

U.S. Business Schools See Declining Interest from International Candidates Amid Political Climate

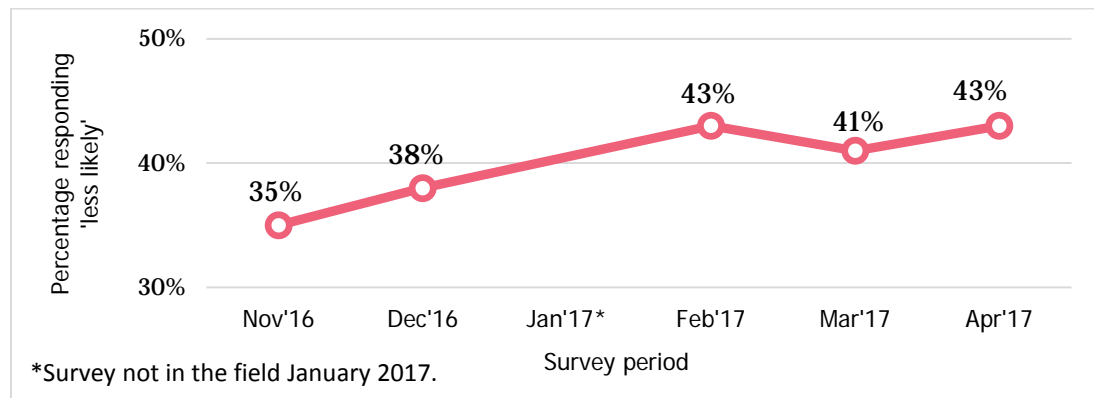
Nearly two-thirds of U.S. full-time two-year MBA programs report year-on-year declines in international applications halfway through the current admissions cycle

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To a much greater degree than past presidential elections, U.S. business schools have questioned what the possible implications of last November's outcome may be for international candidates considering their programs.

Ongoing research by the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC) shows that the percentage of non-U.S. citizen business school candidates who say they are less likely to study in the U.S. as a result of the presidential election has grown from 35 percent immediately following the election in November 2016 to 43 percent in April 2017.

GMAC asked: How, if at all, has the new U.S. president influenced your decision to pursue a graduate business degree in the U.S.?



Mid-Cycle Declines in International Applications to U.S. MBA Programs

About halfway through the current admissions cycle, nearly 2 in 3 U.S. full-time two-year MBA programs (64%) have received fewer applications from international candidates than at the same point last year.

This mid-cycle snapshot comes from the annual GMAC® [Preliminary Application Trends Survey](#), which collected responses from 752 graduate business programs around the world, including 324 U.S. MBA programs of various formats. The same survey also found that nearly 3 in 4 Asia-Pacific full-time MBA programs (74%) report increased overall application volumes compared with the same point last year.

U.S. Business Master's Programs Also Affected

The pain felt by U.S. business schools is not limited to their flagship MBA programs. The Preliminary Application Trends Survey also shows that 66 percent of Master of Finance programs and 45 percent of Master of Accounting programs also report receiving fewer international applications compared with the same point last year.

GMAC will continue to track international applications to U.S. business schools throughout the year with periodic surveys of prospective students and the annual Application Trends Survey, slated to launch in June and publish in September. For additional insights on graduate business education, please visit gmac.com/research.