**Research Proposal**

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Topic: Trend in admission of international students in U.S. universities

Background information: As of 2015, there are 1.13 million foreign students studying in the U.S., nearly 50% more than in 2010 and 85% more than in 2005.

Many believe that public schools are mainly responsible for driving this trend because they operate on tight budget; coupled with declining state support and strong resistance to tuition rise among local students, many public schools have been recruiting international students aggressively as they can charge a higher premium on international students (e.g., in UC system, international students pay 3 times more than in-state students). However, the top 5 destinations for international students are USC, Purdue, Columbia, UIUC and NYU; notice that three of them are private univertieis. So the first question I would like to explore is whether the international students (in percentage/absolute numbers) increase differentially across public and private universities.

Also, perhaps this trend differs across different states due to economic conditions, job opportunities, political openness, racial diversity etc. I would then like to compare the increase in international students in each state with some economic or socio-economic indicators and see if there is any sort of correlation. (The problem I foresee is the existence of simultaneous causality where the international students are attracted by more optimistic outlook of economic conditions in some states but at the same time their spending also contribute to stronger economy).

However, many educators criticize that the rapid expansion of international students has caused a strain on limited educational resources and lowered teaching quality, as seen by the expansion of class size and increase in student-faculty ratio. However, some argue that this is just an inevitable problem caused by budget cuts in the post-recession era. I will also try to gain some insights in this question as well.

Despite much tensions caused by the faster arrival of international students, many universities have been continuously increasing their spending on overseas publicity, by working with foreign educational consulting agency or sending their own staff on scouting missions. I will try to look for available data on this and see if there is any correlation between the school’s publicity efforts and increase in international students.

Other aspects to consider:

* International students by country of origin, e.g. China and India alone have made up half of the total international students. Has this changed the demographic/racial composition of the entire student body in some campuses?