

# International Visitors Office

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Board on International Scientific Organizations  
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THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES  
*Advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine*

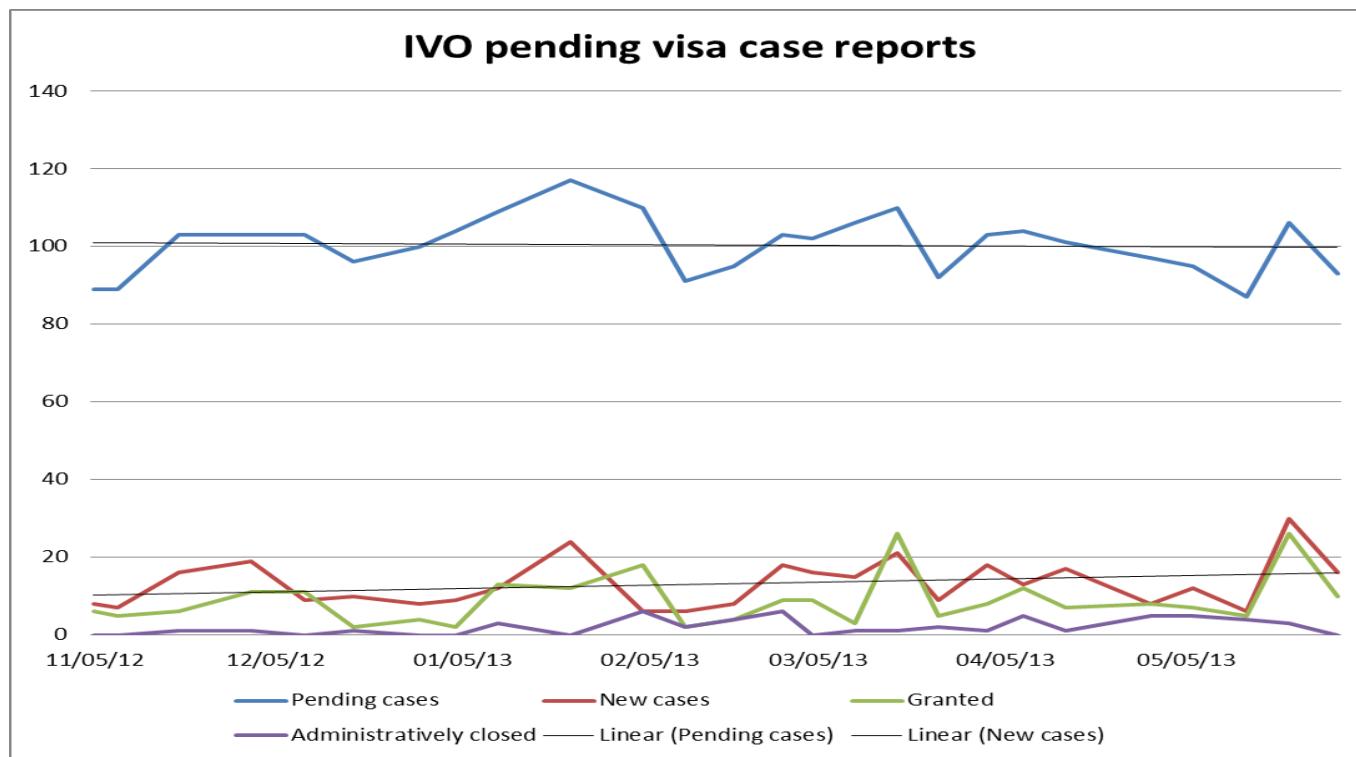
National Academy of Sciences  
National Academy of Engineering  
Institute of Medicine  
National Research Council

The International Visitors Office (IVO), established in 2002, is the central unit within the National Academies to address pending science related visa issues, and acts as a resource on visa-related issues for the National Academies, Academy members, and the scientific community worldwide.

## How We Function

- IVO collects information about visa-related issues from the scientific community via online visa questionnaire accessible on our website at <http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/biso/visas/>
- We analyze collected data by filtering cases that are related to science/technology, and forward visa cases that have been pending over 21 days to DOS, highlighting imminent deadlines and, when possible, requesting expedited processing.
- Once the State Department informs us of the status of each visa case, we notify applicants by email regarding their visa status, and relay any additional information when available.
- Follow-up. After visas are issued, we ask applicants to confirm their visa receipt date – this assures we receive applicant feedback after the process is complete, assess whether their visa was received in time for their planned activity, and identify trends.

- **10,055** total visa cases reported to IVO since 2002
- **591** new visa cases addressed with DOS in 2012
- **257** new cases reported to DOS in 2013\*



\*Data as of June 1, 2013

## Average reported administrative processing delay:

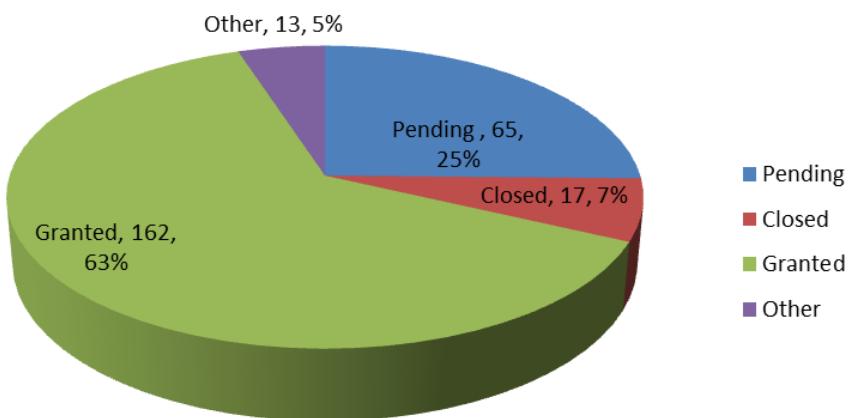
→ 2011: 70 days → 2012: 70 days → 2013 YTD: 57 days

## 257 new cases reported to IVO in 2013\*

63% - granted

25% - pending

7% administratively closed



\*Data as of June 1, 2013

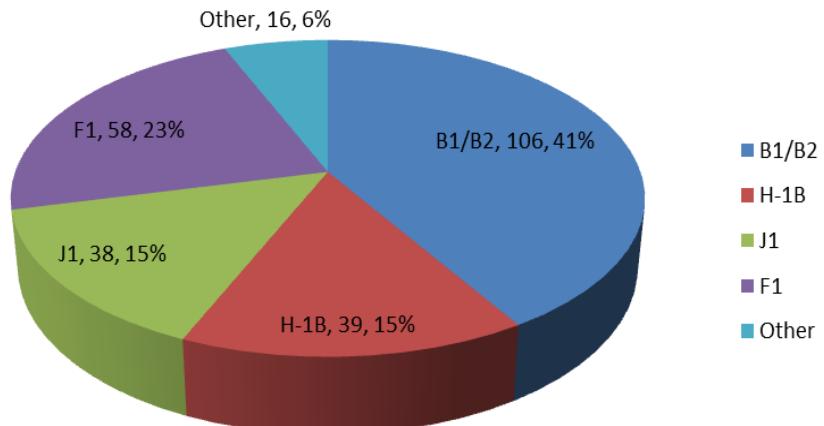
## 2012 Visa Category Statistics

Overall, our visa cases fall into four main categories:

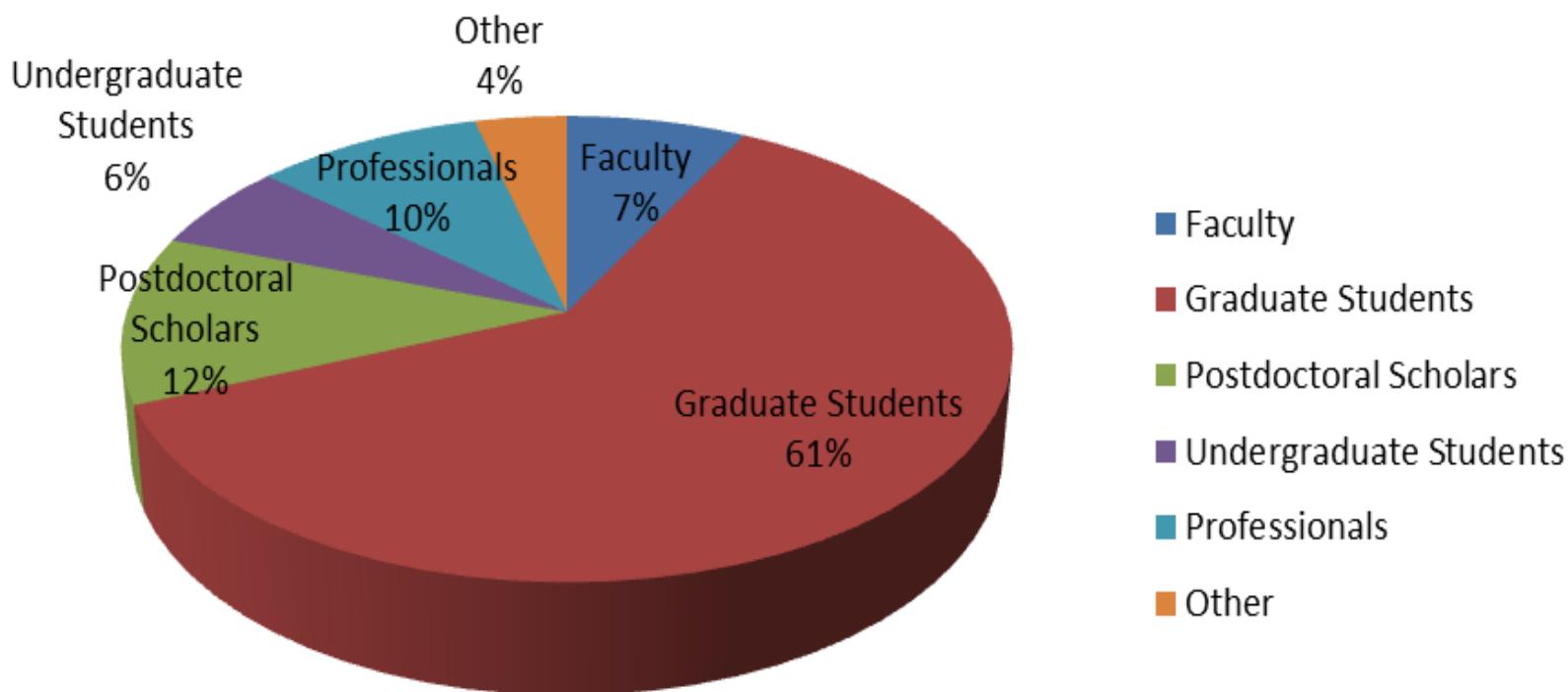
- ↑ F-1 student visa applicants - 53 % of all cases (8% increase since 2011);
- ↑ J-1 exchange visitor visa applicants - 24 % (6% rise since 2011);
- ↑ B1/B2 business visa applicants - 14 % of all reported cases (2% rise since 2011).
- ↓ H-1B temporary worker applicants – 7 % (as opposed to 25% in 2011);

## 2013 (Jan-May) Visa Category Statistics

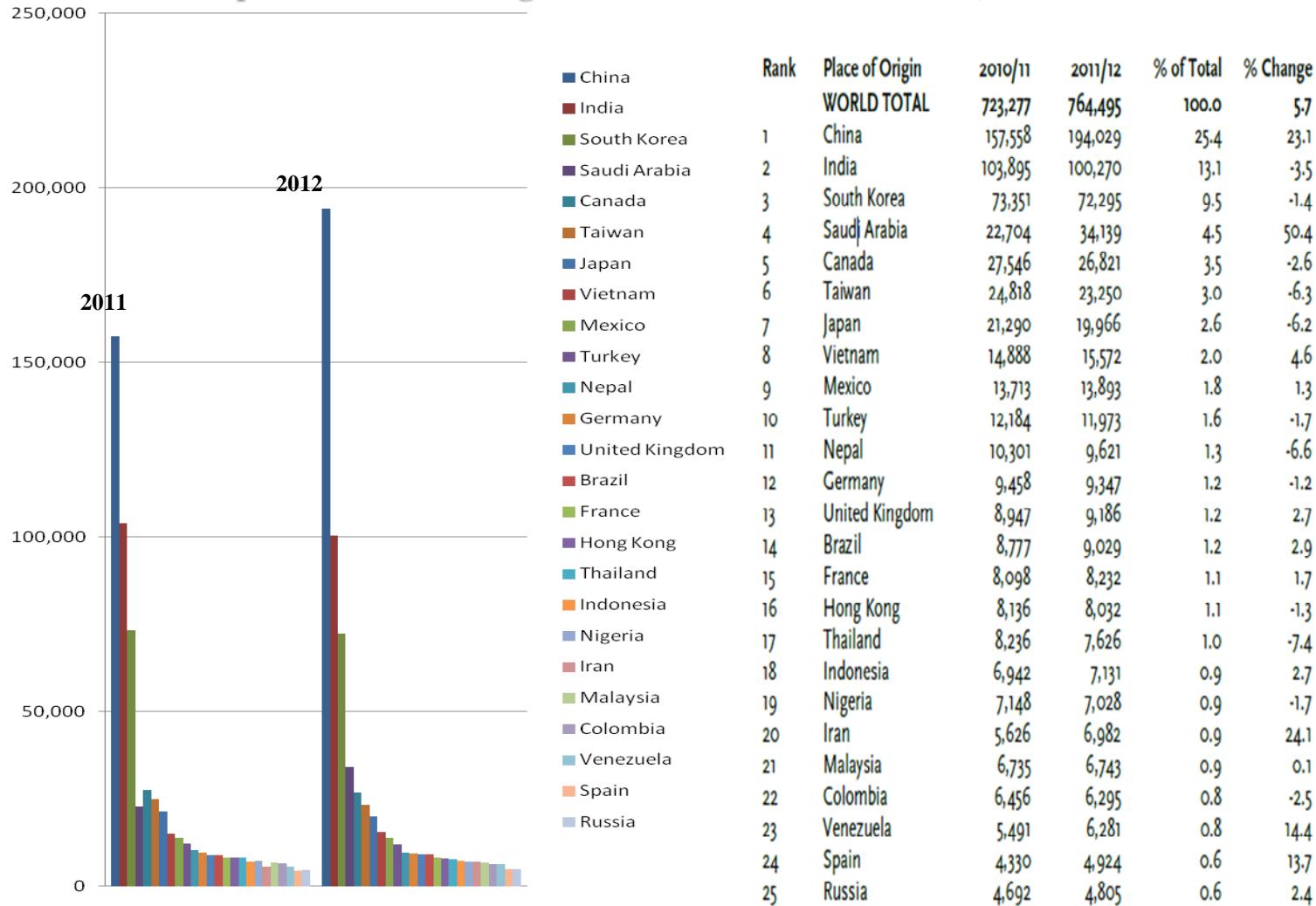
- B1/B2 – 41% of all cases
- F1 – 23%
- H-1B – 15%
- J1 – 15%



## Visa Applicant Category in 2012



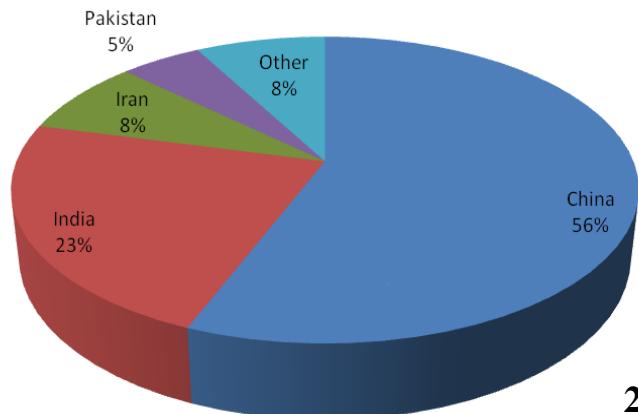
## Top 25 Places of Origin of International Students, 2010/11-2011/12



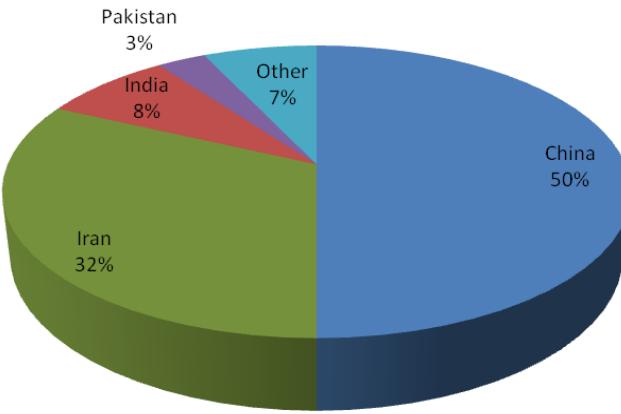
Institute of International Education. (2012). "Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange. Retrieved from <http://www.iie.org/opendoors>

## Top Places of Origin by Country among IVO cases

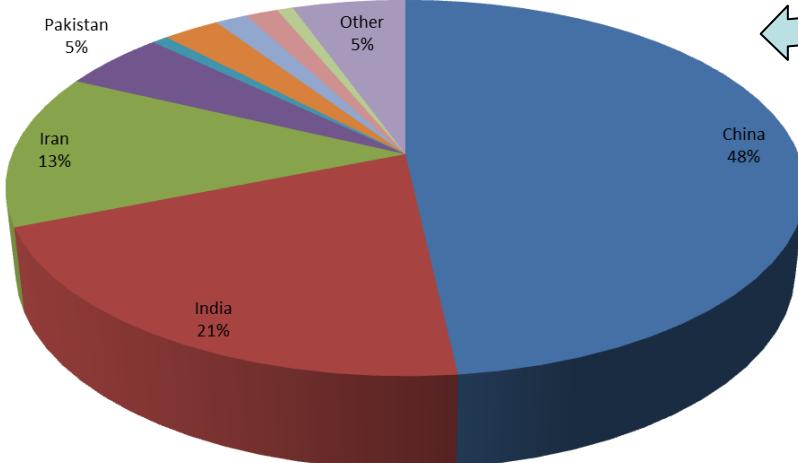
**2011**



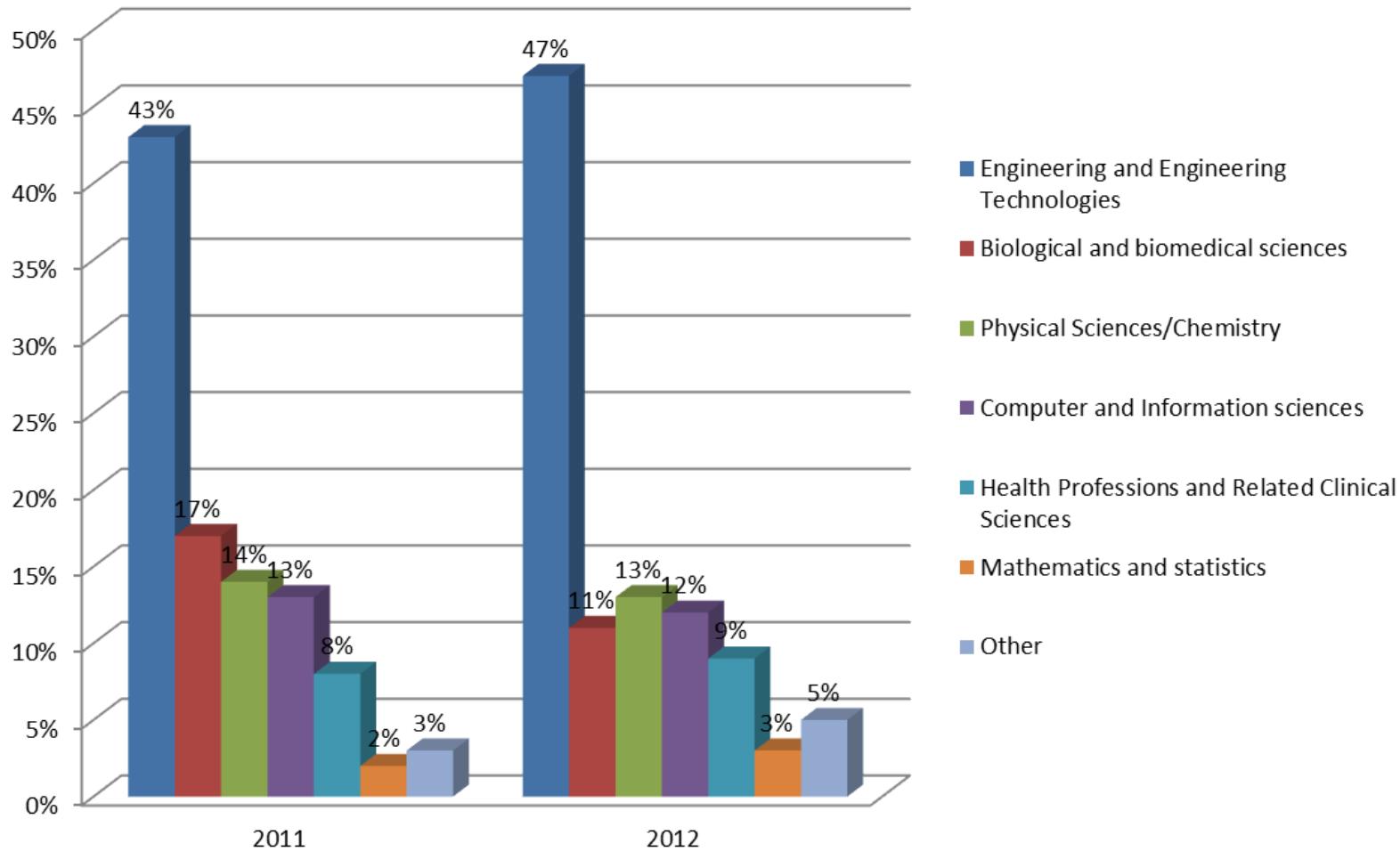
**2012**



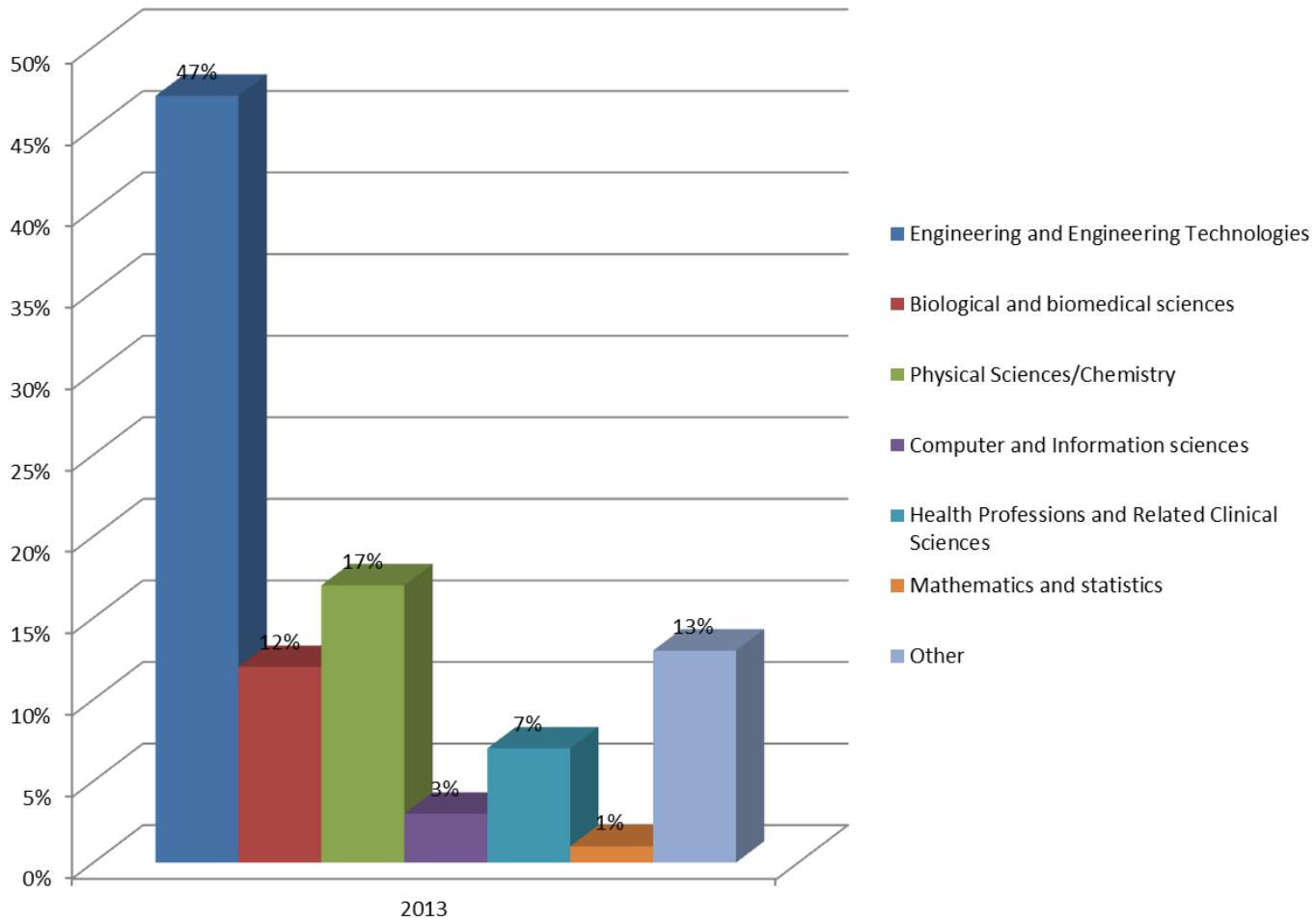
**2013 (Jan-May)**



## Distribution of disciplines 2011-2012

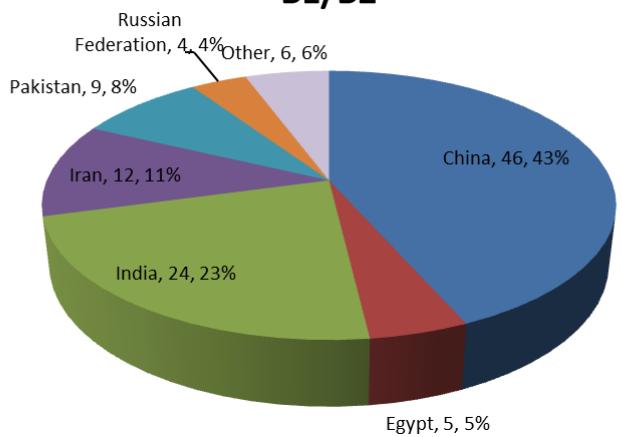


## Distribution of disciplines January-May 2013

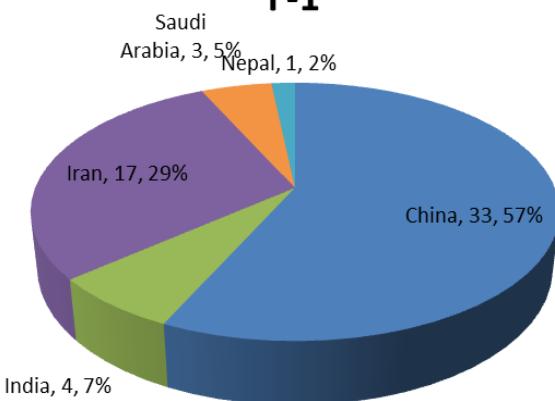


## 2013 (January-May) Statistics

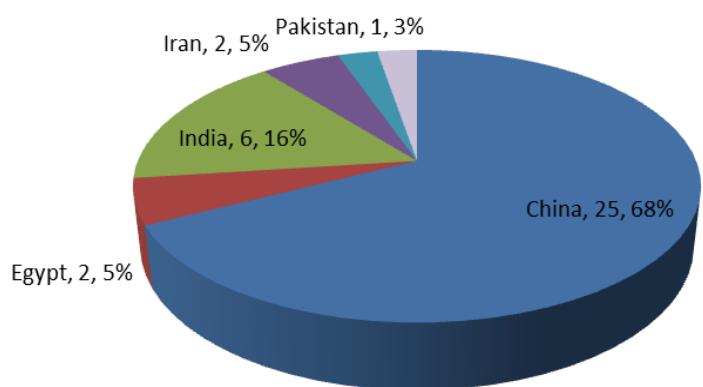
**B1/B2**



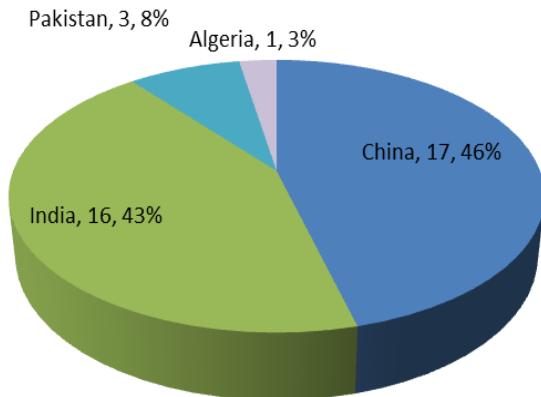
**F-1**



**J-1**



**H-1B**



## International Meeting Registration

- The International Visitors Office maintains a database of meetings held in the United States that are sponsored by national or international scientific organizations, universities and research institutes.
- Conference organizers anticipating high international participant attendance are encouraged to:
  - start planning early;
  - register their meeting with IVO;
  - refer to IVO meeting organizer resources page for latest information  
[http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/biso/visas/PGA\\_046951](http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/biso/visas/PGA_046951)
  - encourage international participants to contact IVO in the event of visa delays;
  - forward to IVO lists of speakers and delegates with pending visas including their passport numbers, visa interview dates, the consulate.

## IVO Feedback

*“I’m glad that there is at least a platform which doesn’t let us loose hope.”*

*“... with your help I was able to attend the last three days of the APS March meeting and was just in time for me to present my talk.”*

*“It’s amazing to see how much you are willing to help.”*

*“Your communication was critical and I found to be far more helpful than communication with the embassy. Typically the updates from your organisation came 2 weeks before the embassy!”*

*“This latest help from you will make it easier for our program to convince Harvard’s central administration that [student’s] visa was issued [...] Hopefully, the previously imposed deadline for her to register by January 2<sup>nd</sup> can be extended as the result.“*

*“It’s great that you have followed up on this. At least I know my case is not totally lost in the visas universe.”*