



Canadian Association of
Professional Immigration Consultants

L'Association Canadienne des
Conseillers Professionnels en Immigration

Submission on Nigerian Study Permit Declining Approval Rates, 2015- 2020



Table of Contents

About CAPIC	3
Preamble.....	3
Executive Summary	3
Review – Nigeria's Place in the Top Ten.....	5
Case Studies.....	5
Case Study 1.....	5
Application	5
Decision	6
Comments.....	6
Case Study 2.....	6
Application	6
Decision	6
Comments.....	7
Case Study 3.....	7
Application	7
The Decision	7
Comments.....	7
Recommendations	7
Conclusion	7
Appendix 1	9
Top Ten Source Countries for Study Permit Applications.....	9
Appendix 2.....	10
Percentage of Total Applications Received from the Top Ten Source Countries.....	10
Appendix 3.....	11
Current Picture – Approval Rate for Top Ten Countries in 2020	11
Appendix 4.....	12
Applications Received vs Approved for Top Ten Countries	12
Appendix 5.....	13
Approval Rate for Top Ten Countries.....	13
Appendix 6.....	14



Sample Refusal Cases for Nigerian Applicants	14
Appendix 7.....	15
Approval Trend for Top Ten Countries (2015-2020).....	15

About CAPIC

The Canadian Association of Professional Immigration Consultants (CAPIC) is the professional organization representing the interests of Canadian Immigration Consultants. The organization advocates for competency, ethical conduct, and consumer protection in the immigration consulting industry.

CAPIC's mission is to lead, connect, protect, and develop the profession, serving the best interests of its members. It is the only association recognized by the Government of Canada as the voice of Canadian immigration and citizenship consultants.

CAPIC is a major stakeholder consulting with federal and provincial governments and their respective departments (IRCC, CBSA, IRB, ESDC) on legislation, policy, and program improvements and changes.

CAPIC has over 3000 members and is comprised of Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultants and Canadian Immigration Lawyers.

Preamble

CAPIC is submitting this paper in response to Organization observations regarding a decrease in study permit acceptance rates submitted by Nigerian applicants who wish to study in Canada.

Executive Summary

CAPIC has reviewed study permit application data from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) for the period 2015 to 2020. This information represents data from the top ten source countries for study permit applications or 69 per cent of all submitted study permit applications.

Nigeria is Canada's third largest source of study permit applications. Nigerians submit 4.19 per cent of all study permits Canada receives, trailing only China and India. However, Nigeria's approval rate is consistently below other top ten countries and is currently the lowest among this group.

By analyzing the current disconnect between Nigerian study permit application numbers and low success rate, CAPIC hopes to improve results for Nigerian applicants. Improving these results will also benefit Canadian learning institutions, which have been dramatically affected by the financial impact of COVID-19.

Review – Nigeria's Place in the Top Ten

Nigeria is among the top ten source countries for study permit applications (Appendix 1). It is firmly ensconced in third position with 67,163 study permit applications since 2015. This equates to four per cent of Canada's total received study permit applications during the period from 2015 to January-March 2020 (Appendix 2).

The most successful countries in the top ten (Japan, France, Korea, and the United States) boast success rates in the high 70s to high 90s (Appendix 3). The remaining countries (China, Vietnam, India, Brazil, and Iran) are moderately successful with rates in the mid-to-high 40s (apart from Iran at 34 per cent; see Appendix 3). Nigeria lags both the highly successful and the moderately successful groups with a 12 per cent success rates during the period from 2015 to 2020 (Appendix 3).

This disparity is made clearer when reviewing the Applications Received versus Approved for Top Ten Countries (Appendix 4). Despite receiving 67,163 study permit applications from Nigeria during the period, only 14,735 were approved (Appendix 4).

Among the top ten countries, the approval rate for study permit applications is 74 per cent (Appendix 5). Six countries (China, Korea, France, Brazil, Japan, and the United States) are above average. Nigeria is the only country below average with an approval rate of less than 55 per cent. The other three countries with below-average rates (India, Vietnam, and Iran) all deviate from the average by 11 to 19 per cent. Nigeria deviates from the average by a considerably larger 52 per cent.

Over the past five years, Nigeria is the only country among the top ten consistently below 25 per cent.

Case Studies

This submission makes clear that Nigeria's study permit rejection rate is an outlier when compared with other top ten countries. It is CAPIC's position that by examining specific examples of rejected Nigerian study permit cases, the superficial and perfunctory nature of the results will crystallize for readers.

Appendix 6 provides examples of ten specific cases where Nigerian study permit applicants were rejected despite significant qualifications. CAPIC has chosen three examples from that list to highlight in more detail. The following case studies provide an overview of foreign nationals who are prime candidates to obtain study permits, but whose applications have been denied.

Case Study 1

- Applicant: 17-year-old applying for a study permit for an undergraduate program

Application

- Trip Purpose: To take up an offer of admission from the University of Toronto to study Biological Sciences and Neuroscience with two scholarship awards totaling CAD 107,500 for the four-year program.

- Family Ties: Family lives in Nigeria. Mother is a senior manager in a multinational organization and father an executive director of an insurance company, both with a combined annual income in excess of CAD 400,000.
- Financial Status: Family assets including cash balances, investments in financial instruments, and real estate valued over CAD 1.5 million were presented. All deposit payments required for tuition and housing had been made.
- Travel History: Applicant has traveled with her parents since she was four years old and previous destinations included the UK, USA, and Europe.

Decision

- The application was refused because of the following reasons:
 - The deciding officer was not satisfied that the applicant will leave Canada at the end of their stay, as stipulated in subsection 200(1) of the IRPR, based on their travel history.
 - The deciding officer was not satisfied that the applicant will leave Canada at the end of their stay, as stipulated in subsection 200(1) of the IRPR, based on their family ties in Canada and in their country of residence.
 - The deciding officer was not satisfied that the applicant will leave Canada at the end of their stay, as stipulated in subsection 200(1) of the IRPR, based on the purpose of their visit.
 - Pursuant to paragraph 220(a) of the IRPA, the deciding officer was not satisfied that the applicant has sufficient and available financial resources, without working in Canada, to pay the tuition fees for the course or program of studies that they intend to pursue.

Comments

- The refusal letter erroneously referenced work permit legislation (Subsection 200(1) of the IRPR)
- Refusal reasons unjustified based on the application package submitted.
- Judicial Review process is ongoing.

Case Study 2

- Applicant: 41-year-old applying for a study permit for master's degree program

Application

- Trip Purpose: To take up an offer of admission for a master's degree program in Supply Chain Management. Prior work experience corresponded to the proposed course of study.
- Financial Status: Tuition fees of CAD 18,185 had been paid. An additional CAD 105,916 was available to the applicant for future costs.
- Travel History: Applicant had a valid visitor's visa (TRV) and history of previous visits to Canada, UK, USA, and UAE.

Decision

- The application was refused based on the purpose of visit.

Comments

- The refusal reason was unjustified based on documents submitted.
- Application for Leave and Judicial Review was settled out of court.

Case Study 3

- Applicant: 15-year-old applying for a study permit for a high school program

Application

- Trip Purpose: To take up an offer of admission for a high school program.
- Financial Status: Tuition fees had been paid in full for the year. Additional CAD 2 million was available to the applicant for future costs.
- Travel History: Applicant had a valid visitor's visa (TRV) and history of previous visits to Canada, UK, USA, and UAE.

The Decision

- The application was refused for financial reasons – lack of funds.

Comments

- The refusal reason was unjustified. Applicant has reapplied.

Recommendations

CAPIC recommends several actions to improve study permit outcomes from Nigerian applicants.

1. An assessment of the approval process followed by Nigeria visa offices.
2. Additional training for officers to reduce bias, if applicable.
3. Improve productivity by avoiding JR and out-of-court settlements.

Conclusion

Nigeria is an outlier when compared with other top ten countries and this downward trend will impact the perception of Canada as an attractive destination for students. As evidenced from the Case Studies, the high rejection rate of study permits from Nigerian applicants has the following impact on Nigerian students and international students more broadly:

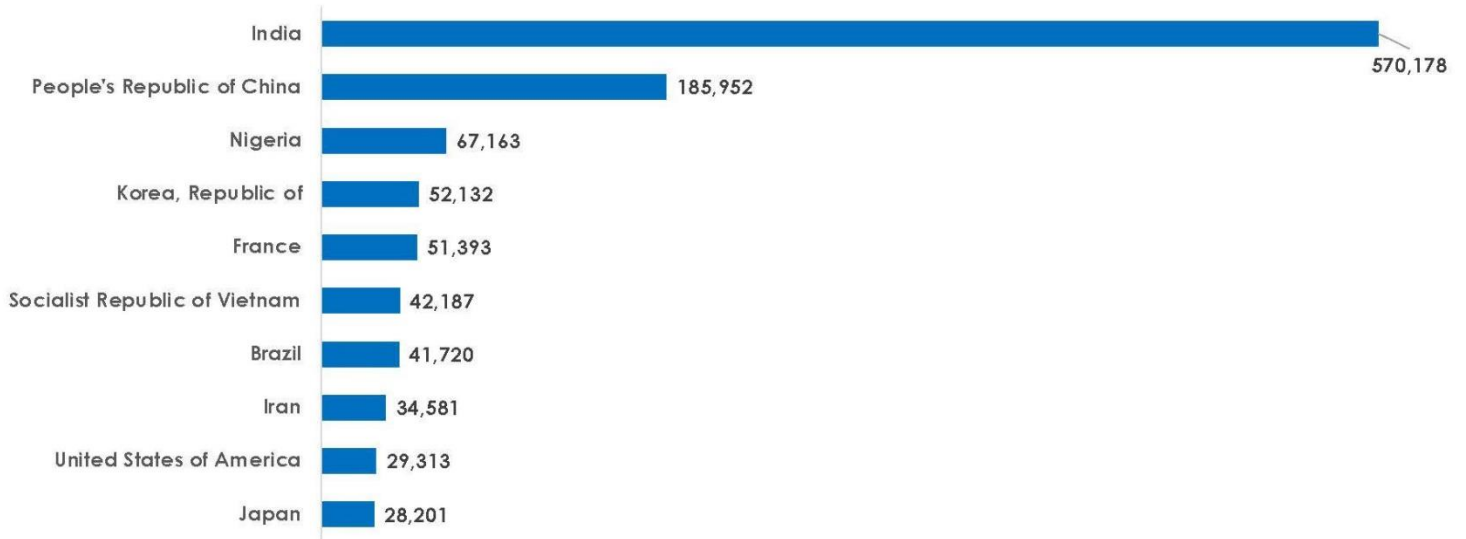
1. Nigerian students now see Canada as a country of last resort when planning secondary, post-secondary, and graduate studies, regardless of Canada's good educational standing.
2. Undermines Canada's core values of transparency and fairness because of the sharp disconnect between many application packages submitted by Nigerian students and the decisions and outcomes they receive.
3. Outcomes have resulted in an increasing number of applications for Leave and Judicial Reviews and numerous out-of-court settlements. This is an unnecessary drain on government resources.

The rate-of-refusal for Nigerian applicants also negatively impacts Canada's designated learning institutions (DLIs), which rely on both the academic and financial contributions of international students to succeed. Nigeria's aberrant results negatively impact the finances of Canadian educational institutions. These institutions continue to lose revenue that could have been gained from the quantum number of Nigerians whose study permit applications should have been approved based on the merits and strengths of their applications.

Further, this revenue loss extends beyond Canadian education institutions to other businesses that offer services to students and their visiting families, which includes accommodation, transportation, food, and retail stores. Given the vital role immigration will play in Canada's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic ([Government of Canada announces plan to support economic recovery through immigration - Canada.ca](#)), denying qualified candidates the opportunity to study in Canada undermines that recovery. In addition, many international students become Canadian permanent residents after finishing their studies and make vital and essential contributions to the Canadian economy.

Appendix 1

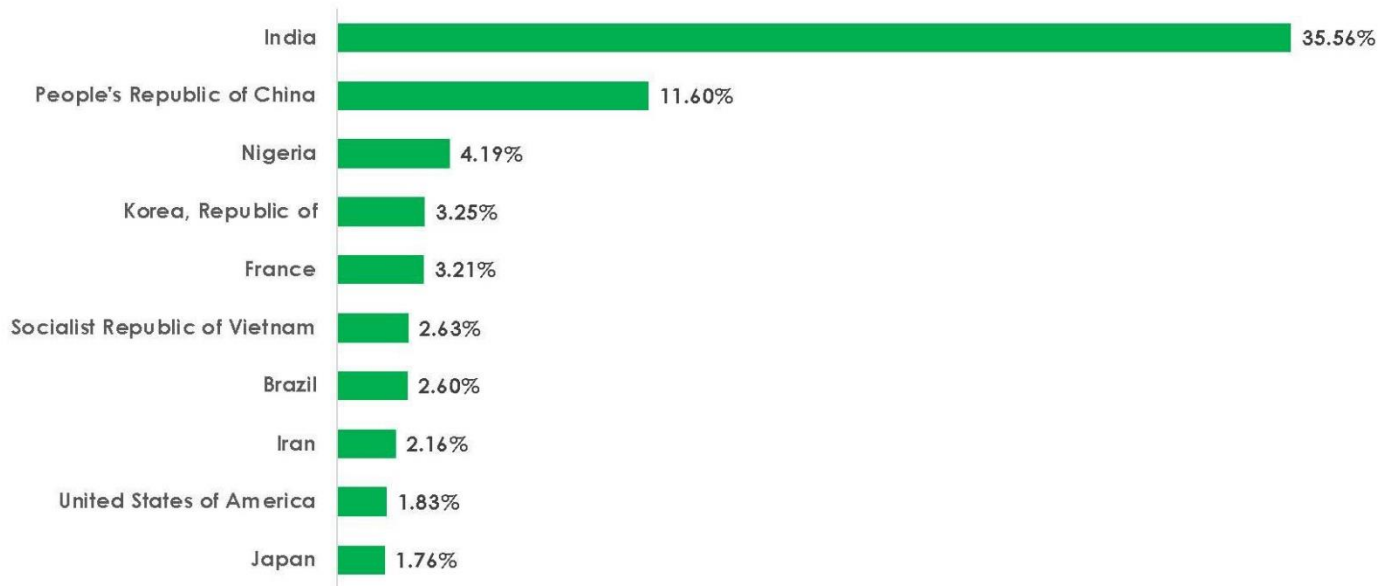
Top Ten Source Countries for Study Permit Applications



Data Source: Statistical Reporting Group, Chief Data Officer Branch, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada - IRCC.CDOStatistics-StatistiquesDPD.IRCC@ic.gc.ca

Appendix 2

Percentage of Total Applications Received from the Top Ten Source Countries

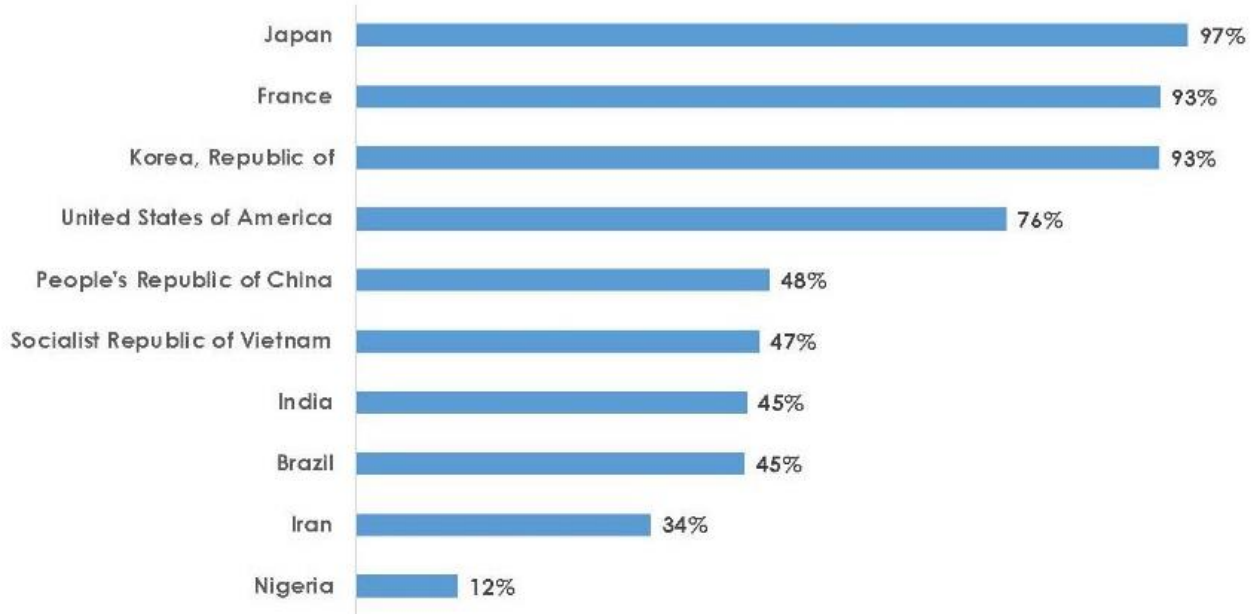


Data Source: Statistical Reporting Group, Chief Data Officer Branch, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada - IRCC.CDOStatistics-StatistiquesDPD.IRCC@cic.gc.ca

Appendix 3

Current Picture – Approval Rate for Top Ten Countries in 2020

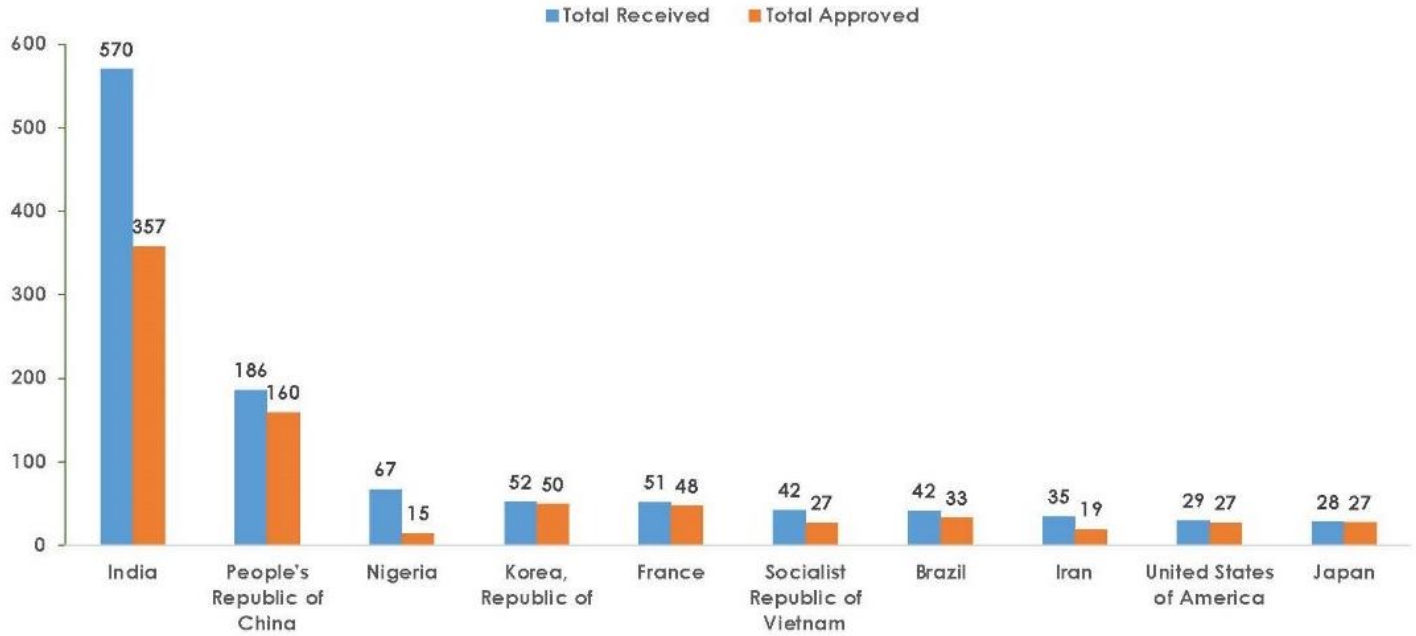
Nigeria currently has the lowest approval rate among the top ten countries, as of March 31, 2020



Data Source: Statistical Reporting Group, Chief Data Officer Branch, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada - IRCC.CDOStatistics-StatistiquesDPD.IRCC@cic.gc.ca

Appendix 4

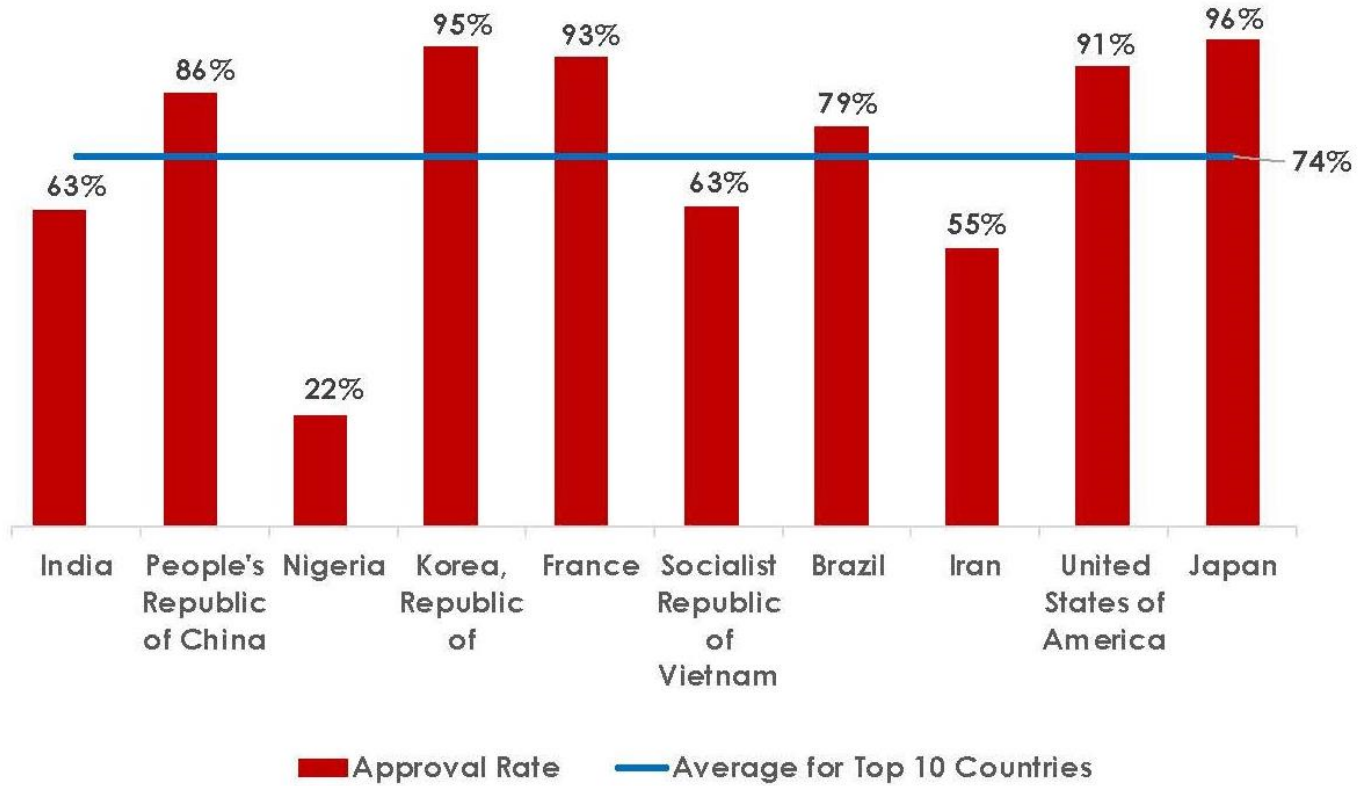
Applications Received vs Approved for Top Ten Countries



Data Source: Statistical Reporting Group, Chief Data Officer Branch, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada - IRCC.CDOStatistics/StatistiquesDPD.IRCC@cic.gc.ca

Appendix 5

Approval Rate for Top Ten Countries



Data Source: Statistical Reporting Group, Chief Data Officer Branch, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada - IRCC.CDOStatistics-StatistiquesDPD.IRCC@cic.gc.ca

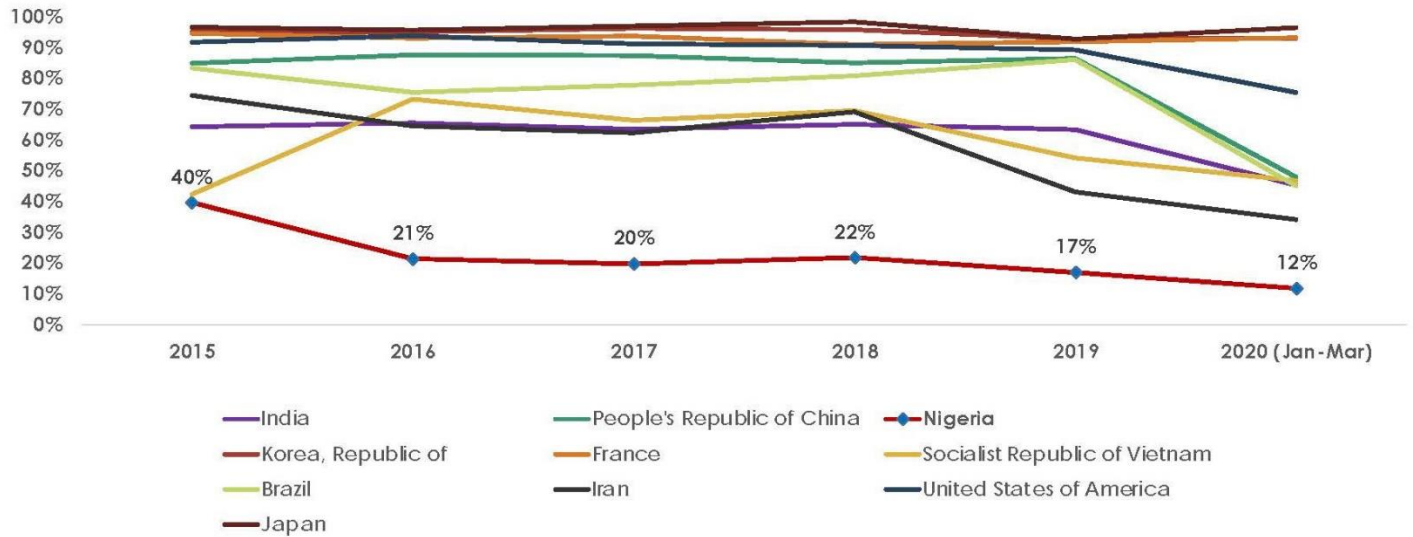
Appendix 6

Sample Refusal Cases for Nigerian Applicants

SAMPLE REFUSAL CASES FOR NIGERIAN APPLICANTS						
#	Age	Level of Studies	Tuition Fees Paid	Total Funds Available in CAD	Reason for refusal	Remarks
1	17	Bachelors	Deposit paid	\$107,500 scholarships + Parents \$220,000 bank balances + \$400,000 annual income	Applicant and siblings were all refused for the same reasons - purpose of Visit, Financial Status, Family Ties to Canada and home country, Travel history	Refusal reasons are contradicted by application package submitted as detailed documentary evidence of purpose, finances, travel history and ties were provided. JR is in progress. Reapplied
2	15	High School	\$27,250 (Tuition and board for full year)	Parents \$220,000 bank balances + \$400,000 annual income	These siblings were refused for the same reasons - purpose of Visit, Financial Status, Family Ties to Canada and home country, Travel history	Refusal reasons are contradicted by application package submitted as detailed documentary evidence of purpose, finances, travel history and ties were provided. JR is in progress.
3	13	High School	\$27,250 (Tuition and board for full year)			
4	41	Masters	18,185	105,916	Purpose of Visit	Refusal reasons unjustified in view of documents submitted. JR settled out of court.
5	38	Masters	7,960	103,451	Purpose of visit, Personal Assets and Financial Status	Refusal reasons unjustified in view of documents submitted. JR in progress
6	26	Masters	16,250	85,051	Family ties to Canada and home country, Purpose of visit, employment status	Refusal reasons unjustified in view of documents submitted.
7	14 & 17	High School	24,650	600,000	Purpose of visit, Ties in Country of Residence, immigration Status	Refusal reasons unjustified in view of documents submitted. JR in progress
8	33	Masters	24,030	100,000	Purpose of Visit, Insufficient Funds, Personal and Financial Assets	Refusal reasons unjustified in view of documents submitted.
9	15	High School	Paid in full for the year	Over \$2,000,000	Purpose of Visit and Family Ties	Reapplied; Visa granted
10	16	High School	Deposit paid	Evidence of Income and funds provided	Refused for uncertainty she will return to her country after her education.	Refusal reasons unjustified in view of documents submitted.

Appendix 7 Approval Trend for Top Ten Countries (2015-2020)

- Nigeria is the only country with an approval rate consistently below 25% since 2016



Data Source: Statistical Reporting Group, Chief Data Officer Branch, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada - IRCC.CDOStatistics-StatistiquesDPD.IRCC@cic.gc.ca