

Work Visas Important to International Candidates Considering U.S. B-Schools

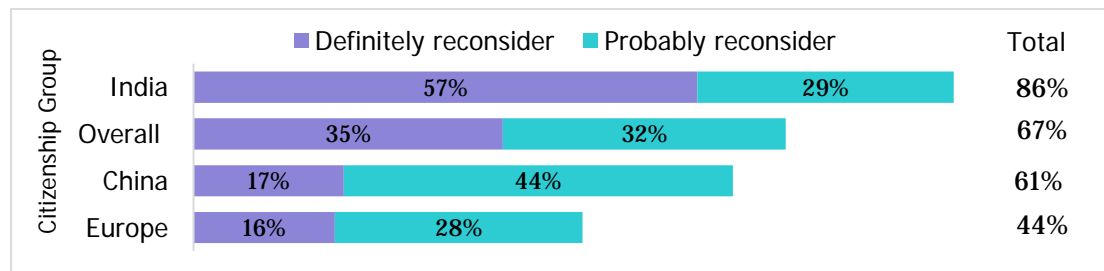
While the U.S. remains the preferred study destination of most international candidates, there has been considerable erosion.

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A recent Graduate Management Admission Council® (GMAC®) survey of international candidates to U.S. graduate business programs indicates that 2 in 3 (67%) would reconsider their study destination if they are unable to obtain a work visa after completing their degree.

Consistent with [other GMAC research](#), the survey findings highlight how work visas are a particularly important decision factor for business school candidates in India. About 8 in 10 Indian candidates (82%) say the ability to obtain a work visa after completing their education is a 'very important' consideration when selecting their study destination, and a slightly larger share (86%) would reconsider their study destination if they are unable to obtain a work visa after graduation.

GMAC asked: If were unable to obtain a work visa in your preferred study destination, would you reconsider where you would pursue a graduate management education?



While the U.S. remains to be the preferred study destination for most survey respondents overall (62%) and in the key markets of China (72%) and India (55%), there has been considerable erosion. Among those that indicate the U.S. is not their preferred study destination, more than 4 in 5 (81%) say that the U.S. used to be their top choice. Most of these candidates say the U.S. is no longer their preferred destination because of concerns about U.S. immigration policies (56%).

GMAC asked: What is your current preferred study destination?

	Overall	Citizenship Group		
		China	India	Europe
1	U.S. (62%)	U.S. (72%)	U.S. (55%)	U.S. (67%)
2	India (9%)	China (19%)	India (24%)	France (9%)
3	Canada (6%)	Canada/U.K. (2%)	Canada (7%)	U.K. (5%)

GMAC Research will continue to track these issues via the annual [Prospective Students](#) and [Application Trends](#) surveys, as well as with additional data pulses throughout 2017. For additional insights on graduate business education, please visit gmac.com/research.

Survey details

In February 2017, GMAC Research surveyed 691 non-U.S. GMAT® test takers who sent at least one GMAT score report to a U.S. business school program in Q4 2016. Respondents are citizens of countries in Asia-Pacific (63% of respondents); Europe, the Middle East, and Africa (21%); and Americas (16%). The overall response rate was 7 percent.