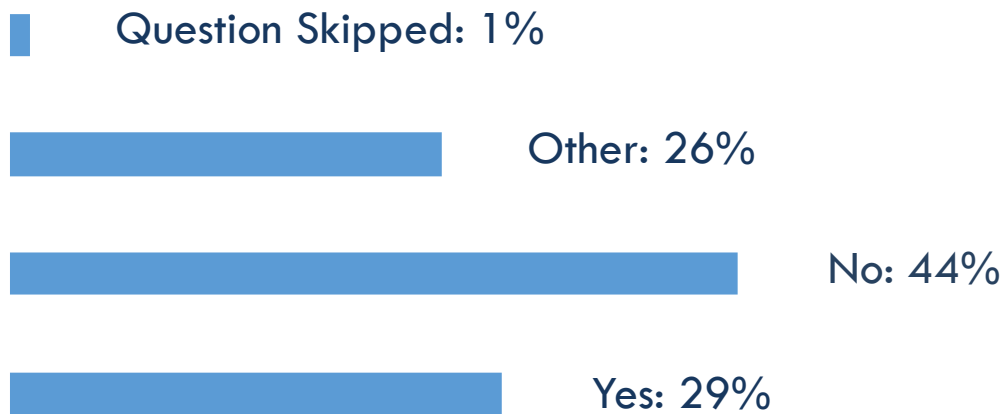
III. Europe*: Are 3-year bachelor's degree holders from Europe eligible for admission into your graduate programs?



“Other” includes consideration on a case-by-case basis or by petition or approval by the graduate dean. Consideration may also be given to applications in the same field of study. Additionally, eligibility may be dependent on the country of study in Europe or the outcome of the evaluation agency report.

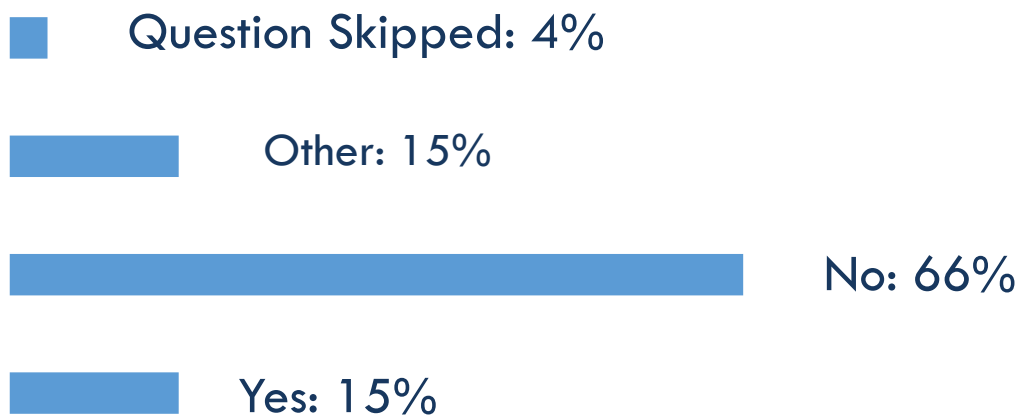
***Note:** This EXCLUDES 3-year degrees from countries with 13-year elementary and secondary educational systems (e.g., the UK with A-Levels).

IV. Australia: Are 3-year bachelor's degree holders from Australia eligible for admission into your graduate programs?



“Other” includes consideration on a case-by-case basis or by petition or waiver. Consideration may also be dependent on the outcome of an evaluation agency report. Some respondents have also indicated that no policy has yet been established.

V. All 3-Yr Degrees: Are all 3-year bachelor's degree holders eligible for admission into your graduate programs, regardless of the country of study?



“Other” includes consideration on a case-by-case basis. Consideration may also be dependent on the outcome of an evaluation agency report. Some respondents have also indicated that no policy has yet been established.



VI. Comments from Survey Participants:

Are there any observations you would like to share regarding the admissibility of 3-year degree holders?

Concerns were expressed regarding the stance of regional accrediting bodies and the US government. In other responses, caution was advised when receiving applicants who intend on subsequently pursuing teaching or CPA licensure in the US. Also, opinions were given both in support of the preparedness of 3-year degree holders as well as against their level of preparedness. However, NAGAP session attendees shared positive feedback regarding overall retention and success rates of 3-year degree holders who have been admitted.



VII. Comments from Accrediting Bodies:

Does your accrediting body have a stance on the admissibility of international 3-year degree holders into US graduate programs? If so, are there any guidelines which you provide?

Responses to our email query were received from the following:

- AACSB International—The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business
- Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)

From the feedback provided, a theme emerged that there are no accreditation standards that prescribe specific admissions practices. Rather, the determination is left up to each individual institution. These comments support statements made by Judith Eaton, President of the Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) at the 2006 symposium hosted by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) in Washington, D.C. The accreditation process, rather, looks at fair and appropriate practices. Additionally, it is separate from the issue of professional licensure, the criteria for which also vary by state.



Selected References

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (2007). *The Impact of Bologna and Three-Year Degrees on US Admissions*.

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