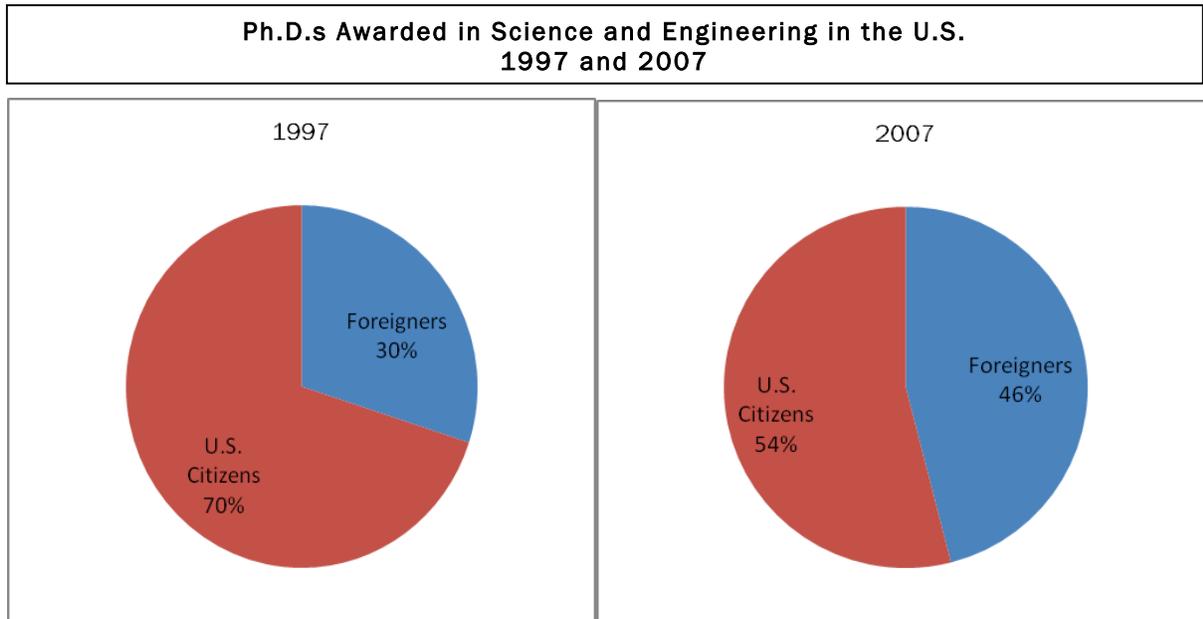


## Foreigners Earning Science and Engineering PhDs in U.S. Tend to Stay

Newly released data from the U.S. Energy Department's Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education revealed that most foreigners who came to the U.S. to earn doctorate degrees in science and engineering stayed in the U.S. after graduation, refuting fears and predictions that the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks would create restrictions on immigrants and would send more of them home.

Foreigners account for approximately 40 percent of all science and engineering Ph.D. holders working in the U.S. Of foreigners who earned Ph.D.s in science and engineering at U.S. universities in 2002, 62 percent were still in the U.S. in 2007, the latest year for which figures are available. Similarly, of those who graduated in 1997, 60 percent were still in the U.S. in 2007. Michael Finn, Oak Ridge analyst, states, "Our ability to continue to attract and keep foreign scientists and engineers is critical to...increase investment in science and technology".

In 2007, foreigners accounted for 16,022 of the Ph.D.s awarded in science and engineering in the U.S., 46 percent of the total, compared to the class of 1997, which had 12,966 foreigners, or 30 percent of the total, according to the Oak Ridge data.



Source: CPST analysis of Oak Ridge Ph.D. data reported in Wall Street Journal, Jan 26, 2010.

Graduates of Ph.D. programs in the physical sciences and computer science are more likely to remain in the U.S. than those in other fields, according to Finn. Those programs are more popular with Chinese and Indian students, who are more likely to remain in the U.S. after completing studies than those from Taiwan, South Korea, and Southern Europe. Among 2002 graduates, 92% of the Chinese and 81% of the Indians were in the U.S. after five years, in contrast to 41% of South Koreans and 52% of Germans.

## Staying After School

Percentage of foreigners receiving science and engineering doctorates in 2002 who were in the U.S. in 2007



Source: U.S. Energy Department's Oak Ridge Institute for Science & Engineering

Foreign Ph.D. recipients who returned home cited career opportunities, professional advancement, quality-of-life concerns, and family ties as major factors.

The NSF recently reported that the number of foreign science and engineering students enrolled in graduate programs of all types was 158,430 in April 2009, up 8% from 2008.

### On the Web:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704905604575026800522011226.html#project%3Dgrads0125%26articleTabs%3Darticle>

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