



2017

**ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATORS
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

SIO as Change Agent:

**The New Wave of Students from China - Rising
Expectations and Challenges**

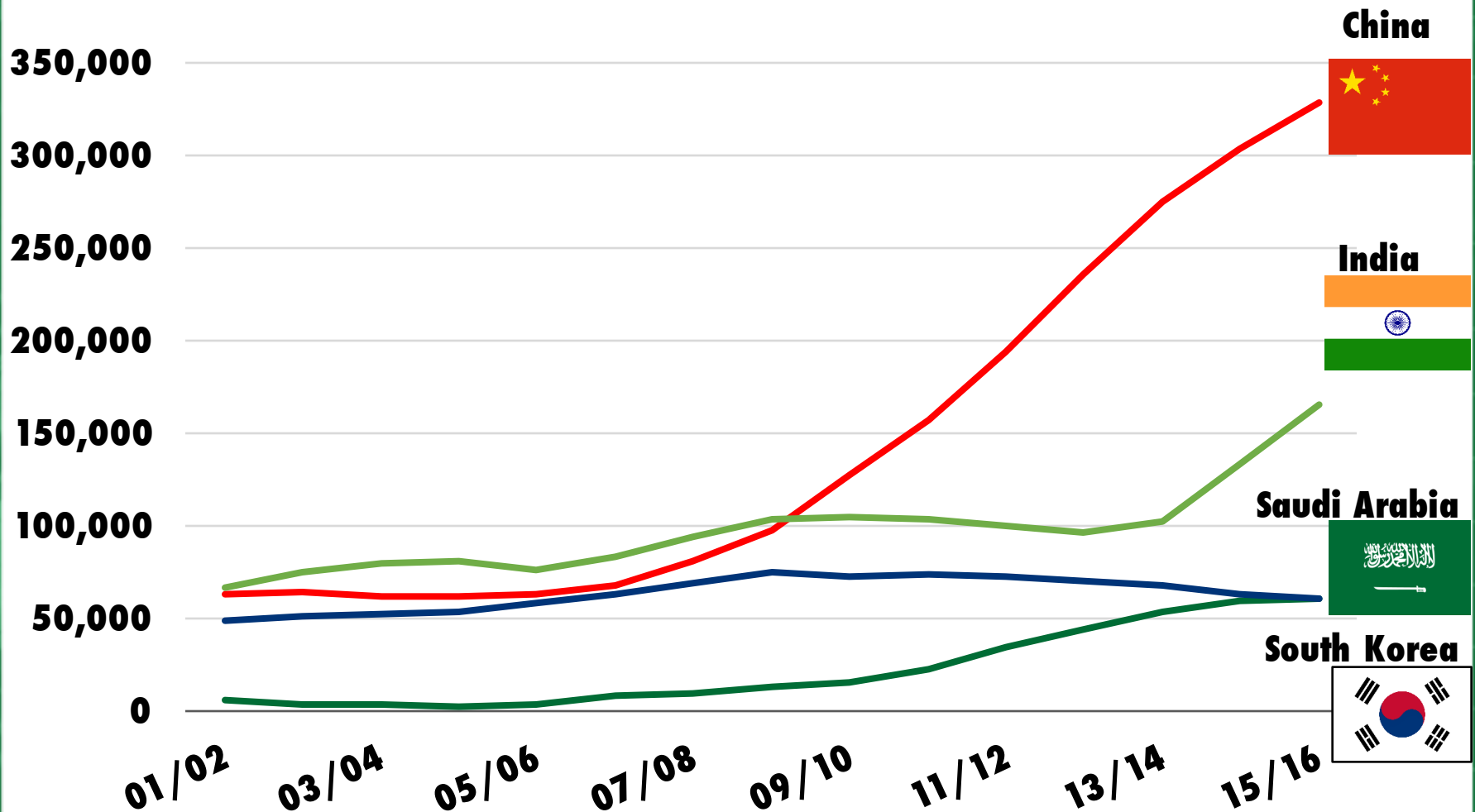
Peggy Blumenthal, Institute of International Education

Wesley Young, University of California, Davis

Sonny Lim, Rice University



Top 4 Countries of Origin

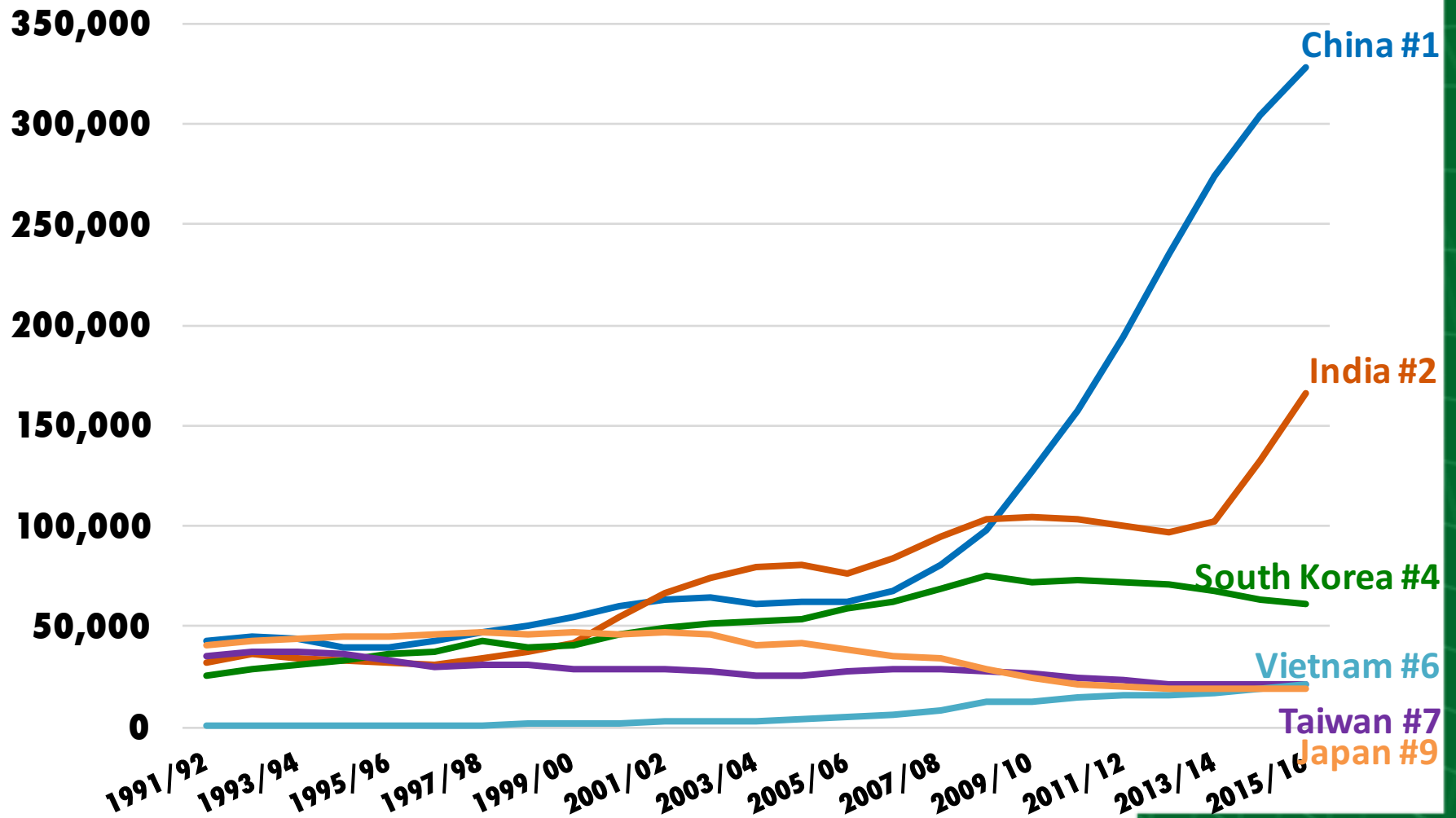


opendoors[®]

#AIEA2017 | www.aieaworld.org | aiea@duke.edu



Top Asian Countries of Origin



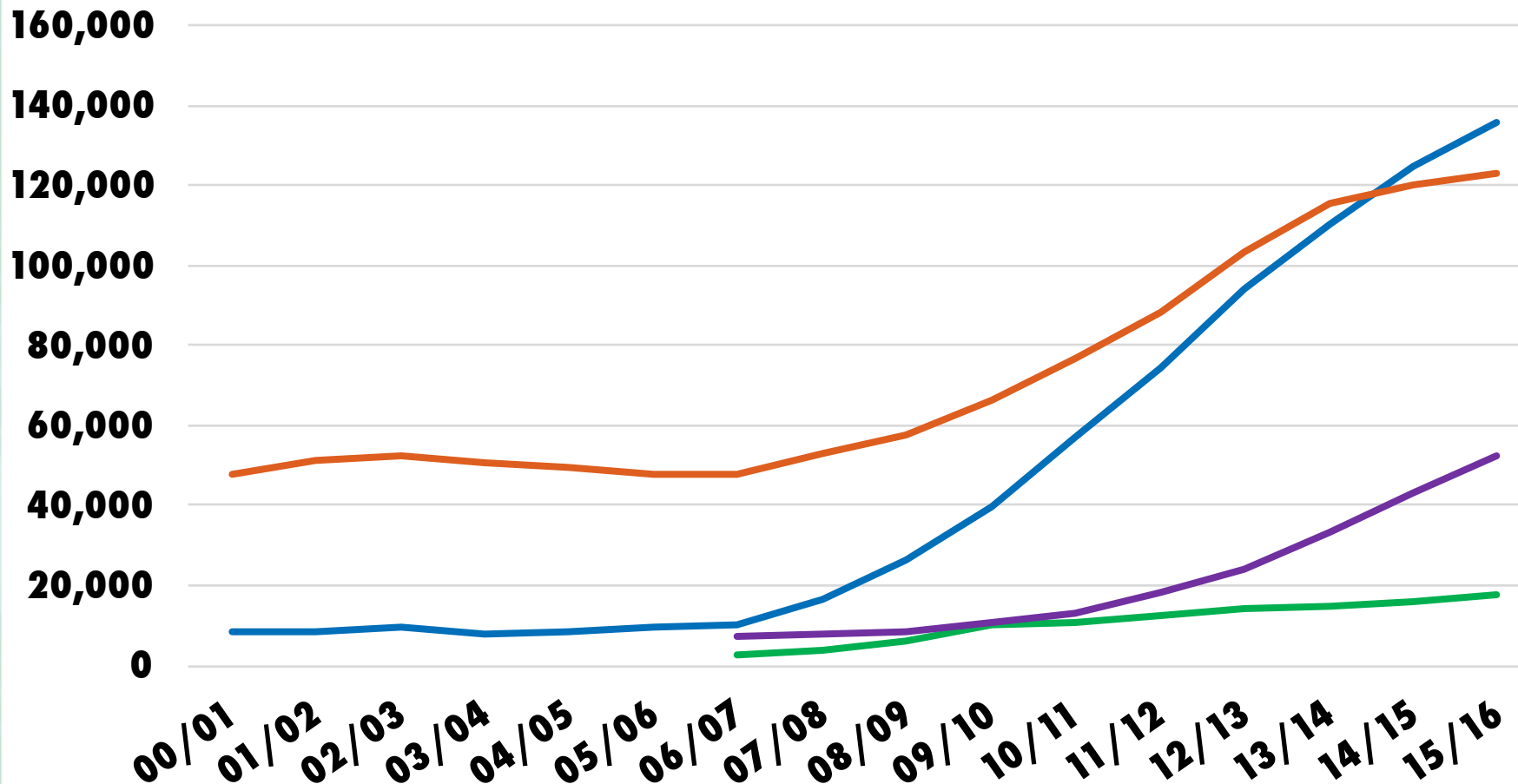
opendoors®

#AIEA2017 | www.aieaworld.org | aiea@duke.edu



Study Levels of PRC Students

— Undergrad — Graduate — Non-degree — OPT



opendoors[®]

#AIEA2017 | www.aieaworld.org | aiea@duke.edu



Study Fields of PRC students



STEM: 42.7%

Engineering: 18.6%

Math/Computer Science: 14.1%

Other STEM: 10.0%



Business & Management: 24.3%



Social Sciences: 8.7%



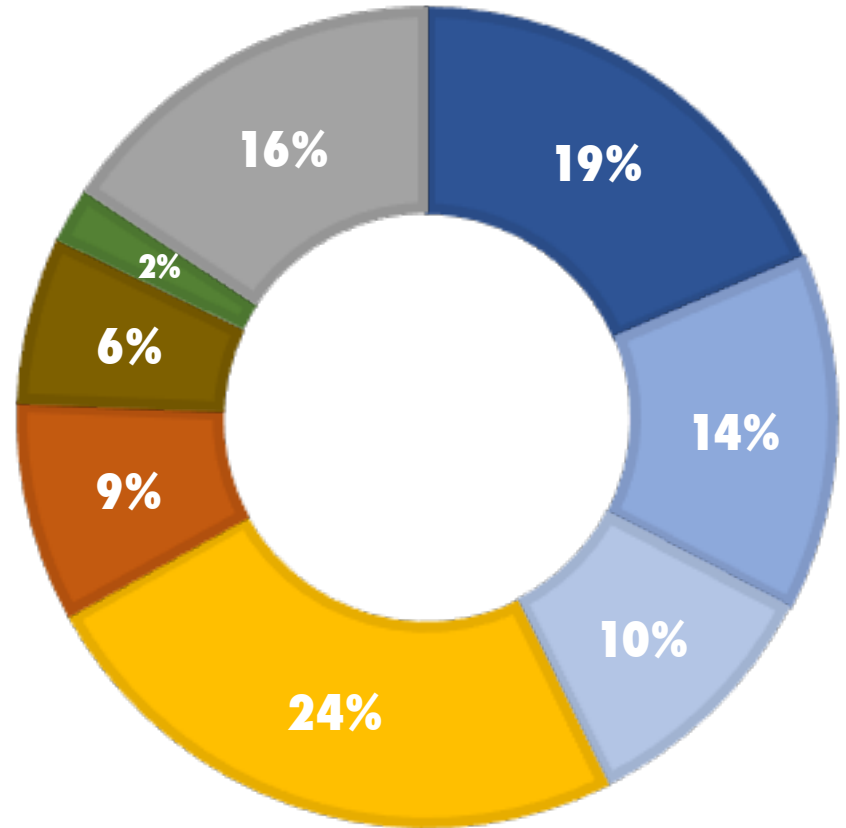
Fine & Applied Arts: 6.5%



Intensive English: 2.2%



Undeclared & Other: 15.7%



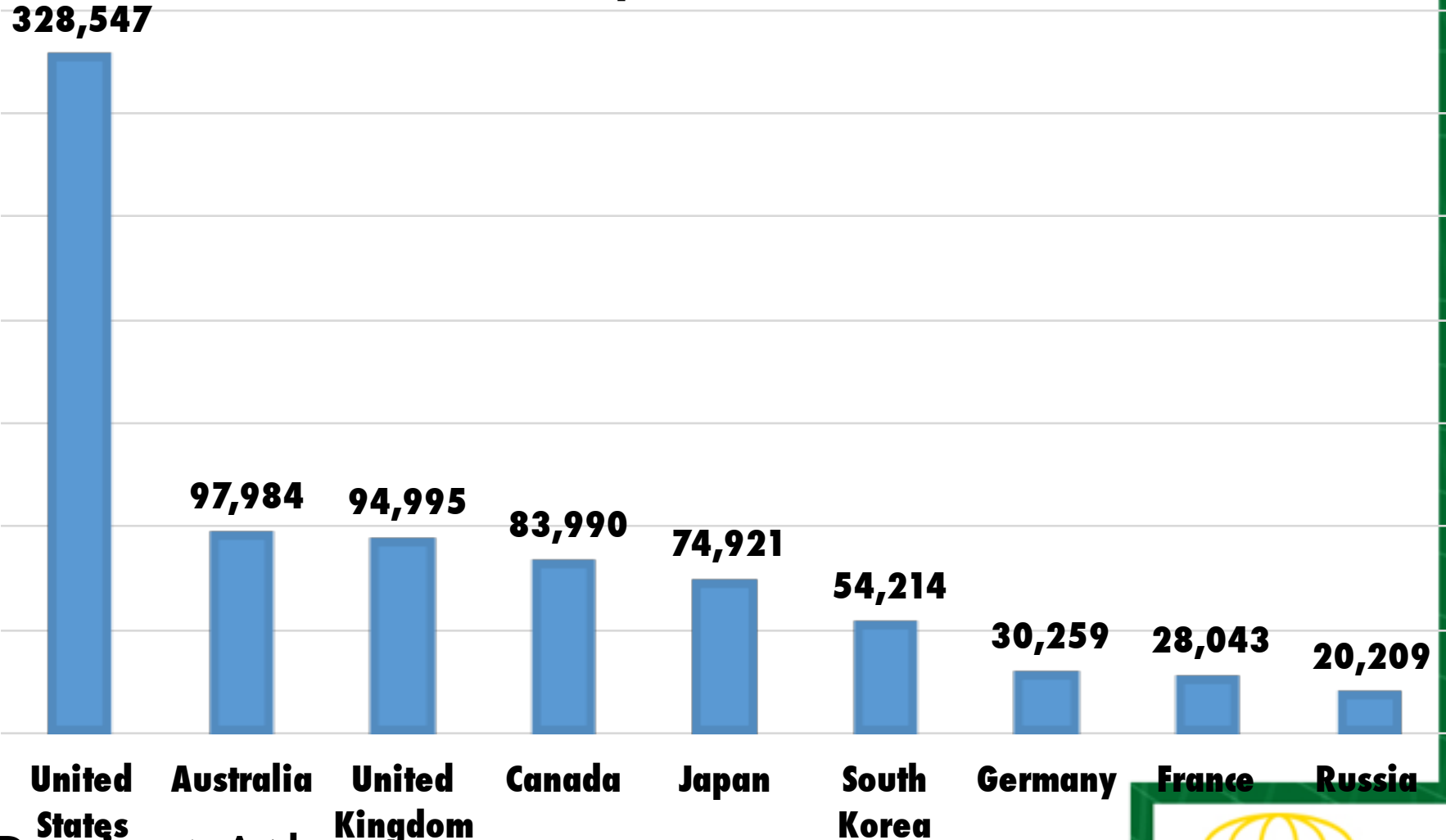
opendoors[®]

#AIEA2017 | www.aieaworld.org | aiea@duke.edu



Top Destinations of PRC Students:

- Project Atlas 2016 -

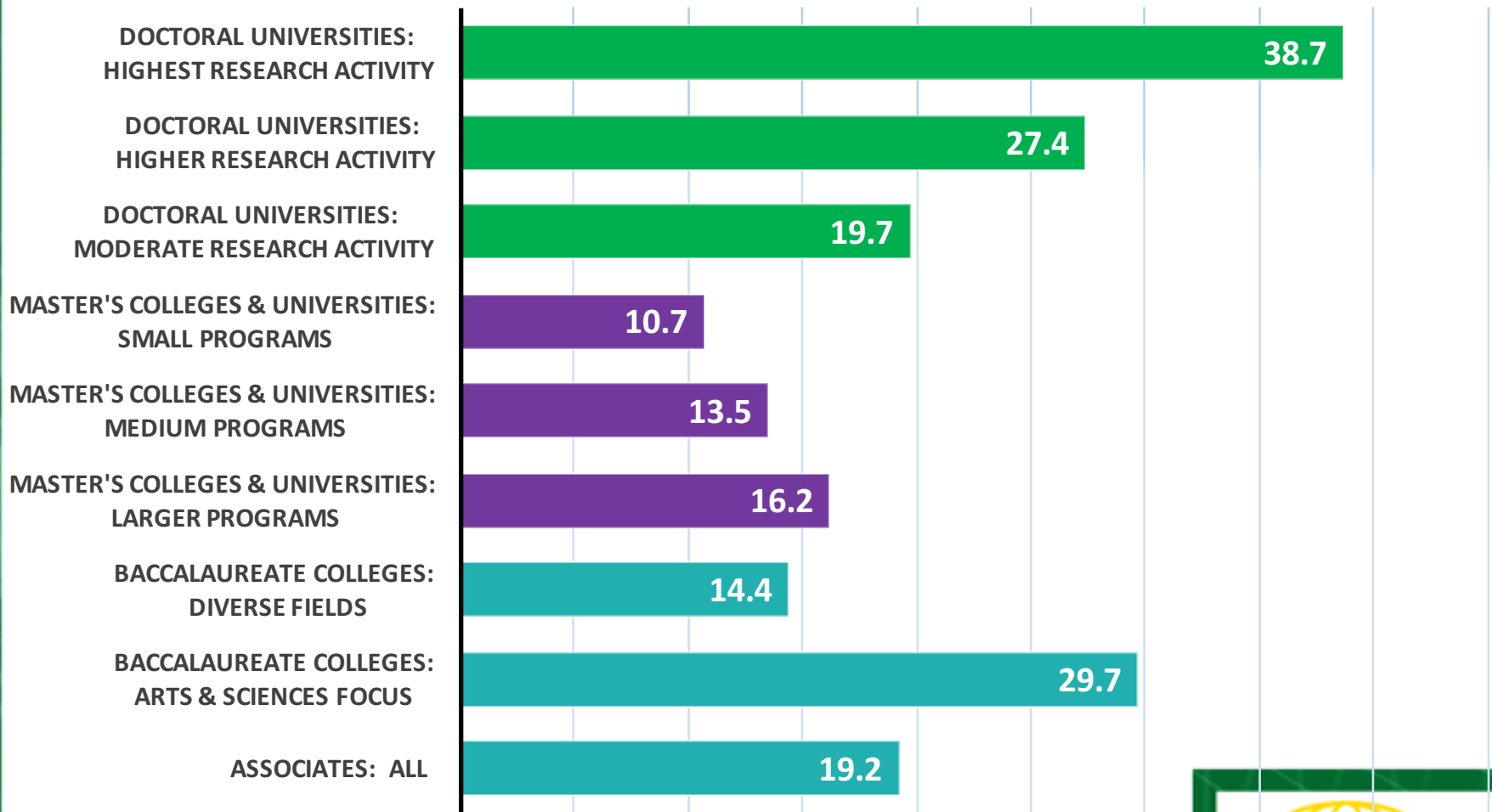


Project Atlas[®]

Figures reflect data release year



PRC students as % of Int'l Enrollment by Type of Institution



Top States Hosting PRC Students - 2016 -



California



New York



Massachusetts



Pennsylvania



Illinois



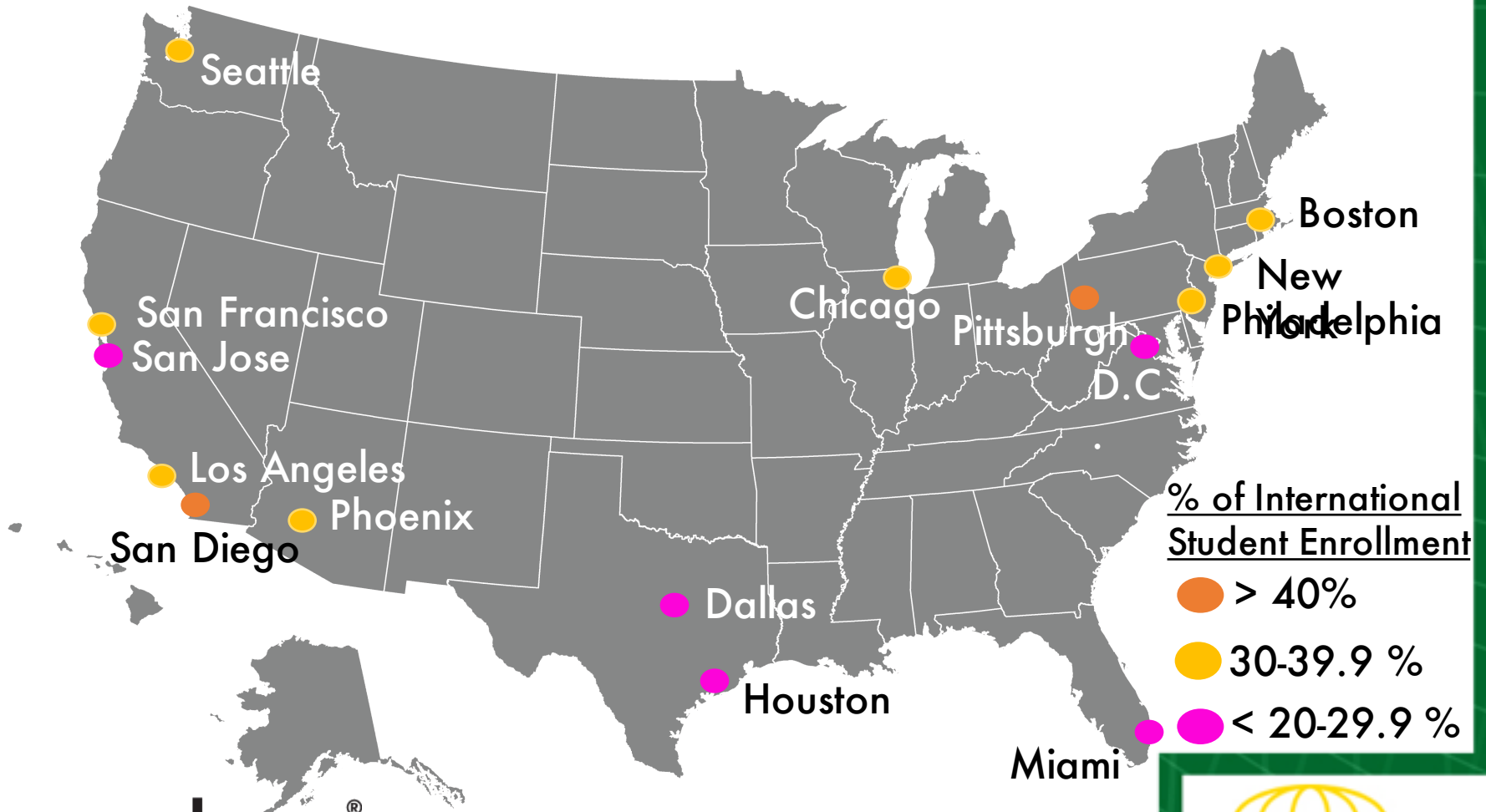
**Students from China
Total 328,547**

opendoors[®]

#AIEA2017 | www.aieaworld.org | aiea@duke.edu



PRC Students as % of International Students in Cities



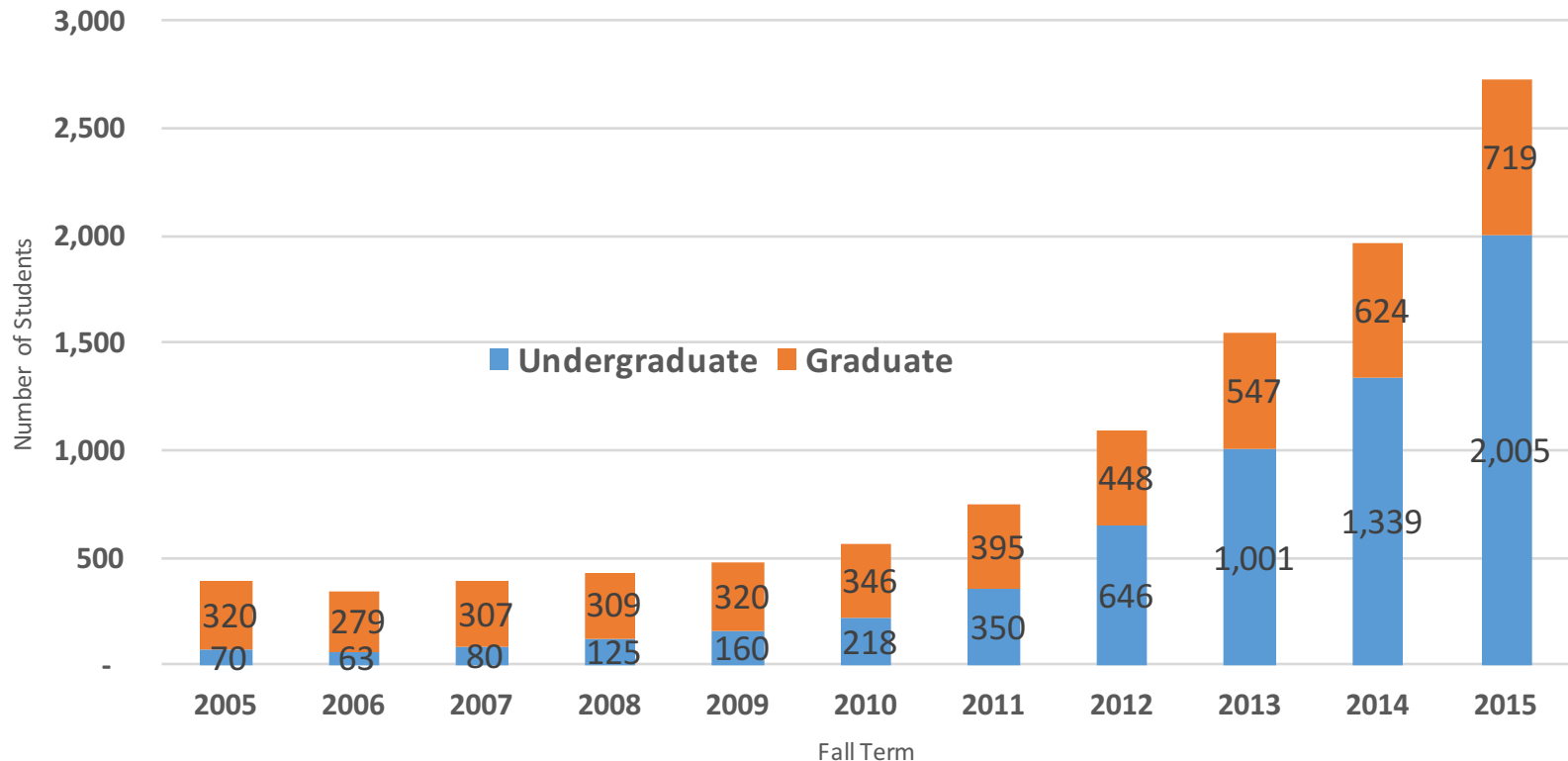
opendoors[®]

#AIEA2017 | www.aieaworld.org | aiea@duke.edu

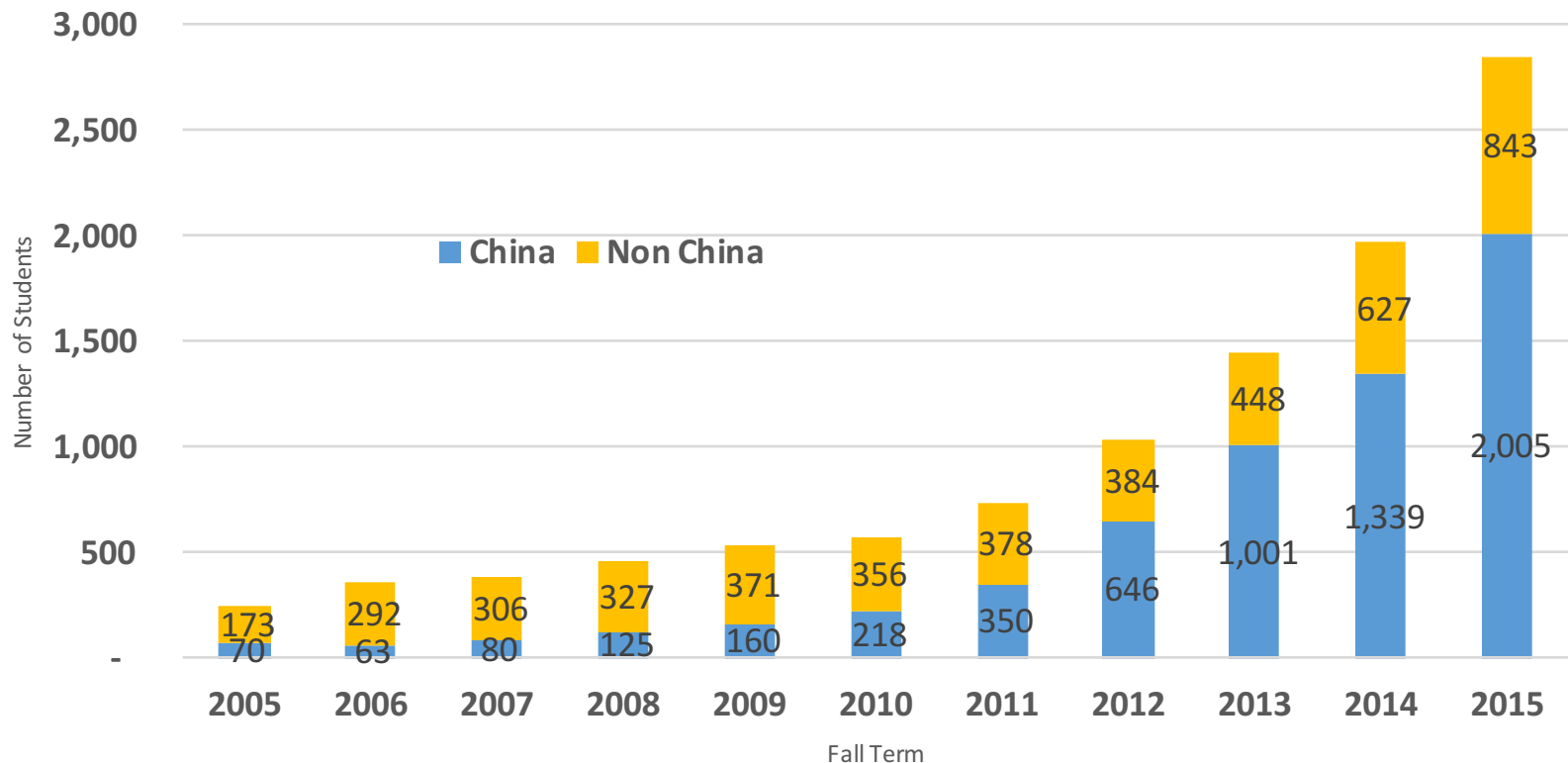




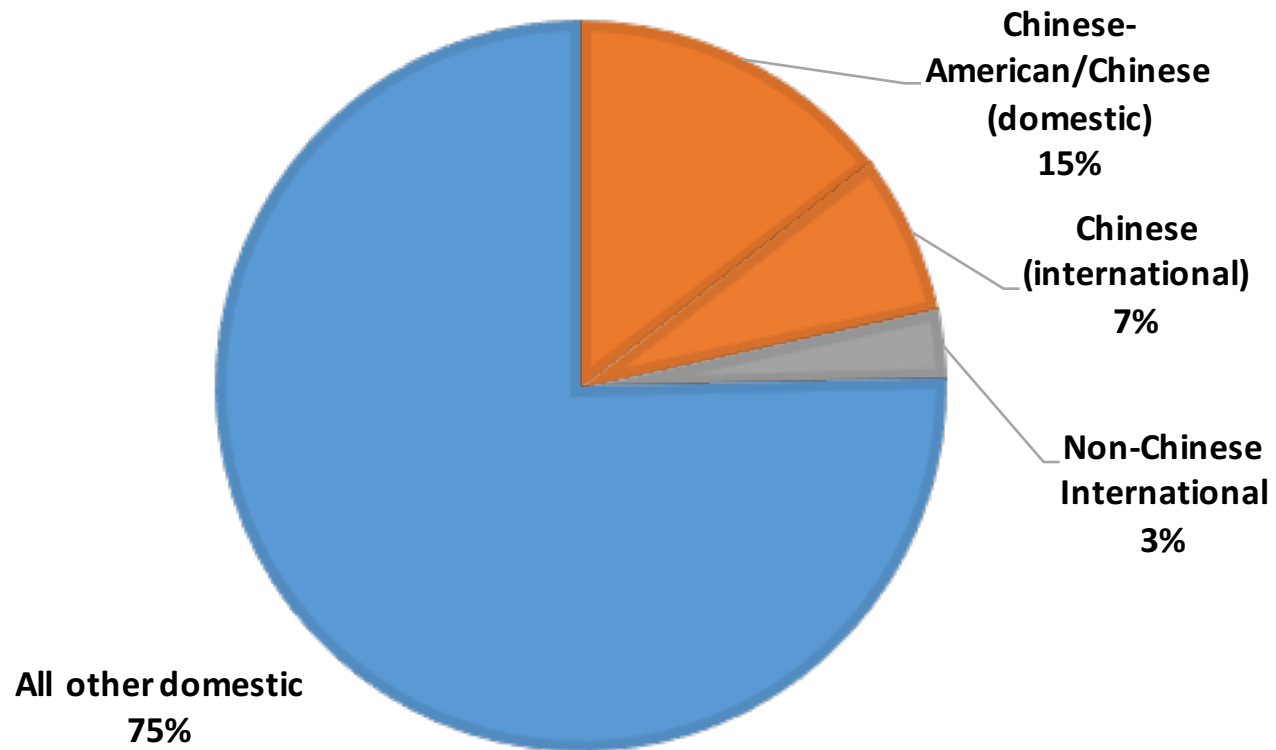
UC Davis PRC Graduate and Undergraduate Students 2005-2015



UC Davis PRC Undergraduates Compared to Other International Undergraduates



UC Davis 2015 Undergraduates by Ethnicity



Major Challenges

- English comprehension and confidence
 - Will this improve over time?
 - Problems with relying on test scores
 - Support through ESL and other campus resources
- Cultural isolation and loneliness
 - Managing personal relationships
 - Curricular and co-curricular remedies
- Academic culture
 - Importance of orientations
 - Contact with faculty outside of classroom



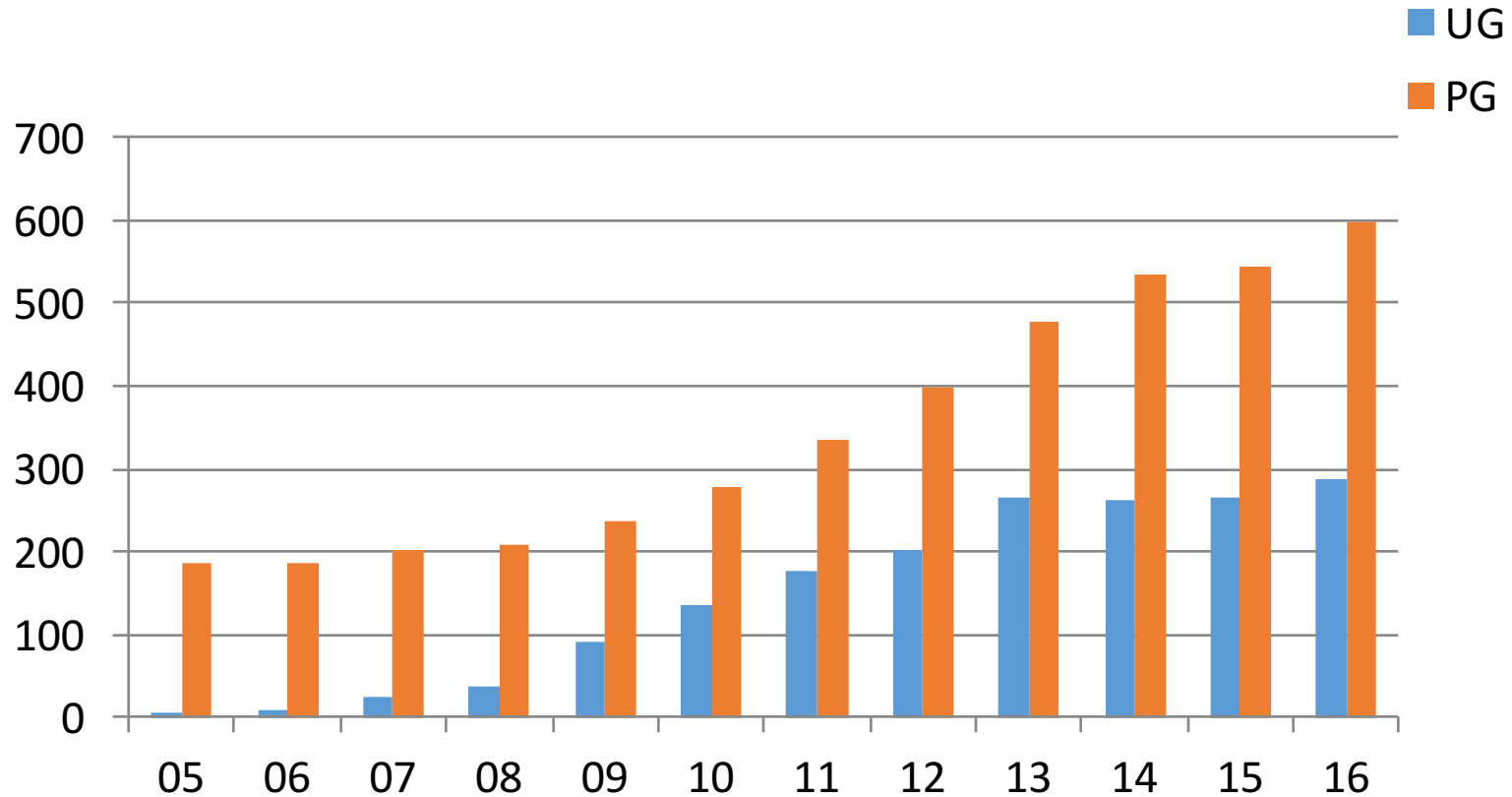
Major Challenges

- Uncertainty about the Future
 - More information about career options
 - Internships
- Academic integrity
 - Cultural factors
 - Rational response to failure not an option
- Not all majors are equal – STEM fields
 - Those who want to remain in the United States
 - The problem with STEM majors
- Why this is not a list of major challenges
 - Most of these challenges are interconnected

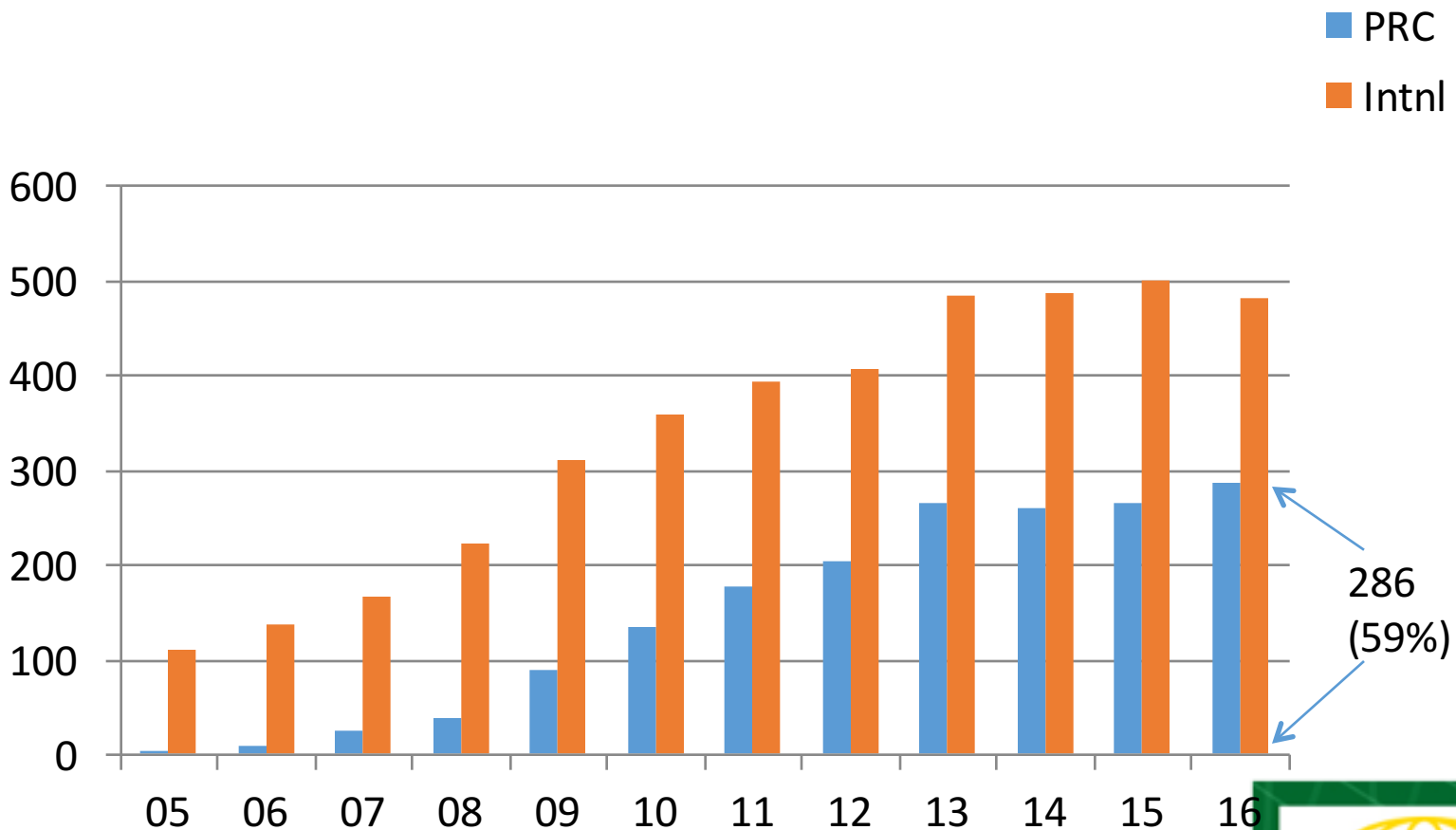




RICE Students from PRC



RICE UGs from PRC in proportion to non-PRC UGs



On Campus Experience With:

- Acculturation issues
 - Homesick
 - Introverted, not as talkative (per US standards)
 - Unfamiliar w/campus culture AND community culture (TX?)
- Mental stress
 - Vulnerable, but no outlet of expression
 - Difficult to talk about feelings
- Dilemma of seeking help
 - Unfamiliar with counselling services
 - Worried about revealing too much, and falling into trouble





How are PRC students doing on your campus?

Published Surveys of PRC students

- Bertram, D., Poulakis, M., Elasser, B.S. and Kumar, E (2014). Social Support and Acculturation in Chinese International Students. *Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development*, v42
- Yan, K., Berliner, D.C. (2013) Chinese International Students' Personal and Sociocultural Stressors in the United States. *Journal of College Student Development*, v54
- Foreign Policy, Nov 16, 2015. "Chinese Students in America: 300,000 and Counting".



Surveys revealed PRC students felt:

- more comfortable confiding in parents and partners (as opposed to counselors or peers);
- indignant or inhibited over the job search process in the U.S;
- overwhelmed by idioms and jargon used in social conversations with U.S. peers; and
- the need to retreat into groups or networks of their own cultural peers, when feeling inadequate or rejected.



UG vs PG students from PRC

- Better acculturated
- More globalized mindset, less China-centric
- Better resourced and supported by (grand)parents
- More familiar with social media norms and customs
- Better travelled and networked before arrival
- Comfortable with careers and living in any region
- Bigger Spenders (\$11bn in 2015 per Dept of Commerce)

