Cock-a-Hoop

This is about the trend shift in students going for higher education in the US.

In my college which has some 600+ final yr students only me and one girl from EEE have apped for American univs. all the others have either been places or off the mark in their studies.

many of my peers having great acads not apping as they got into infy/tcs/cts. Their point of view being "rather go to a place which gives u money than one where u gottta give money and toil urself!"

two years back when there were no such huge recruitments the number of people going to US was some 65,000
but as the situation has drastically changed will it not comedown to 35,000????
does that mean that more probability of visa acceptance??? more students getting aid??? every thing more...except for the wait outside the consulate for visa???

will this happen or inspite of less number of students the will the situation remain the same????

throw light on this topic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>shb_f50</th>
<th>Hey Ragh.... If its happening in Chennai.. imagine Bangalore.. for sure the MS fever has definitely reduced..... with over paid jobs and a part time MS degree from BITS... people are satisfied with it... I guess...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sailendra</td>
<td>In my branch ..arnd 13 of 120 are apping. ppl who have good profiles didn’t apply bcoz of various reasons. some r happy with a job ..some financially not good to apply. and out of 13 ppl who apped 7 of us have already got good job offers. so the situation here is better than yours. abt the number coming down.i don’t think it will happen bcoz: consider this case: Under Jntu there are some 217 engg colleges and AFAIK in Hyderabad only 3 colleges affiliated to JNTU have got good placements. and ppl in all the other colleges who haven't cracked CAT or GATE are apping n there number is obviously large..</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phani19</td>
<td>In my college (uvce , B'lore univ ) none of the toppers are applying ..but that does not mean the numbers are coming down ...Lot of my seniors are applying coz they are fed up of the IT job they got .Actually I think the number of Applicants has increased this year ...Just look at number of applicants in Edulix .and compare it to last year ...I myself never expected applying for IE ..but look now the awareness has increased ...So buddy I think the number of applicants has defo increased</td>
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<tr>
<td>gre_aspirational_guy</td>
<td>I don’t know the scenario in chennai but in Mumbai no one seems to be happy with the pay scale u get after joining companies like tcs , infi, wipro etc.. and its true compared to what u will be expecting after 2 years of ms present salary offered is quite less. most of the students who are placed are going to apply for masters and have kept jobs as a back up option . also last year one survey was conducted in which it was found that . the number of students applying to us has increased year on year basis but the rate of increase is less compared to last year . hope u get this .also students apping to other destinations like</td>
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London, Australia has increased. I expect it to increase also because of reasons like since there is growth in families' income, they have extra income to spend on foreign education, easy availability of loans, and many other reasons.

**dopemonkeyman**
Edulix MVP

In fact, it's good to apply here right now. Because the bulk of people heading towards these IT jobs are going to get fed up later and come here anyway.

**harry_mohan**
Edulix Active Member

My friends opted for Indian MBA route, one got placed with $75K that too without any American education label, other got 760 in GMAT and now applied to ISB (no Wharton, Kellogg, Fukawa…). If one earns well in India and doesn’t have that high predilection and propensity towards academics then one should stick to his country.

**vrs007**

Yes, I definitely agree with you. I know people working in Oracle and doing part-time in BITS. This is a very good discussion. Everyone pours in your views.

In my class of 132 ECE students (all sections combined) only 3 of us have applied. The rest are satisfied with their jobs and about 5-6 are considering either applying for spring/applying after working for 2 years (that too for MSCS). The rest are happy with the "IT JOBS".

Most of them are cursing for taking ECE and not CSE during admission. As per the engineering scenario in Andhra, ECE is considered the top branch, and many people opt for it. But when it comes to getting a job, it's getting very tough with very few getting core jobs.

Only about 7-8 of the total ECE students placed have got into core-jobs. Wipro-VLSI, Sasken, Telecomm, etc.

About 50% of CSE students have been placed whereas only 33% of ECE students have been placed that too most of them in the IT-sector.

Most of my friends have started advising the new-engg-aspirants to take CSE and not ECE. And also many feel that MS is the only option if you want to make it big as an ECE student.

**DesiLinguist**

Edulix Distinguished Contributor

**gre_aspirational_guy** wrote:

also last year one survey was conducted in which it was found that the number of students applying to us has increased year on year basis but the rate of increase is less compared to last year. Hope you get this.

This is incorrect. The statistics show that while the number of foreign students enrolled in science and engineering programs grew monotonically from 1985 to 2002, in 2003-04 it actually went down. Not the rate of increase, the absolute number of foreign students enrolled was down by about 18 percent!! Refer to the NSF (National Science Foundation) information brief for more information: http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/infbrief/nsf05317/nsf05317.pdf

**Maharaja**

Edulix Active Member

I would not say trend is changing here in India. I'd like to term this as a growth in the Indian software industry which is attracting Indian graduates to go for the jobs instead of higher studies. My close friends who gave their GRE and TOEFL have opted for jobs in INFY, TCS, PATNI etc big gunners. And as Dopey pointed out those people are eventually
come to use for further studies. This is just a temporary shift of plan for those students. Just because they want to earn money to support their education along with their parents to the certain extent they have chosen this option of delaying MS for say 2-3 years.

I'd also like to say that amount of people going for MS in my opinion has increased instead of reducing. This is just a educated judgment by myself. Reason I think behind this is for a mgmt related studies India have very limited acceptance. Moreover getting into good MBA university is too competitive unlike MS from USA where there are 3500 universities offering masters degree in various majors and people can easily find themselves getting seats in those university.

Lastly, hoop, if it is correct that there is a drop in MS aspirants from India, I guess for VISA VO's still look for the quality than the quantity so reduction is not a big deal as long as quality people app to fly.

Whoops. Sorry about that. I missed citing another source: http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qa3860/is_200501/ai_n9485500

BTW, that brief I did cite, although a year old, does show the same trend. Look at Figure 1, not Table 2. That's overall graduate enrollment, not just for foreign students.

I had read an article in TOI saying that the number of people applying to US has indeed reduced.....Among many factors are the new education outlets like 3 of my frnds are applying to UK and 2 to Netherlands....... 

Also an article which said it is difficult for US MBAs to get job in India, ( in case one wants to return to Motherland)......So I guess thats one of the reasons....... 

But man inspite of all these articles and the various statistics put up by newspapers......when I gave my exam at the Mumbai centre.....the no of people appearing was mind-boggling.......I felt like I was appearing my Board exams........ 

I passed out in 2004, and its true that not more than 5% of my batch mates did go for an MS, I don’t get where the 65000 MS students come from.. I guess VTU has some 200 colleges, each college will have 20 studs at max, so that makes it 4000, hmmm... ok at least order is rite.. 

Last year nearly 80,000 student visa were issued and this year US plans to give 100,000 student visa( source of info: TOI) 

I would add the stats at my college. out of my class of 68 only 6 of us are applyin. out of 6, 2 are off stream. rest 4 of us are applyin in EE only. I dunno abt stats in other classes. but maybe on an avg arnd 12 ppl must be apping to
Maharaja
Edulix Active Member

k...Looks like people here are giving individual stats. Well, if I giving you people stats of my college you'll be surprised to know it. I'm giving you the stats of my college branch wise and the term wise. So, here they go.

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Fall-2006-
Computer - 1/120 [That's me 😊]
Chemical - 3/90
Mechanical - 1/90
Production - 2/90
EXTC - 2/90
IT - 0/40

Spring-2007
Computer - 6/120
Chemical - 0/90
Mechanical - 0/90
Production - 0/90
EXTC - 3/90
IT - 0/40

Many of my peers have delayed their MS plans for 2 years by accepting job offers. Well, this is just an example but as a whole there are colleges like RAIT, Father Agnel etc where number of MS aspirant is huge.

mahindra_mv

Well, I think the number of students enrolling for admission into the US has definitely come down. With countries like Australia, UK, Germany and Singapore opening up realizing the amount of revenue this industry can make, it's logical that the numbers are bound to come down. A lot of my friends too have settled for IT jobs.

I find more number of students, with a moderate academic profile showing interest in higher education these days.

On the other hand the numbers have certainly reduced from China over the years... But in any case I don't think these numbers would significantly impact the Visas.

ronaldokaka

in my coll too this exodus from MS happened. loads of guys went for gre tuitions and stuff. then they got placed in infy, wipro etc and they dropped the idea of doing MS after that. one of my friends is a topper, was dead keen on doing robotics. then he got placed in ibm, then got calls from 5 iim's. so the MS option is almost out for him. people don’t want to do an MS now because they figure that with the uncertain job scenario in the US, it makes sense to have a job right here rather than risk it there. of course, there are others who are hell bent on doing an MS even though they have jobs with high pays. and there are others (especially in CS) who have written gre, got awesome scores, and then decided to work for one year which helps them fend off the immense competition in CS.

so I guess the number of people going for MS will decrease, but only marginally.

ritendra
Edulix MVP

In my opinion, so many stories of toppers opting not to go for an MS in US probably also indicates that the prestige associated with doing an MS in US is considerably lower than getting into an IIM or even getting a good job in India. We see so many instances here in the US of people who did not get a job, let alone a place at the IIMs, but who got into...
some decent US school quite easily, and even got funded after a semester or two, and eventually got a well-paying job. I am not saying this is bad, just that the charm has gone down, I would say. Whenever someone hears stories of grossly under-qualified students making it to the US, toppers (and their family, well-wishers) no longer feel attracted. You make BIG life-changing sacrifices when you step out of the country, it better have some prestige associated with it.

Getting into top schools is probably still considered prestigious, but getting into *any* school is very easy - I know some schools where Indians account for more than 80% of the applicant pool, so they have to admit loads of Indians to sustain their programs.

While in the past, going abroad for higher studies was considered an opportunity for the best minds in the country, today this is more of an escape route. I am sure the numbers will keep going up, but toppers are likely to remain a minority.

P.S. "prestige" is a highly subjective and territorial term, and moreover, this is just my opinion.

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### ms_us

**Edulix Active Member**

I sort of agree with ritendra on the above post about MS not being "a big deal", but I think the prestige actually never existed, maybe it did in the early 90s, but it was never tough to get into "any" univ..only the difference is that the "middle class" in India these days are able to afford US education and ready to spend in $$, in the hope of earning them..

In late 90s, any "software job" was a coveted one, probably as prestigious as an MS, but over the years, the glamour has faded away with mass recruitments, and U shouldn’t be surprised to c many guys with 1-4 years of exp heading for Masters..

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### intel_fun

I am a living example of moving to further studies after working for 5+ years in IT; I am Tech Lead in a US startup but still intend to move to school back.

Pls don’t commit the same mistake I've done; if I had a younger bro, I would advise him to work for max. 2-3 years in India, prepare well for his GRE/recos/research experience, a couple of papers, something here and there during these 2 years at the same time, earn some bucks and get some experience.

Don’t make it more than 4 years of work experience, you might get late then.

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### niravadesai

The situation of freshers applying for MS is the same in my college as well (NIT Calicut). We have only 2 out of 75 ECE people apping for MS and 3 out of 100 Mech guys. Most of the toppers in ECE have good core jobs in AD, TI and Motorola.

However, we have a sizeable number of seniors applying for MS this year. These are people who joined places like Philips, Wipro, etc. around 2 - 3 years back and are now seeking further, not satisfied with the quality of work.

I see this trend repeating in my batch as well with quite a few people who have cleared the GRE with 1400+ scores but want to go to work. Probably they too will apply for MS 2 years down the line.

So, on the whole the number of people applying for MS from my college (both past and present) hasn’t changed but the number of freshers applying has definitely reduced.

I see the number of freshers in my college apping for MS decreasing in the future, with none of our juniors interested in an MS as we have the big MNC’s coming on campus and giving fat starting salaries.

The whole scene is like: The freshers get into MNC's work for a few years find out the quality of work is not satisfying and go for MS.. thought some do this for financial
So it turns out, the people who are keen on doing an MS early on and join MNC’s, realise their mistake later and go for an MS which they would have otherwise done a couple of years earlier.

So the number of genuinely interested people apping for MS in our college has not come down.. its just like the step has been delayed by a couple of years with the advent of the strong IT industry here.

considerations also.

well it is never bad to go for a job for a couple of years before applying again.

The trend applies to my college as well.. I think we have now a sizeable no of ppl applying after graduating 2,3 years back... infact this number outnumbers the freshers who are apping.

I would recommend my juniors/friends to take up the job in hand(if it is good enough) only if they don't get good admits/they haven't tried apping yet.

It is not late...

IT is happening in India.... and though it is a boon to the job market, and it brings down unemployment..... it is not good if it goes as is in the long run.

juggernautvatsan
Edulix Active Member

I see this trend repeating in my batch as well with quite a few people who have cleared the GRE with 1400+scores but want to go to work. Probably they too will apply for MS 2 years down the line.

Bingobaba

Well....I guess Niravadesai has summed up the situation quite brilliantly.

Quote:

However, we have a sizeable number of seniors applying for MS this year. These are people who joined places like Philips, Wipro ,etc. around 2 - 3 years back and are now seeking further, not satisfied with the quality of work.

I see this trend repeating in my batch as well with quite a few people who have cleared the GRE with 1400+scores but want to go to work. Probably they too will apply for MS 2 years down the line.

+1 here.

Whether workex is a value-addition or not is debatable. so I will leave it at that. Escape route/No escape route, the causes of frustration for many ppl quitting MNCs and pursuing MS is due to:

1. nature of the work - most of the IT jobs are not core tech. EE engr work in Billing and banking applications, Mech engrs work on mainframes. And this can get very confusing!

2. Lack of Onsite Opportunities - Well, this one is a biggie reason coz a lot of ppl pin their hopes on making it onsite within a year or two. however when that doesn't happen, they get frustrated and look at MS

3. Of course, they are some genuine i-will-do-ms-after-i gain-some-relevant-workex types. However they are few...
though it is advisable to goto grad studies rite after Btech/Be it isn't really a bad idea to work for 2 yrs, at least the "risk" involved is much less, tats wat I reasoned after BTech, I can always come back to my job here, hope to get a better one if I need come back, with relevant work ex + ms it isn’t a bad deal I guess (I hope 2)

But unlike in college, no one talks of apping at work unless u r very close to them, so kind of tough to know wat the trend is.. tats where Edulix helps 😊

For a person having studied electronics and communication and then having the torture of working in a software company that holds no future for me, leaves me no option other than to apply for MS.

The break from academics has given me financial independence and the opportunity to gain valuable industrial experience. I guess I will be able to come back to the same company pretty easily. Though I wouldn't want to.

IIMs are definitely prestigious but whether you want to choose between MBA or MS wouldn't be too difficult I guess. I want to grow technically and thus going to IIM is not even an option I wouldn’t even consider it even if I was offered a free admit. Just joking.. a free admit in IIM wouldn't be easy to turn down. 😏

From my college the number of people applying has definitely increased. I thought all along that this year the number of applicants have increased drastically and that getting into some of the better colleges would be tough. A junior from college had managed an admit into ASU and NCSU. I don’t think its as easy this year.

My advice to budding engineers is not to waste your time in a services company if your interest is not in IT. You are just wasting time, like I wasted two years. I enjoyed going crazy with my own money though.

If you get a good job, in your area of interest, I suggest you take it up. Otherwise look for something better, either a better job or an MS.

its definitely true that the GRE craze is on the wane due to the huge increase in jobs....ppl r getting placed in the colleges itself in big companies. my college saw a placement record like never before

earlier we had only Indian companies coming but the recent deluge has many mncs in the fray

as of myself , I have been in infosys for the past 15 months....believe me guys it was a good start to a career.....u get to learn such a lot....but after some time I really felt that I needed to move on from here....and so I am trying for a MS.....we are all governed by the money factor after all:) 

ppl have different priorities out here and thts basically where u need to take the decision.....and more important the time factor matters....its better if its taken at the college level...whether u wanna study or go for a job.

thts wht has been my experience....me still not sure....let the admits decide my further course:)

hmmm interesting so far
here's my 2 cents

I graduated in 2005,at tht time 5 of my colleagues gave gre and went ahead wit their MS, out of which 1 had turned down his placement......... now late risers like me, and other 5 guys plan to go next yr, and out of we 6 ,one guy is
currently working in infy........
although I must say that, out of the 11 students from my class who have apped so far, only one guy is in the top 5% of class, rest all figure around top 15%-20%...........
this info is w.r.t to ECE Mumbai univ........
and from a class strength of 53 students, only one guy is placed in core communications field, where as rest have taken up s/w jobs, and r complaining day and nite abt wasting 4 yrs in ECE.
now my juniors who r graduating in 2006,i have seen a considerable rise in the number of students apping, even though they have been placed, sum of them are class toppers.........so I don’t know wat to say, if the trend is moving upwards or downwards...............but it is definitely moving somewhere..........I personally think many are appin this yr, due to the imminent change in the gre format later this yr.............but well that’s only my opinion

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