

# What's the best place for me?

## Mobility decisions for graduates

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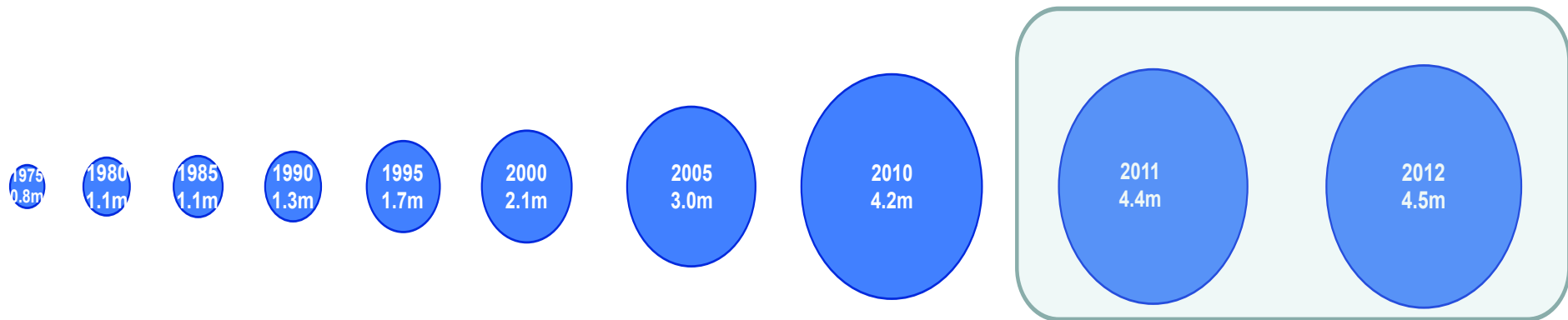
# Presentation.

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- 1 Student mobility in the global knowledge economy
  - 2 Geography of student mobility
  - 3 Case of Indian students
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# Student mobility in the global knowledge economy

- Increased demand for highly-skilled and specialised labour
- Increased value of cross-border education
- Greater flows and more diversified patterns of student mobility

Number of students enrolled in tertiary education outside their country of citizenship  
(in millions)



Source: OECD, Education at a Glance 2014

# International students as probationary migrants



Source: Keystone

“**Ideal immigrants**” that strengthen host country’s competitiveness:

- on the international education market and
- in the global competition for talents

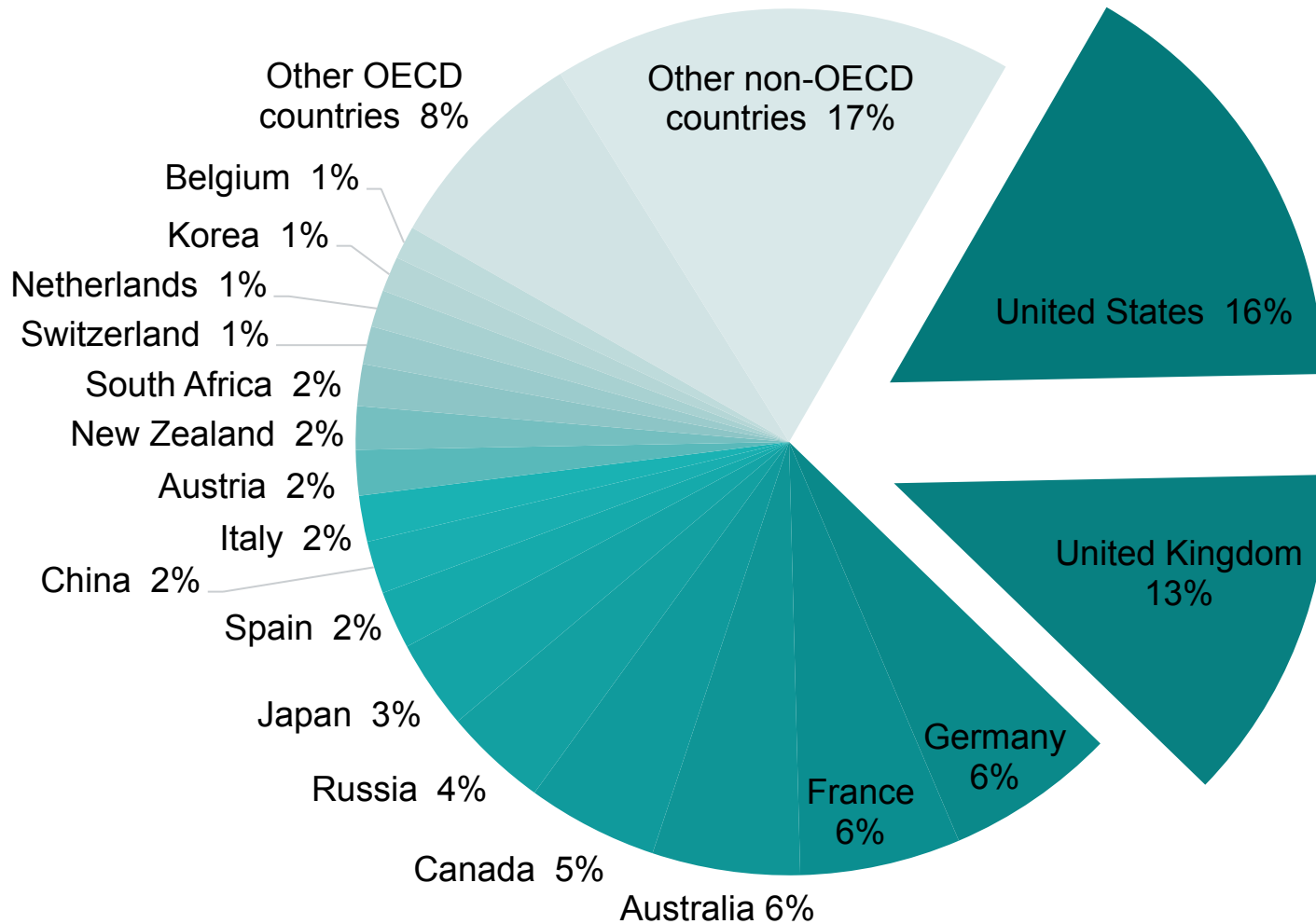
Valued for their:

- Young age
- International competencies
- Linguistic skills
- Host country degrees recognized and familiar to local employers

Student mobility as part of wider immigration strategy.

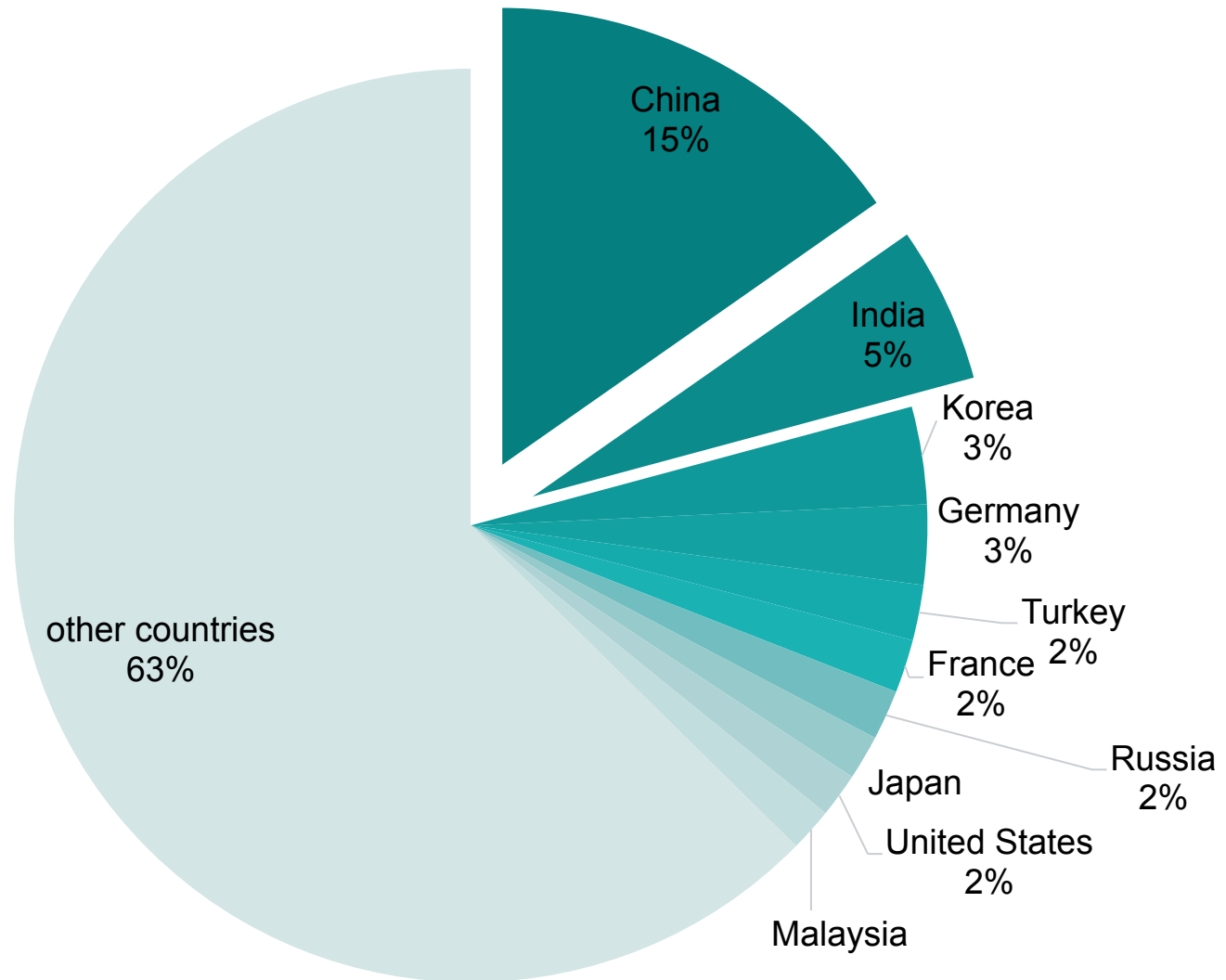
Students as „**probationary migrants**“.

# Major destinations for foreign students, 2012

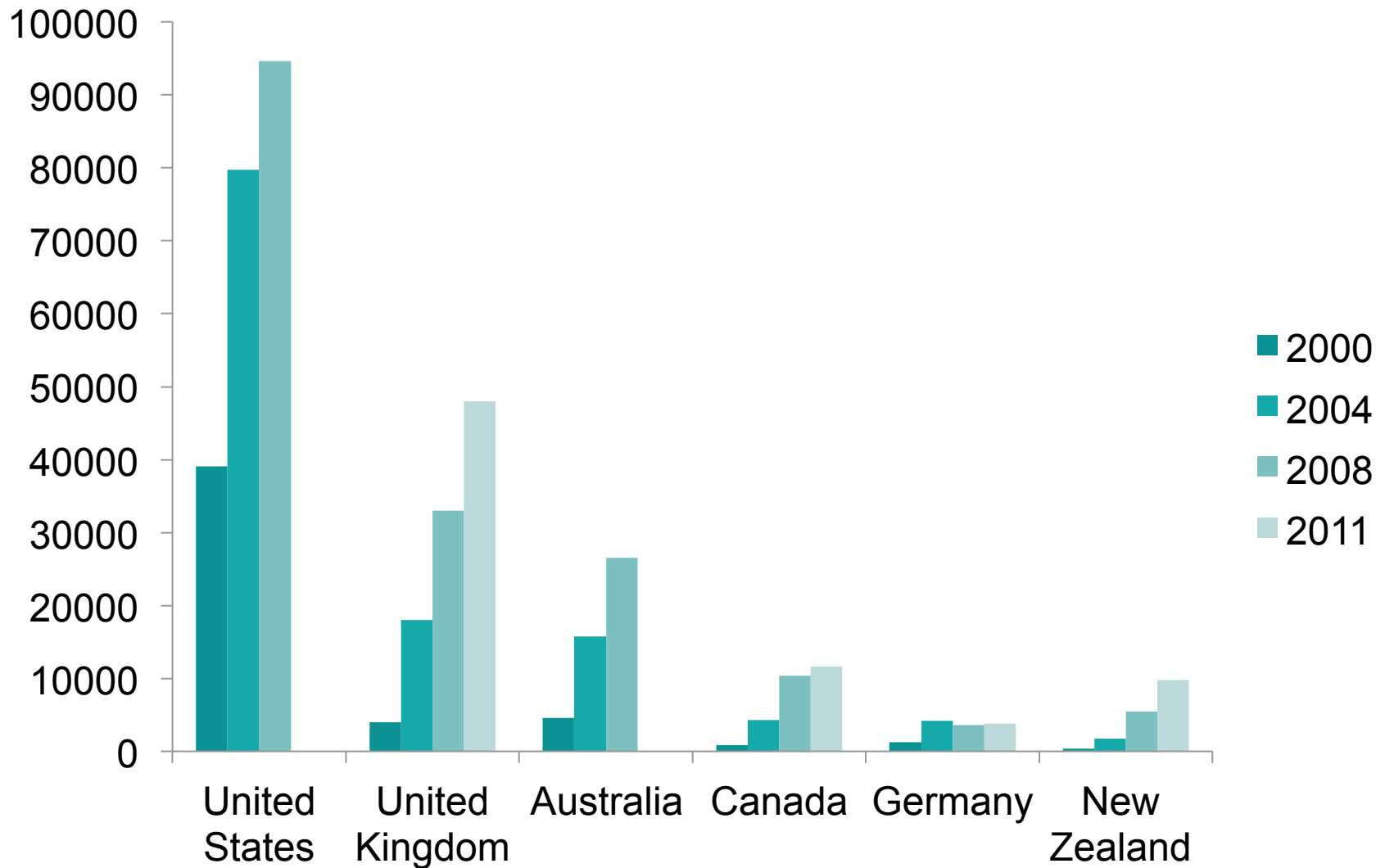


Source: OECD, Education at a Glance 2014

# 10 Major countries of origin, 2012



# Indian students abroad, from 2000 to 2011



Source: *The UNESCO/OECD/EUROSTAT (UOE) database*

# Research questions

How do graduate students in India decide about their *location preferences*?

How does Europe fare in *attractiveness* in comparison with traditional immigration countries?



# Selected universities in India

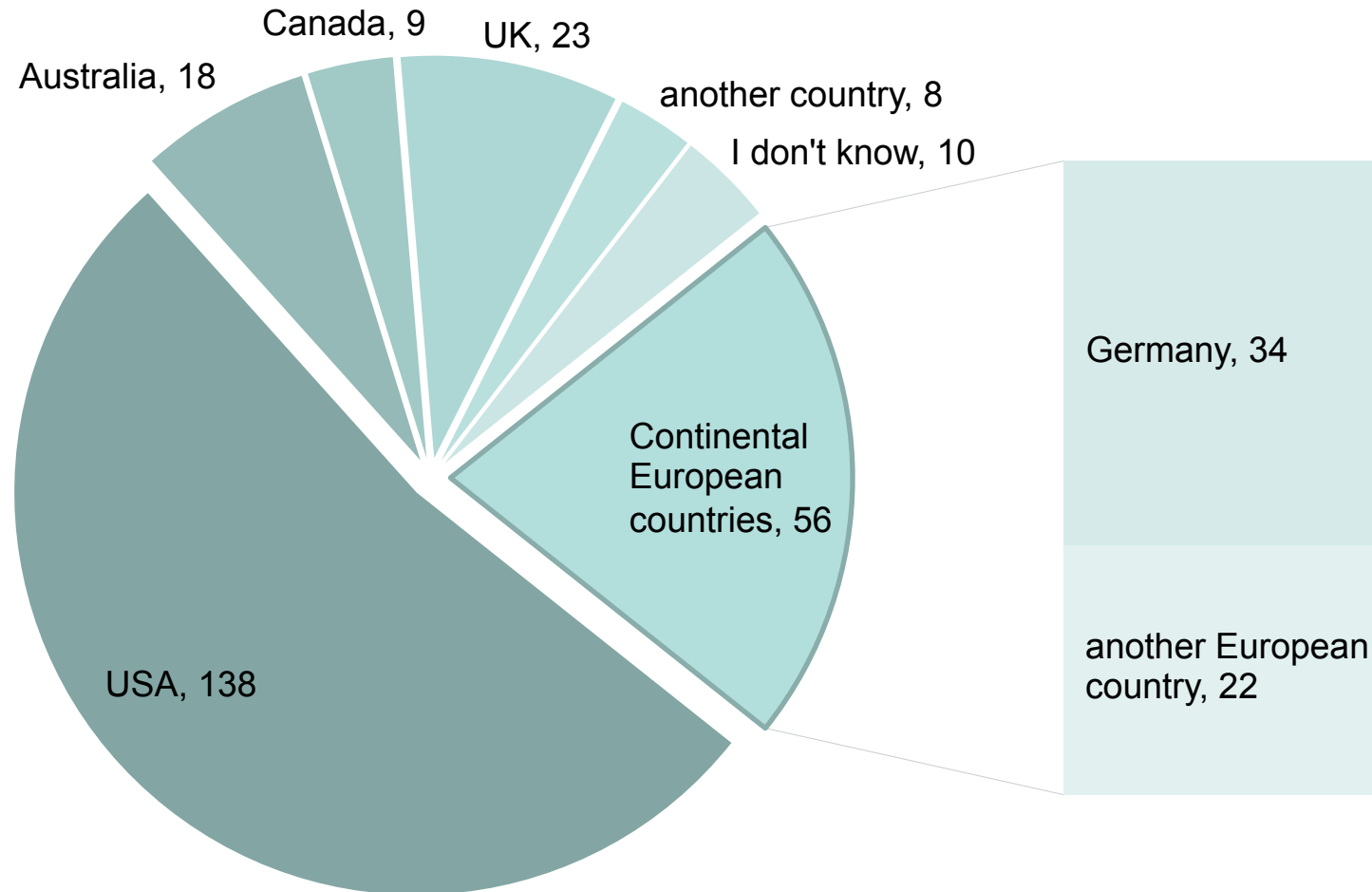


- Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi
- Institute of Technology - Banaras Hindu University (IT-BHU), Varanasi
- University of Jammu, Jammu
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi
- Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore

## Sample:

- Science & Engineering fields
- Predominantly male students population (69.5%)
- Average age of respondents 24 years
- Predominantly Hindu (80%)
- All levels of study degrees: 26.9% Bachelors, 35.1% Masters, 38% in PhD or Post-doctoral

# Top destination countries



What would be your top destination country in case you want to move in the following 5 years? (n=262)

# Do students differ by chosen destination country?

## United States of America

- Traditional immigration country
- Strong migrant network
- English speaking

## Anglo-Saxon countries

- Colonial history
- Traditional immigration countries
- English speaking

## European continental countries

- Lack of historical ties
- Missing networks
- Language barriers

# Findings

Differences for location choice in terms of **disciplines, level of studies, networks abroad.**

Migration to new destinations often entails *higher costs and risks.*

Continental European countries not perceived as long-term destinations.

*Economic factors* override institutional and socio-political factors.

# Conclusions

**Limited success** of newly emerging destinations to challenge the position of the dominant receiving country for students and skilled labour.

Perception of Europe as a **short-term migration destination** reduces the relevance of several elements of immigration policies.

**Fragmentation of European labour market** remains a major obstacle.

Despite the changes in immigration policies, policymakers cannot be certain that increase in skilled migration will follow.



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**Thank you**  
for your attention.

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