Understanding and Developing Services for International Students: A Workshop

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Overview

- A close look at international students
- Challenges faced by international students
- Using enrolment data for understanding international students at your institution
- Strategies for enhancing the library experience of international students

Definition

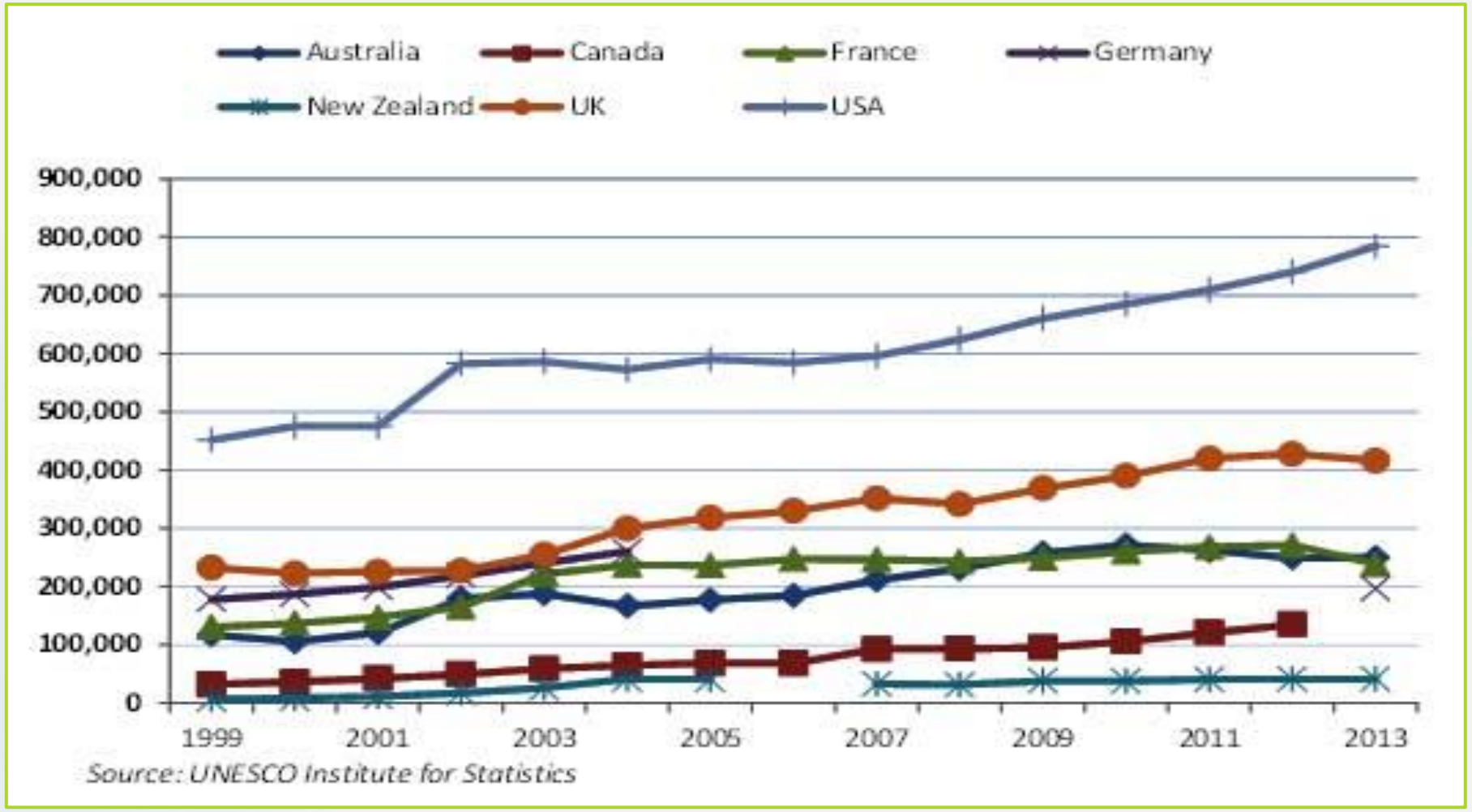
In Canada, defined as “those who left their country of origin and moved to Canada for the purpose of study.”

International students in Canadian Universities, 2004-2005 to 2013-2014, 2016, from http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/81-599-x/81-599-x2016011-eng.htm

Benefits of having international students

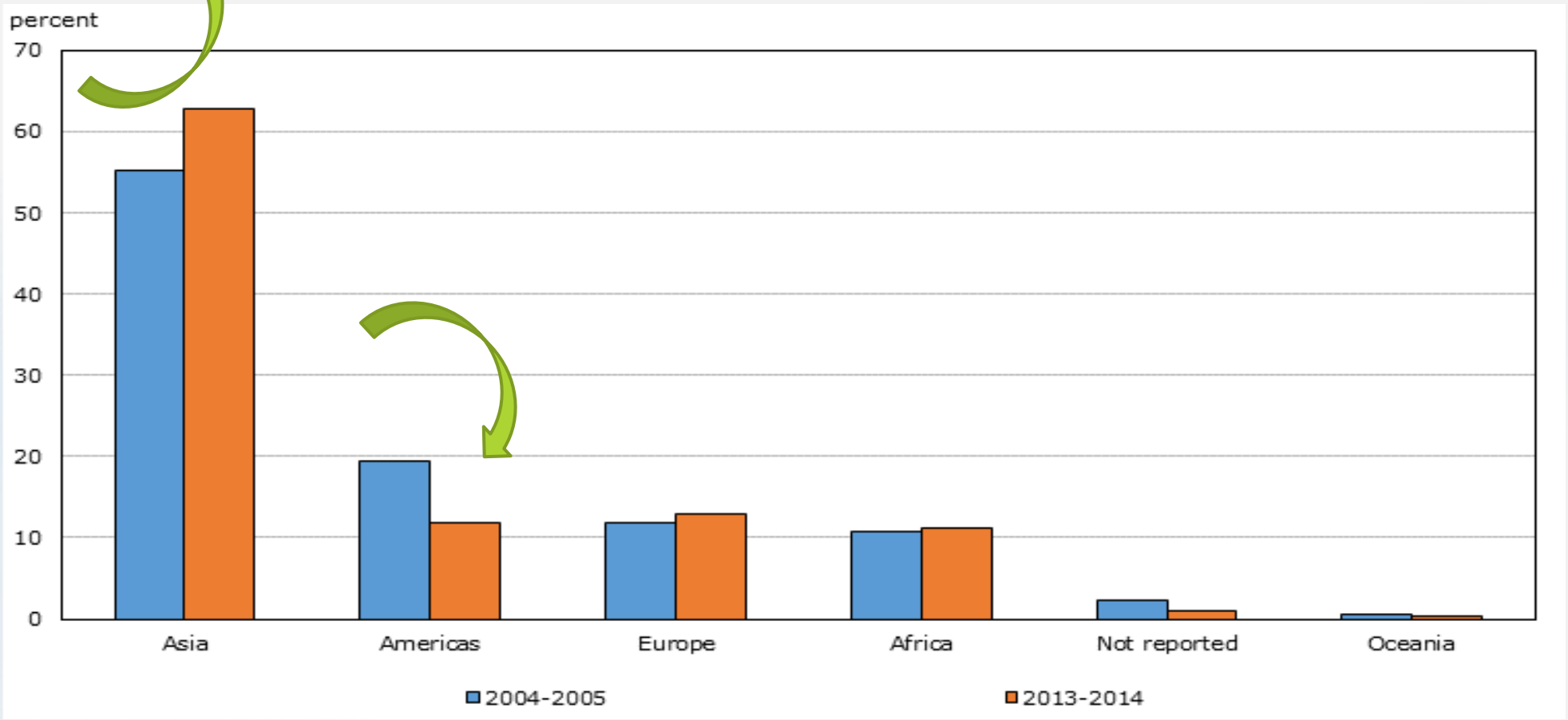
- Economy of the host countries
- Quality of education provided by the host institutions

Top destination countries of international students worldwide



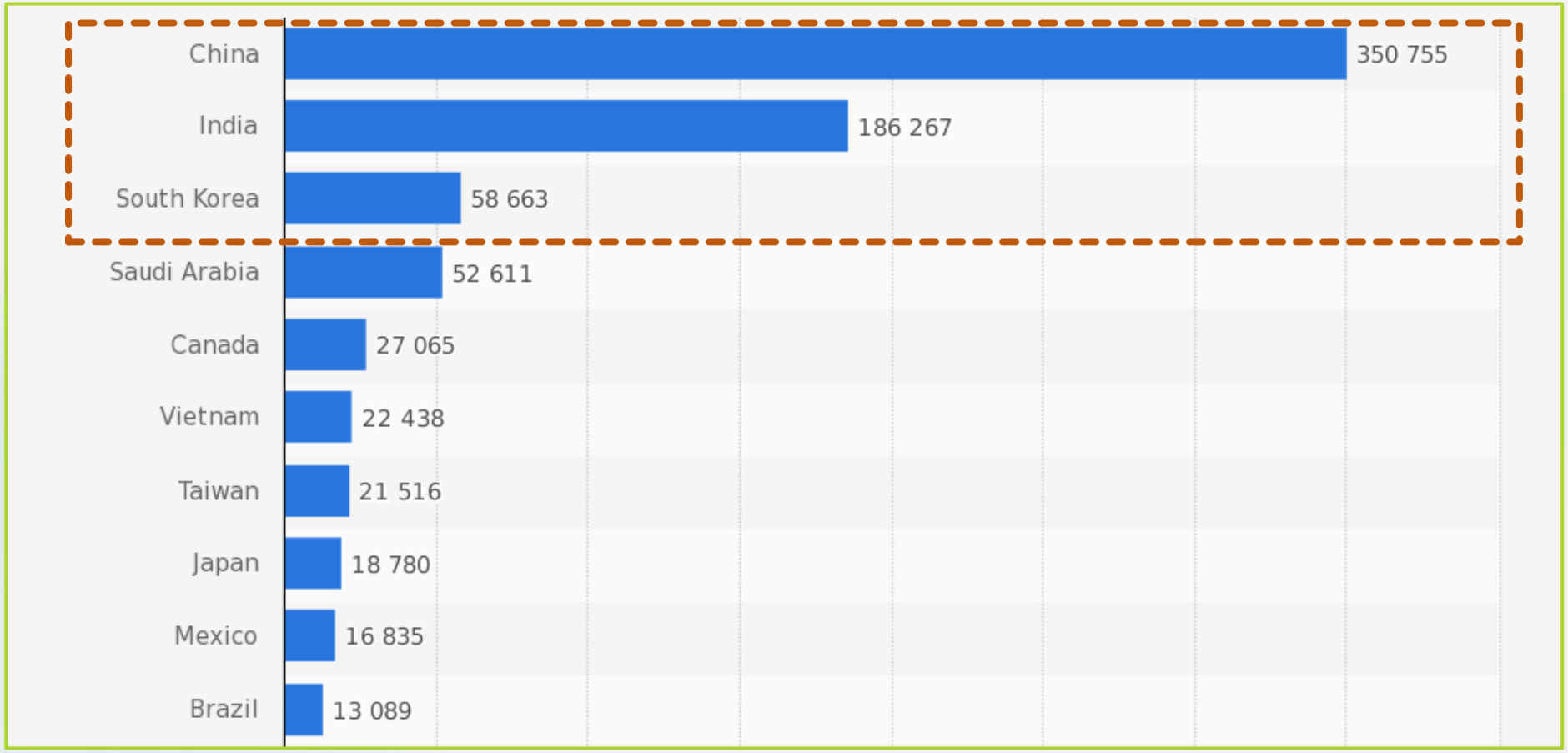
Economic Impact of International Education in Canada, 2016, from http://www.international.gc.ca/education/report-rapport/impact-2016/sec-2.aspx?lang=eng

Source regions of international students studying in Canada



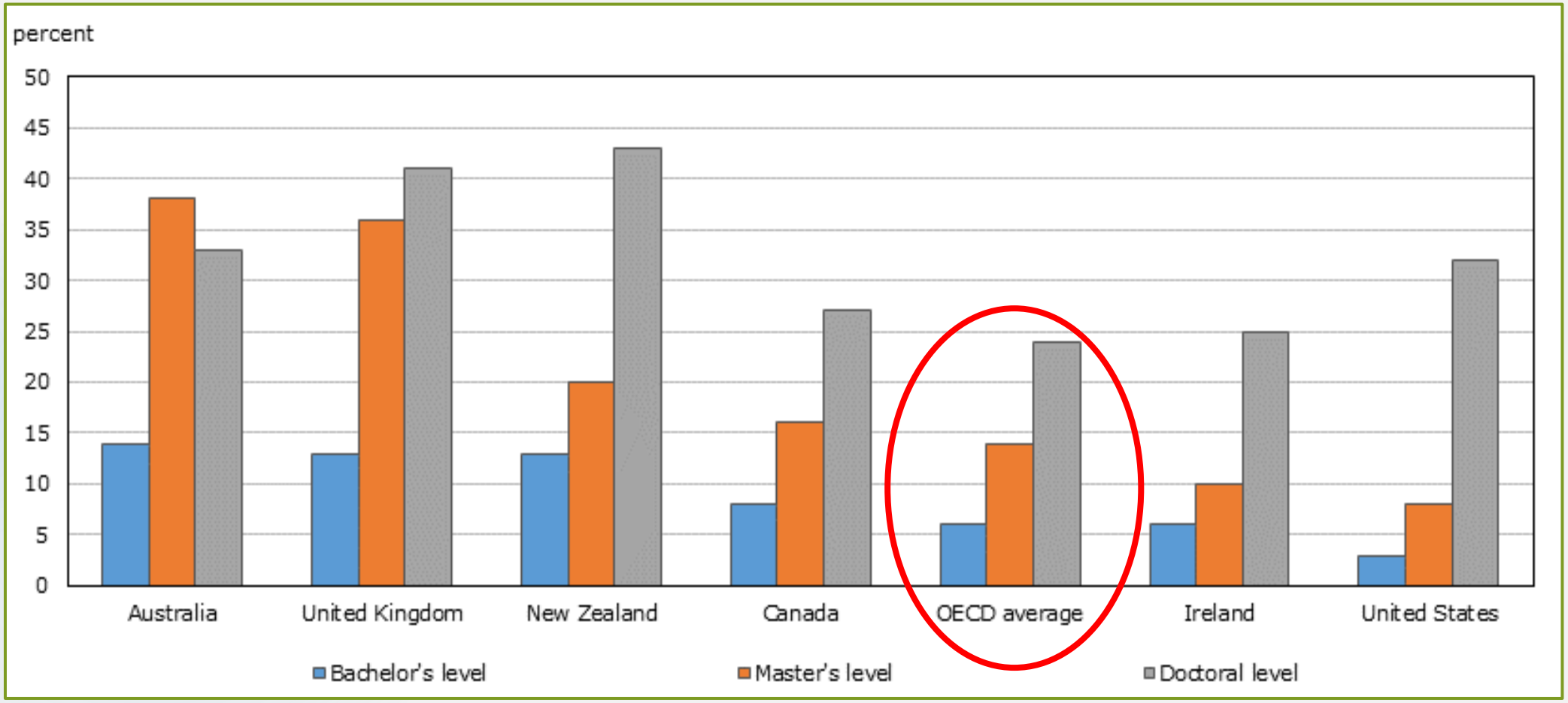
International students in Canadian Universities, 2004-2005 to 2013-2014, 2016, from http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/81-599-x/81-599-x2016011-eng.htm

Source countries of international students studying in the United States



Number of international students studying in the United States in 2016/17 by country of origin, 2018, from https://www.statista.com/statistics/233880/international-students-in-the-us-by-country-of-origin/.

Proportion of international students, by program level, selected OECD countries



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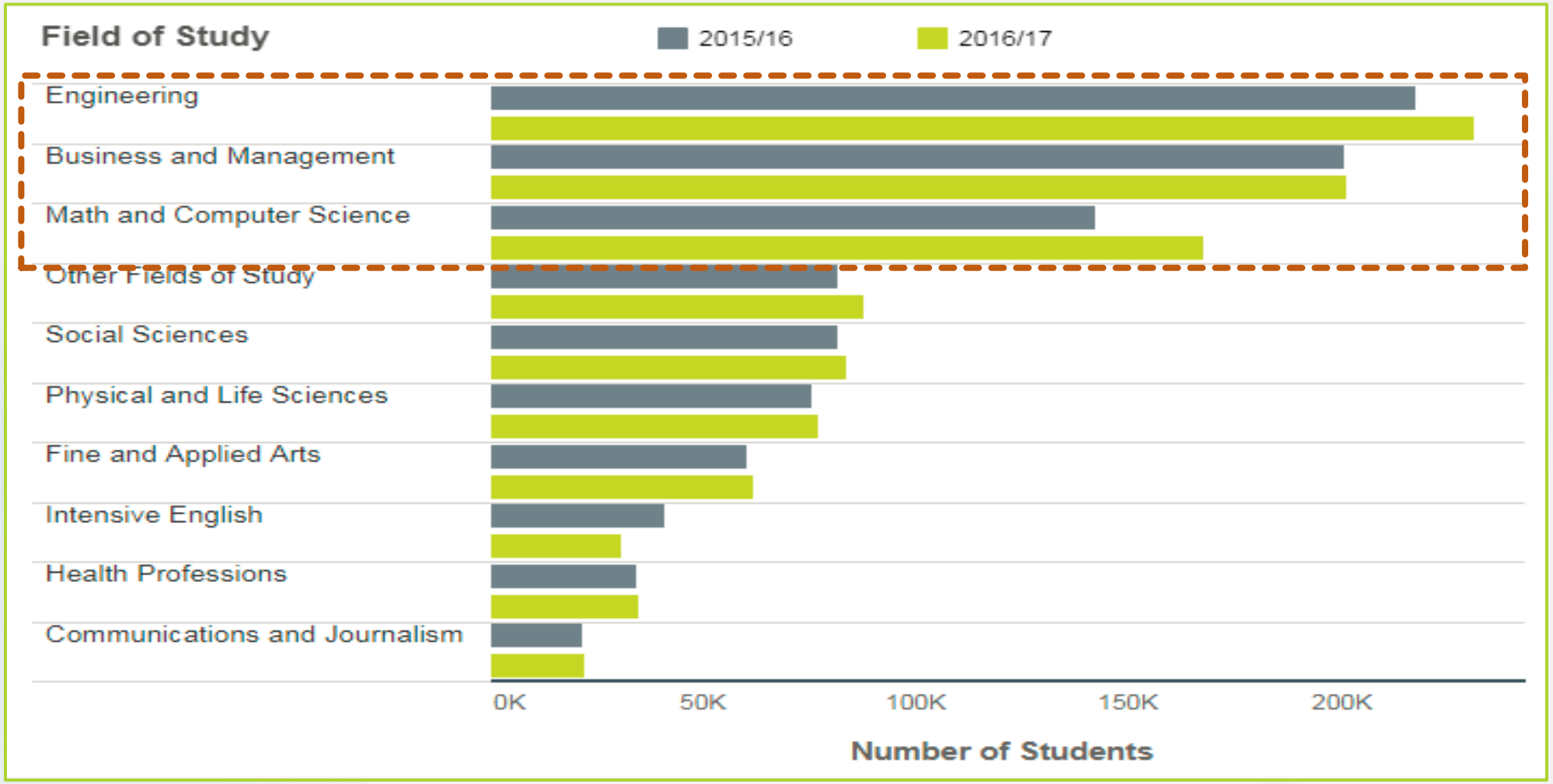
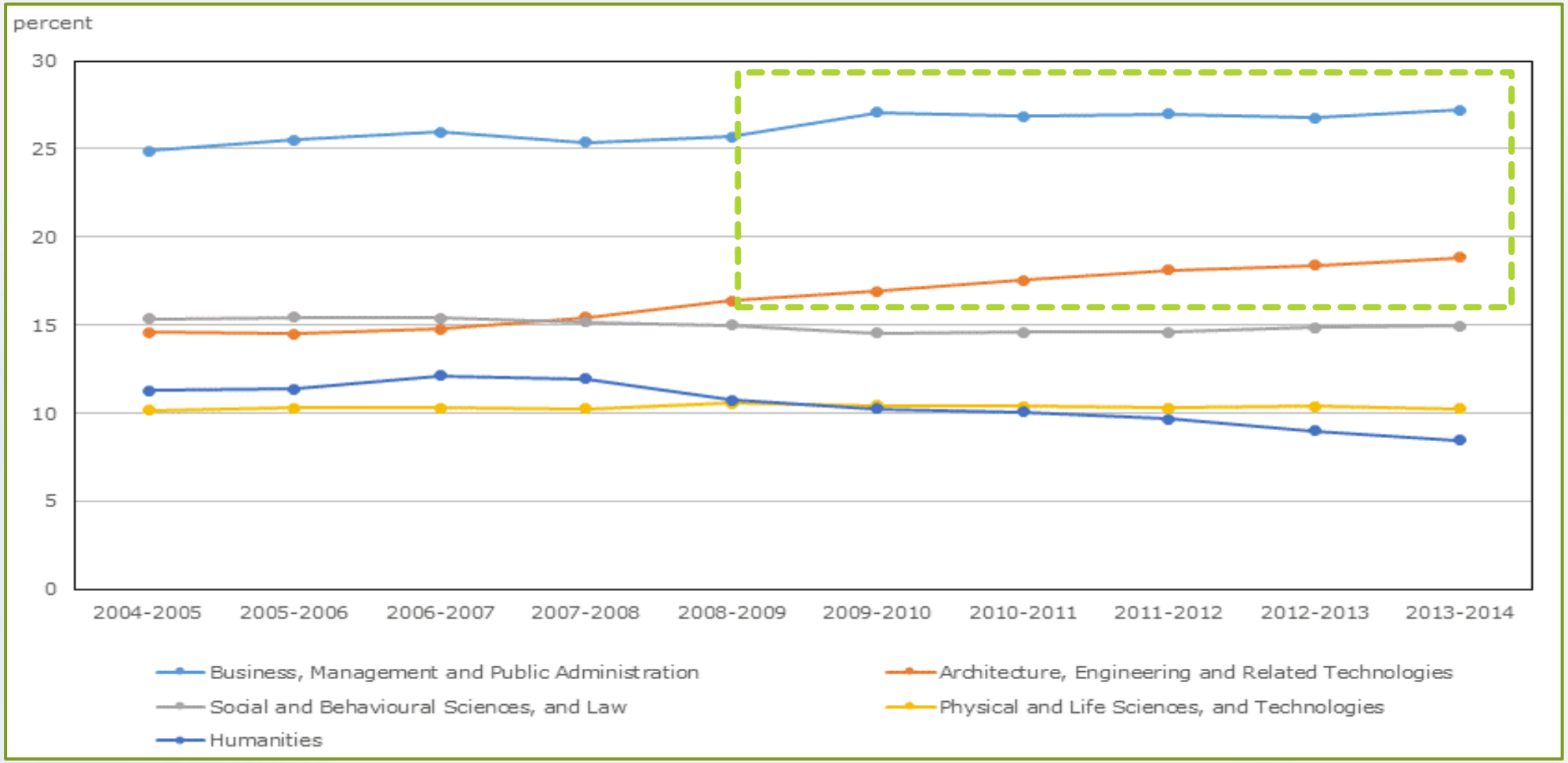
International Students by Field of Study, United States



International students by field of study, 2018, from https://www.iie.org/Research-and-Insights/Open-Doors/Data/International-Students/Fields-of-Study

Top five fields of study for international students, Canada



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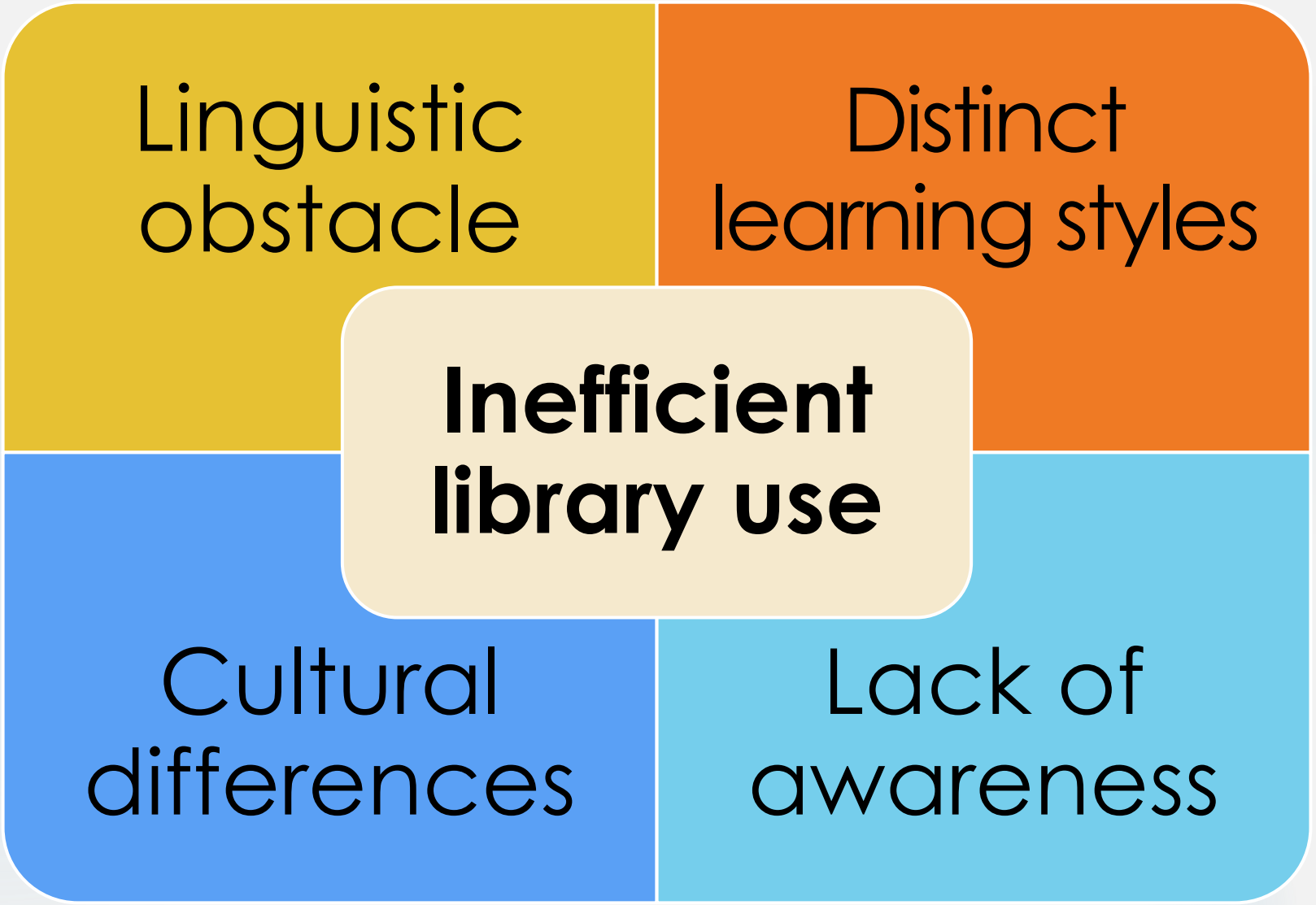
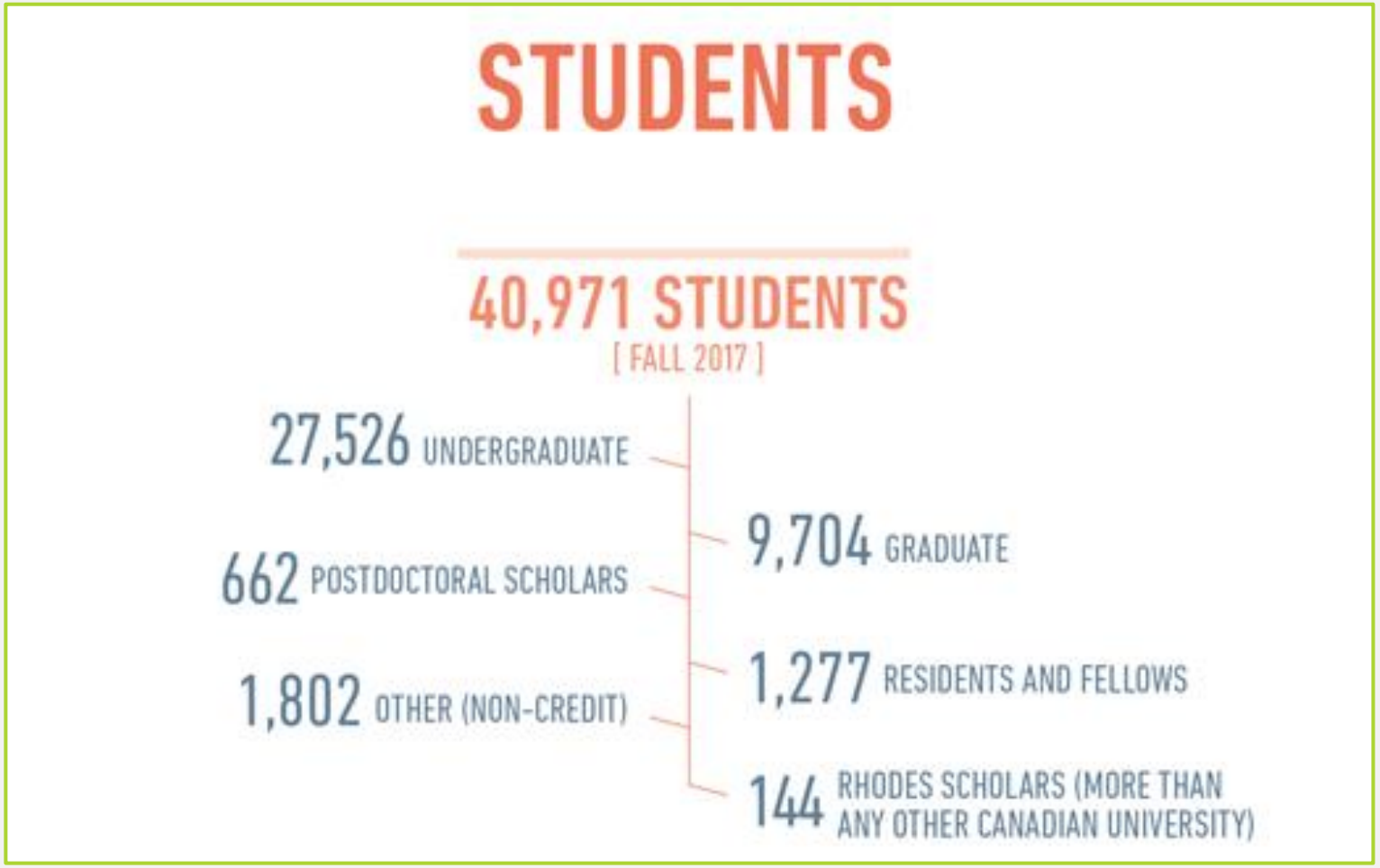
Challenges of international students



Enrolment data of McGill University

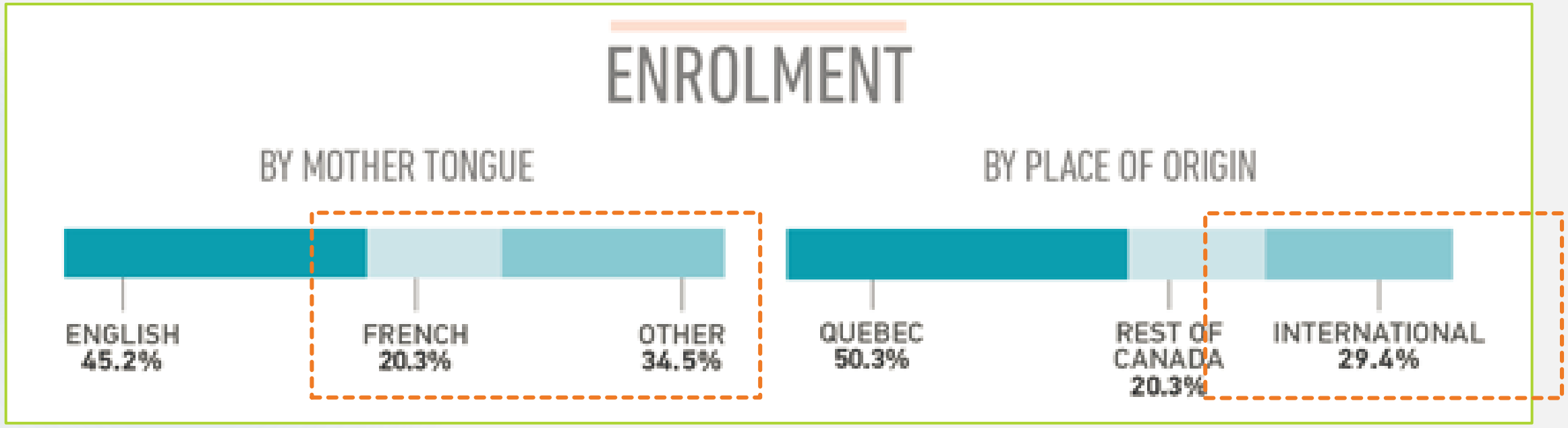
- McGill Factbook, Fall 2017



McGill Factbook, Fall 2017, from https://www.mcgill.ca/about/quickfacts

Enrolment by mother tongue and by place of origin

- McGill Factbook, Fall 2017



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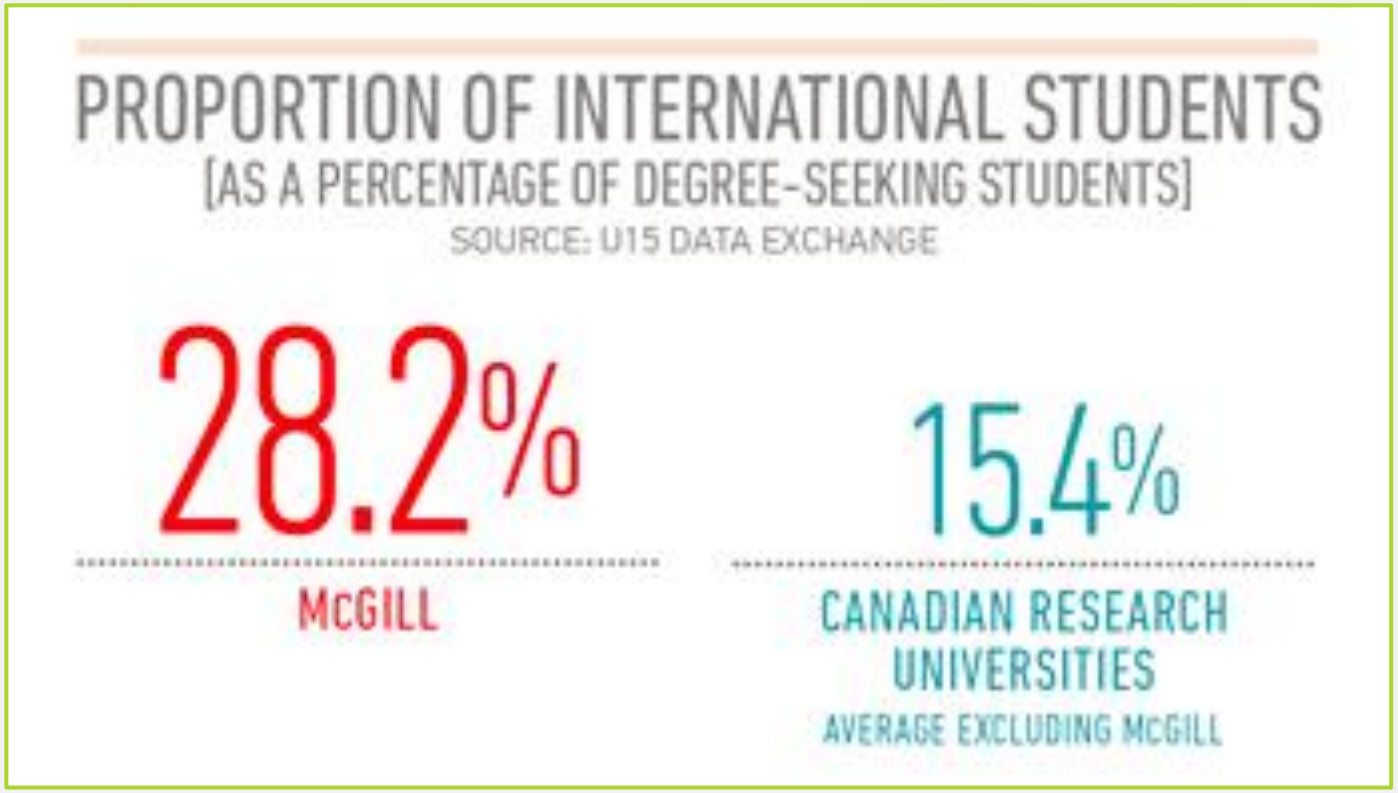
Proportion of international students

- McGill Factbook, Fall 2017



McGill Factbook, Fall 2017, from https://www.mcgill.ca/about/quickfacts

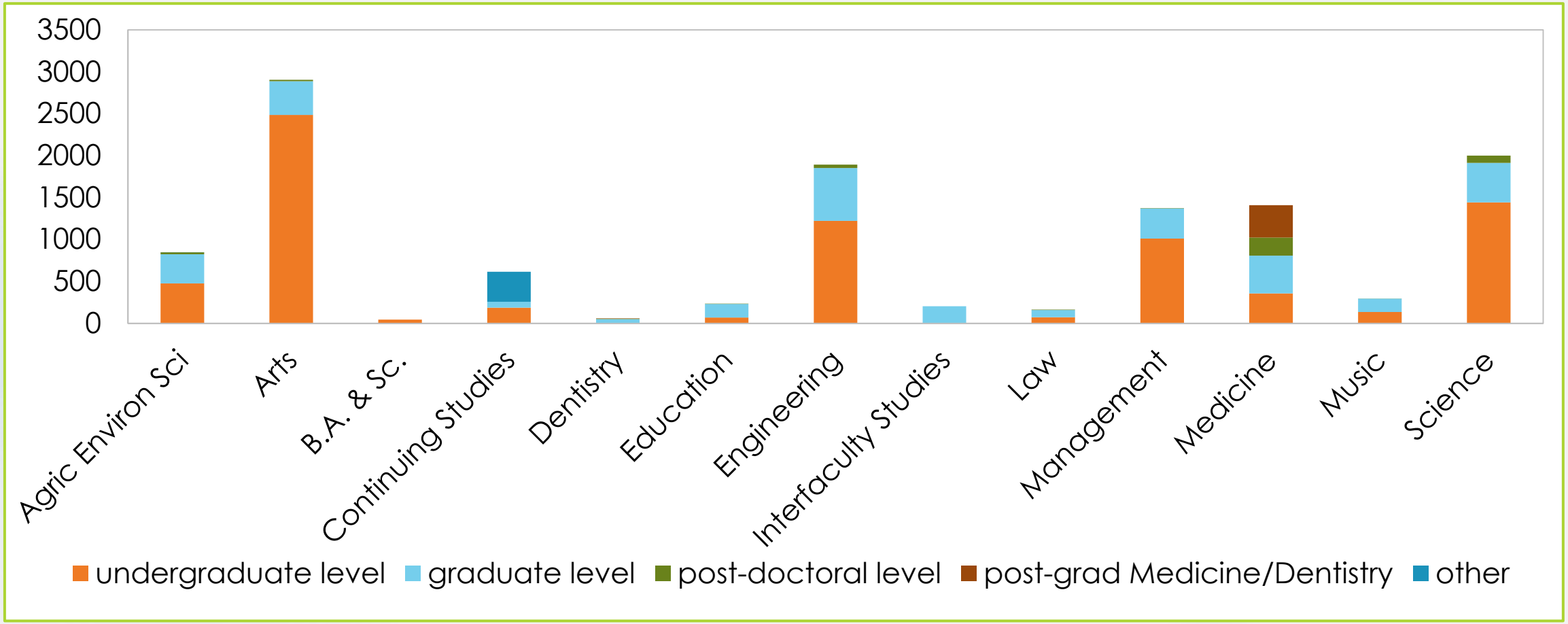
Top 20 source countries based on citizenship Fall 2017

- Enrolment reports, Fall 2017

Country	Number	Rank
USA	2435	1
China	2394	2
France	1875	3
India	709	4
Saudi Arabia	327	5
South Korea	290	6
Iran	288	7
Turkey	236	8
United Kingdom	225	9
Mexico	199	10
Japan	190	11
Pakistan	176	12
Bangladesh	137	13
Brazil	136	14
Germany	112	15
Egypt	107	16
Australia	97	17
Italy	94	18
Lebanon	92	19
Taiwan	86	20

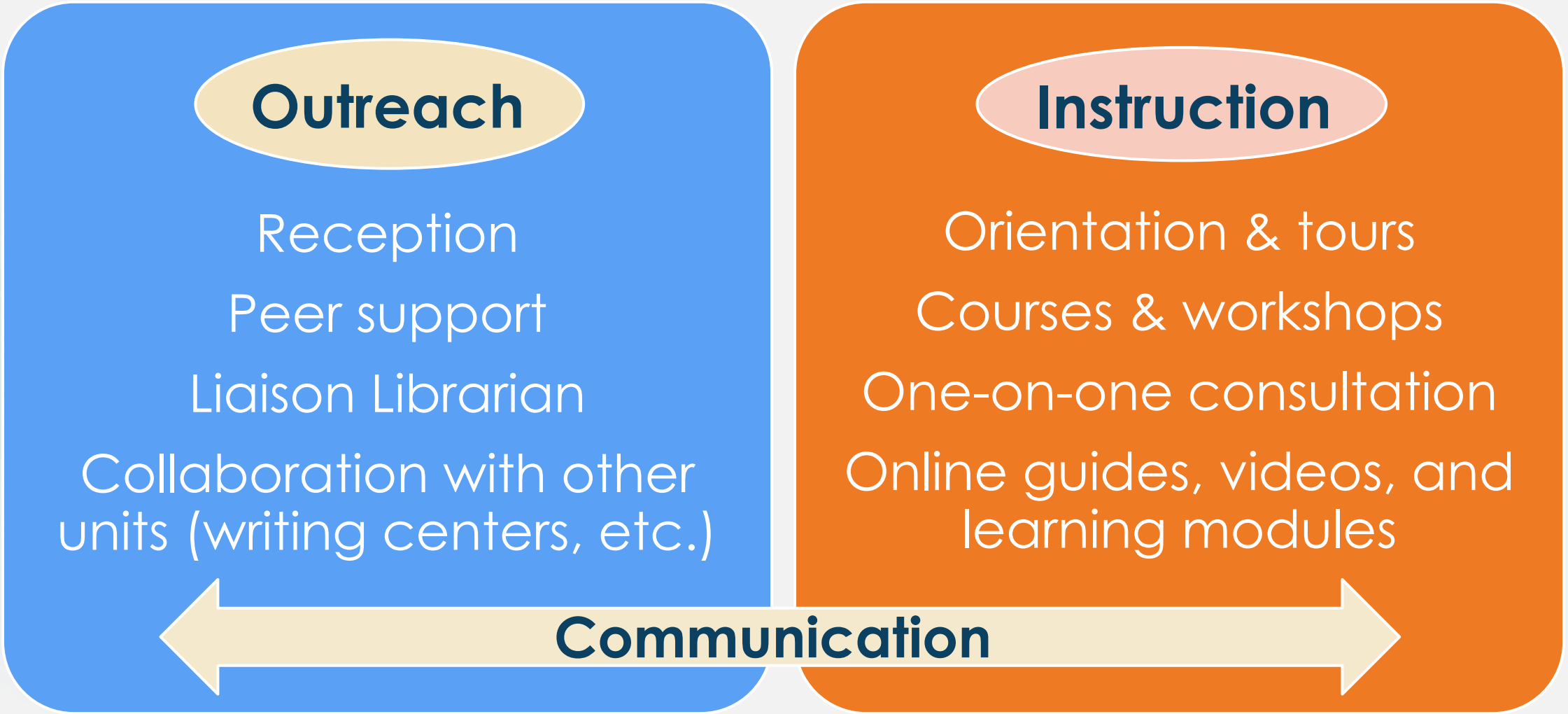
Enrolment reports, Fall 2017, from https://www.mcgill.ca/es/registration-statistics

International students by faculty, McGill University, Fall 2017



McGill University Enrolment Services, email message to authors, 2018.

Successful library practices targeting at international students



Scenario

You are invited to give a 1.5-hour guest lecture on using library resources for literature review in an engineering graduate course. There are 25 students in the class and most are in their first year. According to the instructor, between 1/3 and 1/2 students may be international students.

- **Question?**

What strategies will you use to prepare for, deliver, follow up, and assess this session?

Strategies suggested

- Recognize that **different backgrounds** influence how international students use the library
  - Establish **rapport** with students
- Use the **simple language** (i.e. vocabulary, sentence, grammar)
  - Develop the ability to explain a concept in multiple ways
  - Adopt inclusive examples
  - Avoid difficult moments using technologies
- **Avoid cognitive overload** and connect to students' prior knowledge
  - Adopt backward design approaches
  - Provide supplemental material and **flip the classroom**

Your homework

- Look at the various enrolment data related to international students at your institution
- Design an activity (service, program, etc.) aimed at improving the library experience of international students at your institution

Thank you!