

Life after Study: *International students' settlement experiences in New Zealand*

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International students in New Zealand

- NZ 8th largest recipient of international students
 - 2.1% of foreign students in tertiary education study in New Zealand
 - Highest per capita rate in the OECD
 - Predominance of Asian students in New Zealand
- Export education vis a vis skilled migration
 - 'Two-step' migration
- Purpose of this research
 - Transition rates, Motivations, Early settlement experiences
 - Multiple data sources...



Data sources used

Immigration administrative data

Key features

- All student, work, residence visa data
- All records available

Used for:

- Transition rates and pathways to work and residence

Transitions Survey (2007-08)

Key features

- Principal SMC, former workers or students
- 1,054 former students in respondent population

Used for:

- Motivations to study in New Zealand and motivations to gain permanent residence

Longitudinal Immigration Survey: New Zealand

Key features

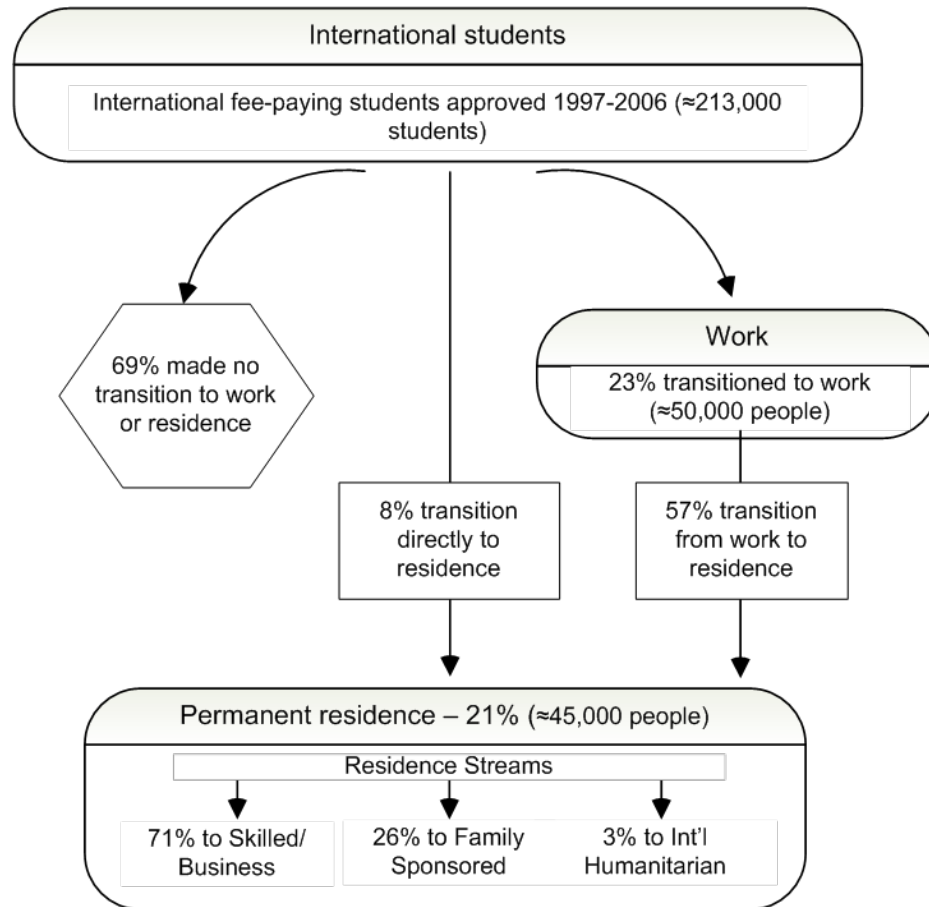
- Permanent residents approved 2004/05
- 1,083 former students in longitudinally responding population

Used for:

- Settlement outcomes at 6 months and 18 months after permanent residence



Studying and staying on: *Long term trends*

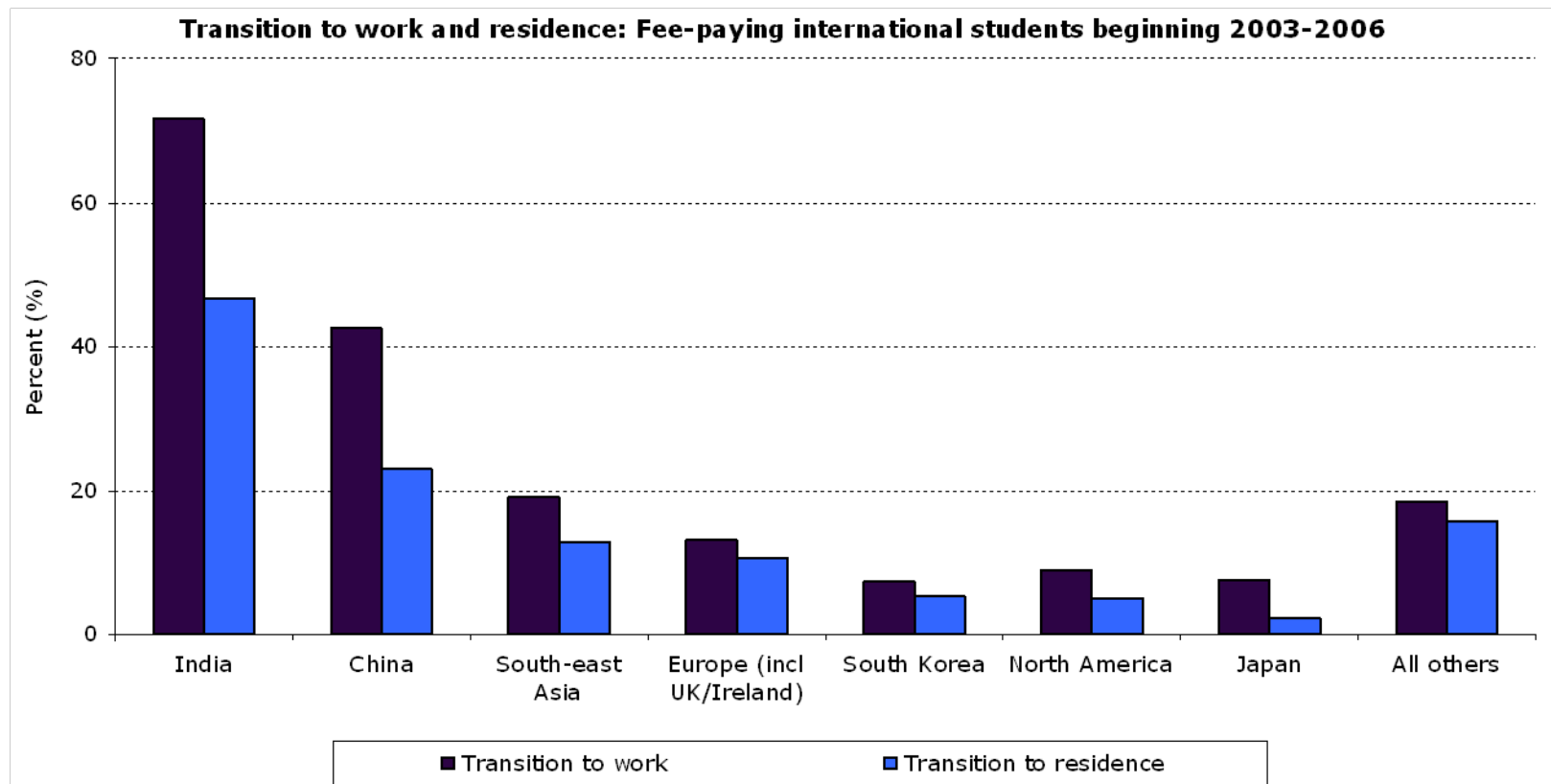


Key points:

- 31% of international students stay on in New Zealand as temporary workers or permanent residents
- 1 in 5 gain permanent residence, mostly as skilled migrants
- Former students comprise around 13% of the New Zealand Residence Programme
- Transition pathways and transition rates vary greatly



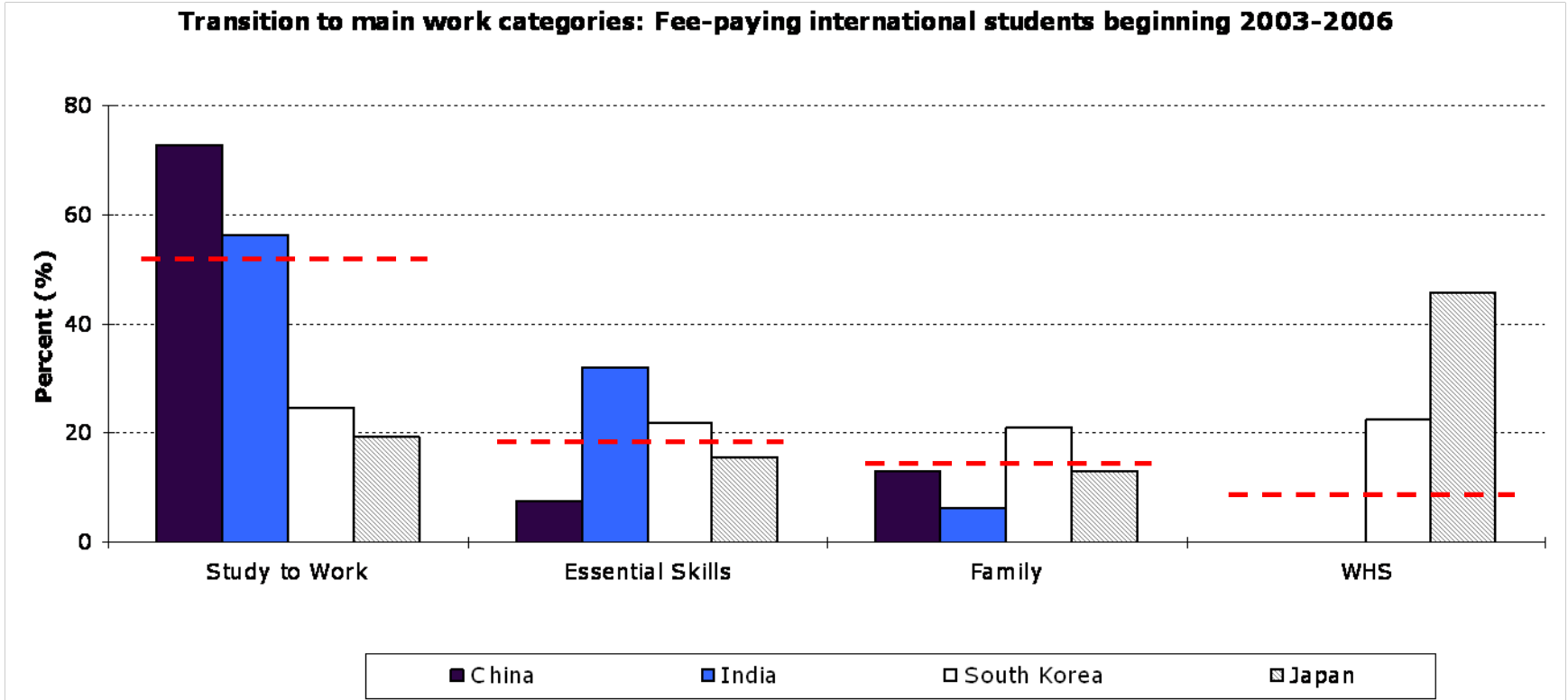
Transition rates: *Main source countries*



Source: Department of Labour administrative data



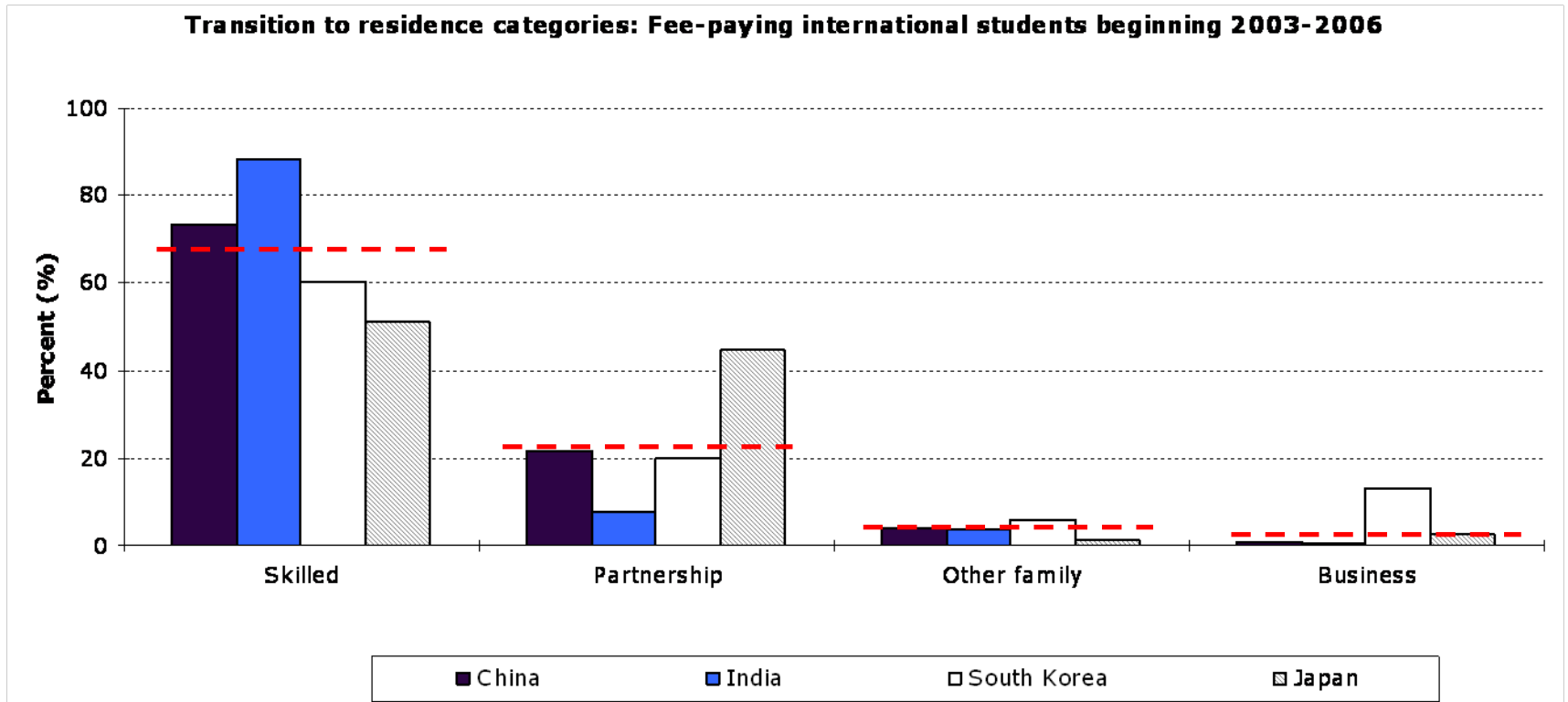
Main pathways to work: *First transition*



Source: Department of Labour administrative data



Main pathways to permanent residence



Source: Department of Labour administrative data



Motivations to study and stay on

Study		Permanent Residence	
Migration opportunities	68.8%	Lifestyle	80.4%
Education	62.8%	Safety and security	80.1%
English language	60.5%	Education	67.6%
Costs	59.4%	Work and living costs	59.3%
Ease	37.8%	Family	56.2%

Source: Transitions Survey



Employment status of former students

	wave 1	wave 2
Full-time	55.3%	68.3%
Part-time	10.7%	3.6%
Looking for work	3.2%	2.5%
Other activity	31.0%	26.0%
Total	100%	100%

Source: LisNZ



Education engagement post-residence

- Many students study after gaining residence (48%)
- Main reasons for studying were to:
 - get qualification upgraded
 - get a job
 - get a better job
- University most common place of study (64%)



Skill level of employed former students' main job by highest qualification

Skill level of job	Highest qualification gained in New Zealand (%)				
	No post-school	Vocational	Bachelor's degree	Higher degree	Total
High skill at both waves	38.9	41.2	62.2	76.9	50.3
Low skill at wave 1, high skill at wave 2	15.6	13.4	6.7	7.7	11.3
High skill at wave 1, low skill at wave 2	3.3	12.4	13.3	..c	9.8
Low skill at both waves	41.1	33.0	17.8	12.8	28.4

Source: LisNZ



Conclusions

- Policies that facilitate two-step migration have had a positive impact, especially for China and India
- Most former students who gain residence do so as skilled migrants – employers are recognising their skills
- Better labour market outcomes for higher NZ qualifications – skilled jobs, higher wages, higher job satisfaction
- Future work - LisNZ wave 3, retention rates



Further information



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LIFE AFTER STUDY
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