

**Restricted Immigration of Foreign Students to the  
United States in the Post 9/11 Period: Is the U.S.  
Loss a Gain for Canada?**

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# Introduction and Background

- Increased scrutiny of foreign nationals entering the U.S. following September 11, 2001
- Foreign students are also subjected to much greater scrutiny
- Climate in U.S. also perceived as inhospitable by some foreign students
- More so for Muslim students?

- In essence, this increases the costs of studying in the United States
- There have in fact been a decreasing number of foreign students studying in the United States
- But, have these students chosen to study in Canada instead?
- If so, has this been a good thing for Canada?

# Benefits of Foreign Students

- Foreign students generally considered beneficial
  - increased diversity on campus
  - graduate students conduct research and staff labs and classes
  - many stay following graduation and contribute to the host country's economy
  - facilitate trade and goodwill between countries
  - financial contributions of foreign students are large (estimated at US\$12b in the US and C\$4b in Canada)
  - many times foreign students are the “best & brightest”

# Have foreign students been favouring Canada over the U.S.?

- A cursory look at the evidence would seem to suggest so
  - AUCC noted that foreign student enrollments were up markedly in the fall of 2003 -- although better marketing of Canadian schools and the general increase in demand are also factors
  - IIE shows a decline in foreign students in the US, especially from predominantly Muslim countries
- US restrictions increasing at the same time Canadian ones have been reduced

**Table 1: Nonimmigrants students admitted to the United States by Country of Citizenship**

	% Change	
	1999-2001	2001-2004
	<b>Predominantly Muslim Countries</b>	<b>29.59</b>
<b><i>State-sponsored Terrorist States</i></b>	<b>60.72</b>	<b>-65.11</b>
<b>All Other Countries</b>	<b>22.61</b>	<b>-8.09</b>

Source: INS, *Immigration Yearbook* , various years.

**Table 2: Foreign Student Totals by Place of Origin, 1999/2000 to 2002/03**

<b>Place of Origin</b>	<b>1999/00</b>	<b>2000/01</b>	<b>2001/02</b>	<b>2002/03</b>	<b>2003/04</b>	<b>2004/05</b>
<b>Predominantly Muslim Countries</b>	<b>44,028</b>	<b>47,396</b>	<b>51,171</b>	<b>46,274</b>	<b>41,756</b>	<b>39,496</b>
% change over previous year	6.77	7.65	7.96	-9.57	-9.76	-5.41
<b>State-sponsored Terrorist States</b>	<b>3,030</b>	<b>3,117</b>	<b>3,518</b>	<b>3,491</b>	<b>3,315</b>	<b>3,220</b>
% change over previous year	9.70	2.87	12.86	-0.77	-5.04	-2.87
<b>All Other Countries</b>	<b>470,695</b>	<b>500,471</b>	<b>531,825</b>	<b>540,049</b>	<b>530,753</b>	<b>525,453</b>
% change over previous year	4.67	6.33	6.26	1.55	-1.72	-1.00

Source: Institute of International Education, *Open Doors*, various years.

**Table 3: Flows of Foreign Students to Canada, 1999-2003**

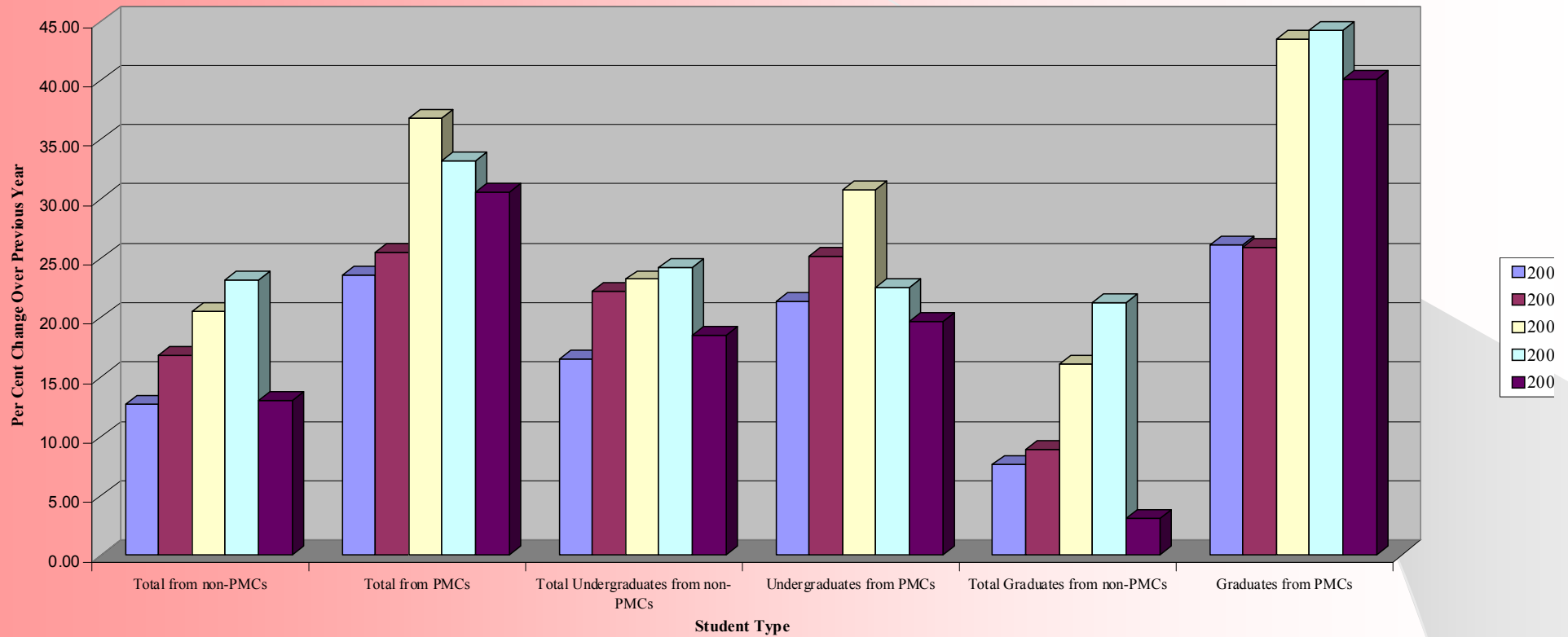
	% Change	
	1999-2001	2001-2003
	<b>Predominantly Muslim Countries</b>	<b>34.44</b>
<b><i>State-sponsored Terrorist States</i></b>	<b>24.41</b>	<b>67.92</b>
<b>All Other Countries</b>	<b>42.18</b>	<b>-16.60</b>
Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada.		



**Table 4: Stocks of Foreign Students in Canada, 1999-2003**

	% Change	
	1999-2001	2001-2003
	<b>Predominantly Muslim Countries</b>	<b>48.26</b>
<b><i>State-sponsored Terrorist States</i></b>	<b>9.76</b>	<b>66.76</b>
<b>All Other Countries</b>	<b>43.04</b>	<b>18.75</b>
Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada.		

**Figure 1: Percentage Change in International Student Numbers, Selected Universities, by Student Type, 2000/2001 - 2004/2005**



# Conclusions and Discussion

- Noticeable decline in the number of foreign students entering the US since September 11, 2001
  - Decline is more pronounced for students from PMCs
- Canada's experience has been the mirror image
- Growth in graduate students from Muslim countries has been especially high
  - Why? Intention of remaining in Canada?
- Canada appears to benefit from restrictive US immigration policy
  - Will this continue?
  - What are the costs involved?
- What about a common border policy with the US?



Thank you!