



The IB diploma graduate destinations survey 2011

Country report
United States of America

2012

Contents

www.i-graduate.org

- **Objective and methodology**
- **Section 1** Demographics
Profile of respondents and schools
- **Section 2** Destination of IB graduates
- **Section 3** Entry requirements and application process
- **Section 4** Decision making and interests
- **Section 5** Mobility
- **Section 6** Learning experience and recommendation

Objective and methodology

www.i-graduate.org

Objective

Improve the recognition of the IB Diploma Programme (DP) worldwide by presenting the profile, performance and destinations of IB diploma and certificate students in the United States of America. The global report will cover Canada, Mexico, India, the UK, Spain, Australia as well as the US.

Methodology

Stage 1 – Questionnaire design

In cooperation with the IB, a survey instrument was developed to survey US IB graduates. The US questionnaire contained six sections plus one follow-up question. The survey obtained confirmation, from students graduating in 2011, of their intended destinations upon completion of their IB Diploma Programme and collected information on whether students were intending to go onto further education or other destinations, SAT scores, colleges/universities applied to, offers received, scholarship offers, final choice of destination as well as intended major. The questionnaire also covered student mobility, their decision-making process and interests as well as their IB learning experiences.

Stage 2 – Online survey

In May 2011, 640 IB World Schools in the US offering the Diploma Programme were eligible to register for the survey, of which 319 (43%) registered for the “IB diploma graduate destinations survey 2011 – USA”. Of these 319 schools, 191 (60%) launched the survey either directly to their students or providing email addresses of their graduates prior to the fieldwork period. 4,171 graduating high school seniors (1,451 male, 2,534 female, 186 not stated their gender) from 191 schools in 34 states submitted their responses. Both full IB diploma and certificate candidates participated in the survey, although the share of IB diploma candidates was considerably higher (3,601 diploma candidates versus 570 certificate candidates).

An IB coordinator/teacher/principal either administered the survey to students in class or provided i-graduate with email addresses of their students, so the survey was launched directly to students by i-graduate. Participating institutions were provided with a suggested email invitation text to be sent to their high school seniors. The email invitation text explained the purpose of the study and detailed how the data would be used, in addition to providing the institution with a specific hyperlink that directed email recipients to the online IB diploma graduate destinations questionnaire hosted using i-graduate’s survey software capability.

Section 1

Demographics

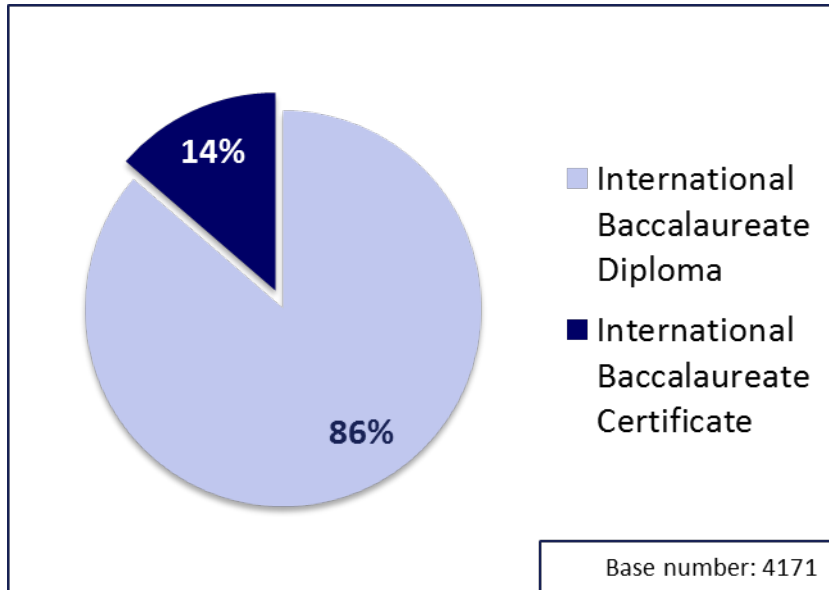
Profile of respondents and schools



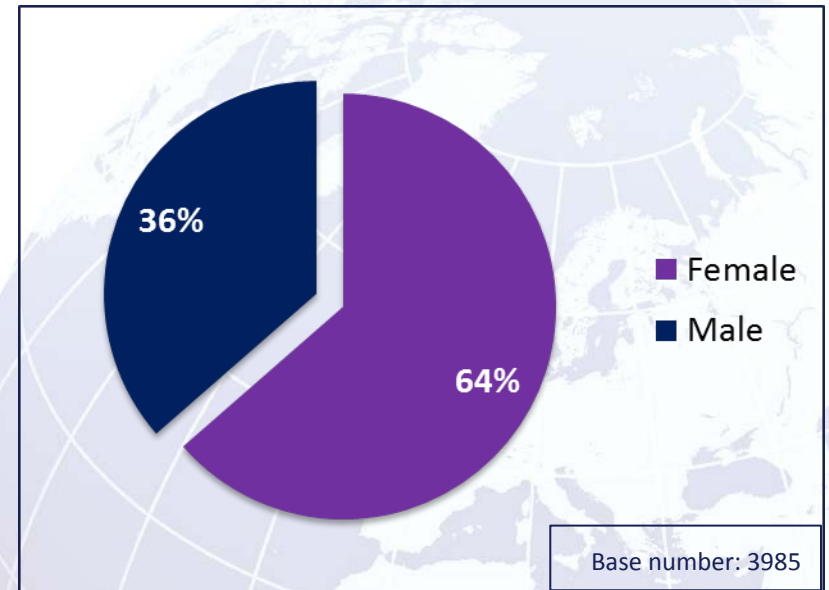
Section 1 - Demographics

Profile of respondents and schools

Are you in the final year of your:



Please tell us, are you:



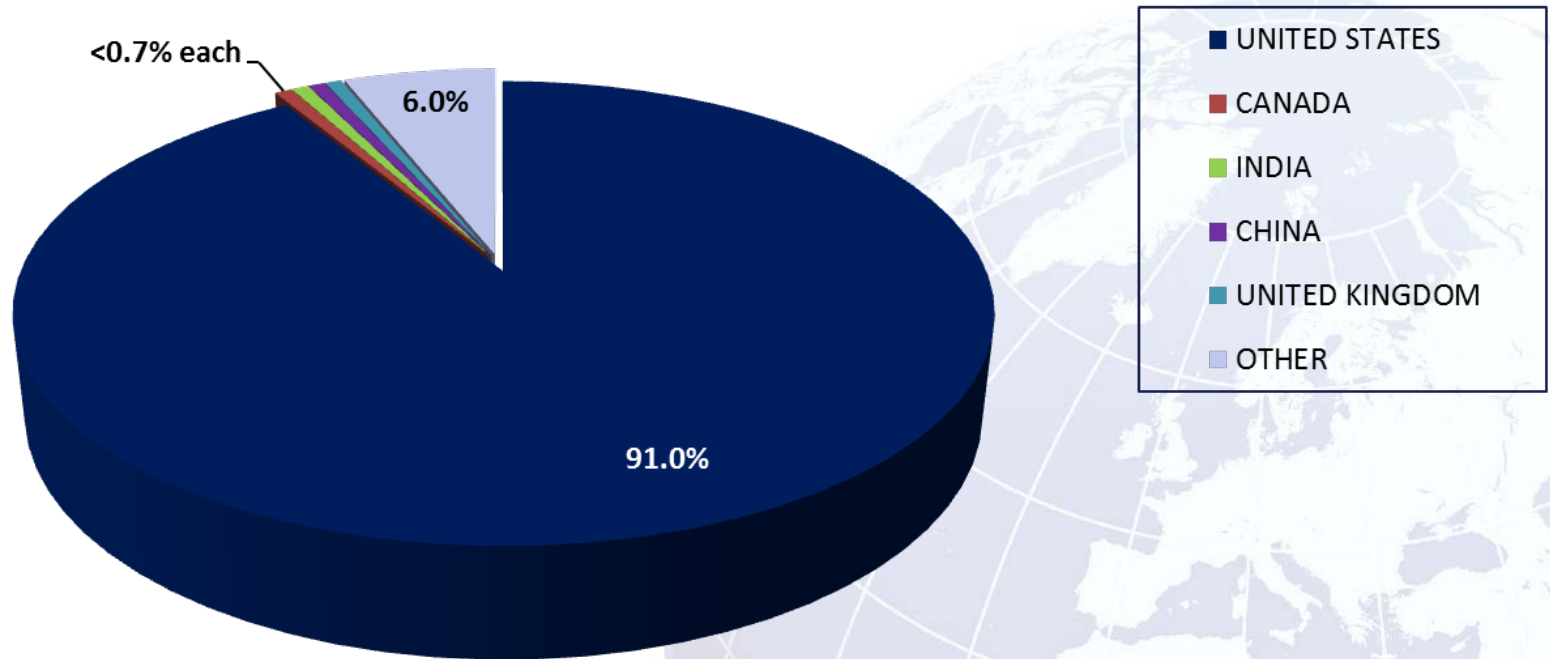
- More than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the respondents are IB diploma candidates.
- The ratio of male to female respondents is about one to two respectively.

Section 1 - Demographics

Profile of respondents and schools

Nationality (Passport)

www.i-graduate.org



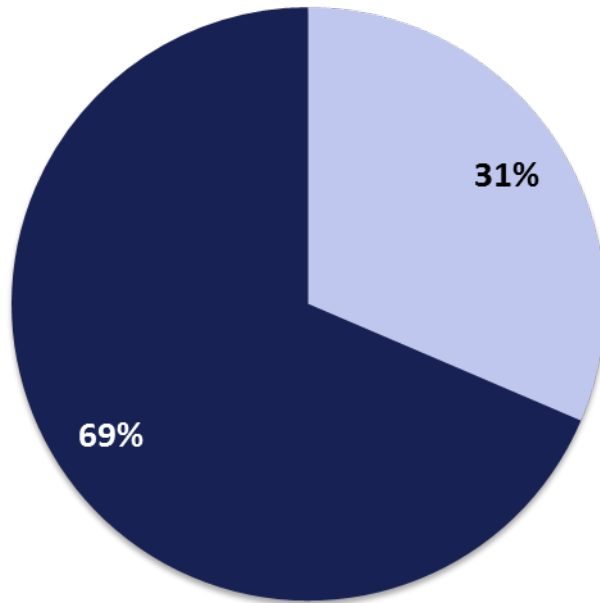
- 91% of all respondents are US citizens.
- About 92% of all respondents are citizens of North America (USA, Canada).
- About 93% of all respondents are citizens of native English speaking countries (USA, Canada, UK).

Base number: 3977

Section 1 - Demographics

Profile of respondents and schools

Are you fluent in other languages aside from your mother tongue?



■ Yes

■ No

Base number: 3945

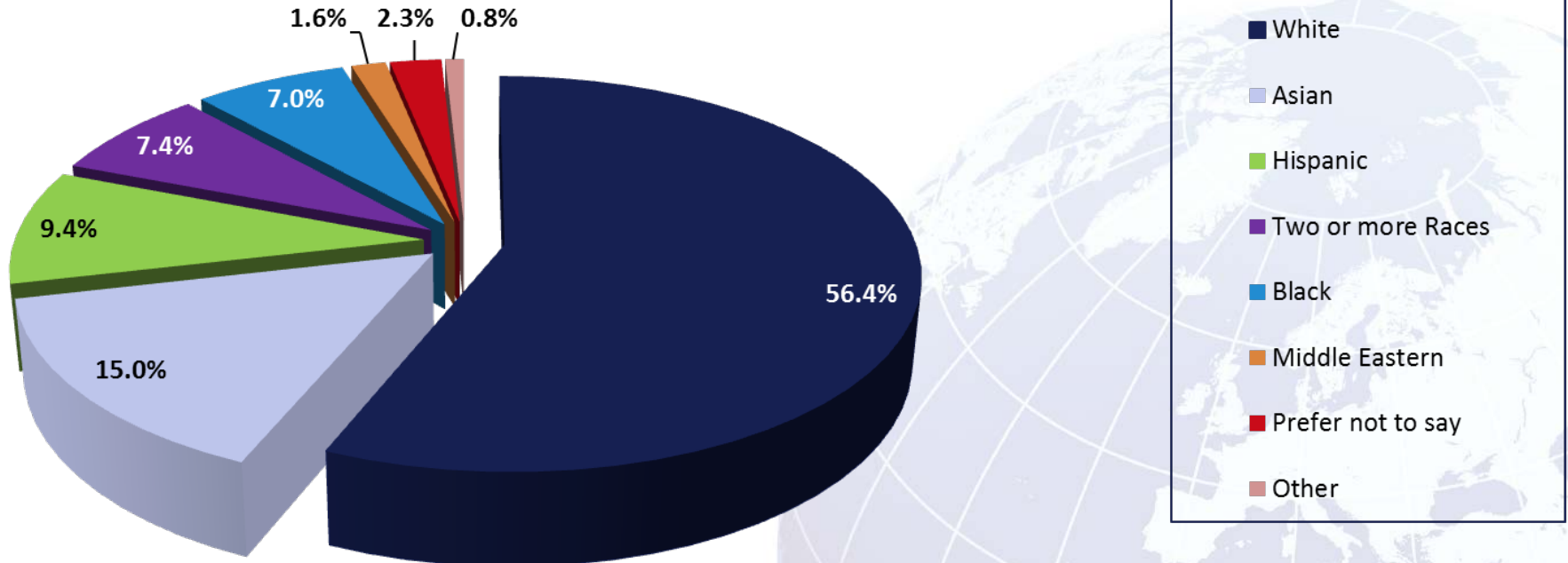
Second language	Base number
English	473
Spanish	353
French	145
Mandarin Chinese	76
German	33
Hindi	28
Korean	19
Arabic	17
Russian	15
Urdu	17
<i>Others*</i>	200

**Please see Appendix A for full list of second languages*

Section 1 - Demographics

Profile of respondents and schools

Ethnicity



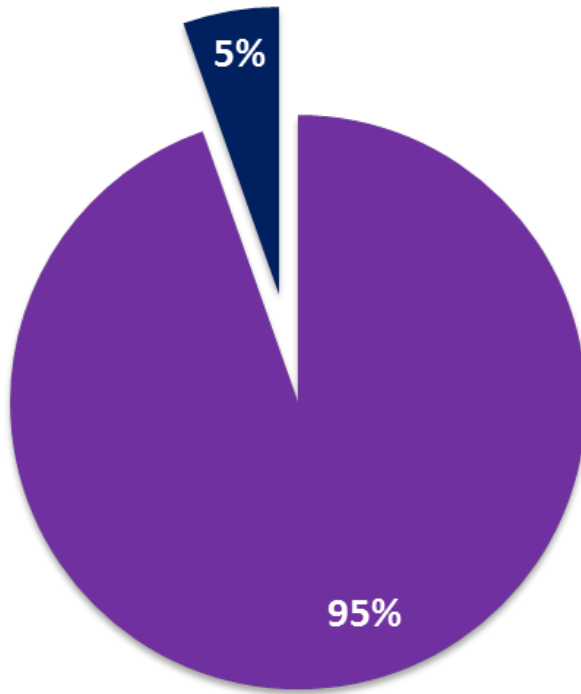
- More than half of the respondents are White (non-Hispanic), followed by 15% of Asian students (including the Indian subcontinent and Philippines).
- The share of Hispanic and Black students is under 10% each, while graduates of Middle Eastern origin represent only 2% of the total survey population.

Base number: 4004

Section 1 - Demographics

Profile of respondents and schools

Type of schools



- 191 US schools launched the survey (20 private schools and 171 public schools).
- The share of respondents in public high schools (95%) is considerably higher than the share of respondents in private secondary education (5%).

Base number: 4171

■ PUBLIC ■ PRIVATE

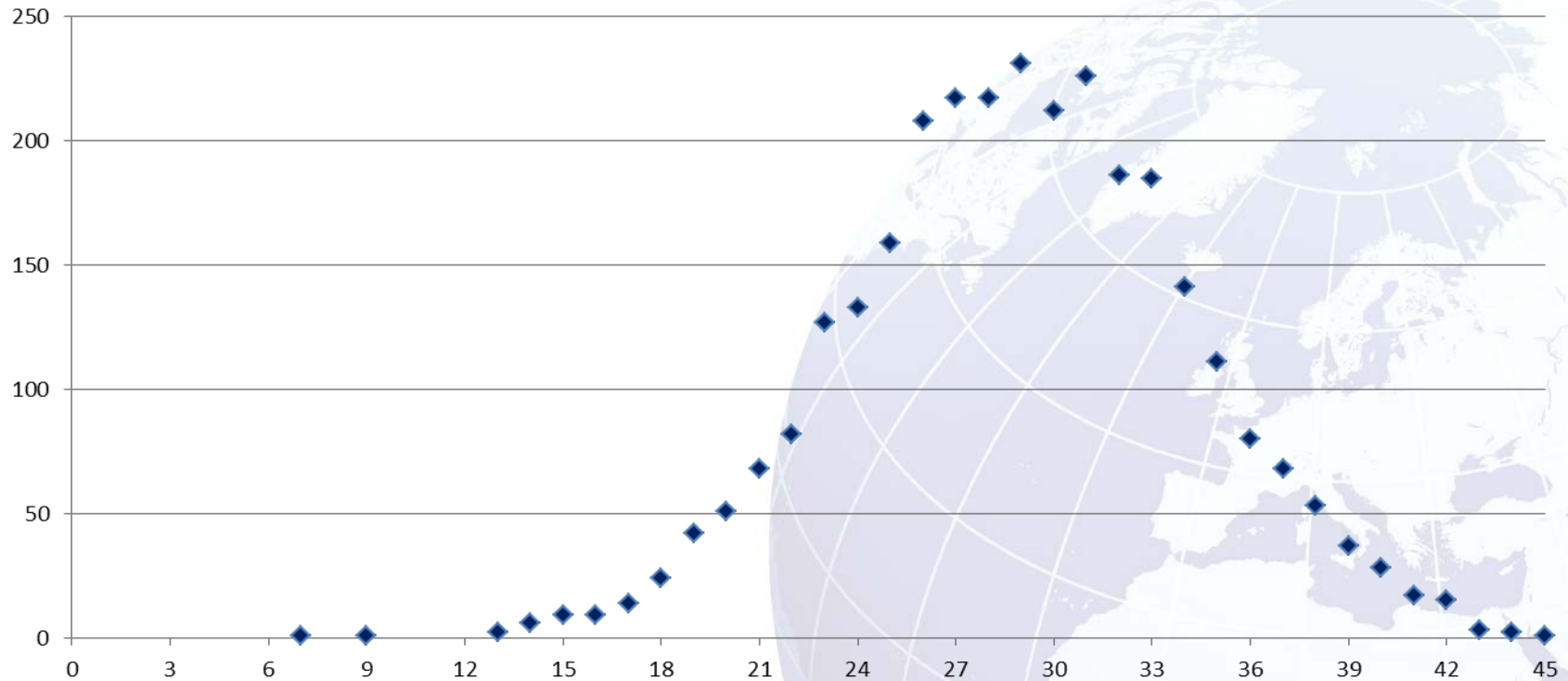
Section 1 - Demographics

Profile of respondents and schools

Distribution of IB scores among diploma candidate respondents*

www.i-graduate.org

Frequencies



*Including students who did not obtain the IB diploma

Mean IB score:	29
Median IB score:	29

IB score
 Base number: 2967

Section 1 - Demographics

Profile of respondents and schools

Number of respondents by state



Section 1 - Demographics

Profile of respondents and schools

Profile summary

www.i-graduate.org

- Most responses were received from high school students in Florida, followed by New York and California, then Texas and Maryland.
- 64% of the IB graduates participating in the US survey were female.
- 86% of all IB graduates participating in the US survey were IB diploma candidates.
- 91% of all IB graduates participating in the US survey were American citizens.
- The majority of all IB graduates participating in the US survey were White (56%), Asian (15%) or Hispanic (9%).
- 95% of all IB graduates participating in the US survey were from state schools.
- The average IB score among the survey participants is 29; the median score is 29.

Section 2

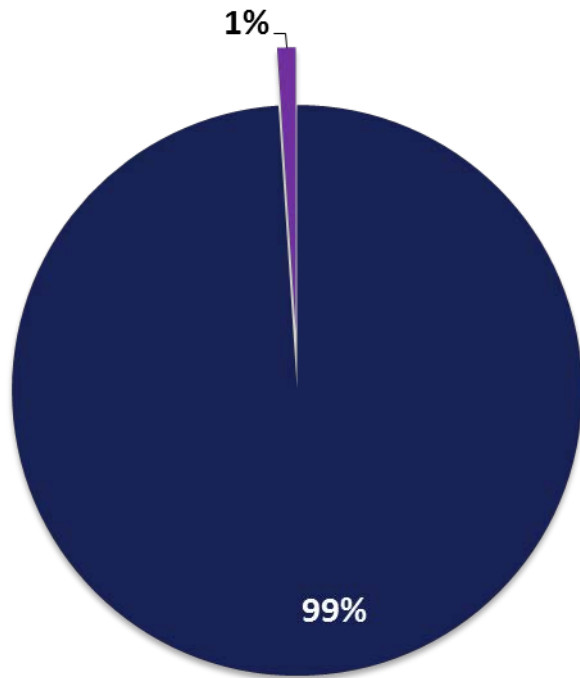
Destination of IB Diploma Programme graduates



Section 2

Destination of IB DP graduates

Have you decided to undertake further study at a university/college upon completion of your IB diploma/certificate?



■ Yes ■ No

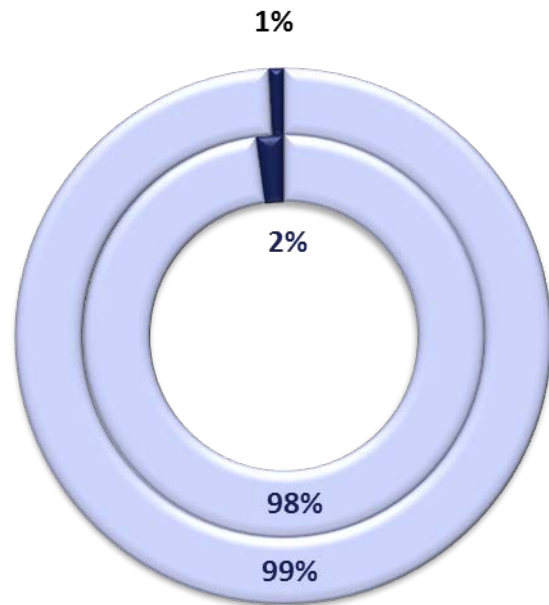
The majority of the survey respondents have decided to undertake further education:

99% of all respondents are planning to **undertake further study** at a university/college upon earning their IB diploma/certificate.

Only 1% of all respondents have **other plans** following their IB diploma/certificate.

Base number: 4007

Have you decided to undertake further study at a university/college upon completion of your IB diploma/certificate? – IB certificate (inner circle, 546) versus IB diploma (outer circle, 3461)



Yes No

If you do not wish to study at a university/college, what do you plan to do following your IB diploma/certificate?

Alternative to Higher Education	Count
Military service (9)	9
Defer university/college for next year (9)	9
Travel/time off for more than three months (3)	3
Study towards an alternative educational option (3)	3
Voluntary work/other unpaid work (2)	2
Other (6)	6
Undecided (6)	6

- The most **popular alternative** to higher education among IB diploma candidates was **deferring university/college** (taking a gap-year), whereas IB certificate candidates tended to go into **military service** (44%).
- Note: low base numbers

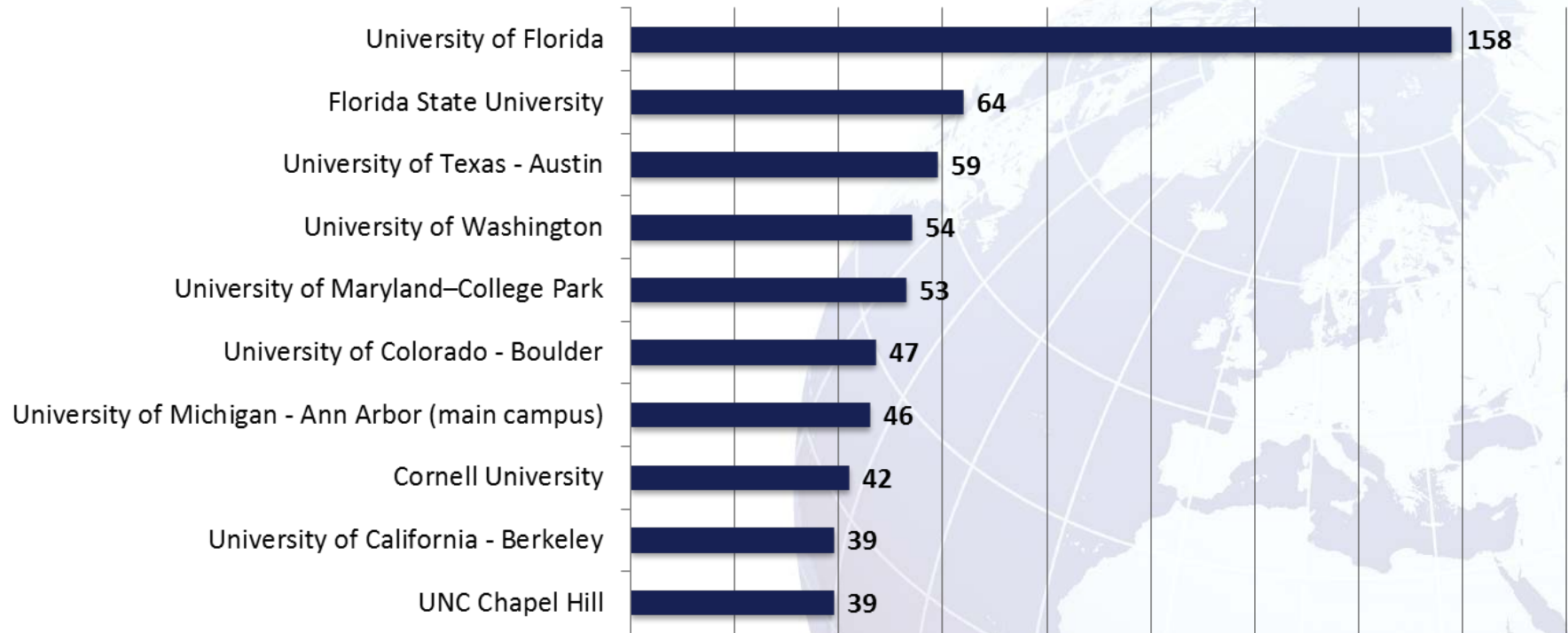
Section 3

Entry requirements and application process



Entry requirements and application process

Top 10 universities survey respondents will be attending:



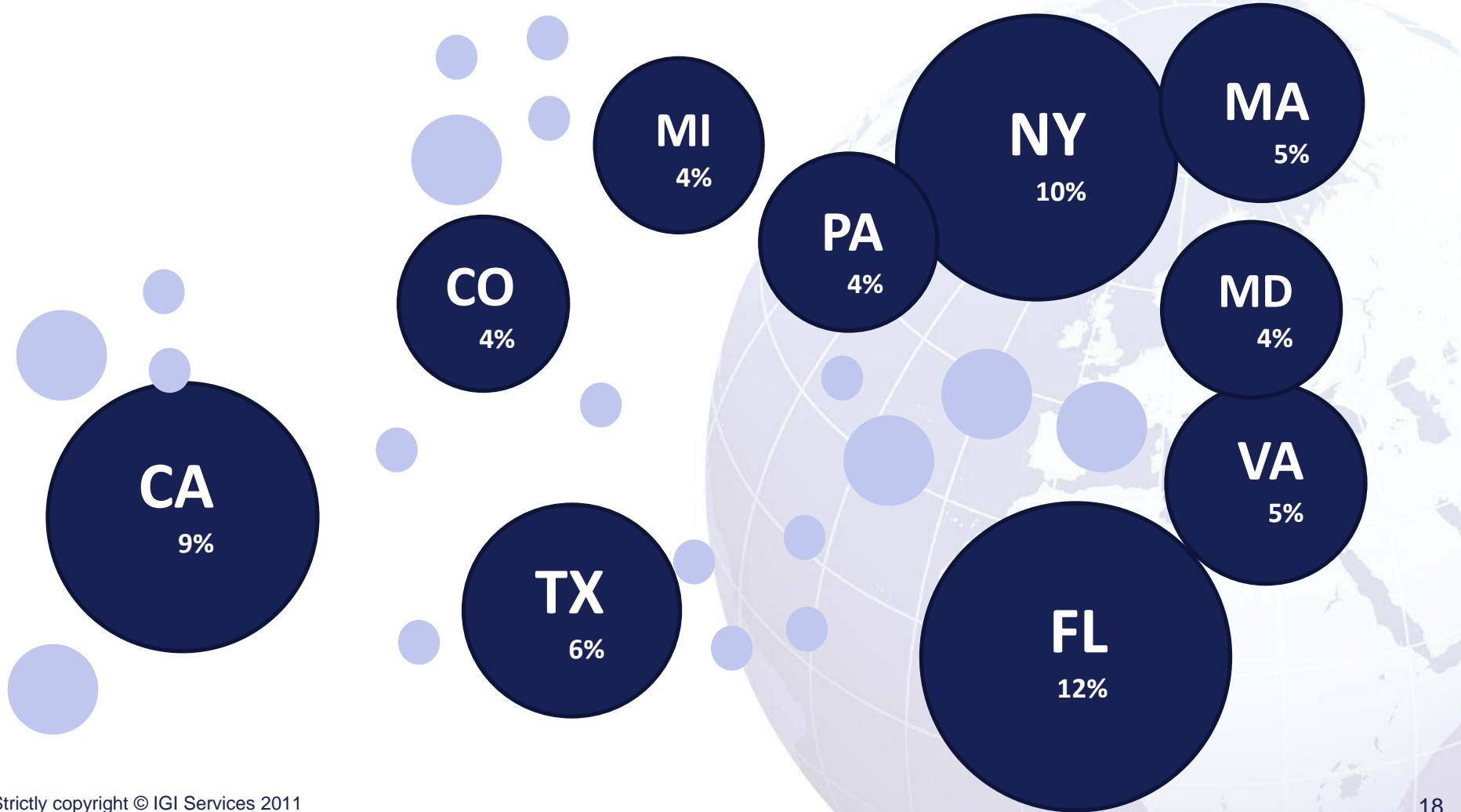
A total of 158 graduates among those who participated in the survey will be attending the University of Florida and 64 IB graduates will enroll in Florida State University. 59 graduates will be studying at the University of Texas – Austin.

Base number: 3686

Entry requirements and application process

www.i-graduate.org

University/college attending by survey respondents (by state) TOP 10:



Entry requirements and application process

Acceptance rates for the 20 most popular institutions among survey respondents

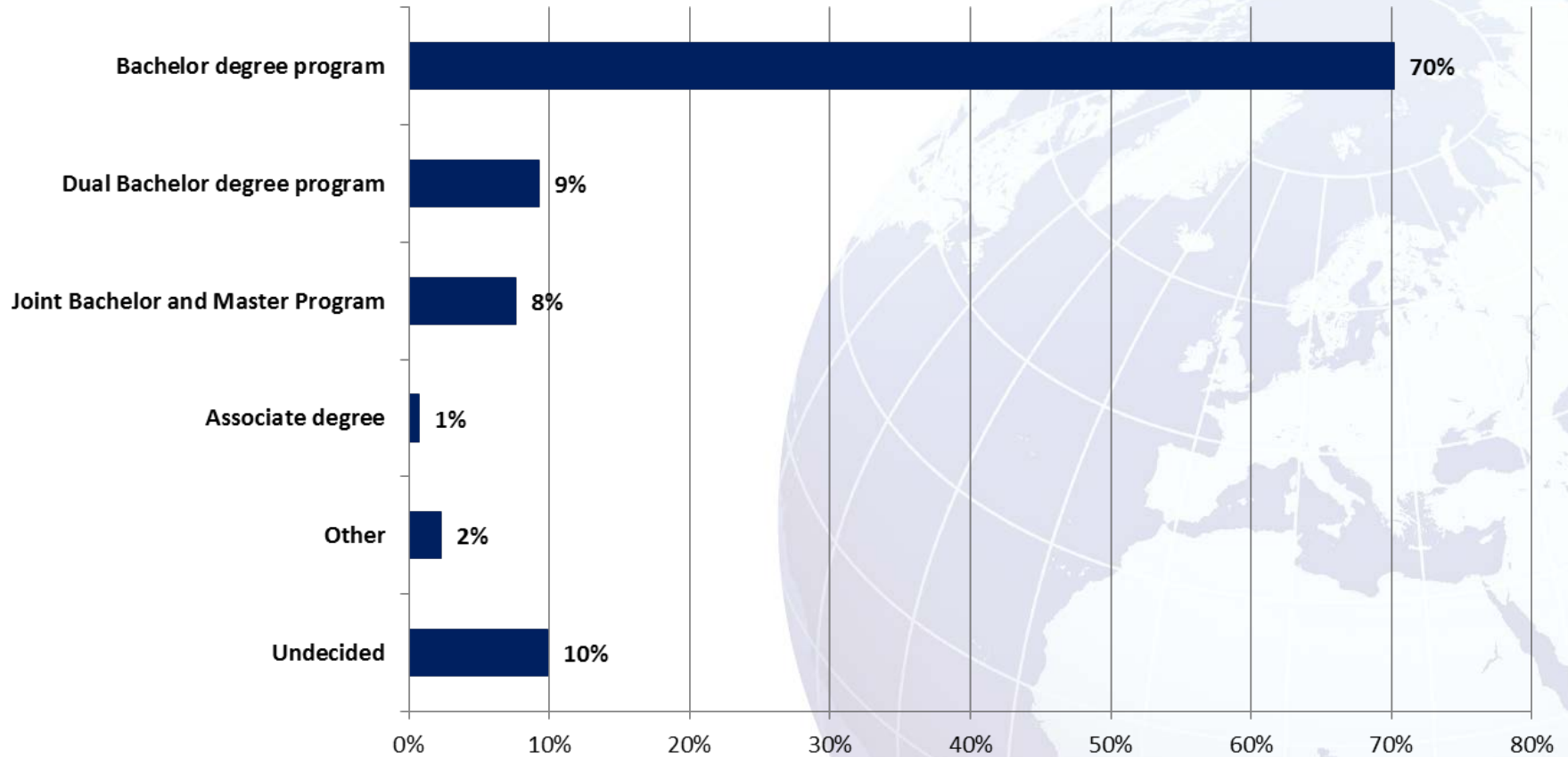
www.i-graduate.org

University or college	IB candidates acceptance rate	Total population acceptance rate	IB candidates versus total population (percentage points)
University of Florida	82%	42%	+40%
Florida State University	92%	60%	+32%
Brown University	18%	9%	+9%
Stanford University	15%	7%	+8%
Columbia University	13%	9%	+4%
University of California - Berkeley	58%	26%	+32%
Harvard University	10%	7%	+3%
New York University	57%	30%	+27%
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor	71%	51%	+20%
University of Miami	72%	30%	+42%
Cornell University	31%	18%	+13%
Duke University	28%	16%	+12%
University of Pennsylvania	24%	14%	+10%
Yale University	18%	7%	+11%
University of Central Florida	90%	47%	+43%
Boston University	70%	58%	+12%
University of California - Los Angeles	48%	23%	+25%
University of Virginia	64%	32%	+32%
UNC Chapel Hill	63%	32%	+31%
Princeton University	16%	8%	+8%

Entry requirements and application process

www.i-graduate.org

Which type of degree are you planning to undertake?



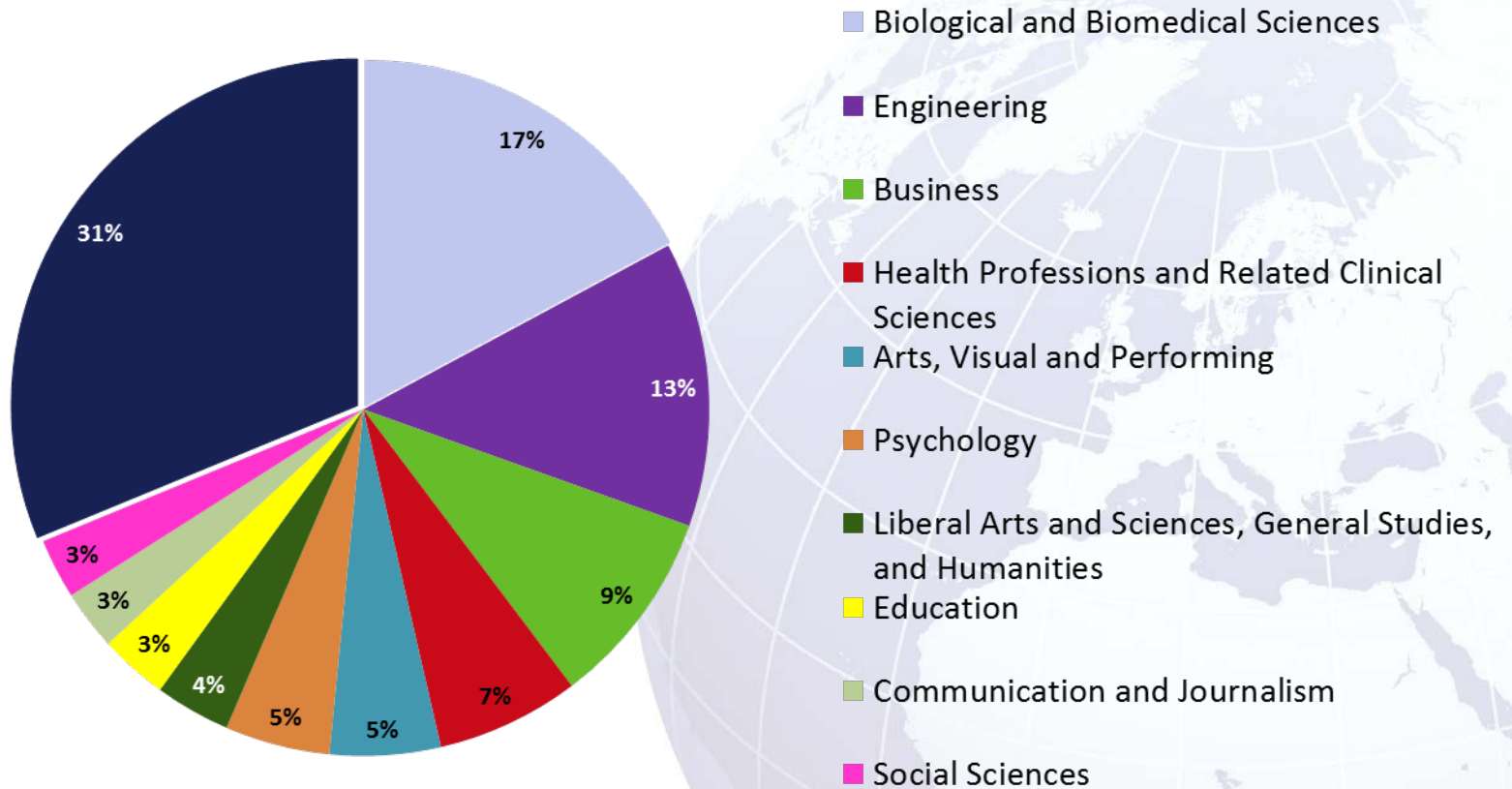
Base number: 3738

More than 90% of the respondents are undertaking at least one **Bachelor's degree**.

Entry requirements and application process

Intended Major for university/college attending www.i-graduate.org

Top 10 majors and other



Base number: 3287

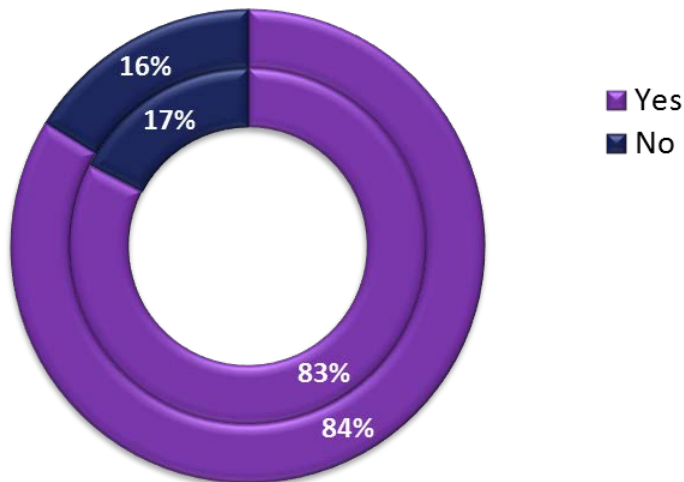
Entry requirements and application process

www.i-graduate.org

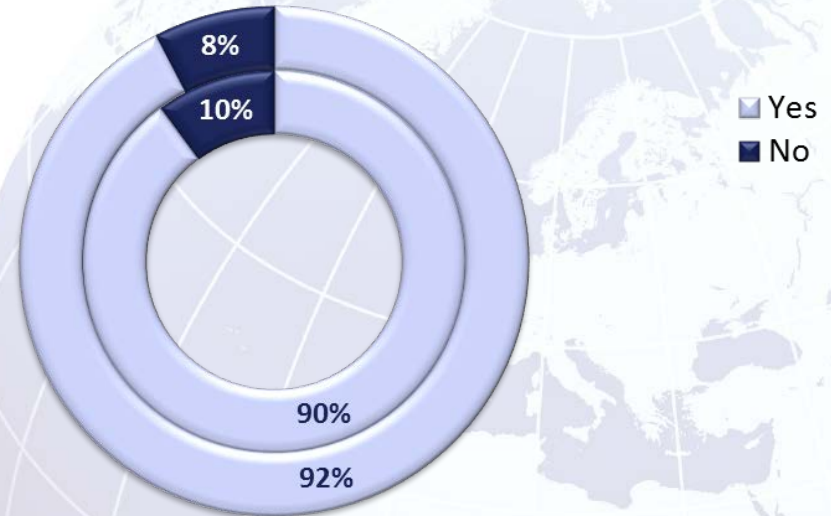
- The **average acceptance rate of IB students** into university/college is **22 percentage points higher** than the average acceptance rate of the total population.
- The acceptance rate of IB students into **Ivy League** institutions (Princeton, Yale, Brown, Harvard, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, University of Pennsylvania) is **between 3 and 13 percentage points higher** compared to the total population acceptance rate.
- **Biological and biomedical sciences** is the most likely intended major chosen by IB graduates followed by **engineering** and **business studies** – while in the top 10 of most popular college majors business studies is number one, followed by psychology and nursing. Biological and biomedical sciences is number four and engineering is not in the top 10 list (<http://www.collegecrunch.org/best-of/top-10-most-popular-college-majors/>).
- See Appendix B for the full list of universities where IB Diploma Programme survey respondents applied to.

Entry requirements and application process

Is the university/college you will be attending your top choice? – IB certificate (inner circle, N=494) versus IB diploma (outer circle, N=3252)



Is the program/course that you will be undertaking at this university/college your first choice? – IB certificate (inner circle, N=494) versus IB diploma (outer circle, N=3237)

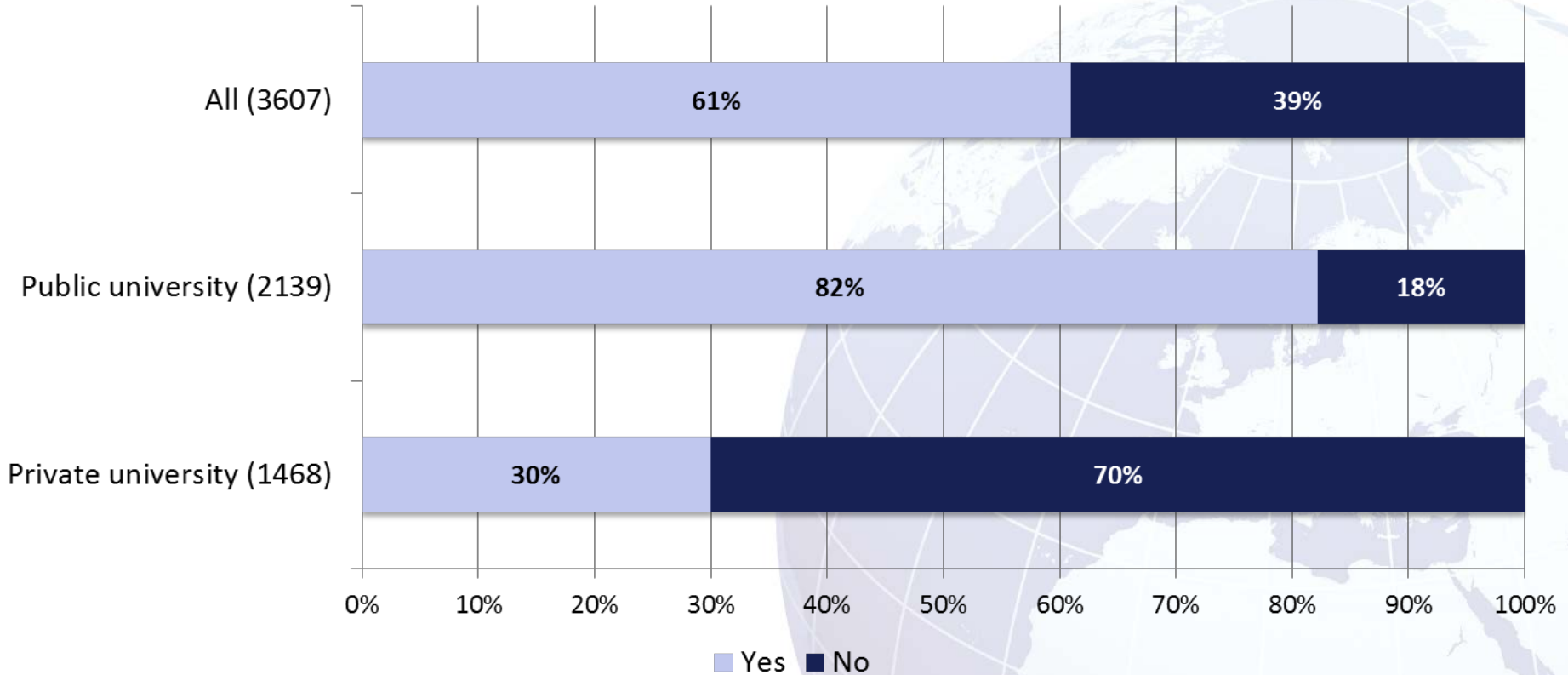


- 84% of IB diploma candidate respondents (83% of IB certificate candidate respondents) will be attending a higher education institution of their top choice.
- 92% of IB diploma candidate respondents (90% of IB certificate candidate respondents) will undertake their first choice program/course at university/college.

Entry requirements and application process

www.i-graduate.org

Is the university/college you will be attending in the same state as your school?

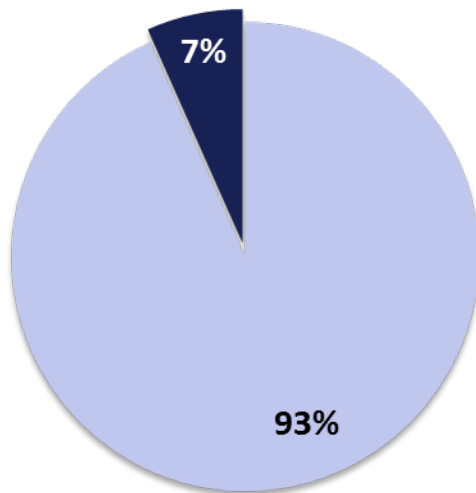


- 82% of the respondents who are attending public universities will stay in the state they went to high school.
- 70% of the respondents who are attending private universities will be leaving their state.

Entry requirements and application process

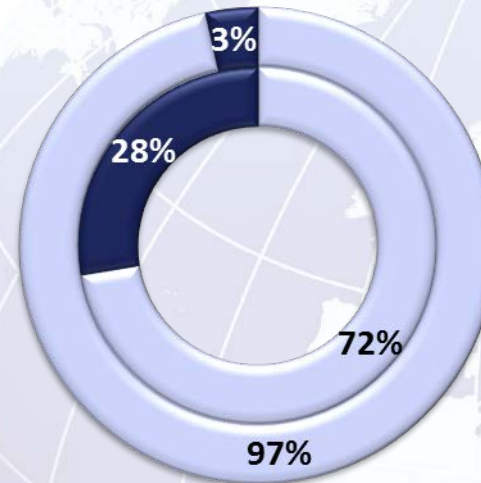
www.i-graduate.org

Did you include your participation in the IB Diploma Programme as a part of your application to university/college (3757)?



■ Yes ■ No

Did you include your participation in the IB Diploma Programme as a part of your application to university/college? – IB certificate (inner circle, 496) versus IB diploma (outer circle, 3261)



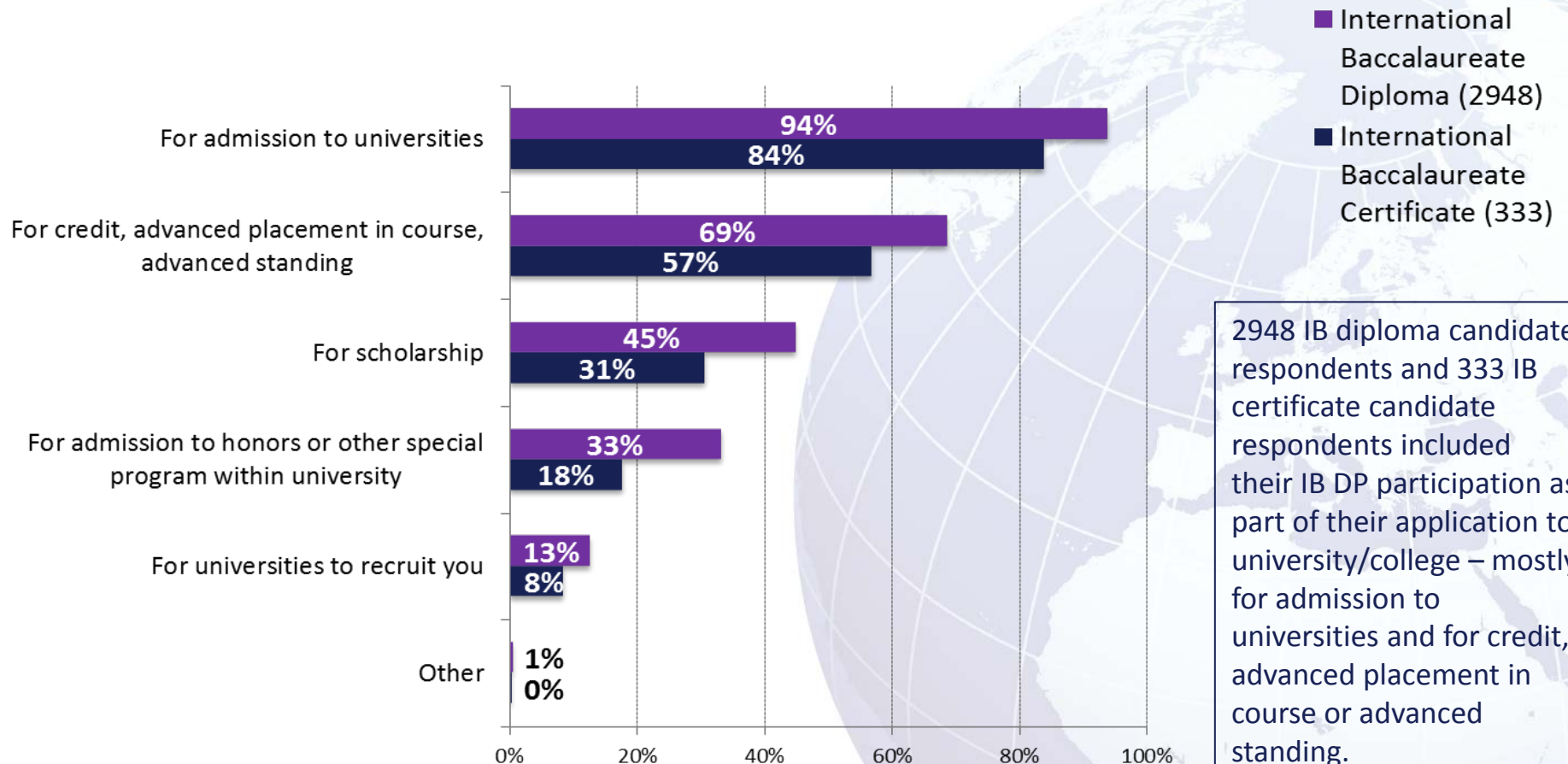
■ Yes ■ No

The **vast majority** of all students, who participated in the survey, **included their participation in the IB Diploma Programme as a part of their application** to university/college.

Entry requirements and application process

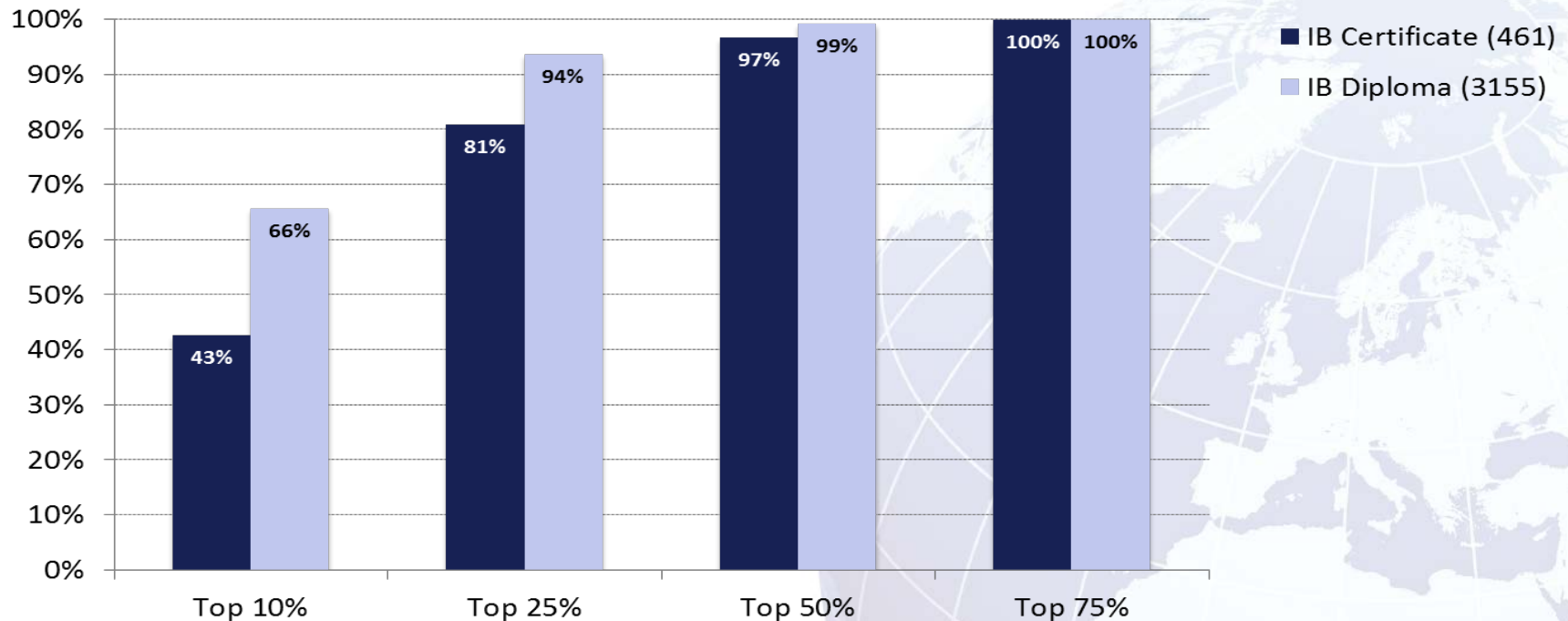
www.i-graduate.org

How did you use your participation in the IB Diploma programme as part of your application?



Entry requirements and application process

What was your class rank position in your graduating class?



- More than 50% of IB diploma candidate respondents consider themselves to be among the top 10% in their graduating class.
- Almost all IB diploma (99%) and certificate candidate respondents (97%) are among the top 50% of their graduating classes (including both IB and non-IB candidates).

Entry requirements and application process

www.i-graduate.org

List of AP exams taken by respondents and median scores

Subject	Median score	Number of IB students*
US History	4	725
English Language (and Composition)	4	554
European History	3	429
World History	3	419
English Literature (and Composition)	3	331
Government and (comparative) Politics	4	327
Calculus AB	4	221
Spanish	5	190
Biology	4	159
Psychology	4	150
Calculus BC	5	139
Chemistry	4	131

*Minimum base number 130

List of SAT subject exams and median scores

Subject	Median score	Number of IB students*
Mathematics (I/II)	710	893
English Literature	700	406
Biology	690	367
American History	700	327
Chemistry	700	229
Physics	710	208
Spanish	710	166

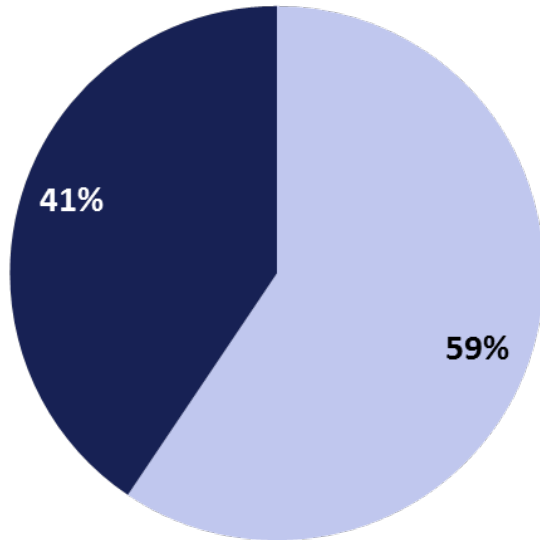
*number of students who gave usable scores

Entry requirements and application process

Advanced placement (AP) exams

www.i-graduate.org

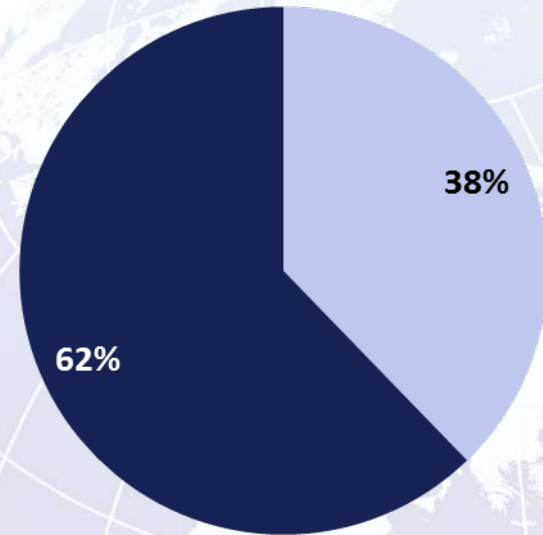
Prior to this year, did you take any AP exams?



■ Yes ■ No

Base number: 3288

Will you be taking any AP exams this year?



■ Yes ■ No

Base number: 3271

More than half of the survey population took AP exams prior to their final year – compared to 38% who will be taking AP exams in their final year.

Entry requirements and application process

SAT and ACT results broken down for IB diploma and certificate candidate respondents

www.i-graduate.org

Test	National average score	IB diploma candidate respondents	Base number	IB certificate candidate respondents	Base number
SAT*	1,500	1,953	2,150	1,794	237
<i>Maths</i>	514	654	2,172	603	243
<i>Verbal</i>	497	649	2,162	597	240
<i>Writing</i>	489	649	2,161	595	240
ACT**	21	29	1,190	26	146
<i>English</i>	21	29	1,190	26	146
<i>Maths</i>	21	29	1,184	26	146
<i>Reading</i>	21	30	1,181	27	145
<i>Science</i>	21	28	1,177	25	144

- The **average score** (rounded) for both the **SATs** and the **ACTs** is **highest among IB diploma candidate respondents** in every subject.
- The average **SAT score is 453 points above the national average for IB diploma candidate respondents and 294 points above the national averages for IB certificate candidate respondents.**
- The average ACT score of IB diploma candidate and IB certificate candidate respondents is higher in all four subjects of the ACTs compared to the national average.

Entry requirements and application process

www.i-graduate.org

- **93% of all respondents included their participation in the IB Diploma Programme as part of their application.**
- **32% of all respondents** (34% of IB diploma candidates and 22% of IB certificate candidates) **have received a special award** or other distinctions.
- **61% of all respondents** (62% of IB diploma candidates and 56% of IB certificate candidates) **have received a scholarship.**
- For a full list of awards, distinctions and scholarships received by IB Diploma Programme survey respondents, please see Appendix C.

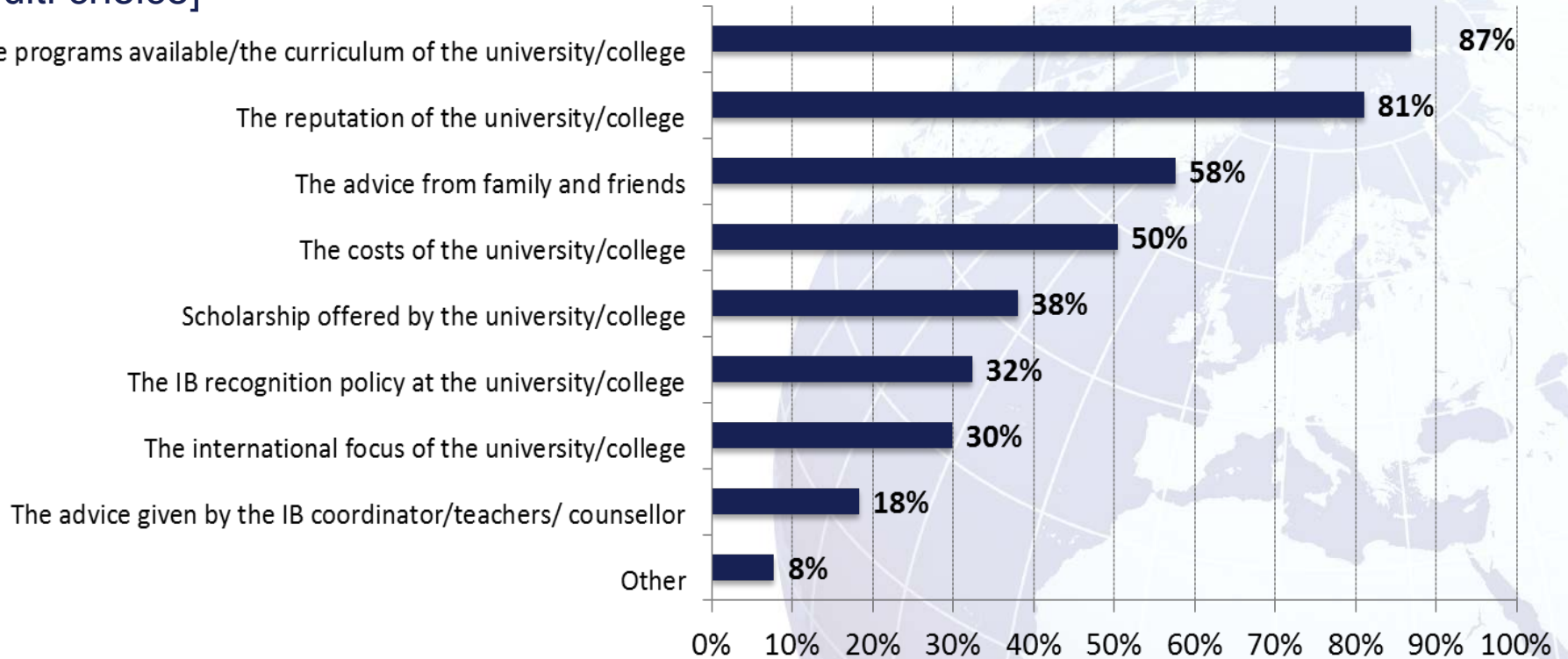
Section 4

Decision making and interests



Decision making and interests

Which of the following helped your decision to APPLY to the institution you did?
 [multi choice]



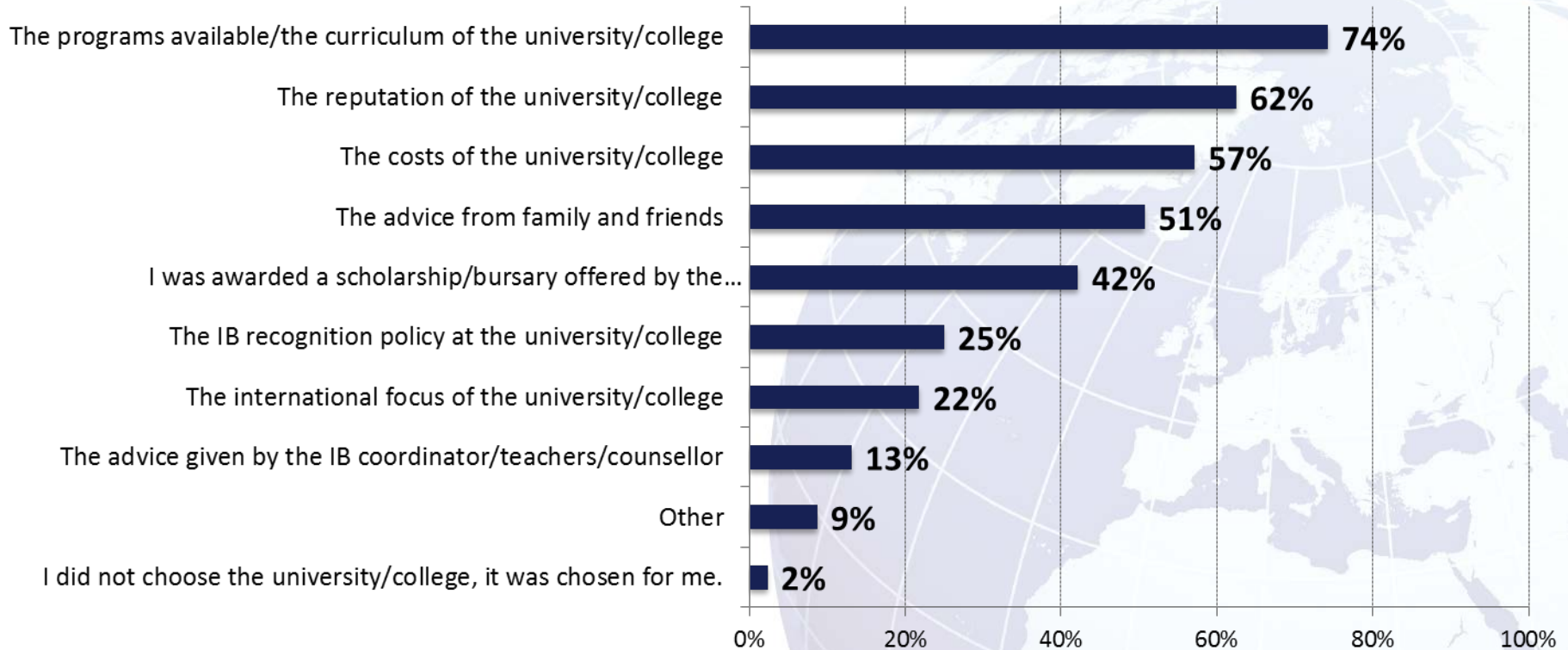
The vast majority of respondents state that the **programs available** (87%) and the **reputation** of the higher education Institution (81%) are the main reasons for their application.

Base number: 3331

Section 4

Decision making and interests

Which of the following helped your FINAL DECISION to ATTEND an institution? [multi choice]

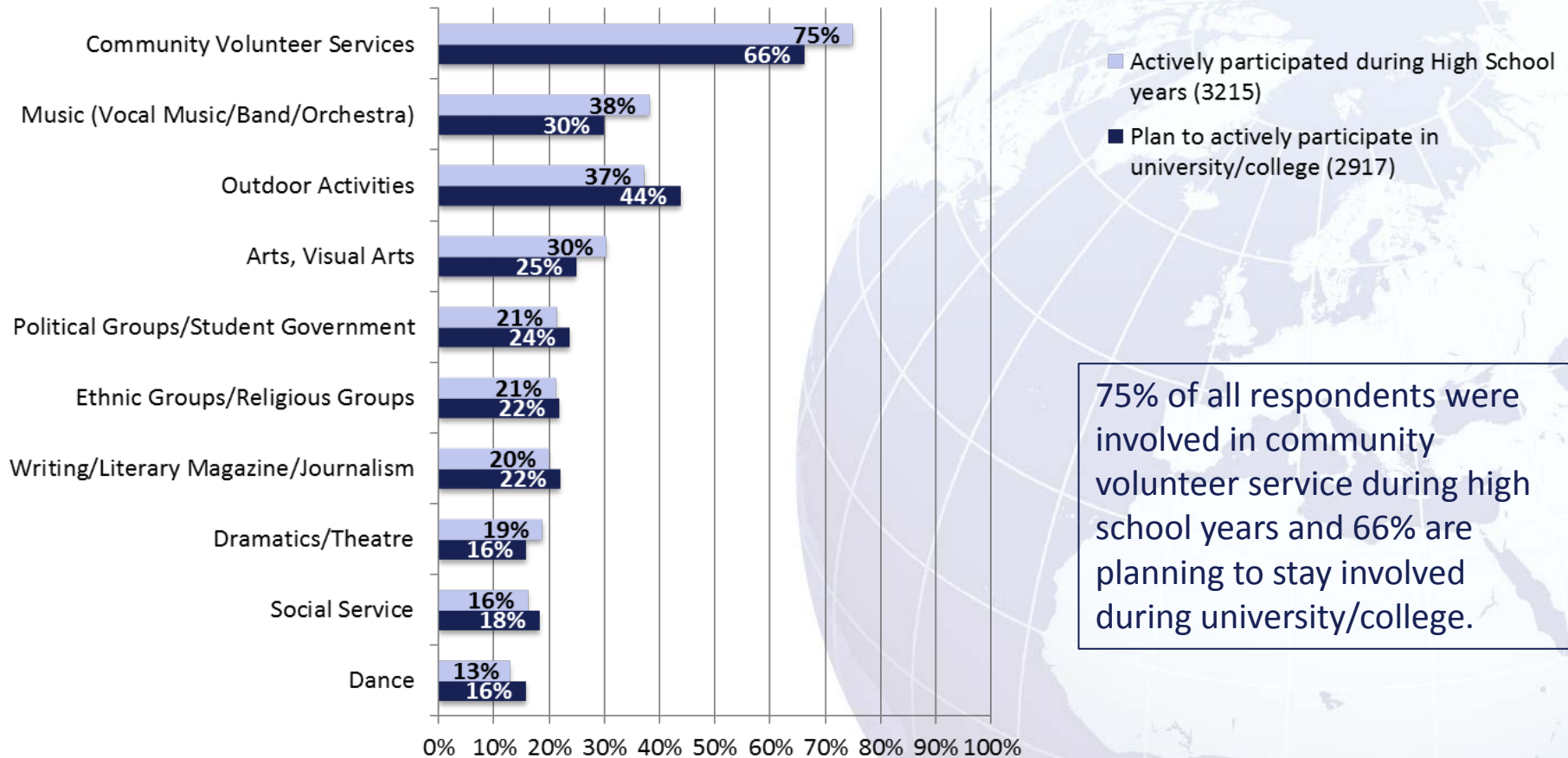


In order to make a final decision, students consider the **programs available** (74%) and the **reputation** of the university (62%) to be the most important factors.

Base number: 3311

Decision making and interests

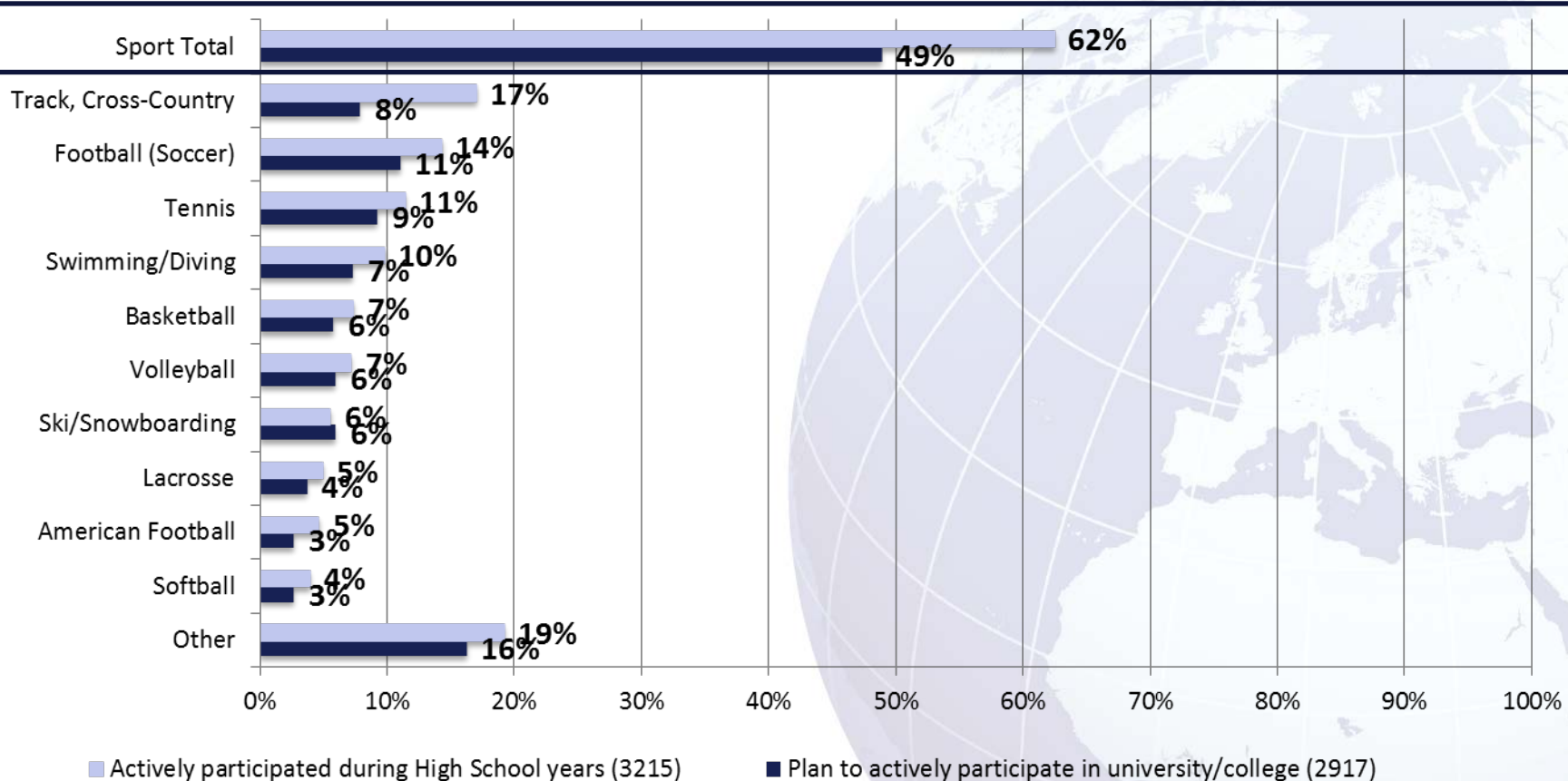
In which extra-curricular activities did you take part at your school beyond your IB Diploma Programme and in which activities do you plan to participate during your studies?



75% of all respondents were involved in community volunteer service during high school years and 66% are planning to stay involved during university/college.

Decision making and interests

In which extra-curricular sports did you take part at your school beyond your IB Diploma Programme and in which sports do you plan to participate during your studies?



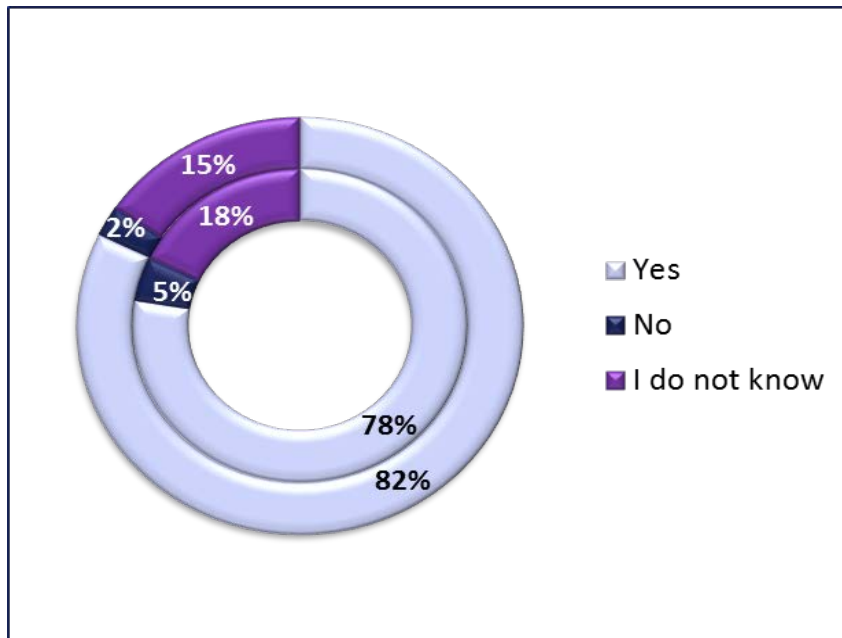
Decision making and interests

Community service and other volunteer service

www.i-graduate.org

Do you intend to be involved and stay active in community service or perform volunteer service during your studies at university/college?

IB certificate (inner circle, N=410) versus IB diploma (outer circle, N=2890)



82% of IB diploma candidate respondents and 78% of IB certificate candidate respondents were intending to be involved in community service or volunteer work while at university/college.

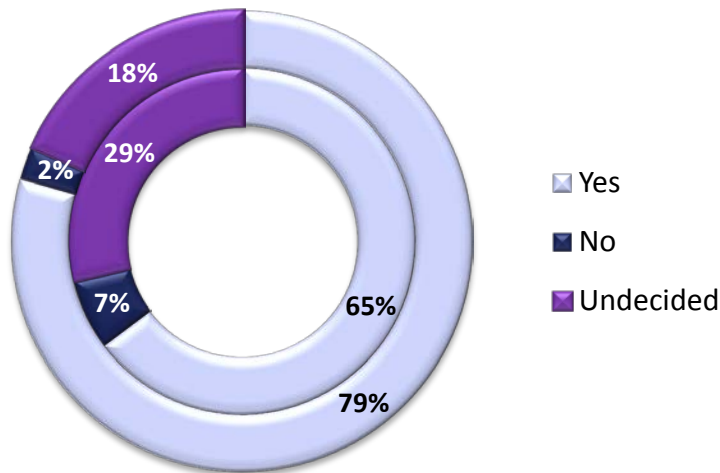
Only 2% and 5% respectively do not plan on being involved in either community service or other volunteer work.

Decision making and interests

www.i-graduate.org

Do you intend to pursue education beyond undergraduate degree (e.g. Masters degree, Doctorate degree, etc)?

IB certificate (inner circle, N=411) versus IB diploma (outer circle, N=2895)



79% of IB diploma candidate respondents and 65% of IB certificate candidate respondents are planning to pursue education beyond their undergraduate degree.

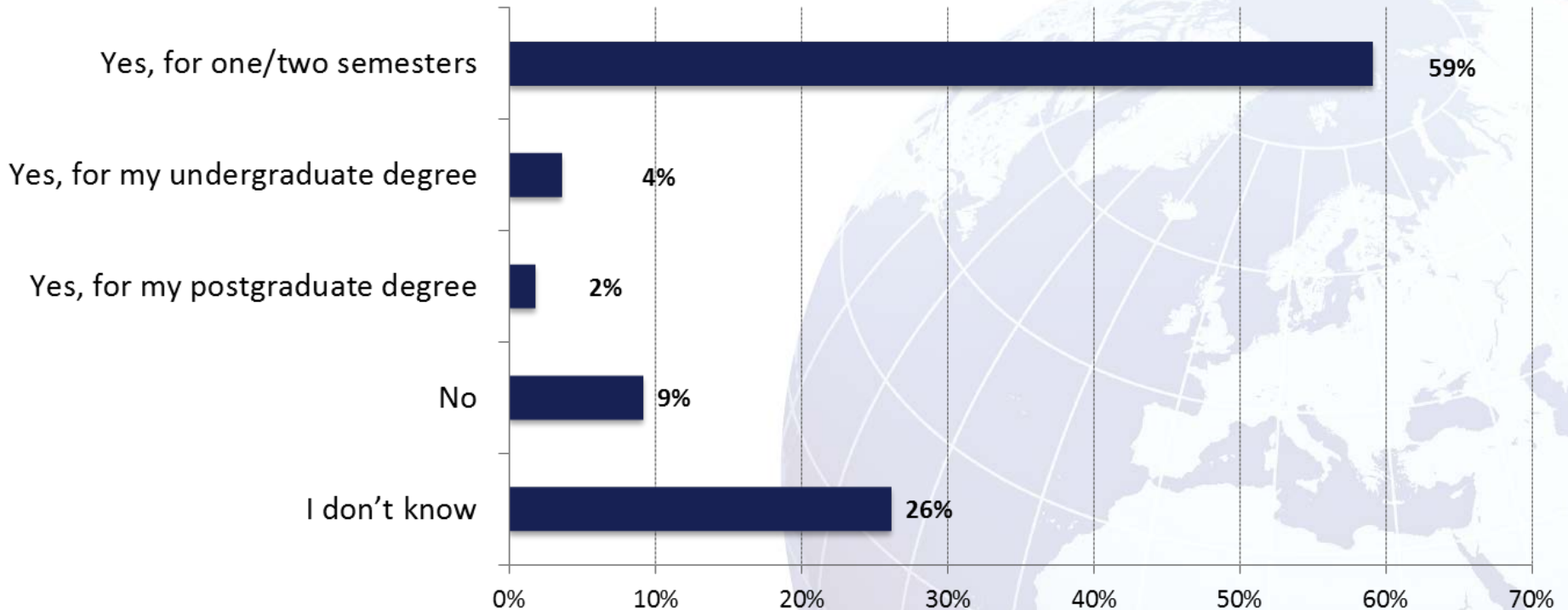
Only 2% (diploma candidate respondents) and 7% (certificate candidate respondents), respectively, are not intending to undertake further studies after their first degree.

Section 5

Mobility



Do you intend to study abroad?

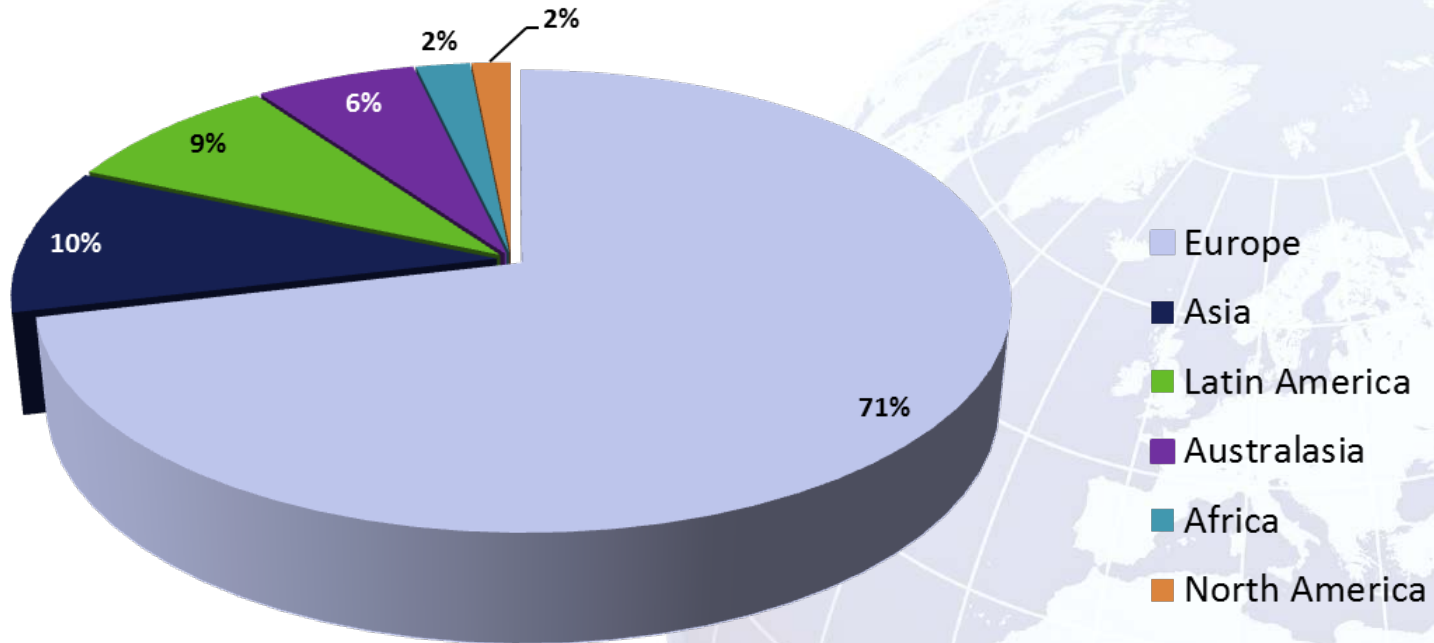


65% of all respondents are considering study abroad.
The vast majority of these are planning to spend one or two semesters abroad.

Base number: 3326

Section 5 Mobility

If you intend to study abroad, where will you most probably study?

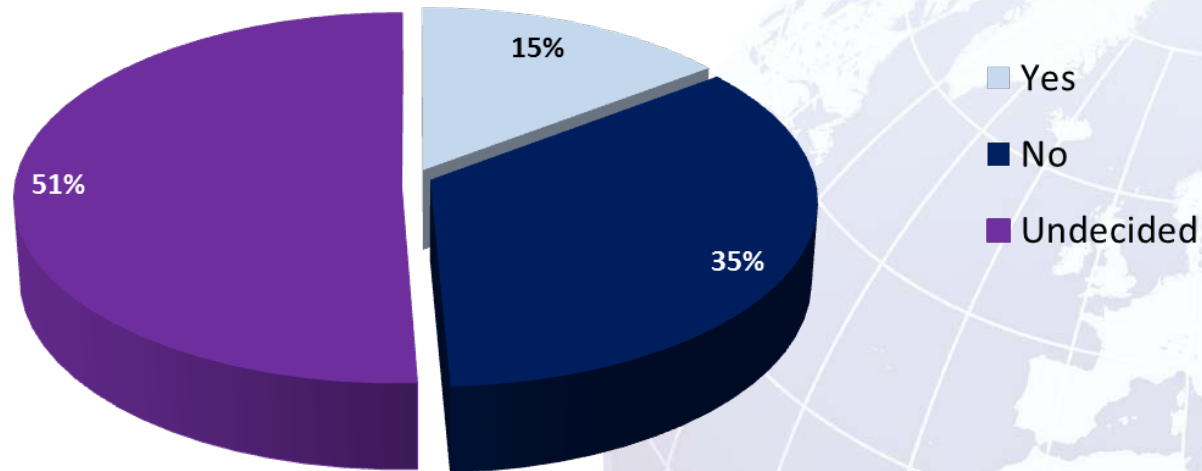


For US respondents, the preferred destination for studying abroad is Europe.

Base number: 2880

Section 5 Mobility

Do you intend to pursue a career in another country after you complete all your studies?



Base number: 3309

Even though 65% of all respondents intend to study abroad, only 15% want to pursue a career in another country. 51% answer the question as “undecided” whereas 35% are not interested in a career outside the US at this stage of their lives.

Section 6

Learning experience and recommendation

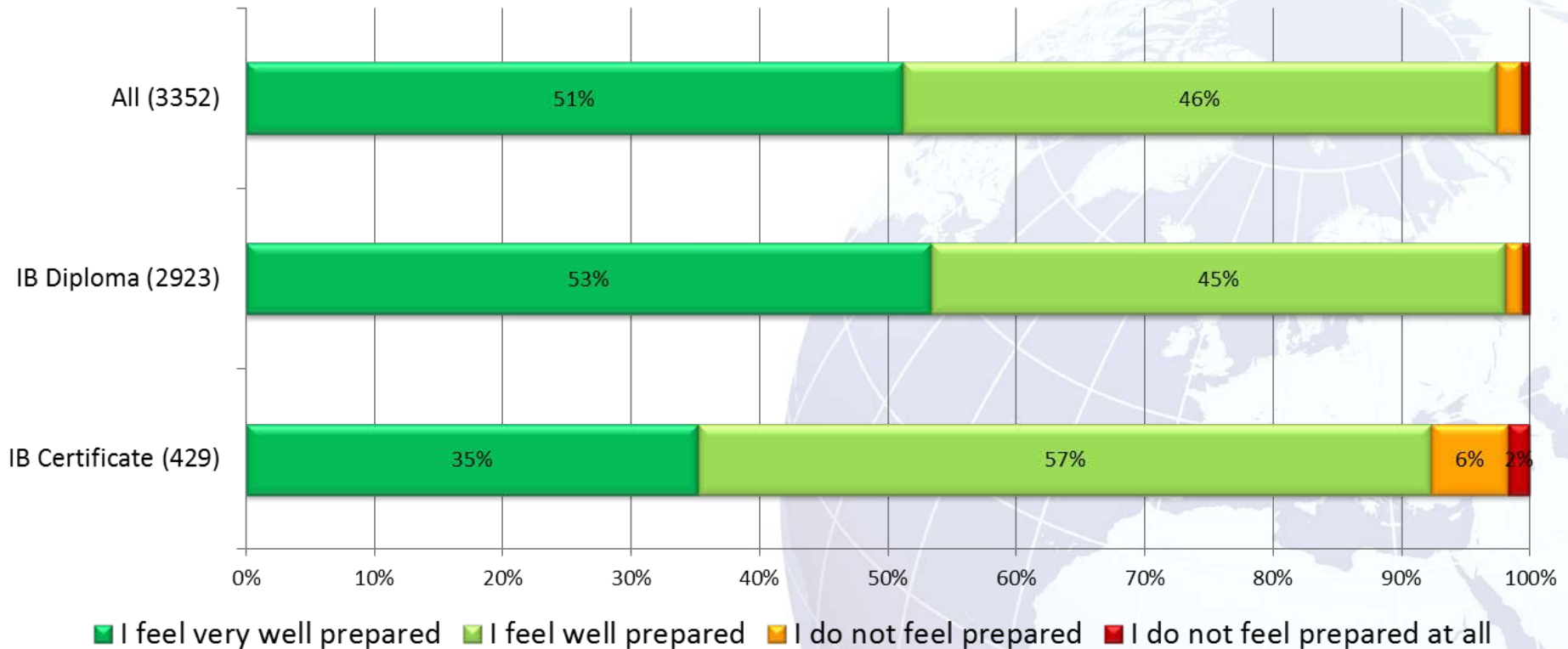


Section 6

Learning experience

Preparation

Do you think the IB Diploma Programme has prepared you well for your future studies?



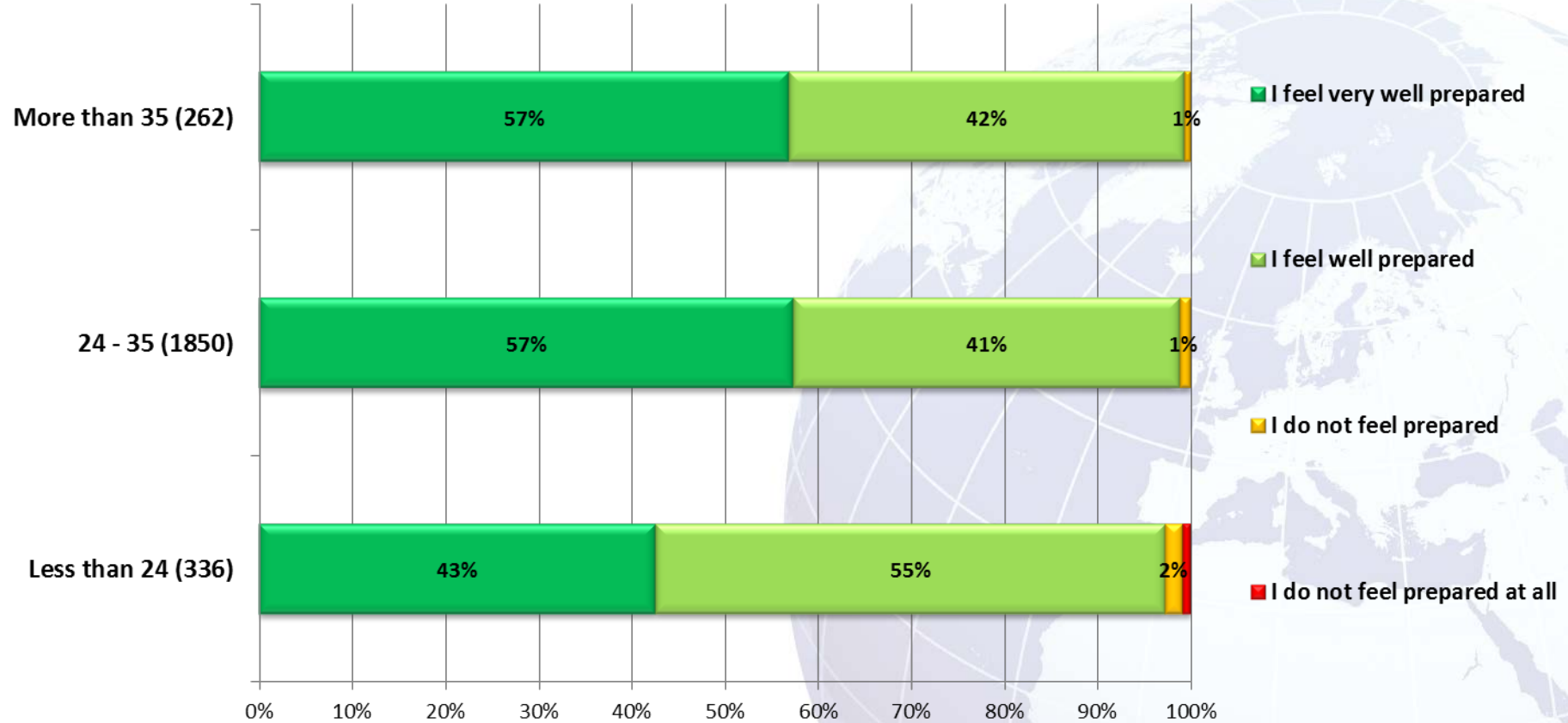
97% of all students that took part in the survey feel either very well or well prepared for their future studies (98% of IB diploma candidates and 92% of IB certificate candidates).

Section 6

Learning experience

Preparation

Do you think the IB Diploma Programme has prepared you well for your studies?



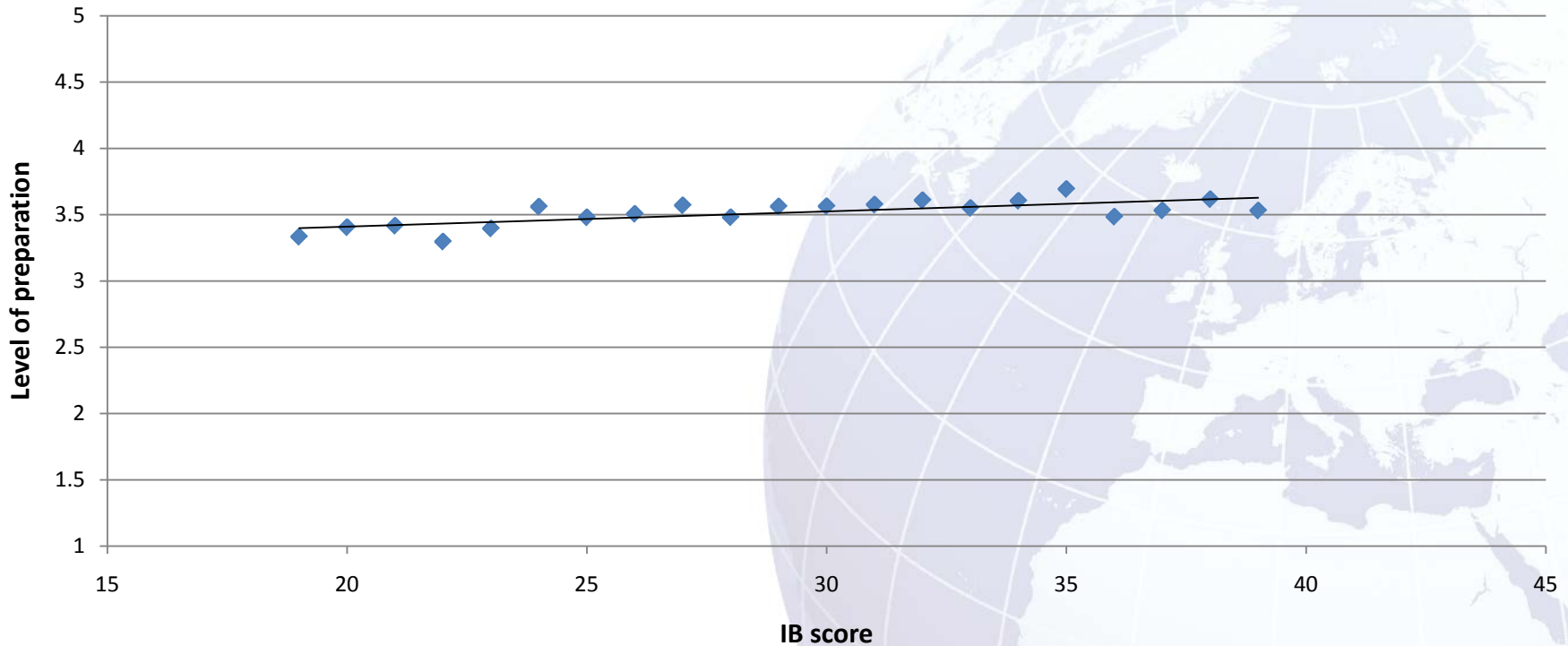
99% of IB diploma candidate respondents with an IB score higher than 35 feel either very well or well prepared for their future studies. 98% of IB diploma candidate respondents with an IB score less than 24.

Section 6

Learning experience

Preparation

Average level of preparation versus diploma score
(1 = not at all prepared, 2 = not prepared, 3 = well prepared, 4 = very well prepared)
Minimum base is 30



There is a slight positive correlation between the perceived level of preparation and the achieved IB score.

Section 6

Learning experience

Summary

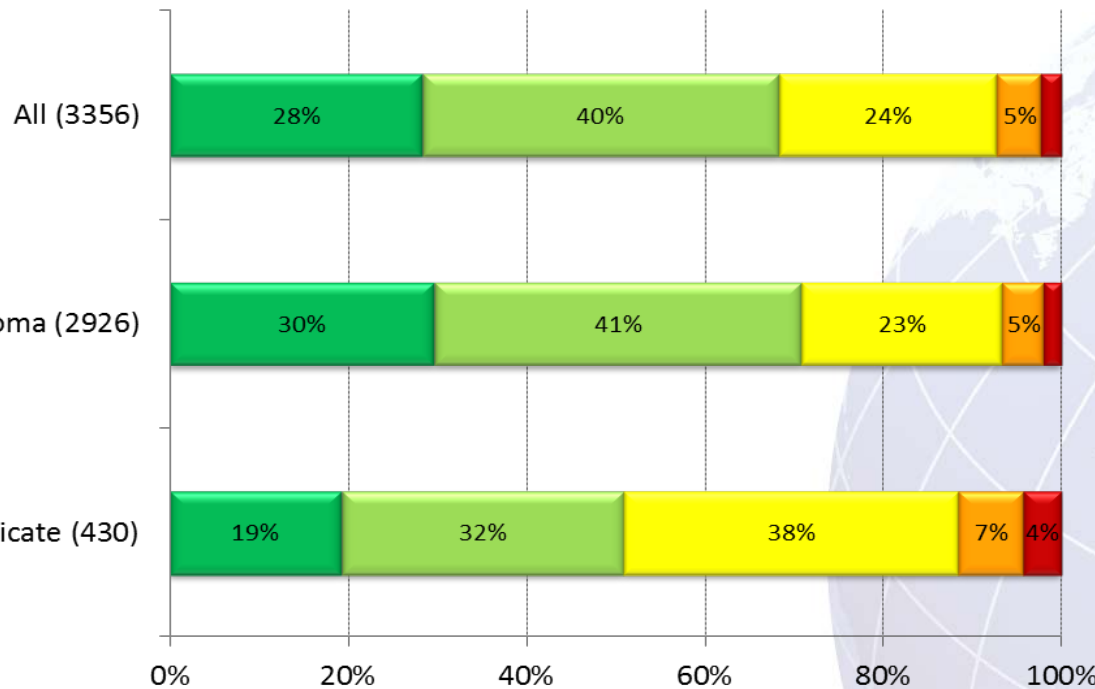
- **97% of all students that took part in the survey feel either very well prepared or well prepared** for their future studies (98% of IB diploma candidates and 92% of IB certificate candidates).
- 99% of all diploma candidate respondents with an IB score higher than 24 feel either very well prepared or well prepared for their future studies.
- 98% of all survey respondents with an IB score lower than 24 feel either very well prepared or well prepared for their future studies.
- There is a slight positive correlation between the perceived **level of preparation and the achieved IB scores**. Respondents with a lower IB score **feel as well prepared for their future studies** as respondents with a higher IB score.

Section 6

Recommendation

Based on your experiences, would you recommend undertaking the IB Diploma Programme to other students?

- I would actively encourage people to undertake the IB Diploma
- If asked, I would encourage people to undertake the IB Diploma
- I would neither encourage nor discourage people to undertake the IB Diploma
- If asked, I would discourage people from undertaking the IB Diploma
- I would actively discourage people from undertaking the IB Diploma

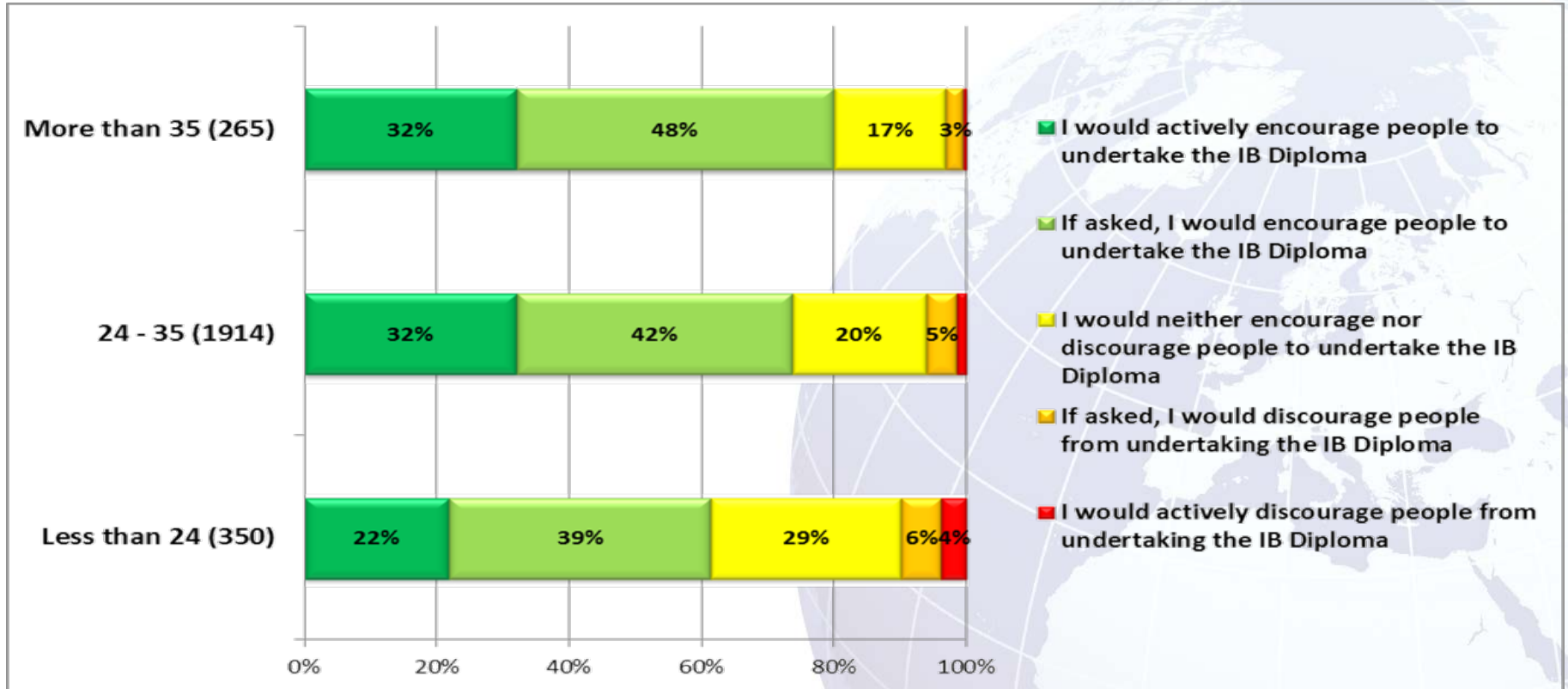


- If asked, 68% of all respondents would either actively encourage or encourage others to undertake the IB Diploma Programme.
- Less than 1% of all IB diploma candidate respondents would actively discourage others to undertake the IB Diploma Programme.

Section 6

Recommendation

Based on your experiences, would you recommend undertaking the IB Diploma Programme to other students?

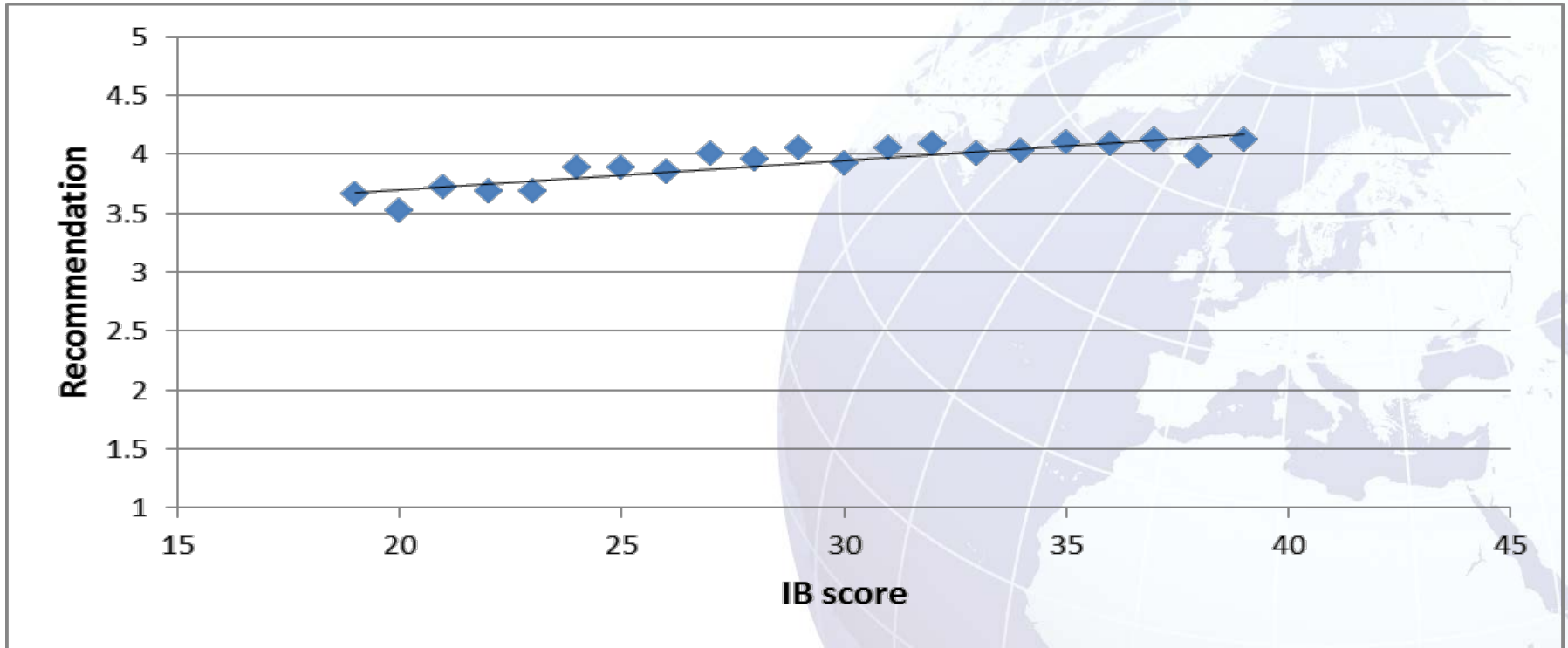


80% of IB diploma candidate respondents with an IB score of higher than 35 would actively encourage others to undertake the IB Diploma Programme.

Section 6

Recommendation

Average level of recommendation versus IB score
(1 = actively discourage, 2 = discourage, 3 = neither encourage nor discourage, 4 = encourage, 5 = actively encourage)
Minimum base is 30



There is a slight positive correlation between the IB score and the likelihood to recommend the IB Diploma Programme to others.

Section 6

Recommendation

Open comments

www.i-graduate.org

"I believe it makes a[n] individual a student who is globally aware as well as just educated."

"It is a great preparatory program, and the level of education and rigor offered by the program far surpasses that of standard high school classes."

"the assignments required help for future experience"

"I think that it's important to take the most difficult curriculum possible. Colleges really look at that. Central's IB program definitely offers a challenge, but it's definitely manageable. If you don't already have time management skills, you will develop them in this program or you will not succeed. I love the environment that this program has to offer. It really motivates you to strive for your best."

"It prepares you very well for college and it gives a person a sense of responsibility, and growth. The knowledge gained from being in the IB program has increased dramatically."

"It provides a challenge to prepare you for college."

"The methodology of learning the IB inspires will be with me forever."

The main tenor of the open comments:
challenging, preparing, inspiring, motivating

Section 6

Recommendation

Open comments

www.i-graduate.org

"Makes you work hard"

"it is hard but actually pretty fun.. mutual classes made small social networks.. challenging classes."

"[..]it challenges people and it allows them to unlock their true potential."

"It helps increase one's capacity for retention of learned knowledge. It builds practical and logical thinking skills. It offers a global focus, allowing one to learn different perspectives."

"Although the IB program is a tough and rigorous program, I would definitely recommend it to others because of the strong work ethic that it teaches one as well as the desire and love for learning that it creates within each of the students. It is challenging, but that is what makes it so great!"

"Great way to develop skills for analyzing stories and information - Intriguing selection of books to read"

"It gives you the opportunity to understand subjects on an international level which is vital in the current world."

"Improves writing skills, emphasis on critical thinking and not fact memorization"

The main tenor of the open comments:
broad, rigorous, logical, critical

Section 6

Recommendation

Summary

www.i-graduate.org

- If asked, 68% of all respondents would either “actively encourage” or “encourage if asked” others to undertake the IB Diploma Programme.
- Less than 1% of all IB diploma candidate respondents would actively discourage others to undertake the IB Diploma Programme.
- Only 4% of all IB certificate candidate respondents in the survey would actively discourage others to undertake the IB Diploma Programme.
- 80% of diploma candidate respondents with an IB score higher than 35 would either “actively encourage” or “encourage if asked” others to undertake the IB Diploma Programme.
- 61% of diploma candidate respondents with an IB score under 24 would either “actively encourage” or “encourage if asked” others to undertake the IB Diploma Programme.
- There is a slight positive correlation between the IB score and the likelihood of students to recommend the IB Diploma Programme to others. Respondents with a lower IB score are as likely to recommend the IB Diploma Programme to others as respondents with a higher IB score.

THANK YOU!

www.i-graduate.org

- For further information about the IB and this survey, contact recognition@ibo.org.
- For further information about i-graduate's services, contact a member of the i-graduate Research Team (info@i-graduate.org)
- International Graduate Insight Group:

Redhill Chambers
2D High Street
Redhill, Surrey
RH1 1RJ

t +44 (0)1737 772 250

f +44 207 182 7152

info@i-graduate.org

www.i-graduate.org

