INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
Access to Academic Visas and Revalidation

We urge you to
- support provisions that allow for domestic renewal of F or J-type visas at the offices of U.S. Consulate.
- oppose H.R.392, an amendment of Immigration and Nationality Act
- oppose efforts to remove Optional Practical Training (OPT) for international students

Positive Economic Impact
In the 2016-2017 academic year, international students contributed $37 billion to the U.S. economy. [1]
For every 2 international students enrolled, 1 U.S. job is created or supported [1, 2], often through creating their own U.S.-based companies. [3]
International student enrollment in graduate programs increases domestic enrollment. [3]
STEM companies rely on international students trained in the U.S. [3]

Changes to Enrollment
In 2017, there was a 4% decrease in international graduate student enrollment [3], largely due to changes in policy. This is significant compared to the 3.4% increase in enrollment from 2016 [2].
Talented foreign students are being enticed to studying in other countries with more attractive student visa policies [4] [5].
50% of the decline in enrollment came from graduate students in STEM fields. [3]
Many university programs rely on international students and may be shut down if international student enrollment drops. [3]

Benefits to Eased Renewal Restrictions
Decreased Bureaucracy and Financial Burden
- Reduce the workload on U.S. consulates
- Prevent unnecessary travel by visa holders and their families, saving time and money [5]

Increased Security
- Increased involvement and utilization of the expertise of domestic State Department and Department of Homeland Security officials

Promotes the Progress of Federally Funded Research
- Promotion of U.S. research on the international stage [5]
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Visa Access and Revalidation Concerns

References

   https://www.nafsa.org/Policy_and_Advocacy/Policy_Resources/Policy_Trends_and_Data/NAFSA_International_Student_Economic_Value_Tool/


   https://www.cfr.org/blog/immigration-enforcement-and-impact-higher-education

   www.nap.edu/catalog/11289.html

Resources

International student economic impact per state and U.S. Congressional district visit:
   www.nafsa.org/economicvalue

Report of the Secure Borders and Open Doors Advisory Committee, January 2008:

NAGPS Proposed Language: Domestic Revalidation of Student Visas:
   https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WSrQUkNaagWBEWkxvFQ_HSDJJ0KkS5x9CihYXznY/edit