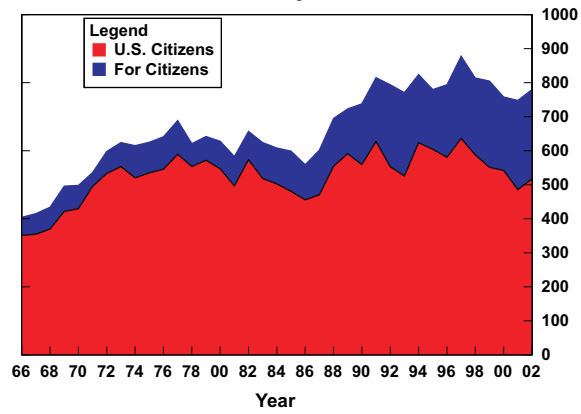


International Students in Geoscience Graduate Programs

American Geophysical Union Survey of Geoscience Graduate Programs

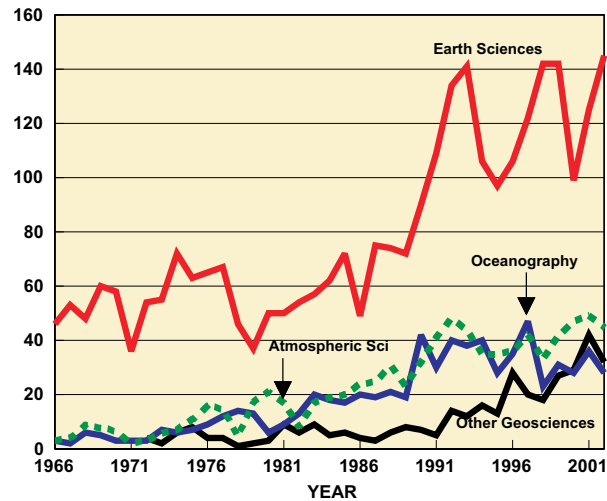
- Since 1985, the number of PhDs granted in the geosciences has risen 30% to 780 in 2002. Almost all of this increase may be attributed to international students coming to the US to earn their graduate degrees.
- Some fine fields within the geological sciences may be more susceptible to problems with new visa regulations, as a larger proportion of their graduate students come from abroad. Only about one-quarter of Atmospheric Science PhDs are non-US citizens; 40% of Earth Science PhDs were non-US citizens in 2002.
- Almost half of all graduate departments in the geosciences who responded to our survey indicated that at least one international student experienced a visa problem in at least one of the last three years that resulted in the student missing the beginning of the academic term.
- Based on data of first-year graduate students by the National Science Foundation, we can make a rough estimate that approximately 16% of foreign students who applied to US graduate programs in the geosciences did not make it here at all due to problems gaining admittance to the country.

Figure 3. Number of geoscience PhD recipients by citizenship, 1966-2002



Source: National Science Foundation Survey of Earned Doctorates, compiled by AIP Statistical Research Center

Figure 5. Number of foreign citizens earning geoscience PhDs from US institutions by fine field, 1966 to 2002



Source: National Science Foundation Survey of Earned Doctorates

Table 1. Percentage of departments that reported visa problems preventing at least one international student from arriving for the start of the academic year

| | Fall 2003 % | Fall 2002 % | Fall 2001 % |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| No | 80 | 54 | 57 |
| Not Sure | 8 | 17 | 35 |
| Yes | 32 | 29 | 8 |
| Number of Respondents | 133 | 133 | 133 |