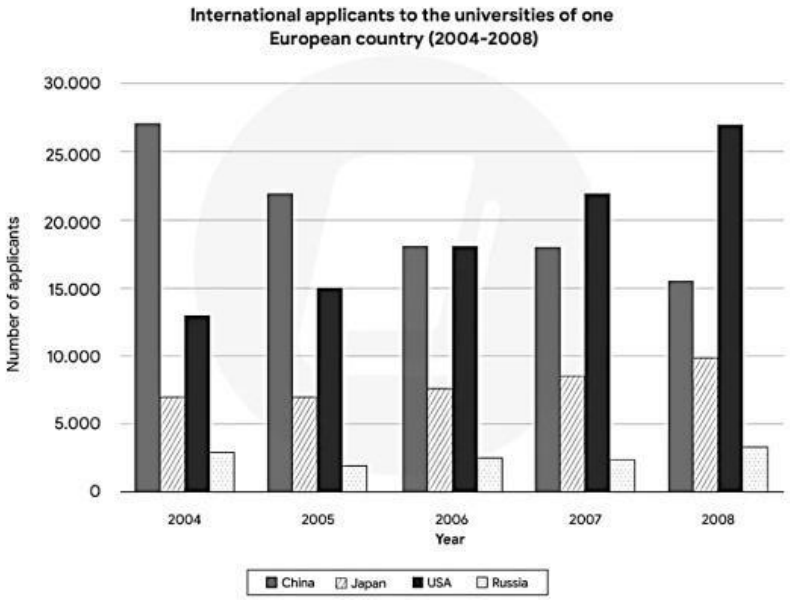
The chart below shows the number of international applicants to the universities of one European country. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.



dominant	levelling-off	relatively	overtook	soared
fallen	frame	almost	exhibited	paces

The bar chart illustrates the number of international students **applied/ applying** to the universities of a European country over a **5-year/ 5-years** period from 2004 to 2008.

In general/ In generally, what stands out from the graph is that the figure for Russia remained ..... stable while the others experienced changes at different ..... over the period **in/ on** question. Another striking feature is that China held the ..... position at the beginning, whereas the USA .....China in 2007 and ranked first **in/ on** the list during the rest of the time .....

In detail, as for the USA and Japan, their figures .....growths in the given period although the **former/ latter** rose much more **significant/ significantly**. While the number of USA applicants .....from **rough/ roughly** 13,000 in 2004 to almost 27 in 2008, that of Japan saw a **marginal/ marginally** growth of a **mere/merely** 3,000 to 10,000 at the end.

In stark **contrast/ contrary**, despite a ..... at around 17,000 in 2007, the number of China students declined **substantial/ substantially** over the period. **In/ By** 2008, its figure had ..... to just over 15,000.

With **respect/ regarding** to Russia, the number of applicants from this country .....remained **constant/constantly** from 2,000 to 3,000 over the period **covering/ covered** by the graph.

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